Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Local Plan Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

Interim ISA Report Non-Technical Summary

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Local Plan Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

Interim ISA Report Non-Technical Summary

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1   Introduction

1.1   Overview

1.1.1   Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (herein referred to as SMBC) is currently preparing a new Stockport Local Plan (SLP), which will replace the existing Core Strategy1 which was adopted in 2011.

1.1.2   It will be used to assess planning applications for new developments in Stockport over the next 15 years and beyond. Once adopted, the plan will set out the approach and detailed policies for Stockport until 2041. It will help to deliver the vision that partners, stakeholders and residents set out in the One Stockport Borough Plan2.

1.1.3   This Non-Technical Summary introduces the Interim ISA and summarises the contents of the full technical report.

1.2   The Local Plan

1.2.1   SMBC is preparing a plan to cover the period from 2024 to 2041, with a scheduled adoption in 2025. It will be used to assess planning applications for new developments in the borough over that period.

1.2.2   The SLP will deliver policies and Spatial Approaches for Stockport borough that will strengthen SMBC's ability to be able to deliver new homes, new jobs and infrastructure in the right places. It allows this development to be planned in a coordinated way, whilst protecting what is valued most in the borough of Stockport in terms of the environment, and community and heritage assets.

1.2.3   The Local Plan vision, objectives, policies and spatial approaches have been detailed in **Section 2** of the **Interim ISA Report**.

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1 Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Local Development Framework, Core Strategy DPD, 2011 [online] available at: https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/live-iag-static-assets/pdf/LDF/AdoptedPlans/Core+Strategy+DPD.pdf
2 One Stockport, The Stockport Borough Plan [online] Available at: https://www.onestockport.co.uk/the-stockport-borough-plan/

2   ISA Methodology

2.1   What is an ISA?

2.1.1   The ISA combines the following assessment processes:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA);
- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA);
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA); and
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

2.1.2   The HRA has not been undertaken at this stage but will be undertaken at the ISA next stage (Stage C) once further site details are available.

2.1.3   Each component of the assessment has been carried out below:

- **SA:** The SA process is carried out during the preparation of local plans and spatial development strategies. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which emerging plans will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.
- **EqIA:** The EqIA process focuses on assessing and recording the likely equalities effects as a result of a policy, project or plan. It seeks to ensure that the policy, project or plan does not discriminate or disadvantage people and enables consideration of how equality can be improved or promoted. The equality duty came into force in April 2011 and covers the following nine Personal Protected Characteristics:

  - Age;
  - Disability;
  - Gender;
  - Gender reassignment;
  - Marriage and civil partnership;
  - Pregnancy and maternity;
  - Race;
  - Religion or belief; and
  - Sexual orientation.

- **HIA:** The HIA process is used to identify the likely health effects of plans, policies or developments and to implement measures to avoid negative impacts and promote opportunities to maximise the benefits. There is no formally adopted methodology for HIA although there is a body of practice and guidance at a policy level
- **HRA:** The HRA process is driven by separate legislation to the SA. This means the HRA Report will be published separately to the ISA Report and not included as an appendix to the ISA Report. The HRA will be undertaken at the next ISA Stage (Stage C).

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2.2 ISA Methodology

2.2.1 ISA is an iterative process of gathering data and evidence, assessment of environmental effects, developing mitigation measures and making recommendations to refine plans or programmes in view of the predicted environmental effects.

2.2.2 The key stages of the ISA process are the following:

- **Stage A:** Production of a scoping report which set the context of the SLP, identified other relevant policies, plans and programmes, baseline information and sustainability objectives. This was undertaken by WSP in June 2022.
- **Stage B (this stage):** Assessment of draft policies and sites and the preparation of the ISA Interim Report. HIA and EqIA assessments are undertaken at the same time and the findings incorporated into the ISA Interim Report. The report is then consulted on alongside the draft SLP (also referred to as Regulation 18 consultation);
- **Stage C:** Assessment of preferred policies and sites and the preparation of the ISA Report. HIA EqIA, HRA and RPA assessments are undertaken at the same time and the findings incorporated into the ISA Report;
- **Stage D:** Consultation on the preferred SLP and the ISA Report (also referred to as Regulation 19 consultation). The SLP and ISA then undergo independent examination; and
- **Stage E:** Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the SLP.

2.2.3 Stage B (this stage) comprises the assessment of the Draft Local Plan, against the ISA Appraisal Framework objectives identified within the Scoping Report. This will aid the development of the SLP.

2.2.4 The ISA Interim Report therefore covers the assessment of:

- Compatibility assessment of the Strategic Policies and Objectives;
- SLP draft policies;
- SLP policy alternatives; and
- Spatial approaches.

