

# Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan

## **SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL**

**July 2018**

*Amended October 2018*

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# 1. Introduction

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## **The Neighbourhood Plan**

- 1.1 The Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led document for guiding the future development of the parish. It is about the use and development of land over a 20-year period 2019 – 2039.
- 1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed under the Localism Act (2012) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation (2012) (as amended), giving communities the right to shape future development at a local level.

## **The Sustainability Appraisal**

- 1.3 Sustainability Appraisal is a systematic process undertaken during the preparation of a plan or strategy, as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (S19[5]). There is also a requirement for Development Plan Documents to undergo an environmental assessment, (known as a Strategic Environmental Assessment) under European Directive 2001/42/EC (transposed into UK legislation by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004). A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report will be completed by Breckland Council and sent to the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England and Norfolk County Council for consultation and to determine if a full Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan is required.
- 1.4 It is intended that this Sustainability Appraisal incorporates the Strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance with the Act and Regulations. This means that in addition to environmental issues, on which a Strategic Environmental Assessment focuses, social and economic matters will also be addressed as part of the overall assessment of sustainability, within a single joint appraisal.
- 1.5 The Sustainability Appraisal process has been used by the Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to test the draft objectives and policies in the Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan to ensure they contribute to achieving sustainable development. The

Neighbourhood Plan is in conformity with the emerging Breckland Local Plan, which has been through the sustainability appraisal process.

- 1.6 Breckland Council completed a Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening in October 2018 of the Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan. The assessment suggested that there are likely to be no significant effects on European Designated Sites resulting from the Policies detailed within the Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan, therefore a full Habitat Regulations Assessment is not required. Natural England were consulted and agreed that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

### **The Sustainability Appraisal report**

- 1.7 This is the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) report for the pre-submission draft of the Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan. It has been written to test and inform the content of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.8 This SA follows the production of the ‘Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report’ (found at [www.swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk)).
- 1.9 The initial Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (March 2018) has been subject to consultation. Minor amendments were based on comments received from the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England and Norfolk County Council in April 2018. This has been used to inform the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 1.10 The Sustainability Appraisal process will:
- Adopt a long-term view of development within the area covered by the plan, focusing on the social, environmental, and economic effects of the proposed plan.
  - Develop an effective system for ensuring that sustainability objectives are transformed into sustainable planning policies.
  - Reflect global and national concerns, as well as concerns at the regional and local levels.
  - Provide an audit trail of how the NP has been revised to take into account the findings of the sustainability appraisal.
  - Incorporate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.
  - Produce and consult on a Scoping Report early in the process for the plan.

### Stages in producing a Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.11 Government guidance on undertaking Sustainability Appraisal of Local Development Documents (to which the Neighbourhood Plan will be comparable) presents a five-stage process, each of which contains criteria to fulfill that requirement. These stages are described in Government guidance and shown in Figure 1.
- 1.12 Stage C in the SA process involved documenting the appraisal findings and preparing a SA Report (this incorporates the material required for inclusion in the 'Environmental Report' under the 'SEA Directive').
- 1.13 Stage D in the SA process involved consulting on the 'pre-submission' version of the plan and the accompanying SA Report. This is the final community engagement stage, whereby residents are shown the draft Plan at the beginning of the formal six-week consultation period, which happened between 18th July and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. During September and early October 2018 all comments were collated and considered. The Neighbourhood Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal have since been modified and updated and will then be submitted to Breckland Council for further consultation and examination. A list of amendments made to the Sustainability Appraisal between pre-submission consultation and submission can be found in Appendix A.

