

# Sustainability Appraisal

Blyth Neighbourhood Plan  
July 2019

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# 1. Introduction

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## What is a Sustainability Appraisal?

- 1.1 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process is a way of ensuring that plans and programmes relating to the development and use of land are compatible with the aims of sustainable development. Sustainable development is about ensuring that the needs of everyone can be met now, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, sustainability looks at balancing a range of competing environmental, social and economic objectives when making decisions about the development and use of land.
- 1.2 The Blyth Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) SA is being carried out to ensure that the development management policies included in the Plan are sustainable, therefore ensuring they are effective in providing for the current residents of the area, as well as future residents. This SA of the Plan is also being carried out as a means to ensure and demonstrate that the principles of sustainable development as defined by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) have been taken into account in its preparation.
- 1.3 The environmental assessment of plans deemed to have a significant environmental impact is a requirement of the EC Directive on the assessment of plans and programmes on the environment (Directive 2001/42/EC), known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. Due to the Blyth Neighbourhood Development Plan including site allocations that could potentially see a further 190 houses built within the area, the undertaking of an SEA in accordance with the Directive has been considered necessary and the elements of this have been incorporated into this document.
- 1.4 To ensure continuity with the Bassetlaw Local Plan, this SA for the Draft Neighbourhood Plan will follow the same method as the Interim SA of the Local Plan, and where appropriate will use the same tools and techniques.
- 1.5 Appraising the Plan will enable the Steering Group (SG) to identify issues with

the Plan that are affecting its sustainability. This in turn will allow the SG to address these issues by amending the Plan, ensuring the final document itself is contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

### Who has carried out this Sustainability Appraisal?

- 1.6 This SA of the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan has been conducted and produced by OpenPlan working in conjunction with Blyth Parish Council, in particular with the Neighbourhood Plan SG; the SG consists of local residents and Parish Councillors from Blyth.



## 2. Structure of the Sustainability Appraisal

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2.1 The following sections of this SA of the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan will be structured in the following way;

- **The Sustainability Framework** – This section introduces the Sustainability Framework that will be utilised to appraise the Plan. The Sustainability Framework is taken from the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan produced in September 2018, which is in turn based on the Sustainability Framework developed for Bassetlaw District Council's New Local Plan.
- **Community Vision, Aim & Objectives Appraisal** – Sustainability Appraisal of the Community Vision & Objectives using the Sustainability Framework Objectives.
- **Development Management Policies Appraisal** – Sustainability Appraisal of the individual development management policies contained in the Neighbourhood Plan. Identify necessary alterations.
- **Alternatives** – Assessing the effects of alternatives to the Plan, including the alternative where no Plan is produced.
- **Assessing Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects** – Assesses the secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects of the Neighbourhood Plan on the sustainability of the area.
- **Monitoring** – The final section of this Sustainability Appraisal will outline how the document will be monitored.

## 3.Scoping Report

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3.1 A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (the Scoping Report) was produced September 2018. This outlined the relevant planning policies and documents that apply to the Neighbourhood Plan and presented baseline data under a number of different headings, including:

- General Information;
- Social Environment;
- Economic Environment;
- Natural Environment.

### Overview of Sustainability Appraisal Progress

3.2 The Sustainability Appraisal process is an ongoing and iterative process. It has five stages:

- **Stage A:** Scoping, evidence base gathering and establishing the SA framework;
- **Stage B:** Developing and refining options and assessing the significant effects and establishing the mechanism for monitoring the significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan;
- **Stage C:** Preparing the SA Report which sets out the appraisal process and findings;
- **Stage D:** Consult with stakeholders on the proposed Neighbourhood Plan and the SA Report; and
- **Stage E:** Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan once adopted.

3.3 Work on the SA of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan began in late 2018. In accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and European Directive 2001/42/EC a Draft Screening Determination on the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for



the Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by Bassetlaw District Council. This concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant environmental effect and a full SA is required, incorporating elements of SEA.

- 3.4 The SA Scoping Report sets out baseline information by topic and highlights sustainability issues and trends for the Plan area. This information is considered to be up-to-date and to avoid duplication of effort has not been repeated in this report. The Scoping Report also outlines the sustainability framework for the SA including the sustainability objectives against which the proposals in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan will be assessed.
- 3.5 This report sets out the outcomes of the SA of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The report will assist in refining the Neighbourhood Plan prior to its submission to Bassetlaw District Council.

## 4. The Blyth Neighbourhood Plan

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### Area Covered

4.1 The Blyth Neighbourhood Plan covers the neighbourhood area as designated by Bassetlaw District Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.

### Contents of the Neighbourhood Plan

4.2 The Blyth Neighbourhood Plan has been produced in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012), primarily using results from extensive consultation undertaken with local residents, local business and land owners. The Plan, which will sit alongside Bassetlaw Plan once formally approved, seeks to support and direct the development and growth of the area up to the year 2034.

4.3 The Plan does this by initially providing a Vision for the area, which outlines the overall strategy for development in Blyth up to the year 2034. The Plan then provides several development management policies; these will be used in conjunction with the Bassetlaw Plan to determine planning applications submitted to Bassetlaw District Council. These policies aim to deliver the Objectives and thus deliver the Vision for the area up to the year 2034.





## 5. The Sustainability Framework

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### What is the Sustainability Framework?

- 5.1 To effectively appraise the Neighbourhood Plan for Blyth, a clear, concise and effective framework is needed, one that addresses all aspects of sustainable development.
- 5.2 In order to assess what options would be most sustainable for the future development of the area, the key sustainability issues affecting the Plan were identified. These have been separated into social, economic and environmental issues, although there is inevitably overlap between them. For example, certain issues, such as climate change, have environmental, economic and social implications.
- 5.3 The key issues identified in this report comprise:
- **Social** – housing supply; crime and community safety; health and recreation; and provision of social capital.
  - **Economic** – business development (existing and new) and job creation; site and infrastructure provision; and town and rural centres.
  - **Environmental** – preventing loss of priority habitats; protection and enhancement of the green infrastructure; protecting the historic environment; minimising flood risk; efficient use of resources; and minimising the impacts of climate change.
- 5.4 These sustainability issues have each been taken into consideration in the production of the Sustainability Framework for the Draft Plan, ensuring the Plan itself ultimately addresses all of the issues.

## Developing the Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Framework

5.5 The Sustainability Framework developed for Bassetlaw District Council's New Local Plan consists of a series of objectives and indicators. These have been devised with regard to both national and regional sustainability objectives and indicators, as well as to the environmental and sustainability issues assessed to be of key importance in Bassetlaw. Full information on these and their formulation can be found in the Bassetlaw Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, which is accessible via Bassetlaw District Council's website or through using the following link:

<http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-services/planning-policy/sustainability-appraisal/>

For this Sustainability Appraisal of the Neighbourhood Plan for Blyth it is considered that the Framework used for the Bassetlaw Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is acceptable, however several amendments are required to reflect the smaller, more specific scale of the area.

