

Nottinghamshire and Nottingham

Waste Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Post Adoption
Statement

September 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council adopted the Waste Local Plan (WLP) on 18th September and the 8th September 2025 respectively.
- 1.2. This statement has been produced in line with paragraph (16) (3) and (4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 which incorporated the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) into UK legislation. This requires the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, including waste local plans because of the likely significant effects they might have on the environment. Upon adoption of a plan or programme a statement is required to provide the following details:
 - How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
 - How the environmental report has been taken into account;
 - How opinions expressed through public consultation on the sustainability appraisal process have been taken into account;
 - The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
 - The measures that are taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

2. Context

- 2.1. All local plans, including those for waste, are required to complete a sustainability appraisal (SA) under S19 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. SA helps local planning authorities to ensure that their plans are compatible with the aims of sustainable development.
- 2.2. Sustainability appraisals incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and ensure that potential environmental effects are considered together with social and economic effects.

3. Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 3.1. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required under the European Directive 92/43/EEC on the "conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora" for plans that may have an impact on European (Natura 2000) Sites. HRA is the assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a Natura 2000 Site. Its purpose is to consider the impacts of a land-use plan

against conservation objectives of the site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of the site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.

- 3.2. A Habitats Regulations Screening Report concluded that the policies of the Waste Local Plan itself and those policies in combination with the impacts of other plans are unlikely to generate potential likely significant effects on European sites.

4. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan

- 4.1. The process of sustainability appraisal played a key role in the preparation of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan (WLP). The SA was undertaken iteratively, such that at each stage of the Plan's preparation, the likely significant effects of the reasonable alternatives, overarching vision, strategic objectives and policies on social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives were appraised. SA reports were produced describing the approach taken, identifying the likely effects and setting out any potential mitigation where negative effects were identified. Each successive stage of the document was informed by the SA results. This process ensured that environmental, social and economic considerations were integrated into the WLP throughout its development.
- 4.2. The first stage in the SA process involved the scoping of the sustainability issues for the Plan area in order to establish an appropriate appraisal framework. This resulted in the publication of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report in February 2020.
- 4.3. The Scoping Report established the principles of the sustainability appraisal framework and set out the 14 sustainability appraisal objectives which were used to assess the WLP, together with the associated decision-making criteria relating to each objective. These are shown in the table below.

SA objectives and decision-making criteria

Objective	Decision making criteria
1. Ensure that adequate provision is made for a network of suitable waste management sites for the safe treatment and disposal of waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the plan/proposal provide waste treatment/disposal sites close to where the waste is produced? • Will it reduce the distance waste is transported? • Will it reduce the cost of municipal waste treatment/disposal? • Will it help to reduce fly-tipping? • Will the plan identify suitable areas of land to serve current/future markets?
2. Protect and enhance biodiversity at all levels, achieve biodiversity net gain and safeguard features of geological interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the plan/proposal have an adverse effect on internationally, nationally or locally important sites, irreplaceable habitats or legally protected species? • Will it affect habitats or species identified within the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)? • Will it restore or create new habitat in line with LBAP priorities? • Will it support the retention/enhancement of the Plan Area's green infrastructure?
3. Promote sustainable patterns of movement and the use of more sustainable modes of transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the plan/proposal reduce overall transport distances for waste? • Will it reduce road haulage of waste? • Will it promote alternative forms of transport? • Will it reduce/increase road congestion? • Will it result in sites that are well related to the main highway network? • Will it require new transport infrastructure to be developed?

Objective	Decision making criteria
4. Protect the quality of the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings above and below ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the plan/proposal have an adverse impact upon heritage assets and/or their settings, including archaeological remains and historic buildings? • Will it conserve and/or enhance heritage assets and the historic environment? • Will it respect, maintain and strengthen local character and distinctiveness? • Will it enhance or increase our understanding of the historic environment?
5. Protect and enhance the quality and character of our townscape and landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the plan/proposal have an adverse impact on local landscape character or areas of important townscape? • Will it have an adverse effect on the openness and visual amenity of the Green Belt? • Will it affect areas of public open space? • Will it lead to landscape/townscape improvements? • Will it result in development that is sympathetic to its surroundings in terms of design, layout and scale?
6. Reduce the impact and risk of flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the plan/proposal increase the risk of flooding? • Will it seek to avoid flood risk? • Will it help to alleviate flood risk or the impact of flooding?
7. Minimise any possible impacts on, and increase adaptability to, climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the plan/proposal increase emissions of greenhouse gases from waste activities? • Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases? • Will it encourage the use of renewable energy sources? • Will it help to reduce our vulnerability to the impacts of climate change? • Will it help to increase the resilience of flora and fauna to climate change?