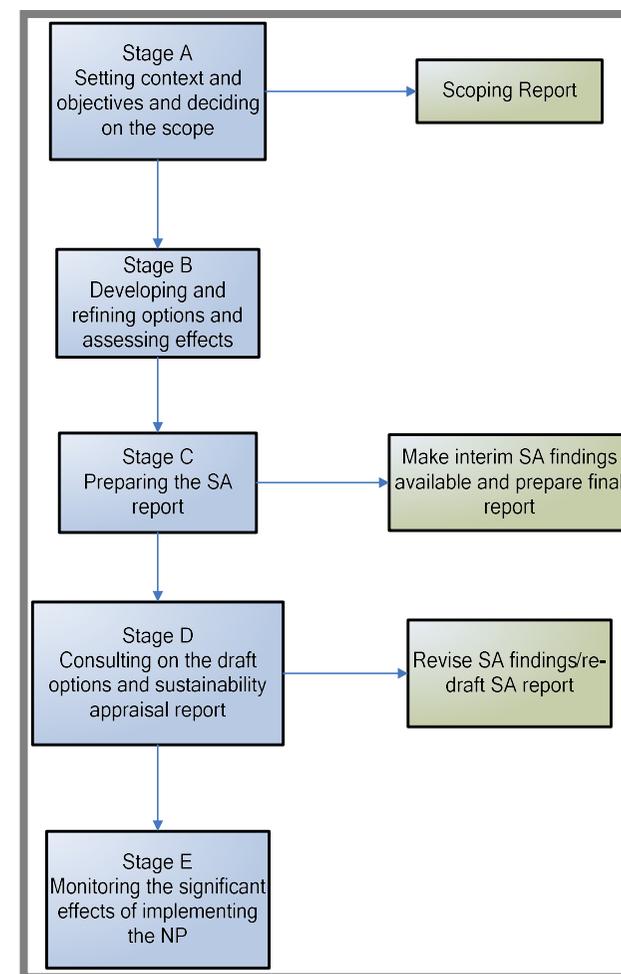


Figure 1: Stages in producing a Sustainability Appraisal

## 2. Compatibility of the Neighbourhood Plan objectives and SA objectives

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### The Neighbourhood Plan objectives

- 2.1 The Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan has been undertaken with extensive community engagement, consultation and communication. There have been six stages in which the Neighbourhood Plan steering group has actively engaged the community through consultation. More details of all the consultation will be outlined in a Consultation Statement, accompanying the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to Breckland Council in Autumn 2018. Full results of all consultation events and notes are on the Town Council's website. Below is a summary of each of the six stages.
- 2.2 **Consultation 1:** Preliminary consultation. 2pm – 7pm Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Event to establish key themes for the Neighbourhood Plan. 58 attendees. Key themes established: transport; housing; wellbeing; local economy; and social/community.  
**Consultation 2:** Topic Groups. February 2017 onwards. Monthly topic group meetings tasked with investigating business and employment; transport and access; open spaces, leisure and sport; education and young people; health and community services; town centre, heritage and tourism. The topic groups gathered information and identified issues. Meetings were held with stakeholders for education provision, and sports and leisure groups  
**Consultation 3:** Informal workshops and online survey. Workshops held from Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st July 2017. Online survey from July to September 2017. Workshops were held on tourism; the town centre; north of the town; travel, traffic, safety and air pollution; Green Britain Centre and business. There were 301 respondents. The survey covered a range of topics including: use of town shops and services; health and community services; sports and leisure activity; entertainment, culture and visitors; education and training services; civic services and voluntary activity; environment and open spaces; travel and car parking; employment and business.  
**Consultation 4:** Stakeholder input January to May 2018. Meetings and correspondence with interested groups and stakeholders to establish detail for policy. The Steering Group met with or corresponded with Sacred Heart School students; The Nicholas Hamond Academy students; Swaffham Junior Academy students; a range of local businesses; visitors to the Tourist Information Centre and the Swaffham Museum; Swaffham History Group; Swaffham Rugby Club; Rotary Club for Swaffham; Probus; Swaffham Women's Institute; Manor Farm Medical Centre; Age Concern. Notes of all meetings were fed into Steering Group meetings to draft policy ideas.

**Consultation 5:** Policy ideas workshops 10am-3pm on Saturday, 14th April 2018 and 5pm-7pm on Tuesday, 17th April 2018. Online survey with content of the workshops. The purpose was to check emerging policy ideas. 283 respondents (192 at the two events, 91 online). Most ideas were agreed, with additional comments that helped shape the drafting of policy for the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Consultation 6:** Pre-submission consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan 10am-1pm on Wednesday, 18th July 2018. The purpose is to present the draft pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan to get comments from residents, including an exhibition of the policies with Consultation Response forms. The draft Plan will be available in community locations and online (with an online Consultation Response form) until 1st September 2018.