## Blyth Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Framework

5.6 The SA Objectives that will be used to appraise the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Plan for Blyth are as follows:

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1                                   | <b>Biodiversity:</b> To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and promote improvements to the Plan area's green infrastructure network. |
| 2                                   | <b>Housing:</b> To ensure that the Plan area's housing needs are met.  |
| 3                                   | <b>Economy and Skills:</b> To promote a strong economy which offers high quality local employment opportunities.                                     |
| 4                                   | <b>Regeneration and Social Inclusion:</b> To promote regeneration, tackle deprivation and ensure accessibility for all.                              |
| 5                                   | <b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> To improve health and reduce health inequalities.   |



| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 6                                   | <b>Transport:</b> To reduce the need to travel, promote sustainable modes of transport and align investment in infrastructure with growth.                              |
| 7                                   | <b>Land Use and Soils:</b> To encourage the efficient use of land and conserve and enhance soils.   |
| 8                                   | <b>Water:</b> To conserve and enhance water quality and resources.  |
| 9                                   | <b>Flood Risk:</b> To minimise flood risk and reduce the impact of flooding to people and property in the Plan area, taking into account the effects of climate change. |
| 10                                  | <b>Air Quality:</b> To improve air quality  |
| 11                                  | <b>Climate Change:</b> To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.   |
| 12                                  | <b>Resource Use and Waste:</b> To encourage sustainable resource use and promote the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover).                                 |
| 13                                  | <b>Cultural Heritage:</b> To conserve and enhance the area's historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting.  |
| 14                                  | <b>Landscape and Townscape:</b> To conserve and enhance the area's landscape character and townscapes.  |

Table 1. Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

5.7 To ensure that these objectives are sustainable, they will be assessed against the three themes of sustainability, these being; social, economic and environmental judging their predicted impact on each, this being either positive (✓), neutral (-) or negative (X). The relationship between the SA objectives and the three themes of sustainability is shown in the table on the following page.

| SA Objectives |  | SA Themes |          |           |
|---------------|--|-----------|----------|-----------|
|               |  | Social    | Economic | Environm. |
| 1             | <b>Biodiversity:</b> To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and promote improvements to the Plan area's green infrastructure network. | -         | -        | ✓         |
| 2             | <b>Housing:</b> To ensure that the Plan area's housing needs are met.  | ✓         | ✓        | -         |
| 3             | <b>Economy and Skills:</b> To promote a strong economy which offers high quality local employment opportunities.                                     | ✓         | ✓        | -         |
| 4             | <b>Regeneration and Social Inclusion:</b> To promote regeneration, tackle deprivation and ensure accessibility for all.                              | ✓         | ✓        | -         |
| 5             | <b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> To improve health and reduce health inequalities.   | ✓         | -        | -         |
| 6             | <b>Transport:</b> To reduce the need to travel, promote sustainable modes of transport and align investment in infrastructure with growth.           | -         | ✓        | ✓         |
| 7             | <b>Land Use and Soils:</b> To encourage the efficient use of land and conserve and enhance soils.  | -         | ✓        | ✓         |
| 8             | <b>Water:</b> To conserve and enhance water quality and resources.   | -         | -        | ✓         |
| 9             | <b>Flood Risk:</b> To minimise flood risk and reduce the impact of flooding to people and property in the Plan area, taking into                     | ✓         | ✓        | ✓         |



| SA Objectives |   | SA Themes |          |           |
|---------------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|
|               |   | Social    | Economic | Environm. |
|               | account the effects of climate change.  |           |          |           |
| 10            | <b>Air Quality:</b> To improve air quality  | ✓         | -        | ✓         |
| 11            | <b>Climate Change:</b> To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.                                 | -         | -        | ✓         |
| 12            | <b>Resource Use and Waste:</b> To encourage sustainable resource use and promote the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover). | ✓         | -        | ✓         |
| 13            | <b>Cultural Heritage:</b> To conserve and enhance the area's historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting.            | ✓         | -        | -         |
| 14            | <b>Landscape and Townscape:</b> To conserve and enhance the area's landscape character and townscapes.                                  | ✓         | ✓        | -         |

Table 2. Relationship between SA Objectives and themes of Sustainability

5.8 Each of the SA Objectives has been matched with detailed decision-making criteria. These criteria comprise the key questions that will be asked to ascertain whether or not the Draft Plan works towards the SA objective, these can be found on the following page:

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |   | Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....   |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1                                   | <p><b>Biodiversity:</b> To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and promote improvements to the Plan area's green infrastructure network.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it conserve and enhance international designated nature conservation sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar Sites)?</li> <li>• Will it conserve and enhance nationally designated nature conservation sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest?</li> <li>• Will it conserve and enhance Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites?</li> <li>• Will it conserve and enhance species diversity, and in particular avoid harm to indigenous species of principal importance, or priority species and habitats?</li> <li>• Will it provide opportunities for new habitat creation or restoration and link existing habitats as part of the development process?</li> <li>• Will it enhance ecological connectivity and maintain and improve the green infrastructure network, addressing deficiencies and providing green spaces that are well connected and biodiversity rich?</li> <li>• Will it maintain and enhance woodland cover and management?</li> <li>• Will it avoid damage to, and protect, Regionally Important Geological Sites?</li> <li>• Will it provide opportunities for people to access the natural environment including green and blue infrastructure?</li> </ul> |

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |  | Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....  |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                     |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it enhance the resilience of the natural environment to the impacts of climate change?</li> </ul>   |
| 2                                   | <p><b>Housing:</b> To ensure that the Plan area's housing needs are met.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it meet the local objectively assessed housing need, providing a range of housing types to meet current and emerging need for market and affordable housing?</li> <li>• Will it reduce homelessness?</li> <li>• Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?</li> <li>• Will it make best use of the area's existing housing stock?</li> <li>• Will it help to ensure the provision of good quality, well designed homes?</li> <li>• Will it deliver pitches required for Gypsies and Travellers and Showpeople</li> </ul> |

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |   | Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 3                                   | <p><b>Economy and Skills:</b> To promote a strong economy which offers high quality local employment opportunities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it provide a supply of flexible, good quality employment land to meet the needs of local existing businesses and attract inward investment?</li> <li>• Will it help to diversify the local economy?</li> <li>• Will it provide good quality, well paid employment opportunities that meet the needs of local people?</li> <li>• Will it increase average income levels?</li> <li>• Will it improve the physical accessibility of jobs?</li> <li>• Will it support rural diversification?</li> <li>• Will it promote a low carbon economy?</li> <li>• Will it improve access to training to raise employment potential?</li> <li>• Will it increase levels of qualification?</li> <li>• Will it create jobs in high knowledge sectors?</li> <li>• Will it promote investment in educational establishments?</li> </ul> |
| 4                                   | <p><b>Regeneration and Social Inclusion:</b><br/>To promote regeneration, tackle</p>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it maintain and enhance community facilities and services?</li> </ul>   |



| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |  | Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....  |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                     | deprivation and ensure accessibility for all.                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it enhance accessibility to key community facilities and services including schools and public transport?</li> <li>• Will it protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the village?</li> <li>• Will it tackle deprivation in deprived areas and reduce inequalities?</li> <li>• Will it contribute to regeneration initiatives?</li> <li>• Will it encourage engagement in community activities?</li> <li>• Will it promote participation in cultural activities?</li> <li>• Will it enhance the public realm?</li> <li>• Will it align investment in services, facilities and infrastructure with growth?</li> </ul> |
| 5                                   | <b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> To improve health and reduce health inequalities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it avoid locating development in locations that could adversely affect people's health?</li> <li>• Will it maintain and improve access to green infrastructure, open space, leisure and recreational facilities?</li> <li>• Will it increase the opportunities for physical activity and accessibility of recreational services and facilities?</li> <li>• Will it improve access to healthcare facilities and services?</li> </ul>   |

