

North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036)

Issues & Options Consultation Summary of Responses



AUGUST 2018

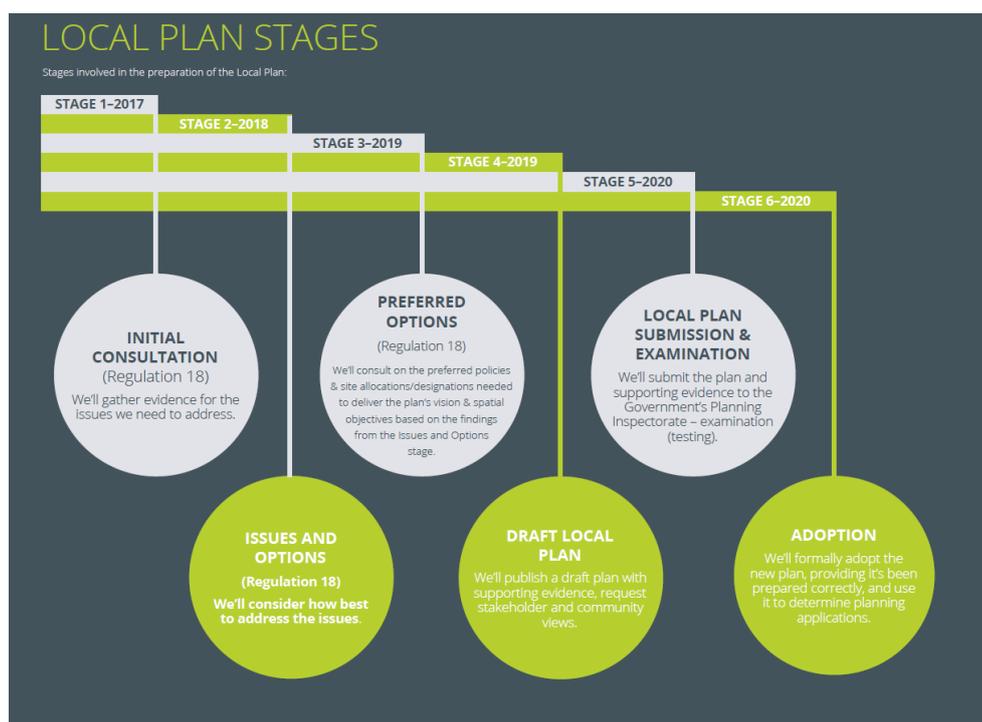
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 North Lincolnshire Council is preparing a new single local plan for North Lincolnshire. Once agreed (formally adopted) it will replace the current North Lincolnshire Local Plan, the Core Strategy and the Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Documents (DPDs), and the Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan.
- 1.2 It will bring together relevant policies and proposals included in the existing plans and include new policies and proposals required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) plus new and revised local studies and evidence.
- 1.3 As the Local Plan develops there will be a number of opportunities for local people, businesses, voluntary groups, public bodies and landowners to get involved in helping to shape the future growth and development of North Lincolnshire. This Issues & Option consultation was the second stage in process of preparing the plan. This followed an initial (Regulation 18) consultation stage that took place in early 2017.



- 1.4 This document has been prepared to provide a summary of the responses received from the community and others during the consultation period. Under regulations 19 & 22 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, local planning authorities are obliged to prepare two statements setting out how they conducted public consultation/community involvement prior to the Local Plan being published and submitted to Government for an independent examination. This document will assist in preparing these statements. It will also form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan.

2 CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

- 2.1 The consultation period ran from Monday 29th January to Monday 12th March 2018 (a six-week period). An Issues & Options Consultation document was prepared and published on the bespoke North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036) website - <http://localplan.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan/>. A paper version of the document was available for public inspection at the Civic Centre in Scunthorpe, whilst it could be viewed on-line at Local Link offices and branch libraries across North Lincolnshire via the council's public access computer network.
- 2.2 A Sustainability Appraisal Report and Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment were published alongside the Issues & Options document to meet the legislative requirements. Respondents were also able to comment on them.
- 2.3 The Issues & Options Consultation document was accompanied by a questionnaire. It related to the questions being posed in the document and could be completed on-line via the Local Plan website. A paper version was available upon request.

- 2.4 During the consultation period, a number of consultation events took place at various venues across North Lincolnshire (see below). The events predominately ran from 3pm to 7pm. These allowed local people to come along and find out about the Local Plan and put forward their views about the future growth and development of North Lincolnshire. The events were visited by around 350 local people, who sought to put forward their views.

Date	Time	Venue
Monday 12 th February	2pm — 6pm	Ulceby Village Hall
Tuesday 13 th February	3pm — 6.45pm	Community Resource Centre, Crowle
Wednesday 14 th February	3.30pm — 7pm	Bottesford Pavilion, Bramley Crescent
Thursday 15 th February	2pm — 6pm	The Ballroom, Angel Suite, Brigg
Monday 19 th February	3pm — 7pm	Imperial Hall, Epworth
Tuesday 20 th February	2pm — 6pm	Broughton Village Hall
Wednesday 21 st February	3pm — 7pm	Old School Community Hall, Winterton
Monday 26 th February	3pm — 7pm	Heritage Room, Town Hall, Kirton in Lindsey
Tuesday 27 th February	3pm — 7pm	Assembly Rooms, Barton upon Humber
Thursday 1 st March	3pm — 7pm	Function Room 1, Civic Centre, Scunthorpe

- 2.5 The Scunthorpe event, scheduled to take place on Thursday 1st March, was cancelled due to bad weather and subsequently took place on Wednesday 7th March.
- 2.6 During the consultation events, those attending were invited to provide their thoughts on the topics that the emerging Local Plan will cover as well as issues facing their communities using “Post-It” notes. They also had the opportunity to read the Issues & Options document and the Draft Statement of Community Involvement, as well as to discuss the emerging plan with council officers. The issues raised are summarised in a separate document.
- 2.7 The consultation, including details of the various events, was advertised throughout the period as a news story on the front page of the council’s website, www.northlincs.gov.uk as well as the council’s social media channels including Facebook and Twitter. An article also appeared in the February 2018 edition of the council’s News Direct newspaper, which was sent to over 85,000 homes across the area.
- 2.8 Town and parish councils were contacted with a view to them advertising the Issues & Options consultation and the consultation events via their newsletters, websites and social media. Where possible, this took place.
- 2.9 Press releases were issued to local media outlets. An article about the Issues & Options consultation appeared on the Scunthorpe Telegraph’s website on 29th January 2018, whilst the re-arranged Scunthorpe event featured in an article on 5th March 2018.

Call for Sites Exercise

- 2.10 Alongside the Issues & Options consultation, a second Call for Sites exercise was undertaken. This allowed landowners, developers and/or agents to put forward land to be considered for potential site allocations within the emerging Local Plan. They were able to submit sites for a variety of uses including:
- Housing (including market housing, affordable housing & self-build housing)
 - Employment (including office, light industrial, general industrial & warehousing)
 - Retail/Town Centre Uses
 - Community Facilities
 - Sports/Leisure/Tourism
 - Gypsy & Travellers/Travelling Showpeople Sites
 - Local Green Space/Open Space
 - Energy Generation
 - Waste Management; and
 - Minerals Extraction
- 2.11 An initial Call for Sites exercise took place as part of the Initial (Regulation 18) Consultation between February and April 2017, which resulted in around 500 sites submitted for consideration. Work is ongoing to assess these sites. The second Call for Sites exercise was aimed at identifying sites that were not submitted as part of the earlier consultation stage.

- 2.12 Respondents could submit their sites via an on-line Call for Sites Form, which was available via the council’s bespoke Local Plan website. A paper and MS-Word version of the form and associated guidance note was available on request. The form set out a series of questions about the site including ownership details, location, current use, existing trees or landscape features, access arrangements, existing ecological features, planning history, proposed use(s), market interest, availability of utilities infrastructure, and constraints to, and timescale for, availability. As those submitting sites were required to provide a map of the site boundary. Those who used the on-line form were able to use the council’s on-line mapping system to draw the site boundaries.
- 2.13 205 sites were put forward for consideration as part of this second Call for Sites exercise, using the on-line form and via e-mail. These will be assessed by employees of the council.

3 OVERVIEW OF RESPONSES

- 3.1 The Issues & Options document set out 68 questions covering a number of topics to get views about the future of the area. Some of these included a range options for the overall spatial strategy, housing, the economy, environment, communities, minerals and waste. These were also set out in the accompanying questionnaire. **150 respondents provided 3,604 individual responses** to these questions using the on-line questionnaire, via e-mail or in writing during the consultation period. It should be noted that not all respondents provided detail answers. A list of respondents is included in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 It should be noted that not all those who responded answered every question. Table 1 (below) sets out the total number of responses received for each question. The responses received and the issues raised by them are summarised in detail in the subsequent sections of this document.

	Question	Number of Responses
0	General Comments	9
1	Do you think the range of facts and figures about North Lincolnshire is adequate? If not, please explain why. Where possible, please support your answer with reference to any evidence.	86
2	Is this an appropriate spatial vision for North Lincolnshire or is there something missing or a more suitable alternative? Please give reasons for your response.	91
3	Do you agree with the spatial objectives? Can you suggest any alternatives and are there any missing?	99
4	Do you agree or disagree with the approach set out in the Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development policy? If not, why?	75
5	Consider the implications of each option. Which do you support and why: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A: Scunthorpe & Market Towns; • Option B: Six Market Towns & Scunthorpe • Option C: Six Market Towns, Scunthorpe & Larger Service Centres • Option D: A New Settlement • Option E: A Balanced Approach • None of the above 	100
6	Do you have any views on the structure of the potential settlement hierarchy that should be considered as part of the Local Plan?	80
7	Which one of the four housing options do you consider the most appropriate for North Lincolnshire up to 2036? Or you can suggest an alternative figure. Please provide reasons for your answer	89
8	Do you think the Local Plan’s annual housing figure should be higher or lower than identified within the four scenarios and why?	60
9	Which of the housing land allocation options do you think is appropriate for the Local Plan? Or should the council consider an alternative option?	82
10	Which do you think is the best approach for achieving a housing mix that suits the current and future population needs of North Lincolnshire? Or can you suggest an alternative.	72
11	Which housing density option do you support? Or can you suggest an alternative.	68

12	Does the affordable housing need figure of 156 homes per year provide an accurate requirement for North Lincolnshire?	54
13	Do you agree the SHMA identifies the appropriate affordable housing tenure split which is 31% for intermediate products and 69% for social products?	46
14	Which of the affordable housing options do you support? Are there any other options which you feel should be considered?	59
15	Which of the options for providing housing for older people do you support? Are there any other options which need to be considered?	61
16	Which of the options for providing Gypsy and Traveller accommodation do you support? Are there any other options which need consideration?	51
17	Which of the above options for Self-build and Custom Build do you support? Are there any other options which could be considered in the Local Plan?	48
18	Do you agree that the existing strategy (Option A) should be retained or do you consider that an alternative growth strategy (Options B-D or a combination of these) should be adopted?	66
19	Do you agree with this approach (Option D) or do you advocate another approach or a combination of Options? If so where do you consider is suitable for further growth or new growth?	62
20	Should this approach of over-allocation be continued?	51
21	Do you have any comments on the viability and deliverability of the employment sites currently allocated within the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD which would prevent them from being allocated within the new Local Plan?	52
22	Which of the options (or a combination or another) do you prefer to ensure that rural businesses continue to grow and thrive in North Lincolnshire?	48
23	Which of the Options (or a combination or another) ensure that the visitor economy continues to grow and thrive in North Lincolnshire?	49
24	There is support for the existing network of retail centres and the current retail hierarchy. Do you still agree with this approach?	49
25	Which of the options do you prefer for Scunthorpe's Town Centre boundary and primary shopping frontages? Do you have any further options for consideration?	40
26	Some local authorities also identify secondary shopping frontages in close proximity to the primary frontage. Should we do the same and, if so, where?	29
27	Do you think that the town centre and district centre boundaries as shown in the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD are still appropriate or do you consider that they require amending? If so, how should they be changed?	37
28	Do you think it is important to safeguard and enhance local retail services such as local centres and village shops?	55
29	Which of the options do you think is the best approach for achieving biodiversity and geodiversity benefits within North Lincolnshire?	47
30	Which of the above options is most appropriate to protect North Lincolnshire's landscape? Or do you have any alternative options?	45
31	Which of the options would you support in delivering green and blue infrastructure or are there other options that you feel the council should consider?	50
32	Which of the options for Local Green Space do you support or should the council consider an alternative approach?	50
33	Are there any specific pieces of land that you feel should be considered as Local Green Space? Please complete the Call for Sites form	40
34	Should the Local Plan continue to protect areas of open amenity value (i.e., continue with the LC11 designation or similar)?	54
35	Which of these options should the Local Plan use to protect and enhance the built heritage of the area?	47
36	Should the Local Plan include a specific policy on soil and agricultural land quality needed to help control and manage development in areas that include the best and most versatile agricultural land or should national planning policy be relied upon?	53
37	Is a development management policy required to give consideration to all sources of pollution (i.e., soil, air and light pollution) and water quality in relation to new development proposals?	56

38	Is a policy needed to give consideration to the AQMAs?	43
39	What policy measures should the Local Plan use to ensure that development meets the challenge of climate change?	47
40	Which one of the four options do you consider the most appropriate for managing flood risk within North Lincolnshire?	55
41	Are there any alternative options that should also be considered?	33
42	How should the Plan ensure that flood risk is adequately managed and that new development both within and outside of the flood plain does not increase flood risk to new or existing properties and assets?	42
43	Which of the options do you support to address water efficiency and which standard should the policy address?	47
44	Which of the options do you consider the most appropriate for delivering renewable and low-carbon energy within North Lincolnshire?	49
45	Are there any alternative options that should also be considered?	39
46	Do you have any views on the supply and demand for mineral resources in North Lincolnshire that should be taken into account as part of preparing the Local Plan?	45
47	Do you have any views on how the most efficient and sustainable use of minerals resources can be secured through the Local Plan?	38
48	Do you have any comments on the approach that the Local Plan should take towards safeguarding mineral resources and infrastructure,	40
49	Which option for managing the impacts of mineral development and the restoration/aftercare of former mineral sites do you support?	39
50	Do you have any comments on current and future waste arising in North Lincolnshire, or can you provide any relevant evidence that would assist us in developing our understanding of waste in the area?	41
51	Do you have comments about how the Local Plan should seek to meet North Lincolnshire's waste management needs?	40
52	Which option for identifying sites for waste management sites or locations for waste management facilities do you support? Are any factors of particular importance within the context of North Lincolnshire?	40
53	Which option for managing the impacts of waste development do you support or should we continue to rely on national policy?	35
54	How should we aim to create healthy living environments and what features would contribute to and improve your living environment and health and wellbeing?	50
55	Should we look to limit the number of hot food takeaways in some locations where there is an over-concentration and/or they are close to our schools or does this unfairly prejudice commercial interests? Please give reasons for your response.	47
56	What do you think are the main healthcare requirements for the area?	45
57	Do you agree to continue with the current policy to safeguard existing public open space and playing pitches unless an oversupply is available, and identify new provision where deficiencies are identified?	53
58	How do you think the Local Plan should consider allotments?	49
59	How can the Local Plan ensure that adequate education infrastructure is provided to meet the needs of the local population?	35
60	Are there any other issues regarding our schools, education, communities and places which you think should be examined?	36
61	Would you support a policy that seeks to retain community facilities and support new community facilities in sustainable locations (including the provision of shared space) and that seeks to plan positively for the provision of local community facilities and services?	53
62	Which of the options (or a combination of both options) do you prefer to ensure that the infrastructure necessary to support growth across North Lincolnshire is delivered in a timely manner?	53
63	Are you aware of any specific infrastructure requirements (individual schemes or strategic requirements) that would support growth across North Lincolnshire?	43
64	What infrastructure types or projects should be prioritised where funding is limited?	40
65	Which option for sustainable transport do you support or are there any other options that you feel should be considered?	50

66	Do you have any comments about the approach the Local Plan should take towards developer contributions?	52
67	Do you have any views on the approach that the Local Plan should consider in terms of identifying appropriate policies for managing development, or are there other matters that you feel should be addressed by them?	50
68	Which option for applying development limits do you support or are there other options that you feel should be considered?	65

3.3 The Sustainability Appraisal Report attracted **18** comments from **4** respondents, whilst the Habitat Regulations Assessment received **13** comments from **3** respondents. These will be forward to JBA Consulting Ltd, who are undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment on behalf of the council, for consideration. These comments will be fed into subsequent Local Plan stages.

4 NEXT STEPS

4.1 All comments received and the issues raised will be given careful consideration, and where appropriate, inform the preparation of subsequent versions of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036).

4.2 The next stage in developing the new Local Plan is to prepare a Preferred Options version. This will be based on the emerging evidence base and consultation carried out to date. This version of the Local Plan will set out the council’s “preferred” spatial strategy for North Lincolnshire up to 2036 including identifying “preferred” sites and areas for new housing, jobs, retail, minerals, waste and infrastructure as well as areas for protection. It will also include new “preferred” policies to help determine planning applications.

4.3 The Preferred Options document, together with an accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Report and Habitat Regulations Assessment will be published to allow local people and others to have their say on its contents. The responses received on the Preferred Options documents together with the developing evidence base will help to shape the Pre-Submission Draft version of the emerging Local Plan. That version will also be published for a formal six week consultation on its soundness and legal compliance prior to its submission to the Government for independent examination. The timetable for the Local Plan can be found in the [Local Development Scheme](#), which is available to view on-line.

UNDERSTANDING THE SUMMARIES

- This document sets out the summaries of the responses received based on the each section of the Issues & Options consultation document. Each section contains a number of questions relating to the topic.
- The number of responses received for each question, and where appropriate each option, are set out in tables.
- Where respondents have provided additional comments to support the choices, these are summarised after the tables.
- However, it should be noted that not all respondents have provided further comments, where they have selected an option.

5. GENERAL COMMENTS

Introduction

- 5.1 One of the regular features of Local Plan consultations is that organisations or individuals submit general or overarching comments that may not necessarily be applicable to any particular elements, policies or proposals set out in the plan. These comments tend to provide further guidance or advice for the Local Plan or centre on the plan making or consultation process itself. In some cases, respondents wish to make it clear that they have no formal comments to make.

Consultation

- 5.2 The Issues & Options document did not include a particular question in relation to more general issues relating to the Local Plan.

Responses

- 5.3 9 respondents submitted general comments in relation to the Local Plan.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
General Comments	9	100
Total	9	100

Summary of Responses

- 5.4 The main points raised by the general comments submitted related to on-going/future involvement on the emerging Local Plan and the need to consider specific issues as the plan develops as well as the broader approach to growth. Some typographical and printing issues were also highlighted.
- 5.5 A number of respondents did not wish make comments on the Local Plan at the Issues & Options stage, primarily due to lack of locational or site specific details being available. However, they requested to be involved as more details of the plan's policies and proposals become available.
- 5.6 The compatibility of development on major hazard establishments and major accident hazard pipelines as well as gas and electricity transmission/distribution networks, and areas where military low flying activity may occur, it was felt should be considered at subsequent stages. Another matter to consider are the roles of Water Level Management Boards/Internal Drainage Boards and their various activities and byelaws when determining site allocations. The council was directed to a number of national planning policies and guidance documents relating to trees and woodlands. It was highlighted that woodlands can provide fuel and tree planting can assist in reducing flood risk and improving river environments.
- 5.7 One respondent considered that the Local Plan should include a policy to protect, enhance and expand Public Rights of Ways (PROWs) and access, including National Trails, in line with national policy. Improved public access it was stated contributes to health and well-being, reducing CO2 emissions, access to nature and the countryside, and encourage tourism. The PROW network will be a key element of a future Green Infrastructure Strategy and may contribute to the creation of an English Coastal Path.
- 5.8 It was also suggested that Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) are used to assess the impacts of development proposals on nationally and internationally designated sites for nature conservations (SSSIs, SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites).
- 5.9 One respondent provided a broad overview of what they felt that the Local Plan should seek to achieve, particularly in relation to rural areas and villages. It was felt that these areas should not be over-developed in order to maintain their attractiveness and character, and that where brownfield sites exist they should be considered before greenfield ones, whilst existing development limits be respected. The issue of flexibility and the need to monitor the plan was also questioned; as the potential for changing the plan over its lifetime would reduce long-term certainty.

6. NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE – FACTS & FIGURES

Introduction

- 6.1 The North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036) and the strategy for meeting the council’s ambitions must be based on a good understanding of where North Lincolnshire is today and its characteristics. It also needs to consider the issues and challenges it faces alongside the opportunities it offers. The North Lincolnshire – Facts & Figures section of the Local Plan: Issues & Options document sought to do this.
- 6.2 The information set out in this section of the consultation document was based on some of the early evidence gathered to support the Local Plan as well as statistical information provided by the council’s data observatory. This online resource provides the local authority, partner agencies and communities across North Lincolnshire easy access to data on population, the economy, community safety, health and education.

Consultation

- 6.3 The Issues & Options document contained a single “Yes/No” question about the contents of the North Lincolnshire – Facts & Figures section.

1. Do you think the range of facts and figures about North Lincolnshire today is adequate?

Responses

- 6.4 **86** responses were received in respect of this question. **60** respondents considered that the facts and figures about North Lincolnshire set out in this section of the document appropriate, whilst **25** did not. **1** respondent did not state a particular preference, but still provided additional comments. Of those who responded, **35** provided additional or further comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	60	70
No	25	29
No Option Selected	1	1
Total	86	100

Summary of Responses – Question 1

- 6.5 The more detailed responses received centred on the information provided. Several respondents supported the contents, whilst others felt that there should be more information provided about a range of subject areas or the consultation process itself. These subject areas included the economy, the environment and climate change, housing requirements and affordability, health and well-being, transport, cross-boundary interactions and settlement specific concerns as well as the overall evidence base. Other respondents sought greater clarification on a number of points.
- 6.6 A number of respondents considered that information provided was thorough, sufficient, and summarised North Lincolnshire adequately. It was suggested that based on the contents of the chapter that more homes and services would be needed sooner rather than later. Particular support was forthcoming for the inclusion of the facts relating to the historic environment and the references made to Transport for the North (TfN) as their proposals/strategy may have an impact on North Lincolnshire. It was noted that much of the projected needs set out in the document were based on trends, which can change.
- 6.7 The list of positive achievements that have taken place in recent years was welcomed, however it was felt that the plan and North Lincolnshire generally, should be looking at those issues where the area lags behind its neighbours/competitors and address them. Other respondents, whilst supporting this section of the document, highlighted that it contained a considerable amount of information that some residents may not be able find, or read all of it.
- 6.8 Of those respondents who did not support the contents of this section, several queried the sources of the information provided and the ease of finding them. Others felt that too much detail had been provided, and that some of the area’s inadequacies had not been sufficiently highlighted in order to identify areas for improvement, for example, the A15 between Broughton and Lincoln, which was felt, should be upgraded to a motorway.

- 6.9 In relation to the economy, concerns were expressed about the long-term future of the steelworks, which was seen as a major contributor to the prosperity of the area. It was suggested that tourism should have greater emphasis in the plan. It was recommended that, North Lincolnshire's industrial legacy and brownfield land affected by contamination could be better reflected within the emerging Local Plan. It was highlighted this will provide challenges and opportunities related to development and enhancement of the natural environment.
- 6.10 Some of the wording within the environment section of the "Facts & Figures", it was felt could be more positive, whilst it was suggested that the benefits of the natural environment should also be extended to health, well-being and the economy (natural capital) and referenced as such within the document. Another respondent sought clarification on the purpose of a RAMSAR site.
- 6.11 Climate change and its impacts on North Lincolnshire were felt to be given insufficient recognition. It was considered that the plan should include mitigation strategies to combat sea level rise resulting from a 1 degree change in global temperatures as well as measures that contribute to the avoidance of a 3 degree global temperature increase. The worst case scenario, it was felt would be the loss of much of the low land in North Lincolnshire, therefore the plan should acknowledge this and plan for it accordingly.
- 6.12 In relation to housing, comments received focussed primarily on the level of housing needed alongside its distribution and needs of various sections of the community. Affordability was also raised as a particular issue. One respondent considered that housing growth figures for the area were too high, whilst another queried whether there would be sufficient housing provision to support future economic growth.
- 6.13 Other respondents considered the section should include more information about the area's housing requirements, needs and affordability. This should have included estimates of future housing needs for each settlement as well as information on various sections of the population and their likely housing requirements. It was felt that this would provide an indication of the level of development needed for sustainable growth. It was noted that this section did not provide information about school and primary health care capacities. In addition, it was considered that there should be more detail on the split between urban and rural housing, house prices and affordability.
- 6.14 In relation to health and well-being, the information about health in general and life expectancy was appropriate. However, it was highlighted there was no information regarding disability and it was queried as to how North Lincolnshire compared with the national average in terms of physical disability and mental health. In addition, it was felt that issues with attracting and retaining GP's needed to be referenced. It was considered that stronger links should be identified between the health and wellbeing and the natural environment.
- 6.15 It was considered that the facts provided about public transport and accessibility, highlighted an issue for many people in the area, were viewed as being limited. The local bus and rail networks are considered poor and do not take account of current working, shopping and leisure patterns, meaning that there will be more cars using the road network, thus increasing traffic and pollution levels as well as creating the need for additional car parking provision. Specific references were made to transport provision and infrastructure in Kirton in Lindsey.
- 6.16 It was highlighted that the "Facts & Figures" did not mention the Stainforth & Keadby Canal which runs through North Lincolnshire, and that this should be corrected in subsequent editions of the plan. As part of the developing the Local Plan, it was stated that a policy framework should be developed to support canals and rivers and recognise their value of being part of the strategic and local infrastructure network, improving the environment and economy, carbon reduction and providing an opportunity for freight transport. The Stainforth & Keadby Canal is being promoted as a Priority Freight Route - a waterway capable of carrying enhanced levels of freight.
- 6.17 Although not specifically related to the "Fact & Figures" section of the document, it was highlighted that there are some clear linkages between North Lincolnshire and Hull, centred on the economic opportunities provided by the Humber Estuary, whilst the A15 Humber Bridge was noted as providing an important transport corridor between the both banks of the estuary. However, it was considered there was a relatively limited functional housing and economic market connection between both areas.
- 6.18 Another respondent felt that greater reference could be made to the social and economic benefits, as well as the environmental benefits, of the Humber Estuary and its tidal extent.
- 6.19 Clarifications on, and amendments to, the information provided about the South Humber Gateway were sought. Firstly, it was felt that there should be recognition that the South Humber Gateway straddles both North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire. Secondly, it was suggested that Associated British Ports (ABP) should be included in the major companies listed. Furthermore, it was highlighted that the Port of Immingham is the UK's largest port by tonnage, handling around 55 million tonnes.

- 6.20 Reference was made to infrastructure in Goxhill and Kirton in Lindsey. In relation to Goxhill, it was suggested that any information collected about local infrastructure in 2017 would be out of date. For example, it was stated that the village no longer has a post office and there was a possibility of there being no local pub. For Kirton in Lindsey, it was felt that there was insufficient recognition given or investment proposed in Issues & Options document in relation to the growth and enhancement of the town. The level of transport provision and the state of the road network in Kirton in Lindsey was also highlighted as being a barrier for local people to access employment, shopping education and services.
- 6.21 Several points were made regarding the evidence base being used to underpin the emerging Local Plan. In particular, it was felt that there were a number of gaps in the evidence base, which could potentially affect the plan's soundness. These gaps were considered to centre around housing land supply and housing delivery including the need to review and publish an updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), analysis of the role and function of settlements, and that a number evidence base reports specifically required in National Guidance have not been produced or are significantly out of date. One example highlighted town centre health checks and landscape assessment.
- 6.22 A number of responses centred on the Issues & Options consultation process. These centred on the availability of the Issues & Options document, the amount of material that needed to be read and the fact that no particular plans (maps) were available to view. The question itself was also queried, as it was felt that it did not add value to the overall consultation process. It was suggested that alternatives should have been asked relating to local people's views on previous development and whether any direct benefits had occurred via previous investment.

7. A SPATIAL VISION & OBJECTIVES FOR NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Introduction

- 7.1 At the heart of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036) are the spatial vision and objectives. Their role is to provide the direction for the Local Plan and a framework for its policies and proposals. The vision is a clear statement of what North Lincolnshire will be like at the end of Local Plan period in 2036. Both the vision and objectives should be distinct to North Lincolnshire and reflect the area's circumstances alongside the key issues and challenges facing the area. They should also have the support of the community. They can be aspirational, but must also be realistic and deliverable.
- 7.2 The emerging vision and objectives were identified by assessing a range of strategies produced by the council and other bodies alongside the views of the community during the initial consultation on the Local Plan (February to April 2017).
- 7.3 The draft vision sought to build on the council's broader ambitions, emerging evidence and national policy. It has sought to bring through those elements of existing vision that attracted support and consider them against the council's ambition and outcomes that North Lincolnshire is: safe; well; prosperous; and connected. The vision will be further developed as work on the Local Plan moves forward through its different stages and more certainty is gained about what, where, how and when new development will be delivered. Consultation on the Plan will also have an important role as will the emerging evidence base.
- 7.4 The draft spatial objectives (SOs) derive from the vision and focus on the key issues that the Local Plan needs to address. They will provide the broad direction for the spatial strategy and the detailed policies that will be included in the Plan. In a similar vein to the vision, these objectives develop as work on the Local Plan progresses.

Consultation

- 7.5 The Issues & Options document contained two "Yes/No" questions about the Spatial Vision and Objectives for the plan. In both questions, respondents had the opportunity to select and suggest an "Alternative Vision" or "Alternative Objectives".

2. Is this an appropriate spatial vision for North Lincolnshire or is there something missing or a more suitable alternative?

3. Do agree with spatial objectives? Can you suggest any alternatives; are there any missing?

Responses – Question 2

- 7.6 **91** respondents provided an answer to this question. **58** of these considered that the vision was appropriate, whilst **19** did not. **11** suggested that the plan should contain an alternative vision. **3** did not select an option but still provided comments. Of those who responded **54** provided additional or further comments to support their choice.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	58	64
No	19	21
Alternative Vision	11	12
No Option Selected	3	3
Total	91	100

Summary of Responses – Question 2

- 7.7 As mentioned above, the largest proportion of respondents considered the draft spatial vision, as well as the spatial objectives, to be appropriate and were broadly supportive of them.
- 7.8 The vision was felt to be pro-growth and positive in its intent as well as covering all relevant issues that affect North Lincolnshire's communities. It was highlighted that the vision should be carried through into the plan's policies and proposals. References to the links between housing and economic growth were particularly welcomed. A number of respondents provided detailed comments on the various different elements of the vision, for example, supporting their inclusion or suggesting additional issues that they felt it should address.

- 7.9 A number of the comments received, whilst broadly supporting the vision, sought to identify further issues that the vision, and the plan, should address. This included giving greater recognition to the needs of North Lincolnshire's rural communities, in particular the need to improve/support local services, maintain their character, address the impacts of increased travel to/from employment areas, and maintain quality of life for residents. It was suggested that this could be achieved by either having no development in villages or allowing some sensitive growth, and improving the local road network. Others thought that more detail was required on how local services are to be supported to develop to meet any growth in population. Another respondent considered that the vision should have more focus on the benefits and opportunities provided by Humber Estuary.
- 7.10 Several respondents welcomed the recognition given to supporting housing growth in sustainable locations, which will support the economy, create sustainable communities and meet the needs/aspirations of existing and future residents. References to the provision of affordable housing were welcomed. It was also felt that the role of smaller settlements in meeting housing needs should be emphasised, whilst the vision should place more emphasis on the need to "boost" housing supply through identifying appropriate sites.
- 7.11 There was support for those elements of the vision that seek to support and deliver economic growth. There was particular support for the references to the area's strategic location on the Humber Estuary, the South Humber Gateway ports and its international connections. As such, it was stated that the Plan should continue to support the development of the ports. Another respondent, whilst supporting the broad approach, felt that vision should be clear in its support for existing employment areas and growing existing business sectors or industries that contribute to the economy, alongside developing new ones.
- 7.12 The aim to protect and enhance North Lincolnshire's high quality natural environment, and the recognition given to the importance of the Humber Estuary and its internationally and nationally sites for nature conservation as well as locally recognised sites was welcomed. There was also support for the recognition of the need to mitigate the impacts and effects of climate change. However, it was suggested that the wording regarding the impacts of renewable and low carbon energy development should include a reference to the need to consider impacts on protected habitats and wildlife.
- 7.13 Maintaining quality open spaces and protecting the countryside and green spaces from inappropriate development was viewed as being crucial to the heritage and popular appeal of North Lincolnshire, whilst housing growth should be encouraged in the more sustainable locations (Scunthorpe and Market Towns) where resources can be better spent on improving and updating facilities and infrastructure. This policy approach, it was felt, is likely to have maximum benefit for any money spent
- 7.14 The inclusion of references in the spatial vision regarding North Lincolnshire's role in producing an adequate supply of minerals and seeking their efficient use were welcomed. However, it was highlighted that due consideration should be given to planning for on-shore oil and gas development. The references in the vision to "*supporting and creating a network of attractive, thriving and vibrant sustainable communities*" was supported. Although, it was felt that there should specific reference in the vision to the importance of thriving villages. The role of Scunthorpe as a sub-regional centre and focus for housing, employment, leisure, services and connectivity was also supported.
- 7.15 A respondent queried how some of the matters raised in the vision would be addressed via the spatial objectives, and how realistically some of elements could be delivered over the plan period.
- 7.16 A number of respondents did not support the draft spatial vision and provided some further comments to support their reasoning. Many of the comments felt the vision should be clearer, address additional issues or include more detail. Some centred on the broader approach to the location of development. One respondent considered that the vision and the plan looks too far ahead. The evidence underpinning the aim to grow the visitor economy was questioned.
- 7.17 Those issues where greater clarity or detail was sought within the vision included:
- The vision being clearer in setting out what it is seeking to achieve. It was suggested that this could be done by reviewing the language and terminology used to ensure it has clearer meaning.
 - Balancing the need and the aspiration to support Scunthorpe as the area's main economic centre with the potential to have growth elsewhere.
 - Provision of greater support for the South Humber Gateway as the area's key economic hub, include the provision of appropriate infrastructure and housing.

- The approach to economic development, in particular how, and what type of, new jobs will be attracted to area to support housing and population.
 - The impact of changes in retail sector (in particular shop closures) and their impacts on traditional centres.
 - The implications of Brexit on future growth of the area.
 - How infrastructure will be provided to support growth and how public services such as health, education and social care will be supported to cope with future growth. It was considered that service providers should have greater involvement in preparing the Local Plan.
 - Consideration of emerging transport trends – i.e. moving away from the use of the private car towards more sustainable transport options.
- 7.18 With regard to the overall strategy, specific reference was made to development in the Scunthorpe area as well as Kirton in Lindsey. Too much emphasis, it was felt is being put on building houses on green sites in Scunthorpe that could impact on the quality of life for local residents. Land at Dartmouth Road being cited as a specific example. Generally, it was considered that the Lincolnshire Lakes, should meet all of the town's housing needs. It also felt that housing growth currently underway or planned to take place in Kirton in Lindsey would be detrimental to the existing community and services. Planned growth it was felt should be sustainable but proportional to each community
- 7.19 A number of respondents put forward alternative ideas for vision and the matters it should cover. Some considered the vision to be lacking sufficient detail and not focussed enough. It was suggested that it contain more details about the key drivers for change, and set out the issues that the plan will address. Another suggestion was that the vision should centre on a number of priority areas including transport infrastructure, educational infrastructure and housing, with the broader aim of attracting more people to live in North Lincolnshire. An opposing view was that the vision should cater more for the needs of local people, particularly in relation to housing needs
- 7.20 Others suggested there should an understanding within the vision about the need to preserve rural communities as places where people want to live or that future growth, in particular housing should only occur close to areas identified for commercial and industrial development. It was queried whether the reference to mineral extraction, would lead to the possibility of fracking.
- 7.21 Concerns were expressed about development and the impact it can have on local communities, in particular on community infrastructure. Specific reference was made to Kirton in Lindsey, and the level of housing development that is or will be taking place in the town. It was noted that whilst a brownfield site in the town offered an opportunity, there was concern that that further development would be occurring on greenfield sites, which would be contradictory to the emerging vision in the new Local Plan. Further comments were made regarding the level of transport links, medical, education, retail and other services. It was considered that development in a locality with limited facilities should not form part of the vision and that development should not take place in smaller towns or villages but instead should be centred on brownfield land and areas with accessible employment.
- 7.22 A respondent suggested that a number of additional issues that should be covered in the vision. These related to:
- enhancing wildlife and increasing green spaces;
 - promoting preventative health measures to improve population's health and well-being;
 - additional or new hospital provision to serve the area as well as increase care and respite facilities; and
 - Improving air quality through measures such as tree planting was put forward as a future issue to be covered.
- 7.23 Whilst it was felt that the vision was generally appropriate, it lacked in its links to the spatial distribution of new housing development and the wider development strategy. It was suggested that the existing vision in the Core Strategy had not been delivered, as such, an alternative vision and strategy should be adopted in the Plan.
- 7.24 The proposed alternative is to focus housing growth in areas where there is a need and where infrastructure is being developed to support strategic employment areas such as the South Humber Gateway. Doing so would, support jobs and provide homes close to those jobs, in attractive rural locations that can benefit from enhanced economic,

transport and community infrastructure. This would be in line with the current and draft versions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 7.25 Several respondents did not select any of the options provided, however sought to provide some broader comments. The need to consider the impact of the vision and the development strategy on the Strategic Road Network’s ability to operate efficiently and safely was highlighted. As such, there was support for the elements of the vision that support development in sustainable locations, which support opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes. There was also support for the aim within the vision to support growth through investment in the area’s infrastructure.
- 7.26 It was felt that the vision should refer to the potential for heritage-led regeneration to form part of the ‘strong, thriving, diverse economy’ that is envisaged. The council was referred to specific guidance and information that would assist in determining the approach to historic environment.
- 7.27 It was noted that the consultation document recognised the potential of the energy estuary and the transformational change that the renewables industry could bring to North Lincolnshire and the Humber. Having regard to this it was felt the vision and the plan should seek to address the barriers to delivering such a transformational change. In addition, the wider draft vision should refer specifically to the need for resource efficiency including water efficiency as well as waste and energy, as it will be an important factor in addressing growth needs in a changing climate.
- 7.28 The spatial portrait was considered to be comprehensive.

Responses – Question 3

- 7.29 **99** respondents provided an answer this question. **69** agreed with the proposed spatial objectives, whilst **20** did not. **7** felt that there should be alternative objectives, and **3** did not select any of three options, but still provided comments. **56** provided additional or further comments.