2.2.5 Full details on the methodology can be found in **Section 3** of the ISA Interim Report.

2.3 Identifying Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

2.3.1 In May 2022, WSP drafted the ISA Scoping Report, which outlined key baseline information, identified the key issues for sustainability in borough and identified the future trends which could occur without implementation of the SLP.

2.3.2 Following the findings identified at scoping an ISA Appraisal Framework has been produced, which was used to guide the assessment process of the plans and strategies. This Appraisal Framework has guided the ISA assessment of the SLP.

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Table NTS-1 - ISA Appraisal Framework

ISA Topic	ISA Objective
Population and Equalities	**ISA1:** To build inclusive communities by reducing social exclusion, promoting equity and equality and respecting diversity.
Human Health	**ISA2:** To improve physical and mental health and wellbeing, for all of Stockport's residents.
Economy and Employment	**ISA3:** To support a diverse local economy to foster sustainable economic growth and support Stockport's town centre and other district and local centres. **ISA4:** To ensure that local residents have employment opportunities and access to training.
Housing	**SA5:** To meet the housing needs of all of the borough's residents inclusively.
Crime and Safety	**SA6:** To reduce crime and the fear of crime.
Transport and Accessibility	**SA7:** To promote traffic reduction, by encouraging more sustainable alternative transport modes, and supporting residents to live more locally. **SA8:** To protect and enhance access to essential services and facilities for all residents.
Biodiversity and Natural Capital	**SA9:** To protect and enhance protected habitats, species and valuable ecological networks that contribute to ecosystem functionality in Stockport, contributing to biodiversity net gain.
Landscape and Townscape	**SA10:** To protect and enhance Stockport's townscapes and landscapes, including both the rural and urban environments.
Historic Environment	**SA11:** To protect and enhance the historic environment, including heritage assets (designated and non-designated) and their unique settings.
Water Environment	**SA12:** To reduce the risk and vulnerability to flooding. **SA13:** To maintain and enhance water quality.
Air Quality	**SA14:** To protect and enhance air quality.

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ISA Topic	ISA Objective
Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases	**SA15:** Ensure that Stockport is resilient to the effects of climate change. **SA16:** To reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support national and local decarbonisation initiatives and encourage energy efficiency.
Material Assets	**SA17:** To reduce the amount of waste produced and minimise the amount sent to landfill. **SA18:** To ensure the efficient use of land, promote sustainable use of resources and seek opportunities to promote a circular economy.

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3 ISA Assessment Findings

3.1 Compatibility assessment of Strategic Policies and Objectives

3.1.1 The compatibility of these objectives and Strategic Policies were assessed, as well as assessing them against the ISA Appraisal Framework objectives. These were scored as either compatible, incompatible/potential conflict, no relationship, or uncertain. See **Section 5.2** of the **Interim ISA Report** for more details.

3.1.2 The Strategic Policies and Objectives have been individually tested against the ISA Appraisal Framework objectives to identify both potential synergies and inconsistencies. This information can help in developing and refining the objectives of the SLP.

3.1.3 The Strategic Policies and Objectives are outlined in **Section 2** of the **Interim ISA Report**.

Assessment Summary

3.1.4 The majority of the Strategic policies and objectives are compatible with the ISA objectives, particularly the social and economic ISA objectives. Strategic Objective 2 and 3 and Strategic Policy 1 have the strongest compatibility with the social and economic based ISA objectives (ISA1 – 8).

3.1.5 The Strategic Policies are more compatible than the Strategic Objectives with no conflicts being identified. Strategic Policy 1 has the highest compatibility with ISA objectives across social, environmental and economic objectives. Conflicts have generally arisen where the Strategic Objectives could potentially result in development.

3.1.6 Strategic Objectives 3, 6, and 7 aim to introduce housing developments, social infrastructure and employment sites, which are likely to require land take. There is potential that these sites may not make efficient use of existing land (ISA18) and could encroach on the borough's Green Belt land. This in turn may have potential detrimental effects on biodiversity and natural capital (ISA9).

3.1.7 Water quality (ISA13), air quality (ISA14), climate change (ISA15) and energy efficiency (ISA16) objectives have resulted in the greatest number of uncertain/mixed effects. Similarly to above, this is generally due to the high level nature of these policies that don't indicate design details. This makes it difficult to predict outcomes on these objectives.