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |   | Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....   |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
|                                     |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce health inequalities?</li> <li>• Will it meet the needs of the local area's ageing population?</li> <li>• Will it support those with disabilities?</li> <li>• Will it promote community safety?</li> <li>• Will it reduce actual levels of crime and anti-social behaviour?</li> <li>• Will it reduce the fear of crime?</li> <li>• Will it promote design that discourages crime?</li> <li>• Will it align healthcare facilities and services with growth?</li> </ul>        |
| 6                                   | <p><b>Transport:</b> To reduce the need to travel, promote sustainable modes of transport and align investment in infrastructure with growth.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce travel demand and the distance people travel for jobs, employment, leisure and services and facilities?</li> <li>• Will it encourage a shift to more sustainable modes of transport?</li> <li>• Will it encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport?</li> <li>• Will it help to address highways capacity issues and reduce traffic congestion?</li> <li>• Will it deliver investment in local transportation infrastructure and support proposals</li> </ul> |

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |  | Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....   |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
|                                     |  | <p>identified in the Local Transport Plan?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it capitalise on the District's good transport accessibility, links to Robin Hood Airport and the new Worksop Bus Station?</li> <li>• Will it help to develop a transport network that minimises the impact on the environment and public health? • Will it reduce the level of freight movement by road?</li> <li>• Will it help to enhance the connectivity of more remote, rural settlements?</li> </ul>   |
| 7                                   | <p><b>Land Use and Soils:</b> To encourage the efficient use of land and conserve and enhance soils.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it promote the use of previously developed (brownfield) land and minimise the loss of greenfield land?</li> <li>• Will it avoid the loss of agricultural land including best and most versatile land?</li> <li>• Will it make best use of and reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land in the Plan area?</li> <li>• Will it encourage the reuse of existing buildings and infrastructure?</li> <li>• Will it prevent land contamination and facilitate remediation of contaminated sites?</li> <li>• Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?</li> </ul> |

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |   | Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>8</b>                            | <b>Water:</b> To conserve and enhance water quality and resources.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it result in a reduction of run-off of pollutants to nearby water courses that lead to a deterioration in existing status and/or failure to achieve the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive?</li> <li>• Will it improve ground and surface water quality?</li> <li>• Will it reduce water consumption and encourage water efficiency?</li> <li>• Will it ensure that new water/wastewater management infrastructure is delivered in a timely manner to support new development?</li> </ul>   |
| <b>9</b>                            | <b>Flood Risk:</b> To minimise flood risk and reduce the impact of flooding to people and property in the Plan area, taking into account the effects of climate change. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it help to minimise the risk of flooding to existing and new developments/infrastructure?</li> <li>• Will it ensure that new development does not give rise to flood risk elsewhere?</li> <li>• Will it manage effectively, and reduce the likelihood of, flash flooding, taking into account the capacity of sewerage systems?</li> <li>• Will it discourage inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding?</li> <li>• Will it deliver sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs) and promote investment in flood defences that reduce vulnerability to flooding?</li> </ul> |

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |   | Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 10                                  | <b>Air Quality:</b> To improve air quality  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it maintain and improve air quality?</li> <li>• Will it avoid locating development in areas of existing poor air quality?</li> <li>• Will it minimise emissions to air from new development?</li> </ul>   |
| 11                                  | <b>Climate Change:</b> To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it minimise energy use and reduce or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions?</li> <li>• Will it plan or implement adaptation measures for the likely effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Will it support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy in the area and reduce dependency on non-renewable sources?</li> <li>• Will it promote sustainable design that minimises greenhouse emissions and is adaptable to the effects of climate change?</li> </ul> |
| 12                                  | <b>Resource Use and Waste:</b> To encourage sustainable resource use and promote the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it minimise the demand for raw materials and assist in maximising the use of recycled and secondary materials (including aggregates)?</li> <li>• Will it promote the use of local resources?</li> <li>• Will it reduce minerals extracted and imported?</li> <li>• Will it increase efficiency in the use of raw materials and promote recycling?</li> </ul>  |

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |   | Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
|                                     |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it avoid sterilisation of mineral reserves?</li> <li>• Will it support the objectives and proposals of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan?</li> <li>• Will it assist or facilitate compliance with the waste hierarchy (i.e. reduce first, then re-use, recover, recycle, landfill)?</li> <li>• Will it support investment in waste management facilities to meet local needs?</li> <li>• Will it support the objectives and proposals of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy?</li> </ul>   |
| 13                                  | <p><b>Cultural Heritage:</b> To conserve and enhance the area's historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it help to conserve and enhance existing features of the historic built environment and their settings, including archaeological assets?</li> <li>• Will it reduce the instances and circumstances where heritage assets are identified as being 'at risk'?</li> <li>• Will it promote sustainable repair and reuse of heritage assets?</li> <li>• Will it protect or enhance the significance of designated heritage assets?</li> <li>• Will it protect or enhance the significance of non-designated heritage assets?</li> <li>• Will it promote local cultural distinctiveness?</li> </ul> |

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |  | Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....  |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                     |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it improve the quality of the built environment, and maintain local distinctiveness and historic townscape character in the District's towns and villages?</li> <li>• Will it help to conserve historic buildings, places and spaces that enhance local distinctiveness, character and appearance through sensitive adaptation and reuse?</li> <li>• Will it provide opportunities for people to value and enjoy the area's cultural heritage?</li> <li>• Will it improve and promote access to buildings and landscapes of historic/cultural value?</li> </ul> |
| 14                                  | <b>Landscape and Townscape:</b> To conserve and enhance the area's landscape character and townscapes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it conserve and enhance the area's landscape character and townscapes?</li> <li>• Will it promote high quality design in context with its urban and rural landscape?</li> <li>• Will it protect and enhance visual amenity?</li> </ul>  |