- 2.3 All the Neighbourhood Plan objectives were agreed unanimously with the community. The SA objectives were tested with statutory agencies during the SA Scoping Report consultation March – April 2018.

Theme	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
<b>Housing and the Built Environment</b>	Objective 1: To provide a sustainable range of housing types for a vibrant mixed community. Objective 2: To provide high quality and well-designed development and public space that complements the distinctive character and heritage of Swaffham.
<b>Transport and Access</b>	Objective 3: To improve traffic flow within and around Swaffham. Objective 4: To ensure safe walking and cycling within the Swaffham town and area. Objective 5: To provide sufficient and accessible parking for residents, visitors and businesses.
<b>Environment and Landscape</b>	Objective 6: To protect the environment and minimise pollution.
<b>Business and Employment</b>	Objective 7: To encourage and support new and existing businesses, to generate employment opportunities. Objective 8: To develop an economically viable and attractive town centre. Objective 9: To provide widely available and effective telecommunications and internet access.
<b>Community and Services</b>	Objective 10: To provide inclusive opportunities for cultural, leisure, community, sport and other social activities, for all ages. Objective 11: To ensure sufficient provision of accessible health and social care. Objective 12: To ensure sufficient provision of education, including early years childcare.

### Compatibility of Neighbourhood Plan objectives and SA objectives

2.4 The following table sets out which of the Neighbourhood Plan objectives meets the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. The areas shaded green indicate where the Neighbourhood Plan objectives are compatible with the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. The Sustainability Appraisal objectives are the same Environmental, Social and Economic objectives found in the emerging Breckland Local Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives											
	Housing and the Built Environment		Transport and Access			Env and Landscape	Business and Employment			Community and Services		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
ENV1 – To minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings and encourage the recycling/reuse of on-site resources.												
ENV2 – To limit water consumption to the capacity of natural processes and storage systems and maintain and enhance water quality.												
ENV3 – To ensure the sustainable reuse of water to accommodate additional growth												

and development with minimal impacts on water quality.													
ENV4 – To minimise the production of waste and support the recycling of waste.													
ENV5 – To reduce contributions to climate change and localised air pollution.													
ENV6 – To adapt to climate change and avoid, reduce and manage flood risk.													
ENV7 – To protect, conserve and expand biodiversity and promote and conserve geodiversity.													
ENV8 – To protect and enhance Green Infrastructure in the District.													
ENV9 – To maintain, enhance and preserve the distinctiveness, diversity and quality of landscape and townscape character.													

ENV10 - Conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment.												
SOC1 – To improve the health and well-being of the population.												
SOC2 - Reduce and prevent crime.												
SOC3- Improve the quality and quantity of publicly accessible open space.												
SOC4- Improve the quality, range and accessibility of essential services and facilities.												
SOC5- Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income.												
SOC6 – To ensure all groups have access to affordable, decent and appropriate housing that meet their needs.												
EC1 – To increase the vitality and												

viability of existing town centres.												
EC2 – To help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence.												
EC3 – To improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy.												

## 3. Compatibility of the Neighbourhood Plan policies and SA objectives

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### The Neighbourhood Plan policies

- 3.1 The development of policies within the Neighbourhood Plan has been an iterative process involving community engagement, data collection and checking against strategic policy. A full list of policies can be found in the 'Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan'. A summary is found in the table below.

### Compatibility of Neighbourhood Plan policies and SA objectives

- 3.2 The following table sets out which of the Neighbourhood Plan policies meets the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. Again, the Sustainability Appraisal objectives are the same Environmental, Social and Economic objectives found in the emerging Breckland Local Plan. The areas shaded green show where the Neighbourhood Plan policies meet the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. If policies have a negative impact on the Sustainability Appraisal objectives, the boxes are shaded red.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Neighbourhood Plan Policies																												
	ENV1 – To minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings and encourage the recycling/reuse	HBE1: Location of development	HBE2: Mixed Housing	HBE3: Well-designed developments	HBE4: Attractive town centre and Conservation Area	HBE5: Non-designated heritage assets	HBE6: Entrances and gateways to Swaffham	HBE7: Community safety	TRA1: Traffic volume	TRA2: Traffic flow	TRA3: Walking and cycling	TRA4: Private parking	TRA5: Public parking	ENV1: Air pollution	ENV2: Climate change	ENV3: Localised flooding areas	ENV4: Important public views and vistas	ENV5: Dark skies	ENV6: Designated Local Green Space	BUS1: Green credentials	BUS2: New businesses	BUS3: Shops in new development areas	BUS4: Town centre retail	BUS5: Attractive and viable town centre	BUS6: Telecommunications	COM1: Sports and leisure facilities	COM2: Informal meeting places, play spaces and parks	COM3: Community buildings	COM4: Health care and social care