Table 7.2: Responses to Question 3: Spatial Objectives		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	69	70
No	20	20
Alternative Objective(s)	7	7
No option selected	3	3
Total	99	100

Summary of Responses – Question 3

- 7.30 As highlighted above, a number of respondents provided detailed comments that set out their reasons why they agreed or disagreed with the draft spatial objectives, or felt that alternative objectives should be included in the plan. Several did not select a particular response but provided general comments, mainly on the development strategy.
- 7.31 Those comments received in support of the spatial objectives took two forms. A number of respondents broadly agreed with or supported the proposed spatial objectives, considering them reasonable as well as aspirational. The objectives covered all issues and topic areas expected of a Local Plan and were in line with national policy. However, it was highlighted that they should be achievable and fully reflected in the Local Plan’s policies in order to deliver sustainable growth.
- 7.32 Several comments received, whilst supporting the spatial objectives, suggested a number of topics and issues that should be addressed. These include enhancing wildlife and increasing the amount of, and levels of protection for green spaces, encouraging the use of preventative health measures to improve well-being, providing further hospital and care facilities and improving air quality. Other considerations that should be covered include the need to allow appropriate development to support the vitality and viability of rural communities. One respondent noted a significant overlap between the wording of the Spatial Vision and Spatial Objectives. Due to this, it was recommended that the Spatial Vision be reduced in length.
- 7.33 **Spatial Objective 1: Supporting & Growing Our Economy** – a number of respondents support this objective, alongside the wider aspiration to deliver sustainable economic growth. There was specific support for references to

the importance of the area's location and its international connections provided by the South Humber Gateway, making it a key location for employment growth. However, it was suggested that the objective should have stronger focus on the renewables sector and the Humber Estuary.

- 7.34 It was felt that economic growth should be supported, in line with national policy, by providing a range of sites or allowing existing employment areas to grow, to meet the needs of various businesses, sectors and markets, including in rural areas.
- 7.35 **Spatial Objective 2: Supporting Sustainable Communities** – there was broad support for this objective. In particular, it was considered an appropriate scale of development should be permitted in rural settlements to support their ongoing vitality and viability and meet existing and future housing needs (including using smaller sites). This approach will also allow the character of rural settlements to be maintained, thus contributing to the high quality of life they offer. This approach was complementary to national policy. The growth strategy, it was stated, should recognise the contribution rural settlements could make in delivering a sustainable long-term strategy for development. As part of this, appropriate sites should be given due consideration in identifying suitable and realistic locations for housing development.
- 7.36 **Spatial Objective 3: Meeting Our Housing Need** – this objective also attracted support from a number of respondents. The delivery of housing to meet the needs of local communities and support the growth of the area's economy was viewed as an essential role for the Local Plan. However, it was suggested that the plan would need to take account changing demographics alongside the need to provide a choice housing on a range sites in various locations and the need to support rural communities. This could be done by adopting an inclusive approach to development that allows opportunities for towns and villages to contribute to meeting housing need.
- 7.37 It was highlighted that the strategy will need to take account of any changes to national policy and the introduction of the standardised methodology to establish housing needs. Housing growth in North Lincolnshire it was felt should be above the minimum and based on increased economic growth. A respondent proposed that the objective should refer to the delivery of housing on a range of sites.
- 7.38 **Spatial Objective 4: Delivering Infrastructure for Growth** – there was some support for this objective, particularly the element that seeks to facilitate the delivery of “a connected, well-maintained, efficient, safe and sustainable transport network including roads, public transport and walking and cycling routes”. However, a respondent stated that this objective should include other aspects of infrastructure provision that are essential to supporting wider growth aspirations. This includes infrastructure for managing flood risk and the provision of water supply and wastewater infrastructure. The importance of flood risk in North Lincolnshire and ensuring development will be safe without increasing risk elsewhere was raised as key issue for the plan to address. It was suggested that the Stainforth & Keadby Canal could contribute the provision of improved walking and cycling routes.
- 7.39 **Spatial Objective 5: Supporting Our Rural Areas and Countryside** - a number of respondents supported this objective. One respondent welcomed references to retaining and enhancing local facilities, infrastructure and services as part of supporting strong and thriving rural communities. Other respondents centred on the potential under this objective for appropriate levels of development to take place in rural settlements, where it will help to maintain their vitality and viability as well as meet local housing needs and retaining local character. It was also felt this would present an opportunity for smaller sites to contribute to the overall housing supply. In addition, it was considered to be in accordance with emerging national policy.
- 7.40 **Spatial Objective 6: Protection & Enhancing our Natural Built and Historic Environment** – a number of respondents welcomed the inclusion of this objective, alongside those relating to climate change, pollution, sustainable development and design. However, it was felt that there should be more emphasis on protecting and enhancing the setting of designated heritage assets as well as the assets themselves. References to enhancement of the natural environment were supported, however it was suggested that the objective should seek to extend or increase the natural environment. It was also considered that designated nature conservation areas should be enhanced and/or restored as well as protected as part of seeking to achieve net gains for nature.
- 7.41 In relation to the historic environment, its inclusion as part of the objective was welcomed. Although, it was suggested that it should be covered by a separate objective for clarity. It was considered that this objective could be applied to the role of the Stainforth & Keadby canal.
- 7.42 **Spatial Objective 7: Promoting High Quality Design** – the promotion of high quality design as an objective was welcomed, and would help the Local Plan to be in line with several elements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). However, it was suggested that any emerging policy should give due recognition to the role that

the natural environment (including biodiversity, landscape, green infrastructure, sustainable drainage, climate change adaptation and soils) can play in helping to create local distinctiveness and a sense of place. It was noted that the design and layout of new housing development has a role to play in providing opportunities for sustainable waste management.

- 7.43 **Spatial Objective 9: Supporting Our Quality of Life** – it was considered that this objective, alongside Spatial Objective 5, provides a framework for supporting and protecting cultural and community facilities in future Local Plan policies.
- 7.44 **Spatial Objective 11: Tackling Climate Change** – the comments received on this objective centred on the approach to flood risk management and managing the impacts of climate change. It was suggested that the objective should include a reference to flood risk being understood and addressed at a catchment scale, and the strategic approach to flooding should inform the strategic approach to growth in the Local Plan and vice versa, with alignment taking place between relevant strategies where appropriate. With regard to climate change, it was stated that a strategic approach should be taken to mitigating current and future impacts through the Local Plan.
- 7.45 **Spatial Objective 12: Efficient Use of Our Resources** - there was support for maximising opportunities for renewable energy. However, it was suggested that it would be difficult to plan spatially for renewable energy developments due to their distribution, therefore such an approach should not be pursued and proposals be assessed on their merit.
- 7.46 **Spatial Objective 13: Ensuring Minerals Supply** - several respondents welcomed this objective and its intention to ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals to meet national, regional and local needs in the most appropriate and sensitive way. However, a respondent questioned the use of the term “sensitive” as its meaning is not defined in the consultation or national guidance. There was also support for the inclusion in the emerging Local Plan of a chapter relating to minerals. It was highlighted that any water abstraction required for the purpose of dewatering mines, quarries or engineering excavations, now requires a water abstraction licence issued by the Environment Agency. The award of any licence will be dependent on whether water resources are available.
- 7.47 **Spatial Objective 14: Delivering Sustainable Waste Management** - this objective, together with the specific section on Sustainable Waste Management was welcomed, and considered a key issue for the emerging Local Plan to cover. It was noted that the design and layout of new housing development has a role to play in providing opportunities for sustainable waste management.
- 7.48 The reasons provided by respondents for disagreeing with the spatial objectives varied. Some sought greater clarity in order to aid interpretation, whilst others focussed specific spatial objectives and the Plan’s strategic aims, priorities and overall spatial approach.
- 7.49 It was suggested that the objectives themselves, whilst being aspirational and commendable, should provide greater clarity on the expected outcomes and how they relate to the overall development strategy. In particular, it was queried how they relate to a balanced approach to development. In addition, it was felt that the Local Plan should set out a clear understanding of the various pressures, weaknesses, opportunities and drivers for change facing North Lincolnshire, in order for an adequate assessment to be made of whether or not the objectives are the most appropriate for the future of the area. At present, they are viewed as repeating national policy.
- 7.50 Other issues highlighted were the need to consider the impact of Brexit and the need to provide sufficient housing for older people, particularly those who wish to downsize, now rather than in the future. There was also a concern that further growth may have an impact on Scunthorpe’s character, facilities and infrastructure.
- 7.51 In relation to the contents of the spatial objectives, a number of respondents suggested reducing their number and making amendments to cover additional matters. One respondent felt that there were too many spatial objectives with some merged with others deleted. Those spatial objectives that should be merged are – 5 with 10, 6 with 7, and 2 with 11, 12 & 14. Spatial Objectives 8 & 9 should be removed as they were felt to be irrelevant. Comments on specific objectives are outlined below.
- 7.52 **Spatial Objective 2** – the objective should include a reference to all towns and villages needing to grow to survive.
- 7.53 **Spatial Objective 3** – should include reference to meeting neighbouring areas housing needs.
- 7.54 **Spatial Objectives 4 & 5** – in relation to access, it was felt that Spatial Objective 4 should refer to both marine and terrestrial services and facilities, whilst Spatial Objective 5 should provide support to marine areas. Another respondent felt that an assumption was made regarding the availability of funding to support the principles set out in Spatial Objective 5.

- 7.55 **Spatial Objective 7** – it was suggested that in addition to landscapes and townscapes, seascape could also be mentioned as part of this objective, in line with the provisions of the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans, which may be considered within the local plan. Another respondent felt that good design was laudable aim, but felt that this had not occurred over recent years.
- 7.56 **Spatial Objectives 9 & 10** – there was some support for both objectives, however it was considered that a new objective on Climate Change should be included, and given top priority within the plan, with all other objectives and policies being predicated upon it. In particular, it was felt that the plan should focus on mitigating for and preventing sea level rises, resulting from increases in global temperatures.
- 7.57 **Spatial Objective 14** – it was queried as whether the objective related to waste produced in North Lincolnshire could be expanded to include the provision of facilities for managing waste generated by shipping vessels.
- 7.58 It was considered the Local Plan’s key strategic aims had not been clearly identified. To address this it was felt that greater distinction should be made between those spatial objectives that are key priorities, and therefore the most important, and those of lesser importance. Doing so will assist in providing a clear sense of direction for the plan. In relation to the overall development strategy, it was considered that the current approach (as defined in the Core Strategy) had not delivered as expected and contained a disconnect between the main focus for housing and employment growth.
- 7.59 The new plan, it was viewed, offered the opportunity for a new approach to be adopted. It would ensure that sufficient housing is located in appropriate locations close to both main employment areas – Scunthorpe and the South Humber Gateway (recognised in the emerging plan as a key location), whilst ensuring to a lesser extent that the economy of the Market Towns is supported. This would involve a more balanced approach of focussing less growth in Scunthorpe, although having enough to support its regeneration, and directing more housing and infrastructure to eastern parts of North Lincolnshire, close to the South Humber Gateway. It will also help to sustain rural communities. Suggested growth locations included Barton upon Humber, Barrow upon Humber, Ulceby and Barnetby-le-Wold. This approach it was felt should be a major strategic aim for the plan.
- 7.60 Three suggestions were put forward for new/alternative or revised spatial objectives. Another response related to the priority given to some objectives including in the Issues & Options document.
- 7.61 The first suggested new/alternative objective related to supporting local communities, especially rural communities, and making the planning process more transparent. In particular, it was felt that clarity should be provided as to who determines what local needs are. Spatial planning, it was felt should be clear in its objectives, balanced whilst maintaining the spirit of the overall development strategy.
- 7.62 The second proposed new/alternative objective related to wider national and regional context within which North Lincolnshire sits. The proposed title for the objective was *“Increasing our economic linkages with other parts of the Humber Region, South Yorkshire, and the wider North of England”*. The reasoning for this proposed objective was to ensure that the Local Plan considers the wider economic linkages between North Lincolnshire and its neighbours including Hull and East Riding to the north, South Yorkshire to the west and wider Northern Powerhouse agenda.
- 7.63 Particular reference was made to the links between Barton upon Humber and the north bank of the Humber for services, shopping, leisure, healthcare and transport. It was felt that more links should be developed to take advantage of the growth and regeneration in Hull with Barton upon Humber becoming a location for housing, businesses and tourism, leading to greater economic development around the estuary. A similar view was put forward for increased links with South Yorkshire. With regard to the Northern Powerhouse, it was considered that the area should be a key part of it to ensure local needs are not marginalised by larger areas. However, it was felt that less emphasis should be placed on the Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect as beyond links into Lincolnshire, the area’s links with the Midlands are fewer.
- 7.64 The third suggestion was for an objective that specifically acknowledges and considers the impact of population growth on key local services such as health and education, and how the plan will address this as well as how services will be procured.
- 7.65 In relation to the level of priority given to some of the objectives, it was recommended that Spatial Objective 2: Supporting Sustainable Communities and Spatial Objective 3: Meeting Our Housing Need be re-ordered within the emerging Local Plan with the latter being identified ahead of the former, and that current Spatial Objective 3 be improved. The reasoning for that meeting housing need represents a mechanism for supporting sustainable communities, and that there is a need to recognise the importance of addressing the under-delivery of housing. A further additional objective regarding the cleanliness of the natural and built environment to address issues such as fly tipping and improve the overall quality of the area.

- 7.66 Several respondents did not state whether they agreed or disagreed with the spatial objectives, nor did they seek to suggest any alternative objective, but submitted broader, general comments about the development strategy and how new growth should be accommodated.
- 7.67 Any extra housing, it was felt should only be allowed to take place where it supports employment growth. In addition, the locations of future housing and employment should have regard to existing uses include existing operational businesses and the need to ensure they operations are not put at risk by inappropriate development. Specific reference was made to the BOC plant in Scunthorpe.
- 7.68 In relation to Spatial Objective 5 covering rural areas and countryside, it was considered essential to ensure community needs are assessed through direct consultation with each community.

8. A SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Introduction

- 11.1 Creating and delivering sustainable development lies at the heart of the planning system. The Local Plan is essential in ensuring the proper planning of North Lincolnshire over the next 19 years. It will set out a clear and co-ordinated approach to the provision of new homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure alongside the need to protect the interests of our communities and the environment.
- 11.2 This means that, when deciding how much growth will take place and where it should be located, the Local Plan must take the issue of sustainability into account, i.e. by looking at and assessing the economic, environmental and social impacts of growth and development on the area. The Local Plan will identify those locations that are most appropriate to accommodate future growth and development and set this out in a clear spatial strategy. The plan also needs to set out what “sustainable development” means locally and how its principles are applied.
- 11.3 This will take account of the need to minimise impacts on the environment and make the best use of existing or planned infrastructure. It will also look to identify areas/locations that could be serviced by new infrastructure or services. This is what is meant by sustainable development that will benefit both existing and future communities in North Lincolnshire.

Consultation

- 11.4 The Issues & Options document contained three questions in relation to Sustainable Development, the Spatial Strategy and the Settlement Hierarchy. The first asked respondents whether they agreed/disagreed with approach to the presumption in favour of sustainable development, whilst the second asked respondents to consider and select one of five potential spatial options for growth, or suggest an alternative. The third sought views on the structure of the potential settlement hierarchy.

4. Do you agree or disagree with the approach set out in the Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development policy?

5. Consider the implications of each option. Which do you support and why:

- Option A: Scunthorpe & Market Towns
- Option B: Six Market Towns & Scunthorpe
- Option C: Six Market Towns, Scunthorpe & Larger Service Centres
- Option D: A New Settlement
- Option E: A Balanced Approach
- None of the above

6. Do you have any views on the structure of the potential settlement hierarchy that should be considered as part of the Local Plan?

Responses – Question 4

- 11.5 75 respondents provided an answer to this question. 55 agreed with the proposed approach to the presumption in favour of sustainable development, whilst 18 did not. 2 did not select either option, but provided comments. 32 provided additional or further comments in support of their choice.

Table 8.1: Responses to Question 4: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Agree	55	73
Disagree	18	24
No option selected	2	3
Total	75	100

Summary of Responses – Question 4

- 11.6 As mentioned above, the majority of respondents agree with the proposed approach to the presumption in favour of sustainable development (the presumption). It was considered to be in line with the principles set out in the

current and draft versions of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012 and 2018 respectively). The presumption is an essential part of plan making and decision-making, and needs to be clearly reflected in the policies of the Local Plan. Clarity regarding whether the same policy set out in the existing Housing & Employment Land Allocations DPD will be adopted as part of the new Local Plan was sought, whilst further clarification and explanation about the approach was needed.

- 11.7 There was recognition that development would be required in future years; however, it was felt that it must be the right type of development in the right locations. Particular support was expressed for ensuring development occurs in sustainable places as well as in locations that improve accessibility between homes, jobs and services using sustainable transport modes, which will reduce the need to travel by car. However in certain areas of North Lincolnshire it was felt that there were inequalities in terms of being able to access a choice of transport modes. Specific references were made to transport availability in Kirton in Lindsey.
- 11.8 There was support for the aspiration for the council and the development industry to work proactively together to ensure sustainable development takes place. Other respondents supported the proposed approach if adequate consultation takes place with local people and that their concerns are taken on board in making planning decisions.
- 11.9 More broadly, increased sustainability was felt to be essential to maintain the quality of life in the area for as long a period as possible. In relation to Epworth, support was forthcoming for existing settlement development limit, whilst another respondent provided comments about the procurement, funding and management of public services.
- 11.10 Of the comments received where respondents disagreeing with the proposed approach to the presumption in favour of sustainable development, a number suggested potential changes or clarifications, whilst others centred on the definition of sustainable, the broader development strategy as well as on a number of settlement specific issues.
- 11.11 It was highlighted that the proposed approach needs to reflect paragraph 118 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which states the presumption in favour does not apply when considering, planning or determining development that needs an appropriate assessment under the EU Birds or Habitats Directives. It was also suggested that the policy approach needed to give clarity as to whether proposals should comply with all policies in the Local Plan rather those that are most relevant. This issue was noted as covered in the draft NPPF and it is expected that the Local Plan will comply with its finalised version.
- 11.12 Several respondents raised the definition of what constitutes “sustainable”. A respondent felt that it should be expanded to include references to climate change and its impacts, whilst another raised concerns about how it is interpreted and the impacts that this may have. Decisions, it was felt should be made on more scientific basis. In respect of decision-making, it was felt that the key consideration should be the effect of development on communities, and that proposals should be refused if the community considers them to have an adverse impact.
- 11.13 In respect of the development strategy, it was felt that a less prescriptive approach should be adopted with greater freedom for development to occur more widely, particularly where there is demand. This was felt to better reflect government policy. Therefore, it was suggested there was no need to specify any options for the strategy. In addition, it was felt that protections for the natural and built environment should only extend to what is widely accepted. The level of support for a new settlement and the Lincolnshire Lakes was questioned. There were also concerns about the use of greenfield land, including playing fields for housing development and the impact of growth on existing amenities. The need to improve the road network was highlighted. In addition, it was felt that in determining locations for future housing and employment consideration should be given to existing uses such as existing operational businesses and the need to ensure they are not put at risk from inappropriate development. Specific reference was made to the BOC plant in Scunthorpe.
- 11.14 A number of comments submitted in response to this question related to specific settlements - Kirton in Lindsey, Goxhill and Scunthorpe.
- 11.15 In relation to Kirton in Lindsey, the comments centred on the quality of the town’s infrastructure, in particular healthcare facilities, education, tourism, housing and transport. The use of developer contributions was raised as a key issue. It was felt that there should be better access to healthcare facilities and that there is a need to work with healthcare providers to improve them. In addition, it was considered that there should be more opportunities to promote activity amongst local people e.g. walking and cycling. With regard to education facilities, recent investment was welcomed, however the level of funding provided to local schools was queried.
- 11.16 With regard to tourism, it was questioned if there were plans to improve cycleways, upgrade footpaths, and provide easier access to bridleways, whilst it was suggested the plan should make mention of the local bird sanctuary known

as Nebraska. The principle issues in relation to housing were the provision of affordable housing as part of larger developments, the need to include adequate parking as part of the design and layout of new development as well as within the town to meet the needs of local people and businesses. It was considered that the A15 should be upgraded to support links to the wider area and reduce the number of accidents, whilst it was suggested that the speed limit between Kirton in Lindsey and Scunthorpe should be reduced and that speed monitoring should be put in place.

11.17 It was also felt that Goxhill’s infrastructure could support further development, and that empty shops in Scunthorpe High Street could be re-used for housing.

Responses – Question 5

11.18 **100** respondents provided an answer to this question. **42** considered that Option E offered the most appropriate development strategy for the Local Plan. **16** respondents favoured Option A, whereas **12** respondents supported Option C. Options B and D were favoured by **8** respondents each. **7** felt that a different approach should be followed, whilst **7** did not select any of the options but provided comments. Of those who responded **68** provided additional or further comments setting out reasons for their choice.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Scunthorpe & Market Towns	16	16
Option B: Six Market Towns & Scunthorpe	8	8
Option C: Six Market Towns, Scunthorpe & Larger Service Centres	12	12
Option D: A New Settlement	8	8
Option E: A Balanced Approach	42	42
None of the above	7	7
No Option Selected	7	6
Total	100	100

Summary of Responses – Question 5

11.19 As highlighted above, there was some support for continuing with the existing spatial strategy of centring development in **Scunthorpe and the Market Towns (Option A)**.

11.20 Broadly, it was felt this option was the most clear and logical, with development and growth taking place in the most sustainable locations. These are locations with good access to employment opportunities and where appropriate infrastructure, services and facilities are available to support it. In addition, this may encourage greater use of sustainable transport modes and reduce the need to travel by private car. There was also a view that Option A would provide an opportunity to enhance the area by attracting more entrepreneurial businesses and start-ups, and support the growth of the leisure/tourism sector.

11.21 Based on this, several respondents felt that Scunthorpe should continue to be the focus for housing, employment and other services within the emerging Local Plan. This would support and enhance its sub-regional/regional role as an important service centre as well as assist in realising the council’s wider economic aspirations for the town.

11.22 In relation to the wider area, Option A would reduce pressure for growth in villages, which in turn would protect their rural character. The issue of increased commercial development and traffic levels in rural areas was highlighted as a concern. Other respondents supported the use of brownfield sites rather than greenfield sites, whilst the role of urban sites in delivering the Local Plan’s housing, employment and infrastructure requirements was highlighted.

11.23 There was some support for the Lincolnshire Lakes project, as it would help to realise part of the growth ambitions for the area, however re-assurance was sought regarding the timescales and its delivery. Although, some did not support the project.

11.24 With regard to Epworth, there was support for the continuation of the existing approach set out in the Core Strategy and Housing & Employment Land Allocations DPDs as part of the emerging Local Plan. Local infrastructure, services and environment would not be able to absorb further growth.

- 11.25 A number of respondents, whilst supporting Option A, did consider that there should be allowance made for some limited, targeted growth in the market towns and rural settlements to meet their needs and ensure their continued sustainability as well as support local services and facilities. Another respondent felt that this would address any land availability issues and help to protect Scunthorpe's green spaces.
- 11.26 In relation to the other options proposed, it was considered that Options B & C would result in a dispersed pattern of development across North Lincolnshire, which would be unsustainable and place pressure on existing infrastructure, whilst questions were raised about the delivery of a new settlement and the effect it may have on providing a choice of sites (Option D). Option E was vague and would potentially have similar impacts to Options B & C in relation to sustainability. It was suggested that these options would affect those assets that make the area special.
- 11.27 Those respondents who supported **Option B** felt that it would allow for a more even spread of development across the area, whilst maintaining a focus for growth on the main service centres (Market Towns & Scunthorpe) that have an appropriate range of facilities and services. It was suggested that having more development in the Market Towns, would reduce the pressure on Scunthorpe as well as smaller rural settlements. Generally, it was felt that the Market Towns should have a greater share of funding and support.
- 11.28 One respondent felt that some aspects of Option B were similar to those set out for Option E, and that if the latter is chosen any weaknesses should be addressed by having a proportionate amount of growth in each settlement, based on the number of existing dwellings, taking account of existing planning permissions and prioritising the use of previously developed land.
- 11.29 It was highlighted that the Local Plan needed to be ambitious and flexible to deal with future levels of demand, particular for housing development, meaning that it should allocate a wide range of sites of varying types and sizes to meet the requirements of differing sections of the market. **Option C** was considered the most appropriate strategy for fulfilling this, as it would move away from relying on a large single site, by making land available in the right places. This approach was viewed as being compliant with a number of elements of the National Planning Policy Framework on housing provision and supporting rural communities. This strategy would allow for proportionate growth in rural settlements, in line with their scale and character. Burton upon Stather and Messingham were viewed as locations where some growth could be accommodated.
- 11.30 Other respondents supported this option, as it would meet local housing need and create more sustainable communities, whilst there was a view that there were some areas in the North Lincolnshire that sustainable development could take place.
- 11.31 It was considered appropriate to locate new development where existing infrastructure is available or could be easily upgraded. The locations set out in the Option were felt to be those where main commercial development will take place, and as such, where housing growth should be allowed. Doing so, would reduce travel times between jobs and homes.
- 11.32 It was suggested there should be more development encouraged in the eastern portion of the area as the existing geographic spread of Scunthorpe and the Market Towns is primarily focussed on the west. Barnetby Top and Ulceby were viewed as suitable locations to address this.
- 11.33 Clarity was sought regarding the differences between Options C and E. With regard to the best option for housing growth, Option D: 754 dwellings per year was favoured by a respondent as it would meet the requirements of the NPPF in delivering the area's objectively assessed need, whilst allowing for an element of aspirational growth.
- 11.34 In relation to **Option D**, creating a new settlement would provide a clear display of the aspirations for North Lincolnshire, as opposed to seeking to fit growth into existing areas, in particular developing more housing on greenfield land. Furthermore, it would allow the creation of vibrant and exciting places supported by appropriate levels of infrastructure and services. It was also considered this was the best option as most of the Market Towns; with the exception of Brigg do not have sufficient infrastructure and facilities to accommodate further growth. As such, they would need investment before housing growth could occur. In addition, it was felt growth could impact on their historic character. Specific references were made to pressures on existing infrastructure provision in Winterton.
- 11.35 Another respondent supported this option, provided any transport issues arising from the development of a new settlement were addressed. In relation to Scunthorpe, there were concerns that its garden town character had been eroded by new development in recent years.

- 11.36 A new settlement was viewed as being an opportunity to relieve development pressures in the areas' villages. There were concerns that building more houses in villages will have an impact on their fabric and identity. It was suggested that the only form of housing development allowed in villages should be bungalows to allow local people to downsize and carry on living in their community. In addition, it would free up houses for those who wish to move to a village.
- 11.37 A respondent supported the hybrid option using Options D & E, to provide a new settlement whilst allowing for a form of the balanced approach to growth. With this mind, it was proposed that a Garden Village should be developed adjacent to Humberside Airport. Doing so would assist in delivering a large element of the area's housing and employment requirements in a well planned manner, supported by appropriate infrastructure provision. The NPPF, it was stated, supports the principle of Garden Villages as a means housing provision. It was also felt that the Local Plan should be flexible enough to allow for proportionate amounts growth in smaller settlements, in line with their scale and character to support their sustainability, as part of the proposed hybrid option.
- 11.38 **Option E:** A Balanced Approach was the spatial strategy option favoured by the majority of respondents.
- 11.39 A number of respondents considered this option to be the most a sustainable, suitable and appropriate development strategy for North Lincolnshire, as well as the fairest and most positive approach. It was felt that it would ensure that development still takes place in larger settlements, whilst allowing for an appropriate amount of growth in smaller settlements, leading to a greater number and variety of sites to come forward across the area, in particular to meet local housing needs and increase housing supply.
- 11.40 As mentioned above, a number of respondents considered that Option E provided the best approach to meeting North Lincolnshire's housing needs and boosting housing supply (in line with spatial objective 3) as well as increasing delivery rates to support economic growth. In particular, it was felt that it would lead to a more even spread of housing across the area and have the greatest potential for meeting housing needs in rural and smaller communities. In addition, it would allow for the provision of housing in areas that the market will be able to deliver them.
- 11.41 This option was also considered to provide an opportunity to allocate or identify sites of varying sizes, especially small or medium sized sites that meet the requirements of the various segments of the housing market and emerging national policy on the use of smaller sites. Smaller developments were viewed as being able to better fit in with their surroundings. Other highlighted benefits included more opportunities to deliver affordable housing or more freedom for self/custom building housing and provide enough housing to meet the needs of older people.
- 11.42 Having a balanced approach to development, it was suggested, would help to support, enhance and potentially increase investment in existing local services, infrastructure and facilities, especially in rural areas and villages. Several respondents felt that smaller communities required an appropriate of level of growth to maintain their vitality and viability and meet local needs. Doing so, would meet emerging Spatial Objective 5 and current/emerging national policy.
- 11.43 It was recognised that if a balanced approach to housing growth is adopted, then the economic policies of the emerging Local Plan should also be balanced. There was support for strengthening job creation in rural communities, whilst another respondent suggested that housing should be closely aligned with the area's main employment opportunities. The example of having additional housing development in the eastern portion of North Lincolnshire close to the South Humber Gateway was cited.
- 11.44 One of the other reasons given for supporting this option by several respondents was that the existing development strategy established in the Core Strategy DPD had not been delivered to the extent expected. In particular, it was viewed that it had been restrictive with too much concentration of growth in Scunthorpe and the Market Towns, and only limited growth in rural settlements. It was felt to be an out dated approach and would not allow sufficient housing to be delivered. Therefore, as alternative, more flexibility was considered necessary.
- 11.45 Two respondents raised a number of queries regarding Option E. The first related to the wording used to describe the strengths and weakness of each option in the consultation document. It was felt that there were not appropriately presented and put too much emphasis on restrictions. The second point related to evidence supporting the options. Clarity was sought on the implications of each option, including Option E, in terms of which settlements had been selected for growth and the impacts on infrastructure.
- 11.46 Respondents had the opportunity to put forward **alternative approaches to the strategy options** outlined in the consultation. Four alternative options were suggested. These were increased growth in Barton upon Humber, focussing growth in Scunthorpe, linking housing development to economic growth at the South Humber Gateway; and combination of Options A & B (see below).

- 11.47 **Further Growth in Barton upon Humber** – it was considered that irrespective of the chosen strategy, there should be significant but sustainable growth in Barton upon Humber. This would support more facilities, services and employment opportunities for current and future residents. However, it was felt that growth should be accompanied by improvements to local infrastructure including roads, public transport, healthcare and education.
- 11.48 **Focus Growth on Scunthorpe** – this option was put forward as it was felt that Scunthorpe is in need of regeneration to ensure that it becomes a thriving town. It was highlighted that some of the town’s retail facilities have closed with residents looking to shop elsewhere. In order to address this, it was felt that more businesses should be encouraged to locate in the town centre and that more housing is developed to bring people back into the area.
- 11.49 **South Humber Gateway** – it was considered the existing vision and strategy of locating the majority of development in Scunthorpe and the Market Towns had had mixed success, and that housing delivery rates were not as expected. Therefore, it was felt that a new option for growth should be considered based on linking housing to employment growth at the South Humber Gateway, a combination of Option D (A New Settlement) and Option E (A Balanced Approach). Delivering jobs and investment was seen as essential for the future of the area, including making the most of the opportunities provided by the Humber Ports, which in turn could help to support the sustainability of the area’s settlements including rural communities. As part of a balanced approach this option would see growth in communities close to the South Humber Gateway,
- 11.50 This option was viewed as being more sustainable, balanced and deliverable, whilst enhancing the vitality and viability of local communities. Furthermore, it was felt to be consistent with current and emerging national policy as well as the broader sub-regional (Humber) aspirations in relation to economic growth and housing and the spatial vision of the emerging Local Plan.
- 11.51 **Compromise Between Options A & B** – another option suggested was a compromise between Options A & B with a focus on Scunthorpe and the Market Towns. The reasoning for this was that Option A is unlikely to deliver, whilst Option B would potentially increase pressure of the infrastructure and character of the Market Towns. Similarly, Option C could have an impact on the character and infrastructure of rural settlements and decrease the opportunities for development and regeneration in Scunthorpe. Options D & E were considered to be unsustainable and would result in adverse impacts on rural areas and encourage greater car usage.
- 11.52 A number of respondents did not select any of the options listed in the consultation document, but chose to provide comments in respect of the potential development strategy. These responses set out general views on housing provision, where development should occur or provided advice as to those matters that need to be considered when determining the strategy. There was also some comments on the wording of the options.
- 11.53 It was viewed that the Local Plan should seek to fully support the delivery of housing in the area, with the strategy, ensuring the development occurs in sustainable locations, and sufficient sites are provided to give enough sales outlets to meet requirements. The levels of development in each settlement should be informed by appropriate analysis of the deliverability and viability of the sites. The option of a new settlement was noted, and it was highlighted that this option may not deliver in the shorter term due to the lead times needed to secure appropriate infrastructure provision. It was suggested that priority should be given to bringing forward sites that are constraint free and have developer support to meet short-term supply requirements.
- 11.54 In relation to the Strategic Road Network (SRN), consideration should be given to the impact of the development strategy on its operation and capacity to support growth. As such, infrastructure capacity and the need for new or improved infrastructure should be a factor that influences the spatial strategy and the wider distribution of development. It was suggested that the majority of development should be directed to the most sustainable locations with good accessibility to jobs, services and amenities as well as whether there are more opportunities to use sustainable transport modes, such as walking, cycling and public transport.
- 11.55 Several matters that should be taken into account when determining the location of new development and choosing a strategy were highlighted. The first related to the need to give due consideration of the needs of existing, operational commercial business operations in order to ensure they are not impacted upon by adjacent development. Secondly, the impact of growth on the area’s historic environment should be considered as part of wider sustainability. The council was directed to several Historic England publications providing guidance on this subject.
- 11.56 Thirdly, it was noted that whichever option is chosen, flood risk and drainage would need to be considered in line with national policy. In particular, it was felt that any future development in the flood plain should be carefully addressed and relevant policies followed to ensure development is not at risk, does not increase risk to others and contributes to reduction of flood risk and climate change adaptation. Fourthly, it was highlighted that in determining

the location of new development, consideration should be given to the scale and timing of water and water recycling infrastructure required.

- 11.57 One respondent felt that the wording of the options was negative and did not give a clear understanding of their implications. This meant it would be difficult for respondents to make an informed choice. As such, it was questioned whether the plan would be sound if responses to this question were considered. It was felt that more details should be provided about capacity of settlements, environmental constraints and current/future infrastructure/service capacity. Further work on settlement profiling was recommended.
- 11.58 The options also did not reflect current and emerging lifestyle trends such as increased levels of home working and the growth of internet retailing. It was felt that growth in rural communities should be promoted positively e.g. that it could support services and deliver more affordable housing, rather than being viewed as something that should be resisted. Any spatial distribution, it was felt should not be based on a restrictive policy of urban concentration and more traditional methods such as a settlement hierarchy, but more focussed on the best fit for individual settlements. It was acknowledged that growth will still take place in urban areas and Market Towns, however it was suggested that a distribution policy should apportion percentage growth targets for settlements (based on their individual circumstances). This would also allow some flexibility for communities via neighbourhood plans to allow for growth to take place, if desired, as well as building greater flexibility into the Local Plan itself. The approach adopted in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan was considered a good example.

Responses – Question 6

- 11.59 **80** respondents provided an answer to this question. **52** had views on the potential settlement hierarchy, whilst **25** did not. **3** did not select one of the options provided, but submitted comments. Of those who responded **52** provided additional or further comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	52	65
No	25	31
No Option Selected	3	4
Total	80	100

Summary of Responses – Question 6

- 11.60 Most of the respondents to this question sought to give views about the settlement hierarchy, the Sustainable Settlement Survey as well as the broader development strategy and location of growth.
- 11.61 Several respondents were broadly supportive of the five-tier hierarchy put forward in the Sustainable Settlement Survey (2016). It was felt to be sensible, logical and of some merit as well as complimenting proposed spatial strategy Option E. It was suggested that the number of settlements identified in second tier should be expanded via the more Large Service Centres, as distinct from the Market Towns.
- 11.62 The contents of the Sustainable Settlement Survey (2016) are noted and the proposal to split “rural settlements” as defined in the Core Strategy into “larger rural settlements” and “smaller rural settlements” is welcomed in principle, as those settlements with facilities should be encouraged to grow.
- 11.63 A number of comments were received about the existing settlement hierarchy, established in the Core Strategy DPD (2011). It was considered to be inconsistent by some as similar settlements were placed in different tiers. A suggestion was put forward to address this by creating a new tier of Local Service Centres below the Market Towns and above Rural Settlements. This would allow for distinction between settlements with a reasonable amount of amenities and those with a greater number of services and facilities. Keadby and Althorpe, is was felt that this should be in this new tier.
- 11.64 There was also some support for the existing four-tier hierarchy, however it was recognised that a new five-tier hierarchy may be introduced, if evidence indicates this is appropriate. It was cautioned that this could conflict with spatial strategy options A to D, with only Option E allowing for a wider distribution of growth. It was felt that allowing development in rural areas would not undermine the need to direct growth in Scunthorpe to support its role, but would provide them with small-scale opportunities for housing and economic growth.