Table 3. Decision Making Criteria for SA Objectives

5.9 The sections of the Plan that are to be appraised (these being the; Vision & Objectives and the Development Management Policies) are substantially different, in terms of both content and purpose. It is deemed necessary to adopt a differing approach to measuring the sustainability of these against the SA Objectives. The following criteria were used to assess the level of compatibility of the Draft Plan's Vision, Aim and Objectives:

| Key                        |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Compatible</b>          | ✓ |
| <b>Neutral / No Impact</b> | - |
| <b>Incompatible</b>        | x |
| <b>Uncertain Impact</b>    | ? |

Table 4. Criteria Used to assess Vision & Objectives

5.10 To make a more thorough assessment of their potential impacts, the Draft Plan Development Management Policies were considered against more detailed criteria. The appraisal criteria are as follows:





| Key                           |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| <b>Strong Positive Impact</b> | ✓✓ |
| <b>Positive Impact</b>        | ✓  |
| <b>Neutral / No Impact</b>    | -  |
| <b>Negative Impact</b>        | x  |
| <b>Strong Negative Impact</b> | xx |
| <b>Uncertain Impact</b>       | ?  |

Table 5. Criteria used to assess Development Management Policies

5.11 Using the SA Objectives and the separate criteria established above in **Tables 4 and 5**. The following section of this document contains the SA of the Blyth Neighbourhood Development Plan.

## 6. Vision & Objectives Appraisal

---

### Sustainability Appraisal

6.1 The Community Vision & Objectives contained within the Draft Plan have been produced by the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group utilising results obtained through consultation with local residents. The Vision and Objectives are presented in the following tables.



## **Vision**

**Blyth will remain a sustainable community and its unique historic and rural character will be protected. Important open spaces, community facilities and a suitable mix of housing will be provided and accessible within a safe environment by 2035.**

## **Objectives**

- 1. To support appropriate development and initiatives that contribute to the continued sustainability of Blyth as a place to live and work.**
- 2. To identify and protect the unique features and historic buildings that contribute to the character of the village.**
- 3. To ensure that open spaces and other green infrastructure valued by the local community are identified and protected**
- 4. To ensure that important community facilities that contribute to the continued sustainability of Blyth are provided and accessible.**
- 5. To deliver a mix of high quality and well-designed housing types and tenures as required by the current and future population of Blyth.**
- 6. To provide a safe and pleasant environment for all residents and visitors to the area.**

| Element of the Draft Plan | Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                           | SAO 1                               | SAO 2 | SAO 3 | SAO 4 | SAO 5 | SAO 6 | SAO 7 | SAO 8 | SAO 9 | SAO 10 | SAO 11 | SAO 12 | SAO 13 | SAO 14 |
| Vision                    | ✓                                   | ✓     | -     | ✓     | ✓     | -     | ✓     | -     | -     | ✓      | -      | -      | ✓      | ✓      |
| Objective 1               | -                                   | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      |
| Objective 2               | -                                   | ✓     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -      | -      | -      | ✓      | ✓      |
| Objective 3               | ✓                                   | ✓     | -     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | -     | -     | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      |
| Objective 4               | -                                   | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | -     | -     | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      |
| Objective 5               | -                                   | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | -     | ✓     | -     | -     | -      | -      | -      | ✓      | ✓      |
| Objective 6               | -                                   | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | -     | -     | -     | ✓     | ✓      | ✓      | -      | -      | -      |

Table 6. SA of the Draft Plan: Vision & Objectives

## Justification

- 6.2 Following on from the appraisal of the Vision & Objectives above, a reasoned justification is necessary to briefly explain why these elements of the Plan have been judged as such. In addition to this, issues that have arisen regarding the sustainability of an element of the Plan are discussed, and any required alterations are also suggested below.
- 6.3 As the above table demonstrates, most of the Neighbourhood Plan objectives and Sustainability Appraisal objectives are compatible with one another or have a neutral impact.
- 6.4 **Vision:** The vision aims to protect and enhance the existing landscape and rural setting surrounding Blyth as well as the cultural, historic, and townscape value of the built environment. From a socio-economic point of view, the Neighbourhood Plan's vision for Blyth is sustainable and safe place where to live and work, promoting adequate housing and community facilities.
- 6.5 **Objective 1:** Ensures that future development is sustainable, meaning that it maintains Blyth as a good place where to live and work. In doing so, the Objective goes in the direction of providing housing and job opportunities for the current and future generation; good community facilities and services such as healthcare, transportation; preserve the historic and environmental quality of the Parish; and protect current and future residents from the effect of Climate Change
- 6.6 **Objective 2:** Ensure the protection of the cultural and historic assets of the Parish, promoting sense of place and making Blyth a desirable place where to live and work.
- 6.7 **Objective 3:** The Objective protect open spaces and green infrastructures that have a positive impact on the wellbeing of both people and wildlife. Green areas promotes healthy communities by depurating the air and providing opportunities for exercise and recreational activities, and provide green corridors for biodiversity and wildlife. They also

represent sustainable connectivity routes promoting more sustainable mobility, in turns reducing Climate Change. Green areas are often also a key component of cultural and landscape character of a place.

- 6.8 **Objective 4:** The Objective will protect existing and promote new community facilities, making Blyth a desirable place where to live and work, promoting physical and mental wellbeing of residents and social inclusion.
- 6.9 **Objective 5:** The Objective specifically aims to deliver additional housing, that will meet the current and future generation's needs and contribute to the sustainability of Blyth as a thriving community. By qualifying houses as well designed, the Objective entails that additional houses will be sympathetic with the cultural and landscape character of the settlement.
- 6.10 **Objective 6:** the Objective aims to make Blyth a safe areas for people to live and visit, reducing the risk originating from pollution and climate change related events, and creating a pleasant environment from a natural, cultural and social point of view.

### Required Alterations

- 6.11 No element of the Vision nor Objectives scores negatively against the Sustainability Objectives and taken as a whole they are deemed to have a positive impact against each of the Sustainability Objectives. No alterations to the Vision and Objectives are considered necessary as a result of this appraisal.



# 7. Development Management Policies Appraisal

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## Sustainability Appraisal

- 7.1 The Development Management Policies contained in the Plan have been developed by the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to work alongside policies contained in the Bassetlaw Plan. These will deliver the aspirations of the local community, as outlined in the Vision & Objectives.
- 7.2 The SA of the Development Management Policies can be found on the following page. A wide range of policy areas have been included within the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan.
- 7.3 It will be these areas that will be appraised in the SA to evaluate whether they have a positive or negative impact on the future of the area, using the Sustainability Framework to undertake the evaluation.
- 7.4 In the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered there will be fewer opportunities to address the issues and challenges facing the area as well as contributing to a reduction in potential benefits to the local community. Without the Plan, opportunities for the following issues may be compromised:
- Greater involvement of local people in local/community planning;
  - Improved/new community facilities;
  - Future housing development in appropriate locations in the area over the next 16 years;
  - Redevelopment of derelict brownfield sites;
  - Improvements and new opportunities for open space and biodiversity;
  - Improvements to the cycle and footpath networks;
  - Provision of local employment opportunities;
  - Mix and quality of the new housing opportunities;

- Preservation and strengthening of the community culture and spirit; and,
- Funding opportunities for new community development.