<p>EC2 – To help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence.</p>	■									■	■	■						■	■	■	■	■						■
<p>EC3 – To improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy.</p>			■						■		■		■					■	■	■	■	■						

## 4. Sustainability Appraisal Framework

### Sustainability Appraisal Framework for the Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan

- 4.1 The Sustainability Appraisal is below. This is based on the framework prepared for the emerging Breckland Local Plan and uses the same Environmental, Social and Economic objectives.
- 4.2 The commentary sets out what effects the Neighbourhood Plan will have on the SA objectives. To help qualify the likely effects of producing a Neighbourhood Plan, a 'do nothing' option has also been assessed, i.e. if there was no Neighbourhood Plan, what would be the sustainability impacts that would occur if only national, regional and district plans were in place. This is shown in the commentary section where it explains what would happen if there was no Neighbourhood Plan for Swaffham and just existing policies are in place.

SA Objective	Decision making (appraisal questions)	Indicators and targets	Relevant policies from Neighbourhood Plan	Short, Medium & Long-Term Effects	Assessment of Effects	Commentary
<b>Environmental</b>						
<b>ENV1 – To minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings and encourage the recycling/reuse of on-site resources.</b>	Will it use land that has previously been developed? Will it use land efficiently? Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land? Will it use brownfield land? Will it recycle on site resources?	Site includes a house or garden. Close to the settlement boundary/brownfield/not using high grade agricultural land. Protecting grade 1,2,3 agricultural land. Design considers on site resources.	HBE1: Location of development ENV6: Designated Local Green Space	Long term	Negative and positive	<b>Effects of the plan</b> - The Neighbourhood Plan encourages development to the east and west of Swaffham. Development, including a relief road, could impact on the Grade 2 agricultural land to the east of Swaffham town. To designate nineteen areas as Local Green Space for special protection will protect local green spaces. <b>Existing policies</b> -The Neighbourhood Plan identifies additional local issues and solutions specific to Swaffham to further protect undeveloped land.

<p><b>ENV2 – To limit water consumption to the capacity of natural processes and storage systems and maintain and enhance water quality.</b></p>	<p>Will it reduce water consumption? Will it conserve groundwater resources? Will it maintain or enhance water quality?</p>	<p>Development does not harm a protected aquifer. Design considers water consumption.</p>	<p>BUS1: Green credentials</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p><b>Effects of the plan-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan encourages businesses that seek to reduce their water consumption. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan encourages green business development for Swaffham in addition to existing policy.</p>
<p><b>ENV3 – To ensure the sustainable reuse of water to accommodate additional growth and development with minimal impacts on water quality.</b></p>	<p>Will it reduce water consumption? Will it conserve groundwater resources? Will it maintain or enhance water quality?</p>	<p>Development does not harm a protected aquifer. Design considers water consumption.</p>	<p>ENV2: Climate change BUS1: Green Credentials</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p><b>Effects of the plan-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan encourages developments that use grey water and green businesses that seek to reduce their water consumption. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan encourages further measures for Swaffham in addition to existing policy.</p>
<p><b>ENV4 – To minimise the production of waste and support the recycling of waste.</b></p>	<p>Will it reduce waste? Will it re-use waste? Will it enable composting of waste? Will it enable recycling of waste? Will waste be recovered in other ways for other uses?</p>	<p>Site within 2km from a household waste recycling plant. Design considers how waste to landfill will be minimised in construction and once in use.</p>	<p>ENV2: Climate Change BUS1: Green Credentials</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p><b>Effects of the plan-</b> All developments should be capable of being upgraded and adapted to minimise resources used in both their construction and operation. Businesses that minimise their waste output will be encouraged. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies further measures for Swaffham in addition to existing policy.</p>