- 11.65 It was noted the final settlement hierarchy would be dependent upon the preferred growth option. However, it was felt those settlements with facilities are allowed to continue grow at a commensurate level, and as such occupy an appropriate place in the hierarchy, to support their viability.
- 11.66 The concept of using a settlement hierarchy to determine the location of growth, in particular housing, was supported as being a useful tool. However, it was queried how it will be used in relation to the level of housing that will take place and how it will be distributed. In relation to defining settlement development limits, it was felt they should be sensibly drawn and not be absolutes, in order to allow opportunities for growth.
- 11.67 The settlement hierarchy was felt to be a good benchmark, but felt to have a limited use as many of the indicators used define it may change. The use of a fixed hierarchy may not, it was felt suit all opportunities or requirements.
- 11.68 As an opposite point of view, it was considered there should be no settlement hierarchy as those defined previously had failed with some settlements growing rapidly to detriment of others, particularly those which share or have duplicate services. The example of Crowle and Ealand was highlighted.
- 11.69 In line with the use of the settlement hierarchy, the Sustainable Settlement Survey (2016) was a helpful tool. However, a number of respondents queried its scoring system used to define the proposed settlement hierarchy. This was particularly applied to those settlements which are categorised as Larger Rural Settlements. It was felt that the criteria-based scoring system was a blunt tool, and that the hierarchy should identify those settlements where growth could take place, particularly those close to major employment areas. Specific reference was made to Goxhill, Barrow upon Humber and Wootton.
- 11.70 A respondent considered that the previous settlement hierarchy and approach to locating development had not delivered as expected, particularly in relation to the Lincolnshire Lakes project. Therefore, it was felt that an alternative hierarchy should be developed. It was proposed that following completion of work on the updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) to assess the suitability of sites, a comparison should be drawn between the current hierarchy and the deliverability of sites. This, it was felt, would result in a hierarchy that considers the prospect of sites being developed, alongside centring growth in those locations with good services, or where they have the opportunity to be improved.
- 11.71 Several respondents provided a number of comments that related more to the development strategy rather than the settlement hierarchy. In determining where and how much development occurs, it was felt that effects on existing communities and the views of local people should be taken into account as well as whether or not there is a need for housing. Impacts on rural areas with limited or no infrastructure should also be considered.
- 11.72 There was recognition that all communities require growth to sustain them. Some support was expressed for the Lincolnshire Lakes project as well as having a balanced approach to the location of growth. It was suggested that the Market Towns should be able to grow in an appropriate manner to support their viability and ensure the delivery of affordable housing in rural areas, whilst it was felt that smaller settlements should retain their character, and that green spaces should not be developed. There should also be a degree of acknowledgement in the plan that limited growth will continue in rural settlements over its lifetime. An alternative approach of letting the market decide where development occurs was put forward. There was also a view that too much development in a Market Town could change it irrevocably.
- 11.73 Adopting a strategy that allows growth, particularly housing growth, in rural areas was considered to be in conformity with the NPPF (2012) as well as emerging Government policy in the Housing White Paper (2017) and Draft NPPF (2018). It is considered that this will support increased housing supply. The strategy should also recognise the role that small sites can play in delivering housing and allow for the allocation of such sites (for 10 or less dwellings) as well as growth in rural villages.
- 11.74 Based on this it was felt that any hierarchy should recognise that all settlements (small rural settlements and villages) have a role to play in delivering rural sustainable development, as such, it should not be too restrictive. Appleby was viewed as a settlement which could take development.
- 11.75 Other issues that were highlighted included ensuring development includes wide roads, enough parking and good sized gardens, as well as the need to take into account existing operational businesses in determining future allocations in order to ensure their ongoing use that is not put at risk from inappropriate development. In addition, it was considered that planning decisions should be made in local communities.
- 11.76 Several respondents provided comments on where specific settlements should be situated within a future hierarchy. In relation to Scunthorpe, its importance as a sub-regional town should be emphasised within the emerging Local

Plan, with it remaining as the focus for development due to its levels of service and infrastructure provision. It was also queried whether Bottesford would be considered as part of Scunthorpe in a future settlement hierarchy.

- 11.77 Barton upon Humber and Brigg it was felt should have their own status within any future hierarchy, distinct from the other Market Towns. This is due to their size and the role they play in the area, compared to other larger towns and service centres. Epworth is well served by amenities, but the level of infrastructure provision did not justify its position and score in the proposed hierarchy. Winterton needed to be revived as shops and facilities have been lost over recent years.
- 11.78 In relation to larger service centres, Hibaldstow and Goxhill, it was felt should fit into this category, whilst there was support for Ulceby's inclusion in this tier. A number of points regarding the Sustainable Settlement Survey's profile of Ulceby and its scoring were made.
- 11.79 Eastoft was also considered as a settlement that could accommodate further proportionate levels of growth due to the availability of key infrastructure. However, its classification in the settlement hierarchy and scoring in the Sustainable Settlement Survey was questioned, particularly when compared with the position of Wrawby, which had a similar score for availability of key services, but is placed in a different tier in the hierarchy, with the only difference being related to environmental constraints. It was suggested that the hierarchy should focus on access to services rather than being based around population size or environmental constraints. The Larger Rural Settlements and Smaller Rural Settlements tiers should be changed to Rural Centres (categorised by number of services as 3 or above and a ranking of 20 or above) and Rural Settlements (categorised by number of services of 2 or less and a ranking of less than 20)
- 11.80 A respondent proposed the following hierarchy - Scunthorpe then large service centres (Barton, Brigg, Crowle, Epworth, Kirton, Winterton, Barnetby, Haxey, Messingham) then larger rural settlements, then smaller rural settlements, then countryside.
- 11.81 One respondent felt that greater detail should be provided as part of the spatial options/settlement hierarchy about capacity of settlements, environmental constraints and current/future infrastructure and services. Further work on settlement profiling was recommended.
- 11.82 In addition, any spatial distribution should consider current and emerging lifestyles of such as increased levels of home working and the growth of internet retailing. It was felt that growth in rural communities should be promoted positively e.g. that it could support services and deliver more affordable housing, rather than being viewed as something that should be resisted.
- 11.83 Any spatial distribution, it was felt should not be based on a restrictive policy of urban concentration and more traditional methods such as a settlement hierarchy, but be more focussed on the best fit for individual settlements. It was acknowledged that growth will still take place in urban areas and Market Towns, however it was suggested that a distribution policy should apportion percentage growth targets for settlements (based on their individual circumstances). This would create some flexibility for communities wishing to determine their own levels of growth via neighbourhood plans, as well as more generally within the Local Plan itself.
- 11.84 Those who did select a particular option provided some more general comments and guidance. One respondent had no particular preference about the settlement hierarchy and were open to retaining the existing four-tier hierarchy or moving to a five-tier hierarchy. Another considered that the impact of growth on the area's historic environment should be taken into account as part of assessing sustainability. One queried the source of information on the 89 towns, villages and hamlets.

9. MEETING OUR HOUSING NEED

Introduction

- 9.1 One of the Local Plan's key roles is to meet all identified housing needs and to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, widen opportunities for home ownership and to create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. This includes meeting the needs of the various groups that have differing housing requirements.
- 9.2 In order to boost the supply of housing, local planning authorities need to use their evidence base to ensure that their plans identify and fully meet the Objectively Assessed Needs (OAN) for market and affordable housing in their housing market area. This needs to be consistent with the NPPF, including identifying key sites that are critical to the delivery of the housing strategy over the Plan period.
- 9.3 The Local Plan needs to provide sufficient homes in order to meet our local needs and to help support the creation of sustainable communities.

Consultation

- 9.4 The Issues & Options document contained **eleven questions** in relation to housing requirements, housing allocations, housing mix, density, options for older people, affordable housing, Gypsy & Traveller accommodation and self-build/custom build.
- 9.5 The first and second (Questions 7 & 8) asked respondents what the housing requirement for North Lincolnshire should be, whilst the third (Question 9) asked respondents about the approach for determining housing allocations. The fourth and fifth (Questions 10 & 11) focussed on the approaches for housing mix and density. The sixth, seventh and eighth questions (Questions 12 to 14) related to affordable housing requirements and provision with the ninth, tenth and eleventh (Questions 15 to 17) covered accommodation for older people, Gypsy & Traveller provision and self/custom build.

7. Which of the four housing options do you consider the most appropriate for North Lincolnshire up to 2036 and why:

- Option A: Baseline Population Growth – 365 homes per year
- Option B: Medium Economic Projection – 452 homes per year
- Option C: Longer Term Economic Growth – 583 homes per year
- Option D: Aspiration Economic Growth (Core Strategy) – 754 homes per year
- Alternative Figure

8. Do you think the Local Plan's annual housing figure should be higher or lower than identified within the four scenarios and why?

9. Which of the housing land allocation options do you think is appropriate for the Local Plan? Or should the council consider an alternative approach?

10. Which option do you think is the best approach for achieving a housing mix that suits the current and future population needs of North Lincolnshire? Or can you suggest an alternative?

11. Which housing density option do you support? Or you can suggest an alternative

12. Does the affordable housing need figure of 156 homes per year provide an accurate requirement for North Lincolnshire?

13. Do you agree that the SHMA identifies the appropriate housing tenure split, which is 31% for intermediate products and 69% for social products?

14. Which of the affordable housing options do you support? Are there any other options that you feel should be considered?

15. Which of the options for providing housing for older people do you support? Are there any other options that need to be considered?

16. Which of the options for providing Gypsy and Traveller accommodation do you support? Are there any other options that need consideration?

17. Which of the options for self-build and custom build do you support? Are there any other options that could be considered in the Local Plan

Responses – Question 7

9.6 **89** respondents provided an answer to this question. Options A (365 homes per year) & D (754 homes per year) were the most favoured, attracting support from **23** respondents each. Option B (452 homes per year) was chosen by 12 respondents, whilst **13** preferred Option C (583 homes per year). **10** felt that an alternative annual figure should be used, and **8** did not select an option, but provided comments. Of those who responded, **66** provided additional or further comments.

Table 9.1: Responses to Question 7 – Housing Numbers

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Baseline Population Growth – 365 homes per year	23	26
Option B: Medium Economic Projection – 452 homes per year	12	13
Option C: Longer Term Economic Growth – 583 homes per year	13	15
Option D: Aspiration Economic Growth (Core Strategy) – 754 homes per year	23	26
Alternative Figure	10	11
No Option Selected	8	9
Total	89	100

Summary of Responses – Question 7

- 9.7 A range of views were expressed on North Lincolnshire’s future housing requirements. There was a clear preference for either the lowest (Option A) or highest (Option D).
- 9.8 Several respondents viewed **Option A (365 homes per year)** as being a sensible baseline figure for future housing growth. It would also ensure that growth was not too large in scale and would take place at an appropriate pace. This would also result in less pressure on local infrastructure. Others suggested that Options B, C & D would result in too much growth. It was also felt that the Local Plan should provide flexibility to review housing growth targets if additional economic growth occurs, or circumstances change within the plan period. Others highlighted the need to ensure appropriate infrastructure is delivered to support housing growth for example GP Practices and schools.
- 9.9 Concerns about the scale of housing growth that could potentially take place and the need for it were raised. Some comments suggested the Local Plan was aiming for too much growth overall, and in Scunthorpe in particular. The plan’s timescale was felt to be looking too far ahead. It was also stated that employment growth had not accompanied existing housing growth. A respondent considered North Lincolnshire should continue to have a rural feel. The number of existing, unimplemented planning permissions, and their contribution to future supply was queried. Reference was made to potential development of green spaces.
- 9.10 Another respondent considered that Option A should be ruled out following the publication of a minimum requirement of 419 dwellings per year, as part of the Governments emerging standard methodology for Objectively Assessed Need. An additional reason to discount this option related to the fact that it is based on DCLG’s 2014 baseline population growth figures. These show a reduction on previously published population growth figures due to the economic downturn. In addition, the figure quoted does not taking into account any economic growth. Therefore, it was that a more positive housing growth figure should be taken forward in the Local Plan which will also help to assist economic growth.
- 9.11 A number of respondents viewed **Option B (452 homes per year)** as the most appropriate to meet the North Lincolnshire’s future housing requirements. It considered that the plan should seek to ensure that sufficient land is allocated to meet the area’s objectively assessed housing need (OAHN), and that based on the emerging standard methodology for OAHN should seek to deliver 452 dwellings per year. This would ensure that minimum growth requirements can be met and aligned with economic growth aspirations, whilst being sustainable, realistic, achievable and deliverable. The fact that North Lincolnshire is a self-contained housing market was acknowledged.
- 9.12 In addition, this option would allow housing to be brought forward at a speed that is commensurate with local needs, and in a way that ensures there is not too much pressure for development. However, it was felt that Brexit may affect future economic growth and the demand for housing.

- 9.13 Those who supported **Option C (583 homes per year)** considered it to be the most balanced of the four options. It was felt to be sufficiently ambitious to meet housing needs, whilst ensuring that the pace of growth is managed appropriately to allow essential supporting infrastructure to be provided to support it. It was also considered to be achievable with existing commitments/allocations being able to meet future requirements. Others suggested, this option places greater emphasis on meeting local housing needs, in line with national policy, and enabling a balanced and proportionate distribution across the area to take place. A proportionate approach would ensure the character of the villages could be protected. A respondent considered that the council adopt an ambitious and proactive approach to achieving employment growth whilst providing a range of homes.
- 9.14 As highlighted previously **Option D (754 homes per year)** was, alongside Option A, the most favoured option amongst respondents. There was a view that the Local Plan should be aspirational and as such, Option D should form the annual housing requirement for North Lincolnshire. A number of respondents considered that this option should be a minimum requirement, unless there was clear demonstrable evidence to the contrary. It would also significantly boost the supply of housing in line with national policy, and would assist in addressing past under-delivery. A respondent suggested adding an additional 10% to this requirement, to ensure that decision makers do not see it as a target, but a requirement with an opportunity to increase housing provision.
- 9.15 A number of respondents highlighted the need to link housing provision with the wider economic growth aspirations of the plan. This would reflect national policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). In particular, the area was viewed as having significant potential for economic growth around the ports, renewables and logistics sectors. Employment and economic growth, it was felt, should not be constrained by housing land supply. Accordingly, Option D would be the most appropriate to ensure the area's housing requirement aligns with the wider economic growth aspirations.
- 9.16 A general point was made regarding housing delivery targets. It was suggested that they should not be used as a cap to constrain the capacity of individual settlements. Having higher targets, it was felt would allow for more options for a range of sites to come forward for development and increase housing delivery, in line with Government aspirations as well as to address previous under-delivery.
- 9.17 One respondent commented on the delivery of the overall spatial strategy (as outlined in Question 5), favouring Option C as their preferred spatial strategy approach. However, they suggested Option D was the most appropriate approach for meeting the area's housing requirement and delivering the provisions of Spatial Strategy Option C. This strategy, it was felt, would also accord with the NPPF requirements for supporting sustainable development in rural areas and communities. Ensuring the vitality of the North Lincolnshires's rural communities was felt to be a key component to the success of the new Local Plan, especially in the light of the anticipated change in demographics.
- 9.18 It was noted that a number of smaller settlements in North Lincolnshire with services and facilities, such as Burton upon Stather and Messingham could help to deliver the area's housing requirements. In turn, development would help to support existing services and facilities in the longer term. A broader need to maximise housing supply by using the widest range of sites and locations was highlighted.
- 9.19 Option D, it was considered, would provide the greatest potential to meet the area's identified affordable housing needs – identified as 156 dwellings per annum. This would be approximately 20% of the annual housing requirement under this option. It was noted that the Development Plan requires a maximum of 20% affordable housing on sites above relevant thresholds, therefore this option would provide the greatest uplift towards meeting the objectively assessed need for affordable housing in full.
- 9.20 It was noted that the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) had not been made available alongside the Issues and Options consultation document. Therefore, it was difficult to comment on the options for future housing growth when the evidence base justifying the housing requirement could not be reviewed.
- 9.21 Several respondents acknowledged there was a shortage of housing nationally, in particular low cost housing. More locally, it was felt that sufficient housing should be provided to the needs of a growing, and increasingly older, population. Based on this, it was stated more retirement living, bungalows and accommodation for those with specific care needs need to be provided, whilst needs of smaller households should be considered. However, all new housing needed to be located in the correct places. The idea of a new settlement, like Lincolnshire Lakes, was suggested as a potential solution. Option D was as part of the solution to address existing housing shortages.
- 9.22 Respondents had the opportunity to put forward an **alternative figure** for the area's annual housing requirements. A suggested lower figure of 200 dwellings per year was put forward, but only if local infrastructure could cope with additional growth. Others considered that none of the options were appropriate. In particular, it was thought that even the scenario outlined in Option D would still lead to under-delivery of housing the area. In addition, it was felt that a level of growth may be too large in scale for many of the area's smaller communities.

- 9.23 Several did not suggest an alternative figure or comment on housing requirements but provided broad views on housing growth. It was suggested development should only take place on brownfield land, whilst it was queried whether sites that have planning permission would be developed. Population growth trends and their relationship to the proposed housing growth options were also questioned, particularly given the potential for economic growth in the area. Also, it was felt that more homes were need to address the national housing shortage.
- 9.24 No further comments were provided by those who considered that an alternative or **other option** should be adopted. Several respondents **did not select an option**, but still provided comments. These related to impacts on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and its operation, the emerging standard methodology for calculating OAHN, impacts on existing businesses, the historic environment, use of existing buildings and links between housing and economic growth.
- 9.25 In relation to the SRN, it was highlighted that whichever option for housing is selected, consideration should be given to any impacts on its efficient and safe operation, including whether any mitigation would be required. Infrastructure capacity was felt to be key consideration in influencing the choice of locations for housing growth. Several respondents highlighted the emerging standard approach to calculating OAHN that suggests a minimum requirement for 419 dwellings per year, should be taken into account in plan preparation. It was noted that this would rule out Option A, whilst the SHMA would need to be reviewed.
- 9.26 It was highlighted that in considering sites/locations for future housing allocations, the location and needs of existing operational businesses, particularly those that operated on 24 hour a day basis and may generate noise, should be addressed. Such businesses should be provided with adequate protection from inappropriate development adjacent to them which may impact on their continue operation. The historic environment was also considered to be a matter which should be taken into account in determining future housing sites. In addition the potential for empty dwellings and conversions of existing buildings to meet part of the housing was queried as was the link between housing provision to support economic growth, especially in the renewables sector.

Responses – Question 8

- 9.27 **60** respondents provided an answer to this question, outlining their views on whether North Lincolnshire’s annual housing requirement over the lifetime of the Local Plan should be higher or lower than those contained within the four options set out as part of question 7.

Table 9.2: Responses to Question 8 – Housing Numbers		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
-	60	-
Total	60	-

Summary of Responses – Question 8

- 9.28 The responses to this question included suggestions for a higher or lower figure, maintaining existing numbers, comments on the four options, need for a flexible approach and other issues to be addressed in the Local Plan.
- 9.29 Several respondents considered that, for a variety of reasons, the annual housing requirement should be **higher** than proposed in the four options outlined in Question 7. Increasing housing supply was viewed as being important in addressing the national housing shortage and homelessness as well as providing for the needs of smaller households. Any increase, it was felt should result in the provision of more starter homes to allow younger people to purchase their own homes. Having a higher requirement would also allow numbers to be reduced (if required), rather than not planning for enough housing, as well as covering any slippage in delivery. Other respondents suggested that housing requirements needed to be higher in order to cover for past under-delivery and to meet the demand generated by economic growth, particularly that arising from the South Humber Gateway. Generally, bringing more people to the area will boost the economy.
- 9.30 A number of the comments received considered that the annual housing requirement should be **lower** than proposed in the four options. Again, a variety of reasons were expressed to support this point of view. A respondent suggested that the Local Plan was seeking to provide too much housing growth, whilst other considered development rates should be lower. In addition, it was felt that existing infrastructure was under pressure and could not support more growth whilst there were not enough jobs available in the area. There was also a view a lower figure would be better for local communities and people. Housing density in the area, it was proposed, should be lowered.

- 9.31 Other respondents suggested that housing requirements should **remain at present levels** and therefore do not need to be increased or decreased. For example, it was felt that increased levels of housing may lead to unsuitable and unsustainable development taking place, potentially in flood plain areas. There was also a view that the housing requirement **should be more flexible** thus allowing the Local Plan to be adjusted over its lifetime to reflect demand at the national, regional and local levels, address issues with delivery and meet the needs of local people. In addition, it was felt that demand should not be under-estimated.
- 9.32 A number of comments related to the overall housing requirement and the four options proposed under Question 7. It was highlighted the Local Plan should at least seek to deliver the area’s Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for housing. The justification for including the lowest figure (365 homes per year) was questioned, particularly as the Government’s draft standard methodology for calculating OAN, proposed a requirement of 419 dwellings per year. As such, it was suggested that Option B: 452 dwellings per year should be the minimum target for the Local Plan.
- 9.33 A number considered that Option D: 754 dwellings per year should be favoured as it will be deliver the greatest amount of housing and support the area’s significant potential for economic growth. It was felt by some that it should be an absolute minimum. Furthermore, this option would boost affordable housing provision. A respondent also considered that Option C: 583 dwellings per year, may help to achieve this aim.
- 9.34 Several respondents considered that the housing requirement should be based on Option A (365 dwellings per year). It was felt to be the most prudent option as it is often difficult to predict housing demand. Too much housing development, it was felt may result in empty dwellings and impacts on local communities. However, it was highlighted that the emerging standard methodology ruled out Option A.
- 9.35 It was noted by some respondents that the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) had not been made publicly available alongside the consultation on the Issues and Options document. Therefore, it was difficult to comment on the options for future housing growth when the evidence base justifying the housing requirement could not be reviewed.
- 9.36 Other comments centred on the need for and location of new housing. There was a view that the amount of housing will depend on where it is needed and if there was demand for it. It should also reflect the availability of brownfield sites. Another comment proposed that development should only be allowed in areas of demand, with no planning permissions being granted where there is available housing stock. In addition, future development should ensure that it enhances North Lincolnshire and does not result in overdevelopment of the areas’ towns and villages or change its character. Existing allocations need to be reviewed and cross boundary housing market matters considered as part of the local plan.
- 9.37 Other matters that need to be considered are impacts of growth on the efficient and safe operation of the Strategic Road Network, including whether any mitigation would be required. Infrastructure capacity was felt to be key consideration in influencing the choice of locations for housing growth. It was highlighted that in considering sites/locations for future housing allocations, the location and needs of existing operational businesses, particularly those that operate on a 24 hour a day basis and may generate noise should be addressed. Such businesses should be provided with adequate protection from inappropriate development adjacent to them which may impact on their continued operation. The historic environment was also considered a matter that should be taken into account in determining future housing sites.

Responses – Question 9

- 9.38 **82** respondents provided an answer to this question. **33** respondents selected Option B as their preferred option, with Option A being favoured by **15**. **25** respondents considered that another option should be chosen, with 9 not selecting any of the options outlined, but still providing comments. **55** respondents provided additional or further comments.

Table 9.3: Responses to Question 9 – Existing Housing Allocations

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Seek to take forward existing unimplemented housing land allocations to meet the housing needs. A number of the housing allocations have developer interest and are likely to come forward for development. Some of the sites may take longer to deliver due to viability issues.	15	18
Option B: Seek to allocate alternative sites to meet the housing needs. Landowners, agents and developers have put forward land for development	33	40

through the Initial Regulation 18 Call for Sites consultation. The council is asking for any additional sites to be submitted for consideration as part of this consultation.		
Other Option	25	30
No Option Selected	9	11
Total	82	100

Summary of Responses – Question 9

- 9.39 A number of respondents considered that **Option A**, taking forward existing housing allocations was the most appropriate approach for the Local Plan. It was a general view that where sites have the benefit of planning permission they should be developed, particularly where infrastructure/services are in place to cope with further growth, and that additional sites should not be allocated or given planning permission until this takes place. It was suggested that developers should be encouraged to implement their planning permissions or lose them.
- 9.40 Several respondents felt that development should be concentrated on previously developed or brownfield land rather than using greenfield sites. Particular reference was made to reducing encroachment onto agricultural land. Doing so, would help to maintain the rural character of North Lincolnshire. In addition, this option would help to spread development across the area and not place pressure on services, facilities and infrastructure in the Scunthorpe area.
- 9.41 It was highlighted that in considering sites/locations for future housing allocations, the location and needs of existing operational businesses, particularly those that operated on a 24 hour a day basis and may generate noise should be addressed. Such businesses should be provided with adequate protection from inappropriate development adjacent to them, which may affect their future operation.
- 9.42 **Option B**, allocating alternative sites to meet housing needs, was the most favoured option. There was a general view that this option would have the greatest potential to boost housing supply in North Lincolnshire, as well as meeting existing and future housing requirements over the lifetime of the Local Plan. In addition, it would assist maintaining a five-year housing land supply, and allow for a degree of flexibility that can meet market demand and the provision of a choice of sites, as well as helping to support and sustain viable communities.
- 9.43 The existing approach was felt not to have resulted in the delivery of appropriate levels of housing and that continuing with it would perpetuate this. Existing sites, it was felt would have been developed already if they were suitable. Adopting Option B would provide an opportunity for the council to look afresh at its approach to housing development, particularly where it takes place. It would potentially allow for a diverse and balanced approach to allocations to be taken, as well as ensuring they reflect the emerging settlement hierarchy and growth strategy, especially if it includes more development in rural areas. Links were drawn between this option and spatial strategy Option E.
- 9.44 Existing allocations, it was felt, should be fully reviewed and assessed to examine the reasons for their non-delivery. This would help to determine whether they should be included in the emerging Local Plan. These existing sites must be assessed alongside other/additional sites submitted as part of the Call for Sites, using the same methodology, and should only be taken forward if they can be clearly be demonstrated to be viable and deliverable within a reasonable timeframe. Overall, it was suggested that only the most deliverable, achievable, suitable and sustainable sites should be allocated in the plan.
- 9.45 One respondent considered that there should be a greater relationship between the location of future housing and employment growth. Reference was made to the economic opportunities provided by the South Humber Gateway and the potential for providing housing nearby to support it.
- 9.46 A number of respondents stated that they had submitted various parcels of land across North Lincolnshire as part of the accompanying Call for Sites exercise. Reference was made to a number of existing sites (including contingency sites) in the Scunthorpe area with the suggestion that they be de-allocated as part of the process of preparing the emerging Local Plan. The role that small sites could play in future housing supply was also raised, in the light of the draft NPPF.
- 9.47 Other broader comments were also received in respect of the Local Plan's approach to housing including windfall development and location of growth. It was felt that an allowance should be made for windfall sites to come forward during the Plan period, and that development should include an element of affordable housing alongside market housing.

- 9.48 In terms of location, it was considered that growth should be directed away from viable agricultural land and flood risk areas. A number of the comments highlighted that the new plan was an opportunity to free up land in or around town centres for housing by moving any existing industries to industrial estates.
- 9.49 Adopting an alternative or **other option** was the choice of the second largest number of respondents. These ranged from a combination of both options to centring development on brownfield land and existing buildings, or developing a different way forward as neither option was suitable.
- 9.50 A number of respondents proposed that a combination or a compromise version of Options A & B should be taken forward in the Local Plan. This would result in all sites (existing and proposed) being reviewed and assessed in using the same methodology. Some existing sites may be retained (where it is viable to do so, and there is a prospect of them being delivered, potentially in the latter part of the plan period) (partially Option A) with new sites also being allocated (Option B). Furthermore, it would help achieve a flexible plan and would deliver its envisaged housing growth strategy as well as meet the area's Objectively Assessed Need.
- 9.51 Discussion, it was felt should take place with key stakeholders to assist in establishing the deliverability of sites, including levels of developer interest. This combined approach would help to ensure an adequate supply of housing is provided. It was also felt that those sites with planning permission should be developed at the same time as identifying alternatives.
- 9.52 Some respondents considered that priority be given to refurbishing existing properties, then encouraging development on brownfield land before greenfield sites are used. It was noted that nationally there are substantial areas of brownfield land that could be developed and that incentives should be offered to those willing to develop brownfield sites. This would help to safeguard agricultural land from encroachment and allow its use for growing crops.
- 9.53 Another respondent proposed that only used sites in appropriate areas should be developed and that there were already a large number of available sites in Scunthorpe and the Market Towns. A further suggestion involved the provision of better housing in town centres. One respondent questioned whether the Lincolnshire Lakes met the area's housing requirement over the next 20 years.
- 9.54 The council, it was considered should look at a different approach or process to identifying site allocations and housing land requirements. Any sites, it was proposed, should be identified objectively by an independent process or group. It would include community consultation before sites are finalised and developers are permitted to build. The existing approach is felt to have too many conflicting views and is too adversarial.
- 9.55 Others commented that the approach set out in the existing development plan should be maintained as both proposed options were not suitable. It was considered more appropriate to develop within existing settlement boundaries and use infilling, particularly in smaller settlements, providing that green spaces are protected. In addition, it would reflect the availability of existing infrastructure and services. Both of the proposed options were considered to have drawbacks. Option A, may not be deliverable due to viability of some sites, whilst Option B suggested larger scale developments occurring that would not be in keeping with the character of many of North Lincolnshire's communities. If this is the case, they should only be located on the edge of towns where there will be fewer impacts on the community and infrastructure is available.
- 9.56 There was also a view that neither option was appropriate, and that a fresh approach is needed. Option A was felt not have delivered the required level of housing as a number of existing allocations have not come forward. All sites needed to be reviewed, and understanding of the reasons for non-delivery examined, with those considered to be undeliverable de-allocated and new ones identified. Practical considerations should be taken into in allocating sites.
- 9.57 Another respondent felt the options for allocating housing sites (Options A & B) were confusing, therefore the key test for allocating a site should be whether the preferred sites can reasonably be assumed to be deliverable within the lifetime of the Local Plan. As such, it would be important to look at evidence gathered by the council as well as that provided by site promoters. In addition, it was suggested that a range and choice of sites should be allocated, with a wide range of factors being taken into account regarding their release for development. This may include sustainability, physical/environmental constraints in existing settlements, the local housing market, and infrastructure provision.
- 9.58 It was suggested that in the absence of settlement profiling or identification a level of growth particularly for Goxhill and Wrawby, a percentage growth target should be identified for each town and village. Should allocations be identified, it was stated that sites with developer support should be preferred, which in turn will increase delivery rates.

- 9.59 Several of those responding to this question **did not select an option**, but nonetheless provided comments on the approach the Local Plan should adopt to allocating housing sites, and the range of matters it should consider or incorporate within future policy. Again, it was highlighted that any site allocations must be deliverable and should also be based on evidence - either the local authority's or that provided by the promoter.
- 9.60 Similarly, it was noted that existing allocations are a key starting point and they should be reviewed with reasons for non-deliverability being clearly understood, if they are to remain within the new Local Plan. There was also a view that whichever approach is selected, it should allow for some flexibility. Furthermore, it was felt that existing unimplemented planning permissions should be taken into account as part of the decision-making process especially in rural areas as development may have detrimental impacts on communities.
- 9.61 References were made to supporting the use of previously developed land, and development on areas of open space and the wider community impacts it will have. It was also suggested demand should be reasonably simple to predict using demographic information, take up rates and turnover of housing stock information, as the area is a broadly self-contained housing market. Some support was expressed for self-build housing as part of smaller developments.
- 9.62 Other matters that should be taken into account in selecting site allocations are their impact on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and its operation, the historic environment and heritage assets and impacts on sites of nature conservation interest.

Responses – Question 10

- 9.63 **72** respondents provided an answer this question. Option A, continuing the existing policy approach was favoured by **20** respondents, whilst Option B, determining mix on a site by site basis was preferred by **26** respondents. **21** felt that an alternative or other option should be pursued. **5** did not select an option but provided comments on the subject. **44** respondents provided additional or further comments

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Continue with the current approach of ensuring all new housing developments provide a mixture of house types that reflect the findings of the North Lincolnshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2017 and any updates.	20	28
Option B: Ensure all new housing developments provide a mixture of housing types on a site-by-site basis using robust evidence which is different to the findings of the SHMA. If so, please state which evidence should be used.	26	36
Other Option	21	29
No Option Selected	5	7
Total	72	100

Summary of Responses – Question 10

- 9.64 The table above shows that a range of responses were received regarding the most appropriate policy option for determining housing mix as part of new developments. Alongside the comments related to the best approach, many focussed on the type of housing that should be provided in the area.
- 9.65 Several respondents considered that new housing developments should contain a mixture of housing as it will support the creation of sustainable and integrated communities (**Option A**). It was felt that the findings of the SHMA be used as the main piece of evidence and starting point for determining the housing mix. However, it was suggested that the mix should be appropriate to each settlement. In addition, it was proposed that more 1 and 2 bedroom dwellings should be provided as part of the overall housing stock in the area. Option A, it was stated was not being implemented through the existing system.
- 9.66 The location and needs of existing operational businesses, particularly those that operate on a 24 hour a day basis and may generate noise should be addressed when determining the location of future housing allocations. Such businesses should have adequate protection from inappropriate development adjacent to them, which may affect their continued operation.

- 9.67 The largest number of respondents supported **Option B**, determining housing mix on a site-by-site basis using a range of evidence. Adopting this approach offers greater flexibility and would ensure that other site-specific and settlement-specific factors alongside other local characteristics are taken into account in determining housing mix. These factors could include local housing needs, existing residential mix, and availability of services and facilities in the settlement as well as market demand. The SHMA would also remain a key element. This option may also deliver housing where people want to live. An example of local needs dictating the housing mix is that smaller, more affordable properties may be need a rural community to meet the needs of the younger population.
- 9.68 It was suggested that developers should be allowed to determine housing mix, as they were felt to have the best market knowledge, or be given the opportunity to show how they are meeting local needs. A number of respondents support this option, but felt that any evidence used regarding the mix of housing should give greater weight to the views of the local representatives in communities where the development is taking place. These representatives were felt to have a better understanding of the housing pressures facing their areas. Others suggested that housing mix should be based on local needs, and the overall size of new homes should not be reduced as all local people need to have a good space in which to live.
- 9.69 A number of respondents chose to put forward an alternative or **other option** for the Local Plan. Many of the comments centred on the type and design of housing that should be provided, whilst others proposed using a combination of options A & B or creating a more flexible approach. There was also a view that housing mix is a matter best left to the market.
- 9.70 Several respondents felt that priority should be given to providing smaller dwellings (including affordable homes) such as 2 bed starter homes or 1 or 2 bed flats to meet the needs of younger people or first time buyers, and attract them to North Lincolnshire. Others suggested there should be more accommodation for those seeking to downsize or to meet the needs of the ageing population such as bungalows. Another respondent suggested that priority is given to accommodation for those with disability, followed by town houses, then bungalows, then 3 semi-detached/detached homes and then larger homes (3 to 4 bedrooms). Existing developments it was felt have tended to include larger sized dwellings and in future only sites that include a range of dwelling types and size should receive planning permission. There was also a wish for more social housing.
- 9.71 However, a respondent took the opposite view that having a mix of housing on each site was not appropriate, as this may discourage prospective residents. It was felt that new development should be based on past design principles, where similar house types were constructed to complement one another.
- 9.72 There was some support for using a combination of options A & B in setting a policy of housing mix. This would use the SHMA as a starting point and allow local evidence to justify any alternative mix. It would also allow for some flexibility depending on demand. There was a view that too much housing was being proposed, and the plan would not achieve a balance between urban and green areas.
- 9.73 Other respondents proposed the use of a flexible approach to housing mix that has regard to demand and the needs of different areas or sites as well as viability. A workable policy, it was felt would help to create a housing market that is attractive to investors and aspirational enough to retain/attract working people and families. Another suggested mix should be determined at the community level through Neighbourhood Plans and locally supported planning applications, where they will reflect local needs and aspirations. Others considered that the policy options do not allow for market forces to be taken into account, as such it was felt a site by site approach, with limited restrictions by planning was best. Some respondents felt the decision should be left to the market.
- 9.74 One respondent stated both policy were options were too restrictive, and implied large-scale development would take place. It was felt that there should be equal emphasis on meeting housing needs from smaller or individual developments, where there is no need for a prescriptive approach to housing mix.
- 9.75 A number of respondents **did not select an option**, but still provided comments on this issue. It was recognised that there was a need for a mix of housing on sites across the area that meets local needs. As highlighted above, it was suggested that a flexible approach is needed to ensure that developments are viable, whilst there was a view that developers should meet the mix required by policy. The provision of more bungalows, sheltered housing and smaller homes should take place in order to free up larger homes for families.

Responses – Question 11

- 9.76 **68** respondents provided an answer this question. Option B was the most favoured option, being selected by **33** respondents, with Option C being preferred by **12** and Option A by **8**. **9** felt that an alternative or other option should be adopted, whilst **6** provided comments but did not select a preferred option. **34** provided additional or further comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Set the housing density based the on emerging evidence identified within North Lincolnshire Strategic Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA).	8	12
Option B: Determine housing density on a site-by-site basis through the Development Management process.	33	49
Option C: Set out specific density requirements for each allocated site within planning policy.	12	18
Other Option	9	13
No Option Selected	6	9
Total	68	100

Summary of Responses – Question 11

- 9.77 A range of comments were received on the proposed options for determining housing densities, alongside views on the design and layout of new housing developments, and other matters that should be taken into consideration in developing Local Plan policy.
- 9.78 **Option A** attracted the least amount of support. However, in support it was felt to be a more realistic option as it was based on the emerging Local Plan evidence base.
- 9.79 **Option B** was the most favoured of the proposed options. A number of respondents considered that housing density was a matter best dealt with on a site-by-site basis. Doing so, would be in line with national policy. This approach would allow for a degree for flexibility to be applied and for local circumstances and site constraints to taken into account. It was noted that North Lincolnshire has a range of different built environments, resulting in the character of each site varying significantly.
- 9.80 Adopting a generic or fixed housing density target would be meaningless and may undermine the potential of some sites or render them undeliverable. A broader development management policy seeking the efficient use of sites, balanced alongside other competing infrastructure interests was felt to be the most appropriate way forward. An example of where such policy could be used was in relation to smaller settlements where there was a desire to improve infrastructure (such as local green space) in conjunction with housing developments. In addition, applying this option would ensure that there would be no disproportionate development of sites particularly in rural areas.
- 9.81 Some respondents were of the view that housing density should be decreased in both urban and rural areas for a range of reasons. Firstly, densities of 35 to 45 dwellings per hectare in rural areas were felt to be unacceptable, although higher densities were seen as being acceptable in towns (but not 45 dwellings per hectare). Secondly, reducing housing densities would help to improve the health and well being of communities, by reducing conflicts with vehicles, making appropriate parking provision and creating opportunities for the provision of gardens. In addition, reducing densities alongside the provision of gardens and permeable parking will help to reduce flood risk. It was also suggested that densities could reflect or improve on existing properties within settlements.
- 9.82 A respondent highlighted the type of housing provided would make a difference to the density, whilst another noted the importance of the Strategic Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) as an evidence base document. There was some disagreement with Option B as it is not holistic enough. The availability of the SHMA was also queried.
- 9.83 **Option C** attracted a number of differing views. In support, it was considered a sensible option as it will allow existing services and infrastructure to be taken into account when determining appropriate density. It was also stated that rural settlements with insufficient infrastructure capacity would not be suitable to accommodate high-density development. This type of development, would place pressure on schools, roads and drainage and result in the character of these villages being lost. Having too rigid a density requirement is inappropriate as it results in an homogenised approach across the area. Accordingly, housing density on each site should be considered in its context and on its own merits. Another respondent suggested as many homes as possible should be built on a site within reason, with the local authority determining the final total.
- 9.84 Some respondents felt that the Local Plan should have considered an alternative or **other option** in relation to housing density. One alternative proposed was use a mixture of Options B & C, which identify a maximum housing

density, which could then be reduced based on site-specific circumstances. Other comments were related primarily to the matters that should be taken into account in setting housing densities

- 9.85 It was felt more consideration should be given to density of housing development in the emerging Local Plan. A view was expressed that housing densities should be reduced rather than increased, in order to reduce over-development. This, in turn, would allow homes to have adequate gardens and parking provision, and help to make the area an attractive place to live. Other respondents sought to ensure that housing densities reflect their surroundings and be in keeping with their locality. In villages, in particular, it was felt that housing should not be “crammed in” and that there should be controls over density in order avoid “town type” developments taking place.
- 9.86 As mentioned previously, local authorities, in line with national policy can set their own approach to housing density based on their local circumstances, and does not harm the wider objective of boosting housing supply. Amongst the matters that a local approach should take into account are, the character of the area; need to retain feature; amenity; site-specific characteristics; market aspirations and viability. In addition, any density would need to be considered in the light of other plan policies, such as open space provision, space standards and parking provision, all of which may influence the density of development that could take place on any given site.
- 9.87 Another respondent suggested that a policy should be used only as a sense check and guide rather than a target to be achieved. In addition, any policy approach will need to provide some clarity between the fact it is a tool for determining the capacity of site allocations, as well as a requirement to be assessed as part of making decisions on planning applications.
- 9.88 Taking an opposite view, it was felt that a minimum housing density should be the exception rather than the rule. In many cases, it was suggested that this was a commercial decision which will reflect economic pressures. However, maximum housing density was seen as a matter where some form of planning oversight was needed due to the potential impact on the built environment and quality of life for local people.
- 9.89 A number of respondents **did not select an option**, but choose to provide more broad comments about the approach to housing density and the matters to be taken into account in developing a policy approach. One respondent felt that none of the options proposed were suitable, whilst another suggested that density policies should not be too prescriptive, and remain flexible. This would allow Neighbourhood Plans and locally supported applications to deliver appropriate schemes at densities that reflect local circumstances. In urban areas, it was felt higher densities could result in them not having a balanced mix of housing tenures and dwelling sizes thus not supporting the delivery of mixed and balanced communities.
- 9.90 In relation to design, it was suggested that higher density development may affect traffic flows, and as such, any layouts need to contain sufficiently wide roads and off-road parking. It was noted that the final approach to housing density will need to reflect national policy including any changes that may emerge from the draft NPPF. The historic environment should also be taken into account.

