

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Review Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Final Report

Updated March 2022



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List of Abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EfW	Energy from Waste
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographical Information System
GLLEP	Greater Lincolnshire Local Economic Partnership
Ha	Hectares
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
JHWS	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
kW	Kilo Watt
LDO	Local Development Order
LGS	Local Geological Site
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
LTP	Local Transport Plan

Mt	Million tonnes
MW	Milliwatt
NIA	Nature Improvement Area
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
ONS	Office for National Statistics
RIG	Regionally Important Geological Site
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPZ	Source Protection Zone
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDs	Sustainable Drainage
WRMP	Water Resources Management Plan

1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee is currently reviewing the Local Plan for Central Lincolnshire to ensure it remains up to date.
- 1.1.2 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Local Plan must be carried out during its preparation.¹ The main purpose of the appraisal is to predict, assess and monitor the social, economic and environmental effects of the plan.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the proposed methodology for carrying out the SA.

1.2 Central Lincolnshire

- 1.2.1 Central Lincolnshire is situated within the East Midlands and covers the administrative areas of the City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey District Councils (see Figure 1.1). The total land area is approximately 2116 km². To the north are the districts of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire, to the east is the district of East Lindsey, to the south are the districts of Boston and South Kesteven, and to the west are the districts of Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw.
- 1.2.2 The largest urban settlement is Lincoln, which acts as a sub-regional centre over a wide area. There are a number of villages that look to Lincoln for most of their service and employment needs, including Welton, Saxilby, Skellingthorpe and Washingborough. Beyond Lincoln, the main settlements are Gainsborough and Sleaford, serving the northern and southern parts of the area respectively. The rest of Central Lincolnshire is predominantly rural, characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern of villages plus the small market towns of Market Rasen and Caistor in West Lindsey. There are no motorways in Central Lincolnshire. The key roads include the A15, A17, A46, A158 and A159.

¹ As required by Section 19 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act

1.3 Emerging Central Lincolnshire Local Plan

- 1.3.1 The current Central Lincolnshire Local Plan was adopted in April 2017, containing 57 policies and allocating a large number of sites for housing, employment and other uses.
- 1.3.2 Since the adoption of the current Local Plan, there have been national policy changes, with new rules for planning being published in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in July 2018² and substantial updates to other national guidance. There are also local reasons to review the plan at this time, particularly in relation to housing land supply. Some of the sites allocated in the April 2017 Local Plan have not delivered as expected and as a result it is necessary to reconsider the sites that will be allocated to make sure there is a robust and flexible housing supply.
- 1.3.3 The Local Plan Review will replace the adopted Local Plan, covering the period up to 2040 and for the entire Central Lincolnshire area, as shown in **Figure 1.1**. The Plan will include a vision for what Central Lincolnshire could be like in 2040, objectives and strategic priorities for the area. The Plan will be accompanied by a Policies Map, which will show the spatial policies in the Local Plan. The timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan Review is set out in the Local Development Scheme (January 2019) and a summary of the main stages is provided below.

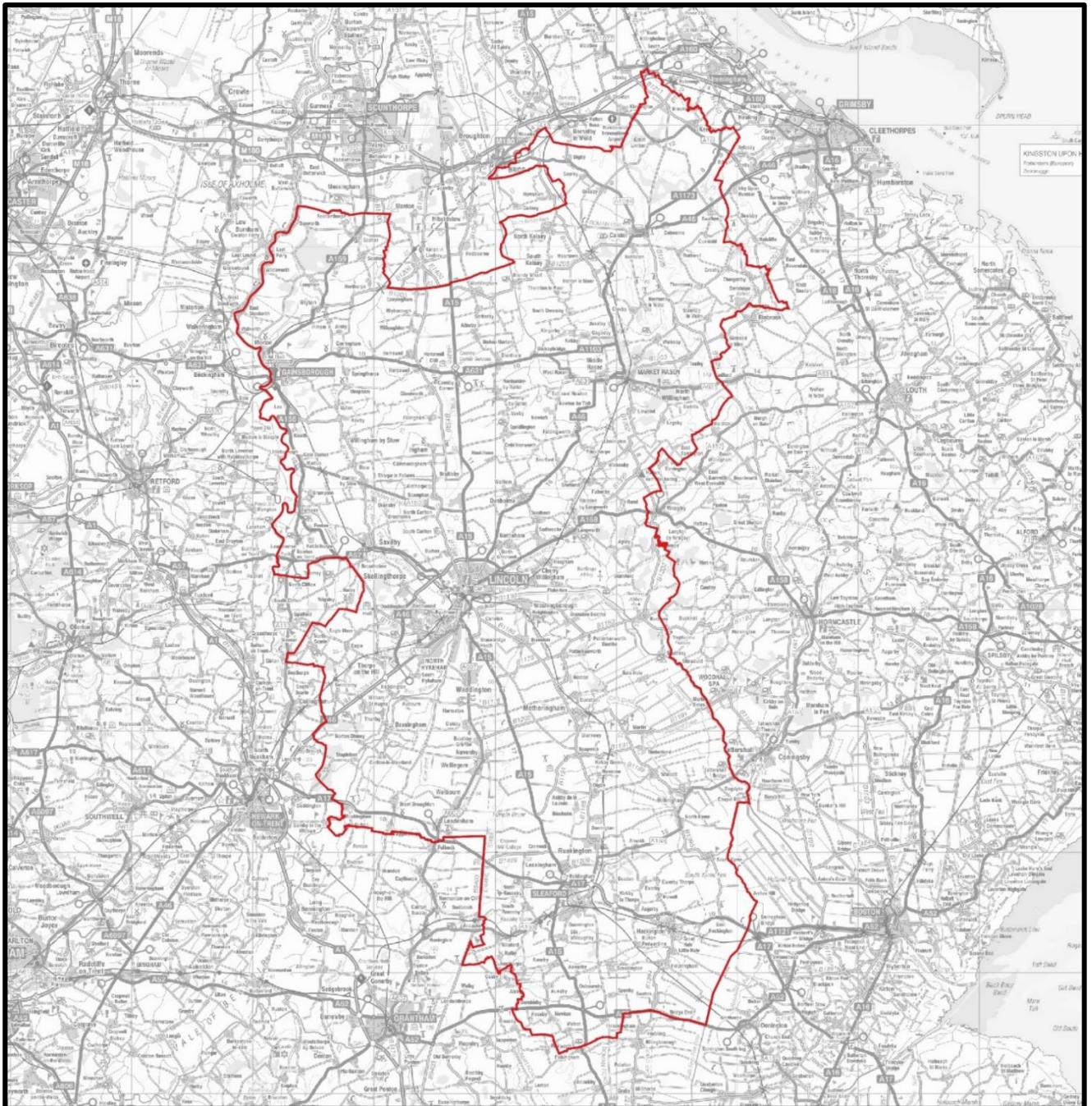
Stage		Description
1	Public Participation	Completed - July 2019 Opportunities for interested parties and statutory consultees to consider the options for the plan before the final document is produced
2	Public Participation	Round 2 February/March 2020 As above
3	Pre-Submission Publication	October/November 2020 The Joint Committee publishes the Local Plan which is followed with a 6 week period when formal representations can be made on the Local Plan.
4	Submission	December 2020 onwards The Joint Committee submits the Local Plan to the Secretary of State
5	Independent Examination Hearing	December 2020 onwards Held by a Planning Inspector into objections raised on the Local Plan
6	Inspector's Report	August 2021 (estimate) This will report whether if the Plan is 'Sound' or 'Not Sound'. The Inspector may make recommendations to make the plan 'sound'
7	Adoption	September 2021 (dependent on timescales for the examination) Final stage, the Joint Committee will formally need to adopt the Local Plan and it will then be used in making planning decisions.

² With subsequent minor amendments published in February 2019.

1.4 Relationship between the Local Plan and other relevant plans and programmes

- 1.4.1 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan must be prepared in conformity with national planning policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The detailed policies and proposals within the plan will also need to take account of a wide range of regional and local plans that exist.
- 1.4.2 There are currently 19 adopted or 'made' Neighbourhood Plans within Central Lincolnshire (7 in North Kesteven and 12 in West Lindsey). Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with policies in the Local Plan and on adoption, become part of the development plan.
- 1.4.3 There are 8 local authorities that border Central Lincolnshire: North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, East Lindsey, Boston, South Holland, South Kesteven, Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan and SA, consideration will need to be given to cross boundary issues and the potential for in-combination effects between the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and the effects arising from Local Plans in neighbouring areas.

Figure 1.1: Map of Central Lincolnshire



Source: Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team

1.5 Introduction to Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Legislation

- 1.5.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a mandatory requirement for Development Plan Documents as part of the plan making process under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the Act). Section 19(5) of the Act requires a local planning authority to carry out SA of each of the proposals in a Local Plan during its preparation. More generally, section 39 of the Act requires that the authority preparing a Local Plan must do so “with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development”.
- 1.5.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (February 2019) states that the purpose of the planning system is to achieve sustainable development. The NPPF highlights three overarching objectives to achieving sustainable development and the role of the planning system in relation to each of these:
- an **economic** objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
 - a **social** objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and
 - an **environmental** objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.
- 1.5.3 Paragraph 32 of the NPPF 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)”.
- 1.5.4 Development Plan Documents are also subject to the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA of land use plans is a mandatory requirement of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC³ (the ‘SEA Directive’) as they are likely to have significant environmental effects. The provisions of the SEA Directive are transposed into English law through The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004⁴ (the ‘SEA Regulations’).
- 1.5.5 It is possible to undertake a single appraisal process which satisfies the requirements of both SA and SEA: this is the approach that has been taken for the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and therefore where reference is made to SA, it includes the requirements of the SEA Regulations.

³ EU Directive 2001/42/EC

⁴ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, no 1633.

Purpose of SA

- 1.5.6 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in plan preparation. SA is an integral part of good plan making and should not be seen as a separate activity. SA is an iterative process that runs alongside the preparation of the plan. It identifies and reports on the likely significant effects (both positive and negative) of the plan and the extent to which the plan will achieve economic, social and environmental objectives.

1.6 Purpose and Structure of this Scoping Report

Purpose

- 1.6.1 The main purpose of the scoping report is to set out the proposed methodology for carrying out the SA of the policies in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. It will set out the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Final SA Report that will accompany the Local Plan that is submitted for examination. This is important to ensure that the SA process is proportionate and relevant to the Local Plan being assessed.
- 1.6.2 National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) advises that although a formal scoping report is not required by law, it is a useful way of presenting information.⁵

Structure

- 1.6.3 The Scoping Report has been structured around the following headings:

⁵ Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 11-014-20140306

Policy Context

- 1.6.4 The first stage in the SA process is to establish the context in which the Local Plan is being prepared by undertaking a review of other plans, policies and strategies relevant to the Local Plan. To meet the requirements of SA and SEA, this Scoping Report needs to consider international, national, regional and local documents that are likely to have relevant environmental protection and sustainability objectives. It meets the requirements of the SEA Directive to provide information on “*the relationship [of the Local Plan] with other relevant plans and programmes*” (Schedule 2, Regulation 12 (3)).
- 1.6.5 The policy context sections focus on the key plans and programmes that the Local Plan will need to take into account. Additional plans and programmes that may need to be taken into account are identified and listed. These will need to be updated as the Local Plan progresses. For example, some of the identified plans formed part of the evidence base for the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and may be updated to support the new Local Plan.

The Current Situation

- 1.6.6 The collection of baseline data is a key component of SA, helping to identify sustainability issues and assess the likely effects of policies in the Local Plan. Where possible, data has been included on historic and likely future trends.
- 1.6.7 This section of the scoping report meets the requirements of the SEA Directive to consider “*the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment*” and “*the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected*” (Schedule 2, Regulation 12 (2 and 3)). It is important to note that the areas likely to be significantly affected may lie outside the boundary of the Local Plan being assessed.

Evidence Gaps

- 1.6.8 Following the review of policy and baseline data, it is important to identify any gaps in information, whether due to the information not being currently monitored or that it has not yet been reported on. Identifying these gaps at this stage provides an opportunity to develop methods for future monitoring. Also it is possible that additional sources may be discovered through consultation on the Scoping Report.
- 1.6.9 This section meets the requirements of Schedule 2 (Regulation 12(8)) of the SEA Directive to report on “*...how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information*).

Sustainability Issues

- 1.6.10 Following a review of policy and collection of baseline data, this section describes key sustainability issues and problems for Central Lincolnshire that should be a particular focus for the Local Plan and SA, including threats and opportunities.
- 1.6.11 This section meets the requirements of Schedule 2 (Regulation 12(4)) to report on “*...existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance*”.

Likely Situation Without the Plan

- 1.6.12 This section looks at how the baseline for Central Lincolnshire might evolve under a business as usual scenario, i.e. if the Local Plan was not prepared and adopted. Predictions on the future baseline have been based on an analysis of past trends and professional judgement.
- 1.6.13 This section of the scoping report meets the requirements of the SEA Directive to consider “the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan”.

1.7 Consulting on the SA Scoping Report

- 1.7.1 A draft SA scoping report was subject to consultation, as required by the SEA Directive, in June/July 2019. Views on the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA Report were sought from the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England as the statutory SEA consultation bodies.
- 1.7.2 The aim of the SA scoping report consultation was to:
- Ensure due consideration has been given to the relevant plans, policies and programmes and sustainable development objectives that may influence the Plan and the SA;
 - Seek views on whether the baseline information provided is appropriate, sufficient and provides a sound basis for appraisal of the Plan;
 - Seek views on whether there are any further key sustainability issues that should be included;
 - Seek views on whether the SA Framework and SA methodology is appropriate for appraising the Plan.
- 1.7.3 This final SA scoping report has been published following the consultation. All comments received were duly considered and the SA scoping report amended slightly, as considered necessary, to produce the final SA scoping report. A summary of the consultation responses can be viewed in **Appendix 4**, alongside a response of the consequential amendments made. **Appendix 5** sets out the full copy of the responses received.

2 Sustainability Baseline and Key Issues

2.1 Housing

Policy Context

2.1.1 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:

- Strategic priorities should be informed by local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in the NPPG. The Housing Delivery Test Measurement Rule Book⁶ provides this standard method allowing for calculation of objectively assessed need using government household forecasts adjusted for local house prices and local earnings. Unmet need from neighbouring areas also needs to be taken into account as part of the calculation;
- The size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies;
- Where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required;
- Major residential development should provide at least 10% of all dwellings as affordable home ownership unless the site meets specified exceptions;
- Strategic policy-making authorities should establish a housing requirement figure for their whole area. Within this overall requirement, strategic policies should set out a housing requirement for designated neighbourhood areas;
- Strategic policy-making authorities should have a clear understanding of the land available in their area through the preparation of a strategic housing land availability assessment. From this planning policies should identify a sufficient supply and mix of sites;
- The supply of large numbers of new homes can often be best achieved through planning for larger scale development, such as new settlements or significant extensions to villages and towns, provided they are well located and designed, and supported by the necessary infrastructure and facilities;
- Local planning authorities should identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years' worth of housing against their housing requirement;
- To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. Planning policies should identify opportunities for villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services;
- Planning policies and decisions should avoid the development of isolated homes in the countryside unless exceptions apply.

2.1.2 **NPPG** contains the following:

- Sets out more detailed guidance on assessing housing needs, identifying appropriate land to meet housing need, the optional technical standards, rural housing and starter homes.

Housing & Planning Bill 2015

2.1.3 Clause 115 includes a duty to consider the needs of people residing in or resorting to a district with respect to sites for caravans and the mooring of houseboats.

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/housing-delivery-test-measurement-rule-book>

Housing & Planning Act 2016

- 2.1.4 An Act to make provision regarding housing, estate agents, rent arrears, planning and compulsory purchase. The main provisions are: places a duty on local planning authorities to actively promote the development of starter homes and embed them in the planning system, prepare, maintain and publish a brownfield land register, support the doubling of the number of custom build and self-build homes to 20,000 by 2020, ensure that every area has a Local Plan, simplify and speed up neighbourhood planning.

National Housing Standards – Ministerial Statement March 2015

- 2.1.5 Local planning authorities have the option to set additional technical requirements exceeding the minimum standards required by Building Regulations in relation to optional national space standards and accessible housing.

The Housing White Paper (Fixing our broken housing market) (February 2017)

- 2.1.6 Housing white paper setting out the government's plans to reform the housing market and boost the supply of new homes in England. The focus of the White Paper includes: higher densities in appropriate areas, regenerating estates, releasing more small and medium sized sites, allowing rural communities to grow, making it easier to build new settlements, and providing affordable housing for all types of people.

Other Plans and Programmes

- Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (August 2015)
- Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021
- Central Lincolnshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (July 2015)
- Central Lincolnshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (November 2013)
- Central Lincolnshire Housing Delivery Plan 2019-2024 (January 2019)
- Central Lincolnshire Five Year Land Supply Report, 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024 (January 2019)

The Current Situation

Housing Stock

- 2.1.7 The number of dwellings in Central Lincolnshire increased by around 16,731 between 2001 and 2011, equivalent to a 14.7% increase in housing stock. As at 31 March 2017, there were approximately 338,480 homes in Central Lincolnshire. This includes private sector, housing association and local authority housing. The mix of housing within Central Lincolnshire broadly reflects the national picture, although there is a higher proportion of terraced housing and a lower proportion of detached housing in Lincoln.

Table 2.1: Housing Mix (March 2017)

Category	Lincoln	West Lindsey	North Kesteven	Central Lincolnshire	East Midlands	England and Wales
Detached	4,970	12,640	15,910	33,520	458,810	3,985,240

Semi-detached	9,860	8,860	11,620	30,340	575,660	6,086,400
Terraced	15,690	7,940	5,630	29,260	470,880	6,789,660
Bungalow	4,120	9,660	13,400	27,180	264,570	2,440,780
Flats and Maisonettes	10,020	2,190	2,070	14,280	245,480	5,665,530

Source: Valuation Office Agency⁷

Housing Tenure

2.1.8 **Table 2.2** shows the household tenure profile in Central Lincolnshire. Around two thirds of households in Central Lincolnshire are owner occupiers, of which a slightly higher proportion own with a mortgage or loan than own outright. Owner occupation is slightly more frequent in Central Lincolnshire than the national average. Within the area, there is a notably high level of outright ownership in North Kesteven and West Lindsey in comparison to the City of Lincoln. Lincoln also accommodates a lower proportion of households with a mortgage or loan than the national average. Fewer households in Central Lincolnshire are in both rented tenures – social and private rented from a landlord or agency – compared to the national average.

2.1.9 There has been a notable increase in households renting from a private landlord or agency between 2001 and 2011, with approximately 8,412 additional households. There has been a significant decline in the number of households owning their home with a mortgage or loan in the City of Lincoln whilst North Kesteven and West Lindsey have seen an increase.

2.1.10 There has also been an increase in the number of households who own their home outright, without a mortgage or loan. This is likely to reflect the proportion of older households who have paid off mortgages on property over this period. This has been notably high in North Kesteven and West Lindsey, where outright ownership has increased by 26.7% and 22.6% respectively.⁸

Table 2.2: Housing Tenure 2011

Geographical Area	Owned outright	Owned with mortgage /loan	Shared ownership	Social rented	Private rented from landlord	Private rented: other	Living rent free
Lincoln	24.4	20.7	0.6	21.9	19.4	1.6	1.5
North Kesteven	37.2	37.1	0.5	10.2	10.7	2.8	1.5
West Lindsey	38.2	34.4	1.0	11.1	12.0	1.7	1.7
Central Lincolnshire	33.4	34.2	0.6	14.2	13.9	2.1	1.6
England	30.6	32.8	0.8	17.7	15.4	1.4	1.3

Source: Census 2011

⁷ Accessed online 23.4.19 at www.research-lincs.org.uk/Housing.aspx

⁸ Central Lincolnshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2015)

Household Projections

- 2.1.11 The number of households in Central Lincolnshire is predicted to increase by 20,579 over the next 25 years from 130,373 in 2016 to 150,952 in 2041. This is an increase of 15.8%. The highest growth in households is predicted to take place in West Lindsey, similar to the regional rate of growth, whilst Lincoln is predicted to have the slowest rate of household growth, below the rate predicted for the region and nationally.

Table 2.3: Household Projections 2016 to 2041

Geographical Area	Number of households 2016	Number of households 2041	% change 2016-2041
Lincoln	40,784	45,277	11
North Kesteven	48,859	57,354	17.4
West Lindsey	40,730	48,321	18.6
Central Lincolnshire	130,373	150,952	15.8
East Midlands	1,968,000	2,312,000	18
England	22,885,000	26,855,000	17

Source: Office for National Statistics

Average House Prices

- 2.1.12 Average house prices rose across Central Lincolnshire between January 2014 and January 2019: an increase of 26.8% in Lincoln, 37.2% in North Kesteven and 15.9% in West Lindsey. This is compared to a regional increase of 31.7% and a national increase of 29.8%. Therefore with the exception of North Kesteven, average house price increases are below the national average.
- 2.1.13 **Table 2.4** below shows the average house price by type of property against the regional and national average.

Table 2.4: Average House Price (all property types) (£)

Geographical Area	2014*	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lincoln	119,930	128,496	138,134	138,213	147,720	152,084
North Kesteven	153,456	166,855	177,626	185,687	199,281	210,536
West Lindsey	145,332	141,781	151,584	153,095	166,774	168,388
Lincolnshire	141,753	149,371	161,556	166,655	177,820	184,555
East Midlands	145,261	153,669	164,946	172,959	184,574	191,239
England	188,265	202,856	220,361	231,593	241,061	244,413

*House prices taken in January

Source: Land Registry⁹

Table 2.5: Average House Price (by type of property) Jan 2019

Type of Property	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	East Midlands	England
Detached	244,881	255,913	222,456	282,018	374,060
Semi-detached	164,300	173,050	143,603	175,694	229,105
Terraced	125,953	143,203	116,215	143,023	196,800

⁹ Accessed online 10.5.19 at <http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/public/house-prices-and-sales>

Flats and maisonettes	103,235	103,375	92,065	113,924	222,536
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Source: Land Registry¹⁰

Housing Supply

2.1.14 The adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan set the requirement for 36,960 new homes between 2012 and 2036, which equates to 1,540 dwellings per year, and sets out a spatial strategy for the distribution of dwellings, with a focus on the Lincoln Strategy Area, Sleaford and Gainsborough. There were a total of 5,718 net completed homes between 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2018¹¹.

Affordable Housing

2.1.15 Affordable housing is housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers). It includes affordable housing for rent, starter homes and discounted market sales housing.

2.1.16 The Central Lincolnshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2015) identified a need for 17,400 affordable homes across Central Lincolnshire between 2012 and 2036. The adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan requires affordable housing on schemes of 11 dwellings or more (25% in the Lincoln Strategy Area (excluding Sustainable Urban Extensions), 20% on the Lincoln Strategy Area Sustainable Urban Extensions, 15% on other Sustainable Urban Extensions in the Plan area and 20% elsewhere.