	<p>Will it increase waste going to landfill? Will it encourage the re-use and recycling of aggregates?</p>					
<p><b>ENV5 – To reduce contributions to climate change and localised air pollution.</b></p>	<p>Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable resources? Will it reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption? Will it improve air quality? Will it reduce traffic volumes? Will it support travel by means other than single occupancy car journeys? Will it improve air quality in the Swaffham Air Quality Management Area?</p>	<p>Energy efficiency of buildings considered in design. Is it in an AQMA? Is it within 300 metres of convenience shopping? Is it within 800 metres of a school? Is the site within 800 metres of a bus stop?</p>	<p>HBE1: Location of development HBE3: Well-designed developments TRA1: Traffic volume TRA2: Traffic flow TRA3: Walking and cycling ENV1: Air pollution ENV2: Climate change BUS1: Green credentials BUS2: New businesses BUS3: Shops in new developments</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p><b>Effects of the plan-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies a range of solutions and measures to address the air pollution problems in Swaffham town centre. A range of measures from the location of development, encouraging walking and cycling and dealing with traffic volume and flow should reduce contributions to climate change and tackle localised air pollution. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies further solutions for Swaffham to tackle the local air pollution issues.</p>

<p><b>ENV6 – To adapt to climate change and avoid, reduce and manage flood risk.</b></p>	<p>Will it increase the risk of flooding? Will it contribute to a higher risk elsewhere? Will it attenuate the flow and runoff of water?</p>	<p>Is the site within or adjacent to an Environment Agency flood zone 2 or 3 or a SFRA defined flood zone (1 in 100-year risk)? Design minimises run off of water.</p>	<p>ENV2: Climate change ENV3: Localised flooding areas BUS1: Green credentials</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p><b>Effects of the plan-</b> All developments must be designed to anticipate climate change and businesses with green credentials will be encouraged. Policy ENV3 tackles localised flooding areas. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies issues and solutions specific to Swaffham in addition to existing policy.</p>
<p><b>ENV7 – To protect, conserve and expand biodiversity and promote and conserve geodiversity.</b></p>	<p>Will it protect, maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest? Will it conserve and enhance species, diversity and green infrastructure and avoid harm to protected species? Will it promote and conserve geodiversity?</p>	<p>Will not result in loss of some or all of a designated site. Will not result in loss of some or all of a County Wildlife Site. Will not involve loss of trees or hedgerow.</p>	<p>HBE3: Well-designed developments HBE6: Entrances and gateways to Swaffham ENV1: Air pollution ENV3: Localised flooding areas ENV4: Important public views and vistas ENV5: Dark skies ENV6: Designated Local Green Spaces COM2: Informal meeting places, play spaces and parks</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p><b>Effects of the plan-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan will protect and enhance green spaces and green infrastructure and protect and enhance biodiversity. New developments will incorporate measures such as soft well-landscaped boundary edges to enhance biodiversity. All significant developments should have significant tree planting. Sustainable drainage systems associated with any planned development should appear natural and be able to be colonised by the local fauna and flora. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies issues and solutions specific to Swaffham in addition to existing policy.</p>
<p><b>ENV8 – To protect and enhance Green Infrastructure in the District.</b></p>	<p>Will it protect the district's infrastructure? Will it enhance the district's infrastructure? Will it facilitate the creation of new Green</p>	<p>Will not interfere with connectivity of habitats. Enhances connectivity of habitats (consistent with Norfolk Econets- Breckland District Ecological Mapping Network).</p>	<p>HBE3: Well-designed developments HBE6: Entrances and gateways to Swaffham HBE7: Community safety</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p><b>Effects of the plan-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan will ensure that development contributes to protecting and enhancing green infrastructure through the protection and creation of green links, corridors and open spaces. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies issues and solutions specific to Swaffham in addition to existing policy.</p>