Responses – Question 12

- 9.91 **54** respondents provided an answer to this question. **22** respondents considered the annual affordable housing requirement was correct, whilst **20** did not. **12** respondents chose not to select an option but still provided comments. **31** provided additional or further comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	22	41
No	20	37
No Option Selected	12	22
Total	54	100

Summary of Responses – Question 12

- 9.92 A mix of views were received regarding the level of affordable housing that should be provided in North Lincolnshire each year over the lifetime of the Local Plan. As can be seen in the table above, a similar number of respondents considered the identified figure to be correct and incorrect. A number did not state whether they agreed or not, but provided some comments about affordable housing provision.

- 9.93 Several respondents supported the figure of 156 affordable homes per year. This was provided that it was supported by a robust evidence base and reflected actual local needs. Others assumed that this was the most appropriate amount and did not seek to doubt the accuracy of the SHMA. It was highlighted that some local authorities had opted for variable affordable housing targets in order to ensure viability issues do not preclude housing coming forward.
- 9.94 It was suggested the figure of 156 dwellings affordable dwelling per year represented large increase from the recent affordable housing delivery figures – around 50% of the previous five-year average of 106. Based on this, it was expected that a similar percentage increase would be required on a site-by-site basis. There was also a view that the requirement should be increased to reflect real needs, particularly due to the costs facing first time buyers and households. Another reason for increasing the affordable housing figure was to address previous shortfalls in delivery.
- 9.95 More social rented housing needs to be provided to meet existing waiting lists and to ensure rents are kept low, under that of a mortgage.
- 9.96 A number of respondents queried the definition of “affordable”. Firstly, it was queried what affordable meant and to whom. Secondly, it was felt that the definition of affordable homes needs to reinforced in planning policy. Currently, £120,000 first time buyer homes are seen as being too expensive and that to address this, modern 1 and 2 bed properties should be constructed for sale at a more affordable price range, e.g. between £70,000 & £90,000.
- 9.97 There was a general view that homes of all sizes were needed in the area, and that younger people were unable to access affordable housing. Off-site provision, it was felt, may assist the delivery of housing in rural settlements. Another respondent felt that further housing growth may represent over-development in some areas, whilst others stated that the availability of jobs and infrastructure should be considered in deciding where it will take place.
- 9.98 Several respondents provided general comments on affordable housing provision. A number were uncertain about the affordable housing requirement, due to lack of knowledge of the issue and unavailability of evidence, in the form of an up to date SHMA. It was felt the council should have accurate information about those in need of affordable housing and this should form the basis for any housing numbers in a particular town or village.
- 9.99 Others highlighted that affordable housing provision is difficult to predict due to external factors affecting requirements. These factors include the provision/availability of local employment opportunities, as well as the state of the wider economy and interest rates. It was noted that these could change over the lifetime of the Local Plan.
- 9.100 There was support for the recognition that site and market conditions can vary between sites and in certain circumstances, particularly where abnormal costs or other circumstances apply, and that there may be viability issues on specific sites. It was noted that in order to deliver the proposed level of affordable housing, it was felt that a higher overall housing requirement would be needed in the Local Plan. In addition, it was stated that a target of more than 20% would be unviable.
- 9.101 It was highlighted that, whichever policy approach emerges it will need to be in line with the recently published revisions to NPPF, that seeks to require a minimum of 10% affordable housing provision on all major sites, and also for the council to hand down more local requirements to neighbourhood areas. A further respondent stated that the affordable housing figure was not accurate and that it was insufficient for meeting the needs of young people and the increasingly older population.

Responses – Question 13

- 9.102 **46** respondents provided an answer to this question. **25** respondents felt that the affordable housing tenure split reflect the area’s needs, whilst **10** did not. **11** respondents did not select an option, but still provide comments. **17** provided additional or further comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	25	54
No	10	22
No Option Selected	11	24
Total	46	100

Summary of Responses – Question 13

- 9.103 In a similar vein to the previous question on the affordable housing requirement, a range of views were put forward regarding the potential tenure of future provision. The table above shows that the largest number of respondents agreed that the proposed tenure split was the most appropriate.
- 9.104 The percentage tenure split was supported as it had already been identified in evidence. Although a respondent considered it should be allowed if supporting infrastructure is put in place to accommodate additional development. Another felt that the split should be a macro delivery figure, with allowances being made for other affordable housing products such as intermediate housing. Using this type of offer, it was stated could improve the viability of small developments in smaller settlements. In addition a 70/30 split appeared to be standard in other local authority areas. Another respondent felt that the tenure split should reflect the needs of each community.
- 9.105 Some respondents considered that too much affordable housing had been purchased for the buy to let sector, and that there should be restrictions placed on the number of properties that can be purchased in one ownership block, thus ensuring affordable housing remains affordable and available to local people.
- 9.106 The recognition of the need to deliver affordable housing as a priority within the emerging Local Plan was welcomed. However, it was noted that the level of affordable housing need (and as a percentage of total planned housing growth) will need to be reviewed once the emerging OAN has been updated in the context of the emerging draft national policy and standardised methodology. In addition, it was highlighted that, whichever policy approach emerges it will need to be in line with the recently published revision to NPPF, that seeks to require a minimum of 10% affordable housing provision on all major sites, and also for the council to hand down more local requirements.
- 9.107 There was support for the recognition that site and market conditions can vary between sites and in certain circumstances, particularly where abnormal costs or other circumstances apply and that there may be viability issues on specific sites. It was noted that in order to deliver the proposed level of affordable housing, it was felt that a higher overall housing requirement would be needed in the Local Plan. In addition, it was stated that a target of more than 20% would be unviable.
- 9.108 It was felt there was too much emphasis on integration within developments, which was more suitable in larger schemes such as the Lincolnshire Lakes, but not in other areas or part of smaller developments. This should be considered on an individual basis. A respondent queried the availability of the evidence base and the definition of a “intermediate” housing product. It was highlighted that the historic environment should be taken into account in the provision of housing, including affordable housing.

Responses – Question 14

- 9.109 **59** respondents provided an answer to this question. **20** respondents selected Option A as their preferred option for rural exception sites, whilst **22** favoured Option B. **13** chose an alternative or other option with **4** not selecting an option, although still providing comments. **27** provided additional or further comments.

Table 9.8: Responses to Question 14 – Rural Exception Sites		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Continue the current approach to delivering affordable housing through rural exception sites. This option would deliver 100% affordable housing on sites in and adjacent to rural settlements that would not normally be used for housing development.	20	34
Option B: Seek to provide affordable housing on rural exception sites and allow the inclusion of market housing to cross-subsidise affordable provision.	22	37
Other Option	13	22
No Option Selected	4	7
Total	59	100

Summary of Responses – Question 14

- 9.110 Again, a range of views were put forward as part of the comments received regarding the Local Plan’s approach to the provision of rural exception sites for affordable housing. The table above shows that a similar number of respondents were in favour of each option.

- 9.111 **Option A**, which sought to maintain the existing approach to rural exception sites received support from a number of respondents. It would ensure that 100% affordable housing is provided on sites within and adjacent to rural settlements where it is most often needed. However, it was acknowledged that cross-subsidy was in some cases required, but could result in a reduction in the level of affordable housing delivered. If another approach is adopted, a robust policy should be put in place to restrict it to exceptional circumstances based on independent assessment of the need for cross subsidy.
- 9.112 A broader comment regarding the location of exception sites was made, suggesting that development should take place within walking distance of existing built up areas and close to services. However, it was felt individuals who wish to build their own homes in rural areas should be permitted to do so. In addition, it was considered there should be more support for first time buyers and low income families.
- 9.113 The largest number of respondents supported **Option B**. This approach would help to boost the provision of market and affordable housing in North Lincolnshire. The use of cross-subsidy that allows a portion of market housing on rural exception sites was supported as a means of enabling the delivery and viability of affordable housing in rural areas. This was highlighted as being in line with current and emerging versions of the NPPF. In addition, it was felt that other ways need to be explored for delivering affordable housing, in the light of previous under-delivery and lack of central Government grants to Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). Without grants or the ability to use the cross-subsidy approach, it was felt that affordable housing on rural exception sites is unlikely to be delivered.
- 9.114 One respondent considered that the delivery of affordable housing was a matter for ongoing monitoring and the development management process. It was noted current levels of affordable housing delivery were below the identified requirement, and needed to be addressed. Using cross-subsidy was viewed as being a way to do so. In addition, the level of interest from RSLs needs to be considered, as lack of interest may have an impact on negotiation of section 106 agreements. In addition, care should be taken in using commuted payments.
- 9.115 This option was supported in relation to the use of redundant farm buildings with larger undeveloped curtilages. It was felt that a more flexible approach should be adopted to ensure development of such sites is viable. At present demand for converting farm buildings to dwellings was limited. One respondent felt that affordable housing should not just be delivered on exception sites, but also within larger developments.
- 9.116 Several respondents considered that the Local Plan should look to use a different approach or **other option** for rural exception sites. A number of comments questioned the concept of using rural exception sites to provide affordable housing, whilst others focussed on the location of affordable housing development (and housing more generally), the need to consider infrastructure and environmental impacts. A respondent suggested that more affordable housing was needed, whilst another felt that any requirement should be dependent on the needs of each community.
- 9.117 With regard to the use of rural exception sites, a number of respondents did not support either of the proposed options and disagreed with their use more generally. One respondent felt that they should not be used in any circumstances, unless there was no alternative, whilst another questioned why they were needed.
- 9.118 In rural areas, it was suggested that affordable housing should be included on existing infill sites, whilst it was questioned whether affordable housing was needed in rural areas. Therefore, the sustainability of providing further affordable housing was viewed as questionable, and therefore any proposals need to be examined on an individual basis. Both options, it was felt would have an impact on small rural communities.
- 9.119 There was a view that the provision of rural exception sites runs contrary to the objective of protecting the environment and ensuring that development reflects local characteristics. Therefore, it was questionable whether developing specific sites for affordable housing could contribute to the character of a village. It also felt that the plan implies that there is an intention to build in rural areas. Option B, it was suggested, should be reworded to include references to development only being permitted if it has no detrimental impacts on the size and characteristics of the settlement and does not contradict the plan's vision and objectives. A respondent felt that exception sites would spoil the look of the area and would detrimental to existing residents.
- 9.120 Several respondents felt that affordable housing should form part of housing developments, and not considered as a separate matter, as outlined in Option A. In addition, it was proposed that the scale of affordable housing provision in villages should be proportionate to the population.
- 9.121 Accessibility by public transport was a key issue in determining the location of affordable housing. It was suggested this might need to be provided, with funding set aside for this. A further suggestion was to locate affordable housing

in one place with good transport links. It was considered that housing, whether it is affordable or not, and population growth will have the same impacts on local infrastructure. Based on this, it was suggested that if an area is not suitable for market housing, it should not be considered suitable for affordable housing.

- 9.122 Several respondents **did not select an option**, but provided comments on this issue. It was felt that before affordable housing is provided in rural areas, infrastructure must be improved. There was also support for the recognition that site and market conditions can vary between sites and in certain circumstances, particularly where abnormal costs or other circumstances apply and that there may be viability issues on specific sites. It was noted that in order to deliver the proposed level of affordable housing, it was felt that a higher overall housing requirement would be needed in the Local Plan. In addition, it was stated that a target of more than 20% would be unviable.
- 9.123 A respondent suggested that the approach was outdated and predetermined the continued use of settlement development limits. Rural affordable housing, it was felt should be provided how and where local communities need it, whilst the preferences of Register Social Lands also needed to be taken into account. It was highlighted that the historic environment should be taken into account in the provision of housing, including affordable housing.

Responses – Question 15

- 9.124 **61** respondents provided an answer this question. Option A was preferred by **11** respondents, with Options B & D each being favoured by **10** respondents. Option C attracted the largest number of response, being preferred by **17** respondent. **8** considered that the Local Plan should adopt an alternative or other option, whilst 5 did not select an option, but still provided comments on this subject. **30** provided additional or further comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Allow developers to make their own decisions on house types and building standards.	11	18
Option B: Require developers to build a proportion of houses within housing schemes to the new optional building regulations standard aimed at making homes more accessible and adaptable.	10	16
Option C: Require developers to build bungalows, level access flats, multi-generational housing, sheltered housing or extra care housing as a proportion of all new housing developments.	17	28
Option D: Allocate specific sites for housing schemes for older people or those requiring extra care.	10	16
Other Option	8	13
No Option Selected	5	8
Total	61	100

Summary of Responses – Question 15

- 9.125 A range of responses were received regarding the most appropriate approach for the provision of housing for older people, and the merits of each of the potential options. There was a general acknowledgement of the area’s ageing population and the need to address this.
- 9.126 **Option A** attracted support as well as opposition. This approach, it was considered would allow for the provision of older people’s accommodation to take place in the right places according to market demand, without resulting in an over-provision. However, other respondents disagreed with this approach. It was felt developers would be unlikely to provide a product for which there is no market, thus delaying overall housing delivery in the area.
- 9.127 **Option B** was welcomed by some respondents. It was considered to be the best option to allow older people to stay in their own homes for longer as they could be adapted to meet their needs. However, it was felt that the relevant standards should not be optional. However, there was some disagreement with applying this option. It was felt that clear and robust evidence should be provided to demonstrate the need for housing to be designed to the optional building regulations standards. In addition, it was noted that this option may need to be used in conjunction with other options to deliver an appropriate mix of housing across the areas that meets all needs.
- 9.128 **Option C** was the most supported of the proposed options. It was stated that future housing developments should contain a mix of housing that will accommodate the needs of all sections of the community, including older people and younger people. Others suggested that integrating older people’s accommodation into developments and

existing communities was essential from a social point of view – reducing isolation and providing support. Specifically, it was suggested that more bungalows should be built especially in the Scunthorpe town centre. This area was highlighted as having good access to shops, cafes, cultural facilities, health care and transport, all of which enhance older people’s quality of life. A comment was made that development should be of a mixed density.

- 9.129 **Option D**, it was suggested, would allow specific needs to be catered for more efficiently and to make the provision of care and support, if required, easier. In terms of location, it was felt that development should take place in close proximity to existing facilities and amenities such as shops. Reference was made to the fact that older people’s accommodation, including extra care provision was a specialist market with its own design criteria. Including older people’s accommodation within market housing, it was felt, may be appropriate for those with low dependency needs. Extra care was considered a bespoke segment, dependent on a range factors that developers may not be able to, or wish to deliver. In opposition, it was felt that this Option should not be pursued as it would lead to the creation of “retirement villages”.
- 9.130 A number of the comments received supported the use of an alternative or **other option** to address this issue. The use of a mix of options was proposed. These included using options C & D or implementing a combination of Options A & D. Assessing need on a case by case basis was also suggested in order to reflect specific circumstances. Some respondents **did not select a particular option**, but still sought to provide comments. It was felt that most older people would wish to remain in their own home and/or community, generating a need for smaller homes like modern bungalows. Option A would not help to deliver this, whilst Option D may do so. There was another view that any policy should be flexible enough to meet specified needs at a community level, rather than imposing an area-wide approach.
- 9.131 There was support for providing homes to meet specialist needs; however, whichever policy approach is adopted, it needs to be suitably evidenced. This would particularly be the case if Option B was pursued. Other matters that should be taken into account were the historic environment and flood risk, particularly the location of any single storey or extra care facilities.

Responses – Question 16

- 9.132 **51** provided an answer to this question. Option A, allocating sites as part of residential development was favoured by **3** respondents, whilst Option B, allocating specific sites was preferred by **37** respondents. **6** considered that the Local Plan should adopt an alternative or other option, whilst **5** did not select an option, but still provided comments on this subject. **24** provided additional or further comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Seek to allocate sites as part of residential allocations.	3	6
Option B: Seek to allocate sites specifically for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.	37	73
Other Option	6	12
No Option Selected	5	10
Total	51	100

Summary of Responses – Question 16

- 9.133 **Option A** attracted very limited levels of support, but was thought to be realistic given potential objections to sites.
- 9.134 **Option B** was the preferred option of the majority of respondents. It was felt sites should not be located close to residential areas, and discussion should take place with Gypsy & Traveller community about their needs as well as with local communities (if sites are identified). In addition, it was noted that the requirements for sites should be based on a needs assessment. However, a number disagreed with the provision of sites through the Local Plan process.
- 9.135 Some respondents favoured an alternative or **other option**. As mentioned, above, discussion with the Gypsy & Traveller community about their preferred option should take place, whilst others considered that sites should not be located near existing residential areas. Some respondents proposed using a combination of Options A & B. Other comments were provided, where respondents **did not select an option**. It was felt that due consideration should be given to the best location for future sites, whilst matters such as the historic environment and flood risk should be

taken into account. It was highlighted that sites should be located outside flood plain areas. In respect of evidence, it was noted that the needs of boat dwellers should be considered as part of wider housing needs assessments.

Responses – Question 17

9.136 **48** respondents provided an answer this question. Option A, promoting the use of local authority land, was favoured by **10** respondents, with **22** selecting Option B, providing plots within larger developments. **13** considered that the Local Plan should adopted an alternative or other option, whilst **3** did not select an option, but still provided comments on this subject. **21** provided additional or further comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Promote local authority land available specifically for self-builders via the Self-build and Custom Build Register.	10	21
Option B: Provide specific serviced plots on larger residential schemes specifically for self-builders. This could potentially allow a better mix of housing styles on larger schemes.	22	46
Other Option	13	27
No Option Selected	3	6
Total	48	100

Summary of Responses – Question 17

- 9.137 A number of respondents supported **Option A**. It was considered that the local plan should seek to promote and/or identify individual plots for self/custom building, and that doing so may lead to more new homes being built. However, it was cautioned that any self/custom build development should be in keeping with its surroundings. More broadly, it was felt that local residents should be supportive of development, with the use of self-build leading to greater acceptance of new housing. **Option B** attracted the most support. It was considered the most sensible approach and would potentially allow for a greater choice of sites for self/custom building.
- 9.138 Others suggested that the Local Plan should adopt an alternative or **other option** towards self/custom building. Several respondents considered that a combination of both options should be used. These was a suggestion that self and custom build housing could be treated as windfall development or covered by the auspices of paragraph 55 of the NPPF relating to rural dwellings, whilst others felt that proposals should be considered on a site by site basis.
- 9.139 It was considered that Option A could be applied in urban areas, however several respondents felt that Option B was not appropriate, particularly as self and custom builders tended to focus on single or small numbers of plots rather than larger sites. To address this, development limits should be relaxed or a policy put in place that treats self-build plots as exception sites where they are adjacent to development limits. In addition, it considered that there should be fewer restrictions on the location of self-build development, with a greater degree of flexibility being adopted.
- 9.140 There was also a view that the process for self and custom building should be easier, with proposals on single plots permitted automatically unless where there are over-riding reasons not to do so. The idea of offering cheaper plots was put forward as means of stimulating this form of development. Furthermore, it was felt that all land suitable for self-build should be identified in the council’s Self Build and Custom Build Register.
- 9.141 Some respondents did not select an option, but provided comments. A future policy should be flexible and positively worded to support self and custom building, but underpinned by evidence that would contribute to overall housing supply.

10. DELIVERING JOBS & SUPPORTING OUR ECONOMY**Introduction**

- 10.1 Local Plans are required to proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver jobs that the country needs. As part of this, it must ensure that sufficient employment land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation.
- 10.2 It must also address other issues that are important to businesses such as affordable homes for workers, transport, and infrastructure, and will need to address how many new jobs need to be provided and how best existing and growing employment sectors can be supported. Barriers to investment should be addressed and priority areas identified for economic regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement.
- 10.3 The council places a key emphasis on driving economic vitality. It seeks to shape the area into a more prosperous place to live, work, visit and invest, and to be 'safer, greener and cleaner', by increasing economic growth and prosperity through higher employment and increased home ownership.
- 10.4 The plan will also seek to support the rural economy, develop the area's visitor economy and support town and district centres.

Consultation

- 10.5 The Issues & Options document contained eleven questions relating to employment land requirements and allocations, rural economy, visitor economy, and town and district centres.
- 10.6 The first four (Questions 18 to 21) asked respondents about employment land provision and its location, whilst the fifth and sixth (Questions 22 & 23) centred on the rural and visitor economies, respectively. The seventh to eleventh (Questions 24 to 28) asked about town and district centres including the retail hierarchy, shopping frontages, town/district centre boundaries and protection of local facilities and services. Some of the questions allowed respondents to select their preferred option or suggest alternatives, whilst others were "Yes/No" answers.

18. Do you agree that the existing strategy (Option A) should be retained or do you consider that an alternative growth strategy (Options B – D or a combination of these) should be adopted?

19. Do you agree with this approach (Option D) or do you advocate another approach or a combination of options? Is so where do you consider is suitable for further growth or new growth?

20. Should this approach of over-allocation be continued?

21. Do you have any comments on the viability and deliverability of the employment sites currently allocated within the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD which would prevent them from being allocated within the new Local Plan?

22. Which of the options (or a combination or another) do you prefer to ensure that rural businesses continue to grow and thrive in North Lincolnshire?

23. Which of the options (or a combination or another), ensure that the visitor economy continues to grow and thrive in North Lincolnshire?

24. There is support of the existing network of retail centres and the current retail hierarchy. Do you still agree with this approach?

25. Which of the options do you prefer for Scunthorpe's town centre boundary and primary shopping frontages? Do you have any further options for consideration?

26. Some local authorities also identify secondary shopping frontages in close proximity to the primary frontage. Should we do the same, if so, where?

27. Do you think that the town centre and district centre boundaries, as shown in the Housing & Employment Land Allocations DPD, as still appropriate or do you consider that they require amending? If so, how should they be changed?

28. Do you think it is important to safeguard and enhance local retail services such local centres and village shops?

Responses – Question 18

10.7 **66** respondents provided an answer to this question. **25** supported Option A, the retention of the existing allocated employment sites. **4** supported Option B that considers changing allocated sites that have not been developed and a further **4** highlighted under Option C that new sites should be allocated. **15** respondents supported Option D, which seeks to allocate new employment sites alongside main transport corridors. Of those who responded, **37** provided further or additional comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Retain all existing allocated employment sites as identified within the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD.	25	38
Option B: Consider changing the allocation of any sites (by site reduction or de-allocation) currently allocated for employment and have not been developed.	4	6
Option C: Allocate new sites for employment uses within North Lincolnshire.	4	6
Option D: Allocate new sites for employment uses within North Lincolnshire alongside the area's main transport corridors.	15	23
Other Option	11	17
No Option Selected	7	11
Total	66	100

Summary of Responses – Question 18

- 10.8 A number of respondents favoured **Option A** of retaining the existing employment site allocations from the Housing & Employment Land Allocations DPD. Some considered that it should be adopted alongside another option, with Option D being the most favoured combination.
- 10.9 Option A would support the growth of the South Humber Gateway as a major location for economic development. Its role as a key centre for the renewables and energy sectors, and in facilitating estuary related development was highlighted. Any employment growth in this area, it was felt should be supported by housing in close proximity. A proposal was put forward to allocate land at Killingholme Power Station for energy use, and for B1, B2 & B8 (port related uses) in the longer term, should the power station cease operation.
- 10.10 The impact of development at the South Humber Gateway on the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) will need to be addressed, alongside meeting the council's economic growth aspirations. Regardless of the option chosen, the Strategic Mitigation Plan should be implemented to ensure that any impacts are fully addressed. Amendments to this mitigation plan resulting from the selection of different sites may take some considerable time to bring forward thus delaying any implementation of employment allocations. Based on this, Option A should be selected and the allocations together with the strategic mitigation plan be carried forward into the emerging Local Plan.
- 10.11 The need to maintain existing employment site allocations in Barton upon Humber was also raised, as was the need to consider the protection of existing businesses/facilities from inappropriate development that may have an impact on their operations. As such, this should be taken into account when deciding future commercial and residential allocations.
- 10.12 In support of **Option B**, the benefits of taking advantage of North Lincolnshire's location on the Humber Estuary alongside focussing on Scunthorpe and other key strategic employment locations like Humberside Airport and Sandtoft Business Park were acknowledged. However, it was highlighted that much of the land and sites allocated in previous Local Plans has not been developed. As such, it was felt that a reappraisal of the area's employment sites should take place. It would be difficult to gain an understanding what is or is not deliverable until this was undertaken. Once this work is completed, it was suggested that a combination of all four options could be adopted in the emerging Local Plan.
- 10.13 With regard to **Option C**, it was felt that allocations should be reviewed as part of the Local Plan, with new sites being allocated to provide opportunities for further growth. It was acknowledged that retaining some existing sites had

merit; however, allowing other sites to come forward would help to ensure a diverse and balanced approach to site allocations is taken. It would possibly allow for allocations in rural areas.

- 10.14 As mentioned previously, **Option D**, which sought to locate new employment sites on major transport corridors, was also favoured by a number of respondents. Generally, it was felt that appropriate choices need to be made in selecting strategic employment sites. It was stated that if existing site allocations had been delivered, new or alternative sites should be identified and allocated. In areas outside of North Lincolnshire, it was noted that developers have favoured sites that are adjacent to key motorway junctions for ease of access and where they are close to established workforces.
- 10.15 In addition, it was felt that new allocations should be in sustainable locations, in close proximity to existing employment uses and along the area's main transport corridors including the M180 and M18. This approach, it was suggested, would support the continued allocation of the former Sandtoft Airfield site in the emerging Local Plan. A proposal was put forward to include additional land, known as the GEFCO site, to the east of the existing allocation at Sandtoft.
- 10.16 The development of the key strategic employment location at Humberside Airport was supported as it can take advantage of the existing infrastructure and transport links already in place. A new garden village on land adjacent to the airport was proposed. This would enable the provision of larger employment development supported by new housing, alongside local services and facilities to deliver a sustainable mix of uses.
- 10.17 A number of those submitting comments suggested that an alternative or **other option** should be taken in the Local Plan to provide the provision of employment land. Most proposed using a combination of all or some of options/approaches set out in the consultation document. These included a combination of Options A & D, combination of Options B, C & D and combination of Options B & D. Using a mixed approach would ensure that existing sites that are no longer suitable or viable will not be taken forward, whilst others that are would be retained, and that sites close to transport links being allocated. This approach was highlighted as being in line with national policy set out in the current and emerging versions of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 10.18 A respondent considered that it was important to retain and promote key sites around Scunthorpe and the South Humber Gateway sites whilst considering how sustainable employment opportunities could be provided in the vicinity of Market Towns and larger settlements. It was viewed as helpful if these opportunities were also located close to provide easy access to the area's main transport links. The employment allocations for Barton upon Humber and at Humberside Airport, it was felt should not be reduced in scale. Another respondent felt that any allocations should be driven by demand for sites along the South Humber Bank.
- 10.19 It was highlighted that additional land is needed to support the growth of the Elsham Industrial Estate. The land identified in the current plan was considered insufficient to meet future needs. This key site should continue to be safeguarding in the emerging Local Plan, alongside additional land allocations to support its expansion.
- 10.20 A respondent stated that none of the options identified were appropriate. Where sites were unlikely to come forward they should be reviewed with new or alternative ones being identified. Doing so, should increase choice and improve the likelihood of delivery. Another respondent considered that whichever option is selected, the Local Plan's policy framework should be robust but remain flexible to allow for economic growth opportunities to occur over the lifetime of the plan.
- 10.21 Several respondents **did not select any the options** set out in the consultation document, but nonetheless provided a range of comments. These focussed on impact on the Strategic Road Network (SRN), the South Humber Gateway, the historic environment and review of existing allocations.
- 10.22 There was support for focussing employment close to residential areas or where there are sustainable transport links. However, it was noted that whichever option is selected consideration should be given to the impacts that growth may have on the SRN, and the need for infrastructure improvements or mitigation measures. With regard to the South Humber Gateway, it was felt that the Local Plan should identify and allocate those areas of land that form part of the Port of Immingham complex, with policy supporting and encouraging port and port related development within this area. This would support a nationally and locally significant port facility and economic development opportunity. In addition, it was stated that any allocations in the South Humber Gateway area should take account of the provisions of the Strategic Mitigation Plan and ensure that impacts on the Humber Estuary SPA/SAC are fully considered. Adopting any of Options B, C and D it was considered result in the need for a review of the agreed strategic mitigation plan to take place.

10.23 It was further highlighted that in determining the most appropriate approach to employment land that sustainability should be taken into account, including the historic environment. It was suggested existing and historic allocations be reviewed with an opportunity to consider alternative uses.

Responses – Question 19

10.24 **62** respondents provided an answer to this question. **25** respondents supported Option D of locating employment growth towards the area’s main transport corridors whilst **10** disagreed with this approach. A further **18** selected further Options and **9** made no choice. Of those who responded, **40** provided further or additional comments

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	25	40
No	10	16
Other Option	18	29
No Option Selected	9	15
Total	62	100

Summary of Responses – Question 19

10.25 There was support from a number of respondents for the concept of locating employment sites around North Lincolnshire’s main transport corridors. Locating employment sites at strategic motorway junctions, particularly where they are close to a workforce, or near to transport corridors would, it was suggested, be favoured by commercial developers due to ease of access. As such, these sites were viewed as being more likely to come forward over the lifetime of the new Local Plan, alongside having wider sustainability benefits, including making use of existing infrastructure. However, it was suggested that it should only occur if there was a clear demand for it.

10.26 In addition, it was considered that development close to transport corridors in rural areas could help to support local services and facilities. It was felt that the location of strategic transport corridors (M180 and M18) reduces the landscape and visual value of an area, given the noise generated and the topographic incline generally associated with a main road. Given this, allocating sites along these corridors should be prioritised to reduce the visual impact on the area’s landscape. Sandtoft Airfield was viewed as a suitable and sustainable rural location for growth, due to existing employment uses in the area, easy access to the motorway network, and the opportunity to use previously developed land.

10.27 Another respondent supported the continued development of Humberside Airport as a key strategic employment location as it can take advantage of existing infrastructure and transport links. A proposal was put for a new garden village adjacent to the airport which would allow for larger employment development supported by new housing, and local services and facilities. There was also a suggestion that North Lincolnshire should follow a similar approach to that used in the Doncaster area, which allows development along the M18 corridor. Specifically, it was felt that more sites should be identified around the A15 and the south bank of the Humber Estuary should be promoted. There was also support for a combination of options A and D to be used as the main approach to locating employment sites in the Local Plan.

10.28 Other comments referred to the need to ensure that employment development is spread across North Lincolnshire, although the type of employment should be tailored to each place. There was also a need to provide employment opportunities across the area for younger people.

10.29 Some respondents disagreed with this option. It was considered other sites in the Scunthorpe area should be developed before further allocations adjacent to transport corridors are brought forward. The gateways to North Lincolnshire were seen as being important in terms of the area’s image and should be safeguarded from development. Another respondent felt the existing plan was aiming for too much housing growth.

10.30 Several of those who provided comments considered that the Local Plan should provide an alternative or **other option** for the location of employment land. A number proposed that a various combination of options should be used. These included a combination of options A & D, a mix of Options B & D and a combination of all options. Doing so would support economic growth and ensure that the most appropriate sites are identified with those that are no longer suitable being protected for “allocation sake”. However, it was considered whichever sites are chosen, they should benefit from links to main transport corridors.

- 10.31 Reviewing employment allocations was considered to be compliant with the national policy set out in the existing and emerging versions of the NPPF. However, it was stated that the Local Plan's policy framework for employment land must be robustly prepared but remain flexible to allow for economic growth opportunities to come forward over its lifetime. One respondent felt that Option D was the most sensible approach, but considered that restrictions should not be applied in order to allow for flexibility.
- 10.32 Another respondent considered it important to retain and promote key sites around Scunthorpe and the South Humber Gateway as well as considering how sustainable employment opportunities could be provided in the vicinity of Market Towns and larger settlements. It was felt that sites should also be located in order to have easy access to area's main transport links. As well as transport links, it was considered that proximity of population and availability of sites should be taken into account in deciding where employment growth can take place. There was also some support for having smaller employment developments based on the requirements of local communities, whilst a respondent suggested that Barton upon Humber, Brigg, Elsham Wold Industrial Estate and Humberside Airport were suitable locations for future economic development.
- 10.33 In relation to the South Humber Gateway, it was suggested that new sites should be located away from this area to avoid the need for additional mitigation or compensation measures to address any impacts on the designated nature conservation sites in the estuary.
- 10.34 9 respondents **did not select an option**, but nonetheless provided comments. These were related to the location of employment sites, impacts on the Strategic Road Network (SRN), safeguarding/allocation of energy and port infrastructure, the historic environment and air quality.
- 10.35 Regarding the location of employment sites, it was suggested it was simpler to ensure all development takes place in those locations where the need to travel is reduced. However, it was highlighted that whilst the National Planning Policy Framework directs development to locations where travel is minimised, the final approach for the Local Plan cannot be determined until all existing sites have been re-appraised. In addition, it was considered that in determining the location of development, adequate protection is given to existing operational business or industrial facilities, to ensure that they are not put at risk by inappropriate developments.
- 10.36 The need to consider the impact of any future growth on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) was raised as a key issue. Whilst there was support for locating development on main public transport corridors and at key hubs/stations, it was highlighted that growth near the SRN and its junction may increase traffic levels and have an effect on its operation. If Option D (or combination in involving Option D) is selected consideration will need to be given to the SRN and where any mitigation measures or improvements may be needed. Therefore, infrastructure capacity and requirements will have implications on which sites/locations are chosen for employment development.
- 10.37 Several respondents considered that the Local Plan should safeguard key pieces of strategic infrastructure. Firstly, references to energy as a key sector were welcomed, however it was felt the Local Plan should seek to safeguard and identify strategic energy assets including the Glanford Brigg Power Station. This would be in line with national policy on strategic and nationally significant infrastructure. Secondly, it considered that the plan should allocate the land areas in North Lincolnshire that form part of the Port of Immingham complex as an area where port and port related development will be encouraged and supported. Doing so, would support a nationally and locally significant facility and economic development opportunity.
- 10.38 It was further highlighted that in determining the most appropriate approach to employment land that sustainability should be taken into account, including the historic environment. Air quality was considered be an issue for the South Killingholme area, particular if further employment development occurs.

Responses – Question 20

- 10.39 **51** respondents provided an answer to this question, **27** of whom supported the approach of over-allocation. **20** respondents did not support the suggested approach and a further **4** made no selection. Of those who responded, **21** provided further or additional comments.

Table 10.3: Responses to Question 20: Over-allocation of Employment Land

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	27	53

No	20	39
No Option Selected	4	8
Total	51	100

Summary of Responses – Question 20

- 10.40 Several respondents agreed with the concept of continuing to over-allocate employment land in North Lincolnshire. Doing so would help to deliver the plan's economic growth aspirations, highlighted in the draft spatial vision, as well as allowing some flexibility for new employment developments and opportunities to come forward. Furthermore, it would help to maximise prospects of attracting new investment to the area alongside meeting the demands of new and developing industries. Having a choice of sites was viewed as being necessary. One respondent felt that it was better to overestimate and allow the market to make corrections, if required.
- 10.41 A number of those providing comments highlighted the South Humber Gateway. One respondent queried the amount of land allocated as part of the Gateway area and at North Killingholme Airfield. Another supported its continued allocation as key location for employment growth. Others comments centred on how and where to provide sites for economic development. It was considered that a spread of sites across the area, in addition to the South Humber Gateway, should be provided to meet market requirements, with those that are viable coming forward. An alternative approach of allocating employment land based on the needs of each area was proposed. Generally, it was felt that employment land should be provided subject to infrastructure being able to cope.
- 10.42 There was some disagreement with the concept of continuing to over-allocate employment land. Some respondents considered that allocations should be re-examined. It was acknowledged that the Local Plan needs to plan positively and include flexibility to allow for a choice of sites for developers, however the existing approach was viewed as being unrealistic and had resulted in many sites not being developed. Any approach, it was suggested should show a direct link between economic growth and housing. The existing amount of allocated land was considered too high. Another respondent highlighted the need to consider the environment in identifying sites.
- 10.43 A number of respondents **did not select an option**, but sought to provide comments regarding the allocation of employment land. All employment site allocations should be based on evidence, particularly an understanding of need, as well as impacts on traffic generation and future infrastructure requirements. However, over-allocation of sites, it was felt could lead to the provision of infrastructure needed to facilitate, or mitigate against the impacts of growth that may not be needed. This approach would potentially mean allocations being unrealistic, unviable and unlikely to be delivered.
- 10.44 It was considered that the Local Plan should identify and allocate those areas of land in North Lincolnshire that form part of the Port of Immingham complex, with any policy supporting and encouraging port and port related development within them. Doing so, would support a nationally and locally significant facility and economic development opportunity.
- 10.45 There was some support for adopting a combination of Options B and D as the main approach to allocating employment land. It was considered that this would ensure sites which are no longer suitable are not carried forward, and others close to key transport links would be allocated. Some sites would no longer be protected for "allocation sake". This approach was highlighted as being consistent with national policy. A general point was made about the need to make sure the plan is underpinned by a robust evidence base and allows some degree of flexibility to support opportunities for economic development. It was further highlighted that in determining the most appropriate approach to the employment land that sustainability should be into account, including the historic environment.