2.1.17 The total number of gross affordable housing completions in Central Lincolnshire in 2017/18 was 179.

Table 2.6: Affordable housing completions (gross) 2013/14 - 2017/2018

Gross affordable dwellings completed	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Lincoln					
Total net number of all dwellings completed	236	166	235	188	146
Gross number of affordable dwellings completed	9	27	57	8	43
Percentage of total dwellings completed that are affordable	3.8	16.3	24.3	4.2	29
North Kesteven					
Total net number of all dwellings completed	379	458	473	468	577
Gross number of affordable dwellings completed	15	88	76	101	105
Percentage of total dwellings completed that are affordable	4	19.2	16.1	21.6	18.2

¹⁰ Accessed online 10.5.19 at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/land-registry>

¹¹ Central Lincolnshire Five Year Land Supply Report, 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024 (January 2019)

Gross affordable dwellings completed	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
West Lindsey					
Total net number of all dwellings completed	289	378	284	300	294
Gross number of affordable dwellings completed	17	59	29	50	31
Percentage of total dwellings completed that are affordable	6	16	10	17	11

Source: City of Lincoln Council, North Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council

Homeless Households

2.1.18 There is a long term trend of a rise in homelessness both nationally and locally. The rate of statutory homelessness in Lincoln is the same as the regional average and below the national rate. Rates in North Kesteven are well below the regional and national rates. Of those households accepted as being homeless, households with children are the main category of priority need.¹²

Table 2.7: Homelessness statistics 2017/18

Statistic	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	East Midlands	England
Statutory homelessness – eligible homeless people not in priority need (rate per 1,000 people)	0.4	0.2	#	0.4	0.8
Statutory homelessness – households in temporary accommodation (rate per 1,000 people)	0.6	0.1	#	0.6	3.4

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government¹³

Households on the Waiting List

2.1.19 In January 2018, Lincoln had 1,700 applications on the housing waiting list, most of which were from families and single people. This is higher than North Kesteven, who had 981 and West Lindsey who had 911. By far the largest group on the waiting list were single people at 1510, with families coming in second with 1,292.¹⁴

Fuel Poverty

¹² Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021

¹³ Accessed online on 25.4.19 at www.fingertips.phe.org.uk/public-health-outcomes-framework

¹⁴ City of Lincoln Council, Lincoln City Profile, 2017-2018

- 2.1.20 The Government has set out a new definition of fuel poverty in 2014. The new definition finds a household to be fuel poor if household income is below the poverty line (taking into account energy costs), and household energy costs are higher than is typical for their household type. Households in the private sector are more likely to be in fuel poverty due to lower average energy efficiency in these dwellings and lower household incomes. In 2016, fuel poverty was experienced by 13.30% of households in Lincoln, above the county average (12%). In North Kesteven, the percentage was 10.5% and in West Lindsey 12.20%, slightly above the county figure.¹⁵

Gypsy and Traveller Pitches

- 2.1.21 A national Gypsy and Traveller caravan count is undertaken bi-annually. In July 2018, there were 139 caravans on authorised sites and 13 caravans on unauthorised sites across Central Lincolnshire¹⁶. The Central Lincolnshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment¹⁷ concluded that there is a need for 72 new permanent residential pitches, 4 emergency stopping places and 1 Travelling Showpeople yard over a 20 year period to 2033. According to the survey undertaken with Gypsies and Travellers in the study area the preferred size for permanent/residential sites is for small, family sized sites.

Table 2.8: Gypsy and traveller and travelling show people pitches

Net pitches for gypsy and traveller granted planning permission	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Lincoln					
Permanent planning permission	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary planning permission	0	0	0	0	0
Caravans on travellers own land – 'tolerated'	0	0	0	0	0
North Kesteven					
Permanent planning permission	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary planning permission	0	0	0	0	0
Caravans on travellers own land – 'tolerated'	2	2	2	2	2
West Lindsey					
Permanent planning permission	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary planning permission	0	0	0	0	0
Caravans on travellers own land – 'tolerated'	0	0	0	0	0

Source: City of Lincoln Council, North Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council

¹⁵ Source: Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) accessed online on 25.4.19 at www.research-lincs.org.uk.

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traveller-caravan-count>

¹⁷ Central Lincolnshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, RRR Consultancy Ltd, November 2013

Evidence Gaps

- An up to date assessment of overall housing need, including an assessment of need for specific groups, such as older people, students and service families, to inform the Local Plan. This assessment is expected to be available February/March 2020 for the consultation on the next version of the Local Plan and will be referred to in the SA once it is available;
- An up to date gypsy and traveller accommodation needs assessment. This assessment is expected to be available February/March 2020 for the consultation on the next version of the Local Plan and will be referred to in the SA once it is available;
- An up to date assessment of needs of people residing in, or resorting to, sites on which caravans can be stationed, and places on inland waterways where houseboats can be moored. This assessment is expected to be available February/March 2020 for the consultation on the next version of the Local Plan and will be referred to in the SA once it is available.

Sustainability Issues

- The number of households in Central Lincolnshire is predicted to increase over the next 25 years, but at a rate below the regional and national trends;
- Average house prices in Lincoln and West Lindsey are below the county, regional and national averages, but above the county and regional averages in North Kesteven;
- The number of households in fuel poverty is above the county average in Lincoln and West Lindsey;
- There is a need for more affordable housing, particularly in areas where the house prices are highest;
- There is a need for a mix of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet the requirements of all groups of the community.

Future Situation Without the Plan

- Without the Local Plan there is a risk of a less co-ordinated approach to housing supply and delivery and an undersupply of affordable housing.

2.2 Health and Wellbeing

Policy Context

- 2.2.1 The World Health Organisation defines health as: “...*a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.*” Health therefore encompasses both physical and mental health. It is a cross cutting issue that can be influenced by a range of policy areas, including housing, employment, education and skills, transport, air quality and green infrastructure.
- 2.2.2 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:
- Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which promote social interaction, are safe and accessible, and enable and support healthy lifestyles;
 - Planning policies and decisions should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
 - Planning policies and decisions should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;
 - Planning policies and decisions should guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services;
 - Planning policies and decisions should promote public safety and take into account wider security and defence requirements;
 - Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision;
 - Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless certain exceptions are met;
 - The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them.
- 2.2.3 The **NPPG** contains the following:
- The built and natural environments are major determinants of health and wellbeing;
 - A healthy community is a good place to grow up and grow old in. It should support healthy behaviours and a reduction in health inequalities;
 - Planners should engage key local groups in the health and wellbeing system, including the Health and Wellbeing board and the local Clinical Commissioning Groups;
 - Local planning authorities can consider bringing forward local plan policies which limit the proliferation of certain use classes, to support communities to access a wide range of healthier food choices.

Joint Health and Well Being Strategy for Lincolnshire (JHWS)¹⁸

- 2.2.4 The JHWS identified that the most important health and wellbeing issues facing the county are:
- Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing (Children and Young People)
 - Mental Health (Adults)
 - Carers

¹⁸ <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/information-for-professionals/health-data-policies-and-publications/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy/115339.article>

- Physical Activity
- Housing and Health
- Obesity
- Dementia

Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)¹⁹

2.2.5 The JSNA is a shared evidence base which reports on the key areas of health and wellbeing in Lincolnshire. It underpins the JHWS.

Other Plans and Programmes

2.2.6 It is widely recognised that access to nature and green spaces can have a significant positive impact on people's health and wellbeing. Benefits include a reduction in stress and depression, and increased physical activity that benefits both children and adults. These benefits are evidenced in a number of reports, including those listed below.

- Department for International Development, The Marmot Review: Fair Society, Healthy Lives (January 2010)
- Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Sporting Future – A New Strategy for an Active Nation (December 2015)

The Current Situation

Table 2.9: Key Health Statistics

Indicator	Lincoln	West Lindsey	North Kesteven	Lincolnshire	England
Life Expectancy (male) (2015-17)	77.3	79.8	81	79.4	79.6
Life Expectancy (female) (2015-17)	80.9	83.7	84.3	82.9	83.1
Obese children % Reception year (2017/18)	11	11.4	8.7	10.2	9.5
Obese Children age % 10-11 (2017/18)	22.4	17.8	15.6	20.6	20.1
Excess weight in adults % (2017/19)	61.4	64.6	67.7	65.2	62
Percentage of physically active adults (2017-18)	69.7	65.6	66.5	63.8	66.3
Early Deaths: Cardiovascular (per 100,000) (2016-18)	100.8	70.4	62.3	78.2	71.7
Early Deaths: Cancer (per 100,000) (2016-18)	170	128.8	118.8	132.5	132.3
Dementia diagnoses age 65+ (%) (2019)	79.6	65.9	62.7	66.1	68.7
Killed and seriously injured on roads (per 100,000) (2015-17)	37.7	82.4	52.8	59.3	40.8

¹⁹ <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/Joint-Strategic-Needs-Assessment.aspx>

Excess Winter Deaths (ratio to non-winter deaths) (Aug 2017-July 2018)	30.4	38.1	29.3	33.3	30.1
Deprivation Score (2015)	28.9	19.2	11.6	20.6	21.8

Source: Public Health England, Community Health Profiles for Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey 2019

- 2.2.7 The health and wellbeing of the Central Lincolnshire population is varied compared to with the national average. Life expectancy is increasing, mirroring the national trend. However in Lincoln, life expectancy is lower than the national average for both males and females (life expectancy elsewhere in Central Lincolnshire is above the national average) and significant health inequalities exist: Life expectancy is 12.0 years lower for men and 8.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Lincoln than in the least deprived areas.
- 2.2.8 In Lincoln, the death rate of early death from cardiovascular disease continues to fall but remains worse than the national average. In West Lindsey, the death rate for cardiovascular disease is also above the national average. North Kesteven is well below the national average.
- 2.2.9 Rates of obesity for reception age children and children in year 6, are above the county and national averages in Lincoln. Excess weight in adults is above the national average in West Lindsey and North Kesteven. The percentage of adults participating in 30 minutes moderate intensity sport per week is above the county average across all three of the Central Lincolnshire districts, and above the national average in Lincoln and North Kesteven.
- 2.2.10 The rates per 100,000 for those killed or seriously injured on roads are above the national average in West Lindsey and North Kesteven and below in Lincoln.
- 2.2.11 Good access to a GP varies across the Central Lincolnshire area. There are some Lower Super Output Areas in West Lindsey and North Kesteven that are in the bottom 10%²⁰, due to their rural location and reliance on the car to access services.

Long term health and disability

- 2.2.12 **Table 2.10** below shows the general health and long-term health and disability of Central Lincolnshire residents at the time of the 2011 Census. 80.6% of residents describe their general health as very good or good, with 83.9% of the population not regarding their day-to-day activities as limited. 5.2% of residents describe their general health as very bad or bad and 8.6% describe their day-to-day activities as limited a lot.

Table 2.10: Long term health and disability, 2011 Census

General Health	Very good or good health		Fair health		Bad or very bad health	
	234,310	80.6%	41,046	14.1%	15,201	5.2%
Long-term health problem or disability	Day-to-day activities not limited		Day-to-day activities limited a little		Day-to-day activities limited a lot	
	234,903	83.9%	30,590	10.5%	25,064	8.6%

Source: ONS 2011 Census

²⁰ Source: Department for Transport and LRO 2010

Evidence Gaps

- Data on general health and long-term health problems and disability is taken from the 2011 Census which may not reflect the current situation.

Sustainability Issues

- Life expectancy in Lincoln remains lower than the county and national average for both men and women;
- Obesity rates in reception and Year 6 children in Lincoln are worse than the national average. Excess weight in adults is worse than the national average in West Lindsey and North Kesteven;
- Early deaths from cardiovascular disease are above the national average in Lincoln;
- Early deaths from cancer are above the national average in Lincoln;
- Excess winter deaths are above the national average in Lincoln and West Lindsey;
- Health inequalities exist on a ward level, particularly within Lincoln and Gainsborough. For example, some wards are significantly worse than the national trend for a number of indicators, including life expectancy, income deprivation and child poverty;

Future Situation Without the Plan

- As the population increases, the demand for health and social care services will also increase. Without the Local Plan, there is a risk that health and social care services may not keep pace with new development, impacting on people's ability to access these services. The rural nature of large parts of the Plan area poses a challenge in ensuring good access to services for all residents;
- The Local Plan can influence the wider determinants of health in relation to the environment, local economy and community, that could impact on physical and mental health and help reduce health inequalities. Without the Local Plan, developments may be less likely to provide accessible open space and other infrastructure that will have a positive impact on health and wellbeing.

2.3 Social Equality and Community

Policy Context

2.3.1 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:

- Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible, and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.
- Planning policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities.
- Planning policies should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
- Planning policies should guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs.

Localism Act 2011

2.3.2 Introduced a number of provisions to provide new rights and powers for communities including:

- Community right to build: the right for communities to bring forward their own community-led development proposals, where proposals meet certain criteria and are supported by a majority of the local community, without the need to bring forward a separate planning application;
- Community right to bid: the right to nominate a community asset and, if it comes up for disposal on the open market, give communities time to prepare a bid to buy the asset;
- A duty on local authorities and other public bodies to work together on planning issues;
- The right for communities to draw up a neighbourhood plan;
- The requirement for developers to consult local communities before submitting planning applications for certain developments.

Other plans and programmes

- Equality Act 2010
- Department for International Development, The Marmot Review: Fair Society, Healthy Lives (January 2010)
- City of Lincoln Council, Lincoln Anti-Poverty Strategy, 2014-2020

The Current Situation

Population

- 2.3.3 The population of Central Lincolnshire on Census Day in 2011 was 299,557, an increase of 15.6% from 2001 when it was 259,132. The latest mid-year population estimates for 2017 estimate the total population of Central Lincolnshire as 307,900. The East Midlands has the fastest population growth of all the English regions at 0.98%.
- 2.3.4 The majority of Central Lincolnshire is sparsely populated, with a population density of 1 person per hectare in North Kesteven and West Lindsey respectively. Lincoln is the most densely populated Local Authority in Lincolnshire at 27 people per hectare²¹.

Ageing Population

- 2.3.5 The largest increase in population is predicted to take place in the proportion of people aged 75 and over. In North Kesteven and West Lindsey for this age group, this is predicted to be above the county average of 88%. These figures suggest an ageing population over the period 2016 to 2041. In contrast, the 50-64 age group of the population is predicted to decline, with populations in Lincoln and West Lindsey in this age group declining above the county average. Growth in the 16-24 age group in Lincoln is double the county average. This reflects the presence of Lincoln University, Bishop Grosseteste University and Lincoln College in the city, where there were 14,105 students studying at Lincoln University and 2,225 at Bishop Grosseteste University in 2016/17.²²

Table 2.11: Percentage change in population by age group between 2016 and 2041

Age group	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Lincolnshire
0-15	-2	4	5	1
16-24	6	3	1	3
25-49	1	1	2	-1
50-64	-3	-2	-5	-2
65-74	16	14	13	14
75+	75	89	102	88
All ages	7	12	13	11

Source: ONS

Gender

- 2.3.6 There is a slightly higher proportion of females than males in Central Lincolnshire, making up 51% of the total population. **Table 2.12** below shows that this reflects the county, regional and national picture.

Table 2.12: Estimate of population by gender

Geographical Area	Male	%	Female	%
City of Lincoln	48,859	49.6	49,579	50.4
North Kesteven	56,281	49	58,949	51
West Lindsey	46,153	49	48,187	51
Central Lincolnshire	151,293	49	156,715	51
Lincolnshire	367,813	49	383,358	51
East Midlands	2,359,406	49	2,412,260	51
England	27,481,053	49.4	28,138,377	50.6

Source: ONS Mid 2017 population estimates²³

²¹ Office for National Statistics

²² HESA 2018, City of Lincoln Council, Lincoln City Profile, 2017-18

²³ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

Race

2.3.7 **Table 2.13** presents 2011 Census ethnicity data for Central Lincolnshire and compares it with Lincolnshire. The area is not diverse in ethnicity, with 93.9% of the population classed as White British. This is similar to the county picture. The second biggest ethnic group is White Other, making up 2.4% of the population.

Table 2.13: Ethnicity, 2011 Census

Ethnic Group	Central Lincolnshire		Lincolnshire	
	Population	% Population	Population	% Population
White British	272,973	93.9	663,741	93
White Irish	1,642	0.56	3,278	0.5
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	299	0.10	617	0.10
White Other	6,994	2.4	28,848	4
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group: White or Black Caribbean	831	0.28	2,073	0.30
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group: White or Black African	338	0.11	815	0.10
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group: White or Black Asian	833	0.28	1,798	0.30
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group: White or Black Other	562	0.19	1,504	0.20
Asian or Asian British: Indian	1,109	0.38	2,474	0.30
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	232	0.07	584	0.10
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	207	0.07	496	0.10
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	797	0.27	1,737	0.20
Asian or Asian British: Other	927	0.31	2,025	0.30
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	739	0.25	1,540	0.20
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	340	0.11	661	0.10
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other	174	0.05	360	0.10
Other ethnic group: Arab	256	0.08	420	0.10
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	311	0.10	682	0.10

Source: ONS 2011 Census

Religion/Belief

2.3.8 **Table 2.14** presents the 2011 Census population by religion compared with Lincolnshire. 66.25% identify themselves as Christian, which is slightly below the county average of 68.50%. 25.28% of the population stated they had no religion, whilst 7.02% did not state their religion.

Table 2.14: Religion or Belief, 2011 Census

Religion	Central Lincolnshire		Lincolnshire	
	Population	% Population	Population	% Population
Buddhist	597	0.20	1,345	0.20
Christian	192,499	66.25	489,184	68.50
Hindu	675	0.23	1,486	0.20
Jewish	155	0.05	439	0.10
Muslim	1,364	0.46	2,780	0.40

Religion	Central Lincolnshire		Lincolnshire	
	Population	% Population	Population	% Population
Sikh	214	0.07	453	0.10
Other religion	1149	0.39	2,605	0.40
No religion	73478	25.28	164,628	23.10
Religion not stated	20426	7.02	50,733	7.10

Source: ONS 2011 Census

Marriage and Civil Partnership

2.3.9 **Table 2.15** presents the marital and civil partnership status of those living in Central Lincolnshire, compared with Lincolnshire, as recorded in the 2011 Census. 49.5% of the population age 16 plus are married. A lower percentage of the Central Lincolnshire population are single (30.7%). 0.16% of the population are considered to be in a registered same-sex civil partnership, slightly below the county average. The percentage of the population separated (2.3%) or divorced (9.9%) is very similar to the county picture. The percentage who are widowed or a surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership is 7.3%, below the county average.

Table 2.15: Marital and Civil Partnership Status

Marital Status	Central Lincolnshire		Lincolnshire	
	Population	% Population	Population	% Population
All usual residents 16+	240,643	100	591,775	100
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	73,898	30.7	164,584	27.8
Married	119,138	49.5	304,791	51.5
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	407	0.16	954	0.2
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	5,544	2.3	14,290	2.4
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	23,886	9.9	59,453	10.0
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	17,770	7.3	47,703	8.1

Source: ONS 2011 Census

Deprivation

2.3.10 According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015, the Central Lincolnshire districts are ranked 45th (Lincoln), 152nd (West Lindsey) and 266nd (North Kesteven) out of 326 Local Authority districts for multiple deprivation overall, where by the lower the number, the more deprived the area is. Lincoln's ranking has got worse compared to the 2010 Indices of Multiple Deprivation, however West Lindsey's and North Kesteven's rankings have improved. When broken down into Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), parts of Lincoln and Gainsborough feature in the top 10% most deprived in England for all domains of deprivation. However, some rural areas of Central Lincolnshire also experience deprivation, particularly in relation to the Barriers to Housing and Services domain.

Table 2.16: IMD 2015 Rankings by Domain

Local Authority	Overall Rank	Income	Employment	Education	Health	Crime	Barriers to Housing and services	Living Environment
City of Lincoln	45	62	90	82	21	57	105	103
North Kesteven	266	233	212	255	198	325	224	271
West Lindsey	152	156	119	215	124	260	116	158

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, The English Indices of Deprivation 2015, Local Authority District Summaries²⁴

Child Poverty

- 2.3.11 In North Kesteven, dependent children under 20 living in poverty has remained consistent over the last 10 years and considerably below the regional and national averages. In West Lindsey, in 2016, 18.7% of children were living in poverty. This is above the regional and national average of 16.3% and 17% respectively. In Lincoln, the number of dependent children under 20 living in child poverty has consistently been above both the regional and national averages, however numbers are decreasing year on year.
- 2.3.12 There are some parts of Central Lincolnshire where there are high numbers of children living in poverty. This is particularly an issue in some Lower Super Output Areas in Lincoln and Gainsborough, where over 40% of children are classed as living in poverty.²⁵

Crime and Community Safety

- 2.3.13 As would be expected for an urban area, Lincoln has an overall crime rate above that of West Lindsey and North Kesteven (96.6 per 1,000 population, compared to 46.6 and 26.9 respectively (2017-18)²⁶. However, the overall crime rate per 1,000 population is generally falling across Central Lincolnshire. Recorded violence against the person offences has also continued to fall. Lincoln has a noticeably higher rate than the other districts in Central Lincolnshire, with a value that is above the county, regional and national value.
- 2.3.14 In terms of recorded anti-social behaviour incidents, Lincoln has a rate above the county average, in contrast to North Kesteven and West Lindsey where rates are below the county average. However, these figures mask pockets of significantly high levels of anti-social behaviour, most notably in Gainsborough, where one Lower Super Output area has a rate of 194 incidents per 1,000 population, one of the highest rates in the county overall.

Table 2.17: Number of crimes by type (March 2018 – February 2019)

²⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>

²⁵ Lincolnshire County Council Child Poverty Strategy, May 2012

²⁶ Source: Office for National Statistics, accessed online 23.4.19 at www.research-lincs.org.uk/crime-and-safety.aspx

Type of Crime	Recorded Crimes
Violent crime	17,804
Anti-social behaviour	15,515
Criminal damage and arson	5,838
Shoplifting	5,171
Burglary	3,979
Public order	3,039
Vehicle crime	2,720
Drugs	1,700

Source: Lincolnshire Police²⁷

2.3.15 The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership is a single, multi-agency forum for addressing community safety issues in Lincolnshire. The partnership has identified the following priorities for 2018-2021:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Domestic abuse
- Reducing offending
- Serious and organised crime

Greater Gainsborough Housing Zone and Riverside Gateway Local Development Order (LDO)

2.3.16 The Housing Zone was designated in 2015 to stimulate and accelerate housing development. The aim is to deliver a minimum of 750 homes across 13 sites, and to regenerate the town centre and riverfront areas of the town, former industrial sites and some housing sites which have been partially delivered but which have stalled.

2.3.17 West Lindsey District Council have also granted the Riverside Gateway LDO. The objectives of the Riverside Gateway LDO include to: deliver 245 homes (contributing to the Housing Zone) along with a range of ground floor uses and provide an attractive riverside walk, new open spaces and water features.

Evidence Gaps

- None

Sustainability Issues

- There is an ageing population within Central Lincolnshire, with the largest increase predicted to take place in the proportion of people aged 75 and over, which is expected to be above the county average in North Kesteven and West Lindsey. This

²⁷ https://www.ukcrimestats.com/Police_Force/Lincolnshire_Police accessed online 23.4.19

will have implications for the local economy, provision of housing and health and social care services;

- Growth in the population aged 16-24 is expected to be significantly higher than the county average in Lincoln. A large and growing student population could create further competition with the available housing stock, however adequate provision of purpose built student accommodation could free up homes to other population groups;
- There is a need to reduce the overall crime rate, particularly in Lincoln and incidents of anti-social behaviour;
- Rates of dependent children under 20 living in poverty are above the regional and national average for West Lindsey and Lincoln;
- Parts of the area are experiencing significant deprivation, with some parts of Lincoln and Gainsborough in the top 10% most deprived Super Output Areas in England for all domains of deprivation. There is a need to reduce the inequalities gap between those living in the most deprived areas of Central Lincolnshire and those living in the least deprived areas.

Future Situation Without the Plan

- An undersupply of new housing and affordable housing to meet the needs of specific groups of people;
- An ageing population in Central Lincolnshire is likely to continue, reflecting the national trend, without the adoption of the Local Plan. There is an opportunity through the Local Plan to ensure that development is designed to meet the specific needs of older people;
- With the Local Plan, the gap between the most and least deprived areas will remain and potentially grow. The Local Plan offers opportunities to address this through the provision of new housing, and new and improved services, facilities and infrastructure.

2.4 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

Policy Context

- 2.4.1 **The Ramsar Convention on Wetland of International Importance (1971)** is a commitment by the signatories to conserve wetlands of international importance, especially waterfowl habitat.
- 2.4.2 **Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979** aims to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats, to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species).
- 2.4.3 **European Union (2009) Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive) 2009/147/EC** recognises that habitat loss and degradation are the most serious threats to the conservation of wild birds. It therefore places great emphasis on the protection of habitats for endangered as well as migratory birds.
- 2.4.4 **The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Directive)** consolidates the various amendments to the European Union (1992) Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) 92/43/EEC. All Local Authorities have a duty to have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive in exercising their functions as set out in Regulation 9 (5).
- 2.4.5 **The Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) 1981** provides for the protection of all wild birds and a number of other wild animals and plants in England and Wales. Section 28G of the Act also places a duty on local authorities to further the conservation and enhancement of the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features for which a Site of Special Scientific Interest is selected.
- 2.4.6 **The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000** provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases measures for the management and protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest and strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 2.4.7 **The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006** places a duty on all Local Authorities in England and Wales to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their normal functions.
- 2.4.8 **The Environment Act 2021** amends the Town and Country Planning Act to require a mandatory biodiversity net gain of at least 10% above pre-development biodiversity value. The net gain can be delivered on-site, off-site or via a new statutory biodiversity credits scheme. The Act includes provision for secondary legislation to set a date for the requirement to come into force.

HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment

- 2.4.9 The 25 Year Environment Plan sets out government action to tackle a wide range of environmental pressures. The Plan promotes a natural capital approach. It identifies six areas around which action will be focused. These include:
- Using and managing land sustainably.
 - Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes.
 - Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing.
 - Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste.
 - Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans.

- Protecting and improving the global environment

2.4.10 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:

- Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment;
- Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in the Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment landscape scale across local authority boundaries;
- Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should: identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated site of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridor and stepping stones that connect them, and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains in biodiversity.

2.4.11 The **NPPG** contains the following:

- Local planning authorities should seek opportunities to work collaboratively with other partners, including Local Nature Partnerships, to develop and deliver a strategic approach to protecting and improving the natural environment based on local priorities and evidence;
- Green infrastructure should be a key consideration in local plans. It provides multiple benefits, is important to the delivery of high quality sustainable development and can help to deliver a variety of planning policies;
- Local plans should identify the strategic location of existing and proposed green infrastructure networks.

Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership Nature Strategy 2015-20 – Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (3rd Edition)

2.4.12 The Vision Statement of the Nature Strategy is: “Lincolnshire and its neighbouring seas are much richer in biodiversity”. The strategy sets out 4 key aims:

- Conserve and enhance Lincolnshire’s biodiversity; recreating habitats on a landscape scale and developing networks of interlinked natural areas – a ‘living landscape’ of which wildlife is an integral part, not confined to specially protected sites;
- Ensure that biodiversity is recognised as an essential element of life in the historic county of Lincolnshire: including its contributions to health and wellbeing; the economy, recreation and tourism; and provision of ecosystem services (such as flood protection, retention of water resources, carbon storage and crop pollination);
- Ensure biodiversity conservation is sustainable; the benefits are felt by society, the economy and the environment;
- Provide and gather biodiversity information to monitor progress and enable individuals and Greater organisations to make decisions based on sound evidence.

Other plans and programmes

- Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)

- Lincolnshire Nature Partnership Geodiversity Strategy, 2017-2021
- Central Lincolnshire Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Study, Playing Pitch Strategy and Informal Outdoor Sports Study (July 2013)
- Central Lincolnshire Playing Pitch Needs and Evidence (July 2013)
- Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Study (October 2013)
- Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire (December 2011)
- Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit and Provision Standard Assessment (April 2016)
- North Kesteven District Council, Open Space Strategy (2018)
- Green Infrastructure Study – Proposals for the Creation of a Green Wheel for Gainsborough (March 2018)

The Current Situation

Designated Sites

2.4.13 Table 2.4.1 lists the designated sites in Central Lincolnshire and the changes since the publication of the SA Scoping Report for the adopted Local Plan. There are no Ramsar sites, SACs or SPAs within Central Lincolnshire. The Habitats Regulations Assessment²⁸ for the existing Local Plan concluded that the proposed growth within the Local Plan would not have a likely significant negative effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. A new Habitats Regulations Assessment for the new Local Plan will be prepared and reported on as the Local Plan progresses through the stages of plan making.

2.4.14 NNRs represent many of the finest wildlife and geological sites in the country. Bardney Limewoods is Central Lincolnshire's only NNR. It comprises of a group of small woods, the largest of which is Chambers Farm Wood, covering an area of 384 ha. The woods are considered to be the most important example of small leaved lime woodland in Britain.

Table 2.18: Designated sites in Central Lincolnshire

Designation	Number of Sites		Change 2013/14 to 2017/18
	2013/14	2017/18	
Ramsar Sites	0	0	No change
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0	0	No change
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0	0	No change
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	1	1	No change
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	23	23	No change
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	7	7	No change
Local Wildlife Sites	354	370	Increase of 16
Local Geological Sites	?	18	Not known
Local Sites	242	388	Increase of 146
Ancient Woodland	42	42	No change

Source: Natural England, Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership

²⁸ Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Methodology and Screening Report (April 2016)

- 2.4.15 SSSIs are designated areas of land which are considered to be of special interest due to their fauna, flora and/or geological features. There are 23 SSSIs within Central Lincolnshire, covering 526 hectares. There has been no change in total area between 2013/14 and 2017/18. SSSIs within Central Lincolnshire include Swanholme Lakes and Greetwell Hollow in Lincoln, Linwood Warren and Bardney Limewoods in West Lindsey and Metherringham Heath Quarry and Wilsford and Rauceby Warren in North Kesteven.
- 2.4.16 Natural England carries out assessments of the condition of all SSSIs throughout England, in order to ensure the appropriate type of management is in place to conserve and protect them. For the 2017/2018 monitoring period, 364.01 ha of SSSI in Central Lincolnshire were considered to be in favourable condition, 543.69 ha in unfavourable recovering condition, 168.51 ha unfavourable no change condition, and 16.19 ha unfavourable declining condition.

Table 2.19: SSSI condition assessment

SSSI condition	2017/18
	Area (ha)
Lincoln	
Favourable	59.32
Unfavourable recovering	10.95
Unfavourable no change	42.17
Unfavourable declining	0
Part destroyed	0
Destroyed	0
North Kesteven	
Favourable	75.54
Unfavourable recovering	66.16
Unfavourable no change	0
Unfavourable declining	16.19
Part destroyed	0
Destroyed	0
West Lindsey	
Favourable	229.15
Unfavourable recovering	466.58
Unfavourable no change	126.34
Unfavourable declining	0
Part destroyed	0
Destroyed	0
Central Lincolnshire	
Favourable	364.01
Unfavourable recovering	543.69
Unfavourable no change	168.51
Unfavourable declining	16.19
Part destroyed	0
Destroyed	0

Source: Natural England

- 2.4.17 LNRs are sites of local importance for wildlife, geology, education or public enjoyment. There are 7 LNRs within Central Lincolnshire: Whisby Nature Park, Swanholme Lakes, Mareham Marshes, Cross O'Cliff Orchard, Lollycocks Field, Theaker Avenue and Owlet. Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace standard recommends that there should be 1 hectare of Local Nature Reserve per 1000 population. This has been achieved in North Kesteven, but Lincoln and West Lindsey are well below this standard.

Table 2.20: LNRs per 1,000 population, 2017/18

LNR Information	Lincoln #	North Kesteven	West Lindsey
LNR total area (ha)	54.21	120.72	52.53
Population (mid- year estimate 2017)	98,400	115,200	94,300
Local Nature Reserve area per 1000 people (ha)	0.55	1.05	0.56

Source: City of Lincoln Council, North Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council

2015/16 data

2.4.18 Local Wildlife Sites are areas of land with significant wildlife value (previously known as SNCIs, SINC or County Wildlife Sites). There are a total of 370 LWSs within Central Lincolnshire²⁹. There are 109 sites (28%) in positive management.

Ancient Woodland

2.4.19 Ancient woodland is defined as land that has been continually wooded since at least 1600AD. There are two broad types of ancient woodland; ancient semi-natural and planted ancient woodland. In Central Lincolnshire, there are 42 Ancient Woodlands covering an area of some 2,473 hectares.

Biodiversity Opportunities

2.4.20 The Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Study for Central Lincolnshire (October 2013)³⁰ identifies 13 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas across the area. The Study created a GIS-based map showing broad proposals for Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, which represent areas in which resources should be targeted to maintain, restore, buffer, link and expand wildlife habitats at a landscape scale. The areas are:

- Gainsborough Woodlands
- Lincolnshire Limewoods
- River Ancholme
- Trent Vale
- River Till and Fosdyke Navigation
- River Brant and Upper Witham
- Lower Witham Peatlands and Barlings Eau
- River Sleas
- Heathland/Acid Grassland North of Gainsborough
- Heathland/Acid Grassland around Market Rasen
- Mosaic South-West of Lincoln
- Calcareous Grassland South of Lincoln
- Lincolnshire Wolds Calcareous Grassland

²⁹ Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, Local Sites Reporting 2017-18

³⁰ https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/planning-policy-library/?185246e2-47c9-47e5-86a3-89192d42badb_cord=DESC

Green Infrastructure

- 2.4.21 The Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Network encompasses a range of Green Infrastructure types, functions, locations, sizes and levels of accessibility and use, and operates at every spatial scale and in all geographic areas within the area, both rural and urban. However, the proposed Green Infrastructure Network identifies locations where targeting investment in Green Infrastructure is most likely to deliver multiple benefits across a range of key environmental, social and economic policy areas.
- 2.4.22 The Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Network has three main components:
- Strategic green corridors: priority areas with key opportunities for strategic Green Infrastructure enhancement, linkage and creation;
 - Strategic green access links: within and connecting the Strategic Green Corridors, a network of Strategic Green Access Links are intended to provide multi-user, predominantly off-road, strategic access routes for pedestrians and cyclists, linking and integrating residential and business communities across the area to key services, leisure destinations and greenspaces
 - Urban green grids: these are priority areas with key opportunities for greening of the built environment, including potential new sustainable urban extensions. They focus around Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford.

Local Green Spaces

- 2.4.23 Local Green Spaces are a national designation which allows communities, through either a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan, to identify green spaces of particular importance to them. Designating land as a Local Green Spaces rules out development other than in very special circumstances. Sites designated as Local Green Space can be viewed on the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Policies Map and the Interactive Map.³¹

Evidence Gaps

- No data gaps have been identified.

Sustainability Issues

- Although there are no SPAs, SACs or Ramsar sites within the boundary of Central Lincolnshire, there are a number of nationally important sites, such as Bardney Limewoods NNR and numerous SSSIs. There is a need to protect and enhance these sites, particularly sites that are in an unfavourable (declining and no change) condition, to prevent further deterioration and to improve their condition;
- There are also a growing number of Local Sites, which will need to be protected to ensure no harm arises as a result of development;
- There is a need to consider natural capital in decision making;
- The area of LNR is below the recommended standard of 1 hectare per 1000 population in Lincoln and West Lindsey;
- Habitat loss and fragmentation is one of the main reasons for biodiversity decline. Climate change is also a significant threat in the long term, with changes in temperatures, rainfall distribution and extremes of weather anticipated. Facilitating the movement of species across the area and creating a network of natural greenspaces would help improve biodiversity and help species to adapt to climate change;

³¹ <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/policies-map-and-interactive-map/>

- An increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for publicly accessible open space, sports and leisure facilities for sport and recreation, placing pressure on biodiversity and geodiversity in Central Lincolnshire. However, there will also be opportunities to provide new open space and to provide a net gain in biodiversity in new developments.

Future Situation Without the Plan

- Statutorily protected wildlife sites (i.e. international and national designated sites) would still be afforded considerable protection under current legislation, however non statutory sites (i.e. local designated sites) would be at risk from unplanned development without policy protection set out in the Local Plan.
- Opportunities to extend the ecological network or strategic green infrastructure network could be missed without a co-ordinated approach through the Local Plan.

2.5 Landscape and Townscape

Policy Context

- 2.5.1 **Council of Europe (2000) European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention)** - highlights the importance of developing landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and creation of landscapes. Defines 'landscape character' as: "a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently in a particular type of landscape."
- 2.5.2 **Council of Europe (1985) The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)** - Recognition that conservation of heritage is a cultural purpose and integrated conservation of heritage is an important factor in the improvement of quality of life.
- 2.5.3 **Council of Europe (1992) The European Convention for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention)** - Agreement that the conservation and enhancement of archaeological heritage is one of the goals of urban and regional planning policy. It is concerned in particular with the need to for co-operation between archaeologists and planners to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.
- 2.5.4 **Countryside and Rights of Way (CroW) Act 2000** Requires all relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) when performing their functions.
- 2.5.5 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:
- Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development;
 - Plans should, at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations. Design policies should be developed with local communities so they reflect local aspirations, and are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of each area's defining characteristics.
 - Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:
 - will function well and add to the overall quality of the area for the lifetime of the development;
 - are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;
 - are sympathetic to local character and history;
 - establish or maintain a strong sense of place.
- 2.5.6 The **NPPG** contains the following:
- Local Plans should include strategic policies for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including landscape. This includes designated landscapes but also the wider countryside;
 - Where appropriate, landscape character assessments should be prepared to complement Natural England's National Character Area profiles.

Other Plans and Programmes

- Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan, 2018-2023
- Landscape Character Assessment for North Kesteven (2007)
- Landscape Character Assessment for West Lindsey (1999)
- Central Lincolnshire Green Wedge and Settlement Breaks Review (April 2016)
- Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (September 2011)
- Historic Townscape Characterisation – The Lincoln Townscape Assessment (April 2012)

The Current Situation

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- 2.5.7 The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB lies partly within the boundary of Central Lincolnshire, the remainder being in East Lindsey, and is the only AONB in the East Midlands region. It covers a total area of 588 km² (119.5 km² of which lie within Central Lincolnshire) and comprises a distinctive and cohesive rolling upland landscape. The AONB is sparsely populated, with the market towns of Alford, Caistor, Horncastle, Louth, Market Rasen and Spilsby acting as important gateways.

Landscape Character

- 2.5.8 National character areas divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision making framework for the natural environment. Natural England is currently updating and revising the character profiles for each character area.
- 2.5.9 Central Lincolnshire falls within 6 National Character Areas. Some of their key characteristics are summarised below:

43 Lincolnshire Wolds

- Predominantly agricultural landscape;
- A diverse geology of chalk, sandy limestone, ironstone and clay gives rise to a combination of elevated plateau and deep-sided dales;
- Woodland is limited particularly to the north but there are occasional shelterbelts, hedgerow trees and scattered beech clumps;
- Isolated chalk and neutral grasslands typically on the steepest uncultivated slopes;
- A sparse settlement pattern of small market towns and small nucleated villages (often in sheltered valleys) and scattered farmsteads;
- A diverse geology gives rise to a variety of building materials including brick, sandy limestone, sandstone and ironstone with churches built of local stone;
- A historically and archaeologically rich landscape of small parklands and modest country houses.

44 Central Lincolnshire Vale

- A predominantly broad, low-lying, very gently undulating arable vale;
- A landscape crossed by many streams flowing from the Wolds towards the heavily modified courses of the main rivers;
- Woodland cover is variable with little on the central and northern clay soils, much more on the Coversands and Fen Edge Gravels including extensive conifer plantations, while there is a concentration of ancient lime woodland between Wragby and Bardney;
- Very limited semi-natural habitat, most being lost through drainage and commercial agriculture and forestry;
- A landscape rich in medieval sites with remnant ridge and furrow, deserted medieval villages and a cluster of monastic sites close to the River Witham, while Lincoln Cathedral, just outside the Vale, in the west provides a landmark across much of the area;
- Traditional building materials predominantly of brick and pantile reflecting the availability and suitability of local clay with stone from surrounding areas used in churches and high-status buildings;

- A deeply rural, tranquil landscape with sparsely distributed small nucleated settlements and isolated farmsteads.

45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge & Coversands

- Prominent scarp slope of Lincoln 'Cliff' marks western edge of area;
- Open landscape with rectilinear fields and few boundaries. Where enclosure still present, a mixture of limestone walls, discontinuous hedges and shelter belts;
- Sparse settlement on top of escarpment. Spring-line villages to west at foot of 'cliff' and small parklands to east towards the clay vale;
- Active and redundant airfields;
- Roman roads and ancient track ways.

46 The Fens

- Expansive, flat, open, low-lying wetland landscape influenced by the Wash estuary;
- Woodland cover is sparse; predominant land use is arable – wheat, root crops, bulbs, vegetables and market gardening made possible by actively draining reclaimed land areas;
- Open fields, bounded by a network of drains and the distinctive hierarchy of rivers (some embanked), have a strong influence on the geometric/rectilinear landscape pattern;
- Settlements and isolated farmsteads are mostly located on the modestly elevated 'geological islands' and the low, sinuous roddon banks (infilled ancient watercourses within fens).

47 Southern Lincolnshire Edge

- As 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge & Coversands

48 Trent & Belvoir Vales

- A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains;
- Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops;
- A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape;
- Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent flood plain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape;
- A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.

2.5.10 The Landscape Character Assessment for North Kesteven (2007) identified 4 broad landscape character types and 13 landscape character sub areas.

Table 2.21: Landscape Character Types and Sub Areas North Kesteven

Landscape Character Type	Landscape Character Sub Area
Trent and Witham Vales	Heath Sandlands Terrace Sandlands Till Vale Lincoln Fringe

	Witham and Brant Vales
Central Plateau	Upland Plateau Fringe Limestone Heath Rauceby Hills Wilsford Heath Slea Valley Central Clays and Gravels
Lincoln Cliff	Lincoln Cliff
The Fens	Fenland

Source: North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment

2.5.11 The Landscape Character Assessment for West Lindsey (1999) identified 4 broad landscape character types and 14 landscape character sub areas.

Table 2.22: Landscape Character Types and Sub Areas West Lindsey

Landscape Character Type	Landscape Character Sub Area
Trent Valley	Laughton Woods Trent Valley The Till Vale
Lincolnshire Cliff	The Cliff Limestone Dip Slope Lincoln Fringe
Lincolnshire Clay Vale	The Kelseys Heathland Belt Fenland Lincolnshire Limewoods
The Wolds	North West Wolds Escarpment Lincolnshire Wolds Wold's Estates

Source: West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment

Townscape Character

2.5.12 The Lincoln Townscape Assessment³² has mapped all the areas in Lincoln in terms of their character. The project identified 108 different character areas across the city. Information on each character areas includes interactive maps of monuments, archaeological research areas, views and ecological areas; a written statement giving an overview and information on the historical development, urban form, condition, use, views into and out of the area and relationship to surrounding areas; people's views and memories and; maps and photos, including historic maps and maps of the urban characteristics.

2.5.13 The Lincoln Fringe Character Project is an extension of the Lincoln Townscape Assessment and describes the distinctive character of 30 places around the edges of the City of Lincoln. Each place or 'Character Area' is described according to its historical development and its current character.

Evidence Gaps

- Townscape character assessments for towns outside of Lincoln.

Sustainability Issues

³² <http://www.heritageconnectlincoln.com/article/plans-in-place>

- The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is one of only two nationally protected landscapes in the East Midlands region. The special qualities of the AONB are under pressure from numerous sources, including development;

Future Situation Without the Plan

- The NPPF ensures nationally protected landscapes are given significant weight in the planning process;
- The Local Plan will be important in ensuring that locally valued landscapes are taken into account and the least sensitive landscapes are promoted for development;
- Landscape character is at risk of degradation without local planning policy to guide development.

2.6 Built and Historic Environment

Policy Context

- 2.6.1 **United Nations (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention (1972)** - promotes co-operation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.
- 2.6.2 **European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985)** - defines architectural heritage and recognition that conservation of heritage is a cultural purpose and integrated conservation of heritage is an important factor in the improvement of quality of life
- 2.6.3 **European Convention for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention) (1992)** - agreement that the conservation and enhancement of archaeological heritage is one of the goals of urban and regional planning policy. It is concerned in particular with the need to for co-operation between archaeologists and planners to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.
- 2.6.4 **Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990** - Provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.
- 2.6.5 **Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979** - provides specific protection for scheduled monuments.
- 2.6.6 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:
- Heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance;
 - Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats;
 - Where a proposed development would lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss;
 - Where a proposed development would lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use;
 - Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance.
- 2.6.7 The **NPPG** contains the following:
- Sets out more detailed guidance on enhancing and conserving the historic environment.

Other plans and programmes

- Government Statement on the Historic Environment (2010)
- DCMS, The Heritage Statement (2017)
- Historic Environment Forum, Heritage 2020: Strategic Priorities for England's Historic Environment, 2015-2020
- Historic England, Advice Note 8: Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (December 2016)
- Historic England, The Historic Environment in Local Plans (March 2015)

- Gainsborough Town Centre and Heritage Masterplan (2016)
- Lincoln Public Realm Strategy (November 2017)
- Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (September 2011)
- Historic Townscape Characterisation – The Lincoln Townscape Assessment (April 2012)
- Conservation Areas Appraisals and Management Plans

The Current Situation

Designated Heritage Assets

- 2.6.8 Central Lincolnshire has a rich historic environment. Its local character is heavily influenced by Lincoln, a world class Cathedral City which lies at its heart. Lincoln Cathedral is one of the most important medieval buildings in Europe and its prominent, visually dominant position, on the edge of the Witham Gap along the Lincoln Cliff makes it one of the country's finest sites.
- 2.6.9 Other notable heritage assets and features within Central Lincolnshire include Lincoln Castle, Sleaford Bass Maltings and Gainsborough Old Hall.

Table 2.23: Designated Heritage Assets

Designation	Number of Sites in Central Lincolnshire 2013	Number at Risk 2013	Number of Sites in Central Lincolnshire 2019	Number at Risk 2019
Scheduled Monuments	192	21	192	21
Listed Buildings Total	2,363	32	2,374	26
Grade I	154		153	
Grade II*	164		170	
Grade II	1,763		2,051	
Registered Historic Parks and Gardens	12	1	12	2
Conservation Areas	72	10	72	10
Total Heritage Assets				59

Source: The National Heritage List for England and Heritage at Risk Register (Historic England)

- 2.6.10 **Scheduled Monuments** are designated under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 by the Secretary of State for their national importance. For a monument to be scheduled, it must be nationally important by reason of its historic, architectural, artistic, traditional or archaeological interest. Central Lincolnshire has 192 Scheduled Monuments, 21 of which are at risk.
- 2.6.11 **Listed buildings** are those that hold special historic or architectural interest and are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. There are over 2,000 listed buildings in Central Lincolnshire, the majority are Grade II. The number of listed buildings has increased over the last 6 years between 2013 and 2019. There are currently 26 listed buildings at risk, a decrease of 6 since 2013.

- 2.6.12 **Registered Parks and Gardens** are designated by English Heritage, who is responsible for compiling a register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England. To be included on the register, a site must hold a level of importance defined as 'special historic interest' in a national context. Central Lincolnshire has 12 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, including Grade II* Doddington Hall. Brocklesby Park in West Lindsey and Rauceby Hospital in North Kesteven are currently on the Heritage at Risk register.
- 2.6.13 **Conservation Areas** are areas of special architectural or historic interest, whose character or appearance is considered to be desirable to preserve or enhance. They are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 by the Secretary of State. There are 72 Conservation Areas in Central Lincolnshire, remaining unchanged since 2013. However, in March 2019, North Kesteven consulted residents on proposals to designate two new Conservation Areas in Beckingham and Silk Willoughby.

Non-Designated Assets

- 2.6.14 Non-designated assets make up an important and valued part of the historic environment in Central Lincolnshire. One of the principal sources of information on non-designated assets is the Historic Environment Record maintained by Lincolnshire County Council. For Lincoln, the Lincoln Heritage Database also offers a comprehensive record of all known archaeological excavations and discoveries in the city. Additionally, each local authority maintains a list of buildings and structures of local importance.

Evidence Gaps

- Some Conservation Area Appraisals in Central Lincolnshire are becoming out dated.

Sustainability Issues

- Central Lincolnshire has nationally significant heritage assets, including Lincoln Cathedral, Lincoln Castle and roman monuments;
- There are a total of 59 heritage assets in the Central Lincolnshire area on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register;
- The continued growth in population and the increasing demand for new housing, will place pressure on the area's heritage assets and could result in negative effects if not planned sympathetically. It will be important that heritage assets are preserved and, where appropriate, enhanced.

Future Situation Without the Plan

- Whilst designated heritage assets will be statutorily protected, those that have not been formally designated will have limited protection against inappropriate development without the Local Plan;
- The Local Plan presents an opportunity to incorporate mitigation into site specific policies where appropriate;
- The Local Plan may present opportunities to deliver heritage-led regeneration.

2.7 Natural Resources – Water

Policy Context

European Nitrates Directive (1991)

- 2.7.1 Identifies nitrate vulnerability zones and puts in place measures to reduce water pollution caused by the introduction of nitrates.

European Waste Water Directive (1991)

- 2.7.2 Aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.

European Water Framework Directive (2000)

- 2.7.3 Protects inland surface waters. Transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. The overarching target is for all inland and coastal waters to meet 'good ecological status' (or good ecological potential in the case of heavily modified water bodies) at the latest by 2027. In addition to this, no water bodies should deteriorate in status.