	Infrastructure which will improve links and corridors between open spaces?	Creates new Green Infrastructure.	TRA3: Walking and cycling ENV1: Air pollution ENV4: Important public views and vistas ENV6: Designated Local Green Space COM2: Informal meeting places, play spaces and parks.			
<b>ENV9 – To maintain, enhance and preserve the distinctiveness, diversity and quality of landscape and townscape character.</b>	Will it maintain and enhance the distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? Will it maintain and enhance the character of settlements? Will it protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value?	Is the site within a landscape that has moderate-high or high sensitivity to change as defined in the Breckland Settlement Fringe Landscape Assessment? Does it involve re-use or re-development of derelict buildings? Would it involve the loss of designated open space?	HBE1: Location of development HBE3: Well-designed developments HBE4: Attractive town centre and Conservation Area HBE5: Non-designated heritage assets HBE6: Entrances and gateways to Swaffham TRA1: Traffic Volume TRA5: Public parking ENV2: Climate change ENV4: Important public views and vistas ENV5: Dark skies ENV6: Designated Local Green Space	Long term	Positive	<b>Effects of the plan-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan has a range of policies to maintain and enhance the character of the town of Swaffham. The location of development to the east and west of the town should avoid further ribbon development and ensure the town centre is accessible for pedestrians and cyclists. Well-designed developments should reinforce local distinctiveness. Measures to reduce traffic volume, traffic flow and public parking in the centre of Swaffham should enhance the quality of the townscape. Renewable energy developments will be supported where they do not adversely impact on the landscape character. Development that could have an adverse impact on The Brecks landscape will not be supported. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies local issues and solutions for Swaffham in addition to existing policy.

			BUS2: New Businesses BUS5: Attractive and viable town centre			
<b>ENV10- Conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment.</b>	Will it protect or enhance (designated) heritage assets? Will it protect or enhance the significance and setting of (designated) heritage assets?	Will not result in the direct loss or damage to a listed building/conservation area or damage to the setting of a listed building/conservation area.	HBE3: Well-designed developments HBE4: Attractive town centre HBE5: Non-designated heritage assets HBE6: Entrances and gateways TRA5: Public parking ENV2: Climate change ENV4: Important public views and vistas ENV6: Designated Local Green Spaces BUS5: Attractive and viable town centre	Long term	Positive	<b>Effects of the plan-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan ensures that new development should have high regard for the Conservation Area and the setting of listed buildings. Development that reflects and celebrates the Georgian heritage of Swaffham will be encouraged. Development that results in the loss of non-designated heritage assets will not be permitted. Buildings in character with Swaffham will be encouraged. Public parking outside the town centre will be supported because the town centre parking detracts from the historic environment. All developments must be designed to anticipate climate change, whilst also being sensitive to the historic environment. The areas designated as Local Green Space for special protection will enhance the historic environment. Visual enhancements to the Market Place and Buttercross will be considered. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies specific measures to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment of Swaffham in addition to existing policy.
<b>Social</b>						
<b>SOC1 – To improve the health and well-</b>	Will it reduce early death rates? Will it increase life expectancy?	Is the site within an AQMA or within/adjacent to a Hazardous	HBE1: Location of development HBE2: Mixed housing	Long term	Positive	<b>Effects of the plan-</b> The location of development to the east and west of the town should ensure the town centre remains accessible for access to essential

<p><b>being of the population.</b></p>	<p>Will it improve access to essential services such as health facilities? Will it encourage healthy lifestyles, including travel and food choices? Will it help the population to move more, eat well and live longer?</p>	<p>Installation Consultation Area? Is the site within 1200 metres of outdoor playing space or sports facilities? Would it result in a loss of outdoor playing space or sports facilities? Is the site within 30 minutes public transport time or walking time of a primary health care facility?</p>	<p>HBE3: Well-designed developments HBE6: Entrances and gateways to Swaffham HBE7: Community Safety TRA2: Traffic flow TRA3: Walking and cycling ENV6: Designated Local Green Space COM1: Sports and leisure facilities COM2: Informal meeting places, play spaces and parks COM3: Community buildings COM4: Health care and social care COM5: School and preschool provision</p>			<p>services and facilities. Mixed type and tenure of housing will ensure that there is suitable accommodation for older people and well-designed developments that are integrated with good connectivity will encourage people to walk or cycle. All public realm improvements should enhance the overall appearance and public use of space, which will encourage people to use the space more. A safe environment with access routes through developments will encourage people to walk and cycle more. Improved community facilities, health facilities and school and preschool provision will all provide access to essential services and encourage healthy lifestyles. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies issues and solutions specific to Swaffham.</p>
<p><b>SOC2- Reduce and prevent crime.</b></p>	<p>No key issues that relate to sustainability.</p>		<p>HBE7: Community safety TRA3: Walking and cycling</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p><b>Effects of the plan-</b> All new residential development must create a safe environment. Footpaths and cycle ways should be visible and separate from roads. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies local issues and solutions for Swaffham in addition to existing policy.</p>
<p><b>SOC3- Improve the quality and quantity of publicly</b></p>	<p>Will it maintain/improve routes into open space particularly</p>		<p>HBE3: Well-designed developments</p>			<p><b>Effects of the plan-</b> Well-designed developments will integrate with the established neighbourhood in terms of connectivity. All public realm proposals should enhance the overall appearance</p>