Responses – Question 21

- 10.46 **52** respondents provided an answer to this question. **18** considered that some of the currently allocated employment sites should not be reallocated in the new Plan. **31** respondents had no comments to make that would prevent current sites from being re-allocated and a further **3** did not select an option. Of those who responded, 22 provided further or additional comments

Table 10.4: Responses to Question 21: Viability & Deliverability of Existing Sites

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	18	35
No	31	60

No Option Selected	3	6
Total	52	100

Summary of Responses – Question 21

- 10.47 The comments received primarily focussed on a number of the existing sites/locations, however a number of more general points were about viability and deliverability. These general comments related to the location, size and accessibility of sites, and their attractiveness as well as the impacts of Brexit. Another centred on the impact of existing and future sites on the Strategic Road Network (SRN).
- 10.48 It was highlighted that a number of the existing sites and employment locations were situated away from settlements and transport links, and varied significantly in size. Given this, some of these sites were viewed as being unattractive and of insufficient quality for developers and the market. In addition, it was felt road access to these sites needed to be suitable for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and avoid existing residential areas. A respondent felt that the implications of Brexit may be a factor in delivering sites.
- 10.49 One respondent highlighted that should a revised spatial strategy be taken forward or any other material changes occur throughout the preparation of the Plan, it would be necessary to reconsider the potential implications of development on the SRN alongside the potential need for transport infrastructure improvements and mitigation measures. New sites, it was suggested should be close to major road links as it would stop HGV traffic from travelling through villages/smaller settlements.
- 10.50 It was stated that all employment sites identified in the consultation document need to remain deliverable in terms of the ability to avoid or mitigate for impacts on designated sites for nature conservation.
- 10.51 It was considered that existing employment allocations in **Barton upon Humber** should be protected and expanded to provide more local employment opportunities. In addition, it was felt that a new bypass could significantly improve the viability of developing the Humber Bridge Industrial Estate and would avoid increasing pressure on the A1077 through the town centre. Land defined in the existing plan at **Elsham Wold Industrial Estate** was considered to be deliverable with no constraints. Therefore, it should continue to be allocated for employment uses with additional land identified to meet future needs in the emerging Local Plan.
- 10.52 The allocations at **Humberside Airport**, it was suggested, should also be protected and expanded to help support the viability of the airport. Additional staff working at the airport site could help to support the terminal café, shop, hire car facilities, the on site hotel and bus links. The existing site allocation - Policy HUME-1a - was felt to be deliverable with no known reasons as to why it could not be delivered for employment development through the Local Plan.
- 10.53 In **Kirton in Lindsey** it was considered that industrial and sustainable employment land should be focussed on the industrial estate on Station Road. Any further employment development at the former RAF base should not be permitted as it would not enhance the area. It was suggested the former grass airfield to the south should be earmarked for leisure development only, which in turn would be a major marketing and selling point for the new homes planned for the site. The development of the RAF site would be a settlement in its own right and hopefully alleviate traffic levels in the town centre.
- 10.54 In the **North Killingholme, South Killingholme and East Halton** areas, the key issue was the proximity of economic and employment uses to existing residential areas. There was a view that these villages should be protected from economic development taking place too close to them. In particular, it was felt development should not occur west of Eastfield Road and that the fields between the villages and industry should be maintained. Specific reference was made to the existing allocation at North Killingholme Airfield, which was considered to be oversaturated. Existing road infrastructure was viewed as being inappropriate and unsafe for the number of vehicles using it. Residential properties were highlighted as being close to the site and that if any further development does take place, it should be to the rear of the airfield, away from the villages.
- 10.55 For **Scunthorpe**, it was considered that Lincolnshire Lakes project will struggle to be delivered due to its location in flood plain as it would result in increased costs to developers. In respect of the **Sandtoft Business Park**, it was felt that it would benefit from the provision of a link road to the strategic road network.
- 10.56 Several respondents provided comments about the deliverability and viability of the **South Humber Gateway** strategic employment area. There was some support for the delivery of the Able Marine Energy Park (AMEP) and Able Logistics Park (ALP) proposals as part of the wider South Humber Gateway area. It was highlighted that there was commitment from its promoter as well as from other bodies/organisations to ensure that this occurs. It was highlighted that a number of schemes to improve the transport network in the area had been put forward, with some

of these having been delivered, whilst the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership had recognised the importance of the gateway area to job creation and the wider economy. Another respondent suggested that development should be concentrated on the South Humber Gateway.

- 10.57 However, other respondents questioned whether the proposals for the South Humber Gateway were viable or deliverable, alongside the current approach to the development of the site. It was stated that the development permitted under the Development Consent Order (DCO) had not come forward as envisaged and that instead a number of piecemeal proposals had come forward in recent times that did not reflect the intentions of the existing policy framework for the site. Particular concerns were expressed about the impact of these uses on existing drainage infrastructure and the environment. It was suggested that the council should re-evaluate and amend its policy, if evidence indicates that the proposed uses were unlikely to come forward. However, should evidence indicate the opposite, it was felt that the policy should be strengthened to make sure it takes place.
- 10.58 Other comments on the South Humber Gateway related to the need to deliver the necessary mitigation measures, set out in South Humber Gateway Strategic Mitigation Strategy, in order to ensure that the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar site is unaffected by development. If this mitigation was not secured or delivered, it would mean that the development would not be viable or deliverable.

Responses – Question 22

- 10.59 **48** respondents provided an answer to this question. **23** respondents supported Option A that would encourage rural enterprises to set up or expand, whilst **12** supported Option B that would allow the allocation of specific employment sites for small-scale rural employment opportunities. A further **10** respondents chose another option and **3** made no selection. Of those who responded, **18** provided further or additional comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Support and encourage genuine proposals for rural enterprise (such as conversions of existing buildings and limited new build where required) within North Lincolnshire’s rural areas. This option would help to facilitate and encourage small-scale employment proposals and help to reduce the need to travel in our rural areas.	23	48
Option B: Allocate sites for small-scale rural employment opportunities. This option would target specific small-scale employment proposals within the rural area allowing new/established enterprises the scope to grow.	12	25
Other Option	10	21
No Option Selected	3	6
Total	48	100

Summary of Responses – Question 22

- 10.60 There was support for the approach proposed under **Option A**. It was felt that the Local Plan should support the area’s rural economy and allow for opportunities for diversification in appropriate locations. This would ensure existing businesses are able to continue to operate and grow, as well as allow economic development opportunities of an appropriate scale and nature to come forward. In addition, it was felt that any strategy for small scale rural enterprises would be as flexible as possible. The conversion of existing buildings/sites for rural businesses was supported.
- 10.61 Any new business in rural areas and villages should be in keeping with its surroundings and reflect local needs, whilst it was suggested that any development in rural areas should be subject to policies of a Neighbourhood Plan (where one exists). In opposition, Option A was viewed as being inappropriate as it appears to encourage a mix of economic and housing development that has not occurred elsewhere.
- 10.62 In relation to **Option B**, comments focussed on future uses at North Killingholme Airfield, availability of broadband, the costs of converting rural buildings and existing businesses. It was suggested that any development at North Killingholme Airfield should be of a small, rural nature rather than a satellite of the nearby ports, as it would have less impact on local communities. Allocating sites in rural areas, it was felt would be dependent on the availability of fast and reliable broadband, and that while visually appealing, the conversion of farm buildings can be more expensive than a new build equivalent. Therefore, it was felt that consideration should be given to allowing new-

build employment buildings in rural areas. A further suggestion was to reduce farming and equine activities and allow the growth of businesses.

- 10.63 A number of those who selected **Other Option**, considered that both options had merit and that a combination of each was the most appropriate approach for the rural economy. It was felt that entrepreneurship and small start ups in rural areas should be promoted, whilst support was forthcoming for an approach which enables appropriate rural business opportunities to come forward on suitable sites – either through the allocation of sites or creating a sufficiently flexible policy approach to allow opportunities for employment growth to be captured where they arise.
- 10.64 Recent advances in IT technology and changing work patterns were also highlighted, as these have allowed more people to work from home or operate small businesses from rural locations. Therefore, it was felt that trends should be encouraged through the adoption of both options, together with the development of a home working policy. It also suggested that the council should seek to develop new existing business sectors whilst more being made of the Humber Bridge and the area’s proximity to Hull. The proposed Hull cruise terminal could be very important for North Lincolnshire’s tourism. One respondent felt new build residential development in rural areas should not be restricted as many people wish to live in the countryside rather than in urban areas.
- 10.65 The comments from those who **did not select an option** related to the Strategic Road Network (SRN), the evidence base and the historic environment. It was felt the given the scale of employment development that may be allowed in rural areas, there would be no concerns about impacts on the SRN. Concern was expressed about the lack of up to date published research on the area’s rural economy. This was viewed as key gap in the evidence base. As such, it was considered not to be possible to comment on which option/options are appropriate. The impacts and uncertainty regarding future rural subsidies arising from Brexit, it was felt, may result in an increased pressure for farm diversification. It was further highlighted that in determining the most appropriate approach to the rural economy that all aspects of sustainability should be taken into account, including the historic environment.

Responses – Question 23

- 10.66 **49** respondents provided an answer to this question. **16** supported Option A that seeks to retain and expand existing tourist facilities whilst **14** considered that Option B which looks at developing new tourism destinations/attractions was a an appropriate way forward. **13** sought a further option and **6** made no selection. Of those who responded, **26** provided further or additional comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Concentrate on our existing tourist sectors. This option would look to retain and expand existing tourist facilities in North Lincolnshire	16	33
Option B: Develop new tourist attractions. This option would be to seek and encourage new tourist attractions into North Lincolnshire.	14	29
Other Option	13	27
No Option Selected	6	12
Total	49	100

Summary of Responses – Question 23

- 10.67 In support of **Option A**, several respondents felt that existing tourist attractions should be developed. It was suggested that the area does not have many additional sites that could become tourist attractions, therefore those that exist already should maintained. However, it was noted any tourism development was a balance between supporting the economy and protecting those features that make the area attractive to visitors. One respondent suggested that any growth in the visitor economy needed to be supported by low cost accommodation. Another felt that as a public body with limited resources, the council should focus on activities that bring the largest revenues to the area.
- 10.68 Those seeking the development of new tourist attractions, as set out in **Option B**, felt that they should be focussed in rural and coastal areas, with one respondent suggesting the new attractions adjacent to the Humber Estuary would enhance the estuarine area. In turn, this would create benefits for well-being and the local economy. Another felt that this option should only occur if there it has a positive environmental impact such as improved conditions for nature or a positive impact on climate change reduction. The Xcape development near Castleford was cited as being good example of an attraction helping to revitalise an area.

- 10.69 The main alternative or **other options** proposed were to use either option or a combination of both options (Options A & B). The leisure sector was growing and given this, the area should improve its offering by looking to create new attractions or facilities that will bring visitors to the area, whilst continuing to support the growth and development of existing ones.
- 10.70 Several suggestions were put forward for specific measures or attractions to support the visitor economy. It was stated that the Stainforth & Keadby Canal should be promoted as a walking and cycling route, and boating facilities that would help promote tourism and increase visitor numbers. Another suggestion was to make more of the Humber Bridge and the area's proximity to Hull, with the proposed Hull cruise terminal being a source of potential visitors. There was also a view that the nature tourism offer in North Lincolnshire should grow with investment in existing sites taking place and new sites being developed that promote the natural environment whilst protecting and enhancing the characteristic habitats and species.
- 10.71 Several respondents **did not select an option** for the visitor economy, but still provided comments. These focussed on the evidence base, existing and potential attractions, the need to develop the visitor economy and the historic environment. In respect of the evidence base, it was stated that the council has very limited understanding of current tourism and visitor economy trends. It was contended that available evidence points to the A15 corridor and the market towns of Brigg and Kirton in Lindsey as being the only areas where visitor numbers and length of stay are increasing, but this had not been recognised or addressed in the proposed options. Furthermore, it was felt that no evidence has been provided regarding visitor accommodation. One respondent questioned why there was need for a visitor economy in an industrial area.
- 10.72 Another respondent highlighted that North Lincolnshire's main attraction is its land, hedgerows and open spaces. It was suggested that better public footpath networks for example the creation of sculpture trails, along family friendly paths, or paths linking rural pubs together. Thorne and Hatfield Moors was highlighted as being a key attraction. North Lincolnshire and Doncaster should continue to work together to protect and enhance them. It was further highlighted that in determining the most appropriate approach to the visitor economy that all aspects of sustainability should be taken into account, including the historic environment.

Responses – Question 24

- 10.73 **49** respondents provided an answer to this question. **34** respondents agreed to support the current existing network of retail centres and the retail hierarchy whilst **11** disagreed with the current approach. A further **4** made no selection. Of those who responded, **16** provided further or additional comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	34	69
No	11	22
No Option Selected	4	8
Total	49	100

Summary of Responses – Question 24

- 10.74 A number of responses were received supporting the existing retail centre network and hierarchy, in particular the continued identification of Scunthorpe town centre as the area's main location for shopping, leisure and commercial. It was highlighted that any future policy approach should be compliant with national policy which seeks to support town centres as an essential part of the communities they serve and their vitality and viability. There was support for the proposed investment and regeneration for Scunthorpe town centre, although it was suggested there is still a need to allocate a range of sites to meet future retail, leisure, commercial and tourism needs over the lifetime of the emerging Local Plan. In addition, a flexible approach to development in existing centres was supported. A specific suggestion was made to allocate land on Queensway in Scunthorpe for retail use.
- 10.75 Another respondent put forward several suggestions for enhancing Scunthorpe town centre. These related to creating a new High Street over a smaller area, with more modern shop units that would attract retailers. Another proposal is to reduce the size of the existing High Street with shops being concentrated in close proximity to one another, thus reducing the number of empty shop units. Empty units, it was felt could be used to promote small businesses or create a new type of department store where small local businesses can sell their products. Furthermore, it was considered that more events should take place on the High Street to promote growth and increase visitor numbers. Ashby High Street, it was felt should occupy a higher position in the retail hierarchy. Other

comments considered that out of town retail centres were damaging town centres and leading to more empty retail units, whilst it was felt the existing approach should be followed.

- 10.76 Several respondents disagreed with the existing network of town and retail hierarchy. Comments focussed on Scunthorpe town centre, the position in the retail hierarchy of Barton upon Humber and Brigg town centres, retail development in Kirton in Lindsey, and definition of the term “town centre”.
- 10.77 It was considered that Scunthorpe town centre, and the retail provision on the High Street, should be addressed through the Local Plan. It was felt that more should be done to encourage local people and others to visit Scunthorpe town centre, for example encouraging a better mix shops using incentives to attract businesses. This would help to make it different to other nearby centres and more appealing to visit.
- 10.78 As part of the retail hierarchy, a respondent considered the Barton upon Humber and Brigg town centres should be categorised differently from the other market town centres (Crowle and Epworth), in order to reflect their larger size and importance. It was also felt that more retail development should take place in Barton upon Humber town centre, subject to the provision of adequate parking. In relation to Kirton in Lindsey, it was suggested the former RAF base should be considered for additional retail development. Such a scheme would help to reduce traffic and beneficial to local employment as well as the economy. Another respondent, considered that option A should be applied to Kirton-in-Lindsey and Option B for the rest of the area, in relation to shopping centre boundaries. The use of the term “town centre” and its application was queried i.e whether it means the centre of Scunthorpe or the centre of market towns, or both.
- 10.79 The comments received from those who **did not select an option** related to the retail evidence base, rural shops and car parking costs and business rates. It was considered that the plan’s approach to town centres should be underpinned by up to date evidence, including town centre health checks, to understand whether existing centres can support growth. It was suggested future policies should examine the wider role of town centres and local centres in the light of changing retail trends. With regard to rural communities, it was felt that local shops and similar establishments should be supported as it would reduce the need to travel, however the expansion of takeaway food establishments should be resisted. The cost of parking in town centres, compared with free parking in out of centre retail parks, was viewed as factor in their decline, whilst business rates were also viewed as key issue.

Responses – Question 25

10.80 **40** respondents provided an answer to this question. **14** respondents supported Option A which seeks to make minor changes only to Scunthorpe Town Centre and Primary Shopping Frontages whilst **21** opted for Option B that looked at making significant changes/amendments. **3** considered that another option would be more appropriate. **2** did not select an option, but provided comments nonetheless. Of those who responded, **16** provided further or additional comments

Table 10.8: Responses to Question 25: Scunthorpe Town Centre Boundaries		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Retain or make minor amendments only to the town centre boundary, including the primary shopping frontages as it currently is.	14	35
Option B: Significantly amend the town centre boundary (growing or reducing), including the primary shopping frontages, to allow a greater/different mix of town centre uses in the area.	21	53
Other Option	3	8
No Option Selected	2	5
Total	40	100

Summary of Responses – Question 25

- 10.81 **Option A**, retaining, or making minor amendments to the existing Scunthorpe town centre boundary attracted support from a number of respondents. Of those who provided additional comments to support their choice, one suggested small or minor amendments would allow the council to better monitor future changes in the town centre. In addition, it would assist in ensure that the boundary would remain relevant and up-to-date.
- 10.82 However, it was considered that a more flexible approach to development in town centres should be adopted, which reflects their evolving nature including the recent focus on them as commercial and leisure destinations. Maintain active frontages throughout the day (include evenings) was viewed as being an important aspect of vibrant centres.

Having restrictions on the type of “main town centre uses” or “non -main town centre uses” that can occupy town centre units could, it was stated, hinder growth. The amendment to the General Permitted Development Order that allows change of use from use class A1 to A3 was given as example. Furthermore, it was considered that a secondary frontage policy is unnecessary and inappropriate as it could restrict the growth of centres, leading to more vacancies. A further suggestion was to focus on other areas of development such as employment, health and education.

- 10.83 Several respondents considered that **Option B**, amending the Scunthorpe town centre boundary (including primary frontages) to be the most appropriate approach for the Local Plan. It was felt that the town centre area was too large and long. Reducing the area, it was suggested would allow retail to be concentrated in one particular area (around the east end of the High Street), which would make it more vibrant and help to reduce the number of empty units. The area towards the western end of the High Street it was felt could be used for housing. Furthermore, it considered that more events should take place on the High Street to promote growth and increase visitor numbers. A more general point was made about the need to adopt a realistic approach to the town centre and that it will only thrive if a wider range of uses is accepted.
- 10.84 The comments received supporting an alternative or **Other Option**, focussed on the role of Scunthorpe town centre, the need for regeneration and addressing shop unit vacancies. It considered that Scunthorpe Town Centre no longer functions as a shopping centre and, as such, shopping centres outside the town centre should be supported. The use of town centre shops for other businesses was supported, whilst a broader point was that regeneration needs to occur in Scunthorpe as a whole, not just the town centre. The issue of empty shop units in the town centre’s shopping frontages should be addressed.
- 10.85 The comments received from those respondents who **did not select an option** centred on the retail evidence base and the historic environment. It was considered that the plan’s approach to town centres should be underpinned by up to date evidence, including town centre health checks, to understand whether existing centres can support growth. It was suggested future policies should examine the wider role of town and local centres in the light of changing retail trends. It was further highlighted that in determining the most appropriate approach to town, district and local centres that sustainability should be taken into account, including the historic environment.

Responses – Question 26

- 10.86 **29** respondents provided an answer to this question. **12** supported the use of secondary shopping frontages whilst **14** disagreed with such an approach. **3** respondents made did not select either option, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **13** provided further or additional comments

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	12	41
No	14	48
No Option Selected	3	10
Total	29	100

Summary of Responses – Question 26

- 10.87 There was some support for identifying secondary shopping frontages close to the primary retail frontages as part of the Local Plan’s approach to town centres, where they are appropriate and a good idea to do so. However, it was felt that more encouragement should be given to attracting big name retailers to the high street, and that the presence of smaller shops may discourage them due to footfall levels and appearance. Some respondents were unsure as to where secondary frontages should be located, whilst two suggestions were made to where this should take place. The first was in town centres, generally with second being Wells Street/Cole in Scunthorpe.
- 10.88 However, some respondents did not support this approach. A respondent did not agree with the approach of defining primary and secondary frontages, suggesting that it should be driven by commercial markets. Having a wider area with various uses would ensure a more thriving and interesting environment throughout the day. Another considered a secondary frontage policy to be unnecessary and inappropriate as it could restrict the growth of centres, leading to more vacancies. A further suggestion was to focus on other areas of development such as employment, health and education.
- 10.89 The comments received from those respondents who did not select an option centred on the evidence base, the location of potential secondary frontages and the historic environment. It was considered that the plan’s approach

to town centres should be underpinned by up to date evidence, including town centre health checks, to understand whether existing centres can support growth. It was suggested future policies should examine the wider role of town centres and local centres in the light of changing retail trends. A respondent considered that secondary frontages were appropriate in Scunthorpe, rather than smaller town centres like Kirton in Lindsey. It was further highlighted that in determining the most appropriate approach to town, district and local centres that all aspects of sustainability should be taken into account, including the historic environment.

Responses – Question 27

10.90 **37** respondents provided an answer to this question. **20** considered that the current market town and district centre boundaries were still appropriate whilst **10** did not. A further **7** made no selection. Of those who responded, **18** provided further or additional comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	20	54
No	10	27
No Option Selected	7	19
Total	37	100

Summary of Responses – Question 27

10.91 A number of the responses received related to settlement development limits (as discussed in Question 68), rather than town and district shopping centre boundaries.

10.92 In terms of the town and district centre boundaries, it was considered that they should reflect up to date evidence as well as the current situation, including taking account of developments. Scunthorpe town centre, it was felt, should be made smaller. Several respondents highlighted the need for the plan’s approach to be underpinned by up to date evidence, including town centre health checks, to understand whether existing centres can support growth. Future policies should examine the wider role of town and local centres in the light of changing retail trends.

10.93 It was further highlighted that in determining the most appropriate approach to town, district and local centres that sustainability should be taken into account, including the historic environment. It was felt that the needs of existing, operational businesses, particularly those that need to operate on a 24-hour basis should be taken into account when allocating future sites for residential and commercial development. These businesses need to be given adequate protection and that their ongoing operation should not be affected by inappropriate proposals within their vicinity.

10.94 With regard to settlement development limits, a number of respondents supported the existing ones, particularly in rural areas and felt that there was no reason to amend them, except where there was a compelling reason to do so. However, a number also took the opposite view, suggesting they were not appropriate and should be expanded where developers propose, and that they are overly restrictive and arbitrary. To address this, greater flexibility should be built into any policy framework to cope with any changes in circumstance. One respondent considered that they should be spread to a wider area.

10.95 Specific comments were made about of the settlement development limits of Ealand and Epworth. In the case of Ealand, the boundaries should be reviewed to reflect recent developments and planning consents, and remove restrictions on road frontage development in the historic core of the village. The current development limit for Epworth was supported and should be retained.

10.96 A more general point about the location of commercial development was made. It was felt that this should not be allowed unless it is supported by appropriate transport links.

Responses – Question 28

10.97 **55** respondents provided an answer to this question. **49** respondents agreed that it was important to safeguard and enhance local retail services whilst **3** did not. A further **3** made no selection. Of those who responded **24** provided additional or further comments

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	49	89
No	3	5
No Option Selected	3	5
Total	55	100

Summary of Responses – Question 28

- 10.98 There was general support for safeguarding and enhancing local retail facilities and other services. They are essential for maintaining sustainable communities, meeting local needs as well as supporting their vitality and viability. Also, they act as focal points for their communities and ensure social inclusion as well as providing opportunities for local employment.
- 10.99 Their provision and enhancement can also reduce the need to travel, particularly by private car, thus having less environmental and climate change impacts. In addition, it reduces the need for new infrastructure provision to reach nearby centre. Local services can help to meet the needs of the ageing population and to provide opportunities for those who do not have access to a car or public transport. Many settlements in rural areas, it was highlighted, have very limited public transport provision.
- 10.100 It was suggested that any future service or retail provision in rural communities should take into account existing provision and ensure it is not duplicated. Clarity was sought about the level of safeguarding provisions that the plan will set out. An additional approach was put forward that involved using growth in one village to sustain services and facilities in another.
- 10.101 Several comments focussed on the role of the market in determining the viability of businesses. It was stated that village shops would only be maintained where they are profitable, and that there should be some realism regarding what the plan can safeguard. Another respondent felt that there should be no local authority involvement in the retail sector, with no negative pressures being placed on existing businesses. It was highlighted that Scunthorpe no longer had a shopping centre.

11. MANAGING OUR NATURAL & HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

- 11.1 Residents of North Lincolnshire enjoy and value its rich and distinctive natural and historic environment. The Local Plan must consider these characteristics whilst also addressing climate change, sustainable use of resources and flood risk.
- 11.2 National policy set out in the NPPF and associated guidance outlines a number of core principles in respect of the natural and historic environment for those that work, visit and invest here. The condition of the surrounding natural and historic environment, including many heritage assets, are critical to North Lincolnshire's image, having a significant impact on the quality of life as well as bringing both social and economic benefits to its communities.
- 11.3 Environmental considerations are therefore fundamental to all planning policy areas whilst achieving the council's ambition and outcomes where everyone is safe, well, prosperous and connected. They are also central to creating a place that is cleaner, greener and safer.

Consultation

- 11.4 The Issues & Options document contained seventeen questions in relation to various aspects of the natural and built environment. These include biodiversity, blue & green infrastructure, landscape, green space, heritage, pollution, energy, climate change and flooding.
- 11.5 Some of the questions allowed respondents to select their preferred option or suggest alternatives, whilst others were "Yes/No" answers.

29. Which of the options do you think is the best approach for achieving biodiversity and geodiversity benefits within North Lincolnshire?

30. Which of the above options is most appropriate to protect North Lincolnshire's landscape? Or do you have any alternative options?

31. Which of the options would you support in delivering green and blue infrastructure or are there any other options that you feel the council should consider?

32. Which of the options for Local Green Space do you support or should the council consider an alternative approach?

33. Are there any specific pieces of land that you feel should be considered as Local Green Space? If so, please complete the Call for Sites form.

34. Should the Local Plan continue to protect areas of open amenity value (i.e. continue with the LC11 designation or similar)?

35. Which if these options should the Local Plan use to protect and enhance the built heritage of the area?

36. Should the Local Plan include a specific policy on soil and agricultural land quality, which is needed to help control and manage development in areas that include the best and most versatile agricultural land or should national planning policy be relied upon?

37. Is a development management policy required to give consideration to all sources of pollution (i.e. soil, air and light pollution) and water quality in relation to new development proposals?

38. Is a policy needed to give consideration to the AQMAs?

39. What policy measures should the Local Plan use to ensure that development meets the challenge of climate change?

40. Which one of the four options do you consider the most appropriate for managing flood risk within North Lincolnshire?

41. Are there any alternative options that should also be considered?

42. How should the Plan ensure that flood risk is adequately managed and that new development both within and outside of the flood plain does not increase flood risk to new or existing properties or assets?

43. Which of the options do you support to address water efficiency and which standard should the policy address?

44. Which of the options do you consider the most appropriate for delivering renewable and low carbon energy within North Lincolnshire?

45. Are there any alternative options that should also be considered?

Responses – Question 29

11.6 47 respondents provided an answer to this question with a total of 22 further additional comments. Of those who responded, 22 selected Option A, with 7 additional comments, 8 selected Option B with 2 additional comments, 11 selected Other Option, with 7 additional comments and 6 selected no option, each with additional comments.

Table 11.1: Responses to Question 29: Biodiversity & Geodiversity		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: In addition to the requirement to protect all biodiversity and geodiversity designated sites, where development is proposed adjacent to a designated site a buffer zone will be required around the site.	22	47
Option B: In addition to the requirement to protect all biodiversity and geodiversity designated sites, the enhancement of existing biodiversity in such designated sites should be encouraged through the development of adjacent sites.	8	17
Other Option	11	23
No Option Selected	6	13
Total	47	100

Summary of Responses – Question 29

11.7 Overall, there was strong support for enhancing, maintaining and protecting, North Lincolnshire’s biodiversity and geodiversity from those who responded. Whilst Option A was the most favoured approach, a number of respondents put forward different views or alternative options about the best way for the local plan to support this wider objective. Amongst these alternatives was the use a combination of both options.

11.8 Of those who favour **Option A**, there was a view that designated sites should be protected, and that this option would be the most appropriate to protect the area’s biodiversity and geodiversity. A number of respondents considered that buffer zones should be used between designated sites and developments. Doing so, would ensure the settings of these sites are protected and the designation enhanced as well as avoiding adverse impacts.

11.9 However, it was pointed out that it may not always be appropriate (even unrealistic) to create a buffer zone around biodiversity sites. In many cases, it was highlighted that developers do not necessarily control land adjacent to development sites (and adjacent sites may not be available) and the emphasis should be on making sure that sites are developed sustainably.

11.10 It was noted that it might be appropriate to use this option in combination with Option B, in order to ensure that the NPPF requirement of protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity at a landscape scale can be implemented. In addition, links were drawn between environmental enhancement and its role in maintaining biodiversity and environmental health, with Local Plan policy needing to clearly set out how this will be achieved.

11.11 In relation to **Option B**, a number of respondents questioned the wording of the proposed approach. It was suggested that, if adopted, it might lead to development taking place around designated sites contrary to national policy. In addition, it was viewed that mitigating and offsetting of adverse impacts on a protected site by undertaking such enhancement or restoration within that site is not appropriate, and that it should take place outside the protected site. It was felt the wording should be amended to clarify its intent or the option removed.

11.12 In support of this option, it was considered that providing buffer zones is not always the most appropriate approach, particularly due to the varied nature of the area’s biodiversity and geodiversity sites. Furthermore, it was felt that

enhancement should be encouraged rather being mandatory. Another respondent noted that creating corridors that allow species to move around had more success in enhancing wildlife.

- 11.13 The second largest number of respondents selected “**Other Option**”. Many of these suggested that the Local Plan should use an approach that combines Options A and B, whilst others provided advice on those matters that should be considered as part of a policy framework.
- 11.14 Adopting a combined approach of Options A & B, it was felt, would provide a complete policy framework for the protection, maintenance, restoration and/or enhancement of existing conservation interests and the network of designated sites in the area. This would be in line with the NPPF, the requirements of the Habitats Regulations and support the achievement of national targets for biodiversity.
- 11.15 However, it was noted that the approach is likely to be dependent on the type, size and scale of development and the designated site. For example, it was suggested that it might be appropriate to have a buffer zone if a site was in a favourable condition, but not for one that is in decline with biodiversity enhancement being the best approach.
- 11.16 In relation to a policy framework, it was considered important not to just minimise impacts on biodiversity, but provide for net gains in biodiversity to help meet the government commitment to help halt the overall decline in biodiversity, for example establishing resilient coherent ecological networks. Particular reference was made to DEFRA’s 25 Year Environmental Plan (2018), the Natural Environment White Paper (2014) and the recommendations of the Lawton Review (2010) as well as the draft NPPF and the Local Plan’s Sustainability Appraisal.
- 11.17 It was also stated that biodiversity and geodiversity benefits should go beyond designated sites in terms of avoiding loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including for example, ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside of ancient woodland. Again, this would reflect national policy. In addition, it was proposed that the spatial objective to protect and enhance the natural environment should be further strengthened so that it recognises the importance of areas outside designated sites for biodiversity.
- 11.18 It was recommended that, in line with national policy, a strategic approach is set out in the Local Plan towards creating, enhancing, protecting and managing biodiversity and green infrastructure networks, and that biodiversity should be considered at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries. An ecological network should be identified and mapped, and include a hierarchy of designated sites and those areas of land that link them together. The evidence base was highlighted as being vital in providing an assessment of existing elements of this ecological network.
- 11.19 Accordingly, it was felt that precise hierarchical criteria based policies should be included to protect and enhance international, national and locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites present within North Lincolnshire and that it should distinguish between the different types of designation. Specific reference was made to the South Humber Gateway, and the key role that delivery of the Strategic Migration Strategy will have in ensuring the Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar site is unaffected by development in this area.
- 11.20 A number of respondents **did not select an option**, but provided comments nonetheless regarding the Local Plan’s evidence base, hydraulic fracturing and cross boundary collaboration. In terms of the evidence base, it was considered essential that an up to date audit of biodiversity, geodiversity and landscape features and sites should be undertaken to support the Local Plan and its policies. It was also stated that no fracking should take place in the area. The need for cross boundary working to address the impact of development on the internationally designated nature conservation sites in the Humber Estuary by identifying appropriate solutions for habitat and compensation was raised. Similarly, the need to work closely with a neighbouring authority on the management of Thorne and Hatfield Moors was highlighted.

Responses – Question 30

- 11.21 **45** respondents provided an answer to this question. **11** selected Option A whereas **7** chose Option B, **5** supported Option C, **9** supported Option D, **7** chose Other Option and **6** chose no option at all. There were **19** additional comments.

Table 11.2: Responses to Question 30: North Lincolnshire’s Landscape

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents

Option A: Continue with the current policy approach adopted within the Core Strategy and North Lincolnshire Local Plan saved policies that designate landscapes.	11	24
Option B: Include a criteria-based policy that is applicable to both rural and urban areas to protect landscape with important character.	7	16
Option C: Identify areas of specific landscape character by setting out what makes them special using the North Lincolnshire Character Assessment.	5	11
Option D: Rely on the National Landscape Character Areas and the North Lincolnshire Landscape Areas (included in the Supplementary Planning Guidance) to guide development proposals without creating specific policy/policies.	9	20
Other Option	7	16
No Option Selected	6	13
Total	45	100

Summary of Responses – Question 30

- 11.22 As highlighted above, a range of views were expressed regarding the most appropriate option for the Local Plan to adopt in respect of North Lincolnshire’s landscape. These ranged from maintaining the existing approach (outlined in the Core Strategy) (Option A) to considering a mixture of the different options as part of a wider policy approach. Overall, there was general support for protecting and enhancing North Lincolnshire’s landscape character by the best means possible.
- 11.23 Option A was closely followed by support for relying on national guidance under option D. When added together, Options B and C and a mix of both these options were at least as supportive as those supporting option A alone. Some respondents expressed the view that all the options should be used towards making a sound and robust policy to ensure the protection of different types of landscape.
- 11.24 **Option A** was supported by those respondents who wished to continue with the existing approach to landscape protection set out in the Core Strategy (June 2011) and saved North Lincolnshire Local Plan (May 2003) policies. There was a view that existing protected landscapes should be maintained, however it was noted that it may be appropriate to designate other areas, particularly where it aligns with the approach being taken in adjoining local authority areas. Specific references were made to particular sites/areas in Kirton in Lindsey that may warrant protection – Mount Pleasant Windmill, Ashwell, Squatters and Nebraksa Nature Reserve.
- 11.25 **Option B** attracted some support. However, it was felt that there should be a degree of flexibility which allows communities to identify areas they wish to protect. **Option C** did not attract as much support as other options. There was agreement that the factors making specific landscape areas special should be clearly set out in the plan. In designating local landscapes for protection, a view was expressed that Neighbourhood Plan policies should help influence the Local Plan. As mentioned above, it was considered beneficial to identify additional areas of landscape importance. Specific reference was made to considering the cross-boundary nature of some landscape character areas, and the need to ensure a consistency of approach to their protection and enhancement. The example of Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors was highlighted. **Option D**, which sought to rely on national policy and guidance was the second most favoured option and would, it was felt, help to reduce the number of policies in the new plan.
- 11.26 Several respondents suggested that the plan should adopt an alternative or **other option** for landscape character. There was a view that a combination of the various, or all, options should be used. Amongst the suggestions were a combination of Options B & C, a mix of Options A, B & C as well as using Options A, B & C supported by Option D and a mix of Option C & D. It was suggested that the Local Plan should designate specific landscapes and contain criteria based policies to ensure the proper protection of the area’s landscape.
- 11.27 The main issue identified, particularly where respondents **did not select an option**, was need to have an up to date landscape character assessment. It was considered that this work should examine the setting of settlements and providing information and guidance to support the definition of settlement development limits. There was a recognition of, and support for the fact that the council are reviewing it’s existing Landscape Character Assessment (1999) to inform preparation of the new Local Plan. A new assessment it was felt would assist in protecting landscapes from inappropriate development and feed into planning application decision-making process, particularly where larger scale developments are proposed. In addition, it was suggested that green spaces should be protected and that the Historic England Historic Landscape Characterisation work is included within the plan making process.

Responses – Question 31

11.28 **50** respondents provided an answer this question. **26** considered that Option A was most appropriate for green and blue infrastructure provision, whilst **9** favoured Option B. **13** selected another option. **2** respondents did not select an option, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **22** provided further or additional comments.

Table 11.3: Responses to Question 31: Green & Blue Infrastructure		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Create a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy linking parks, natural green spaces, historic landscape and waterscapes providing quality greenspace between settlements, connecting town to country with a natural and recreational resource.	26	52
Option B: Identify specific opportunities for major development proposals to provide additional green infrastructure to help provide any missing links in the network.	9	18
Other Option	13	26
No Option Selected	2	4
Total	50	100

Summary of Responses – Question 31

11.29 Those who provided more detailed responses to this question related to supporting a combination of both options presented in the document, because this would be in compliance with relevant guidance contained in the NPPF.

11.30 The largest proportion of respondents favoured **Option A** that sought to create a Green & Blue Infrastructure network in the area by linking existing natural green spaces, sports fields, landscapes, waterscapes (including for example the Stainforth and Keadby Canal), ecological networks, footpaths and historic environments. In addition, it was felt that there should be an aspiration to link the area’s communities by footpath as well as developing more opportunities to encouraging walking, cycling and horse riding on segregated routes. A green and blue infrastructure network would help connect the estuarine areas on Humber with local communities, thus enhancing the health and well-being of local people.

11.31 In relation to **Option B**, it was considered only larger scale developments would be capable to contribute towards the creation of a green infrastructure network, whilst a view was expressed that Neighbourhood Plans should be used to assist in the evidence gathering for the establishment of a green and blue infrastructure network.