Objective	Decision making criteria
8. Protect high quality agricultural land and soil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will the plan/proposal have an adverse impact on soil quality? •Will it result in the sustainable use of soils? •Will it lead to land contamination? •Will it lead to the irreversible loss of best and most versatile agricultural land?
9. Promote more efficient use of land and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will it promote sustainable waste management and encourage movement of waste up the waste hierarchy? •Will it reduce waste/provide for re-use of waste materials? •Will it make use of previously developed land or buildings? •Will it utilise existing infrastructure or minimise the need for additional infrastructure and land take?
10. Promote energy efficiency and maximise renewable energy opportunities from new or existing development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will the plan/proposal minimise energy needs? •Will it contribute to renewable/low carbon energy targets? •Will it offset the use of fossil fuels?
11. Protect and improve local air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will the plan/proposal have an adverse impact on local air quality through the creation of dust or emissions of pollutants from facilities and transport? •Will it adversely affect a designated Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)?

Objective	Decision making criteria
12. Protect and improve water quality and promote efficient use of water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will the plan/proposal have an adverse impact upon water quality? •Will it increase demand for water? •Will it help to improve existing water quality? •Will the proposal incorporate sustainable water management and/or drainage?
13. Support wider economic development and promote local job opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will the plan/proposal help to increase training and employment opportunities in Nottinghamshire? •Will it help to enable wider economic development?
14. Protect and improve human health and quality of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will the plan/proposal minimise adverse impacts of waste activity on human health and levels of nuisance including dust, particulate emissions, noise (including traffic noise), vibration, odour, vermin, visual amenity and light pollution. •Will it promote best practice in the operation and restoration of sites? •Will it help to enhance health and wellbeing through the provision of new or improved public open space/recreational space and access? •Will it lead to a loss of public open space/recreational space or reduction in public access?

- 4.4. Subsequently, SA played an important role in assessing the reasonable alternatives which were considered as possible options to address the issues set out in the WLP Issues and Options consultation document. In order to assess which of the options would represent the most sustainable approach to dealing with each issue, a sustainability appraisal (SA) was carried out. The Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal Report (September 2021) informed the next plan-making stage which was the Draft Plan.
- 4.5. SA was an integral part of the development of the vision, strategic objectives and policies of the Draft WLP, as set out in the Draft Plan Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report (November 2021).
- 4.6. Following consultation on the Draft Plan, the Pre-Submission Draft of the WLP was produced. This involved further stages of sustainability appraisal with proposed changes to the vision, strategic objectives and policies being appraised, as detailed in the Pre-Submission Draft Sustainability Report (June 2023).
- 4.7. A number of Main Modifications to the Pre-Submission Draft WLP were put forward by the County Council in response to the Local Plan Inspector's matters, issues and questions, representations made, and matters raised throughout the Examination, which was held in October 2024. Those modifications considered to be significant were re-appraised using the same methodology as that used at previous stages of the Plan, as set out in the Sustainability Appraisal of Main Modifications Report (December 2024).

5. How the environmental report has been taken into account

- 5.1. The SA and plan-making process were iterative and at each stage recommendations arising from the SA were put forward for consideration by the plan-makers.

Options

- 5.2. The Issues and Options SA Report identified which of the options presented to potentially address each issue were considered the most sustainable, which helped the plan-makers to formulate their approach regarding which options to take forward, taking into account sustainability considerations together with other planning issues.

Vision

- 5.3. A proposed vision was set out at the Issues and Options stage and this was appraised against the 14 SA objectives, as set out in the Issues and Options Sustainability Report. The appraisal found that the vision failed to impart a sustainable overall approach to waste management and it was recommended that the vision was revised to fully take into account the issues which were covered by 11 of the SA objectives.