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (2010 as amended)

- 2.7.4 Provides a consolidated framework for environmental permits and exemptions for industrial activities, mobile plant, waste operations, mining waste operations, water discharge activities, groundwater activities and radioactive substances activities. It also sets out the powers, functions and duties of the regulators.

Water White Paper – Water for Life (2012)

- 2.7.5 Sets out the Government's vision for securing sustainable and resilient water supplies up to 2050. It outlines plans to consult on abstraction reform proposals in 2013, with a view to introducing subsequent legislation and implementing a new abstraction regime fully by the mid-late 2020s. It also highlights the value of the catchment approach to addressing water quality issues, outlines a package of deregulatory reforms to introduce more competition in the water industry.
- 2.7.6 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:
- Strategic policies should make sufficient provision for infrastructure for water supply and wastewater;
 - Planning policies should prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans.
- 2.7.7 The **NPPG** contains the following:
- Where there is a clear local need, a local planning authority can set local plan policies requiring new dwellings to meet the tighter Building Regulations optional requirement of 110 litres/person/day. Need should be based on existing sources of evidence, consultations with the local water and sewerage company and the Environment Agency, and consideration of the impact on viability and housing supply.

Anglian Water, Water Resources Management Plan (2015) and Draft Water Resources Management Plan (2019) (WRMP)

- 2.7.8 The purpose of the WRMP is to look 25 years ahead and show how Anglian Water will meet future projections of demand, and secure a long-term sustainable supply-demand balance for the supply of water.

Other plans and programmes

- DEFRA, East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans (April 2014)
- Environment Agency, Anglian River Basin District Management Plan (December 2015)
- Environment Agency, Humber River Basin Management Plan (December 2015)
- Environment Agency, Witham Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (February 2013)
- Environment Agency, Grimsby, Ancholme and Louth Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (February 2013)
- Severn Trent Water, Water Resources Management Plan (2019)
- Central Lincolnshire Water Cycle Study Update (June 2016)
- Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership Water for Growth Water Management Plan 2015-2040

The Current Situation

- 2.7.9 Central Lincolnshire's rivers and water resources are a valuable asset, supporting wildlife, recreation and tourism, as well as providing water. Central Lincolnshire lies within an area of serious water stress where drought is a cause for concern. Water resources therefore require careful management to ensure that demand for water can be achieved in a sustainable manner.
- 2.7.10 The Lincolnshire Limestone aquifer is the main aquifer within the Local Plan area to meet the demand for public water supply, and, to a lesser extent, agriculture. Anglian Water and Seven Trent manage the water supply in the area.
- 2.7.11 The main rivers are the River Witham, which rises south of Grantham, passes through Lincoln and discharges into The Wash at Boston, and the River Ancholme, which rises 13 km north of Lincoln and is an important source of water for industry, agriculture and public water supplies within the Ancholme Valley.
- 2.7.12 Other significant rivers include the Rivers Brant, Bain, Slea and Barlings Eau (all tributaries of the Witham) and the extensive drainage network in the East and West Fens north of Boston. The River Trent skirts the western edge of Central Lincolnshire, running adjacent to Gainsborough. From Cromwell Weir to the River Humber, the river is tidal and flows into the internationally important Humber Estuary (a designated Ramsar, SPA and SAC). There are a number of water bodies within Central Lincolnshire that are currently failing to meet the Water Framework Directive objective of 'Good' status.
- 2.7.13 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) are areas designated as being at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. The designations are made in accordance with the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015. The majority of Central Lincolnshire, with the exception of a small area to the north east of Morton in West Lindsey, is a designated NVZ.
- 2.7.14 There are also a number of Source Protection Zones (SPZs) (for groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs used for public drinking water supply), concentrated down the centre of the Plan area, from Kirton in Lindsey in West Lindsey to the north down to Walcot in North Kesteven to the south. Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) are areas of groundwater where there is a particular sensitivity to pollution risks due to the closeness of a drinking water source and groundwater flows. They are used to protect abstractions used for public water supply and other users such as mineral and bottled water plants, breweries, and food production plants. Generally the closer the activity is to a groundwater source, then the greater the risk.

Evidence Gaps

- No gaps in data have been identified.

Sustainability Issues

- Growth is likely to put pressure on already limited water resources by increasing the demand for water and wastewater treatment. The supply-demand balance for water in the Anglian region is under significant pressure from population growth, climate change, sustainability reductions and the need to increase resilience to severe drought;³³
- There are a number of water bodies within Central Lincolnshire that are currently failing to meet the Water Framework Directive objective of 'Good' status;

³³ <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/revised-dwrmp-2019.pdf>

- New development should incorporate measures to ensure that water is used efficiently, to help reduce the demand for water.

Future Situation Without the Plan

- Although the current adopted Local Plan has sustainable water management policies, including a requirement to meet the Building Regulation water efficiency standard of 110 litres per occupier per day, local carrying capacity is already stretched; growth will further exacerbate this shortage with potential damage to water resources;
- Without the Local Plan, development could be located in areas that will exacerbate existing water quality issues, although the requirements of the Water Framework Directive would provide a certain level of protection. Development management policies within the Local Plan will ensure that development is designed to take account of the sensitivities of the water environment and that water infrastructure is provided in a timely manner.

2.8 Pollution

Policy Context

European Air Quality Directive (2008)

- 2.8.1 Put in place measures for the avoidance, prevention and reduction of harmful effects to human health and the environment associated with ambient air pollution and established legally binding limits for the most common and harmful sources of air pollution.

European Environmental Noise Directive (2002)

- 2.8.2 Concerns noise from road, rail and air traffic and from industry. It focuses on the impact of such noise on individuals, complementing existing EU legislation which sets standards for noise emissions from specific sources.

- 2.8.3 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:

- Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely effected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability;
- Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air quality;
- New development should be appropriate for its location, taking into account likely effects of pollution. Planning policies and decisions should: mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are valued for their recreation and amenity for this reason, and limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.

- 2.8.4 The **NPPG** sets out a range of more detailed guidance on: air quality, light pollution and noise.

- 2.8.5 **Part IV of The Environment Act 1995** sets provisions for protecting air quality in the UK and for local air quality management, requiring Local Authorities to carry out annual reviews of air quality in their area.

- 2.8.6 **The Air Quality Standards (England) Regulations 2000** sets national objectives for local authorities in England.

- 2.8.7 **The UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (2017)** - sets out the government's ambition and actions for delivering a better environment and cleaner air, including funds to invest in ultra-low emission vehicles, green buses, walking and cycling and for local authorities to prepare air quality action plans and improve air quality.

- 2.8.8 **Clean Air Strategy (January 2019)** - the strategy sets out how the Government will: protect the nation's health, protect the environment, secure clean growth and innovation, reduce emissions from transport, homes, farming and industry, and monitor progress.

Other plans and programmes

- DEFRA, Air Quality: National Air Pollution Control Programme (March 2019)
- City of Lincoln Air Quality Action Plan (2006)
- City of Lincoln Air Quality Status Report (2018)

The Current Situation

Air Quality

- 2.8.9 Air quality impacts on both human health, quality of life and the natural environment. Poor air quality can also adversely affect our ecosystems and built heritage. Air quality across Central Lincolnshire is generally considered to be good. However vehicle emissions are a primary source of air pollutants at some locations, particularly in areas that suffer from congestion as well as within settlements situated along the area's strategic road network.
- 2.8.10 Air quality in Central Lincolnshire as a whole is generally considered to be good, however, there is 1 Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Lincoln (**Figure 2.1**). It has been designated for levels of NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide) that exceed national air quality objectives. The principal source of air pollution in Lincoln is road traffic coupled with the high proportion of heavy goods vehicle traffic in the city centre. The boundary of the AQMA was reduced in July 2018 to reflect improvements in nitrogen dioxide levels. An AQMA for particulates was revoked in August 2018 due to low monitored and modelled concentrations across the City.
- 2.8.11 An Air Quality Action Plan has been drawn up for the AQMA in Lincoln, which outlines a number of potential measures that may be taken to improve air quality. The Action Plan has been incorporated in the current Local Transport Plan through the Lincolnshire Strategic Air Quality Partnership.
- 2.8.12 As may be expected in an urban area with an AQMA, the highest percentage of resident population in Central Lincolnshire living in areas ranked as Lincolnshire's worst 10% in terms of air quality in 2015, is to be found in Lincoln (44.90%). In sharp contrast, only 7.10% of West Lindsey and 2.20% of North Kesteven residents live in areas ranked as Lincolnshire's worst 10% in terms of air quality.³⁴
- 2.8.13 The fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution in 2017 was 4.8%, 4.8% and 4.5% for Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey respectively. Central Lincolnshire is therefore below the national average for England (5.1%).³⁵

Noise

- 2.8.14 The main sources of noise in the area are from transport sources such as road traffic, rail and aviation. During 2015/16 there were a total of 1,244 noise complaints within the Central Lincolnshire area.³⁶ The mean rate of noise complaints within Central Lincolnshire has continued to fall between 2013/14 and 2015/16.

Table 2.24: Number of Complaints About Noise per 1,000 population

Geographical Area	2011/12	2013/14	2015/16
Lincoln	7.6	4.8	4.1
North Kesteven	4.2	5.5	5.0
West Lindsey	3.7	4.6	3.2
Central Lincolnshire*	5.1*	4.9*	4.1*
East Midlands	5.5	4.9	4.2
England	7.5	7.4	6.3

³⁴ DCLG accessed online on 16.5.19 at <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/LROPresentationTools/UI/Pages/MappingTool.aspx?dataInstanceId=6000>

³⁵ PHE accessed online on 16.5.19 at <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/data#page/4/qid/1000043/pat/6/par/E12000004/ati/101/are/E07000139/iid/30101/age/230/sex/4>

³⁶ CIEH accessed online on 25.4.19 at www.fingertips.phe.org.uk/public-health-outcomes-framework

Source: CIEH, *Mean

- 2.8.15 Defra, in line with its duties under the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 as the 'competent authority', has developed a strategic noise map identifying 'important areas' where noise levels are likely to be of particular concern. Important areas are those areas where the population is likely to be exposed to elevated levels of noise due to major transport or industrial sources. A number of important areas have been identified in Central Lincolnshire (e.g. six road and two rail related important areas have been identified within Lincoln, and further areas have been identified within both West Lindsey and North Kesteven).³⁷

Light

- 2.8.16 In December 2015, the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) commissioned Land Use Consultants to develop an up-to-date national interactive map of England's light pollution. The updated light pollution maps help define areas of dark skies and can provide the baseline against which to measure potential change introduced by new lighting associated with new developments.
- 2.8.17 Within Central Lincolnshire, Lincoln is the brightest district, ranked the 245th darkest district out of 326 within England. North Kesteven is ranked 58th and West Lindsey is ranked 34th.³⁸ The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is ranked 10th darkest out of 34 AONBs in England, with 31% of the AONB falling within the darkest category.

Evidence Gaps

- No data gaps have been identified.

Sustainability Issues

- There is a heavy reliance on the private car as the main mode of transport within the area;
- Local air quality has improved in recent years, with the removal of 1 AQMA within Lincoln and a reduction in the extent of the remaining AQMA. However, vehicle traffic remains an issue in Lincoln as the remaining AQMA was designated for nitrogen dioxide that exceed national air quality objectives;
- The Lincolnshire Wolds is an area of 'dark sky'. There will be a need to reduce light pollution and restrict further intensification of light pollution from new developments;
- Growth proposed in the Local Plan could generate air, noise and light pollution, for example, through construction works. This pollution will need to be minimised and controlled through Local Plan policies.

Future Situation Without the Plan

- Without a co-ordinated approach to development and infrastructure, ensuring new development is located in the most sustainable locations, existing local air quality issues may be exacerbated and the objectives of AQMA may not be met.

³⁷ DEFRA 2012

³⁸ <https://www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk/maps/>

2.9 Natural Resources – Land Use and Soil

Policy Context

Safeguarding Our Soils: A Strategy for England (2009)

- 2.9.1 Sets out a vision that by 2030, all England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats managed successfully. This will improve the quality of England's soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations.
- 2.9.2 The Strategy highlights the areas which DEFRA will prioritise, including: better protection for agricultural soils, protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon, building the resilience of soils to a changing climate, preventing soil pollution, effective soil protection during construction and development and, dealing with our legacy of contaminated land.
- 2.9.3 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:
- Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or 'brownfield' land, except where this would conflict with other policies in the Framework;
 - Planning policies and decisions should take opportunities to achieve net environmental gains and recognise that some land can perform many functions;
 - Planning policies and decisions should give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements and support appropriate opportunities to remediate contaminated land;
 - Planning policies and decisions should promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings;
 - Planning policies and decisions should reflect changes in the demand for land;
 - Planning policies and decisions should support development that makes efficient use of land and that developments make optimal use of the potential of each site. Plans should consider the use of minimum density standards for parts of the plan area.
- 2.9.4 The **NPPG** contains the following:
- Brownfield land can have high ecological value, for example, where sites support open mosaic habitat.
 - More detailed guidance on land stability and land affected by contamination.

Other plans and programmes

- Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (June 2016)
- Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Site Locations (December 2017)
- Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership Geodiversity Strategy, 2017-2021

The Current Situation

Agricultural Land and Soils

- 2.9.5 According to the National Soil Map of England and Wales³⁹, the main broad soil types within Central Lincolnshire are:
- Shallow very acid peaty soils over rock;
 - Freely draining acid loamy soils over rock;

³⁹ Accessed online on 25.4.19 at www.magic.defra.gov.uk

- Slowly permeable wet very acid upland soils with a peaty surface;
- Freely draining floodplain soils;
- Loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater.

- 2.9.6 The most versatile (Grade 1) agricultural land within Central Lincolnshire occurs in two small areas to the northwest of Gainsborough and the southeast of Sleaford. There are large swathes of Grade 2 agricultural land to the North of Lincoln either side of the A15 and to the South West between Lincoln and Sleaford, broadly following the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes⁴⁰. The remainder of Central Lincolnshire is largely classified as Grade 3 agricultural land.
- 2.9.7 Some of the most significant impacts on soil properties occur as a result of construction activities, including soil contamination, reduction of soil quality (e.g. by mixing topsoil with subsoil) and over compacting soil through use of heavy machinery.

Geology and Minerals

- 2.9.8 The main minerals produced in Lincolnshire are sand and gravel and limestone and chalk. Oil and gas are also produced. Sand and gravel is the most important of the County's aggregate minerals. Over the ten year period 2004 to 2013, sales from Lincolnshire averaged 2.37 million tonnes (Mt) per annum⁴¹. It is mainly used in the construction industry. One of the main concentrations of current workings is situated in the Trent valley south west of Lincoln. Limestone is mainly worked for aggregates but also for agricultural lime. High quality limestone is quarried in Lincoln for the restoration of Lincoln Cathedral. Chalk is currently extracted from 5 quarries within or adjacent the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB for aggregates and industrial purposes. Chalk is also used for vernacular buildings.
- 2.9.9 There are 6 Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGs) designated within Central Lincolnshire. There are currently 18 Local Geological Sites (LGS).

Land Affected by Contamination

⁴⁰ Agricultural Land Classification 2009 accessed online at www.magic.defra.gov.uk

⁴¹ Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (June 2016)

- 2.9.10 Previous industrial development has left a legacy of contamination in the UK. Contaminated Land legislation was introduced in April 2000 as part of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 “to ensure contaminated land issues are addressed for the safety and wellbeing of human health and the environment”.
- 2.9.11 In terms of Central Lincolnshire, the greatest legacy of contaminated land is likely to be found in Lincoln, as although they may have been pockets of industrial activity in West Lindsey and North Kesteven, these districts are largely characterised by agricultural activity. Lincoln has an ancient past and was an important military town during Roman Times. The city developed later with the cloth and wool trade, progressing through to the Agricultural Revolution with the development of malthouses and breweries. The railways developed in the mid-19th century with heavy engineering and industry growing alongside e.g. foundries, steelworks, tanneries, timber treatment yards and gas works⁴².
- 2.9.12 Where development is proposed on a site which is known or has the potential to be affected by contamination, a preliminary risk assessment should be undertaken as a minimum and any subsequent additional information should be carried out in accordance with the Environment Agency’s Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM).⁴³

Table 2.25: Employment Floorspace Completed on Previously Developed Land 2017/18

Amount of Employment Floorspace completed on Previously Developed Land (%)			
Land use type	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey
B1	100	21.4	100
B2	0	97	100
B8	100	0	100
Mixed	0	0.5	100

Source: City of Lincoln Council, North Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council

Evidence Gaps

- None

Sustainability Issues

- The large areas of Grade 2 and 3 land is a significant asset to the area, however the need to ensure a housing supply through the Local Plan will result in some development within these areas;
- There is a legacy of contaminated land, particularly in Lincoln. The cost to remediate sites could increase pressure on greenfield sites.

Future Situation Without the Plan

- Without a Local Plan promoting development in the most sustainable locations, there is a risk brownfield land will not be prioritised. The Local Plan can promote development at locations which would result in the re-use of previously developed land and buildings and ensure sites are allocated for development outside of higher quality agricultural land where at all possible.
- Site allocations in the Local Plan could lead to the remediation of contaminated land.

⁴² City of Lincoln Council (2008) Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy

⁴³ [Land contamination risk management \(LCRM\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/land-contamination-risk-management-lcrm)

2.10 Waste

Policy Context

EU Landfill Directive (1999)

- 2.10.1 The Landfill Directive aims to reduce reliance on landfill as a disposal option. It seeks to decrease the environmental impacts of landfills and reduce the risk to human health while imposing a consistent minimum standard for landfills across the EU. Sets out a target to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 75% of that produced in 1995 by 2010; to 50% by 2013, and to 35% by 2020.

EU Waste Framework Directive (2008)

- 2.10.2 Provides the legislative framework for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste, and includes a common definition of waste – “any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard”. The directive requires all member states to take the necessary measures to ensure waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health or causing harm to the environment and includes permitting, registration and inspection requirements. Sets out the following targets by 2020:
- At least 50% by weight of waste from households is prepared for re-use or recycled.
 - At least 70% by weight of construction and demolition waste is subjected to material recovery.
- 2.10.3 The Framework sets out 5 steps for dealing with waste, ranked according to environmental impact - the ‘waste hierarchy’. Prevention, which offers the best outcomes for the environment, is at the top of the priority order, followed by preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery and disposal, in descending order of environmental preference. The waste hierarchy has been transposed into UK law through the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

National Planning Policy for Waste (October 2014)

- 2.10.4 Sets out the government’s detailed waste planning policies and provides guidance to the preparation of waste Local Plans, including identifying need for waste management facilities and identifying suitable sites and areas.
- 2.10.5 The **NPPG** contains more detailed guidance in support of the implementation of waste planning policy.

Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (January 2019)

- 2.10.6 Lincolnshire County Council, the 7 district councils and the Environment Agency form the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership. The Joint Municipal Waste Strategy sets out a shared vision and strategic objectives for the handling of municipal waste. The vision is: “To seek the best environmental option to provide innovative, customer-friendly waste management solutions that give value for money to Lincolnshire.” There are 10 strategic objectives, including: “To contribute to the UK recycling targets of 50% by 2020 and 55% by 2025”.

Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (June 2016)

- 2.10.7 Sets out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and development management policies for minerals and waste development in Lincolnshire over the period to the end of 2031.
- 2.10.8 In relation to waste, the plan is based on directing new waste facilities, including extensions, to areas in and around the County's main settlements (including Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford) where the highest levels of waste are expected to be generated.

Other plans and programmes

- Defra, Waste Management Plan for England (December 2013)
- Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Site Locations (December 2017)
- HM Government, The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (2020)

The Current Situation

- 2.10.9 Waste comes from many different sources, including homes, businesses, farms and construction and demolition activities. The construction of new housing and employment through the Local Plan has the potential to generate construction waste and it is therefore important that Local Plan policy seeks to minimise the amount of waste arising from new development and to use recycled materials, particularly aggregates, wherever possible.

Household Waste

- 2.10.10 Past trends indicate that the amount of household waste collected per person continues to fall across all three Central Lincolnshire Local Authorities.

Table 2.26: Quantity (kg) of Household Waste Collected per Person

Local Authority	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Lincoln	327.06	393.7	381	371.2	376.3	359.3
North Kesteven	426.14	402	410.2	410.9	415.7	405.3
West Lindsey	378.98	415.5	440.9	432.3	438.7	430.3

Source: Waste Data Flow, DEFRA

Recycling

- 2.10.11 All three Central Lincolnshire Local Authorities operate a household kerbside recycling scheme. **Table 2.10.2** shows the household waste collected by the Central Lincolnshire councils between 2013 and 2018. Recycling rates across Central Lincolnshire have got worse in recent years, most noticeably in Lincoln. In 2017/18, with a recycling rate of 46%, West Lindsey was ranked 127 out of 345 local authorities. North Kesteven was ranked 154 with 43.9% and Lincoln was ranked 263 with 35.1%.⁴⁴

Table 2.27: % Household Waste Reused, Recycled or Composted

Local Authority	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Lincoln	44	42.2	40.7	35.8	36.2	35.1

⁴⁴ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/councils/league-tables/2017-18-overall-performance/>

North Kesteven	51	47	47.3	46	46.1	43.9
West Lindsey	54	53.2	54.2	50	48.9	46

Source: Waste Data Flow, DEFRA

Energy from Waste

2.10.12 Energy from Waste (EfW) provides a sustainable, safe and affordable waste treatment solution and allows energy to be produced from waste which isn't recycled or composted. The EfW plant in North Hykeham produces enough power for 26,500 homes and the ash left behind is used in road building and breeze blocks.

Evidence Gaps

- No data gaps have been identified.

Sustainability Issues

- Rates of household waste reused, recycled or composted have got worse within recent years, which need to improve, however the quantity of household waste collected per person has reduced;
- There is a need to ensure that waste management accords with the waste hierarchy;
- Reducing the amount of construction and demolition waste arising from new development.

Future Situation Without the Plan

- The main influence of the Plan will be through the design stage of future development whereby there is potential to seek to reduce the amount of construction and demolition waste arising. The Local Plan is unlikely to have a significant impact on household recycling rates.

2.11 Climate Change Effects and Energy

Policy Context

European Renewable Energy Directive (2009)

- 2.11.1 Places a requirement on UK to source 15% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2020. Member states are required to establish national action plans which set out the share of energy from renewable sources consumed in transport, as well as production of electricity and heating for 2020.

European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010)

- 2.11.2 Aims to promote the energy performance of buildings. Requires the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.

United Nations Paris Climate Change Agreement (2015)

- 2.11.3 An international agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Climate Change Act 2008

- 2.11.4 Sets out a legally binding target of at least an 80% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, to be achieved through action in the UK and abroad. Also, a reduction in emissions of at least 34% by 2020. Both these targets are against a 1990 baseline. The Act also created a framework for climate change adaptation.
- 2.11.5 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:
- New development should be planned in ways that can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation and design;
 - To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:
 - provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, whilst ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);
 - consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure;
 - identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.
- 2.11.6 The **NPPG** contains the following:
- Provides more detailed guidance on how to identify suitable mitigation and adaptation measures in the planning process to address the impacts of climate change. Includes how the challenges of climate change can be addressed in Local Plans, supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings and setting higher energy performance standards that the Building Regulations.

Clean Growth Strategy, October 2017⁴⁵

⁴⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy>

- 2.11.7 This strategy sets out the Government's proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy through the 2020s. It explains how the whole country can benefit from low carbon opportunities, while meeting national and international commitments to tackle climate change.