7.5 The table on the following page includes the appraisal of the policies within the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan against the framework.





| Element of the Draft Plan                | Sustainability Appraisal Objectives  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |
|--|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|  | SAO 1  | SAO 2 | SAO 3 | SAO 4 | SAO 5 | SAO 6 | SAO 7 | SAO 8 | SAO 9 | SAO 10 | SAO 11 | SAO 12 | SAO 13 | SAO 14 |
| <b>Policy 1: Sustainable Development</b> | ✓  | ✓✓    | ✓     | ✓✓    | ✓     | ✓     | -     | -     | -     | -      | ✓      | -      | ✓      | ✓      |
|  | <p>This Policy promotes development that meets the objectively assessed need of the community, both in terms of market and affordable homes. Specific reference to affordable homes will also mean that the Policy will help tackle deprivation. This, combined with protection of infrastructure associated with social and community activities, will ensure that the Policy supports regeneration and social inclusion. Policy 1 promotes the development of economic activity in existing and new, good quality employment land. Policy 1 ensures that development will promote sustainable transportation and will protect the natural assets of the Parish, reducing impact of climate change.</p> <p>Paragraph 2 of Policy 1, finally, ensures that future development will protect the townscape, cultural, natural and historic values and assets of the community, in particular in term of local distinctiveness and character.</p> |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Policy 2: Design and Layout</b>       | ✓  | ✓     | -     | -     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓✓    | -     | ✓     | ✓      | ✓      | -      | ✓✓     | ✓✓     |
|  | <p>This Policy ensures that new development presents high quality design in keeping with the landscape and townscape value of the built environment and with the local distinctiveness and historic value of the settlement. According to Policy 2, design of new residential development will help reducing travel demand by car, being in integrated to the existing settlement through new connections, and will support those with disabilities and mobility issue ( the Policy refers specifically to Building for Life 12 standards). Policy 2 promotes flood risk reduction through the promotion of Sustainable Urban Drainage solutions, and promotes renewable energy solutions, reducing GHG emissions. The Policy is generally supportive of housing development.</p>  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Policy 3: Housing Affordability</b>   | -  | ✓✓    | ✓     | ✓     | -     | ✓     | -     | -     | -     | ✓      | -      | -      | ✓      | -      |
|  | <p>This Policy ensure that people currently living or working in Blyth have a hierarchical preferential access to affordable homes. Such Policy does simply ensure that the “local” housing need are met, but it also maintain local workforce in close proximity to the place of work (with the potential trickledown effect of reducing travel demand). Maintaining people with a strong connection with Blyth in the village may also mean strengthening social cohesion and local cultural distinctiveness</p>   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |

| Element of the Draft Plan                     | Sustainability Appraisal Objectives   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |
|---|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|   | SAO 1   | SAO 2 | SAO 3 | SAO 4 | SAO 5 | SAO 6 | SAO 7 | SAO 8 | SAO 9 | SAO 10 | SAO 11 | SAO 12 | SAO 13 | SAO 14 |
| <b>Policy 4: Pre-application Consultation</b> | ✓   | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      |
|   | This Policy promotes discussion and engagement between developers and the Parish Council, ensuring that since the early stages of the development process the requirements of this Plan and the needs of the community have been taken into consideration. In doing so, the Policy promotes all the policies and objectives of the Plan, having a general positive impact across all Sustainability Appraisal Objectives.   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Policy 5: Windfall Development</b>         | ✓   | ✓     | -     | -     | ✓     | ✓✓    | ✓     | -     | -     | ✓      | -      | -      | ✓      | ✓      |
|   | This Policy promotes infill development and redevelopment of brownfield sites, reducing the need to develop on productive land in the countryside or in biodiversity valuable natural areas. Moreover, the Policy sets specific density requirement to ensure the most efficient use of land possible. Policy 5 promotes such development in a way that does not have a detrimental impact on the natural, landscape and historic environment of the settlement. By promoting residential development in close proximity to the existing settlements, Policy 5 promotes walking and cycling reduces travel demand by car (reducing connected CO2 emissions).  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Policy 6-8: Allocation of Sites</b>        | ✓   | ✓✓    | ✓     | ✓     | -     | ✓     | ✓     | -     | ✓     | -      | -      | -      | ✓✓     | ✓✓     |
|   | These policies allocate three sites for development according to sustainability criteria and the comments received from statutory and non-statutory consultees. Sites have been selected based on criteria aimed at minimising flood risk and impact of flooding, prioritising brownfield land over productive greenfield and agriculture land, and avoiding negative impact on sites of key biodiversity value. For each site, a density recommendation based on the density of surrounding developments and design recommendations have been provided: these recommendations are based on the Neighbourhood Profile and are aimed at conserving and enhancing the character of the Village, its townscape and the surrounding landscape. A specific requirement to promote pedestrian connections and hence promote sustainable, healthier modes of transport has been included in all sites. |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Policy 9: Employment</b>                   | -   | -     | ✓✓    | ✓     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | ✓      | -      | -      | ✓      | ✓      |
|   | The Policy supports the development of small business, both from home or form dedicated establishment, helping diversifying the local economy and creating employment opportunity for local people. Moreover, Policy 9 sets provisions to ensure employment development respect the character and townscape of the village.   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |

| Element of the Draft Plan                        | Sustainability Appraisal Objectives   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |
|--|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|  | SAO 1   | SAO 2 | SAO 3 | SAO 4 | SAO 5 | SAO 6 | SAO 7 | SAO 8 | SAO 9 | SAO 10 | SAO 11 | SAO 12 | SAO 13 | SAO 14 |
| <b>Policy 10: Community facilities</b>           | -   | -     | ✓     | ✓✓    | ✓✓    | ✓     | -     | -     | -     | ✓      | -      | -      | ✓      | -      |
|  | This Policy maintains and enhances community facilities and services in the village, and by doing so it will protect and promote vitality and viability of the village and existing recreational, cultural and healthcare facilities. The Policy will also promote sense of place and local cultural distinctiveness. Policy 10 also ensures that facilities that are still viable from an economic point of view do not get lost, hence protecting local economy. Availability of local community facilities reduces travel demand and connected emission  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Policy 11: Important Views</b>                | ✓   | -     | ✓     | -     | ✓     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -      | -      | -      | ✓✓     | ✓✓     |
|  | This Policy will protect certain important views over historical and natural assets, protecting the landscape and townscape of the Parish as well as historic features of cultural importance. In protecting natural features, the Policy may have a positive impact in terms of protection of biodiversity and habitats. Finally, in making Blyth a pleasant village to visit, the Policy may contribute to promote the tourism economy.   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Policy 12: Local Green Space</b>              | ✓   | -     | -     | ✓✓    | ✓✓    | ✓     | -     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓      | ✓✓     | -      | ✓      | ✓✓     |
|  | This Policy protects local green spaces that are important for the community because of their historic value, recreational activities, tranquillity etc. Policy 12 promotes recreational activities, creating additional opportunity for outdoor activity such as walking and cycling (with benefit in term of resident mental and physical wellbeing), and reducing emission. Policy 12 protect areas delivering ecological services in term of water management, soil productivity, air depuration, and climate change mitigation, as well as protecting the landscape character of the settlement. |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Policy 13: Improving Green Infrastructure</b> | ✓✓  | -     | -     | ✓     | ✓✓    | ✓✓    | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓      | ✓✓     | -      | -      | ✓✓     |
|  | This Policy protects ecological corridors, sites of high biodiversity value, and hence important species and habitats. Policy 13 promotes walking and cycling, creating additional opportunity for outdoor activity (with benefit in term of resident mental and physical wellbeing), and reducing emission. Policy 13 protects areas delivering important ecological services in term of water management, soil productivity, air depuration, and climate change mitigation, as well as protecting the landscape character of the settlement.  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |

Table 7. SA of the Development Management Policies

## Required Alterations

7.1 No Development Management Policy scores negatively against the Sustainability Objectives, and taken as a whole they have a neutral or positive impact against each of the Sustainability Objectives.

7.2 No Policy scores “Strong Positive Impact” for the following 4 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives:

- Water
- Flood Risk
- Air Quality
- Resource Use and Waste

However, several policies score “Positive Impact” on the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives mentioned above, and overall the combined effect of all policies is considered to have a strong positive impact on the issues connected with these objectives.



## 8. Sustainability Appraisal of the Alternatives

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- 8.1 For the sake of this Sustainability Appraisal, two alternatives to the implementation of the current Neighbourhood Plan have been identified.
- 8.2 The first alternative is the implementation of the current Neighbourhood Plan, with the exception of Policy 6-8: Site Allocation. The main rationale for the undertaking of a full SEA of the current Blyth Neighbourhood Plan is the allocation of residential sites. For this reason, an appraisal of an alternative not allocating sites is considered relevant.
- 8.3 The second alternative is to revert to the existing policy position for the area, managing development through the existing local and national legislation and plans.
- 8.4 The overall contribution of the Plan and of the alternatives towards sustainable development can be judged. This will be achieved by assessing the Plan and each alternative against its impacts on each individual SA Objective.
- 8.5 In general, the absence of allocation policies would negatively impact on the capacity of Blyth to direct development in the most appropriate locations and can lead to development being approved in location that are not supported by the local residents.
- 8.6 The absence of a Neighbourhood Plan altogether will have additional consequences. In general, the Bassetlaw Plan's policies would broadly contribute to the Plan and Objective of the Plan, but would not present sufficient location-specific provisions to tackle issues that are particular to Blyth, such as village-specific density requirements, particular views, important community facilities, valued green spaces and infrastructures.
- 8.7 The absence of a Plan would result in the absence of a Neighbourhood Character Profile, and thus in the lack of clear and area-specific guidance in terms of typology, design and landscaping of new buildings. Although

the Bassetlaw Plan makes provision for new development to maintain and enhance the local character of the area, this character would remain undefined without a Character Assessment.

8.8 Although Parish Councils are involved in the planning process when new development is proposed, the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan emphasised the importance of consulting the community at a very early stage: the absence of Plan would compromise this, reducing the opportunity to consult residents and the Parish Council to voice their opinion at design stage and hence smooth the development process.

8.9 The table on the following page includes a summary of the impacts of these alternatives on the sustainability of the Plan area, alongside a summary of the impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan.



| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |   | Comment   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1                                   | <p><b>Biodiversity:</b> To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and promote improvements to the Plan area's green infrastructure network.</p> | <p>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <p>The Plan protects green infrastructures and priority habitats and species, allocate specific Local Green Spaces for protection, allocate lands for residential development in areas of minimum environmental impact and biodiversity, set requirements and design standards development proposals will need to follow to ensure no or minimum impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>  |
|                                     |   | <p>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation:</p> <p>The alternative will a positive effect, but it will be less successful in avoiding negative impact on biodiversity infrastructure and priority habitats and species due to development pressure in less than optimal locations.</p>   |
|                                     |   | <p>Effect of the Existing Policies:</p> <p>Existing Policies in the NPPF and the Bassetlaw Plan would have a positive effect, but they will be less specific in protecting habitats and areas of importance for biodiversity conservation in Blyth, concentrating mostly on nationally designated sites.</p>  |
| 2                                   | <p><b>Housing:</b> To ensure that the Plan area's housing needs are met.</p>  | <p>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <p>The Plan allocates specific sites for residential development, make specific provision in term of mix of tenure and typology to meet objectively assessed needs, have specific provision to provide affordable homes for people with strong connection with Blyth, ensure high quality design that is in keeping with the character of the village and that meet specific need of certain elements of the community (e.g. aging population, people with mobility issues, etc.).</p> |

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|   |   | <p>Effect of the Existing Policies:</p> <p>The alternative will have a positive effect, but it will be less successful in delivering the necessary number and mix of houses as it will not allocate sites, making appropriate development application much more straightforward.</p>   |
|   |   | <p>Effect of the Existing Policies:</p> <p>Existing Policies in the NPPF and the Bassetlaw Plan would have a positive effect, but will apply District-wide principles in determining mix and location of residential development rather than place-specific one, being less successful in meeting local needs. It will also not present a local connection criteria for affordable homes.</p>  |
| 3 | <p><b>Economy and Skills:</b><br/>To promote a strong economy which offers high quality local employment opportunities.</p> | <p>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <p>The Plan supports small business development in the village and working from home, thanks especially to the improvement of communication technology in new residential developments. By protecting community facilities and allocating sites for residential development, the Plan will encourage new residents to move to Blyth and will support existing ones to remain in the village, promoting the social and economic vitality and viability of the whole Parish</p> <p>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation:</p> <p>The alternative will have positive effect similar to the option with allocations: although it will be less successful in attracting new residents (hence potential workforce).</p> <p>Effect of the Existing Policies</p> <p>Existing Policies in the NPPF and the Bassetlaw Plan would have a positive effect, but they will not include place-specific economic development, specific requirements in term of typologies of small businesses in the village, and hence providing employment</p> |





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|   |  | opportunities that meets the need of local people.  |
| 4 | <p><b>Regeneration and Social Inclusion:</b> To promote regeneration, tackle deprivation and ensure accessibility for all.</p> | <p>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <p>The Plan will protect and maintain specific key community facilities. Through allocation and development management principles it ensures new residential development will occur in close proximity to the existing settlement, promoting sense of place and participation to community activities. Design requirements will improve the public realm. The local connection criteria will also help reducing inequality and tackle deprivation.</p> |
|   |  | <p>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation:</p> <p>The alternative will have positive effects similar to the current Neighbourhood Plan, although will not be successful in directing residential development in areas that can enhance community cohesion and that are in close proximity to key community facilities.</p>  |
|   |  | <p>Effect of the Existing Policies</p> <p>Existing Policies in the NPPF and the Bassetlaw Plan would have a positive effect, although the lack of identified key community facilities, as well as the lack of place-specific design criteria and of the local connection criteria will mean that it will be more difficult to maintain village vitality and viability and tackle deprivation.</p>   |
| 5 | <p><b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> To improve health and reduce health inequalities.</p>  | <p>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The Plan allocates and directs residential development in areas that promotes sustainable means of transportation and physical activities, protecting and enhancing green infrastructure, open spaces (in particular Local Green Spaces). The Plan also identifies the local GP surgery among the key community facilities. Both allocated and windfall development are required to consider the need of an ageing population and people</p>         |