- 5.4. The vision was therefore re-drafted following the Issues and Options stage and the sustainability appraisal results of that amended vision are set out in the Draft Plan Interim SA Report. It was found that there was still scope for improvement in respect of two of the SA objectives.
- 5.5. Consequently, further amendments were made to the vision for the Pre-Submission Draft Plan. Re-appraisal found that this revised vision had a positive or very positive impact on all the SA objectives.

Strategic Objectives

- 5.6. At the Issues and Options stage, the SA found that although the strategic objectives made a positive contribution towards sustainability, there were significant gaps in their coverage in terms of addressing all the SA objectives. It was therefore recommended that revised strategic objectives were developed.
- 5.7. Consequently, following consultation on the Draft Plan, amendments were made to the strategic objectives which resulted in every strategic objective being compatible with a number of SA objectives and overall the strategic objectives contributing positively to sustainability.

Policies

- 5.8. The SA results at each stage were considered by the plan-makers and contributed to the refining of policies throughout the development of the Plan. Any significant changes to policy wording between the Draft Plan and the Pre-Submission Plan were subject to further sustainability appraisal. The re-appraisal findings were taken into account and further amendments made if required.

Main Modifications

- 5.9. The Main Modifications to the Vision, two Strategic Objectives and four Policies were identified as significant and thus required re-appraisal. The re-appraisal findings for the Vision concluded that there was no change to the effects on the SA objectives. For the Strategic Objectives it was found that the modifications did not alter the previous compatibility findings. The re-appraisal findings concluded that the effects of the policies on the SA objectives had changed for two policies. The modifications to Policy SP3 strengthened the policy in respect of two of the SA objectives and those to Policy SP4 strengthened the policy in respect of one SA objective. This also resulted in the cumulative effects of the policies on three SA objectives becoming more positive. In conclusion, there were no further recommendations for the Plan and the Main Modifications SA Report was sent to the Planning Inspector for consideration.

6. How opinions expressed through public consultation (on the SA process) have been taken into account

- 6.1. An extensive programme of consultation supported the preparation of the Waste Local Plan commencing with the initial Issues and Options stage. Consultation on the SA Scoping Report took place alongside the Issues and Options Consultation Document between 27th February and 7th May 2020. The second stage of plan preparation involved consultation on the Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal Report and the Draft Plan Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report alongside the Draft Waste Local Plan between 7th February and 4th April 2022. This was followed by consultation between 30th August and 11th October 2023 on the Pre-Submission Sustainability Appraisal Report alongside the Pre-Submission Draft Waste Local Plan. The final stage of consultation, which ran from 8th January to 19th February 2025, was on the Main Modifications following the Examination which included consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal of Main Modifications Report.
- 6.2. All comments received were given careful consideration and changes were made to the SA process where appropriate. In particular, at the Scoping stage, comments resulted in factual updates to the contextual information (baseline data and relevant plans, policies and programmes) for the SA, as well as amendments to, and expansion of, the key messages and sustainability issues identified.

7. The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with

- 7.1. Sustainability appraisal has played a key role in the formulation of the Waste Local Plan (WLP), informing each successive stage of the document. The overarching vision and strategic objectives which guided the overall direction of the Plan and all the reasonable options on the issues to be addressed by the WLP were tested through the SA, ensuring that all reasonable alternatives were considered. Each proposed policy was tested through the SA and the cumulative effects of policies were also tested to ensure that all the potential significant effects (both positive and negative) of the Plan as a whole were identified. Where adverse effects were identified the potential measures for mitigation were set out.
- 7.2. The SA provided the plan-makers with the necessary information to evaluate the reasonable alternatives and choose the approach and options which represented the best balance between social, economic and environmental factors, whilst also taking into account other planning issues pertaining to waste development and the findings of other appraisals such as the Habitats Regulations Assessment, Equality Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment.
- 7.3. The WLP itself sets out a detailed justification for each policy.

8. The measures that are taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme

- 8.1. The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will be the vehicle for monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the Waste Local Plan and the progress being made towards meeting the sustainability objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal. The AMR will monitor implementation using the indicators set out in the comprehensive monitoring and implementation framework shown in Appendix 1 of the Waste Local Plan. This should enable any unforeseen adverse effects to be identified and facilitate an appropriate response to address them.

9. Further Information

- 9.1. Further information on the Waste Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal can be found on the County Council's website: [New Waste Local Plan | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)