Other plans and programmes

- HM Government (2021) The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations

The Current Situation

Climatic Factors

- 2.11.8 There is clear evidence to show that climate change is happening. The average temperature in the UK is now about 1°C higher than in the 1960s. All 10 of the warmest years in the UK have occurred since 1990 with the 8 warmest occurring since 2002.⁴⁶
- 2.11.9 Climate change is largely happening as a result of rising levels of carbon dioxide, and other greenhouse gases such as methane, trapping the Sun's energy and causing the Earth, and in particular the oceans, to warm.
- 2.11.10 Climate projections for the UK⁴⁷ suggest that we can expect the following changes:
- higher average temperatures, particularly in summer and winter
 - changes in seasonal rainfall patterns
 - rising sea levels
 - more very hot days and heatwaves
 - more intense downpours of rain
 - higher intensity storms
- 2.11.11 As well as changes in average climate, there could be changes in weather extremes. Extreme events are likely to be more frequent in the future and often have the most significant impacts. UK Climate Projections 2009 data for the East Midlands⁴⁸ suggests that, under a medium emissions scenario, by the 2050s the region may see:
- An increase in summer mean temperature of around 2.5°C, and winter temperatures of around 2.2°C;
 - A 14% increase in winter mean precipitation;
 - A 16% decrease in summer mean precipitation.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

⁴⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained>

⁴⁷ www.ukcip.org.uk

⁴⁸ A Summary of the Local Climate Impacts Profile for Lincolnshire

- 2.11.12 Carbon dioxide (CO²) is the main greenhouse gas, accounting for about 81 per cent of the UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2016. Between 2015 and 2016, there was a 6% fall in UK end user carbon dioxide emissions and a 5% fall in the East Midlands. Overall, emissions decreased in 370 out of 391 Local Authorities since 2015 reflecting a 6.3 per cent decrease in national emissions totals between 2015 and 2016.⁴⁹
- 2.11.13 Within Central Lincolnshire, CO² emissions have, as a whole, continued to fall, reflecting the regional and national picture. However, when emissions from the broad source categories are analysed, transport emissions are increasing across the area. This could be attributed to growing car ownership and a fall in public transport usage.

Figure 2.28: Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Annum⁵⁰

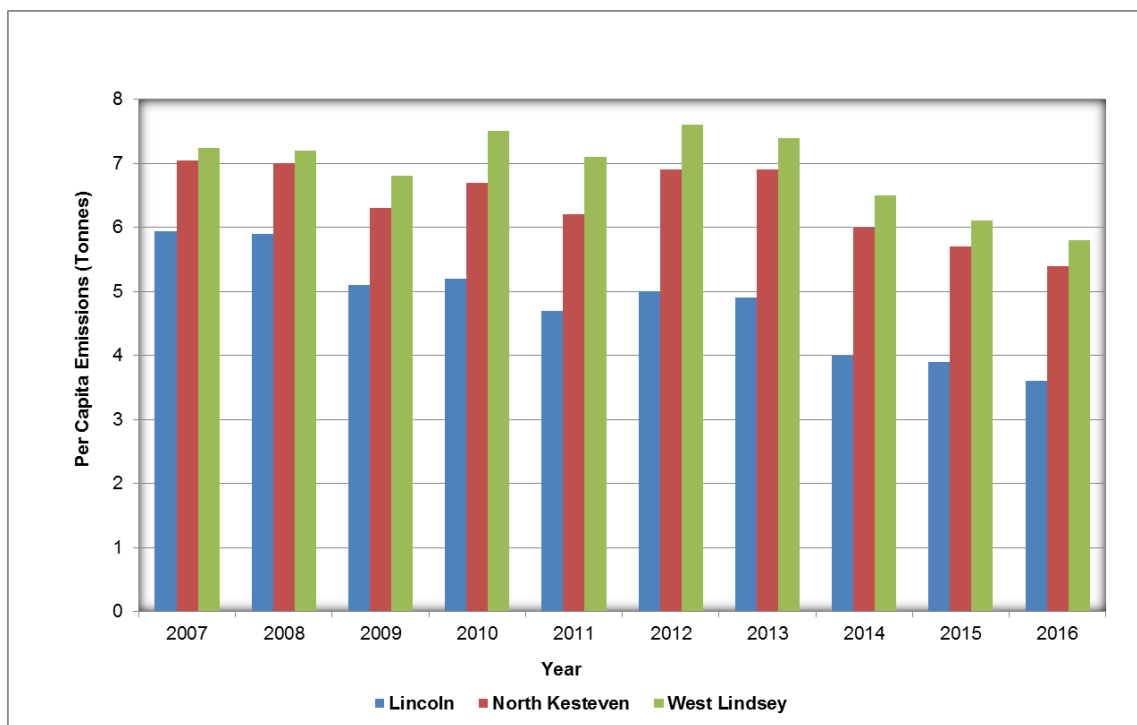
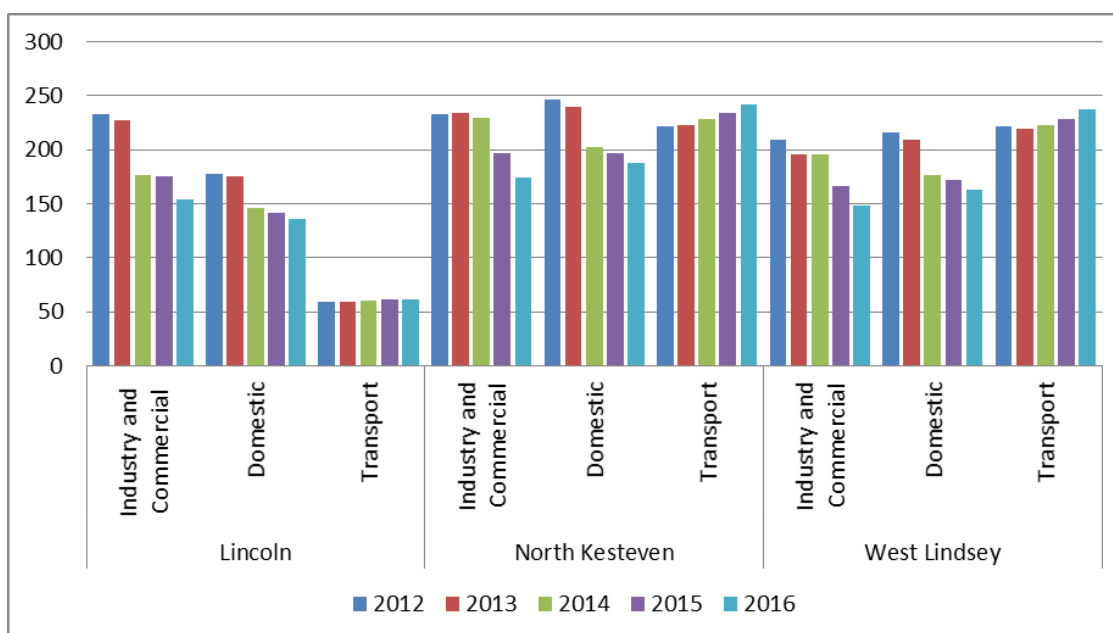


Figure 2.29: Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Sector⁵¹

⁴⁹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719182/Local_Authority_CO2_Emissions_Statistical_Release_2016.pdf

⁵⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016>

⁵¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016>



Renewable Energy

2.11.14 The charity Green Alliance Trust⁵² has estimated the generation and capacity for renewable energy generation in Local Authorities across England and Wales in 2016.

Table 2.30 shows the breakdown of renewable energy sources, of which solar for electricity makes the greatest contribution in the Central Lincolnshire Local Authorities, reflecting the county and regional picture. Biomass for heat makes the greatest contribution in West Lindsey. The Green Alliance Trust estimates the Central Lincolnshire Authorities have the following capacities for renewable energy: Lincoln 5.1 MW, North Kesteven 122.5 MW and West Lindsey 83.6 MW.

Table 2.30: Renewable Energy Generation by Type

Geographical Area	Renewable Energy Generation by Type (%)							
	Solar for electricity	Solar for heat	Onshore wind	Biomass for heat	Landfill gas	Electricity from biomass	Heat pumps	Anaerobic digestion
Lincoln	91	1	0	5	0	0	3	0
North Kesteven	60	0	0	2	2	31	1	4
West Lindsey	41	0	2	50	0	2	3	1
Lincolnshire	40	0	25	17	2	11	2	4
East Midlands	52	0	16	12	2	3	2	2

Source: Green Alliance Trust

⁵² <https://renewablelocator.green-alliance.org.uk/>

- 2.11.15 Installed capacity of electricity generated from renewable sources is increasing year on year in the UK. In 2013, there was a total installed capacity of 19,961 MW. By 2017 this had increased to 40,551 MW.⁵³
- 2.11.16 The Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant has been in commercial operation since September 2014 and has a generation capacity of 38MW. It generates enough electricity to power 65,000 homes using straw as a fuel source, saving 150,000 tonnes of CO₂ per annum. The process is virtually carbon neutral because the combustion of the straw only releases the carbon dioxide that the wheat absorbed from the atmosphere during its growth. Annually the plant combusts 240,000 tonnes of straw (approximately 55 bales per hour), sourced mainly from farms within a 30-mile radius of the plant.
- 2.11.17 The data in **Table 2.31** is collected by the Central Lincolnshire local planning authorities and sets out the energy generation capacity provided from non-domestic renewable energy sources granted planning permission during the monitoring period 2017/18.

Table 2.31: Non-domestic Renewable Energy Projects Granted Planning Permission During 2017/18

Type of renewable energy	Lincoln		North Kesteven		West Lindsey	
	Energy production (kW)	Site Area (ha)	Energy production (kW)	Site Area (ha)	Energy production (kW)	Site Area (ha)
Biomass	0	0	0	0	0	0
Photovoltaic	0	0	49900	97	14	0.02
Wind	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: City of Lincoln Council, North Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council

Evidence Gaps

- Domestic renewable energy installations, such as solar panels, do not require planning permission.

Sustainability Issues

- Carbon dioxide emissions overall are decreasing, however emissions from transport sources are increasing;
- New development required as a result of an increasing population will increase demands for energy generation in the future. There is a need to reduce reliance on finite resources and explore alternative ways to increase the amount of energy generated by decentralised or renewable sources, taking into account local opportunities;

Future Situation Without the Plan

- How the Local Plan distributes future growth will be a significant contributor to whether carbon dioxide emissions decrease from transport. Growth in locations which minimise the need to travel will be an important consideration.
- National Buildings Regulations have been tightened in relation to energy efficiency as a result of the Housing Standards Review, however, the Local Plan can introduce development management policies that seek to ensure that new development is

⁵³ Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 26 July 2018 accessed online on 17.5.19 at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/renewable-sources-of-energy-chapter-6-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes>

planned in ways that can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation and design.

2.12 Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk

Policy Context

European Floods Directive (2007)

- 2.12.1 Aims to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. It requires Member States to assess whether all water courses and coast lines are at risk from flooding, to map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas and to take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk.

National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the Country Resilient to Climate Change (2018)

- 2.12.2 Sets out visions for a range of sectors, including people and the built environment, infrastructure, the natural environment, business and industry, and local government.
- 2.12.3 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:
- Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures.
 - New development should be planned for in ways that avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts from climate change;
 - Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future);
 - Strategic policies should be informed by a strategic flood risk assessment, and should manage flood risk from all sources;
 - All plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development – taking into account the current and future impacts of climate change, with the aim to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding;
 - Major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this will be inappropriate.
- 2.12.4 The **NPPG** contains the following:
- Local planning authorities should work with lead local flood authorities to secure Local Plan policies compatible with the local flood risk management strategy.
 - The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment should be used to inform the sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan, so that flood risk is fully taken into account when considering allocation options and in the preparation of plan policies.

Other plans and programmes

- Anglian Flood Risk Management Plan, 2015-2021
- Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy, 2012-2025
- Central Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 (March 2015)
- Central Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 (April 2016)
- Lincoln Western Growth Corridor Technical Working Group Flood Risk Report (2013) and Update Report (2015)

The Current Situation

Flood Risk

- 2.12.5 Within Central Lincolnshire, a number of homes, businesses and related infrastructure are located within areas of low lying land that are at risk of flooding. Flooding of buildings and infrastructure is the main climate risk in Central Lincolnshire and increased incidences of flood events may lead to increased health problems.
- 2.12.6 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 (2015) and Level 2 (2016) provides the best current information regarding flood risk in the Central Lincolnshire area. The main flood risks within the Lincoln Policy Area for the urban areas of Lincoln are considered to be from fluvial flooding from the River Witham, River Till and the Fosdyke Canal, and for Gainsborough from the River Trent which is tidal.
- 2.12.7 Local Planning Authorities are required to consult the Environment Agency (EA) on all applications for development in flood risk areas (except minor development). During 2017/18, the EA raised an objection to 32 planning permissions on the grounds of flood risk and 13 on the grounds of water quality. All of these issues were resolved and the objections were withdrawn before the final decisions were made.⁵⁴

Evidence Gaps

- None

Sustainability Issues

- Climate change over the coming years is likely to increase the likelihood and consequences of flooding. Despite this development demands in the greater Lincoln area (the Lincoln Policy Area in the adopted Local Plan) are likely to result in pressure to develop in areas at risk of flooding. Other parts of the Central Lincolnshire area are also at risk of flooding. Development coming forward in such areas will need to mitigate the impacts of climate change, to be safe itself and not increase flood risk to others.

Future Situation Without the Plan

- The Local Plan will ensure that sites are allocated away from areas of flood risk, as it is required by national policy to apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development;
- Future development could result in a loss of green spaces, reducing water infiltration, increasing surface runoff and increasing the risk of flooding. The Local Plan will provide protection for such spaces. There may also be missed opportunities to provide new green infrastructure to adapt to climate change without the Local Plan.

⁵⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-objections-to-planning-on-the-basis-of-flood-risk>

2.13 Transport and Accessibility

Policy Context

2.13.1 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:

- Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:
 - The potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed;
 - Opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are released;
 - Opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued;
 - The environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account – including appropriate opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects, and for net environmental gains; and
 - Patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places.

2.13.2 The **NPPG** contains the following:

- Includes more detailed guidance on a transport evidence base for Local Plans, Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements.

2.13.3 **Transport Investment Strategy – Moving Britain Ahead (July 2017)** - sets out the Department for Transport's priorities and approach for future transport investment decisions.

The Road to Zero (July 2018)

2.13.4 This sets out plans to enable a significant expansion of vehicle charging infrastructure across the UK, reduce emissions from the vehicles already on the UK's roads, and drive the uptake of zero emission cars, vans and trucks, which includes ending the sale of conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040, with an interim target of at least half of new cars to be ultra-low emission by 2030.

Lincolnshire County Council (2013) 4th Local Transport Plan: 2013/14 – 2022/23 (LTP4)

2.13.5 LTP4 was published in April 2013 and sets out the transport strategy for the county for the next 10 years. It is supported by a range of other policies and strategies covering specific transport related issues or areas. The Plan identifies three main challenges:

- Supporting growth and the local economy,
- Improving access to employment, training and key services, and
- Contributing to a healthier community.

2.13.6 It also sets out eight objectives, including supporting the local economy and encouraging sustainable growth.

Other plans and programmes

- Transport Modelling - Lincolnshire Local Plan Tool, Upper Tier (2015)
- Transport Modelling - Lincolnshire Local Plan Tool, Lower Tier (2016)
- Lincoln Area Transport Strategy (February 2008)
- Gainsborough Transport Strategy (October 2010)
- Sleaford Transport Strategy (October 2014)

The Current Situation

Traffic on Major Roads

- 2.13.7 Across Central Lincolnshire as a whole there are no motorways and approximately 40 miles of dual carriageway. The key roads in the area include the A15, A17, A159, A158 and A46.
- 2.13.8 **Table 2.32** below shows total traffic on major roads in Lincolnshire between in 2000, 2008 and 2016. The number of cars on the roads increased by 22.2% between 2000 and 2016. Light goods vehicles and HGVs have also increased over the same period, however pedal cycles on the roads have decreased by 36.5%.

Table 2.32: Total Traffic on Major Roads in Lincolnshire

Year	2000	2008	2016
Pedal cycles	5,767	3,998	3,661
Motorcycles	18,073	22,759	19,148
Cars	1,599,568	1,760,979	1,954,904
Buses & coaches	12,848	13,172	13,062
Light goods vehicles	252,968	313,217	425,698
All HGVs	226,622	234,737	243,704
All motor vehicles	2,110,078	2,344,865	2,656,516

Source: Department for Transport⁵⁵

Travel to Work

- 2.13.9 In terms of travel to work time, North Kesteven has the longest travel to work time in Lincolnshire of 32 minutes. West Lindsey is 23 minutes and Lincoln is 21 minutes⁵⁶.
- 2.13.10 As a predominantly rural area, it is not surprising that there is a heavy reliance on car use across large parts of Central Lincolnshire. In 2016, 73,630 travelled to work in Central Lincolnshire using a private car or van. Just 14,044 travelled on foot⁵⁷.
- 2.13.11 Between the 2001 and 2011 Census there has been an increase in those working from home across the Central Lincolnshire area, with the largest increase in West Lindsey. Improvements to mobile communications and internet connectivity could be one of the main factors in this increase.

Train Station Usage

- 2.13.12 **Table 2.33** below shows train stations' passenger usage between 2016/17 and 2017/18. Train station usage is mixed across the Central Lincolnshire area. The biggest increases in passengers has been at Hykeham and Swinderby stations. This is due to recent station improvements. The biggest decrease in passengers has been at Rauceby station in North Kesteven. Services at this station are limited, with a limited number of trains stopping first thing in the morning and early evening only.

⁵⁵ Accessed online 10.5.19 at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/traffic-counts/area/regions/East+Midlands/local-authorities/Lincolnshire>

⁵⁶ ONS. Average home to work travel time, ages 16 plus, October to December 2017. July 2018 at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/adhocs/06022averagehometoworktraveltimeages16plusoctodec2015>

⁵⁷ ONS Travel to work methods, 2016, Labour Force Survey, accessed online on 24.5.19 at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/labourproductivity/adhocs/008005traveltoworkmethodsandthetimeittakestocommutefromhometoworklabourforcesurvey2007to2016>

Table 2.33 Estimates of Train Station Usage

Station	Entries and Exits 2016/17	Entries and Exits 2017/18	% change, 2016/17- 2017/18
Gainsborough Central	996	970	-2.6%
Gainsborough Lea Road	156,776	159,670	1.8%
Heckington	64,624	66,576	3.0%
Hykeham	107,614	143,482	33.3%
Lincoln Central	1,816,018	1,864,830	2.7%
Market Rasen	66,398	64,264	-3.2%
Metheringham	99,704	99,490	-0.2%
Rauceby	10,948	9,714	-11.3%
Ruskington	91,016	89,726	-1.4%
Saxilby	64,358	67,130	4.3%
Sleaford	316,570	309,326	-2.3%
Swinderby	14,462	17,616	21.8%

Source: Office of Rail and Road, December 2018

Access to Services

- 2.13.13 The proportion of households in Lincolnshire without access to a car has fallen from 31.1% in 1981 to 18% in 2011. Within Central Lincolnshire, the percentage of households without access to a car in Lincoln and Gainsborough is above the county, regional and national average (at 29.6% and 31% respectively at the time of the 2011 Census). The figure for West Lindsey and North Kesteven is below the county, regional and national average. This means that a significant proportion of the population rely on alternatives modes to the private car to access shops, services, facilities and employment.
- 2.13.14 Within the Lincoln area, the bus network is relatively good with most services operating commercially. However, outside of Lincoln services typically remain very limited in the evenings and weekends.
- 2.13.15 The Great Northern Great Eastern railway line runs through Central Lincolnshire with stations at: Gainsborough lea Road, Saxilby, Lincoln, Metheringham, Ruskington and Sleaford. Lincoln and Sleaford are the main rail hubs, providing connections to the East Coast Mainline and destinations beyond.

Evidence Gaps

- Travel to work and car ownership data has been taken from the 2001 Census, as the most recent available data, however this is 8 years old and therefore may not reflect the current situation.

Sustainability Issues

- There is a heavy reliance on the private car, particularly in rural parts of Central Lincolnshire. A high proportion of the Central Lincolnshire working age population travelling to work by car. Greater car ownership will continue to increase road

congestion, parking problems, car dependency and environmental problems such as air pollution, noise pollution and carbon dioxide emissions. There is a need to encourage more walking and cycling and use of public transport;

- The percentage of households without access to a car is above the county, regional and national average in Lincoln and Gainsborough;
- Some villages have limited public transport services, so there is a need to improve public transport links between the city and main towns, and the villages, especially during evenings and at weekends;
- There has been a fall in passenger usage at some of Central Lincolnshire's train stations.

Future Situation Without the Plan

- Without a long term strategic plan for the amount and location of housing and employment growth, it will be difficult for public transport operators to accurately estimate future transport users and to ensure services keep pace with growth.
- Growth will provide opportunity to improve the distribution of and access to a range of services and facilities. There will also be opportunities to promote sustainable and active transport and sustainable development locations.

2.14 Employment

Policy Context

2.14.1 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:

- Recognises that the planning system has an economic objective to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- Strategic policies should make sufficient provision for employment development.

Other plans and programmes

- Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan ,2014-2030 (refresh 2016)
- Growth Strategy for Lincoln, 2014-2034

The Current Situation

Employment and Unemployment

2.14.2 The percentage of the population of working age that is economically active in North Kesteven is above the regional and national average (86.5%). In Lincoln and West Lindsey, the percentage of economically active is below the regional and national average (71.4% and 77.9% respectively). Of those of a working age, the percentage that are currently in employment is above the regional and national average in North Kesteven (83.0%). In West Lindsey, the percentage is marginally above the regional average and below the national average (74.9%). In Lincoln, the percentage is below the regional and national average (68.1%).

2.14.3 In terms of unemployment, the lowest figure is to be found in North Kesteven (3.4%), which is below the regional and national average. In West Lindsey, unemployment is the same as the regional average but above the national average (4.5%). In Lincoln, unemployment is worse than the regional and national average (6.6%)

Table 2.34: Employment and Unemployment (%) (Jan – Dec 2018)

All people	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	East Midlands	Great Britain
Economically Active (aged 16 and over)	71.4	86.5	77.9	78.3	78.5
In employment	68.1	83.0	74.9	74.7	75.1
Unemployed	6.6	3.4	4.5	4.5	4.2

Source: Nomis – ONS Annual Population Survey

2.14.4 Job density is the ratio of total jobs to resident population aged 16-64. A job density of one would mean there is a job for every resident aged 16-64. Within Lincoln, job density is 0.94, within West Lindsey 0.59 and within North Kesteven 0.73 (compared to the East Midlands 0.81 and Great Britain 0.86)⁵⁸.

⁵⁸ Office for National Statistics- job density (2017) available at: www.nomisweb.co.uk (accessed 25.4.2019)

2.14.5 **Table 2.35** below shows employment by sector. The most common employment sectors in Central Lincolnshire, when compared to the national average, are manufacturing, education and administrative and support service activities. In contrast information and communication, financial and insurance activities and professional, scientific and technical activities are the least common when compared to the national average.

Table 2.35: Employment by Sector (2017)

Sector	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	East Midlands	Great Britain
Total full-time jobs (%)	62.5	69.2	68.0	68	67.5
Total part-time jobs (%)	37.5	28.2	36.0	32	32.5
Employee jobs by industry (%)					
Mining and quarrying	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	8.0	15.4	16.0	13.8	8.2
Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.9	0.5
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1.8	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.7
Construction	3.1	7.7	9.0	4.3	4.8
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	16.1	15.4	16.0	16.0	15.2
Transportation and storage	2.7	3.8	4.0	5.5	4.7
Accommodation and food service activities	8.0	7.7	8.0	6.9	7.5
Information and communication	2.7	3.8	1.6	2.8	4.4
Financial and insurance activities	1.6	0.5	0.8	1.7	3.5
Real estate activities	1.1	0.8	2.0	1.2	1.7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	5.4	6.4	6.0	6.4	8.4
Administrative and support service activities	10.7	5.1	5.0	9.8	9.1
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	5.4	4.5	5.0	3.6	4.3
Education	8.9	7.7	10.0	8.7	8.9
Human health and social work activities	19.6	12.8	12.0	13.6	13.3
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.6
Other service activities	2.2	1.5	1.4	1.6	2.0

Source: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey

Income

2.14.6 **Table 2.36** presents the average weekly earnings for both males and females in full time employment. The gross weekly pay of full time workers living in Central Lincolnshire varies between the districts. West Lindsey workers have the highest gross weekly pay at £558.9. Lincoln workers have receive the lowest gross weekly pay at £457.2. The gross weekly pay for North Kesteven and West Lindsey is above the regional average and for Lincoln, below the regional average. Gross weekly pay across Central Lincolnshire is below the national average of £571.1.

2.14.7 There are variations between gross weekly pay for full time male and full time female workers, demonstrating a gender pay gap in the area. Across Central Lincolnshire, female workers are earning less than male workers. This reflects both the regional and national picture.