11.32 A number of respondents selected an alternative or **other option** as their preferred approach. Several considered that a combination of Options A & B should be adopted in setting out the plan’s approach to developing a green and blue infrastructure network. National policy places emphasis on local planning authorities operating strategically to plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of biodiversity and green infrastructure networks. There was a clear view that the commitment set out in Core Strategy DPD (June 2011) to developing a green infrastructure strategy should be carried through into the new Local Plan. Several comments highlighted key sections of the NPPF that acknowledge the varied benefits that providing green infrastructure provision will have for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage and food production.

11.33 A respondent considered that there should be a reliance on national policy only. The provision of green space was felt to be an essential element for new developments in the area, whilst another view was that development should be concentrated on previously developed land instead of using green areas.

11.34 Some respondents **did not select an option**, but provided comments on the evidence base and the historic environment. It was stated that plan should be underpinned by an up to date audit and survey of all forms of landscape, natural and environmental assets, if it was to be considered sound. Whichever approach for green and blue infrastructure is taken forward needs to have due regard to the historic environment.

Responses – Question 32

11.35 **50** respondents provided an answer to this question. **14** considered that Option A was the most appropriate for the provision of Local Green Space, whereas **23** favoured Option B. **9** felt that another option should be used, and **4** did

not select a particular option, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **23** provided further or additional comments

Table 11.4: Responses to Question 32: Local Green Space – Policy Approach		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Develop a criteria-based policy approach to development that is applicable to all development sites.	14	28
Option B: Designate specific land as LGS through the Local Plan in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF.	23	46
Other Option	9	18
No Option Selected	4	8
Total	50	100

Summary of Responses – Question 32

- 11.36 There was broad support for identifying and protecting local green spaces, however differing views were expressed regarding the most appropriate approach for doing so. These spaces were seen amongst most respondents as being beneficial to the wider health and well-being of North Lincolnshire’s communities and their residents.
- 11.37 **Option A** attracted some support from respondents. Protection of open space and green space was felt to be important enough that any development that would affect them should not be granted planning permission. Again, their importance of these spaces to local communities was highlighted.
- 11.38 **Option B** was the most favoured of the proposed options. It was viewed as being compliant with national policy set out in the NPPF and therefore a sound approach. Some respondents felt that agricultural fields, particularly those in and around villages, should be considered as green space area for protection. This approach would provide spaces for community activities, contribute health and well-being, support farming and engender a sense of place and community. Neighbourhood Plans were also felt to have a key role in identifying green spaces and can contribute to the evidence base for the Local Plan’s. The accompanying Call for Sites exercise was noted, as it gave an opportunity for sites to be nominated for Local Green Space or open space, and given protection in the new Local Plan.
- 11.39 In relation to an alternative or **Other Option**, there was a view that all green spaces should be protected and given due consideration as part of planning applications. Several respondents suggested a combination of both options (Options A & B) should be adopted in the Local Plan as they could lead to improvements in the quality and provision of Local Green Spaces/Open Spaces across North Lincolnshire. However, a respondent felt neither option was appropriate and that any such Local Green Space designations should be based solely on the guidance set out in the NPPF. Another considered these designations restrictive and should not include land containing essential infrastructure, such as water supply and water recycling infrastructure.
- 11.40 In terms of selecting green space sites, a number of cautionary comments were received. These suggested that the approach used in the existing North Lincolnshire Local Plan to protecting local amenity sites was applied on an arbitrary basis. These areas of land often had no amenity use/value or distinguishing features, Accordingly, future selection of green spaces it was felt should be carried out on an independent basis. The reasoning behind some existing LC11 designations on the south western edge of Kirton in Lindsey was queried. A general point was made regarding the location of self-build housing.
- 11.41 Amongst those who responded and opted **not to select an option**, there was support for the protection of green spaces within villages with more emphasis on rural communities than on towns. One suggestion related to considering local green spaces on brownfield sites informed by historic landscape characterisation studies, thereby playing their part in enhancing local distinctiveness.

Responses – Question 33

- 11.42 **40** respondents provided an answer this question. **26** respondents selected “Yes” to this question, however, only **20** identified specific sites or areas that they felt could potential be designated as Local Green Space or open space. **12** did not have any views on this subject, whilst **2** did select an option, but still provided further or additional comments.

Table 11.5: Responses to Question 33: Local Green Space/Open Space (Potential Sites)

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	26	65
No	12	30
No Option Selected	2	5
Total	40	100

Summary of Responses – Question 33

11.85 A number of sites were proposed for consideration as Local Green Space, Open Space or landscape areas within the Local Plan. A number have been submitted as part of the Call for Sites process. Broader comments were also made relating to the definition of green spaces. The proposed Local Green Space/Open Spaces are listed below:

Barton upon Humber

- Extend Millennium Wood and north east corner of Falkland Way/Barrow Road
- Land between Barton upon Humber and Barrow upon Humber.
- Land south of Barton upon Humber.
- Land west of the A15

Belton

- Belton Fields

Epworth

- Belton Picnic Park
- Kings Head Croft
- The Rectory Croft (Old Rectory)
- The Thurlow Memorial Field
- Vinegarth

Kirton in Lindsey

- Areas around Public Rights of Way
- Ashwell
- KLASSIC Park, Ings Lane.
- Sunny Hill Triangle (where the whipping post exists)
- The Cemetery, Grove Street
- The former MOD sports field
- The Green

North Killingholme

- The area between East Halton Road and the start of North Killingholme Airfield because this area contains deer, newts and various other wildlife providing a buffer up to the industrial area.

Scunthorpe & Bottesford

- Former Brumby Resource Centre, Scunthorpe.
- All the existing identified green spaces within the Scunthorpe and Bottesford Urban Area
- Quibell Park Playing Field
- Dartmouth Road Playing Field
- Avenue Field, Bottesford Beck

South Killingholme

- All green areas in and around South Killingholme.

Winterton

- Simons Wood and the track off North Street (leading to the wood)

Wootton

- The Village Pond area (including triangle of grass with bench to north west of the pond on opposite side of road)
- Green Lane (Strip of land off Swallow Lane),
- Field to the south of High Street (bounded by High Street to north; Cherry Lane to the west; Swallow Lane to the east)

Wressle

- Children’s Playground, Brigg Road
- Land to the east of Brigg Road & north of Green Lane (including the Children’s Playground) (landscape protection)
- Land to the west of Brigg Road & south of properties on Common Road (landscape protection)

Responses – Question 34

11.86 **54** respondents provided an answer this question. **40** considered that the Local Plan should continue to protect areas of open amenity value, whilst **9** did not. **5** did not select either option, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **26** provided further or additional comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	40	74
No	9	17
No Option Selected	5	9
Total	54	100

Summary of Responses – Question 34

11.87 The majority of respondents supported the protection and designation of areas of open amenity value using the North Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy LC11 approach, or similar, in addition to Local Green Space sites. These spaces were viewed as being important for communities and therefore should be planned for, identified and protected from development. Some comments linked these amenity sites to local green spaces and the development of a green infrastructure strategy/network. However, it was highlighted that sites designated under the existing LC11 policy should be reviewed as part of the preparation of the Local Plan.

11.88 One respondent felt that if there is no public access or tangible benefit arising from the designation, it should not have blanket protection, although developers should have to demonstrate why any loss makes their scheme viable. Another suggested that LC11-type designations should not be used arbitrarily and have some amenity value or natural feature to warrant its designation. Future designations, it was felt should through an independent process.

11.89 In relation to the evidence base, it was felt that an up to date survey and audit of the area’s landscape, natural and environmental assets must be undertaken and made available. In addition, it was recommended that the historic environment, in particular Historic Landscape Characterisation, should inform future designations. Another respondent queried the reasoning behind the protection of two sites west of Kirton in Lindsey in the existing NLLP under policy LC11. In South Killingholme, there was need to protect all existing open spaces in the parish.

Responses – Question 35

11.90 **47** respondents provided an answer this question. **26** favoured Option A as the most appropriate approach towards heritage and the historic environment. **7** considered Option B of having a single policy on this subject, whilst **10** felt that Option C, relying on national policy would be best. **2** selected “other option”, whilst **2** did not favour any particular option, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **12** provided further or additional comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Provide specific policies to safeguard historic landscapes, archaeological sites, listed buildings and conservation areas, together with non-designated identified buildings of townscape merit.	26	55
Option B: Have an overarching development management policy to protect all heritage assets and retain conservation areas.	7	15
Option C: Rely on national guidance contained in the NPPF and NPPG to retain all heritage assets.	10	21

Other Option	2	4
No Option Selected	2	4
Total	47	100

Summary of Responses – Question 35

- 11.91 It was viewed that North Lincolnshire’s heritage assets were important to its character and needed to be safeguarded. However, views about the most appropriate approach for the Local Plan varied.
- 11.92 The largest number of respondents favoured **Option A**. It was comprehensive in nature; giving recognition to the value of non-designated, as well as designated heritage assets. It was also emphasised the setting of heritage assets should be protected. The Stainforth & Keadby Canal was highlighted as having a number of elements of historic merit.
- 11.93 **Option B**, and to an extent Option A, was viewed as being too restrictive. It would not reflect national policy which is clear that the level of protection given should be commensurate with an asset’s status and there is no automatic presumption that all designated or non-designated assets must be protected.
- 11.94 In relation to **Option C**, several respondents supported a reliance on national policy guidance rather than developing more localised policies. National policy was considered to be well-established and detailed enough to support decision-making. It is also updated regularly. Therefore, it was felt that using national policy would ensure proposals are assessed against the most up to date policy. However, it was stated that should a policy be developed, it must reflect national policy and provide for some flexibility in its wording. There was some opposition to Option C as the development of a new Local Plan offered a significant opportunity for local protection and enhancement of the historic environment, and should highlight particular local features of importance.
- 11.95 Some respondents felt that the Local Plan should adopt an alternative or **other option**, but did not provide any reasoning for their choice. Respondents who **did not select an option** made a number of other comments. These centred on the need to provide a clear definition and extent of the “setting of a historic asset” in the light of recent legal disputes in the Local Plan. Others related the terminology used in the Issues & Options document in respect of the historic and built environment and built heritage, and its consistency with national policy. It was also proposed that historic environment/cultural heritage should have its own spatial objective, whilst it was suggested that other local authorities’ policies should be examined to provide guidance.

Responses – Question 36

- 11.96 **53** respondents provided an answer this question. **30** considered that the Local Plan should include a policy on the subject of soils and agricultural land quality, whilst **20** did not. **3** did not select either option, but provided comments nonetheless. Of those who responded, **29** provided further or additional comments

Table 11.8: Responses to Question 36: Soils & Agricultural Land

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	30	57
No	20	38
No Option Selected	3	6
Total	53	100

Summary of Responses – Question 36

- 11.97 Most respondents were in favour of including a policy within the emerging Local Plan to protect the ‘Best and Most Versatile’ (BMV) agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) as well as soils. Such a policy would help to protect the best grades of agricultural land from development, and allow its use for growing crops as well as supporting the area’s farming, agricultural and food sectors. It would also reflect national policy.
- 11.98 A number of respondents stated that where the development of agricultural land is necessary, it should be take place on poorer quality land, unless there was a clear over-riding to use BMV land. Another felt that a policy would help to maintain the rural character of the area. Specific reference was made to protecting high quality agricultural land around Epworth.

11.99 Several respondents recommended the inclusion of a local policy on soils and soil quality. Soils were considered a finite resource and fulfil many roles that are beneficial to society, including containing important ecosystems that should not be disturbed.

11.100 In taking the opposite view, several respondents considered that there was no need to include a specific localised policy on agricultural land and soils. National policy (National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Practice Guidance and other secondary legislation) is sufficient to provide a framework for managing development on agricultural land and address soils and soil quality. Concerns were expressed about the consistency of applying a policy. However, it was highlighted that should policy be developed, it would need to recognise that some land uses are temporary, like minerals, and that the land can be restored to agriculture when the use ceases. Some comments were provided regarding the evidence base for the Local Plan. It was stated that available information on the BMV land should be considered as part of any wider audit of existing natural and landscape capital that will assist in providing an understanding of constraints to growth in the area.

Responses – Question 37

11.101 **56** respondents provided an answer this question. **46** considered the Local Plan should contain a policy or policies covering all aspects of pollution and how it should be dealt with, whereas **9** did not. **1** respondent did not select either of the options, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **24** provided further or additional comments

Table 11.9: Responses to Question 37: Pollution		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	46	82
No	9	16
No Option Selected	1	2
Total	56	100

Summary of Responses – Question 37

11.102 The majority of respondents are supportive of including a Local Plan policy or policies on various forms of pollution (air, water, noise, odour and light). There was a general view that protecting the environment from pollution was important. Some expressed a view that using updated national planning policy and relying on other relevant pollution control regimes would be sufficient.

11.103 Respondents identified a number of different sources of pollution - air, soil, light and water. The general consensus was that a local planning policy should be locally distinctive, but based on and reflecting national planning policy and legislation as well other relevant guidance. This includes the NPPF, PPG, national objectives for pollutants, designated AQMA's and national and local guidance on SUDS. The need for the policy on water quality to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive was also highlighted.

11.104 Reference was made to the need to control light pollution in rural areas arising from employment sites, such as Humberside Airport. Other references were made to the need to consider the impact of all forms of pollution on the natural and historic environment. Policies should ensure new developments do not cause pollution by requiring adequate assessments to be undertaken to understand their potential impacts and propose necessary mitigation.

11.105 It also felt that any policy framework should seek to protect existing infrastructure and businesses, especially those that may generate noise or odour, from inappropriate development in order to ensure their continued operation. However, it was suggested that any policy wording should not be too onerous or restrictive on development, and that sites in Air Quality Management Areas should not necessarily be ruled out where air quality issues can be addressed via mitigation measures or where it has been demonstrated to be acceptable. It was also highlighted that policy should not encompass other pollution control regimes and only centre on whether the use of land is acceptable. Other references were made to the need to consider land contamination, waste water and sewage infrastructure provision and SUDS.

Responses – Question 38

11.106 **43** respondents provided an answer to this question. **35** considered the Local Plan should contain a policy or policies on air quality including the area's Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), whilst **4** disagreed. **4** respondents did not select either option but provided comments. Of those who responded, **13** provided additional or further comments.

Table 11.10: Responses to Question 38: Air Quality Management Areas

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	35	81
No	4	9
No Option Selected	4	9
Total	43	100

Summary of Responses – Question 38

11.107 The consensus of opinion supported a local plan policy on air quality, in particular covering Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). A number of respondents pointed to the fact that it was important to have a local policy as there are local AQMAs designated by the council and more responsibility is being passed down from national to local government, particularly in the light of recent legal judgements. It was suggested that the policy should be linked to air quality monitoring data produced by the council, in order for changes to be dealt with over the lifetime of the Local Plan. It was felt, however, that any policy wording should not be onerous or restrictive, especially where air quality issues can be addressed via mitigation measures or impacts rendered acceptable.

11.108 NPPF was viewed as providing enough guidance to support a local policy. Some respondents stated that local policy should reflect up to date national policy on air pollution – particularly as the government is taking a renewed interest in the effects of pollution on air quality, local populations and the natural environment. A suggestion was made for the Local Plan to have a combined local policy on air pollution and water quality. In some cases, there was a view that the council should rely on national policy. Comments were also made about the need to monitor air pollution in the area, including at source, whilst instances of asthma were highlighted.

Responses – Question 39

11.109 47 respondents provided an answer to this question, setting out their views on how the Local Plan should seek to address climate change and its impacts, together with the policy framework that should be put in place.

Table 11.11: Responses to Question 39: Climate Change

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
-	47	-
Total	47	-

Summary of Responses – Question 39

11.110 The majority of respondents to this question felt that there should be complete coverage on climate change issues in the Local Plan with policies set out that build on international and national treaties, agreements, policy and guidance. Whilst some comments related to national/international laws and policy as well as guidance being sufficient to address this issue, many thought that, in addition, there should be specific local policies.

11.111 Respondents recognised that the NPPF includes climate change guidance for local plans to consider and include as policies. There were many comments suggesting that climate change is such a large subject that it will be impossible to cover in one policy on a meaningful basis. Any planning policy on climate change, it was felt needs to be linked to other more specific policies and associated guidance on the subject.

11.112 Climate change is seen as a cross cutting issue that should be integrated and considered as part of developing other policies including those on:

- flood risk (including the sequential test and exception test and site specific Flood Risk Assessments);
- resource efficiency (including tighter water efficiency standards and building standards);
- local renewable energy generation (all forms);
- waste reduction measures at a property/development level;
- biodiversity/natural environment (including green infrastructure creating natural corridors and stepping stones enabling species migration);
- carbon reduction;
- constant pollution monitoring/control; and

- reducing car travel and encouraging greener transport forms.

11.113 Respondents referred to a number of international policy documents, treaties, agreements and guidance relevant to climate change. These ranged from the Paris Climate Change Agreement to national policies/guidance such as the National Clean Growth Strategy; BEIS Strategy; Lawton Report; National Planning Policy Framework; BREEAM Standards). Other documents/strategies highlighted were the East Inshore & Offshore Marine Plans, the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy, the Sustainability Appraisal for the Local Plan and wider guidance/policy on renewable energy, AQMAs and SUDS.

Responses – Question 40

11.114 **55** respondents provided an answer to this question. **23** respondents considered that Option D was the best approach for managing flood risk. **17** respondents favoured Option A, whilst Option C was felt to be the best approach by **7**. Option B and Other Option was supported by **1** respondent each. **6** did not select any of the options but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **25** provided additional or further comments on the various options.

Table 11.12: Responses to Question 40: Managing Water Resources & Flood Risk		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: No development should be allowed in areas of functional flood plain.	17	31
Option B: Some development should be allowed in areas of high flood risk if the benefits outweigh the risk.	1	2
Option C: Continue with the flood risk management approach set out in the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy.	7	13
Option D: Develop a flexible policy approach in compliance with national and local policy (i.e., to not create flood risk on-site or elsewhere and to provide safe development) to development in flood risk areas bearing in mind we have many existing settlements within flood risk areas.	23	42
Other Option	1	2
No Option Selected	6	11
Total	55	100

Summary of Responses – Question 40

11.115 All comments supported the need for a flood risk policy within the Local Plan, however there were differing views over the approach that should be adopted, reflecting the complexity of the issue. As mentioned, above the largest number of respondents supported **Option D** (a flexible policy approach), although others suggested that **Option A** (restrictive policy approach) was the most appropriate. Fewer selected **Option C** (maintain existing policy approach). It should be noted that some respondents, whilst supporting one particular option, provided comments about all options as part of their overall response. In terms of the evidence base, it was noted that the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was in the process of being reviewed.

11.116 Those supporting **Option A** considered that development should not be permitted in flood plains and that sea-level rise needs to be taken into account. The costs of flooding to the local authority, communities and businesses were also highlighted. However, another respondent did not consider this option to be enforceable, as certain limited forms of development may be appropriate in functional floodplain areas. In addition, it would potentially result in development taking place away from sustainable locations and creating undesirable settlement patterns.

11.117 **Option B** attracted very limited support. It was commented that anyone who wishes to build in high flood risk areas should be allowed to do so at their own risk, with council only providing advice on floor levels to reduce flood risk. It was also highlighted that this approach would be in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (subject to application of the sequential and exception tests), although development should not be encouraged in high flood risk areas.

11.118 **Option C**, maintaining the approach set out in the Core Strategy, did attract some support. A sequential-risk-based approach should be used to assess proposals, with the exception test used only when necessary. This would promote development outside areas of highest flood risk, unless it is necessary and where the benefits outweigh any harm. If this occurs, mitigation should be provided. Another respondent noted that the existing approach would need to be

updated to reflected latest national policy and the provisions of the adopted Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan (AAP). Carrying forward the specific flood risk policies of the AAP into the emerging Local Plan was seen as essential to allow development in the Lakes area. There was a view that this option could be combined with Option D as part of the overall policy approach. In addition, ongoing collaboration with drainage authorities was supported.

- 11.119 It was suggested that this option, alongside the provisions of the NPPF, could allow development to take place in settlements at risk of flooding, subject to meeting the Sequential Test and Exceptions Test. Specific reference was made to the Managed Adaptive Approach agreed for the Lincolnshire Lakes. It was highlighted that this was only for this major project and the need to ensure land for flood mitigation measures is safeguarded.
- 11.120 It was stated that reference should be made to the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy (HFRMS) and the need for future growth to reflect its priorities and policies, whilst it was highlighted that the HFRMS strategy review would provide further evidence to support the SFRA and Local Plan. SUDs should also be encouraged via an appropriate policy.
- 11.121 **Option D**, a flexible approach that reflects national policy and the local circumstances in relation to flood risk, was the most favoured of the four proposed options. It was generally noted that whichever option is selected, it will be influenced by national policy, in particular the sequential test and its application as well as the need to ensure development is safe and does not increase flood risk elsewhere.
- 11.122 However, several respondents considered that given North Lincolnshire's circumstances and to accommodate desired levels of growth, development may need to take place in areas other than Flood Zone 1. Based on this, it was felt that a flexible and pragmatic approach should be adopted, and that Option D would deliver this. It would also allow developers the opportunity to confirm that their proposals were safe and would not increase flood risk elsewhere, as well as implement innovative solutions to manage flood risk (providing they were consistent with national policy requirements.). It was also noted this option could be used in conjunction with some of the others set out in the consultation document.
- 11.123 There were concerns that a more restrictive approach may result in a disproportionate growth strategy with development taking place in less sustainable locations, creating undesirable settlement patterns, and affecting the sustainability of communities (existing and future).
- 11.124 There was some disagreement with this option. It was felt the local authority should not seek via policy to pass responsibilities and costs of poorly planned, maintained or updated flood infrastructure onto developers. Developers should only bear an appropriate proportion of any costs. Another respondent understood the reasoning behind the policy approach set out in Option D but felt that it promoted development in flood plains. It was considered that Option C and national policy would manage this effectively; therefore, Option D was not needed, whilst another suggested that national policy would be sufficient to address the issue.
- 11.125 A general view was that steps be should be taken to combat flood risk in North Lincolnshire including the provision of flood defences and use of special specifications/design for housing within flood risk areas.
- 11.126 It was suggested that the four options provided were out dated, as future flooding was likely to be worse than that experienced previously, meaning that an alternative or **other option** should be considered. Several respondents **did not select any of the options** provided, but made comments regarding the plan's approach to flood risk. Given recent flood events in 2007 and 2013, flooding was viewed as a key issue for the Local Plan to address, whilst it was felt flood defences should be improved and adequate drainage provided in new developments. In addition, it was suggested that the Local Plan's approach to managing flood risk should be linked to natural processes, and the delivery of green infrastructure and solutions such as SUDs. Reference was also made to the sequential and exceptions tests.
- 11.127 One respondent proposed that developments should be deemed to have met the requirements of these tests, where they result in improved flood defences that protect development sites and/or reduce flood risk more generally, and have support in Neighbourhood Plans or as part of locally supported planning applications.

Responses – Question 41

- 11.128 **33** respondents provided an answer to this question. **11** respondents had further views about other options for managing of flood risk through the Local Plan, whilst **19** did not. **3** did not select an option, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **11** provided additional or further comments.

Table 11.13: Responses to Question 41: Managing Flood Risk – Alternative Options

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	11	33
No	19	58
No Option Selected	3	9
Total	33	100

Summary of Responses – Question 41

11.129 Other approaches suggested by those who provided further comments/views on flood risk management focussed on design and location of development, flood defences and infrastructure, drainage, the sequential and exceptions test, and links with green infrastructure provision and SUDS.

11.130 It was felt that alternative designs or use of different specifications for new housing and other development in flood risk areas should be considered. A respondent felt that housing should not be permitted in flood plain areas, although other uses such as light industry or sporting facilities may be more appropriate. There was general support for improving the area's flood defence infrastructure, especially along the River Trent and Humber Estuary, whilst there was a view a similar approach to that used in the Netherlands towards flood defences and drainage should be adopted, including the use of innovative engineering in flood plains. Several respondents highlighted the need to keep existing waterways, watercourses and drains in a well-maintained state to ensure water continues to flow, whilst drainage for all new development should be appropriate to accommodate it.

11.131 Reference was made to the sequential and exceptions tests. It was proposed that developments should be deemed to have met the requirements of these tests, where they result in improved flood defences that protect development sites and/or a reduction in flood risk more generally, and have support in Neighbourhood Plans or as part of locally supported planning applications. It was suggested that the Local Plan's approach to managing flood risk should be linked to natural processes, and the delivery of green infrastructure and solutions such as SUDS.

Responses – Question 42

11.132 42 respondents provided an answer to this question, outlining their views on how flood risk management should be dealt with in the Local Plan and as part of new developments.

Table 11.14: Responses to Question 42: Managing Flood Risk

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
-	42	-
Total	42	-

Summary of Responses – Question 42

11.133 A range of comments were received outlining how flood risk could be managed in North Lincolnshire through the Local Plan and as part of new development. These centred on the location and design of new development, maintenance and provision of flood defence and drainage infrastructure, compliance with national and other policies and evidence base, and cross boundary and multi-agency collaboration. Advice was provided on potential policy content.

11.134 In relation to the location of development, in particular housing, a number of respondents considered that it should not take place in flood plain areas or on other areas where flooding may be a possibility. Where this does occur, it was suggested that proposals should be considered on their merits, and only permitted where it can be demonstrated that appropriate flood prevention and mitigation measures are incorporated, for example the use of SUDs. Several suggestions were made regarding the design of development, including creating flood resistant housing and ensuring the floor levels of new dwellings are three metres above sea level as well as putting in place rules and guidance for developers. The use of grey water in new developments was supported, whilst it was felt that existing properties should be protected

11.135 There was support for regular maintenance/management and improvements to flood defence and drainage infrastructure. Particular reference was made to improving flood defences along the River Trent and Humber Estuary,

in order to protect the area from flooding. In respect of drainage, it was felt that new development should include appropriately designed drainage infrastructure to reduce flood risk, whilst existing infrastructure (waterways, ditches, drainage channels) should be protected and regularly maintained. Several respondents promoted the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).

- 11.136 A number of respondents highlighted the need for the Local Plan’s policy approach to reflect the provisions of national policy and guidance set out in the NPPF and PPG. It was also highlighted that at the local level an up to date Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) should be produced as part of the Local Plan evidence base, with regard being had to the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy (HFRMS), which is currently in the process of being reviewed. As part of this wider policy framework, the need to follow the Sequential Test and Exceptions Test and ensure their application as part of the Local Plan was highlighted. In particular, it was felt that the plan should be clear about the application of the Sequential Test to potential site allocations.
- 11.137 Specific comments were made regarding North Lincolnshire Council being a key contributor to the HFRMS review process. The need to ensure land is safeguarded in the Local Plan for future flood risk management schemes and infrastructure that supports the delivery of the HFRMS and SFRA was highlighted. In addition, it was felt that the Local Plan should consider how flood infrastructure will be delivered through the Local Plan.
- 11.138 With regard to cross boundary co-operation, the need to address flood risk around the Humber Estuary was raised. It was noted that authorities around the Estuary are working together and that this collaboration should inform the approach for all local plans in the area. A number of respondents considered that close collaboration should take place with the Environment Agency and drainage boards as well as town and parish councils.
- 11.139 Other respondents suggested using a flexible approach to flood risk management, whilst issues such as water tables and surface water run-off should be taken into account. It was suggested that the Local Plan’s approach to managing flood risk should be linked to natural processes, and the delivery of green infrastructure and solutions such as SUDs. Flood risk assessments should also be used to assess the impact of proposals. It was also felt that an independent flood plan should be developed and agreed with Government, whilst developers should be required to have insurance against flooding of their schemes, post construction.
- 11.140 Suggestions were put forward to include references to sewer flooding and sewage treatment capacity, SUDs and safeguarding drainage infrastructure with flooding policies, whilst it was felt that relevant policies from the Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan should be integrated into the emerging Local Plan. One respondent proposed that developments should be deemed to have met the requirements of the Sequential and Exception Tests, where they result in improved flood defences that protect development sites and/or a reduction in flood risk more generally, and have support in Neighbourhood Plans or as part of locally supported planning applications.

Responses – Question 43

- 11.141 **47** respondents provided an answer to this question. Options A & B were favoured as the most appropriate approach to water standards by **20** respondents each. **3** felt that an Other Option should be adopted, whilst **4** did not select a particular option, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **17** provided additional or further comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Implement the higher water efficiency standard of 110 litres of water usage per person per day through a future Local Plan.	20	43
Option B: Continue to use the Building Regulations Standard of 125 litres of water usage per person per day.	20	43
Other Option	3	6
No Option Selected	4	9
Total	47	100

Summary of Responses – Question 43

- 11.142 There was an even split in respondents choosing **Option A** (higher standard) and **Option B** (current lower national standard). Generally it was recognised that there was a need for efficient use of water in society as a whole.

- 11.143 There was wish from a number of respondents for the Local Plan to adopt **Option A**. It was felt to be an appropriate amount of water per person per day, particularly if the population is growing. Others highlighted the need to consider climate change, increasing levels of drought, and pressures on the water supplies from housing and economic growth as well as farming. It was stated applying the standard set out in this option would add between £6 and £9 to the cost of a dwelling, based on information set out in DCLG Housing Standards Review Cost impact Report (2014), whilst it would also help to change the natural flow and levels of water available if applied to new homes.
- 11.144 It was noted that North Lincolnshire (and the wider Anglian Water region as well as parts of the Yorkshire Water area) was classed (by the Environment Agency) as an area of water stress, meaning that water resources may not necessarily be freely available. Accordingly, it was felt that this standard should be applied both in North Lincolnshire and the wider Greater Lincolnshire area due to the strategic importance of this matter and the fact different standards across sub-regions may complicate the planning and development process and be counterproductive to wider objectives of stimulating and supporting economic growth.
- 11.145 In relation to **Option B**, several respondents considered that current water usage standards (based on current building regulations) should continue to be applied in new developments. Adopting or introducing another standard, i.e. Option A was viewed as being unnecessary and difficult to enforce as well as requiring a robust evidence to justify it. It was also queried whether such evidence was available.
- 11.146 It was highlighted that in setting any standard, existing and future needs for homes and industries should be taken into consideration. Some respondents suggested that systems to reduce water usage should form part of new dwellings and there should be greater public education about water use.
- 11.147 A small number of respondents considered that an alternative or **other option** should be used in the local plan. It was highlighted that water supply is the responsibility of government and water companies and as such, no restrictions should be placed on new development, with national standards and policy being relied upon. In addition, it was felt that any standards should be linked to council tax levels as well as the promotion of better water recycling and management, rather than imposing a blanket limit.
- 11.148 Some **did not select an option**. Comments centred on the need to provide clear evidence to support the need for any future higher, optional, standards (beyond current Building Regulations). The council was referred to guidance set out in the Planning Practice Guidance. Other comments highlighted the need to consider climate change and incidences of drought, and the overall need to protect water supplies from pollution. Water, it was felt, will be an increasingly valuable commodity in future years.

Responses – Question 44

11.149 **49** respondents provided an answer to this question. **18** respondents selected Option A as their favoured approach for the Local Plan towards renewable and low carbon energy, whilst **17** preferred Option B. **8** felt that another option should be used, whilst **6** did not select any of the options but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **24** provided additional or further comments.

Table 11.16: Responses to Question 44: Renewable & Low Carbon Energy		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Designate areas within the Local Plan for renewable and low carbon energy development (for example wind turbines and solar photovoltaic) without detrimental harm to North Lincolnshire landscape character and residential amenity.	18	37
Option B: Require all new major development to provide a percentage of their forecast energy needs from onsite renewable and low-carbon energy technologies.	17	35
Other Option	8	16
No Option Selected	6	12
Total	49	100

Summary of Responses – Question 44

- 11.150 There was some broad support for the concept of renewable and low carbon energy, however there was mix of views regarding the most appropriate approach for the Local Plan. A number of the additional comments highlighted the need for a mixture of both Options A and B to provide a more balanced approach.
- 11.151 There was support for **Option A**, designating specific areas for renewable and low carbon energy development in the Local Plan where there is no detrimental harm to landscape character and residential amenity. It was viewed as being the most balanced approach. It was suggested that this option should be expanded to encompass protected habitats and protected species including SPA, SAC and SSSI citation species. Doing so would mean that both options are appropriate, meriting further consideration. However, there was a view that this approach may result in the larger-scale commercial renewable and low carbon energy developments coming forward that are not appropriate in the area's primarily rural landscapes. A general comment was made about providing grants for home-owners to install green technology such as solar panels.
- 11.152 Those who supported **Option B** considered that the inclusion of on-site renewable and low carbon energy as part of new development (in particular major developments) was the most appropriate approach. It was viewed as being the most effective in reducing carbon emissions and increasing the use of low carbon energy. Several respondents considered that technologies such as solar panels, rain water recycling and, potentially, micro-scale wind turbines should be built into new homes. There was also some support for the creation of eco-homes. Others considered that the focus should be solar energy and ground source heat, rather than allowing wind turbines.
- 11.153 However, a respondent considered that Option B might be too onerous a requirement for all major development, particularly as no indication is given regarding the percentage expected. In some cases, it was suggested that this would result in the need for increased land take and impacts on landscapes. Furthermore, it was not felt to be the most pragmatic approach.
- 11.154 In terms of an alternative or **Other Option**, a combination of options A & B should be the preferred approach to renewable and low carbon energy in the emerging Local Plan. There was a view that all planning applications for renewable energy should be considered on their individual merits and solely located within areas designated for this purpose. However, it was felt proposals should be sensitive to their location and appropriately sited as well as taking into account matters such as landscape character, heritage, habitats, species and residential amenity. Specific reference was made to allocating land around an existing power station for future energy development, in line with Option A, whilst a respondent suggested greater use of solar energy on existing land and premises. Any policy should be in line with national policy.
- 11.155 A number of comments were made about the potential content of the Local Plan's policy on renewable and low carbon energy regarding wind energy and conventional power stations. Suggestions included being supportive of wind turbines with larger tip heights, repowering of and extensions to existing wind farms, removing time limits on wind farm permissions and repowering/refurbishment of conventional power stations. Other comments referred to the point that specific harm to landscapes was very subjective and wording should refer to 'significant unacceptable environmental impact' is more appropriate to reflect EIA regulations.
- 11.156 Several respondents provided comments but **did not select an option**. These comments focussed on including renewable and low carbon energy in new developments and Building Regulations, the historic environment and the wider aspirations for the renewable energy in the area. A number of respondents supported the concept of using renewables as part of new development and that a positive approach should be adopted to proposals that exceed Building Regulation requirements. However, it was considered that it should be interpreted as a mandatory requirement, as it does not reflect national policy and legislation.
- 11.157 Future allocations or proposals for energy development should take into account the need to conserve and any potential harm to the historic environment. It was stated that council should follow relevant advice when considering such sites/proposals. Other comments felt that the Local Plan should support renewable energy development given the economic aspirations of the council and the Humber sub-region as the energy estuary and development of the ports around the renewables industry. In turn, this will help to mitigate against climate change whilst at the same time providing a local market for the type of industry the area is aiming to attract. The options proposed, it was stated, may be viewed as being too prescriptive.

Responses – Question 45

- 11.158 **39** respondents provided an answer to this question. **22** had views on other options or approaches that the Local Plan should adopt towards renewable and low carbon energy, whilst **14** did not. **3** did not select a particular option, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **26** provided additional or further comments.

Table 11.17: Responses to Question 45

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	22	56
No	14	36
No Option Selected	3	8
Total	39	100

Summary of Responses – Question 45

- 11.159 A number of respondents highlighted other approaches or issues that the Local Plan should cover in relation to renewable and low carbon energy development. These include making use of different technologies, the design of development and the impacts of energy development on the environment.
- 11.160 One suggestion regarding different technologies was to use water from the canal network for cooling and/or heating of buildings, where there is sufficient water flow to do so. Another was to develop tidal power in the Humber Estuary, whilst there was some support for a policy framework that encourages extensions of both renewable and conventional power stations (including repowering and refurbishment). There was also support for a policy to encourage renewable and low carbon technology in all new developments. In particular, it was felt that proposals that are innovative or exceed building regulations should be viewed in a positive light.
- 11.161 In relation to design, it was suggested that solar panels should be included within new dwellings and commercial development, or sited on land considered unsuitable for agriculture. In addition, it was felt that energy efficiency should be promoted alongside opportunities for green energy generation. Using planning conditions to ensure the provision of electric car charging points was proposed, whilst it was considered the council should promote innovative solutions for householders.
- 11.162 As part of managing the impacts of renewable and low carbon energy proposals, it was felt that wildlife, habitats and the historic environment should be given due consideration, and that opportunities should be made available for biodiversity enhancement. Each proposal it was felt should be judged on its own merits. It was highlighted that the preferred option should be mix of the identifying appropriate sites for renewable energy development and including it as part of new development, where it does not adversely affect the character of the area.

12. PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY OF MINERALS

Introduction

12.1 Minerals play a vital role in society. Aggregates and other types of construction minerals are needed to build homes, factories, offices and transport infrastructure. Other minerals are used in industry, food production and agriculture. Energy minerals like oil and gas provide the country with power and heating. Whilst seeking to deliver development, increase our quality of life, and create sustainable communities, it is essential that we plan appropriately for minerals. Doing so ensures that the need for minerals by society and the economy, together with the impacts of extraction and processing on communities and the environment are managed in an integrated way.

Consultation

12.2 The Issues & Options document contained four questions in relation to various aspects of the minerals planning including supply and demand, efficient use of mineral resources, safeguarding, and managing the impacts of mineral development. The majority of the “Yes/No” questions sought to extract information about these topics.

46. Do you have views on the supply and demand for mineral resources in North Lincolnshire that should be taken into account as part of preparing the Local Plan?

47. Do you have any views on how the most efficient and sustainable use of mineral resources can be secured through the Local Plan?

48. Do you have any comments on the approach that the Local Plan should take towards safeguarding mineral resources and infrastructure, specifically:

- a) Which of North Lincolnshire’s mineral resources do you consider should be safeguarded in the Local Plan?
- b) Should defined Mineral Safeguarding Areas cover the full extent of the available resources or should it exclude built up areas?
- c) Should buffer zones around Mineral Safeguarding Areas be used and should there be any distinction made between different mineral resources and the buffer distances that apply? Suggestions are welcomed regarding the extent of buffer zones.
- d) Which, if any, mineral-related infrastructure in North Lincolnshire should be considered for safeguarding in the Local Plan?

49. Which of the options for managing the impacts of mineral development and the restoration/aftercare of former mineral sites do you support?

Responses – Question 46

12.3 45 respondents provided an answer to this question. Of these respondents, 14 had views about the mineral supply and demand for mineral resources in North Lincolnshire that need to be taken into account whilst preparing the Local Plan. However, 26 had no views, whilst 5 did not select an option, but nonetheless provided comments. Of those who responded, 19 provided further or additional comments

Table 12.1: Responses to Question 46 – Supply & Demand for Mineral Resources

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	14	31
No	26	58
No Option Selected	5	11
Total	45	100

Summary of Responses – Question 46

12.4 The principle issues raised by those who provided responses to this question related to the location of minerals development, cross-boundary collaboration between mineral planning authorities, maintaining sufficient mineral reserves and landbanks, and impacts on heritage of mineral development.