3.1.8 For full details on the compatibility assessment, see **Section 5** of the **Interim ISA Report**.

3.2 Assessment of Policies

3.2.1 The assessment of the SMBC policies was carried out in relation to the ISA Appraisal Framework Objectives. See **Section 6** of the **Interim ISA Report** for further details.

3.2.2 A summary of the findings is detailed in **Table NTS-2** below:

Table NTS-2 - Summary of Significant Effects - Policy Assessment

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Significance	Number of Effects	Summary of Effects
Significant Positive (++)	75	- Policies that reduce loneliness and improve equalities (ISA1). - Policies that encourage physical activity, improve air quality, and mental wellbeing (ISA2). - Policies that enable wider connectivity, improved access to jobs and include additional business spaces (ISA3, ISA4). - Policies that provide new housing and improvements to existing housing (ISA5). - Policies that improve the safety and the overall feeling of safety, improve the public realm and active frontages (ISA6). - Policies that contribute to improving the transport network and its accessibility and connectivity within the Borough (ISA7, ISA8). - Policies that preserve biodiversity and ensure biodiversity net gain (ISA9). - Policies that contribute to high quality design, preserving landscapes and developing townscapes (ISA10. - Policies that improve both heritage assets and their settings, preserving and enhancing for future use (ISA11). - Policies that preserve water quality and reduce flood risk through flood risk resilience and drainage measures (ISA12, ISA13). - Policies that improve air quality and reduce emissions (ISA14). - Policies that ensure the resilience to chronic and acute effects of climate change (ISA15). - Policies that improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gases (ISA16) and minimise waste (ISA17). - Policies that utilise brownfield land and prevent land take (ISA18).

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Significance	Number of Effects	Summary of Effects
Uncertain (?)	26	• Policies where scheme level design is uncertain (ISA6, ISA10, ISA11, ISA12). • Policies where impacts on biodiversity, potential for and take and disturbance is likely to be determined by scheme level design and funding received (ISA9). • Policies where effects are likely to be determined by scheme level design and funding received (ISA12, ISA13, ISA16, ISA17). • Policies where effects are likely to be determined by the funding that is received (ISA14, ISA15). • Policies where levels of land take required are currently unknown (ISA18).

3.3 Assessment of Policy Alternatives

3.3.1 The assessment of alternatives assessed a continuation of the existing Core Strategy scenario.

3.3.2 The assessment of alternatives has resulted in a higher number of uncertainties and negative effects than the draft proposed SLP policies. The assessment highlighted that the majority of the existing policies are outdated, and no longer reflect global issues (climate change and Covid-19) and are therefore not fit for purpose.

3.3.3 Significant negative effects were identified for climate change and greenhouse gases (ISA15 and 16) as the Core Strategy is based on outdated figures. Given that SMBC have declared a climate emergency and set their own ambitious targets to be carbon neutral by 2038, the Core Strategy is no longer robust enough to support these ambitions.

3.3.4 Similarly, significant negative effects were identified for biodiversity (ISA9). Although policies will work to protect and enhance protected habitats, species and valuable ecological networks as per the ISA objective, the policies are outdated and do not reflect the latest legislation, particularly the requirement of the Environment Act which sets out the need for a minimum of a 10% net gain in biodiversity.

3.3.5 However, existing policies within the Core Strategy have resulted in significant positive effects on landscape and townscape (ISA10) and historic environment (ISA11). They support the protection and enhancement of these assets and clearly identify the risks that climate change poses.

3.3.6 See **Section 7** in the **Interim ISA Report** for more details.

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3.4   Assessment of Spatial Approaches

3.4.1   The assessment of both the SMBC housing and employment spatial approaches was carried out in relation to the ISA Appraisal Framework Objectives. See **Section 8** of the **Interim ISA Report** for further details.

3.4.2   Both the Housing Approaches and Employment Approaches include a proposed option and two alternative approaches.

3.4.3   A summary of the findings for the housing and employment approaches has been detailed below and can be found in full in **Appendix E** to the **Interim ISA Report**.

Housing Approaches

3.4.4   The summary of overall significant effects of the assessment of Housing approaches is set out in **Table NTS-3** below.