Table 2.36: Earnings by Place of Residence (2018)

	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	East Midlands	Great Britain
Gross Weekly Pay (£)					
Full-time workers	457.2	531.7	558.9	529.9	571.1
Male full-time workers	483.9	639.8	614.0	574.9	612.2
Female full-time workers	402.1	418.6	458.0	460.0	510.0
Hourly Pay (£) – Excluding Overtime					
Full-time workers	11.46	13.52	13.64	13.18	14.36
Male full-time workers	11.71	15.26	14.68	13.75	14.89
Female full-time workers	10.71	10.89	11.97	12.04	13.56

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings

Qualifications

2.14.8 **Table 2.37** shows the qualification attainment in the Plan area. The percentage of pupils achieving NVQ2 and above is slightly below the regional and national average in Lincoln (71.6%), but above both in North Kesteven (76.3%) and West Lindsey (73.8%). Those achieving NVQ4 and above are below the national average in Lincoln (24.2%), North Kesteven (30.2%) and West Lindsey (38.8%).

Table 2.37: Skills Profile (%) (Jan - Dec 2018)

Qualifications	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	East Midlands	Great Britain
NVQ4 and above	24.2	30.2	38.8	33.2	39.3
NVQ3 and above	49.1	55.7	51.1	54.0	57.8
NVQ2 and above	71.6	76.3	73.8	72.0	74.9
NVQ1 and above	82.7	86.0	86.7	84.1	85.4
Other qualifications	11.8	6.8	#	7.8	6.8
No qualifications	#	7.2	8.2	8.1	7.8

sample size too small for reliable estimate

Education

2.14.9 Central Lincolnshire is served by a mix of types of school, including Local Authority Maintained and Academy schools. As of April 2016, Central Lincolnshire had 116 Primary and 23 Secondary (excluding special provision but including the new university technology college).⁵⁹ Lincolnshire County Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure sufficient education provision for children between the ages of 4 and 16 at primary and secondary schools, and for children up to the age of 18 at schools with a sixth form. The Central Lincolnshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan identified in April 2016 that Central Lincolnshire schools are increasingly at capacity and oversubscribed in many instances. Lincoln, Sleaford and Gainsborough were predicted to have limited spare capacity in particular.

Training and Skills

- 2.14.10 The latest National Employers Skills Survey (2017) was published in August 2018⁶⁰. There has been an 8% increase in the number of skill-shortage vacancies compared with 2015: from 209,000 to 226,000. 13% of employers reported experiencing skills gaps in their existing workforce. The local picture reflects the national one. The Greater Lincolnshire Local Economic Partnership (GLLEP) has identified skills gaps as a barrier to economic growth and therefore skills has been identified by the GLLEP as one of seven priority themes for growth.
- 2.14.11 Graduate retention is an issue for Central Lincolnshire, whereby it is losing graduates with high skill levels to other areas in the country where high skill employment opportunities are greater.⁶¹
- 2.14.12 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 includes a domain for education, skills and training. Parts of Gainsborough and Lincoln are in the top 10% most deprived in the country for education, skills and training.

Evidence Gaps

- None

Sustainability Issues

- Many of Central Lincolnshire's schools, but particularly in Lincoln, Sleaford and Gainsborough, at capacity or oversubscribed. This trend is likely to continue as the population continues to grow;
- Gross weekly earnings for full time workers are below the national average and below the regional average in Lincoln;
- Parts of Gainsborough and Lincoln are in the top 10% most deprived in the country for education, skills and training, highlighting disparities in attainment skills and training in some wards.

Future Situation Without the Plan

- There will be a need for new primary and secondary education provision across Central Lincolnshire, either through physical provision or financial contributions. There is no significant local or central funding available for this, therefore almost all

⁵⁹ Central Lincolnshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan, April 2016

⁶⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-skills-survey-2017-uk-report>

⁶¹ Lincolnshire – A Local Economic Assessment 2011

education infrastructure that is needed to support future growth will need to be funded via planning obligation or CIL.

2.15 Local Economy

Policy Context

2.15.1 The **NPPF** includes the following key messages:

- Planning policies should:
 - set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth;
 - set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period;
 - seek to address potential barriers to investment, such as inadequate infrastructure, services or housing, or a poor environment; and
 - be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan, allow for new and flexible work practices, and to enable a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances.
- Planning policies and decisions should recognise and address the specific locational requirements of different sectors;
- Planning policies and decisions should enable:
 - the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of businesses in rural areas;
 - the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses;)
 - sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside; and
 - the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Planning policies and decisions should recognise that sites to meet local business and community needs in rural areas may have to be found adjacent to or beyond existing settlements, and in locations that are not well served by public transport.
- Planning policies and decisions should support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation.
- Planning policies should:
 - define a network and hierarchy of town centre and promote their long-term vitality and viability;
 - define the extent of town centres and primary shopping areas, and make clear the range of uses permitted in such locations, as part of a positive strategy for the future use of each centre;
 - retain and enhance existing markets, and where appropriate, re-introduce or create new ones;
 - allocate a range of suitable sites in town centres to meet the scale and type of development likely to be needed, looking at least 10 years ahead;
 - where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available for main town centre uses, allocate appropriate edge of centre sites that are well connected to the town centre;
 - recognise that residential development often plays an important role in ensuring the vitality of centres and encourage residential development on appropriate sites.

- 2.15.2 The **NPPG** contains more detailed guidance, including the importance of a strategic vision for town centres, what a town centre strategy should contain, determining the health of town centres, planning for tourism, the sequential test, how local authorities should support sustainable rural communities and, determining the type of employment land that is needed.

Local Growth White Paper; Realising Every Place's Potential (2010)

- 2.15.3 Highlights the importance of economic policy that focuses on the delivery of strong, sustainable and balanced growth of income and employment over the long-term, growth which is broad-based industrially and geographically to provide equality of access and opportunity and build businesses that are competitive internationally.
- 2.15.4 **Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain Fit for the Future (2017)** - sets out the Government's long-term plan to boost the productivity and earning power of people throughout the UK.

Other plans and programmes

- Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan, 2014-2030 (refresh 2016)
- West Lindsey Economic Growth Strategy, 2014-2024 (2014)
- Growth Strategy for Lincoln, 2014-2034
- Central Lincolnshire Sustainable Urban Extensions Retail Provision Study (June 2013)
- Central Lincolnshire City and Town Centre Study Update (August 2015)
- Central Lincolnshire Economic Needs Assessment (June 2015)
- Central Lincolnshire Economic Growth Delivery Plan, 2015-2020 (April 2016)

The Current Situation

- 2.15.5 Central Lincolnshire is located within the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership area, and represents roughly 30% of the GLLEP area's population, employment and business base. The GLLEP has set ambitious targets in respect of key growth sectors: notably agri-food, manufacturing and the visitor economy. Hemswell Cliff Local Development Order and Food Enterprise Zone is being progressed by West Lindsey District Council and the GLLEP to attract investment and the local food and farming sector.

Additional Floorspace – Employment

- 2.15.6 In the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, 111.1 ha of land is allocated for strategic employment use. In 2017/18, 53,324.5 m² of new employment floorspace was developed across Central Lincolnshire. The greatest amount of floorspace was developed for mixed use development (18,387 m²), followed by B2 uses (17,725 m²). In Lincoln, there was a loss of 189.59 m² of B1 employment land to another land use.

Table 2.38: Total Amount of Additional Floorspace by Type, 2017/18

Amount of employment floorspace developed (m ²)				
Land Use Type	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Central Lincolnshire
B1	-189.59	1,685.5	2,199	3,884.5
B2	0	2,185	15,540	17,725

B8	6426.00	6,646	1,256	14,328
Mixed	0	11,365	7,022	18,387
Total	6236.41	21,881.5	26,017	54,324.5

Source: City of Lincoln Council, North Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council

Additional Floorspace - Town Centre Uses

- 2.15.7 Vibrant town centres are key to providing essential services, facilities and opportunities, important for community interaction. The City and Town Centres Study 2012 and 2015 update provides evidence of a hierarchy of retail centres in Lincoln, Gainsborough, Sleaford and the market towns of Market Rasen and Caistor. The Study identified that there had been a decrease in commercial units and floorspace in some of the centres. For example, in Lincoln there had been a net decrease of 29 commercial units and 4,850 sq.m of commercial floorspace between July 2011 and August 2015. In Gainsborough, there had been a net decrease of 1 unit and 2,810 sq.m.
- 2.15.8 In 2017/18, 11,501.84 m² of new floorspace for town centre uses was developed across Central Lincolnshire.

Table 2.39: Floorspace Developed for 'Town Centre Uses' 2017/18

Town Centre Uses Developed (A1, A2 & D2) (m²)				
	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Central Lincolnshire
In town centre	6,778	1,601.7	2,667	11,046.7
Rest of district	0	37.47	190	227.47
Total	6,778	1,639.17	2,857	11,501.64

Source: City of Lincoln Council, North Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council

The visitor economy

- 2.15.9 Lincoln's national and international reputation as a major tourist attraction brings considerable benefit to the local economy, attracting visitors and investment into the city. Lincoln Cathedral and Castle are the prime focus for tourism, but there are opportunities to develop less well known and publicised areas of the city, such as the Brayford Pool and the area centre around the Collection Museum. In North Kesteven, the main tourist attractions include Cranwell Aviation Centre, Whisby Natural World Centre and the National Centre for Craft and Design. In West Lindsey, the key attractions include Gainsborough Old Hall, Woodside Wildlife Centre and Bransby Horses.

Broadband

- 2.15.10 Having access to fast broadband allows businesses opportunities that aren't otherwise available. In rural areas, slow broadband speeds can hamper the competitiveness of rural businesses. The Lincolnshire Research Observatory have produced an interactive toolkit that provides information on Broadband speed and penetration in Lincolnshire. This shows that there are some rural areas within Central Lincolnshire that have been classed as having slow or very slow broadband.⁶²

Evidence Gaps

- An up to date economic growth assessment;

⁶² <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/Broadband-new.aspx>

- An up to date city and town centre strategy for the main urban centres in Central Lincolnshire (Lincoln, Sleaford and Gainsborough)

Sustainability Issues

- As a predominantly rural area, the needs of rural businesses need to be considered, including allowing appropriate growth of businesses that require a rural location and diversification of the agricultural economy;
- The retail role of the hierarchy of centres needs to be supported to help reduce vacancy rates and avoid the loss of shop units to other uses;
- The tourist economy needs to be supported and encouraged, whilst respecting the natural and historic environment.

Future Situation Without the Plan

- The Local Plan will ensure that town centre uses are directed to the centres in the retail hierarchy helping to maintain the vitality and viability of Lincoln and the main towns.

3 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

3.1 The SA Framework

- 3.1.1 The existing SA framework that was used for the assessment of the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (April 2017) was used as the starting point for the SA of the new Local Plan.
- 3.1.2 The existing SA objectives have been reviewed in relation to the updated review of relevant plans and programmes, updated baseline and revised key sustainability issues.
- 3.1.3 The SA framework for the Local Plan is presented in **Table 3.1** overleaf.

Table 3.1: Central Lincolnshire SA Framework

SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	RELEVANT SEA TOPICS
Social		
1. Housing. To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the Central Lincolnshire area and appropriate infrastructure is provided to support sustainable communities.	1a. Does the Plan deliver the range of housing types, sizes and tenures, to meet identified needs across Central Lincolnshire over the plan period? 1b. Does the Plan increase the supply of affordable homes in both urban and rural areas? 1c. Does the Plan meet the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people? 1d. Does the Plan help to address the needs of a growing and ageing population? 1e. Does the Plan reduce the number of homes that do not reach the Decent Homes Standard?	Population Human health Material assets
2. Health and Wellbeing. To reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles and maximise health and wellbeing.	2a. Does the Plan ensure access to health facilities across the area? 2b. Does the Plan ensure access to sport and recreation facilities, open space and accessible green space? 2c. Does the Plan provide opportunities to access fresh, affordable and healthy food? 2d. Does the Plan help to limit the potential for fuel poverty?	Population Human health
3. Social Equality and Community. To stimulate regeneration that maximises benefits for the most deprived areas and communities in Central Lincolnshire. To ensure equitable outcomes for all, particularly those most at risk of experiencing discrimination, poverty and social exclusion.	3a. Does the Plan promote regeneration? 3b. Does the Plan help reduce social inequality, poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected? 3c. Does the Plan support cultural diversity, social interaction, civic participation (social capital), to promote more diverse and cohesive communities?	Population Human health

SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	RELEVANT SEA TOPICS
	<p>3d. Does the Plan promote equal access and opportunity for all social groups through the provision and distribution of local community services and facilities?</p> <p>3e. Does the Plan promote principles of good design to reduce the potential for crime in the area?</p> <p>3f. Does the Plan assist in reducing the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour?</p>	
Environmental		
<p>4. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity across Central Lincolnshire by delivering measurable net gain in biodiversity through development and establishing nature recovery networks through planning.</p> <p>To provide enhanced opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and the natural environment whilst safeguarding protected sites.</p> <p>To protect, enhance and create and improve high quality green and blue spaces that are multifunctional; for sport, recreation, play and ecosystem services, and which form part of and are connected to the green infrastructure network, improving landscape connectivity for people and wildlife.</p>	<p>4a. Will the Plan protect and enhance international, national or locally designated wildlife and geological sites (including ancient woodland)?</p> <p>4b. Does the Plan protect international, national, regional or locally important species and avoid negative effects?</p> <p>4c. Does the Plan outline opportunities for the creation of new habitats, their restoration or expansion?</p> <p>4d. Does the Plan prevent the fragmentation of habitats, maintaining wildlife corridors and providing new wildlife linkages?</p> <p>4e. Does the Plan provide opportunities for people to access wildlife and the natural environment and promote their quiet enjoyment?</p> <p>4f. Does the Plan promote improvement in the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and in areas deficient in publicly accessible open space?</p> <p>4g. Does the Plan improve access to green infrastructure?</p> <p>4h. Does the Plan provide opportunities for, or improve the provision of, sports, recreation and play facilities?</p>	<p>Biodiversity Flora and fauna Landscape Human health</p>

SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	RELEVANT SEA TOPICS
	4i. Does the Plan provide opportunities for local food production?	
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.	5a. Does the Plan protect, and provide opportunities to enhance, the sensitive and distinctive landscapes and townscapes within the area (including the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB)? 5b. Does the Plan conserve and enhance historic and local landscape and townscape character, and visual amenity? 5c. Does the Plan protect settlement character: Will it lead to development that increases coalescence with neighbouring settlements? Is the scale/density of development in keeping with important and valued features of the settlement? 5d. Does the Plan protect important views?	Biodiversity Flora and fauna Landscape
6. Built and Historic Environment. To conserve and enhance the significance of buildings, sites and features of archaeological, historic or architectural and artistic interest and their settings, including both designated and non-designated heritage assets, and ensure new buildings, spaces and places are designed to a high quality.	6a. Does the Plan conserve and/or enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment? 6b. Does the Plan promote opportunities for the sensitive re-use of historic or culturally important buildings or areas where appropriate? 6c. Does the Plan promote sustainable and appropriately managed access to, as well as enjoyment and understanding of, historic assets for visitors and residents? 6d. Does the Plan help to improve understanding of the area's heritage and culture? 6e. Does the Plan provide opportunities to enhance the quality of the public realm? 6f. Does the Plan provide, protect or enhance locations for cultural activities, including the arts?	Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	RELEVANT SEA TOPICS
	6g. Does the Plan promote high quality design and sustainable construction?	
7. Natural Resources – Water. To protect and enhance water resources and their quality in Central Lincolnshire.	7a. Does the Plan maintain and enhance water quality, including contributing to meeting the objectives of the Water Framework Directive? 7b. Does the Plan encourage water efficiency? 7c. Does the Plan ensure that demand for water will be within the available capacity of existing water systems infrastructure (e.g. water supply and sewage)?	Water Biodiversity Flora and fauna
8. Pollution To minimise pollution (air, noise and light) and improve air quality.	8a. Does the Plan maintain and improve local air quality? 8b. Does the Plan help to improve residential amenity, including potential to reduce light, smell and noise pollution? 8c. Does the Plan result in an adverse change to the character of night time lighting conditions?	Air Climatic factors Human health
9. Natural Resources – Land Use and Soils. To protect and enhance soil and land resources and quality in Central Lincolnshire.	9a. Does the Plan minimise the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land to development? 9b. Does the Plan maximise the provision of housing development on previously developed land? 9c. Does the Plan maximise the provision of employment development on previously developed land? 9d. Does the Plan reduce the amount of contaminated, derelict and vacant land and buildings? 9e. Does the Plan avoid the sterilisation of mineral deposits?	Soil Climatic factors
10. Waste.	10a. Does the Plan encourage the reuse and recycling of waste in line with the waste hierarchy?	Climatic factors

SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	RELEVANT SEA TOPICS
To minimise the amount of waste generated across all sectors and increase the re-use, recycling and recovery rates of waste materials.	<p>10b. Does the Plan minimise the demand for raw materials?</p> <p>10c. Does the Plan promote the reduction of waste through construction and demolition, and maximising the use of recycled materials, including aggregates?</p>	
<p>11. Climate Change Effects and Energy. To minimise the effects of climate change by developing the area's renewable and low carbon energy and heat, reducing dependency on fossil fuels, minimise energy usage, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the area.</p>	<p>11a. Does the Plan minimise greenhouse gas emissions?</p> <p>11b. Does the plan minimise the use of fossil fuels?</p> <p>11c. Will the Plan minimise the need for energy consumption?</p> <p>11d. Does the Plan promote energy efficiency?</p> <p>11e. Will the Plan encourage the production and/or use of renewable forms of energy?</p> <p>11f. Does the Plan promote the use of sustainable modes of transport?</p>	Climatic factors Air
<p>12. Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk. To minimise vulnerability, improve community resilience and ensure Central Lincolnshire adapts to the effects of climate change, both now and in the future through careful planning and design of the built and natural environment.</p> <p>To reduce and manage the risk of flooding from all sources.</p>	<p>12a. Does the Plan encourage the use of sustainable construction and design principles, such as maximising passive solar gain and minimising run-off from development?</p> <p>12b. Does the Plan seek to minimise the impacts of climate change on health and wellbeing, particularly on vulnerable groups in society?</p> <p>12c. Does the Plan seek to avoid development in areas at risk of flooding?</p> <p>12d. Will the Plan manage and reduce flood risk overall and ensure there is no negative impact on third parties, taking into account the impacts of climate change?</p> <p>12e. Does the Plan tackle existing flood risk problems where appropriate?</p>	Water Climatic factors Human health

SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	RELEVANT SEA TOPICS
	12f. Does the Plan promote the provision of sustainable drainage (SuDs) in new developments?	
13. Transport and Accessibility. To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure and seek to extend and enhance infrastructure to match local needs. To 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).	13a. Does the Plan reduce the number and length of journeys undertaken by car? 13b. Does the Plan require development to utilise and enhance existing transport infrastructure? 13c. Does the Plan improve access to key local services and facilities, places of employment and green infrastructure? 13d. Does the Plan improve access to leisure, sporting, cultural and arts destinations and facilities? 13e. Does the Plan reduce the distances people have to travel to access work, services and leisure? 13f. Does the Plan promote opportunities to enhance the public rights of way and cycling networks?	Climatic factors Human health
Economic		
14. Employment. To create and improve access to high quality employment, training and learning opportunities for everyone within the Central Lincolnshire area.	14a. Does the Plan improve accessibility to employment opportunities, through the location of sites and/or public transport links? 14b. Does the Plan improve access to training and learning facilities, through the location of new facilities and/or public transport links? 14c. Does the Plan help reduce the number of out-workers/out-commuting and outward migration of the working age population from Central Lincolnshire? 14d. Does the Plan help provide employment in areas of employment deprivation and help stimulate regeneration?	Population Material assets
15. Local Economy.		Population

SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	RELEVANT SEA TOPICS
<p>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>15a. Does the Plan assist in providing land and buildings, and the delivery of infrastructure, of a type required by businesses for a range of employment uses?</p> <p>15b. Does the Plan result in a loss of employment land?</p> <p>15c. Does the Plan promote the area as an area for investment?</p> <p>15d. Does the Plan help diversify the economy, both in urban and rural areas?</p> <p>15e. Does the Plan support and encourage the growth of businesses in rural areas?</p> <p>15f. Does the Plan promote sustainable tourism?</p> <p>15g. Does the Plan support the development of a low carbon economy?</p> <p>15h. Does the Plan ensure the protection of, and support the enhancement of, the viability and vitality of town centres and local shopping areas?</p>	<p>Material assets</p>

4 Methodology for Appraising the Effects of the Plan

- 4.1.1 The next stage of the SA of the Local Plan will be to develop and refine Local Plan alternatives and assess the likely effects. This is known as 'Stage B' in the SA process. The following sections outline the key considerations for how it is envisaged the tasks will be undertaken at this stage. The exact format of outputs from these tasks will be determined at each stage of the process.

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects

Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework

- 4.1.2 It is intended that the objectives developed through this SA scoping report process and the objectives of the Local Plan will be the same. Traditionally, separate objectives are developed for the Local Plan and these are then tested against those of the SA. By ensuring that the Plan and SA are prepared with a single set of objectives, this should ensure that there is no conflict between the objectives of the Plan and the sustainability principles formulated through the SA process.

Develop the Local Plan options, including reasonable alternatives

- 4.1.3 By testing each emerging policy and site allocation in the Local Plan against the sustainability objectives (using the SA Framework), this should ensure that all policies and site allocations are compatible with the Plan objectives and meet the sustainability principles identified in the SA. The Central Lincolnshire authorities are currently considering options (or alternatives) for policies and site allocations within the Local Plan. It is likely that the main options will include:
- Alternative overall spatial strategy for development;
 - Alternative policy approaches;
 - Alternative areas for growth/site allocations.
- 4.1.4 The SEA Directive requires only 'reasonable alternatives' to be taken into account and so not every conceivable alternative will be identified and subject to SA. Alternatives will be identified from a range of sources, including the Local Plan evidence base and responses to public consultations.

Identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Local Plan

- 4.1.5 The SA will predict and evaluate the effects of the preferred approach and reasonable alternatives against each of the SA Objectives, and clearly identify the significant positive and negative effects of each alternative. The SA Framework will be used to identify and assess these effects, which may include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium, long term, permanent and temporary effects as well as positive and negative effects. Any assumptions made through the assessment of alternatives will be clearly set out in order to make the SA process as transparent as possible. The application of the SA Framework will assist in the transparency of the SA and ensure that reasonable alternatives and the preferred approach are assessed in the same way.
- 4.1.6 The SA will use the following assessment criteria to assess the potential impacts of policies in the Local Plan against the SA objectives:

Table 4.1: Symbols to describe magnitude of effects

Symbol		Definition of Effect
++	Major positive effects	The option or policy is likely to lead to a significant improvement , and to large scale and permanent benefits on the sustainability objective being appraised.
+	Minor positive effects	The option or policy is likely to lead to moderate improvement and to large scale temporary or medium scale permanent benefits to the sustainability objective being appraised. Beneficial effects should not be easily reversible in the long-term.
0	Neutral effects	A neutral scoring indicates that there are negligible or no effects upon the sustainability objective being appraised. This may include the continuation of a current trend.
-	Minor negative effects	The option or policy is likely to lead to moderate damage or loss , leading to large scale temporary or medium scale permanent negative effects on the sustainability objective being appraised.
--	Major negative effects	The option or policy is likely to lead to significant or severe damage or loss in relation to the sustainability objective being appraised.
/	Mixed effects (e.g. ++/ - major positive and minor negative effects)	The effect is likely to be a combination or mixture of positive and negative effects.
?	Uncertain	The effect is not known or is too unpredictable to assign a conclusive score. This may be due to lack of data, or that effects will not be known until more detailed information is provided (for example when a planning application is submitted).

4.1.7 The commentary for each SA objective will cover the geographical scale of the effects, their magnitude and the timescale over which they will occur. The following criteria will be used as a guide:

Table 4.2: Geographical scale criteria

Scale	Definition
Transboundary	Impacts are likely beyond the boundaries of the Central Lincolnshire area, i.e. regional, national or international impacts
Central Lincolnshire	Impacts are likely across the Central Lincolnshire area.