12.5 In relation to the location of minerals development, several respondents acknowledged the fact that mineral extraction could only take place where they are found. However, it was felt that other considerations should be taken into account when considering proposals for mineral extraction sites and in developing a planning policy approach towards them.

- 12.6 These include the development of a policy approach that supports, where possible, the use of sustainable transport modes to move minerals from extraction sites, which will allow for the protection of key road infrastructure. A further response felt that the Local Plan should make it clear that not all proposals for minerals extraction will be appropriate in all locations and that other aspects concerning their impacts should be given due consideration in the decision making process. Others suggested that careful consideration be given to the location of extraction sites in respect of other future development and that they should be located away from residential areas and important wildlife/nature areas.
- 12.7 A number of responses related to cross boundary collaboration on minerals planning matters. It was highlighted that partnership working should continue via the Yorkshire & Humber Aggregates Working Party. It was also noted that aggregate import and export data has been included as part of the assessment of future aggregate supply and demand.
- 12.8 The ongoing work between North Lincolnshire and its neighbours (East Riding of Yorkshire, Hull & North East Lincolnshire) on the Humber Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) was noted. The LAA is a key piece of evidence for each authority's Local Plans, and it is essential that it is kept up to date. It was further highlighted an Aggregates Apportionment Background Paper had been prepared to support the East Riding & Hull Joint Minerals Local Plan to establish future aggregate supply for those areas, and that a similar paper should be produced for North and North East Lincolnshire. In terms of supply and demand for aggregates evidence will continue to show that there are distinct and separate markets operating north and south of the Humber Estuary.
- 12.9 There was support for the recognition within the Issues and Options document that hydrocarbon reserves lie within North Lincolnshire and their role in providing power and heating. Reference was made to the fact that the draft National Planning Policy Framework (March 2018) requires Mineral Planning Authorities to recognise the benefits of on-shore oil and gas development, and to put in place policies to facilitate their exploration and extraction. This requirement must be clearly articulated in the Local Plan. However, several respondents were concerned about the potential for "fracking" and the impacts that it could have on the local population (including on its health). Therefore, it was felt that it should not take place in North Lincolnshire.
- 12.10 Several respondents referred to the need to have regard to existing permitted mineral reserves and maintaining sufficient reserves of different mineral types in order to support economic growth, the local construction industry and meet the requirements of national planning policy. It was recommended that the plan should include site allocations for future working areas, or define areas of search, based on relevant information from the British Geological Survey (BGS). If allocations are not identified, it was suggested that the council should rely on national policies, other local mineral policies and ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to safeguard minerals from being impacted upon by non-mineral development.
- 12.11 A number of other points regarding landbanks were raised. It was felt that national planning policy should be relied upon to ensure an adequate supply of minerals. However, it was highlighted that the landbank levels set out in national policy are minimums and it may be appropriate to allow the release of mineral reserves that are in excess of the minimum landbank figures, particularly where significant investment in sites needs to take place.
- 12.12 The need to ensure that Local Aggregate Assessments are updated on an annual basis was highlighted in order to have an up to date overview of landbanks. Any landbank for minerals that are extracted for industrial as well as aggregate purposes, should only include those reserves that are intended for use as aggregate. Furthermore, it was suggested that the policy framework should give recognition to the need to extract other minerals, for example clay, if doing so delivers demonstrable benefits and can be done without unacceptable impacts.
- 12.13 With regard to the historic environment and heritage, it was considered that any site allocations would need to take into account the historic environment and its setting. The council is advised to consult Historic England guidance on this matter. The need to ensure a supply of clay for heritage replacement purposes was raised.

Responses – Question 47

- 12.14 **38** respondents provided an answer this question. **8** respondents had views about the sustainable use of minerals, whilst mostly **26** did not. **4** did not select an option, but provided comments. Of those who responded, **11** provided further or additional comments

Table 12.2: Responses to Question 47 – Efficient and Sustainable Use of Minerals

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents

Yes	8	21
No	26	67
No Option Selected	4	11
Total	38	100

Summary of Responses – Question 47

- 12.15 This question sought views on the how the most sustainable and efficient use of mineral resources could be secured through the Local Plan process. As noted above a limited number of respondents had views on this particular issue. The additional or further comments centred on demand for a particular resource, industrial minerals, use of mineral sites, recycling of Construction, Demolition & Excavation (CDE) waste, use of marine aggregates, the need to consider the historic environment and use of sustainable transport.
- 12.16 It was suggested that the most sustainable and efficient use of particular minerals would be dependent on whether or not a demand for it had been demonstrated. Therefore, maintaining sufficient landbanks of various mineral types to support economic growth is essential.
- 12.17 In relation to the sustainable and efficient use of silica sand resources, some of which is extracted in North Lincolnshire for use in glass manufacturing, the opportunities to use alternative materials in end uses was limited by quality considerations. However, it stated many of the end uses involved the use of recycled materials such as recycled glass, and that some of the silica sand could be used for other purposes including aggregates, thus making the most efficient use of the resource. Accordingly, it was felt the marketplace will establish efficient markets in their own rights. As such, there was no need to apply planning controls to secure this objective particularly as the definition of efficient and sustainable will be subject to changing circumstances.
- 12.18 It was highlighted that mineral extraction by its nature, is a temporary use of land and that former sites can be restored for a wide range of after uses including agriculture, nature conservation, lakes and woodland, thus making efficient use of land. Identifying specific or preferred sites in the Local Plan, it was felt, would give a degree of certainty to communities and developers, as they will be subject to an assessment to ascertain whether they can be developed in an environmentally acceptable way and that they can be restored for beneficial after uses.
- 12.19 The use of recycled CDE wastes was supported as means of reducing the reliance on primary mineral reserves. There were benefits of co-locating CDE waste recycling facilities and quarrying activities and that it should be recognised in future planning policy. Another respondent recommended that specific minerals sites are designated in the plan.
- 12.20 In relation to marine aggregates, concerns were raised about their increased use as part of meeting the supply. The key issue related to impact of new extraction sites on marine habitats and species, and the potential for direct or indirect impacts on the internationally recognised nature conservation sites in the Humber Estuary. However, it was stated that any sites would be subject to relevant consenting procedures, Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment.
- 12.21 It was highlighted that when determining any future mineral site allocations, due consideration will need to be given to the historic environment and its setting. The council was referred to a Historic England guidance note on the matter. It was felt that the plan should that supports, where possible, the use of sustainable transport modes to move minerals from extraction sites, which will allow for the protection of key road infrastructure. A further respondent stated that they did not wish to provide comments at this stage, but would do so as policies and site allocations emerge.

Responses – Question 48

- 12.22 **40** respondents provided an answer to this question. The majority, **26** respondents did not have any further views on the approach the Local Plan should take to mineral safeguarding whilst **10** respondents did. **4** did not select an option but provided comments any way. Of those who responded, **14** provided further or additional comments.

Table 12.3: Responses to Question 48: Mineral Safeguarding

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	10	25
No	26	65

No Option Selected	4	10
Total	40	100

Summary of Responses – Question 48

- 12.23 This question sought views about the approach that the Local Plan should take to safeguarding key mineral resources in North Lincolnshire, defining mineral safeguarding areas and appropriate buffer zones and safeguarding mineral infrastructure. Of those who responded, most centred on these issues, however there were some more general points made in relation to using sustainable transport modes to move minerals, ensuring a sufficient supply to support the economy and the need to consider the historic environment in defining a policy approach for minerals.
- 12.24 Part A of this question asked respondents about those mineral resources that they felt should be safeguarded in the emerging Local Plan. One respondent suggested that all mineral resources should be safeguarded, whilst another suggested that safeguarding should only extend to chalk, limestone, sand and gravel, and silica sand resources. The level of information set out in the Issues & Options document about the area’s mineral resources was questioned.
- 12.25 Part B centred on the extent of potential Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs), in particular whether they would cover the full extent of the resource or exclude certain areas such as urban areas. A range of views were received. Several respondents felt that MSAs should exclude built up areas and that there should be a buffer around them. Another did not wish to see a blanket approach to MSAs across the area, particularly where it could affect the potential for hydrocarbon exploration and production within PEDLs where resources may not be worked for some time, or if at all. As such, it was felt they should be used sparingly and that any future policy should be clear that other uses will be permitted unless they adversely affect a mineral reserve. In a similar vein, it was stated that although minerals may be safeguarded, this does not confer a presumption that extraction will take place or an assumption that it is workable.
- 12.26 It was highlighted that the Planning Practice Guidance states that MSAs should be defined in designated areas and urban areas, where necessary to do so. However, it was considered that provided the existence and distribution of the mineral resource is acknowledged, MSAs could reasonably exclude built up areas, however it was suggested that Mineral Consultation Areas (MCA’s) be defined in these areas. It was stated the council should develop a mineral safeguarding methodology and define both MSAs and MCAs on relevant mapping.
- 12.27 The need to consider mineral resources in adjoining mineral planning authorities and ensure that they are not sterilised by development in North Lincolnshire was raised. Particular reference was made to safeguarding and consultation areas for sand and gravel situated adjacent to the boundary between North Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.
- 12.28 Part C sought views on whether buffer zones should be defined around MSAs, and offered opportunities for respondents to suggest suitable distances. Overall, there was agreement that buffer zones should be defined, although a respondent did not support them. Another suggested that there should be a buffer zone applied around towns and villages.
- 12.29 In terms of determining the extent and role of the buffer zones, it was felt that they should be defined as part of an MCA – extending beyond the lateral extent on MSAs. However, they should not seek to restrict development but rather set out zones around mineral resources where development may restrict or sterilise them. A further suggestion was that they should be used as an initial screening or safeguarding tool. Having different buffer zone distances for different minerals were not considered necessary. In relation to existing extraction sites, it felt that buffer zones should be applied. A buffer of 250m was felt to give adequate protection.
- 12.30 Part D related to the safeguarding of mineral infrastructure. Overall, it was considered that all existing mineral sites and associated infrastructure (whether active or not) should be safeguarded. This would include mineral processing sites, rail facilities, wharves, warehousing and concrete batching plants. In addition, this would be in line with the NPPF (para 143).

Responses – Question 49

- 12.31 **39** respondents provided an answer to this question. **28** favoured Option A, which would see the inclusion of specific policies to manage the impact of mineral developments, whilst **7** considered it more appropriate to rely on national policy (Option B). **1** suggested a different approach, whilst **3** did not select an option, but provided comments. Of those who responded, **12** provided further or additional comments to support their choice.

Table 12.4: Responses to Question 49: Managing the Impact of Mineral Development

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Set out specific policies in the Local Plan for managing the impacts of mineral development on the wider environment and the restoration/after-use of mineral workings.	28	72
Option B: Do not include specific policies on managing the impacts of mineral development on the wider environment and the restoration/after-use of mineral workings. This would result in us relying on higher-level national planning policy.	7	18
Other Option	1	3
No Option Selected	3	8
Total	39	100

Summary of Responses – Question 49

- 12.32 The question sought views on whether or not the plan should contain specific policies to manage the impacts of mineral development on the environment and the restoration/aftercare for former workings. Of those who provided additional comments in support of **Option A**, all considered it essential for the Local Plan to contain such policies (criteria based or otherwise).
- 12.33 Doing so would reflect national policy (NPPF para 143 and Planning Practice Guidance) and ensure that it is properly applied to local circumstances, as well as giving greater local controls over development. It was also felt to be beneficial for operators to include such a policy or policies that brings all the issues related the impacts of mineral development together in one place, as it would make sure that a proper planning balance is achieved in decision-making.
- 12.34 It was suggested that specific policies would help to facilitate better environmental outcomes and deliver on other aspects of the Local Plan, in particular the provision of green and blue infrastructure and habitat creation through restoration of former workings. As part of restoration schemes, it felt that the policies could be designed with local targets and priorities for biodiversity enhancement including giving precedence to creating appropriate priority habitats. A number of Environment Agency position statements on ground water were highlighted as being considerations in drafting policies.
- 12.35 In drafting policies, it was recommended that the plan should set out separate policies for requirements for the extraction of aggregates and for hydrocarbons as the impacts associated with both types of mineral can be different due to the different techniques and geologies involved. A further suggestion is the plan includes a definition of what constitutes “fracking”. The use of such a definition in the North Yorkshire, York & North York Joint Minerals Local Plan was highlighted. Including a definition would allow a thorough Environmental Impact Assessment to be undertaken for any activity that would involve fracturing of rock regardless whether the reservoir to be extracted is conventional or unconventional hydrocarbons.
- 12.36 In relation to **Option B**, one respondent considered that national planning policy provides an adequate framework against which to assess any potential impacts. Relying on national policy, it was felt would ensure planning decisions are based on the most up to date policy.
- 12.37 In relation to identifying **another option**, it was suggested that specific policies could be set out in the Local Plan if they reflected national policy and that any more locally-specific policies should only be used if specific circumstances dictated. A respondent also highlighted some inconsistency in terminology contained in the document.
- 12.38 As previously mentioned several respondents **did not select one of the options** available, but provided some further comments and views regarding managing the impact of mineral developments. It was considered that the plan should give due regard to the impact on local communities from oil and gas developments including from dust, noise, vehicle impacts, flaring, waste, spills and run off. In addition, it was suggested that the plan should reflect the international commitments on climate change.
- 12.39 It was highlighted that when determining any future mineral site allocations, due consideration will need to be given to the historic environment and its setting. The council was referred to a Historic England guidance note on the matter. One respondent felt that insufficient information about this matter had been provided.

13. SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Introduction

13.1 Nearly all activities create waste, whether it is through the production or consumption of goods and services as part of the economy and wider society. This means that it needs to be managed in the most appropriate and sustainable manner. Waste is a resource rather than something that is to be disposed of, whilst its management is part of efforts to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change. Government policy set out in the National Waste Strategy (2013) clearly points towards a zero waste economy. This means that material resources like waste are reused, recycled or recovered, wherever possible, and only disposed of as the last option. This contributes to developing a place that is cleaner and greener.

Consultation

13.2 The Issues & Options document contained four questions in relation to various aspects of the waste planning including waste arisings and their management, site identification and dealing with the impacts of waste development. Two of the four questions gave respondents the opportunity to select their preferred option for identifying sites and managing the impacts of development, respectively.

50. Do you have any comments on current and future waste arising in North Lincolnshire, or can you provide any relevant evidence that would assist us in developing our understanding of waste in the area?

51. Do you have comments about how the Local Plan should seek to meet North Lincolnshire’s waste management needs?

52. Which option for identifying sites for waste management sites or locations for waste management facilities do you support? Are any factors of particular importance within the context of North Lincolnshire?

53. Which option for managing the impacts of waste development do you support or should we continue to rely on national policy?

Responses – Question 50

13.3 **41** respondents provided an answer to this question. There was an equal split between those who had views on existing and future waste arisings and this who did not – **19** respondents selecting “Yes” and **19** selecting “No”. **3** did not select either of these options but provided comments. Of those who answered “Yes” or did not select an option, all **22** put forward further, detailed comments.

Table 13.1: Responses to Question 50 – Current & Future Waste Arisings

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	19	46
No	19	46
No Option Selected	3	7
Total	41	100

Summary of Responses – Question 50

13.4 Whilst the question referred to the current and future waste arisings, the majority of responses received centred on the issue of fly tipping, as well as the operation of the area’s waste collection and management systems. Other responses related to the need to reduce the environmental impact of waste, management of Construction, Demolition & Excavation (CDE) waste, cross boundary waste movements and available information about waste arisings and facility capacity.

13.5 In relation to fly tipping, a number of respondents highlighted its impact on the local environment. To address this, waste disposal centres need to have longer opening hours and fewer restrictions on the type of waste accepted. Using more challenging targets for cleaning up the environment and reducing fly tipping were also put forward as a solution.

13.6 Several suggestions about the operation of the area’s waste collection, recycling and management services came forward as part of the consultation. These included making it much easier to recycle waste, making facilities more accessible, improved collections for household items and providing more local waste management centres in rural areas. It was also felt that better information about the types of waste that can be recycled be provided to local

residents. The introduction of the food/kitchen collection and recycling service was proposed. The alternative was to allow this waste to be included in compostable waste. The introduction of a bin cleaning service was also suggested.

- 13.7 There was a general view that there is a need to reduce the environmental impact of waste, particularly where it is being transferred to/from/between facilities, and that all waste must be identified and then treated accordingly. It was also considered that other methods of disposal or innovative measures be adopted to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
- 13.8 In respect of recyclables, it was felt other disposal methods such as burning or use in energy from waste facilities could be used, where demand for the recycled product falls and costs for recycling increase. In terms of location, it was felt that waste facilities should be located away from residential areas. Specific reference was made to the proximity of Winterton to several waste management sites.
- 13.9 The management of CDE waste has raised as a particular issue. Firstly, it was felt that benefits of using quarries for the co-location of CDE waste recycling facilities should be recognised in the plan. Secondly, it was stated that not all CDE wastes are capable of being recycled and that provision should be made for the continued landfilling of residual waste. Thirdly, it was felt that there should be greater recognition of the benefits of using residual wastes as part of restoring former mineral workings.
- 13.10 Waste movements across local authority boundaries need to be given due consideration as part of the Local Plan. Specific reference was made to the waste movements to/from North Lincolnshire and the Nottinghamshire area.
- 13.11 Guidance on the relevant national planning policy and sources of information that can assist the council in identifying and forecasting waste arisings, across all waste streams and assessing the capacity of waste management facilities in North Lincolnshire was put forward. In relation to the historic environment and heritage, it was considered that any site allocations would need to take into account the historic environment and its setting.

Responses – Question 51

- 13.12 **40** respondents provided an answer to this question. **10** respondents had views about how the Local Plan should address the area’s waste management needs, whereas most, **29**, did not. **1** respondent did not select an option, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **11** provided further or additional comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	10	25
No	29	73
No Option Selected	1	3
Total	40	100

Summary of Responses – Question 51

- 13.13 The responses received centred on using more sustainable approaches to managing waste, meeting the requirements of national policy, the Local Plan evidence base and the historic environment as well as the need to consider emerging plans in neighbouring areas.
- 13.14 Several respondents consider the plan should support more sustainable approaches to managing waste. This includes having more and improved opportunities for recycling of waste in order to move away from landfill as means of disposal. To achieve this, it was suggested that the latest technologies are used to maximise the amount of material that can be recycled, as well as more use of efficient incinerators to burn waste and use the energy generated for the provision of power and heating. Composting was also put forward as part of increasing recycling/re-use of waste. In terms of facilities, it was considered that more disposal sites should be made readily available and that larger recycling bins should be made available free of charge.
- 13.15 It was highlighted that the Local Plan should address the requirements of the wider policy framework including the European Waste Framework Directive and national legislation and policy such as the Waste Management Plan for England. Particular references were made to the contents of the National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW), and meeting the requirements of the “Waste Hierarchy”. Local Plans are required to drive the management of waste up

the hierarchy, recognising the need for a mix of types and scales of facilities, and that adequate provision must be made for waste treatment and disposal.

- 13.16 The fact that the council is seeking to develop its waste evidence base was welcomed. It was highlighted that national policy advises areas to manage waste at source and reduce the need to transport it elsewhere for management, treatment or disposal. In relation to the historic environment and heritage, it was considered that any site allocations would need to take into account the historic environment and its setting.
- 13.17 Other issues raised related to the design and layout of new residential developments and the fact that small quarries that have previously been used for road stone or whiting extraction should be identified and used as locations for waste disposal. In addition, it was highlighted that neighbouring local authorities are in the process of developing their own waste local plans, which may have a bearing on the approach taken in the emerging North Lincolnshire Local Plan.

Responses – Question 52

- 13.18 **40** respondents provided an answer to this question. Options A and B attracted the same level of support with **18** respondents favour each, whilst **2** chose Option C – rely on national policy. **1** put forward an alternative option, whilst **1** did not select an option, but provided comments. Of those who responded, **15** provided further or additional comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Identify specific sites or locations in the Local Plan for sustainable waste management facilities.	18	45
Option B: Use criteria-based policies to ensure that sustainable waste management facilities are developed in the most sustainable and appropriate locations.	18	45
Option C: Do not include any specific sites/locations or criteria-based policies and rely on national policy.	2	5
Other Option	1	2.5
No Option Selected	1	2.5
Total	40	100

Summary of Responses – Question 52

- 13.19 In relation to **Option A**, there was support for identifying specific sites for sustainable waste management facilities to deal with the area’s waste as part of the Local Plan.
- 13.20 It was suggested that any sites should not be located close to residential areas. However, it was felt that they should be in areas with good transport connections. There was some support for ensuring facilities are located close to where waste is produced to reduce the distance over which it is transported. Ensuring the provision of sufficient capacity for waste management is essential to avoid unnecessary transportation to/from the area.
- 13.21 Any specific sites or locations in the Local Plan, it was felt should be based on specific criteria and a robust evidence base. This will ensure that they are in the most appropriate location. Doing so would represent a mix of Options A and B. In addition, industry involvement in site identification was considered important in making sure they are deliverable. A respondent suggested that a joint policy approach with neighbouring authorities should be adopted to ensure a consistent policy framework and equality of access to waste facilities in any area.
- 13.22 In relation to **Option B**, there was support for selecting sites or locations based on set criteria. These criteria, it was felt should be based on those contained in the National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW), with additional criteria to reflect local circumstances, if needed. One respondent suggested sites should be identified in the Local Plan. Others suggested the waste facilities should be sited away from built up and residential areas, particularly in the case of composting facilities. The introduction of kitchen waste composting and food waste collection service was proposed.
- 13.23 Another respondent felt more consideration should be given to disposing recyclable waste through incineration and heat recovery, particularly where the value and demand for recycled products decrease and cost for processing, transporting and handling them increase. As such, it was proposed that sites for high temperature combustion facilities should be identified and published for consultation.

- 13.24 There were no additional comments provided in support of **Option C**.
- 13.25 A respondent considered a mixture of Options A and B should be utilised in the Local Plan. Doing so, would provide an opportunity to improve the management of waste and resources, in turn contributing to economic growth and development. It was highlighted that waste facilities have the potential impact on the environment and communities, therefore the Local Plan needs to ensure that facilities are located and designed to minimise any impact. Appendix B of the NPPW should be taken into account when assessing potential sites.
- 13.26 The historic environment and heritage was an issue that should be taken into account in determining site allocations for waste management facilities.

Responses – Question 53

- 13.27 **35** respondents provided an answer to this question. **29** respondents favoured Option A, whilst **5** preferred Option B. **1** did not select an option but provided comments. Of those who responded, **8** provided further or additional comments

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Set out specific policies in the Local Plan for managing the impacts of waste development on the wider environment.	29	83
Option B: Do not include specific policies on managing the impacts of waste development on the wider environment and rely on higher-level national planning policy.	5	14
Other Option	0	0
No Option Selected	1	3
Total	35	100

Summary of Responses – Question 53

- 13.28 The majority of respondents who provided additional or further comments did so in relation to **Option A**. Most felt it important to have some form locally specific policies in the Local Plan to manage the impact of waste facilities on the wider environment and local communities. This would support the protection of the environment, and give a clear indication to developers of the requirements needed for a successful application. It was acknowledged, however that any policy should be consistent with those set out at the national level.
- 13.29 A single respondent provided additional comments in support of **Option B**. National planning policy was considered to provide an adequate framework against which to assess the potential impacts for waste developments. Doing so, will ensure that decisions on planning applications are based on the most up to date policy available.
- 13.30 In relation to the historic environment and heritage, it was considered that any policy framework should take into account the impacts that waste development could have on the historic environment and its setting.

14. CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES & BETTER PLACES

Introduction

- 14.1 The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and create healthy, inclusive, sustainable communities. A healthy community is described as a good place to grow up and grow old in. It is one, which supports healthy behaviours, reductions in health inequalities and enhances the physical and mental health of the community.
- 14.2 The link between planning and health is long established; the built and the natural environments are major influences on health and wellbeing and delivering sustainable communities is at the heart of the planning system. This means ensuring that alongside homes, jobs and transport infrastructure; all local people have ready access to those services and facilities they need for their everyday lives and that contribute positively to the health and wellbeing of the community.
- 14.3 National planning guidance emphasises the link between planning and health. It recommends that Local Plans should aim to achieve health objectives through the quality of new places. This includes securing access to open space and sport and recreation facilities, which can make an important contribution to the health of communities and can help in tackling obesity. The Government also attaches great importance to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities.

Consultation

- 14.4 The Issues & Options document contained eight questions in relation to various aspects of delivering sustainable communities including health and wellbeing, community infrastructure, safeguarding and providing community facilities/services.

54. How should we aim to create healthy living environments and what features would contribute to and improve your living environment, and health and wellbeing?

55. Should we look to limit the number of hot food takeaways in some locations where there is an over-concentration and/or they are close to our schools or does this unfairly prejudice commercial interests? Please give reasons for your response.

56. What do you think are the main healthcare requirements for the area?

57. Do you agree to continue with the current policy to safeguard existing public open space and playing pitches unless an over-supply is available, and identify new provision where deficiencies are identified?

58. How do you think the Local Plan should consider allotments?

59. How can the Local Plan ensure that adequate education infrastructure is provided to meet the needs of the local population?

60. Are there any other issues regarding our schools, education, communities and places which you think should be examined?

61. Would you support a policy that seeks to retain community facilities and support new community facilities in sustainable locations (including the provision of shared space) and that seeks to plan positively for the provision of local community facilities and services.

Responses – Question 54

- 14.5 50 respondents provided an answer to this question with a number of different suggestions and recommendations, which aim to create a healthier living environment.

Table 14.2: Responses to Question 56: Healthier Living Environments

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
-	50	-
Total	50	-

Summary of Responses – Question 54

- 14.6 Several respondents considered that opportunities for creating healthy communities should be included as part of new development with an aim of creating well balanced communities. This includes ensuring appropriate infrastructure (in particular health and education infrastructure, and open space), services and community facilities are provided.
- 14.7 A number of comments received stated that road and path networks need to be improved and that housing development which creates congestion should be avoided. Several respondents focussed on the need to deal with pollution, particularly air, light and noise pollution as well pollution generated by traffic. It was suggested that increased use of public transport would assist in doing so, as would building less houses. It was stated that a strategy for cleaning up the built and natural environments is urgently needed to support other environmental initiatives. Litter and waste in the countryside was noted as being as important as air quality and marine pollution.
- 14.8 It was felt that any new residential communities need to be separated from heavy industry. Other comments submitted also stated existing employers in the area need protection so they can operate 24 hours without restrictions being placed upon them. Accordingly, it was felt that the location of new housing and community developments should carefully consider nearby industry.
- 14.9 A number of respondents stated that the development of fast food outlets should be stopped or reduced, whilst healthy eating/good nutrition should be promoted through better education. Other suggestions to improve health and well-being included encouraging more recycling, reducing the use of plastic e.g. encouraging the use of glass bottles where retailers/manufacturers paying for their return and supporting businesses to use less non-recyclable materials.
- 14.10 Green spaces, it was felt should be enhanced and protected from development with more being provided. Several respondents raised the provision of a good quality green and blue infrastructure networks and their importance to health. They enable people to walk or enjoy outdoor activities, which is also good for promoting exercise as well as physical and mental health. It was also felt that green spaces should be used to encourage outdoor activities and keep people active as well as for promoting social interaction, holding events and live music.
- 14.11 A Green and Blue Infrastructure network was also highlighted as being beneficial for wildlife, and that they should be designing for appropriate priority habitats that will help to contribute to national and local biodiversity targets as well as providing accessible natural greenspace.
- 14.12 Good walking and cycling routes were viewed as important factors for good health, reducing pollution and promoting clean air. More footpaths and cycle ways as well as bridleways were needed as well as improvements to existing ones, e.g. ensuring they are wheelchair friendly. These can have a huge impact on healthy living and health and well-being. In addition, there should be more opportunities for people to undertake exercise including in schools.
- 14.13 It was also suggested that green areas/spaces, amenity planting, recreation facilities and cycling/walking routes within all business, industrial and residential development should be encouraged wherever possible. Housing density should be considered on a site-by-site basis and new housing developments need to include sufficient parking for two vehicles per house. In villages, it was suggested that more green areas, with flower planting and fountains should be provided. Another issue raised was the need to deal with anti-social behaviour, the provision of more CCTV to catch people littering and committing crime as well as increased levels of policing.
- 14.14 It was also stated that local allotments should be protected and, where appropriate, more provided, to be used to grow more local produce and allow for community food schemes e.g. by reinstating fruit orchards.
- 14.15 The historic environment was also raised as playing a significant role in society by enhancing the wellbeing and quality of life as well as improving the way places are perceived by residents and visitors. It was also considered that cultural facilities and community spaces in all areas of North Lincolnshire should be given appropriate protection in the emerging Local Plan, with robust criteria regarding their loss set out within any future policy. The benefits of Stainforth and Keadby Canal were raised and that evidence suggests property developments at waterside locations commands a premium value compared to other schemes.
- 14.16 Specific comments were made about the impact of growth on community facilities in Barton upon Humber. Facilities were felt not to have kept pace with growth and that there had been increases in traffic, which had affected the quality of life and health and wellbeing of local people. Leisure activities and facility provision/capacity in Epworth should remain at least at current levels, whilst it was generally felt that facilities should have better opening hours throughout the day across the area so that people can stay active and fit,

Responses – Question 55

14.17 **47** respondents provided an answer to this question. Of those who responded, **32** supported the potential for limiting of the number of hot food takeaways through planning policies, whilst **12** did not. **3** respondents did not select a particular option, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **35** provided further or additional comments

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	32	68
No	12	26
No Option Selected	3	6
Total	47	100

Summary of Responses – Question 55

14.18 A majority of respondents stated that the council should seek to limit the number of hot food takeaways in some locations through planning policy, particularly where there is over concentration or are close to schools. The main reasons for supporting this approach are that there are increasing levels of obesity amongst the population, whilst some areas already are dominated by hot food takeaway/fast food outlets. In particular, they have environmental impacts such as littering, noise and odour. Introducing Fast Food Free designated areas was suggested as a solution. In addition, it was felt that healthy eating and nutrition should be promoted.

14.19 Many respondents also commented that hot food takeaways should not be limited, as people will still buy this product even if they are limited. Restricting numbers would also prejudice how the market functions. Children and young people should be educated more about healthy eating and the consumption of unhealthy food but ultimately food choices are for individuals to make. It was also stated that many people enjoy a nice good quality takeaway and that certain settlements would benefit from such a facility. Issues such as litter are also addressed by some takeaway and fast food operators by conducting litter patrols on a daily basis

14.20 It was raised that limiting the location, concentration and proximity of hot food takeaways to local schools would be unsound and that there is no justification for using the development control system to influence peoples food choices. A policy, to be implemented by schools, that restrict pupils leaving premises at lunchtime would be better rather than a policy limiting takeaways near schools.

14.21 Another respondent felt that limiting take away/fast food outlets would not be deemed positive, justified, effective or consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework and that there is a lack of evidence to demonstrate the link between fast food, proximity of schools and obesity. It was highlighted that any takeaway/fast food operators have taken steps to expand the range of healthy options and work with the communities through a number of initiatives e.g being a community partner of the Football Association which helped to train and recruit coaches. The council was advised to examine various evidence sources that support the comments received.

Responses – Question 56

14.22 **45** respondents provided an answer to this question, setting out those health-related issues that need to be addressed in North Lincolnshire and those services, facilities and infrastructure that should be provided to meet existing and/or future needs.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
-	45	-
Total	45	-

Summary of Responses – Question 56

14.23 Respondents stated that the main healthcare requirements for the area related to the provision of, and access to, medical facilities and services. Other issues highlighted related social care provision, procurement/management of health services, and the need to deal with a range of public health issues. It was also felt that facilities should be protected and enhanced.

- 14.24 In relation to health care facilities and services, the main requirements for the area were the need to consider the impact of development on existing medical (including GP surgeries) and dental facilities, and making appropriate provision through the local plan. Generally, it was felt that more, as well as improved, GP surgeries, dental practices and pharmacies should be provided throughout the area, whilst other comments were received regarding the need to make GP facilities more accessible by increasing open hours, particularly during evenings and weekends, and making more appointments available. The need to maintain access to health care in rural areas was also highlighted.
- 14.25 Further suggestions related to the provision of services. These included the need to provide more home visits for older people, more integration of services between hospital departments, general improvements to local hospital services as well as provision of good quality immediate care such as A&E and ambulance provision. A GP walk in centre as well as a local cancer centre were also proposed.
- 14.26 Other requirements listed were ‘Drop in sessions’ at community centres for health services such as flu jabs and more local healthcare services/facilities in market towns and other communities to reduce the need to travel (X ray, blood tests) for hospitals. Specific reference was made to the provision of GP services in Kirton in Lindsey, GP and dental facilities in Barton upon Humber, and the ability of residents to access hospital services in neighbouring areas. There should also be the recognition for the work of L.I.V.E.S.
- 14.27 It was felt there is a need to improve social care and care in the community, in particular by providing further support for older people including those suffering from dementia and other conditions. It was suggested appropriate housing for older people should be provided.
- 14.28 Specific comments were made about the need for the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Council to work more closely together on a jointly developed coherent procurement and commissioning plan for the Local Plan period to ensure the impact of future population and economic growth is carefully considered on facilities and services. Another respondent considered that it is important to know how much capacity there is in terms of primary health care and hospital provision in the area and what settlements need further provision. In addition, it was suggested that there should be an understanding of whether shortfalls in provision can be addressed via developer contributions.
- 14.29 Protection and provision of green spaces, sports fields and facilities, including better play areas were also raised as priorities to be addressed alongside reducing the levels of alcohol and drug consumption, tackling obesity and reducing pollution. Cleaner air and better public transport provision were also sought. In addition, it was felt there should be more focus on promoting exercise and activity, education about healthy eating and nutrition, and preventing ill health by supporting people to remain active as well as encouraging people to manage their own health and well-being.

Responses – Question 57

- 14.30 **53** respondents provided an answer to this question. **46** supported the existing policy approach of safeguarding open space and playing pitches, unless there is an over-supply, whereas **4** did not. **3** did not select either “Yes” or “No”, but chose to provide comments on this subject. Of those who responded, **20** provided further or additional comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	46	87
No	4	8
No Option Selected	3	6
Total	53	100

Summary of Responses – Question 57

- 14.31 A large majority of respondents stated that existing public open spaces and playing pitches should be safeguarded unless there was an oversupply. Several considered they should be completely protected from development. These facilities were recognised as important to good health and active lifestyles. Comments also stated that schools should use green spaces more for local activities and changing the types of open spaces identified for different roles would be better rather than developing or losing such sites.

14.32 The issue of oversupply and its effect on local communities was raised. Such issues need to be discussed with communities and their representatives (local councillors and others) as their opinions may be different and local knowledge was felt to be important. It was felt that a community’s health and well-being could be affected if provision is lost.

14.33 The importance of updating the Open Space Study and Playing Pitch Strategy were also raised. Furthermore, it was highlighted that open space and playing pitches can contribute to the development of a Green Infrastructure network in the area as well as biodiversity enhancement; whilst it was felt that open space provision should take into account the historic environment. Specific comments were made in relation open space in Scunthorpe and future provision in Barton upon Humber.

Responses – Question 58

14.34 **49** respondents provided an answer to this question, setting out their views about how allotments should be considered in the Local Plan.

Table 14.4: Responses to Question 58: Allotments		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
-	49	-
Total	49	-

Summary of Responses – Question 58

14.35 There was broad support for protecting and retaining existing allotments. Comments received supported local areas having accessible allotment provision and their importance to the community for socialising as well as growing and eating healthy food was emphasised. It was suggested each town and parish area should each have their own allotment and any new major development sites should provide an allotment on site or nearby. The availability of allotments can help the elderly as well as other members of the community to stay active, socialise, eat well and maintain a hobby/interest. It was also requested that consideration be given to creating community fruit orchards as well as allotments.

14.36 It was highlighted that allotments are Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan habitats due to the opportunities they provide for wildlife, as such they have a biodiversity value. It was felt that they should form part of a green infrastructure network and future policy should recognise their value and protect them accordingly. Historic environment and heritage should also be considered when determining where allotments are provided. However, some respondents did not consider that this issue should be addressed in the Local Plan and more appropriately dealt at the community level.

Responses – Question 59

14.37 **35** respondents provided an answer to this question, setting out their views on how the Local Plan can ensure that adequate education infrastructure is provided to meet the needs of the local population.

Table 14.5: Responses to Question 59: Education Infrastructure		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
-	35	-
Total	35	-

Summary of Responses – Question 59

14.38 The key issues highlighted centred on existing and future provision, school capacity, transport and funding. The importance of ensuring that existing provision is maintained, including retain existing village schools, was raised by a number of respondents. Small schools, it was felt should find ways of working together to share resources.

14.39 It was felt that when new housing development takes place not enough consideration is given to the impacts on schools and their needs. As such it was considered that schools and education facilities should given due consideration when identifying sites for future growth and in determining planning applications. It was suggested that new schools are built within new housing developments to meet the growing population.

- 14.40 School capacity should be also understood before an area is considered as the location of future housing growth. This would include looking at existing school roles and future projections of pupil numbers. It was suggested that where demand for a particular school rises, additional accommodation should be provided quickly. In addition, allowance should be given for privately built schools.
- 14.41 In respect of funding, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and s.106 monies should be used to fund new or extended schools. These should be based on a clear, transparent policy that sets the educational requirements the area needs. It was suggested that there should be greater consultation at the community level in determining the use of developer contribution. A respondent felt that the current system of obtaining and using s.106 monies is no longer workable. General comments were made regarding the need for more funding overall for the education system. Particular reference was made to secondary provision in Barton upon Humber.
- 14.42 It was also raised that better transport provision is needed from rural villages to get students to colleges in the urban area as well as to reduce car usage. Comments were made about the quality of education buildings as well as the need to support education sector employees. A further suggestion involved establishing partnerships with local universities, in particular Hull and Lincoln to establish teaching facilities in North Lincolnshire. A general point was made regarding all children having good local education, through the provision of infrastructure in all areas, including Kirton in Lindsey.