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|   |   | with limited mobility.   |
|   |   | <p>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation:</p> <p>The alternative will have general positive effect, but will be less effective in ensuring residential development is achieved in locations that reduce travel demand and that protect existing green infrastructure and connectivity.</p>  |
|   |   | <p>Effect of the Existing Policies:</p> <p>Existing Policies in the NPPF and the Bassetlaw Plan will have a positive effect, but they will lack place-specific provisions such as direct protection of the local GP surgery and of existing open spaces and green infrastructure for recreation,</p>   |
| 6 | <p><b>Transport:</b> To reduce the need to travel, promote sustainable modes of transport and align investment in infrastructure with growth.</p> | <p>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <p>The Plan will reduce travel demand by car, thanks to a combination of allocation and protection of existing walking and cycling routes, hence encouraging a shift to more sustainable means of transport. Moreover, the plan will ensure the development of employment sites does not result in an unacceptable increase of lorries in the village.</p> <p>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation</p> <p>The alternative will have a similar positive effect, but it will be less successful in ensuring location of development takes into account connectivity and alternative means of transport.</p> <p>Effect of the Existing Policies</p> <p>Existing Policies in the NPPF and the Bassetlaw Plan will have a positive impact, but they will lack specific provision to protect and enhance existing cycle and walking routes.</p> |



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| 7 | <b>Land Use and Soils:</b><br>To encourage the efficient use of land and conserve and enhance soils. | <b>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</b><br><br>The Plan promotes redevelopment of brownfield sites and allocated development considering the need to avoid loss of agricultural land, including best and most versatile land.  |
|   |  | <b>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation</b><br><br>The alternative will have a positive effect, but it will be less successful in identifying and promoting sites that have a positive impact in term of soil conservation.   |
|   |  | <b>Effect of Existing Policies:</b><br><br>Existing Policies in the NPPF and the Bassetlaw Plan will have a positive impact, but will be less specific in identify opportunities for brownfield redevelopment, in setting place-specific conditions (e.g. density) that ensure most versatile land and valuable greenfield are not developed. |
| 8 | <b>Water:</b> To conserve and enhance water quality and resources.                                   | <b>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</b><br><br>The Plan will have a positive impact ensuring new houses are of high quality design that, among other benefit, encourage water efficiency.  |
|   |  | <b>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation:</b><br><br>The alternative will have a neutral impact similar to the current Neighbourhood Plan.   |
|   |  | <b>Effect of Existing Policies:</b><br><br>Existing Policies in the NPPF and Bassetlaw plan would have a positive effect.   |
| 9 | <b>Flood Risk:</b> To minimise flood risk and reduce the impact of                                   | <b>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</b><br><br>The Plan allocates land that is not in Flood Risk Zone or in areas that could give rise to flood risk elsewhere.  |

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|    | flooding to people and property in the Plan area, taking into account the effects of climate change.    | <p>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation:</p> <p>The alternative will not specifically allocate land in appropriate location from a flood risk reduction point of view</p> <p>Existing Policies:</p> <p>Existing Policies in the NPPF and the Bassetlaw Plan will consider Flood Risk in determining permission for proposed development, and will have a similar effect to the alternative “Plan without Site Allocation”</p>   |
| 10 | <b>Air Quality:</b> To improve air quality  | <p>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <p>The Plan allocates land in close proximity to the settlement and promote key services and community facilities in the village, reducing travel demand by car and hence GHG emissions. The Plan also protects green and natural areas, which provide a key ecosystem service in term of depuration of air.</p> <p>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation:</p> <p>The alternative will have positive effect, but it will be less successful in identifying sites in close proximity to the settlement.</p> <p>Effect of the Existing Policies:</p> <p>Existing Policies in the NPPF and the Bassetlaw Plan will have a positive effect, but it will be less effective in reducing traffic by car and lorries in the Parish.</p> |
| 11 | <b>Climate Change:</b> To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. | <p>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <p>The Plan allocates land in close proximity to the settlement and promote key services and community facilities in the village, reducing travel demand by car and hence GHG emissions. The Plan also protects green and natural areas, which provide a key ecosystem service in term of depuration of air.</p>   |



|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
|    |  | <p>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation:</p> <p>The alternative will have positive effect, but it will be less successful in identifying sites in close proximity to the settlement.</p>   |
|    |  | <p>Effect of the Existing Policies:</p> <p>Existing Policies in the NPPF and the Bassetlaw Plan will have a positive effect, but it will be less effective in reducing traffic by car and lorries in the Parish. This alternative will also be less effective in ensuring renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions have been adequately considered.</p>  |
| 12 | <p><b>Resource Use and Waste:</b> To encourage sustainable resource use and promote the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover).</p> | <p>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <p>The Plan supports sustainable and eco-friendly design solutions and construction methods, both in regular and unconventional houses.</p>   |
|    |  | <p>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation</p> <p>The alternative will have positive effects similar to the current Neighbourhood Plan.</p>   |
|    |  | <p>Effect of the Existing Policies:</p> <p>Existing Policies in the NPPF and the Core Strategy will have a positive effect, similar to the effect of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>   |
| 13 | <p><b>Cultural Heritage:</b> To conserve and enhance the area's historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting.</p>            | <p>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <p>The Plan ensures sites allocated and development proposals that will come forward in the future protect historic built environment, designated and non-designated heritage assets, and maintain local distinctiveness and historic townscape. Moreover, thanks to the Plan a Neighbourhood Character Profile has been produced, which more clearly defines the key features and elements that collectively contribute to</p> |

|           |   |   |
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|           |   | <p>local cultural and distinctiveness and character.</p>  |
|           |   | <p>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation:</p> <p>The alternative will have positive effects similar to the current Neighbourhood Plan, but it will be less effective in ensuring residential development does not occur in location that could harm the character of the settlement.</p>   |
|           |   | <p>Effect of the Existing Policies:</p> <p>Existing Policies in the NPPF and Bassetlaw will have a positive impact, but will fail to identify the place-specific non-designated heritage assets and important views over historic features that contribute to the character of Blyth.</p>   |
| <p>14</p> | <p><b>Landscape and Townscape:</b> To conserve and enhance the area's landscape character and townscapes.</p> | <p>Effect of the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <p>The Plan ensures sites allocated and development proposals that will come forward in the future protect to the landscape and townscape character and visual amenities in Blyth. Moreover, thanks to the Plan a Neighbourhood Character Profile has been produced, which more clearly defines the key features and elements that collectively contribute to the local landscape and townscape character.</p> <p>Effect of the Plan without Site Allocation:</p> <p>The alternative will have positive effects similar to the current Neighbourhood Plan, but it will be less effective in ensuring residential development does not occur in location that could harm the character of the settlement.</p> <p>Effect of the Existing Policies:</p> <p>Existing Policies in the NPPF and Bassetlaw will have a positive impact, but will fail to identify the place-specific elements, such as important views listed in Plan and Neighbourhood Profile, that contribute to the landscape</p> |



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|  |  | and townscape character of Blyth. |
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Table 8. Justification & Required Alternatives

Table 9.