District	Impacts are likely to be confined to either West Lindsey, North Kesteven or Lincoln City district boundaries.
Settlement	Impacts are likely to be confined to specific settlements in the Central Lincolnshire area.

Table 4.3: Timescale criteria

Time Period	Definition
Short Term (first 5 years of the plan)	These effects are those that will typically occur for specific lengths of time, during certain phases of a development or project. An example of this may be an increase in traffic for one year due to the construction of a new development.
Medium Term (5-10 years)	This relates to effects that may last for several years. It could include visual effects of development, which will be screened as landscaping and planting measures become more established. This may also include the economic effects of establishing new small business centres which could require subsidy in order to become fully established.
Long Term (beyond the lifetime of the plan)	These effects are those, which are persistent and are likely to continue for several years, decades or could even be regarded as permanent.

4.1.8 The assessment will focus on the key issues. In assessing the significance of the potential effects of the plan, the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive will be taken into account:

- The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
- The cumulative nature of effects;
- The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);
- The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical scale and size of population likely to be affected);
- The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
 - Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;
 - Intensive land use
- The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.

4.1.9 **Appendix 1** sets out the proposed matrices for recording the results of the SA of the Local Plan

4.1.10 **Appendix 2** sets out proposed SA Framework and assumptions to be applied in the SA of site options for housing, gypsy and traveller, employment and mixed use sites.

Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial impacts

- 4.1.11 Recommendations for improving the positive effects and reducing (mitigating) potential negative effects of each policy or site option will be recorded in the appraisal matrices. It may be possible to address some potential negative effects through the implementation of other policies contained within the Local Plan, and in some instances this may result in the effects becoming positive.
- 4.1.12 How the policies and site allocations interact with one another and any cumulative effects of the plan will also be considered, including the cumulative effects with other plans and programmes.

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

- 4.1.13 The SA Report will document in detail the SA process which was undertaken, along with the results of the appraisal of the policy/site options and preferred policies/sites of the Local Plan. It will include an overall assessment of the sustainability effects of the Local Plan policies/sites on each of the SA objectives. The final report structure is subject to change following consultation on the SA and the emerging Local Plan.

Stage D: Seek representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public

- 4.1.14 The SA Report will be consulted on for a statutory minimum six-week period alongside the Local Plan as part of the proposed submission public consultation stage. Consultation will need to comply with the Statement of Community Involvement and the requirements of the SEA Directive. Should any significant changes be made to the Local Plan as a result of public consultation, additional appraisal work may need to be carried out and the SA Reports may need to be amended to reflect the results.
- 4.1.15 Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring

Prepare and publish post-adoption statement

- 4.1.16 Regulation 16 of the SEA Regulations 2004 states that as soon as is reasonably practicable after adoption of the Local Plan, the council must publish an adoption statement. This statement will include the title of the Plan, the adoption date, the address where copies of the document and accompanying SA can be viewed and the times they can be viewed. The council will also inform the statutory consultees and those persons who made representations at pre-submission stage or who asked to be informed of the adoption.

Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

- 4.1.17 The SA Report will set out recommendations for monitoring the sustainability effects of the Local Plan, including a set of proposed indicators. Measures for monitoring will be linked to the SA process, that is, the objectives and indicators used in assessing the effects of the Plan, features of the baseline, the likely significant effects and the mitigation measures proposed to off-set adverse significant effects. The monitoring results will be reported in the council's Authority Monitoring Report, published yearly.

Respond to adverse effects

- 4.1.18 Regulation 17 of the SEA Regulations 2004 requires councils to monitor the significant environmental effects of the Plan, in order that any unforeseen adverse effects can be identified at an early stage and appropriate mitigation measures can be implemented.

5 Proposed Structure of SA Report

5.1.1 It is expected that the SA Report will be structured as set out below, however the actual structure may vary as the Local Plan and SA progress.

Non-Technical Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A summary of the SA Report as required by the SEA Regulations
1. Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose of SA and SA Report, including compliance with the relevant legislation Where SEA requirements have been addressed in the report Structure of the SA Report
2. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the plan being appraised: the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, including timetable, main stages of preparation and consultation and key policy areas.
3. Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explanation of the SA process and 5 main stages Consultation process
4. Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage A of the SA process: covering review of plans and programmes and key objectives, description of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the area and sustainability baseline, and difficulties in collecting data and limitations of the data Details of the SA Framework
5. Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details of the main options considered and how they were identified Appraisal of each policy and site, and all the reasonable alternatives for each: analysis of anticipated likely effects and details of mitigation measures required. Explanation of why reasonable alternatives were discounted and why the chosen option was selected above all other options, including details of any assumptions made. Consideration of cumulative effects between the plan policies and site allocations, and between the plan and other plans and programmes.
6. Implementation and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the monitoring framework, including indicators and targets, for monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan.
7. Conclusion and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the key findings from the appraisal of the Local Plan Outline of the next stage in the preparation of the Local Plan and the SA
Appendices	<p>Likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Summary of consultation responses and how they have been taken into account B. Sustainability baseline C. Appraisal matrices for policy options and preferred policies D. Appraisal matrices for site options and preferred site allocations

6 Next Steps

- 6.1.1 The SA Framework and appraisal process, as set out in this Scoping Report, will be used to appraise the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan as it emerges. At each formal stage of plan preparation, an iteration of the SA will be published (i.e. at the Further Draft and Proposed Submission stages) and consulted on alongside the Local Plan.
- 6.1.2 A final draft version of the SA Report will then be submitted as part of the Local Plan evidence base when the plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
- 6.1.3 All consultation undertaken will comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive, and with Central Lincolnshire's Statement of Community Involvement.
- 6.1.4 On adoption of the Local Plan, a final SA Report will be published and an SEA Post Adoption Statement. The SA Report may be different to the one submitted, if for example, the Local Plan is amended as a consequence of that examination. If the changes to the SA Report are considered material differences, then consultation will take place prior to the Final SA Report being published.

Appendix 1 – SA Assessment Proforma for Local Plan Policies

Policy [Number]: Policy [Title]

Options considered for this policy:

- Option 1: [Details]
- Option 2:
- Option 3:

Policy: <i>Insert policy reference and title</i>	Policy Options		
SA Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Social			
1. Housing.	<i>Insert likely effect, i.e. whether ++ / - / ? etc.</i>		
	<i>Insert commentary of predicted impacts and proposed mitigation measures, including details of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Predicted effect</i> • <i>Likelihood</i> • <i>Likely duration</i> • <i>Likely scale</i> • <i>Any assumptions made</i> 		
2. Health and Wellbeing			
3. Social Equality and Community.			
Environmental			
4. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure.			
5. Landscape and Townscape.			
6. Built and Historic Environment.			
7. Natural Resources – Water.			

Policy: <i>Insert policy reference and title</i>	Policy Options		
SA Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
8. Pollution			
9. Natural Resources – Land Use and Soils.			
10. Waste.			
11. Climate Change Effects and Energy.			
12. Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk.			
13. Transport and Accessibility.			
Economic			
14. Employment.			
15. Local Economy.			

Appendix 2 – SA Assessment Proformas for Local Plan Site Allocation Options

(Note: SA Objectives 3, 10 and 11 have been ‘scoped out’ of the appraisal as they are not relevant to the location of housing, mixed use or gypsy and traveller site allocations. See **Appendix 3** for explanation)

Housing, Mixed Use (incorporating housing) and Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Site: <i>Insert site reference and name</i>		Site Address: <i>Insert site address here</i>	
Area (ha): <i>Insert site area</i>		Settlement Hierarchy Category: <i>Insert settlement tier here</i>	
Site Capacity: <i>Insert potential site capacity from site assessment form</i>		Greenfield/Brownfield: <i>Insert whether greenfield or brownfield from site assessment form</i>	
SA Objectives	Likely Effects	Commentary	Proposed Mitigation
Social			
1. Housing	<i>Insert whether positive, negative etc.</i>	<i>Insert commentary of predicted impacts, including any key issues identified via public consultation</i>	<i>Insert proposed mitigation measures to address predicted impacts</i>
2. Health and Wellbeing			
2.1 Access to healthcare facilities			
2.2 Opportunities for healthy lifestyles			
Environmental			
4. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure			
4.1 Conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity			
4.2 Local Green Space			
5. Landscape and Townscape			

Site: <i>Insert site reference and name</i>		Site Address: <i>Insert site address here</i>	
Area (ha): <i>Insert site area</i>		Settlement Hierarchy Category: <i>Insert settlement tier here</i>	
Site Capacity: <i>Insert potential site capacity from site assessment form</i>		Greenfield/Brownfield: <i>Insert whether greenfield or brownfield from site assessment form</i>	
SA Objectives	Likely Effects	Commentary	Proposed Mitigation
6. Built and Historic Environment			
7. Natural Resources – Water			
8. Pollution			
8.1 Air Pollution			
8.2 Noise Pollution			
9. Natural Resources – Land Use and Soils			
9.1 Agricultural Land			
9.2 Minerals Resource			
12. Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk			
13. Transport and Accessibility			
13.1 Access to services and facilities			
13.2 Sustainable travel modes			
Economic			
14. Employment			
14.1 Employment			
14.2 Training and learning			

Site: <i>Insert site reference and name</i>		Site Address: <i>Insert site address here</i>	
Area (ha): <i>Insert site area</i>		Settlement Hierarchy Category: <i>Insert settlement tier here</i>	
Site Capacity: <i>Insert potential site capacity from site assessment form</i>		Greenfield/Brownfield: <i>Insert whether greenfield or brownfield from site assessment form</i>	
SA Objectives	Likely Effects	Commentary	Proposed Mitigation
15. Local Economy			
15.1 Encourage and support local economy			
15.2 Protect and enhance hierarchy of centres			

Employment Sites

(Note: SA Objectives 1, 2.1, 3, 10, 11 and 14.2 have been 'scoped out' of the appraisal as they are not relevant to the location of employment site allocations. See **Appendix 3** for explanation)

Site: <i>Insert site reference and name</i>		Site Address: <i>Insert site address here</i>	
Area (ha): <i>Insert site area</i>		Settlement: <i>Insert name of settlement that site is located within or adjacent to</i>	
Greenfield/Brownfield: <i>Insert whether greenfield or brownfield from site assessment form</i>			
SA Objectives	Likely Effects	Commentary	Proposed Mitigation
Social			
2. Health and Wellbeing			
2.2 Opportunities for healthy lifestyles	<i>Insert whether positive, negative etc.</i>	<i>Insert commentary of predicted impacts, including any key issues identified via public consultation</i>	<i>Insert proposed mitigation measures to address predicted impacts</i>
Environmental			
4. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure			
4.1 Conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity			
4.2 Local Green Space			
5. Landscape and Townscape			
6. Built and Historic Environment			
7. Natural Resources – Water			
8. Pollution			

Site: <i>Insert site reference and name</i>		Site Address: <i>Insert site address here</i>	
Area (ha): <i>Insert site area</i>		Settlement: <i>Insert name of settlement that site is located within or adjacent to</i>	
Greenfield/Brownfield: <i>Insert whether greenfield or brownfield from site assessment form</i>			
SA Objectives	Likely Effects	Commentary	Proposed Mitigation
8.1 Air Pollution			
8.2 Noise Pollution			
9. Natural Resources – Land Use and Soils			
9.1 Agricultural Land			
9.2 Minerals Resource			
12. Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk			
13. Transport and Accessibility			
13.1 Access to services and facilities			
13.2 Sustainable travel modes			
Economic			
14. Employment			
14.1 Employment			
15. Local Economy			
15.1 Encourage and support local economy			

Site: <i>Insert site reference and name</i>		Site Address: <i>Insert site address here</i>	
Area (ha): <i>Insert site area</i>		Settlement: <i>Insert name of settlement that site is located within or adjacent to</i>	
Greenfield/Brownfield: <i>Insert whether greenfield or brownfield from site assessment form</i>			
SA Objectives	Likely Effects	Commentary	Proposed Mitigation
15.2 Protect and enhance hierarchy of centres			

Appendix 3 – Proposed SA Framework and Assumptions for Appraisal of Sites

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
Social			
1. Housing.	<p>1a. Does the Plan deliver the range of housing types, sizes and tenures, to meet identified needs across Central Lincolnshire over the plan period?</p> <p>1b. Does the Plan increase the supply of affordable homes in both urban and rural areas?</p> <p>1c. Does the Plan meet the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people?</p> <p>1d. Does the Plan help to address the needs of a growing and ageing population?</p> <p>1e. Does the Plan reduce the number of homes that do not reach the Decent Homes Standard?</p>	<p><u>Housing and mixed use (incorporating housing) site options</u> All housing sites and mixed use sites (incorporating housing) are expected to positively contribute to this objective in some way due to the nature of the proposed development. Larger sites will have a more positive contribution, as they will deliver a greater number of homes, a larger proportion of affordable homes and a variety of housing sizes, types and tenures.</p> <p><u>SA Criteria</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites with capacity for 50 dwellings or more will have a significant positive effect (++) • Sites with capacity up to an including 49 dwellings will have a minor positive effect (+) <p><u>Gypsy and Traveller site options</u> Any gypsy and traveller site options would be expected to have a significant positive effect on this objective due to providing opportunities to meet the specific housing needs of the gypsy and traveller community (++).</p> <p><u>Employment site options</u> The location of employment sites will not impact on the provision of housing to meet housing needs.</p> <p>This objective can therefore be scoped out for the assessment of employment sites only.</p> <p>(Source: Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment)</p>	n/a
2. Health and Wellbeing	2a. Does the Plan ensure access health facilities across the area?	<u>2.1 Access to healthcare facilities</u>	Proximity to nearest Health Facilities

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
	<p>2b. Does the Plan ensure access to sport and recreation facilities, open space and accessible green space?</p> <p>2c. Does the Plan provide opportunities to access fresh, affordable and healthy food?</p> <p>2d. Does the Plan help improve road safety?</p> <p>2e. Does the Plan help to limit the potential fuel poverty?</p>	<p><u>Housing, mixed use (incorporating housing) and gypsy and traveller site options</u> Sites that are within walking distance (800m) of existing healthcare facilities (i.e. GP surgeries) will ensure that residents have good access to healthcare services. While public health will also be influenced by the proximity of sites to open spaces, walking and cycle paths, this is considered separately under SA objectives 4 and 13 below.</p> <p><u>SA Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 400m of a GP surgery will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are within 800m of a GP surgery will have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are not within 800m of a GP surgery will have a minor negative (-) effect. • Sites that would involve the loss of health facilities or that would lead to unacceptable demands on existing facilities will have a significant negative effect (--). <p>If a number of sites are allocated within close proximity of one another, this could lead to increased pressure on existing healthcare facilities (i.e. a cumulative significant negative effect). If at any point information becomes available regarding the capacity of existing healthcare facilities, this will be taken into account in the SA as relevant.</p> <p><u>Employment site options</u> The location of employment sites is not likely to impact on this objective.</p> <p>This objective can therefore be scoped out for the assessment of employment sites only.</p> <p>(Source: Lincolnshire County Council)</p>	
		<u>2.2 Opportunities for healthy lifestyles</u>	n/a

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
		<p><u>All types of site options</u> Sites that are within walking distance of existing, publicly accessible open spaces may encourage more people to partake in play, sport and recreational activities.</p> <p>Development of a site that includes existing open space, may result in the loss of that feature, depending on whether it can be retained as part of the design of any development proposal.</p> <p>Large scale sites offer the potential for the creation of new open spaces.</p> <p><u>All types of site options</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 400m of an existing open space and/or are of a size to secure new open space provision may have a significant positive effect (++) • Sites that are within 400m of an existing open space but are not of a scale which could offer opportunities to create new open space onsite are likely to have a minor positive effect, (+) • Sites that are beyond 400m of an existing open space, are too small to accommodate new open space provision and/or would include an area of existing open space could have a minor negative to significant negative effect, although this is uncertain until it is known whether the open space will be retained or lost as part of the development (-/? or --/?) <p>(Source: Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit 2016)</p>	
3. Social Equality and Community.	3a. Does the Plan promote regeneration? 3b. Does the Plan help reduce social inequality, poverty and	The impact of new housing, mixed use and employment sites on this objective is difficult to determine at a strategic level, and the location of new sites is unlikely to be the only influencing factor. For example, the effects of new development on crime and the fear of crime will depend on the design of proposed development.	n/a

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
	<p>social exclusion in those areas most affected?</p> <p>3c. Does the Plan support cultural diversity, social interaction, civic participation (social capital), to promote more diverse and cohesive communities?</p> <p>3d. Does the Plan promote equal access and opportunity for all social groups through the provision and distribution of local community services and facilities?</p> <p>3e. Does the Plan promote principles of good design to reduce the potential for crime in the area?</p> <p>3f. Does the Plan assist in reducing the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour?</p>	<p>This objective can therefore be scoped out for the assessment of sites.</p>	
Environmental			
4. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure.	4a. Will the Plan protect and enhance international, national or locally designated wildlife	<p><u>4.1 Conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity</u></p> <p><u>All types of site options</u></p>	Nationally Important Wildlife Sites

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
	<p>and geological sites (including ancient woodland)?</p> <p>4b. Does the Plan protect international, national, regional or locally important species and avoid negative effects?</p> <p>4c. Does the Plan outline opportunities for the creation of new habitat, its restoration or expansion?</p> <p>4d. Does the Plan prevent the fragmentation of habitats, maintaining wildlife corridors and providing new wildlife linkages?</p> <p>4e. Does the Plan provide opportunities for people to access wildlife and the natural environment and promote their quiet enjoyment?</p> <p>4f. Does the Plan promote improvement in the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and in areas deficient in publicly accessible open space?</p>	<p>Proximity to international, national and local nature conservation and geological sites provides an <i>indication</i> of the potential for adverse effects on this objective, including indirect effects, such as impacts from increased recreation. However, uncertainty exists as appropriate mitigation through planning policy or at the planning application stage may avoid significant negative effects. Development may also provide opportunities to deliver a net gain in biodiversity and to improve green infrastructure provision. Precise impacts on biodiversity would be determined as part of a planning application once more detailed proposals have been developed.</p> <p>Where sites designated for their international importance could be affected by a proposed site allocation, the SA will be informed by the HRA. Once the HRA findings are available, scores will be adjusted if particular sites are identified as likely to have significant effects on one or more European sites.</p> <p>The following designated sites will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International: SAC, SPA, Ramsar • National: SSSI, NIA, NNR, Ancient Woodland • Local: LWS, RIG, LGS, LNR <p>SA Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within or partly within one or more designated international, national or local sites OR would result in an adverse impact on known protected species or habitats, may result in significant negative effects (--/?) • Sites that are within 500m of designated international, national or local sites and/or mainly fall within a biodiversity opportunity area: ecological network-opportunity for management, may result in minor negative effects (-/?) • Sites that are more than 500m from any designated sites, and/or contain a small portion of a biodiversity opportunity mapping area, are assumed to have a negligible effect (0/?) • Sites which would have no effect on known protected species or habitats would have a minor positive effect (+/?) 	<p>Local Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Ancient Woodland</p> <p>Regionally Important Geological Site (RIG)</p> <p>Local Geological Sites</p> <p>Protected Local Green Space</p>

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
	<p>4g. Does the Plan improve access to green infrastructure?</p> <p>4h. Does the Plan provide opportunities for or improve the provision of sports, recreation and play facilities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites which fall within, or immediately adjacent to, a biodiversity opportunity mapping area: opportunity for creation, may provide opportunities for biodiversity net gain, resulting in minor to significant positive effects (+/? or ++/?). <p>(Source: Natural England, Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping)</p>	
	<p>4i. Does the Plan provide opportunities for local food production?</p>	<p><u>4.2 Local Green Space</u></p> <p><u>All types of site options</u></p> <p>Local Green Spaces are a national designation introduced through the NPPF, to provide special protection against development for green spaces of particular importance to local communities.</p> <p>Local Green Space designation can only be used in Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans and are identified on the policies map. Local Green Spaces in Central Lincolnshire are shown on the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Policies Map (2017), which is regularly updated with Neighbourhood Plan designations.</p> <p><u>SA Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are located within a Local Green Space may result in a significant negative effect (--) Sites that are partly located within a Local Green Space may result in a minor negative effect (-) Where no part of a site is within a Local Green Space Sites there are likely to be neutral effects (0) <p>(Source: Adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2017 Policies Map)</p>	n/a

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
5. Landscape and Townscape.	<p>5a. Does the Plan protect, and provide opportunities to enhance, the sensitive and distinctive landscapes and townscapes within the area (including the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB)?</p> <p>5b. Does the Plan conserve and enhance historic and local landscape and townscape character, and visual amenity?</p> <p>5c. Does the Plan protect settlement character: Will it lead to development that increases coalescence with neighbouring settlements? Is the scale/density of development in keeping with important and valued features of the settlement?</p> <p>5d. Does the Plan protect important views?</p>	<p><u>All types of site options:</u></p> <p>The effects of new development on the character and quality of the landscape will depend to a certain extent on its design, which is not yet known. Therefore there is an element of uncertainty as to the exact effects at this stage.</p> <p>Where development is within or close to designated landscapes, or where it would be large in size and on previously undeveloped land, negative effects could result.</p> <p>The designated landscapes within Central Lincolnshire are: Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and Green Wedges.</p> <p><u>SA Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where sites are located within or partly within the AONB, AGLV or a Green Wedge, there is potential for a significant negative effects (--/?) • Where sites are located within 200m of the AONB, AGLV or immediately adjacent to a Green Wedge, there is potential for a minor negative effects (-/?) • Where sites are located further than 200m of the AONB, AGLV or are not within or adjacent to a Green Wedge, they are expected to have a minor positive effect (+/?) <p>(Source: Natural England and Adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2017 Policies Map)</p>	<p>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</p> <p>Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)</p> <p>Green Wedges</p>
6. Built and Historic Environment.	<p>6a. Does the Plan conserve and/or enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment?</p> <p>6b. Does the Plan promote opportunities for the sensitive</p>	<p><u>All types of site options:</u></p> <p>Sites that are in close proximity to a heritage asset have the potential to lead to negative effects on those assets and/or their settings. <u>However, proximity to a heritage asset only provides an indication of potential effects and a qualitative appraisal should also be undertaken to inform decisions on the nature of effects, using professional judgement.</u></p>	<p>Scheduled Monument</p> <p>Listed Buildings Grade I, II* and II</p>

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
	<p>re-use of historic or culturally important buildings or areas where appropriate?</p> <p>6c. Does the Plan promote sustainable and appropriately managed access to, as well as enjoyment and understanding of, historic assets for visitors and residents?</p> <p>6d. Does the Plan help to improve understanding of the area's heritage and culture?</p> <p>6e. Does the Plan provide opportunities to enhance the quality of the public realm?</p> <p>6f. Does the Plan provide, protect or enhance locations for cultural activities, including the arts?</p> <p>6g. Does the Plan promote high quality design and sustainable construction?</p>	<p>The assessment will therefore be undertaken in two stages. The first stage will use GIS to determine if a site is likely to affect a heritage asset. The second stage will involve consultation with Conservation Officers and Archaeologists within the Central Lincolnshire Authorities on individual sites, to ascertain the significance of the heritage assets involved and the nature of potential effects.</p> <p>In all cases, the effects are uncertain, as they will depend on the exact scale, design and layout of new development and mitigation measures, which may include opportunities to enhance the setting of heritage assets.</p> <p>The following heritage assets and their settings will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology • Scheduled Monuments • Listed Buildings • Registered Parks and Gardens • Registered Battlefields • Conservation Areas • Non-designated heritage assets on a local list <p>SA Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites which have potential for heritage assets and/or their settings to be enhanced, brought back into use and their significance to be better revealed could have a minor positive (+/?) or significant positive effect, subject to application of appropriate mitigation (++/?) • Sites which are unlikely to cause adverse impacts on heritage assets and/or their settings could have a negligible effect on this objective (0/?) • Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets and/or their settings, but can be mitigated, could have a minor negative impact on this objective (-/?) 	<p>Conservation Area</p> <p>Historic Parks and Gardens</p>