Table NTS-3 - Summary of Significant Effects - Housing Approaches

Significance	Number of Effects	Summary of Effects
Significant Positive (++)	6	- Preferred Approach, Alternative Approach 1 and 2 where developments may help to revitalise town centre and developments will be well connected (ISA3); - Alternative Approach 2 as this goes beyond the housing requirement (ISA5); - Preferred Approach where housing is located in accessible locations, allowing residents to live locally (ISA8); - Preferred Approach as the intensification of existing urban areas and use of brownfield sites will help to make the most efficient use of land (ISA18).
Uncertain (?)	32	- Alternative Approach 1 and 2 where it is uncertain whether developments within the Green Belt will offer the same level of facilities and services (ISA1); - Preferred Approach, Alternative Approach 1, Alternative Approach 2 where it is unclear whether existing healthcare and educational provision will meet community needs (ISA2);

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Significance	Number of Effects	Summary of Effects
		- Preferred Approach, Alternative Approach 1, Alternative Approach 2 as there is limited detail on whether designing out crime will be applied as part of the development (ISA6); - Alternative Approach 1 and 2 as there is greater uncertainty surrounding connectivity within the Green Belt (ISA7); - Alternative Approach 1 and 2 as the potential for loss of biodiversity and natural capital is uncertain (ISA9); - Preferred Approach, Alternative Approach 1, Alternative Approach 2 as effects are dependent on the sites that come forward (ISA11); - Preferred Approach, Alternative Approach 1, Alternative Approach 2 as effects are dependent on the sites that come forward (ISA12); - Preferred Approach, Alternative Approach 1, Alternative Approach 2 as effects are dependent on the sites that come forward (ISA13); - Alternative Approach 1 and 2 as it is unknown whether development within the Green Belt may result in increased reliance on private vehicles (ISA14); - Preferred Approach, Alternative Approach 1, Alternative Approach 2 as climate resilience measures are currently not known (ISA15); - Preferred Approach, Alternative Approach 1, Alternative Approach 2 as it is currently unclear whether development will utilise renewable energy sources or low carbon heat networks (ISA16); - Preferred Approach, Alternative Approach 1, Alternative Approach 2 as it is currently unclear if existing buildings and structures will be re-used or recycled and whether recycled materials will be supported as part of construction (ISA17);
Significant Negative (- -)	2	- Alternative Approach 1 and 2 as the development of some Green Belt land encourages urban sprawl and loss of valuable green space (ISA10).

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Employment Approaches

3.4.5 The summary of overall significant effects of the assessment of Employment Approaches is set out in **Table NTS-4** below.

Table NTS-4 - Summary of Significant Effects - Employment Approaches

Significance	Number of Effects	Summary of Effects
Significant Positive (++)	5	• Alternative Approach 2 as this will help Stockport fulfil its economic potential (ISA3); • Alternative Approach 2 as this will significantly increase employment opportunities in Stockport (ISA4); and • Proposed Approach, Alternative Approach 1 and 2 as approaches are all well located and provide accessible employment locations to nearby residents, reducing the need to travel (ISA8).
Uncertain (?)	18	• Proposed Approach, Alternative Approach 1 and 2 as effects are dependent on the sites that come forward (ISA11); • Proposed Approach as effects are dependent on the sites that come forward (ISA12); • Proposed Approach, Alternative Approach 1 and 2 as effects are dependent on the sites that come forward (ISA13); • Alternative Approach 1 and 2 as further modelling is required to determine operational effects (ISA14); • Proposed Approach, Alternative Approach 1 and 2 as climate resilience measures are currently not known (ISA15); • Proposed Approach, Alternative Approach 1 and 2 as it is currently unclear whether development will utilise renewable energy sources or low carbon heat networks (ISA16); and • Proposed Approach, Alternative Approach 1 and 2 as it is currently unclear if existing buildings and structures will be re-used or recycled and whether recycled materials will be supported as part of construction (ISA17).

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Significance	Number of Effects	Summary of Effects
Significant Negative (- -)	4	• Alternative Approach 1 and 2 where development of some Green Belt land encourages urban sprawl and loss of valuable green space (ISA10); • Alternative Approach 1 and 2 where there is loss of Green Belt land (ISA18).

3.5 Findings from Other ISA Assessments

EqIA Assessment

3.5.1 Overall, the policies will likely result in positive impacts on protected characteristic group members in SMBC. The policies aim to address a wide range of issues, identified by the key themes within the EqIA baseline (**Appendix F** to the **Interim ISA Report**).

3.5.2 The main protected characteristic groups that will particularly benefit include:

- **Age** – Particularly older people who have reduced mobility and require access to health and other services. Greater connectivity of developments with their surroundings could benefit those with reduced mobility by improving access. All ages will benefit from the protection and enhancement of sports facilities as it will encourage social engagement, therefore reducing isolation. Making office spaces more affordable will particularly benefit younger people in creative or smaller business looking to set up for the first time.
- **Disability** – Particularly people with a variety of disabilities will benefit from a more accessible environment. The SLP includes policies which support inclusive design which will help to improve connectivity and function, benefiting users with mobility limitations.
- **Deprivation** – Policies are likely to benefit people from low-incomes who require access to employment, education and people with underlying health issues. Policies that promote the retention and increasing employment in particular have positive effects as they will help to improve deprivation in the area by reducing unemployment rates and making use of local skills. This is also further helped by policies promoting affordable travel which will make public transport more accessible to those form low-income families and provide them with better connectivity to local areas for work or leisure.