<p><b>accessible open space.</b></p>	<p>for pedestrians and cyclists?</p>		<p>HBE6: Entrances and gateways to Swaffham HBE7: Community safety TRA2: Traffic flow TRA3: Walking and cycling ENV6: Designated Local Green Space COM1: Sports and leisure facilities COM2: Informal meeting places, play spaces and parks</p>			<p>and public use of the space. All new residential developments must create a safe environment with access routes and open space. Improving traffic flow should prevent congestion and improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. New footways and cycleways should form part of a coherent network. Areas are designated as Local Green Space for special protection. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies local issues and solutions specific to Swaffham in addition existing policy.</p>
<p><b>SOC4- Improve the quality, range and accessibility of essential services and facilities.</b></p>	<p>Will transport facilities out of the area meet the requirements of the population such as community transport schemes? Will the needs of the community for facilities be met without transport requirements?</p>		<p>HBE1: Location of development TRA3: Walking and cycling BUS2: New businesses BUS3: Shops in new developments BUS4: Town centre retail BUS5: Attractive and viable town centre BUS6: Telecommunications COM1: Sports and leisure facilities COM2: Informal meeting places, play spaces and parks COM3: Community buildings</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p><b>Effects of the plan-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan will encourage development to the east and west of the town so that services are accessible for residents. New businesses will provide services and jobs and improvements to community buildings and spaces will improve the facilities available for residents to access without additional transport requirements. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies issues and solutions specific to Swaffham in addition to existing policy.</p>

			COM4: Health and social care COM5: School and preschool provision			
<b><i>SOC5- Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income.</i></b>	Will community facilities be appropriate for the area?		HBE1: Location of development HBE2: Mixed housing HBE7: Community safety TRA3: Walking and cycling COM1: Sports and leisure facilities COM2: Informal meeting places, play spaces and parks COM3: Community buildings COM4: Health care and social care COM5: School and preschool provision	Long term	Positive	<b>Effects of the plan-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan will ensure that the location and mix of housing type and tenure benefits all members of the community. Community facilities appropriate for Swaffham are protected and enhanced and additional facilities are encouraged. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies issues and solutions specific to Swaffham in addition to existing policy.
<b><i>SOC6 – To ensure all groups have access to affordable, decent and appropriate housing that meet their needs.</i></b>	Will it support the range of housing types and sizes, including affordable, to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? Will it reduce the number of unfit homes? Will it reduce the housing need?	Is it an allocation for housing? Will it involve the redevelopment of unfit homes? Is the allocation for a gypsy and traveller site?	HBE1: Location of development HBE2: Mixed housing HBE3: Well-designed developments	Long term	Positive	<b>Effects of the plan-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan supports a range of housing types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the community. The developments will be well-designed and located so that residents can access services and facilities without needing to use a car. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies issues and solutions specific to Swaffham in addition to existing policy.