## 9. Assessing Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects

9.1 Secondary (or indirect) effects are effects that are not a direct result of a policy, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway. Cumulative effects occur where two or more insignificant impacts combine to form a significant impact. Synergistic effects occur as the result of interactions between individual effects producing a total effect greater than the sum of each of the individual effects. Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects may be either positive or negative. The secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are summarized in Table 9 below.

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives |  | Potential Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Impacts  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1                                   | <b>Biodiversity:</b> To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and promote improvements to the Plan area's green infrastructure network. | <p>Policies 1, 2, 5, 6-9, 12, 13 and 14 work cumulatively to ensure development is not located in areas of high biodiversity value or in designated and non-designated important habitats.</p> <p>These policies work in synergy with Policy 13 and 14, which protect specific Local Green Space and green infrastructure, delivering a level of protection higher than the effect of single policies.</p> |
| 2                                   | <b>Housing:</b> To ensure that the Plan area's housing needs are met.  | Policies 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6-9 and 10 have the cumulative effect of delivering more houses that meet the need of local residents, with particular attention to affordability.   |
| 3                                   | <b>Economy and Skills:</b> To promote a strong economy which offers  | Policy 10 and Policy 11 work cumulatively to ensure opportunities for large and small businesses are   |





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|   | high quality local employment opportunities.   | available in the appropriate location in the Parish.<br><br>Policy 5-10, promoting availability of housing, have the secondary effect of attracting new workforce, while Policies 11 to 14 contribute to make Blyth a nice place where to work and to live, delivering the secondary effect of maintaining local workforce.   |
| 4 | <b>Regeneration and Social Inclusion:</b> To promote regeneration, tackle deprivation and ensure accessibility for all.                    | Policies 2, 3, and 5 work together not simply to attract residents to the village, but also to maintain local residents and hence the existing sense of community and vitality of the settlement. They also have the cumulative effect to address specific need of the most vulnerable elements of the community.<br><br>These Policies work in synergy with Policy 11 and Policy 14, maintaining the necessary number of services that make the village a good place where to live, and improving the public realm and built environment.<br><br>Policy 15 has the secondary effect of delivering potential job opportunities for local residents, thus promoting socio-economic regeneration. |
| 5 | <b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> To improve health and reduce health inequalities.   | Policies 1, 2, 5, 6-9, work in synergy with Policy 13 and 14 to ensure green infrastructure and open space for outdoor activity are available and in close proximity to residential development. The protection of key community facilities (Policy 11) will similarly have the secondary effect of keeping services in close proximity to residents and promote walking and cycling. Design and housing mix policies will work cumulatively to support residents with disabilities or reduced mobility.  |
| 6 | <b>Transport:</b> To reduce the need to travel, promote sustainable modes of transport and align investment in infrastructure with growth. | Policies 1, 2, 5, 6-9, will synergistically reduce travel demand by developing residential development in close proximity to services and workplace, and by maintaining such services and workplace active in Blyth.<br><br>Policies 1, 2, 5, 6-9, work in synergy with Policy 16 and 17 to ensure green infrastructure and walking and cycling   |

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|    |   | routes are available.   |
| 7  | <b>Land Use and Soils:</b> To encourage the efficient use of land and conserve and enhance soils.   | <p>Policies 1, 2, 5, 6-9 work cumulatively to ensure development is not located in the most versatile agriculture land; they also promote the redevelopment of brownfields.</p> <p>These policies work in synergy with Policy 13 and 14, which protect specific Local Green Space and green infrastructure, delivering a level of protection higher than the effect of single policies.</p> |
| 8  | <b>Water:</b> To conserve and enhance water quality and resources.  | High standard of design for sustainable buildings will have the secondary effect of encouraging water efficiency and reduce water consumption. Protection of the river together with the housing strategy will ensure protection of surface water resources.  |
| 9  | <b>Flood Risk:</b> To minimise flood risk and reduce the impact of flooding to people and property in the Plan area, taking into account the effects of climate change. | The housing and employment strategy ensures development will not occur in flood risk zones. In particular, Policy 6-9 are based on the requirement that no residential site in a Flood Risk Zone should be allocated as part of the Plan.   |
| 10 | <b>Air Quality:</b> To improve air quality  | High standard of design for sustainable buildings, protection of existing natural features (see Sustainability Appraisal 1) and reduction of travel demand by car (see Sustainability Appraisal 10) will improve air quality.   |
| 11 | <b>Climate Change:</b> To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.   | High standard of design for sustainable buildings, protection of existing natural features (see Sustainability Appraisal 1) and reduction of travel demand by car (see Sustainability Appraisal 10) will improve resilience to climate change events and minimise greenhouse gas emissions.   |
| 12 | <b>Resource Use and Waste:</b> To encourage sustainable resource use and promote  | High standard of design for sustainable buildings and the location of allocated sites will ensure demand for raw material is limited and that key mineral resources are not   |



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|    | the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover).   | sterilised.  |
| 13 | <b>Cultural Heritage:</b> To conserve and enhance the area's historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting. | Policies 2, 5, 6-9, 10, as well as policy 11 and 12, work cumulatively to protect the historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting of the village, as described in the Neighbourhood Character Profile.<br><br>These policies also work in synergy with policy 13 and 14 to protect the landscape and natural features that contribute to the character of the settlement. |
| 14 | <b>Landscape and Townscape:</b> To conserve and enhance the area's landscape character and townscapes.                       | Policies 2, 5, 6-9, 10, as well as policy 11 and 12, work cumulatively to protect the village's landscape and townscape, as described in the Neighbourhood Character Profile.<br><br>These policies also work in synergy with policy 13 and 14 to protect the landscape and natural features that contribute to the character of the settlement.   |

Table 10. Secondary, Cumulative & Synergistic Effect

## 10. Monitoring

10.1 Monitoring of this SA will be carried out by Bassetlaw District Council alongside its monitoring of the Local Plan. The District Council will look at the significant effects identified in this SA and compare them to its own SA monitoring framework.

10.2 If the significant effects identified are not covered by the District Council's SA monitoring framework, then the District Council will need to add additional indicators to its SA monitoring framework.