3.5.3 The assessment concludes that there will likely be a neutral impact for the following protected characteristic groups,:

- Religion or Belief;
- Sexual Orientation; and

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- Marriage and Civil Partnerships.

HIA Assessment

3.5.4   The HIA assessed the SMBC policies and considered their impact on the key determinants of health. These have been detailed below and in full within **Appendix G** of the **Interim ISA Report**:

- **Air quality**: Positive effects have been identified. The encouragement of active transport modes and improvements to public transport, using low carbon networks, will help to reduce private car and therefore, transport related emissions. This will help to minimise the negative effects upon those in the most vulnerable social groups.
- **Noise**: Positive effects have been identified. New development will be required to meet social design standards.. Mitigation will also be sought for new development in close proximity to Manchester Airport and noise pollution from road transport and energy developments.
- **Housing and Homelessness**: Positive effects have been identified for policies which support the provision of new homes in the town centre area (Our Town Centres). This could have positive effects for working aged adults (18-74) and those who are homeless. Additionally, Our Homes policies result in positive effects for adults, unemployed, low income groups and the elderly. These policies result in improved housing provision throughout SMBC (including affordable and adaptable housing).
- **Economy and Employment**: The provision of increased employment space and accessibility to this employment space will have positive effects on the unemployed and low income residents in the borough. Additional town centre improvements and plans for new retail and commercial space will also result in positive effects on the local economy.
- **Skills and Education**: Positive effects have been identified. Business policies may improve employment opportunities for unemployment and young people, this will also improve on the job training and skills for young people in employment.
- **Social Cohesion and Community Safety**: Positive health effects have been identified. The creation of community hubs where healthcare provision, educational facilities and other community facilities are located in close proximity to each other, will help to meet local needs, reduce loneliness and likely improve community safety. Improvements to the public realm will also aid in improving community safety and reducing anti-social behaviour.
- **Access to Services**: Positive health effects have been identified. New housing and town centre developments within SMB will have suitable access to community facilities and shops, through the development of new infrastructure and improvements to public transport. Access to services will improve the health of elderly residents, improving health and reducing loneliness.

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- **Physical Activity**: Positive health effects have been identified. Policies aim to increase and improve access to open spaces, play, sports and leisure facilities, which will provide opportunities for physical activity for residents of all ages within SMB.
- **Green Infrastructure**: Positive effects have been identified. The introduction of green infrastructure and protection of existing open, green spaces will allow residents of SMB to use these areas for leisure and sports activities, as well as providing mental health benefits.
- **Climate Change Resilience**: Positive effects have been identified. Policies that support active transport, creation of open, green spaces, and sustainable design will help to improve climate change resilience within SMBC. Flood risk will be limited through the implementation of SuDS which will help to reduce surface water runoff.

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4   Cumulative Effects

4.1.1   A cumulative effects assessment was undertaken for the ISA. This looked at two different types of cumulative effects – Intra-project and Inter-project. These are defined as follows:

- Consideration of how different proposed policies and Spatial Approaches within the SMBC may interact and cause cumulative effects on a receptor (Intra-project effects); and

- How the proposed policies and Spatial Approaches within SMBC could cause cumulative effects in association with other plans, policies and projects in the surrounding area (Inter-project effects).

4.2   Intra-Project Effects

4.2.1   The proposed policies and sites within the Local Plan resulted in the following intra-project cumulative effects. Further details on the assessment of the inter-project cumulative effects can be found within **Section 9.2** of the **Interim IIA Report**.

4.2.2   Positive effects have largely been identified for IIA objectives where policies contribute to improving the current status of the Borough, for example, improving biodiversity enhancements, improving energy efficiency or providing additional community infrastructure. Positive effects were identified for equality and inclusion, health, economy, employment, housing, crime, transport, accessibility, biodiversity and natural capital, landscape and townscape, historic environment, flood risk, water quality, air quality, climate change, GHGs and energy efficiency, waste, and efficient use of land and resource.

4.2.3   Mixed positive and negative effects were identified for health, housing, biodiversity and natural capital, landscape and townscape, historic environment, flood risk, water quality, air quality, climate change, GHGs and energy efficiency, waste, and efficient use of land and resource.