	Will it meet the needs of the travelling community?					
<b>Economic</b>						
<b><i>EC1 – To increase the vitality and viability of existing town centres.</i></b>	Will it increase vitality of existing town centres? Will it increase viability of existing town centres? Will it provide for the needs of the local community?	Is it in the town centre?	HBE1: Location of development HBE4: Attractive town centre and Conservation Area HBE6: Entrances and gateways to Swaffham TRA1: Traffic volume TRA2: Traffic flow TRA3: Walking and cycling TRA4: Private parking TRA5: Public parking ENV1: Air pollution BUS1: Green credentials BUS2: New businesses BUS3: Shops in new developments BUS4: Town centre retail BUS5: Attractive and viable town centre BUS6: Telecommunications COM1: Sports and leisure facilities	Long term	Positive	<b>Effects of the plan-</b> Location and design of development, improved parking and traffic flow and volume, new businesses and community facilities will all increase the vitality and viability of Swaffham Town Centre. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies and solutions specific to Swaffham in addition to existing policy.

			COM2: Informal meeting places, play spaces and parks COM3: Community buildings			
<b><i>EC2 – To help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence.</i></b>	Will it support and improve education? Will it encourage employment and reduce unemployment overall? Will it improve access to employment? Will it improve access to employment by means other than single occupancy car use?	Is the allocation for an educational establishment? Is the allocation for employment land? Is the site within 800 metres or 30-minute public transport time of residential areas?	HBE1: Location of development TRA3: Walking and cycling TRA4: Private parking TRA5: Public parking BUS1: Green credentials BUS2: New businesses BUS3: Shops in new developments BUS4: Town centre retail BUS5: Attractive and viable town centre BUS6: Telecommunications COM5: School and preschool provision	Long term	Positive	<b>Effects of the plan-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan will encourage business development and employment opportunities. Location of development and walking, cycling and parking improvements will help people to access employment. Improved school and pre-school provision will support and improve education. <b>Existing policies-</b> The Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan identifies issues and solutions specific to Swaffham in addition to existing policy.
<b><i>EC3 – To improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy.</i></b>	Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness? Will it make land and property available for business development?	Is it in an area with a deficiency of employment land? Is the allocation for employment land? Is the allocation within a town or local service centre or accessible by public transport?	HBE4: Attractive town centre and Conservation Area TRA3: Walking and cycling TRA5: Public parking ENV2: Climate change BUS1: Green credentials	Positive	Long term	<b>Effects of the plan-</b> The Neighbourhood Plan will improve business development and enhance competitiveness through ensuring the town centre develops with an attractive public realm, improving walking and cycling links, improving parking, supporting renewable energy developments and encouraging a range of businesses to Swaffham. Improvements to the public realm and business

	Will it support sustainable tourism?		BUS2: New businesses BUS3: Shops in new development areas BUS4: Town centre retail BUS5: Attractive and viable town centre BUS6: Telecommunications		development proposals that respond positively to maintaining an attractive local townscape and that enhance the town's aesthetic qualities will support sustainable tourism. <b>Existing policies</b> -The Neighbourhood Plan identifies issues and solutions specific to Swaffham in addition to existing policy.
<b>Overall Conclusions</b>					
<p>The appraisal has revealed that when measured against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives, the Neighbourhood Plan should perform well and will help to deliver sustainable development in the Parish. The assessments found that most policies will have positive impacts in the long term. The Neighbourhood Plan is identifying local issues and solutions in addition to existing policy.</p>					

## 5. Monitoring and next steps

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### Monitoring

5.1 Following adoption, Swaffham Town Council will monitor the effects of the Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan.

### Next steps

5.2 The Sustainability Appraisal will now be submitted to Breckland Council alongside the Neighbourhood Plan for consultation and examination.

**Appendix A: Log of changes to Sustainability Appraisal between pre-submission consultation and submission, October 2018**

<b>Page number</b>	<b>Amendment made</b>
Front cover	Added: Amended October 2018
4	Added: Breckland Council completed a Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening in October 2018 of the Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan. The assessment suggested that there are likely to be no significant effects on European Designated Sites resulting from the Policies detailed within the Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan, therefore a full Habitat Regulations Assessment is not required. Natural England were consulted and agreed that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.
5	Updated stages in producing Sustainability Appraisal
Throughout	Changed Env 4: Important views and vistas, to Env 4: Important public views and vistas
Throughout	Changed BUS5: Attractive Town Centre, to BUS5: Attractive and Viable Town Centre
18 (point 4.2)	Added: This is shown in the commentary section where it explains what would happen if there was no Neighbourhood Plan for Swaffham and just existing policies are in place.
30	Updated the next steps