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets and/or their settings where it is unlikely that these can be adequately mitigated could have a significant negative impact on this objective (--/?) <p>(Source: Historic England and Local Authority Data)</p>	
7. Natural Resources – Water.	<p>7a. Does the Plan maintain and enhance water quality, including contributing to meeting the objectives of the Water Framework Directive?</p> <p>7b. Does the Plan encourage water efficiency?</p> <p>7c. Does the Plan ensure that demand for water will be within the available capacity of existing water systems infrastructure (e.g. water supply and sewage)?</p>	<p><u>All types of site options:</u></p> <p>New development leads to an increase in demand for sewerage services and hence reduces the wastewater network capacity. However, the direct effects on this objective will depend on the capacity of the wastewater network to treat the additional waste created by the amount of development proposed.</p> <p>The location of new development may affect water quality due to proximity to sensitive groundwater receptors, although there is some uncertainty, as it will depend on the construction activities undertaken and mitigation measures used.</p> <p><u>SA Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that fall within Source Protection Zone 1 may have a significant negative effect on this objective (--/?) Sites that fall within Source Protection Zone 2 or 3 may have a minor negative effect on this objective (-/?) Sites that are not within a Source Protection Zone are likely to have a negligible effect on this objective (0) <p>(Source: Environment Agency)</p>	n/a
8. Pollution	8a. Does the Plan maintain and improve local air quality?	<p><u>8.1 Air pollution</u></p> <p>Site options that are within, or within close proximity to, and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), could increase levels of air pollution in those</p>	Air Pollution

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
	<p>8b. Does the Plan help to improve residential amenity, including potential to reduce light, smell and noise pollution?</p> <p>8c. Does the Plan result in an adverse change to the character of night time lighting conditions?</p>	<p>areas as a result of increased vehicle traffic. Currently there is 1 AQMA designated within Lincoln.</p> <p>SA Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, employment and mixed use sites that are within an AQMA, or within 100m of an AQMA boundary, are likely to have a significant negative effect on air quality (--) • Housing, employment and mixed use sites that are between 100m and 1km of an AQMA are likely to have a minor negative effect on air quality (-) • Gypsy and Traveller sites that are within an AQMA, or within 100m of an AQMA boundary, are likely to have a minor negative effect on air quality (due to a lower number of vehicle movements likely to be associated with these sites) (-) • Gypsy and Traveller sites that are between 100m and 1km of an AQMA are likely to have a negligible effect on air quality, depending on their scale (0) • All sites that are further than 1km from an AQMA are likely to have a minor positive effect (+). <p>(Source: Local Authority Data)</p> <p>8.2 Noise pollution</p> <p>In relation to noise pollution, the location of new development in relation to sources of noise pollution can lead to negative impacts on human health. The exact effects are uncertain, as they are dependent on the ability of these effects to be mitigated; either through site layout, use of planning conditions or design solutions.</p> <p><u>Housing, mixed use (incorporating housing) and gypsy and traveller site options</u></p> <p>SA Criteria:</p>	<p></p> <p>n/a</p>

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are immediately adjacent to the strategic road network (A road) or a railway line, may have a significant negative effect (--/?) Sites that are within close proximity (less than 100m) to the strategic road network (A road) or a railway line, may have a minor negative effect (-/?) Sites that are not within close proximity to the strategic road network (A road) or a railway line are likely to have a negligible effect (0/?) <p>(Source: Google Maps)</p> <p>Employment sites: Employment development in close proximity to residential areas may have negative effects on the amenity of existing residents as a result of increased noise and light pollution, however this is uncertain as it will depend on the nature of businesses on the site.</p> <p>SA Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are surrounded by existing residential development to all boundaries may have a significant negative effect (--/?) Sites that are not surrounded by existing residential development but are within 100m of residential use may have a minor negative effect (-/?) Sites that are more than 100m of existing residential development are likely to have a negligible effect (0/?) <p>(Source: Google Maps)</p>	
9. Natural Resources – Land Use and Soils.	<p>9a. Does the Plan minimise the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land to development?</p> <p>9b. Does the Plan maximise the provision of housing</p>	<p>9.1 Agricultural Land</p> <p>All types of site options:</p> <p>The scoring for this objective takes into account whether the site is brownfield or greenfield and also the agricultural land grade to assess whether development would impact on the best and most versatile land. Loss of</p>	<p>Agricultural Land Classification</p>

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
	<p>development on previously developed land?</p> <p>9c. Does the Plan maximise the provision of employment development on previously developed land?</p> <p>9d. Does the Plan reduce the amount of contaminated, derelict and vacant land and buildings?</p> <p>9e. Does the Plan avoid the sterilisation of mineral deposits?</p>	<p>greenfield land and/or agricultural land will have a permanent, long term impact on this objective.</p> <p>SA Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are mainly or entirely greenfield where approximately 50% or more is grade 1 or 2 agricultural land are likely to result in significant negative effects (--) Sites that are mainly or entirely greenfield where approximately less than 50% of the site is within grade 1 and 2 and/or within grade 3 could have a minor negative effect (-) Sites that are grade 4, 5 or non-agricultural would have a minor positive effect (+) Sites that comprise of urban land or are mainly brownfield land would have a significant positive effect (++) <p>(Source: Natural England)</p>	
		<p>9.2 Minerals Resource</p> <p>All types of site options:</p> <p>SA Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within or partly within a Minerals Safeguarding Area could have a significant negative effect (--) Sites that are not within a Mineral Safeguarding Area, or are within a Minerals Safeguarding Area but which are no longer being worked for minerals and would be remediated through allocation, will have a neutral effect (0) <p>(Source: Lincolnshire County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan)</p>	Minerals Safeguarding Area
10. Waste.	10a. Does the Plan encourage the reuse and recycling of	All types of site options:	n/a

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
	<p>waste in line with the waste hierarchy?</p> <p>10b. Does the Plan minimise the demand for raw materials?</p> <p>10c. Does the Plan promote the reduction of waste through construction and demolition, and maximising the use of recycled materials, including aggregates?</p>	<p>All new development will increase the generation of waste, regardless of location. It cannot be assumed that a large site or a site in close proximity to a household waste recycling centre, will lead to a reduction in waste. Opportunities for reducing or re-using waste will be dependent on scheme design and the choices made by new residents and employees.</p> <p>This objective can therefore be scoped out for the assessment of all sites.</p>	
11. Climate Change Effects and Energy.	<p>11a. Does the Plan minimise greenhouse gas emissions?</p> <p>11b. Does the plan minimise the use of fossil fuels?</p> <p>11c. Will the Plan minimise the need for energy consumption?</p> <p>11d. Does the Plan promote energy efficiency?</p> <p>11e. Will the Plan encourage the production and/or use of renewable forms of energy?</p> <p>11f. Does the Plan promote the use of sustainable modes of transport?</p>	<p><u>All types of site options:</u></p> <p>Promoting an increase in renewable energy generation, improvements in energy efficiency and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from new housing, employment or mixed use sites will be dependent on scheme design and construction methods, rather than the location of new development.</p> <p>This objective can therefore be scoped out for the assessment of all sites.</p>	<p>n/a</p>

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
12. Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk.	<p>12a. Does the Plan encourage the use sustainable construction and design principles, such as maximising passive solar gain and minimising run-off from development?</p> <p>12b. Does the Plan seek to minimise the impacts of climate change on health and wellbeing, particularly on vulnerable groups in society?</p> <p>12c. Does the Plan seek to avoid development in areas at risk of flooding?</p> <p>12d. Will the Plan manage and reduce flood risk overall and ensure there is no negative impact on third parties, taking into account the impacts of climate change?</p> <p>12e. Does the Plan tackle existing flood risk problems where appropriate?</p> <p>12f. Does the Plan promote the provision of sustainable drainage (SuDs) in new developments?</p>	<p>The latest Environment Agency Flood Risk Zones will be used to assess each site in terms of vulnerability to flooding. Site options within high flood risk areas could place the development, or the surrounding area, at risk of flooding.</p> <p>National planning policy steers development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding (Flood Zone 1). National Planning Practice Guidance identifies which types of land uses are considered to be appropriate in Flood Zones 2, 3a and 3b.</p> <p><u>Housing and mixed use (incorporating housing) site options</u> National planning policy identifies residential as a more vulnerable use, which is suitable in areas of Flood Zone 1 and 2, but would require an exception test in Flood Zone 3a and is unsuitable in Flood Zone 3b.</p> <p><u>SA criteria</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites where more than approximately 50% of the site is located within Flood Zone 3a or 3b are likely to have a significant negative effect (--) • Sites that are entirely or mainly within Flood Zone 2, with/or Flood Zone 3 on less than approximately 50% of the site, are likely to have a minor negative effect (-) • Sites that are entirely or mainly within Flood Zone 1 are likely to have a minor positive effect (+) <p>(Source: Environment Agency)</p> <p><u>Gypsy and Traveller site options:</u> National Planning Practice Guidance identifies caravans, mobile homes and park homes intended for permanent residential use as a 'highly vulnerable use', which is suitable in areas of flood zone 1 but would require an exception test in flood zone 2 and is unsuitable in flood zones 3a and 3b.</p> <p><u>SA criteria</u></p>	<p>Flood risk</p>

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites where more than approximately 50% of the site is located within Flood Zones 3 are likely to have significant negative effects on this objective (--) • Sites where more than approximately 50% of the site is located within Flood Zones 2 are likely to have minor negative effects on this objective (-) • Sites that are entirely or mainly within Flood Zone 1 are likely to have a minor positive effect (+) <p>(Source: Environment Agency)</p> <p>Employment site options: National Planning Practice Guidance identifies offices and general industry as a 'less vulnerable use', which is suitable in areas of Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3a but is unsuitable in Flood Zone 3b.</p> <p>SA criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are entirely or mainly (more than 50%) within Flood Zone 3b are likely to have a significant negative effect (--) • Sites that are entirely or mainly (more than 50%) within Flood Zone 2 are likely to have a minor negative effect (-) • Sites that are entirely or mainly within Flood Zone 1 are likely to have a minor positive effect (+) <p>(Source: Environment Agency)</p>	
13. Transport and Accessibility.	<p>13a. Does the Plan reduce the number and length of journeys undertaken by car?</p> <p>13b. Does the Plan require development to utilise and</p>	<p><u>13.1 Access to services and facilities</u></p> <p><u>All types of site options:</u> The location of new development will influence ability for residents and employees to access services and facilities and by modes of travel other than the car.</p>	n/a

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
	<p>enhance existing transport infrastructure?</p> <p>13c. Does the Plan improve access to key local services and facilities, places of employment and green infrastructure?</p> <p>13d. Does the Plan improve access to leisure, sporting, cultural and arts destinations and facilities?</p> <p>13e. Does the Plan reduce the distances people have to travel to access work, services and leisure?</p> <p>13f. Does the Plan promote opportunities to enhance the public rights of way and cycling networks?</p>	<p>Where large scale allocations and mixed use sites are likely to provide new services and facilities, significant positive effects (++/?) are likely. There is some uncertainty surrounding the effects, as they will be dependent on the travel behaviour of the new residents and employees.</p> <p>SA criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within or adjoining Lincoln City Centre or the Town Centres of Gainsborough, Sleaford, Market Rasen or Caistor, and/or are expected to provide new services and facilities as part of a mixed use development, are likely to have significant positive effects (++) • Sites that are within or adjoining a District, Local or Village Centre, or are within 400m of a Centre, are likely to have minor positive effects (+) • Sites that are not within or adjoining any of the above Centres, but that are within walking distance of public transport links (400m bus stop or 800m of a railway station) will have a minor negative effect (-) • Sites that are not within or adjoining any of the above Centres, or walking distance of public transport links, are likely to have significant negative effects (--) <p>(Source: Adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2017 Policies Map)</p> <p><u>13.2 Sustainable travel modes</u></p> <p><u>All types of site options</u></p> <p>Where a site is located in close proximity to public transport, there will be better opportunities for new residents and employees to use alternative modes of transport to the car to access jobs and services, and to make shorter journeys via walking or cycling. There will be some uncertainty surrounding the effects, as they will be dependent on the travel behaviour of the new residents and employees. It is possible that new transport links such as bus routes or cycle paths may be provided as part of new developments, particularly at larger sites, but this cannot be assumed.</p>	<p></p> <p>Distance to nearest Bus Stop</p> <p>Distance to nearest Train Station</p>

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
		<p>It is assumed that people would be willing to travel further to access a railway station than a bus stop.</p> <p>SA Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 800m of a railway station and 400m of a bus stop are likely to have a significant positive effect (++) Sites that are within 800m of a railway station or 400m of a bus stop, but not both, are likely to have a minor positive effect (+) Sites that are within 1600m from a railway station or within 800m from a bus stop, but not both, are likely to have a minor negative effect (-) Sites where the nearest railway station is further than 1600m from any part of the site and the nearest bus stop is further than 800m away from any part of the site, are likely to have a major negative effect (--) <p>(Source: Lincolnshire County Council)</p>	
Economic			
14. Employment.	<p>14a. Does the Plan improve physical accessible to employment opportunities, through the location of sites and/or public transport links?</p> <p>14b. Does the Plan improve physical access to training and learning facilities, through the location of new facilities and/or public transport links?</p> <p>14c. Does the Plan help reduce the number of out-workers/out-commuting and outward</p>	<p><u>14.1 Employment</u></p> <p><u>All types of site options</u></p> <p>Proximity to designated employment areas and City/Town Centres in the Local Plan will be used as an indication of the potential effects in relation to access to work opportunities. Distances of 800m, 1600m and 5km have been used to represent 10 minute, 20 minute and 1 hour walking times to potential workplaces. Mixed use sites that include employment development are likely to have a positive effect, with the co-location of employment and housing development having significant positive effects, as this will ensure work opportunities are easily accessible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are further than 5km from at least one City/Town Centre or designated employment area, may result in significant negative effects (--) 	n/a

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
	<p>migration of working age population from Central Lincolnshire?</p> <p>14d. Does the Plan help provide employment in areas of high employment deprivation and help stimulate regeneration?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are between 1600m and 5km from a City/Town Centre or designated employment area, may result in a minor negative effects (-) • Sites that are within 1600m of at least one City/Town centre or designated employment area, may result in a minor positive effect (+) • Sites that are within 800m of at least one City/Town centre or designated employment area, or mixed use sites that incorporate both employment and residential use, may result in significant positive effects (++) <p>(Source: Adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2017 Policies Map)</p> <p><u>14.2 Training and learning</u></p> <p><u>Housing and mixed use (incorporating housing) site options:</u> Proximity to a primary and/or secondary school has been used as an indication of the potential effects in relation to access to learning and training opportunities. Effects will also depend on the capacity of the schools to accommodate additional pupils, and whether new school places are provided as part of larger housing sites. It has been assumed that sites over an indicative capacity of 500 dwellings would result in the creation of new primary or secondary school places.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites within 400m of at least one primary school and 800m of at least one secondary school, or may result in the creation of additional primary or secondary school places due to scale, may have a significant positive effect (++/?) • Sites within 400m of one primary school or 800m of one secondary school, but not both, may have a minor positive effect (+/?) • Sites between 400-800m of one primary school or between 800-1600m of one secondary school, may have a minor negative effect (-/?) • Sites that are more than 800m from a primary school and 1600m from a secondary school may have a significant negative effect (--/?) 	<p>Proximity to nearest Primary School</p> <p>Proximity to nearest Secondary School</p>

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
		<p>If a number of sites are allocated within close proximity of one another, this could lead to increased pressure on existing primary and secondary schools (i.e. a cumulative significant negative effect). If at any point information becomes available regarding the capacity of existing schools, this will be taken into account in the SA as relevant.</p> <p>(Source: Lincolnshire County Council via https://www.get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/)</p> <p>Employment site options: The location of employment sites will not have a direct effect on this objective.</p> <p>This objective can therefore be scoped out for the assessment of employment sites only.</p>	
15. Local Economy.	<p>15a. Does the Plan assist in providing land and buildings, and the delivery of infrastructure, of a type required by businesses for a range of employment uses?</p> <p>15b. Does the Plan result in a loss of employment land?</p> <p>15c. Does the Plan promote the area as an area for investment?</p> <p>15d. Does the Plan help diversify the economy, both in urban and rural areas?</p>	<p><u>15.1 Encourage and support local economy</u></p> <p><u>Housing and gypsy and traveller site options</u> The location of housing and gypsy and traveller sites will largely not have an effect on this objective, however where a site would result in the loss of employment land, currently in employment use, this may have a significant negative effect (--). However, if not currently in employment use because, for example, the site has lay vacant for a number of years, the effect is expected to be negligible (0).</p> <p><u>SA Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that would result in the loss of allocated employment land currently in employment use (--) • Sites that would result in the loss of non-allocated employment land currently in employment use (-) • Sites that would result in the loss of employment land not currently in employment use are likely to have a negligible effect (0) 	n/a

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
	<p>15e. Does the Plan support and encourage the growth of businesses in rural areas?</p> <p>15f. Does the Plan promote sustainable tourism?</p>	<p>(Source: Adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2017 Policies Map)</p> <p><u>Mixed use site options</u> Mixed use sites that incorporate an element of employment are likely to have a positive effect on this objective.</p> <p><u>SA Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that incorporate an element of employment use are likely to have a minor positive effect (+) • Sites that do not incorporate an element of employment use are likely to have a neutral effect (0) <p>(Source: Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment)</p> <p><u>Employment site options</u> New employment sites across the Central Lincolnshire area should have a positive effect on this objective by providing land for existing businesses to expand and attracting new businesses into the area.</p> <p><u>SA Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large sites (5 ha or more) are likely to have significant positive effects (++) • Small sites (less than 5 ha) are likely to have minor positive effects (+) <p>(Source: Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment)</p>	
		<p><u>15.2 Protect and enhance hierarchy of centres</u></p> <p><u>All types of site options</u> High quality new development within Lincoln's City Centre and the Town Centres of Gainsborough, Sleaford, Market Rasen and Caistor will help to enhance the built environment in these Centres, encouraging people to use them and contributing to their viability and vitality.</p>	n/a

SA Objectives	Decision Making Questions	Assumptions and Approach	Central Lincolnshire Site Assessment Criteria
		<p>The starting point will be the boundaries as per the currently adopted Local Plan (April 2017), however the SA may need to be updated if these boundaries are revised as the plan progresses.</p> <p>SA Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within the boundaries of Lincoln City Centre, or Gainsborough, Sleaford, Market Rasen or Caistor Town Centre, will have a significant positive effect (++) • Sites that are not within the boundaries of these centres are likely to have a negligible effect (0) <p>(Source: Adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2017 Policies Map)</p>	

Appendix 4 – Summary of SA Scoping Report Consultation Responses

A draft version of the SA Scoping Report was consulted on between 6th June and 18th July 2019. The table below summarises all comment received and provides details of any resultant changes to the Scoping Report. The full responses can be viewed in **Appendix 5**.

Name of consultee	Summary of response	Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team comments and details of any resultant changes
Environment Agency	The Report should include consideration of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP document "Water for Growth, Water Management Plan 2015-2040", which considers the effective management of flood risk and water resources to be a critical factor in enabling economic growth across the area.	Comments noted. Reference to the LEP document "Water for Growth, Water Management Plan 2015-2040" is now referenced.
	Para 2.7.14 states that " <i>There are also a number of Source Protection Zones (SPZs) (for groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs used for public drinking water supply), concentrated down the centre of the Plan area, from Kirton in Lindsey in West Lindsey to the north down to Walcot in North Kesteven to the south. These zones show the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. The closer the activity, the greater the risk</i> ". We advise this be amended by	Comments noted. Para 2.7.14 has been amended to include the suggested revised text.

Name of consultee	Summary of response	Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team comments and details of any resultant changes
	<p>deleting the text indicated above and replacing it with the text below to give greater clarity on this matter: "Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) are areas of groundwater where there is a particular sensitivity to pollution risks due to the closeness of a drinking water source and groundwater flows. They are used to protect abstractions used for public water supply and other users such as mineral and bottled water plants, breweries, and food production plants. Generally the closer the activity is to a groundwater source, then the greater the risk."</p>	
	<p>Para 2.9.12: CLR11 'Model Procedures for Management of Land Contamination' is being replaced by 'Land contamination: risk management' (LCRM).</p>	<p>Comments noted. Paragraph 2.9.12 has been amended to make clear that is guidance is currently being updated.</p>
	<p>2.12.7 states that "<i>During 2017/18, there were 32 planning permissions granted contrary to EA advice on the grounds of flood risk and 13 on the grounds of or water quality. Many of these issues are likely to have been resolved before a final decision is made</i>". This statement is incorrect. There were no permissions granted contrary to EA advice.</p>	<p>Data was taken directly from the gov.uk website. Updated information regarding these applications is welcomed. Para 2.12.7 has now been amended.</p>

Name of consultee	Summary of response	Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team comments and details of any resultant changes
	<p>SA Framework: SA Objective 12, Decision Making Criteria 12b - "<i>encourage the adaptability of people, property and wildlife to the impacts of climate change?</i>"</p> <p>Can this be reworded as it is not clear what is meant by this and so judgement against this criteria will be difficult.</p>	<p>Comments noted. There is other criteria that covers what 12b was trying to achieve, such as 6g. Does the Plan promote high quality design and sustainable construction? 12b has been deleted.</p>
	<p>Page 115-6: We don't agree with the SA criteria in respect of assessing sites (Housing and mixed use, gypsy and traveller sites and employment sites) and flood risk. We suggest that allowing development within FZ2 and FZ3 will not contribute to/accord with criteria 12d, which asks "<i>Does the Plan seek to avoid development in areas at risk of flooding?</i>" The inclusion of the stated assessment criteria would not adequately test this.</p> <p>We suggest the following criteria should apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites with any proportion of developable land within FZ3 should be significant negative effect (--) 	<p>Concern noted.</p> <p>The SA criteria and Site Assessment criteria have been closely aligned to ensure a consistent approach and avoid duplication of work.</p> <p>These comments are inconsistent with the comments made by the Environment Agency on the Site Assessment Methodology, where no objections were raised to the proposed approach.</p> <p>The Environment Agency will be consulted on all sites.</p> <p>No change.</p>

Name of consultee	Summary of response	Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team comments and details of any resultant changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites with any proportion of developable land within FZ2 should be minor negative effect (-) • Sites within FZ1 should be neutral effects (0) 	
Historic England	<p>Pages 41- 43 and Objective 6 of Table 4.4 are welcomed.</p> <p>Reference to the built and historic environment within Appendix 2 is welcomed. This would be strengthened by referencing heritage assets and their settings.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>The first column of the table within Appendix 2 refers to the titles of the SA Objectives. Heritage assets and their settings are covered by the full objective. No change.</p>
	<p>There is strong concern regarding the 'Assumptions and Approach' within Appendix 3, in particular the reference to a distance of 200 metres. A specified distance or proximity is strongly discouraged. It is important to understand the significance of any heritage assets, and their settings that would be affected by a potential site allocation.</p>	<p>Concern noted.</p> <p>The assumptions have been amended to make it clearer that the assessment will be undertaken in two stages: the first is to use GIS to identify heritage assets that could be potentially affected by a site allocation. The second stage will involve consultation with Conservation Officers and Archaeologists within the Central Lincolnshire Authorities on individual sites, to ascertain the significance of the heritage assets involved and the nature of potential effects.</p>

Name of consultee	Summary of response	Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team comments and details of any resultant changes
		Acknowledge that it is not possible to provide a definitive, measurable impact test on a heritage asset as it depends on the significance of the asset, which involves a qualitative appraisal. Criteria has been amended to reflect this.
	Within the site assessment criteria for Appendix 3, settings should be referenced together with non-designated heritage assets and archaeology. Historic England would be very happy to advise further regarding site assessment methodology criteria.	Comments noted. Reference to archaeology and settings now added to third column 'Assumptions and Approach'.
Natural England	<p>Natural England has reviewed the document and considers that it generally covers our interests in the Natural Environment.</p> <p>We particularly welcome the section on biodiversity which recognises the importance of identifying opportunities to extend the ecological network and strategic green infrastructure network within the local plan.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Comments noted.</p>
	We are also pleased to note that the section on health and well-being includes the provision of green spaces within neighbourhoods.	Comments noted.

Name of consultee	Summary of response	Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team comments and details of any resultant changes
	We suggest that the benefits to health of accessing nature in general could also be further strengthened within this section.	Comments noted. An additional paragraph (2.2.6) has been added to the policy context under section 2.2 Health and Wellbeing.

Appendix 5 – SA Scoping Report Consultation Responses

Responses were received from the following statutory consultees:

- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England