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4.3 Inter-Project Effects

4.3.1 An assessment of the potential cumulative effects of the Local Plan in association with other plans, policies and projects in the surrounding area was completed, looking at the potential impacts at a strategic level. Further details on the assessment of the inter-project cumulative effects can be found within **Section 9.3** of the **Interim ISA Report**.

4.3.2 The following plans or policies were considered:

- Northern Powerhouse;
- Airport City;
- A57 Link Roads
- Greater Manchester Levelling Up Plans;
- Neighbouring Local Plans (detailed within **Section 9.3** of the **Interim ISA Report**); and
- Neighbouring Local Transport Plans (detailed within **Section 9.3** of the **Interim ISA Report**).

4.3.3 Potential positive effects were identified for climate change, air quality, accessibility, equality and inclusion, health, transport, economy, employment, crime, waste, and housing, flood risk, and GHGs and energy efficiency.

4.3.4 Potential negative effects were identified for biodiversity and natural capital, historic environment, landscape and townscape, and waste.

4.3.5 Potential mixed positive and negative effects were identified for equality and inclusion, biodiversity and natural capital, flood risk, GHGs and energy efficiency, historic environment, landscape and townscape, air quality, efficient use of land, water quality, climate change, waste, community needs, and health.

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5 Mitigation and Monitoring

5.1 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

5.1.1 Mitigation of significant negative effects of the plan and enhancement of positive effects are a key purpose of ISA. The SEA Regulations[3] require that mitigation measures are considered to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan. The measures are known as 'mitigation' measures. Mitigation measures include both proactive avoidance of adverse effects and actions taken after potential effects are identified.

5.1.2 **Table NTS-5 below** sets out the proposed mitigation measures. These are designed to avoid or reduce the effects identified as potentially negative through the policy assessments on the ISA Objectives. The table also includes enhancement measures, that aim to optimise positive impacts and enhance sustainability.

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[3] SI 2004 No. 1633, The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 [online] Available at:
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/pdfs/uksi_20041633_en.pdf

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Table NTS-5- Proposed Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

ISA Objective	Mitigation/Enhancement	Mechanism
ISA1 – Equality and Inclusion ISA2 – Health ISA8 – Accessibility	Further assessment as part of scheme level design, should incorporate an evaluation of the provision of healthcare and education, to ensure that the current supply is sufficient in supporting new communities.	Project level design and assessment
ISA1 – Equality and Inclusion ISA2 – Health ISA8 – Accessibility	Community safety, health and equalities should be considered in design, for example, pedestrian networks, including linking new developments into existing infrastructure, lighting and other safety design considerations, materials used (contrasting colours, non-slip surfaces), accessibility for all including those with reduced mobility or disability, well-being, affordability of schemes, active travel.	Project level Community Safety Assessment, EqIA and HIA
ISA1 – Equality and Inclusion ISA8 – Accessibility	Where parking is implemented, it should not cause an obstruction to pavement users and clear crossings should be provided.	Inclusion within preferred SLP policies
ISA1 – Equality and Inclusion	Inclusive mobility guidance should be adhered to ensure designs are accessible for everyone.	Inclusion within preferred SLP policies Project level design and assessment and EqIA
ISA1 – Equality and Inclusion ISA2 – Health	New parks and open spaces should be accessible to all members of the public. Design should consider safety by including appropriate lighting, accessible pathways and access and egress points.	Project level design and assessment, crime impact assessments and EqIA

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ISA Objective	Mitigation/Enhancement	Mechanism
ISA6 – Crime and Safety ISA8 – Accessibility	Accessibility and safety could be improved in existing spaces by providing lighting, accessible signage, and auxiliary aids to people with reduced mobility. Accessible surfacing should be considered for wheelchair users and people with mobility restrictions. Opportunities for sensory stimulation should be maximised to ensure inclusive enjoyment of spaces.	
ISA1 – Equality and Inclusion ISA4 - Employment	Employment should be focused on local residents in the first instance. Policies should aim to increase employment for all protected groups where barriers to employment and education exist (low-incomes, younger people, disabled).	Inclusion within preferred SLP policies
ISA1 - Population and Equalities ISA10 - Landscape and Townscape	Developments should seek to improve the public realm, including improving wayfinding and providing permeability through town centres to provide access to those with disabilities, or pushchairs.	Project level design and assessment as part of subsequent EIA/ planning application
ISA1 – Equality and Inclusion ISA2 – Health ISA8 – Accessibility	Active travel infrastructure should be accessible and inclusive. Cycleways should provide enough space for adapted cycles such as tricycles, tandems and wheelchair cycles. It is likely that other forms of sustainable travel will be prevalent in the future, such as electric scooters. Parking and facilities for these schemes should be accessible and not present physical barriers to users.	Inclusion within preferred SLP policies Project level design and assessment and EqIA

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ISA Objective	Mitigation/Enhancement	Mechanism
	The SLP should also support community engagement with various groups prior the development of transport infrastructure.	
ISA1 – Equality and Inclusion	Appropriate subsidies should be considered to ensure people from low-incomes can access sustainable retrofitting with no additional financial barriers.	Inclusion within preferred SLP policies
ISA2 – Health	Scheme level health impact assessments should be undertaken which will outline key ways to incorporate health into the development, ensuring the health and wellbeing needs of the population are met.	Project level design and assessment
ISA2 – Health ISA9 -Biodiversity	New developments could incorporate natural features such as tree planting, hedgerows and floral arrangements, green walls, roofs and incidental vegetation to enhance connections to nature and reduced stress levels, contributing to mental health and wellbeing benefits. This will also lessen to impact on biodiversity and work towards biodiversity net gain.	Project level design and assessment (including biodiversity net gain assessments)
ISA3 – Economy	Where new development comes forward in close proximity to existing shop frontages and businesses, there's a need to ensure that they can remain open and maintain their existing business hours.	Inclusion within preferred SLP policies Project level design and assessment
ISA6 – Crime and Safety	Development should incorporate designing out crime principles particularly for development sites located in areas with high levels of crime deprivation.	Inclusion within preferred SLP policies Project level design and assessment

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ISA Objective	Mitigation/Enhancement	Mechanism
ISA6 – Crime and Safety	Where policies and site allocations make provision for open spaces, there is a need for these spaces to be well designed and well lit, to ensure that they are safe and feel safe for all users, particularly after dark.	Inclusion within preferred SLP policies Project level design and assessment
ISA8 – Transport ISA7 – Accessibility	All new developments should be accompanied by a travel plan which sets out action plan that shows how sustainable transport such as buses, cycling or walking, will be made accessible at the development and their use increased.	Project level design and assessment
ISA9 - Biodiversity	Opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects, and for net environmental gains should be made from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals. Development will need to fulfil the requirement to achieve at least a 10% gain in biodiversity.	Project level design and assessment (including biodiversity net gain assessments)
ISA9 – Biodiversity	Consideration needs to be given to the potential effects of noisy development on international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity.	Project level design and assessment (including noise assessments/ surveys)
ISA9 – Biodiversity	Due to the presence of Great Crested Newts at a number of employment sites, appropriate licensing (either mitigation license or district level licensing) will need to be undertaken prior to development. Further surveying may also be beneficial.	Project level design and assessment
ISA10 – Landscape and Townscape	Care must however be taken to ensure that tall buildings in clusters do not appear to coalesce in views as this can have a significant visual impact and undermine legibility.	Scheme level design and planning application

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ISA Objective	Mitigation/Enhancement	Mechanism
IIA10 - Landscape and Townscape IIA11 - Historic Environment	New developments should seek to maximise sustainability benefits from existing landscape, townscape and heritage assets by valuing them inherently and for the wider services they provide. Development proposals should not harm, and should seek to make a positive contribution to, the characteristics and composition of Strategic Views and their landmark elements.	Historic Landscape Characterisation Project level landscape and visual impacts assessments as part of subsequent EIA/ planning application Heritage Impact Assessments
ISA11 – Historic Environment	Promoters and designers should liaise closely with SMBC and Historic England to avoid or minimise negative impacts, such as land take and light pollution, whilst seeking to maximise benefits, such as tranquillity. Where developments are being built and/or improved within, or close proximity to designated historic assets, visual effects assessment should be undertaken to determine magnitude of impact and possible mitigation.	Historic Landscape Characterisation Project level landscape and visual impacts assessments
ISA11 – Historic Environment	Characterisation work should be undertaken to understand the potential impact of site allocations on historic places and inform assessments of an area's capacity to accommodate development. Site specific studies, such as archaeological desk-based assessment and fieldwork, may also be necessary to provide adequate information.	Historic Landscape Characterisation Archaeological desk based assessment
ISA12 - Flood Risk ISA13 – Climate Change	Sequential testing should be undertaken, to avoid sites with the highest flood risk. Where this isn't viable and proposed sites are located within flood zones 2 or 3 a full flood risk assessment should be undertaken.	Sequential testing as part of the call for sites. Scheme level flood risk assessments.

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ISA Objective	Mitigation/Enhancement	Mechanism
	Scheme level design should also consider the incorporation features to reduce flood risks, both now and in future, in light of future precipitation changes associated with climate change. This could include features such as sustainable urban drainage solutions (SuDs), permeable paving and natural engineering such as tree planting.	
ISA14 – Air Quality	A Dust Management Plan should be compiled prior to demolition and construction of new sites.	Project level Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
ISA17 - Waste	Any form of construction and operation should be undertaken as sustainably as possible, making use of tools and processes, such as circular economy and a waste hierarchy.	Inclusion within preferred SLP policies Project level design and assessment
ISA17 – Waste ISA18 – Efficient use of resource	Proposed sustainable transport infrastructure such as cycle lanes, bus lanes and footpaths, should where appropriate, prioritise the reallocation of the highway network.	Project level design and assessment as part of subsequent EIA/ planning application
ISA17 – Waste ISA18 – Efficient use of resource	A Site Waste Management Plan should be prepared as part of the CEMP and Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP).	Project level design and assessment – CEMP and OEMP
ISA18 - Efficient use of Land and resource	SMBC should explore compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of the remaining Green Belt land.	Inclusion within preferred SLP policies

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5.1.3 Despite mitigation measures, some residual uncertain effects have remained which may require monitoring. These are as follows:

- **ISA 9:** The number of new developments achieving biodiversity net gain
- **ISA11:** Potential negative effects from new developments on heritage assets
- **ISA16:** Uncertain effects regarding energy reductions on new developments
- **ISA17:** Uncertain effects on the potential for reductions in the amount of waste produced during construction and minimising the amount sent to landfill.
- **ISA18**: Uncertain effects on the total loss of Green Belt land lost to development.

5.2 Monitoring

5.2.1 The SEA Regulations require that monitoring is undertaken on a plan so that the significant effects of implementation can be identified, and remedial action imposed. The purpose of the monitoring is to provide an important measure of the sustainability outcome of the final plan, and to measure the performance of the plan against sustainability objectives and targets. Monitoring is also used to manage uncertainty, improve knowledge, enhance transparency and accountability, and to manage sustainability information.

5.2.2 The aim of monitoring is to check whether the plan is causing the significant effects that were predicted in the ISA, and to deal with any unforeseen problems.

5.2.3 **Table NTS-6** below includes some potential monitoring measures that could be used by SMBC to monitor potential significant effects. As this is the ISA Interim reporting stage, these measures are subject to change as the preferred policies and sites are refined and updated.

Table NTS-6– Potential Monitoring Measures

Potential Effects	What could be monitored?
IIA1 and IIA2: The effects of a growing population on community facilities and services	The number of new healthcare, schools and community facilities and services provided. The number of existing facilities and services that have been upgraded. Class size statistics Ratio of patient-to-staff numbers at GP practices
ISA9: Uncertainty regarding the number of developments achieving biodiversity net gain	The number of developments achieving at least 10% biodiversity net gain.
ISA11: Potential negative effects on the historic environment from proposed developments	The number of historic assets (statutory and non-statutory) negatively affected by SLP policies and spatial allocations. The number of historic assets (statutory and non-statutory) benefiting from conservation and

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Potential Effects	What could be monitored?
	enhancement measure as a result of SLP policies and spatial allocations.
ISA17: Uncertain effects of waste generations on new developments	The amount of construction and demolition waste going to landfill (through Site Waste Management Plans or BREEAM Infrastructure)
	The number of new developments which incorporate waste saving initiatives
	Household and commercial waste and recycling figures for the borough
ISA18: Uncertain effects on the total loss of Green Belt land lost to development	The percentage of Green Belt land lost to development.
	The number of compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of the remaining Green Belt land

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6 Next Steps

6.1.1 SMBC is seeking the views of statutory bodies, the public and other stakeholders on the results of the ISA. Consultation at this stage continues to ensure that the ISA provides a robust assessment of the Local Plan.

6.1.2 This Interim ISA Report will be issued to consultees for an X-week consultation period alongside the draft Local Plan (Regulation 18 Consultation) from XXX – XXX.

6.1.3 An indicative timetable of the remaining stages of the ISA and local plan have been included in **Table NTS-7** below.

Table NTS-7 - Indicative Local Plan and ISA Timetable

IIA/ Local Plan Stages	Timescales
Regulation 18 consultation	
SA Report (ISA Stage C)	
Regulation 19 Consultation (ISA Stage D)	
Examination (ISA Stage D)	
ISA Post Adoption Statement (Stage E)	

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