Responses – Question 60

- 14.43 **36** respondents provided an answer to this question. Of those who responded, **23** had views about the area’s community infrastructure and places, whilst **11** did not. **2** did not select an option, but provided comment nonetheless. **19** respondents provided further or additional comments

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	23	64
No	11	31
No Option Selected	2	6
Total	36	100

Summary of Responses – Question 60

- 14.44 The comments received focus in the main on education and the provision of educational infrastructure. Others related to infrastructure provision as part of or alongside development as well as increasing levels of activities and leisure pursuits.
- 14.45 Several comments were related to the role of teachers, who it was felt should teach rather than using teaching assistants, and the curriculum being taught. Access to lifelong learning and educational opportunities across the area was deemed important, particularly for older people and for promoting social interaction.
- 14.46 With regarding to education infrastructure, it felt that school facilities should be modern and up-to-date to provide the best environment for learning. Transport to/from schools was also raised as a key issue. It was considered people should be encouraged not to use the car to travel to school and that school transport should be provided. Schools, it was suggested, should have parking drop off areas and extended areas double yellow lines to encourage walking. Furthermore, it was felt that the level of new housing is putting a strain on school places and that consideration should given to future development and population growth when designing new school buildings.
- 14.47 Specific comments were made about reintroducing 16 to 18 year education provision in Barton upon Humber, as the town is in an excellent location to attract students from North Lincolnshire and beyond. It was suggested that Baysgarth School (Barton) should be expanded and Sir John Nethorpe School (Brigg) be modernised. Other comments related to school capacity and funding at primary and secondary level in Kirton in Lindsey.
- 14.48 It was also stated that consideration should be given to the provision of additional shops, doctors and community centres, where additional growth is proposed. In addition, it was suggested that the drainage network be improved before development takes place. Ways of encouraging recruitment to the area were also needed.

14.49 It was also stated that more funding is needed, whilst it was felt that young people need a variety of interesting things to do. It was also felt that the council should be more proactive in obtaining land for leisure pursuits and not rely on local groups for money to do this. Specific reference was to the need to make provision for teens and young adults and a community wellbeing hub in Kirton in Lindsey as well as activities for young people.

Responses – Question 61

14.50 **53** respondents provided an answer to this question. **48** respondents stated that they would support a policy or policies that seeks to retain existing, or support new, community facilities and plan more positively. **2** did not support this approach, whilst **3** did not select any of the options, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **22** provided further or additional comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	48	91
No	2	4
No Option Selected	3	6
Total	53	100

Summary of Responses – Question 61

- 14.51 A large majority of respondents support a policy that seeks to retain community facilities and support new or improved community facilities in sustainable locations but not at the expense of quality. Comments were received that supported this approach if unsustainable locations, particularly in rural areas, are not completely ruled out.
- 14.52 It was highlighted that facilities such as village halls are no longer being built and new facilities would help to bring communities together. The creation of a fund to put on community events was suggested.
- 14.53 It was stated that the community facilities in the area are good and these should be preserved, maintained and enhanced where necessary. A respondent considered that new housing development was needed in smaller settlements to help safeguard and support new community facilities. Viability was raised as an important factor to community facilities and that it would need to be considered in relation to this area. It was also recognised that many rural businesses such as local pubs cannot continue on a viability basis.
- 14.54 Support was given towards policies seeking to provide and retain community facilities in sustainable locations as the increased proximity to services results in fewer private vehicle trips.
- 14.55 It was also considered that the Local Plan should promote opportunities to create multi-purpose community buildings and hubs, including by refurbishing and upgrading existing provision where viability is threatened. The use of developer contributions should be considered to secure this type of provision.
- 14.56 In addition, it was felt that schools should be made to share facilities. These (e.g. sports fields, gymnasiums, & other rooms) are often left unused in the evenings and at weekends. It could be a source of income for the school as well as much needed facilities for the local community. It would also encourage closer links between the school and the local community.
- 14.57 Specific reference was made to the new wellbeing hub in Barton upon Humber and its potential to increase library, day care and fitness provision in the town. It was also suggested that no funding should be provided for places of worship.

15. PROVIDING INFRASTRUCTURE & DELIVERING THE PLAN

Introduction

- 15.1 Ensuring that there is sufficient infrastructure to support communities and businesses is an essential element of achieving sustainable development. Infrastructure plays a key role in ensuring that communities are safe, well, prosperous and connected. It can also contribute towards creating places that are cleaner, greener and safer.
- 15.2 A key element of the Local Plan is the need to identify how the policies and proposals contained within it will be delivered. Infrastructure is wide ranging and can take many forms, for example:
- Physical - such as roads, public transport (bus and rail networks), cycle and footpath networks, broadband/digital, telecommunication, utilities and energy supply networks
 - Social - such as community buildings, education, health facilities, sport and recreation and employment or training opportunities
 - Environmental - such as areas for nature and blue and green infrastructure.
- 15.3 Communities need a combination of all of these types of infrastructure in order to support their day-to-day lives. This will include delivering a connected, well-maintained, efficient, safe and sustainable transport network including roads, public transport and walking and cycling routes that supports economic growth and will allow local residents to have high quality access to key services and facilities without increasing the need to travel. All such required infrastructure is essential towards creating places that will be cleaner, greener and safe.
- 15.4 The provision of infrastructure is managed by a wide range of organisations not just North Lincolnshire Council. The Local Plan, together with an Infrastructure Delivery Plan, will play a crucial role in securing private sector involvement in infrastructure delivery and in aligning the programmes of the various providers.

Consultation

- 15.5 The Issues & Options document contained five questions in relation to various aspects of infrastructure provision and delivery. This included the approach to be taken to infrastructure provision, specific infrastructure requirements and priorities, sustainable transport and developer contributions.

62. Which of the options (or a combination of both options) do you prefer to ensure that the infrastructure necessary to support growth across North Lincolnshire is delivered in a timely manner?

63. Are you aware of any specific infrastructure requirements (individual schemes or strategic requirements) that would support growth across North Lincolnshire?

64. What infrastructure types or projects should be prioritised where funding is limited?

65. Which option for sustainable transport do you support or are there any other options that you feel should be considered?

66. Do you have any comment about the approach the Local Plan should take towards developer contributions?

Responses – Question 62

- 15.6 **53** respondents provided an answer to this question. Option A was favoured by **20** respondents, whereas **16** preferred Option B. **10** felt that another option or approach should be adopted, whilst **7** respondents did not select an option, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **25** provided further or additional comments.

Table 15.1: Responses to Question 62: Infrastructure Provision to Support Growth

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: The Local Plan’s growth strategy should be determined by making the best use of existing infrastructure.	20	38
Option B: The Local Plan’s growth strategy should not be constrained by existing infrastructure capacity and location.	16	30
Other Option	10	19

No Option Selected	7	13
Total	53	100

Summary of Responses – Question 62

- 15.7 Those who favoured **Option A** considered that development should be centred in those locations with appropriate infrastructure provision. Doing so, it was suggested, would provide more effective links to development and would mean that costs and environmental impacts of providing additional or new infrastructure could be limited. Another respondent felt that infrastructure was a key consideration in determining where development should take place. The example of traffic issues in Winterton and their wider impacts was highlighted as the type of concern that should be addressed. In addition, it was suggested that only larger scale developments like Lincolnshire Lakes could deliver the levels of new infrastructure required.
- 15.8 In support of **Option B**, a number of respondents considered that growth should not be constrained by infrastructure capacity and location. Allowing a greater spread of growth will ensure the existing infrastructure is used appropriately, whilst allowing improvements to take place elsewhere, with the onus placed on both developers and the local authority to deliver them. One respondent felt that there should be greater emphasis placed on creating better rail links to/from the area.
- 15.9 Several respondents favoured an alternative or **Other Option** that is a combination of Options A & B. Adopting this approach would ensure that growth, in particular housing, can occur where infrastructure is available in the shorter term, and where additional capacity is needed it can be planned for and delivered in a timely manner to support growth. It is also a more viable and deliverable strategy to ensure growth is directed to areas with capacity and that the best and most efficient use of infrastructure is made. The engagement of key stakeholders was also viewed as essential in developing an approach to infrastructure provision.
- 15.10 One respondent considered that the capacity of existing infrastructure should restrict any development if it is not practical or cost effective to improve the infrastructure.
- 15.11 Specific references were made to the provision of water and water recycling infrastructure. It was highlighted that there are mechanisms in place to ensure such infrastructure is made available to serve development, where capacity is not available. This tends to be a combination of funding via water companies business plans and developer charges. Another respondent considered that water and drainage infrastructure should be maintained on a regular basis.
- 15.12 It was highlighted that all infrastructure requirements should be identified in an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) that will emerge alongside the Local Plan. This document should confirm what existing infrastructure is in place and what improvements and enhancements are required. It was noted that these could be provided via the use of s.106 agreements or CIL, if they meet the tests set out in national policy.
- 15.13 As highlighted above, a number of those who responded to this question **did not select an option**, but provided a range of comments on the subject of infrastructure provision. These related to the Strategic Road Network (SRN), the evidence base, the Lincolnshire Lakes, rail investment, green/blue infrastructure and the historic environment.
- 15.14 The efficient and safe operation of the SRN was viewed as a priority, whichever development strategy is selected. Therefore, its capacity should be a factor that influences where growth takes place as the Local Plan emerges. Where appropriate, mitigation measures or improvements should be identified by working with Highways England.
- 15.15 In relation to the evidence base, it was felt that more information should be provided about existing capacity across all types of infrastructure and services in order for local residents and others to make a clear choice. It was suggested this could impact on the Local Plan's soundness. Other respondents felt that the Lincolnshire Lakes should be brought forward quicker and that there should more investment in the area's rail network (including services and stations). The development of a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy was considered to be useful in identifying future green infrastructure requirements. The council was also advised to consider the historic environment in establishing its approach to transport infrastructure provision.

Responses – Question 63

- 15.16 **43** respondents provided an answer to this question. Of those who responded, **15** identified a number of possible infrastructure schemes or projects that would help to promote growth, whilst **23** respondents had no particular views on this subject. **5** respondents did not select one of the options, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **20** provided further or additional comments.

Table 15.2: Responses to Question 63: Specific Infrastructure Requirements

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	15	35
No	23	53
No Option Selected	5	12
Total	43	100

Summary of Responses – Question 63

- 15.17 Several proposals were put forward for improvements to the strategic and local transport networks in North Lincolnshire to support growth and boost connections to other areas. Other comments centred on flood risk and drainage infrastructure and the evidence base as well as funding.
- 15.18 A number of respondents considered that the A15 should be upgraded between its junction with the M180 near Scunthorpe and the A46 at Lincoln either to a dual carriageway or by the inclusion of overtaking lanes. It was suggested that it should be upgraded to the south of Lincoln as well. Several respondents proposed that a bypass or relief road should be built around the southern edge of Barton upon Humber to support housing delivery and economic growth. It would help to open up land for future housing development, reduce traffic levels in the town centre, allow easier access to employment sites off Falkland Way and improve the health and well-being of residents. A route running from the junction of Falkland Way and Barrow Road, intersecting with the roads running south from Barton upon Humber, then via Horkstow Road bridge to the junction between the A1077 and Gravel Pit Lane was put forward.
- 15.19 In the Scunthorpe area, it was highlighted work is ongoing to deliver a new M181 terminating junction that will help to open up the land for the Lincolnshire Lakes development. One respondent suggested that the construction of a new bridge over the River Trent between the Skippingdale and Garthorpe areas would help to support the villages in the northern Isle of Axholme. Another proposal was to create a circular link from the M181 to Ashby Ville roundabout via Scunthorpe town centre and Brigg Road.
- 15.20 It was considered that further improvements were needed to the road network in Killingholme and Immingham areas to accommodate additional growth at the ports and in the surrounding villages. This would be in addition to the recently completed upgrades. It was also felt that there should be improvements in the road and cycleway networks that link the South Humber Gateway employment area with surrounding settlements, where complementary housing growth could take place. Other proposals included the provision of an effective link road for the Sandtoft Business Park and making the M180 three lanes over its entire length.
- 15.21 The prospect of a direct rail service to London was welcomed, whilst it was felt that the Isle of Axholme would benefit from enhanced services from Crowle station. In addition, it was considered cycleways should be improved and made separate from vehicles. The potential role of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal as freight route between the Humber ports and West/South Yorkshire was highlighted. Therefore, policies should be put in place to protect the canal and promote its use.
- 15.22 In relation to flood risk, it was highlighted that the Local Plan should be cognisant of existing and future flood risk management strategies. The plan should, where appropriate, identify and safeguard locations/areas for flood risk mitigation and include schemes identified within flood risk strategies as part of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Specific reference was made for the need to install mains drainage at the South Humber Gateway to support its growth, which will need to align with investment in the Water Recycling Centre at South Killingholme. Funding of flood risk infrastructure was also raised. In particular, it was noted that where schemes would benefit communities as well as support growth it will help to secure funding. Use of partner funding was also mentioned as part of securing wider benefits.
- 15.23 With regard to surface water drainage, it was considered increasing the amount of hard surfacing would result in greater levels of run-off that may be able to be absorbed by land. The use of swales were not supported.
- 15.24 Alongside proposals for specific infrastructure improvements, comments were made about the need to have a clear understanding of existing infrastructure capacity including any shortfalls in, or threats to, provision, and how the Local Plan can address them. It was felt that this would allow a greater understanding of how growth could be accommodated. Other comments suggested that S.106 contributions should be used for infrastructure provision with more being focussed on the health sector to accommodate growth rather than on green spaces. Another respondent queried whether existing infrastructure was being maintained.

Responses – Question 64

15.25 **40** respondents provided an answer to this question, setting out their views on the infrastructure types and projects that should be prioritised where funding is limited.

Table 15.3: Responses to Question 64: Infrastructure Priorities		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
-	40	-
Total	40	-

Summary of Responses – Question 64

- 15.26 The majority of respondents felt that various aspects of North Lincolnshire should be prioritised for investment and/or improvement where funding is limited.
- 15.27 A number suggested that the road network should be improved with a number of potential measures being proposed. These involved better maintenance including dealing with potholes and an increased emphasis on road safety. Better roads were felt to be key to attracting business investment. It was suggested that priority should be given to upgrading the A15 and improved the main routes to/from the area as well as the provision of a link road between Sandtoft Business Park and the M180.
- 15.28 Additional road improvements should also be prioritised in the Killingholme/Immingham area to support growth at the ports, as well as to connect the South Humber Gateway to surrounding settlements. In addition, it was suggested that traffic in Brigg should be addressed including the provision of a new motorway junction serving the town. Traffic should also be removed from town centres.
- 15.29 In relation to the Strategic Road Network (SRN), the M181 terminating junction was highlighted as being the most important project in the area as it will unlock the Lincolnshire Lakes development. It was noted that where developments impacts on the operation of the SRN, funding for mitigation would be needed. In addition, if funding is limited it is suggested that schemes to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips by private car should be prioritised to not only reduce the impact on the SRN, but also the local road network.
- 15.30 Several respondents considered that the investment in the area’s rail network should be a priority, including services and stations. Others supported better public transport provision, particularly creating better and more frequent services between smaller towns and villages and the main service centres.
- 15.31 Other comments considered that social infrastructure such as healthcare and education facilities should be prioritised. There was also support for the provision of more leisure facilities, open space, improved drainage and policing. Infrastructure that unlocks development and growth sites was another priority as was the provision of sufficient opportunities for self-build and custom build housing, low cost housing in rural areas and appropriate housing for older people. It was also suggested that Lincolnshire Lakes should be brought forward. Community projects were also felt to be important.
- 15.32 A broader suggestion was that the Local Plan should prioritise the most essential physical infrastructure needed to allow development to take place. With regard to transport, emphasis should be placed on increasing opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport. Delivering green infrastructure with flood defence and/or footpaths and cycle-ways were supported. The impact on the historic environment was considered an issue that should be addressed in determining infrastructure priorities. A further suggestion was that Call Connect should be discontinued.
- 15.33 One respondent felt that there should be a clear understanding of the most critical infrastructure issues and priorities facing the area over the lifetime of the Local Plan, with appropriate options to address them.

Responses – Question 65

15.34 **50** respondents provided an answer to this question. Options A & C were favoured by **11** respondents each, whilst **7** preferred Option B. **13** considered that another option/approach should be adopted in relation to sustainable transport provision. **8** did not select any of the options, but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **27** provided further or additional comments

Table 15.4: Responses to Question 65: Sustainable Transport

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Require new developments to demonstrate within a Transport Statement how they facilitate walking and cycling and the use of public transport.	11	22
Option B: Require that new developments make available information on walking, cycling and public transport links to all new residents.	7	14
Option C: Seek contributions to infrastructure to support sustainable transport choices through S106 agreements.	11	22
Other Option	13	26
No Option Selected	8	16
Total	50	100

Summary of Responses – Question 65

- 15.35 Respondents supporting **Option A** felt that developers should ensure that all infrastructure is delivered before development commences, with developers being fined for not doing so. It was also stated that developments should allow for sufficient parking provision, and this option should be used in combination with Option C.
- 15.36 There was support for **Option B**, requiring information about public transport, walking and cycling links as part of new residential developments. A comment was received regarding cycling on the local road network and its safety.
- 15.37 In relation to **Option C**, it was highlighted that this would provide additional funding for improving transport in the area, whilst there should be more publicity about public transport. Specific reference was made to the potential for development adjacent to the Stainforth and Keadby canal and the impacts that it may have impact on waterway infrastructure in terms of use as open space and maintenance costs. It was suggested that developer contributions should be sought in order to mitigate the impact of new development on the canal infrastructure.
- 15.38 A number of respondents favoured an alternative or **other option** for delivering sustainable transport as part of the emerging Local Plan. Several suggested that a combination of all three options, or elements of them, represented the most appropriate approach for supporting, encouraging, maintaining, providing and improving sustainable transport in the area, alongside securing contributions towards infrastructure improvements. The use of transport statements/assessments and travel plans were viewed as key tools in supporting modal shift away from the private car to walking, cycling and public transport as well as reducing the need to travel. This would also reflect national policy. Other respondents suggested using combinations of Options A & B or Options A & C.
- 15.39 In addition, a number of other comments were received regarding developer contributions, the location of development and specific improvements to the transport network. It was felt that developers must pay for necessary improvements needed as result of the projects, with legal agreements being enforced. Housing development should not be permitted where transport links to employment areas are not sufficient, and that the wider implications of development on communities should be considered.
- 15.40 In terms of the transport network, it was felt that the area's roads should provide good links between communities and employment, whilst there should be more frequent and cheaper public transport provision to allow local people to access employment opportunities. It was suggested that employers should provide transport for their staff to reduce traffic levels, or arrange shift patterns to suit public transport times. Other proposed improvements were clearer timetables, better bus shelters and an upgrade to the Barton upon Humber transport interchange and Barnetby station and more train services to/from Brigg and Kirton in Lindsey.
- 15.41 Some respondents **did not select an option**, but still provided some detailed comments about the transport network in the area, and sustainable transport generally. It was felt development should not be permitted if it is not supported by appropriate transport infrastructure. If this not the case, they should only be allowed in sustainable locations where transport is already in place and in line with the development strategy.
- 15.42 Other comments related to service provision. It was felt that some of the area's less served railway stations should be brought into use on a daily basis, which would allow local people to have an alternative means of transport to access jobs. The level of public transport to/from many of the area's villages and Scunthorpe was considered to be

non-existent or impractical. The question of reinstating subsidies for rural routes was raised. Traffic congestion should also be reduced.

- 15.43 It was further considered that the Local Plan and its policies on transport should reflect changes in travel patterns brought about by changing lifestyles, technological and communications improvements, and work patterns. These policies should be closely related to those that support the role of settlements/centres and their functions. It was felt the plan should identify opportunities to sustain and improve public transport, cycling and walking, car sharing and Park & Ride schemes in existing centres, alongside opportunities to facilitate developer contributions towards them, whilst developments that reduce car use should be viewed positively.
- 15.44 The development of Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, and a green infrastructure network may result in opportunity for improved walking and cycling routes. The council was also advised to consider the historic environment in establishing its approach to transport infrastructure provision.

Responses – Question 66

- 15.45 **52** respondents provided an answer this question. **41** respondents had views on the approach to developer contributions that should be taken in the Local Plan, whilst **10** did not. **1** respondent did not select one of the options but still provided comments. Of those who responded, **42** provided further or additional comments.

Table 15.5: Responses to Question 66: Approach to Developer Contributions		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	41	79
No	10	19
No Option Selected	1	2
Total	52	100

Summary of Responses – Question 66

- 15.46 There was support for the principle of securing developer contributions via planning obligations (either in the form of section 106 agreements or a future Community Infrastructure Levy) to fund infrastructure provision/improvements. It was highlighted that the policy approach towards developer contributions, and the process for securing them should be in line with requirements and tests set out in legislation and the National Planning Policy Framework – i.e. they should be sought where it is not possible to address unacceptable impacts through a planning condition. It was further highlighted that contributions should be informed by the infrastructure requirements of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan and that viability is a key consideration in determining the level of contributions being sought.
- 15.47 There was a general view that developers should be required to contribute towards the provision and enhancement of infrastructure needed to support development. Amongst the types of infrastructure that it was felt they should contribute towards or provide through the use of s.106 contributions, are water supply, drainage, education, health care, roads, children’s play areas, skate parks and shops. It was felt that new housing development should not take place where there is inadequate public transport to the main areas of employment or infrastructure cannot be upgraded.
- 15.48 A number of respondents considered that where developer contributions have been secured, they should be earmarked and used in that particular locality to provide new, or enhance existing, amenities or infrastructure rather contributing to a wider funding pot that could be used in any part of the area. It was suggested that Town and Parish Councils should have greater involvement in determining the infrastructure requirements for their areas, and that they should be consulted on the contents of s.106 agreements. In addition, it was felt that consideration should be given to the needs of future residents in deciding the type of infrastructure needed.
- 15.49 Several comments referred to the process of identifying the need for securing and using developer contributions. It was suggested that they should be prioritised based on the most critical shortfalls in provision. Other respondents felt that the s.106 agreements should be robustly negotiated and enforced as well legally binding. The use of fines for non-delivery were proposed as a means of enforcement. Another suggestion is for s.106 contributions and their distribution to be clearly itemised.

- 15.50 However, it was felt that there was a need for a more flexible and pragmatic approach to developer contributions, with recognition given developments that are commercial and need to be financially viable. Furthermore, it was highlighted that too high a level of contributions may result in sites not coming forward. On marginally viable sites, it was felt that affordable housing provision should be the priority.
- 15.51 Several respondents considered that the existing system for securing developer contributions was not appropriate. The use of s.106 agreements did not allow the cumulative impact of developments in an area on infrastructure to be taken into account. It was felt that developers should contribute and stronger commitments from them are needed to provide appropriate infrastructure. One respondent considered that the developer contributions system should be scrapped as it does not help to alleviate the national housing shortage.
- 15.52 Another suggested that developer contributions were seen as a “cash cow” and should not be abused. Instead more modest contributions should be sought e.g. 1% of value added. A further proposal was to minimise contributions and accept land in lieu of monies.
- 15.53 Several respondents made reference to the potential for a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) as a means of identifying infrastructure requirements and securing developer contributions. Some suggested that the council should investigate this further, whilst references in the Issues & Options document to a Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (PDCS) were welcomed. It was highlighted that any future PDCS should be prepared alongside the Local Plan and be based on a robust evidence base including an Infrastructure Delivery Plan and viability studies.
- 15.54 Any CIL, it was stated, should be realistic, and that when established it would offer transparency and certainty for all parties. Should it be deemed appropriate to establish a CIL for North Lincolnshire, it was considered the projects/infrastructure contained in section 123 (where a CIL contribution will be sought) should be clearly and precisely defined. Using broad categories, it was felt may not result in all relevant projects benefiting from funding and that it may affect the ability of the authority to seek s.106 contributions. It was suggested that CIL (and s.106 monies) should be used to obtain funding for historic environment/heritage projects.
- 15.55 Another respondent suggested that introducing a CIL, would not have an impact on the development of energy projects, as they tend to be self-enabling and do not need common infrastructure to be realised. They are delivered via bespoke commercial and regulated delivery vehicles.
- 15.56 It was suggested that the council should investigate how a strategic approach to flood risk management can be supported through the local plan process and, where relevant, funded by developer contributions. Should CIL be viable, it was felt part of the funding should be earmarked for delivering flood risk management projects needed to support growth or outlined in the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy. An approach would be to produce a Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

16. MANAGING & DELIVERING DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

- 16.1 Development Management is the process of working with developers to facilitate development whilst protecting the environment through the granting or refusal of planning permission and controlling unauthorised developments.
- 16.2 The Local Plan will set out policies based on the outcomes of consultation on this chapter. These overarching policies will guide the future development of the area but will not necessarily provide the level of detail required to adequately assess planning applications. Therefore, it is essential for the Local Plan to set out the detailed policies to assess and determine planning applications. Doing so will ensure that growth and development contributes to meeting our ambitions and outcomes for North Lincolnshire as well as creating a place that is cleaner, greener and safer.

Consultation

- 16.3 The Issues & Options document contained two questions relating to subjects that could be covered by development management policies and options for settlement development limits.

67. Do you have any views on the approach the Local Plan should consider in terms of identifying appropriate policies for managing development, or are there other matters that you feel should be addressed by them?

68. Which option for applying development limits do you support, or are there other options that you feel should be considered?

Responses – Question 67

- 16.4 **50** respondents answered this question. **35** respondents had views on the approach that should be adopted in the Local Plan to identify development management policies and/or what they should contain. **10** respondents did not have any views on this subject, whilst **3** selected “other” as their preferred approach. **2** did not select an option but provided comments. Of those who responded, **36** provided further or additional comments.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	35	70
No	10	20
Other	3	6
No Option Selected	2	4
Total	50	100

Summary of Responses – Question 67

- 16.5 Those who provided detailed comments or views on this question, centred on the impact of development on communities, the planning system and the potential development management policies that should be included in the emerging Local Plan.
- 16.6 The need to consider the impact of development on local communities and existing residents was highlighted as a key issue to be addressed as part of the planning process. The design of new development and ensuring that it complements its surroundings was viewed as important.
- 16.7 A number of comments received focus on the planning process and the operation of the system itself. It was suggested that the planning system should be independent, with growth taking place in locations that have been independently identified rather than those viewed as suitable by the development industry. There was also concerns that too much emphasis is placed on developing housing to the detriment of local communities. There was a view that local communities should be kept informed about developments in the area, and that any plans/proposals should be considered on their own merit. Within the council, it was felt that there should be clear demarcation between departments in the planning decision making process, whilst infrastructure provision should be based on a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or similar policy.
- 16.8 Where particular plans for a development have been approved, it was felt that developers should abide by them and not change them, with the planning authority having powers to ensure that this is the case. In respect of larger

housing developments, it was considered that all plans and details, including any required infrastructure and facilities, should be approved in advance, with the infrastructure being developed prior to development commencing, with the housing then being built in stages.

- 16.9 In relation to potential development management policies, a number of respondents felt the list of potential policies set out in the consultation document were appropriate, comprehensive and relevant, whilst others provided some recommendations about the broad approach that should be adopted. There were also a number of comments related to specific policy areas including climate change and flooding, community facilities and culture, design, development strategy, housing, infrastructure, natural and built environment, and pollution.
- 16.10 As part of the comments received on the broader policy approach, it was recommended that policies should be flexible and enabling, reflecting the need to support growth in North Lincolnshire, rather than restrictive, except where there are strong reasons for doing so. It was also felt that the policies should be realistic and not onerous, which may discourage investment. The need to avoid “policy clutter” was also highlighted – meaning that the Local Plan should focus on strategic policies rather than more detailed ones, which could be dealt via Neighbourhood Development Plans.
- 16.11 Other comments sought to ensure that any policies are clear, detailed and strong enough to ensure swift and fair decision-making, and where appropriate, refine national policies to reflect North Lincolnshire’s requirements. The use of cross-referencing between policies as well as with other documents was recommended. A further suggestion was to examine which policies were the most useful in making decisions or as part of the pre-application stage. Local Plan policies, it was felt, should be independently monitored to ascertain how they are being applied and that the results be published both at the community and North Lincolnshire wide levels.
- 16.12 As mentioned above, several respondent provided views of those issues future development management, and other Local Plan, policies should focus on. Details are set out below:
- 16.13 **Climate Change & Flooding** – a number of comments received stated that the Local Plan should contain policies that proactively address climate change and its impacts, by supporting mitigation, preventing any further increase and adapting to its effects. There was support for the inclusion for a policy or policies on managing flood risk and drainage, and surface water flooding. These could promote and require the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in new development.
- 16.14 **Community Facilities & Culture** – there was support for policies that would protect recreational areas and green spaces from development and support their enhancement. In addition, it was felt that open space needed to be part of new developments. The provision of community infrastructure and the promotion of well-being were also important.
- 16.15 It was noted that the emerging Local Plan adopts a positive approach to culture, however to reinforce this, it was suggested that any future policy/policies should refer to the “Provision of Community & Cultural Infrastructure” instead of “Provision of Community Infrastructure”. Any policy and supporting text should be clear about the types of facilities covered by the definition of community infrastructure.
- 16.16 **Design** – there was support for continuing to consider and develop the Core Strategy in all future design policy. Ensuring quality as part of the design of new development was an issue that should be addressed in future policy. However, it was felt that the overall density of development in the area should be reduced. There was also support for encouraging the use of water efficiency standards as part of new development.
- 16.17 **Housing** – it was felt that policies should be pro-active and have enough flexibility to promote development, and address any shortfall in housing development, particularly where there is a lack of a five-land supply. A further issue that the plan should address is the promotion of self-build homes (including eco homes) and making sites available for this to take place at minimal cost.
- 16.18 **Location of Development** – it was suggested that the emerging Local Plan’s policy approach to development in the countryside should be reviewed to bring it in line with national policy, which takes a balanced view. There was support for applying development limits to most of North Lincolnshire’s settlements. Others felt that policies should prioritise the use of previously developed land, and where development takes place in villages that it takes into account any infrastructure constraints.
- 16.19 **Infrastructure** – it was proposed that the Local Plan should contain a policy to protect and enhance the area’s Public Rights of Way (PROW) network and support access to the countryside including National Trails. Allowing public access to nature and countryside was felt to contribute to well-being, carbon reduction and growing tourism. This network

could form part of wider green infrastructure strategy for the area. A suggestion was made that the plan should support the creation and maintenance of a National Trail around the English coastline. A policy for the provision of water infrastructure in development was also required.

- 16.20 **Natural, Built & Historic Environment** – several respondents considered that there should more emphasis on protecting and enhancing the area’s biodiversity and geodiversity including the various internationally, nationally and locally designated sites for nature conservation, and the enhancement of ecological networks. It was suggested this should be done by clearly setting out the hierarchy of sites and using criteria based policies to address this issue.
- 16.21 It was proposed that the Local Plan should include policies that seek to preserve, enhance and create priority habitats as well as the protection and recovery of priority species populations. Other respondents welcomed the inclusion of these matters on the list of potential policies in the consultation document.
- 16.22 There was also support for a policy framework that adopts a strategic approach to, and promotes the development of a green infrastructure network. This could be done through the provision of open space and linking together existing assets. It was also suggested that there should be greater recognition of the role the natural environment can play in shaping local distinctiveness. A further recommendation was the inclusion of policy on the protection of soils and the best and most versatile agricultural land.
- 16.23 The inclusion of references to potential policies on the historic environment were welcomed.
- 16.24 **Pollution** – there was support from a number of respondents for inclusion a particular policy in the emerging Local Plan covering all forms pollution including air, noise, light and water (including water quality). It was also considered that there should be policies on managing the impacts of mineral development.

Responses – Question 68

- 16.25 **65** respondents provided an answer to this question. Option A, retaining and reviewing settlement development limits, was supported by **31** respondents whilst Option B, using a criteria based policy approach rather than defined development was supported by **17** respondents. **2** respondents suggested that another option would be more appropriate, whilst **8** did not select any of the options, but provided comments nonetheless. Of those who responded, **37** provided further or additional comments

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option A: Continue to apply development limits to settlements as set out in the existing Core Strategy (2011) and Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD (2016) and review them, as required, through the Local Plan process.	31	48
Option B: Do not apply settlement development limits and instead use criteria-based policies within the Local Plan to determine whether a development proposal is sustainable.	17	26
Option C: An alternative approach.	7	11
Other Option	2	3
No Option Selected	8	12
Total	65	100

Summary of Responses – Question 65

- 16.26 As highlighted above, **Option A** was the most favoured approach for the emerging Local Plan in relation to development limits. Several of the respondents felt that they should continue to be used as a tool for managing growth and development in North Lincolnshire. There was a view that they have previously been successful in maintaining healthy communities as well as the infrastructure required to support them. It was highlighted that they had served to protect the area’s natural and built environment from inappropriate development in the countryside and rural areas.
- 16.27 Development limits were viewed as providing a degree of certainty for developers, communities and decision makers to determine where development should take place and on how other policies should be interpreted and applied. However, several respondents considered that they should be reviewed to ensure that they are still appropriate, and do not constrain development and allow opportunities for growth in appropriate locations over the plan period.

- 16.28 A respondent noted that criteria based policies should be used within the Local Plan alongside tools such as development limits in determining the acceptability of proposals.
- 16.29 **Option B** was supported by a number of respondents who considered the use of criteria-based policies within the emerging Local Plan as the most appropriate method to determine the acceptability of development proposals rather than defining settlement development limits.
- 16.30 Settlement developments limits were considered a blunt tool and not in keeping with up to date planning practice. It was felt that they are inflexible, thus unable to respond to any changes in circumstances, and unnecessarily restrict development, as well as having implications for sustainable development on the fringes of settlements. Maintaining the current approach it was suggested could lessen the sustainability of rural settlements.
- 16.31 Adopting an alternative, criteria based policy approach (based on sustainable development principles) was viewed to be the most appropriate way of managing development in/on the edge of settlements. It offers a greater degree of flexibility in identifying and considering appropriate sites for housing and economic development as well as supporting thriving rural settlements. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan's approach was highlighted as a good example. This approach was also highlighted as beneficial to communities, as it would reduce confusion where development takes place outside of development limits that have already been set.
- 16.32 If this approach is pursued, it was felt that the policy wording used should be clear in order to ensure that scale of growth and development, particularly in rural areas and on the edge of settlements, is managed appropriately and that all other relevant planning policy factors are given full consideration. An example would be the need to balance the protection of the countryside's intrinsic character and beauty with the need to support thriving rural communities.
- 16.33 A further suggestion was for a cap on the amount of development in each settlement, based on the impact that development could have on services and existing communities.
- 16.34 Those who selected **Option C** provided different approaches, whilst other comments were made about the broader development strategy. Some referred to the development limits for Eastoft and Scawby.
- 16.35 Two other approaches for the use of development limits were put forward in the comments received. Both seek to retain development limits but allow for some degree of growth adjoining them, if it is considered to be sustainable.
- 16.36 The first proposed approach is for the Local Plan to define the main built up areas for settlements, but allow for development on adjacent/adjoining sites where it can be demonstrated that development is sustainable. However, it was felt that this approach should only apply to Scunthorpe and the six Market Towns, which would give rural settlements protection. It was felt that this alternative approach would ensure flexibility is built in to the plan in circumstances where it can be demonstrated to be acceptable, whilst protecting the open countryside.
- 16.37 The second proposed approach involved the retention of development limits as a principle, but suggested that the overall approach to development around settlements should be re-examined. It was proposed that a policy be included in the Local Plan that supported sustainable development on land that is well-related to the built up area provided that it is proportionate in scale and complies with all other relevant Local Plan policies and other material considerations including national policy. It was felt that this approach would allow for appropriate growth in rural settlements to support their vitality, and to ensure that sustainable sites come forward to boost housing supply.
- 16.38 Development in villages, it was felt, should be considered flexibly to allow for a level of growth that is proportionate to their scale and character as well as to ensure that they remain sustainable. This would help to provide access to homes for local people and support the viability and vitality of existing services. Such appropriate levels of development should not be restricted by tightly drawn development limits. A respondent considered that there should be more development in villages to support existing facilities/services such as schools and public transport, as many are currently underused.
- 16.39 In determining how much development takes place in any location, it was felt that the area and locality should be the key factor particularly in rural areas, where smaller scale development and lower density criteria are more appropriate. The existing development limits should be rigorously applied, particularly in Goxhill. On the opposite side, it was felt that development limits had previously created an imbalance between towns and villages and were often arbitrary. As such, they should not be applied.

- 16.40 Specific proposals to amend the development limits for Eastoft and Scawby were received. In Eastoft it was considered that the development limit should be reviewed to ensure that they include suitable areas and take account of more recent developments and changes to settlements. For Scawby, it was proposed that the development limit be extended to the south to include a number of properties to the west of Station Road, as the current development limit was illogical.
- 16.41 Those who considered that **another option** should be chosen centred on the potential for a combination of Options B and C, particularly one that would allow for sustainable development including housing to be delivered in rural areas. This approach was felt to offer greater flexibility and support the vitality of rural settlements. Furthermore, this would be more in line with elements of national policy and emerging Government policy. Specific reference was made to the development limit for Appleby forming part of any review of them.
- 16.42 As mentioned above, a number of respondents did not select one of the options set out in the question, but provided comments about settlement development limits and their use as well as the development strategy. In some cases, it was considered inappropriate to comment until more details about the policy content of the plan and the broad approach to the location development, particularly housing growth becomes apparent. However, it was felt that whichever approach is adopted that it must be the most appropriate to support the delivery of sustainable housing to meet local needs.
- 16.43 Other respondents centred on the application of development limits. One considered that they should be applied consistently across all areas, whilst another thought they should be determined at the community level by town or parish councils. In line some of the comments in support of Option B, it was felt development limits are overly restrictive and not in line with national policy, as such a different approach is needed. The example of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan was cited.
- 16.44 It was recognised that development limits assist in protecting and enhancing the historic environment and heritage assets. However, it was stated that whichever option is selected that a positive approach to the historic environment should be taken.
- 16.45 Some comments focussed on the broader development strategy. There was a view that any development should take place when there is a need identified within the local community, whilst specific references was made to the need to consider the proximity of existing business operations when determining the location of future growth, in particular the BOC plant in Scunthorpe.

17. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL & HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

Introduction

17.1 As part of preparing the Local Plan, a number of other statutory requirements must be met. This includes subjecting each stage of the plan to a Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Sustainability Appraisal

17.2 The Local Plan must be informed and accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). This is a statutory process that allows potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the Plan as well as its policies and proposals to be systematically assessed. The SA process also incorporates the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) legislation.

17.3 The SA plays an important part in demonstrating that the Local Plan reflects sustainability objectives and has considered all reasonable alternatives. It also advises on ways in which any adverse effects arising from the Plan can be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or how any positive effects could be maximised. This helps to shape the Plan and ensure that it promotes sustainable development. An SA Report will be published at each stage of the Local Plan process.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

17.4 The Local Plan should also be assessed in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive to consider whether the policies or proposals are likely to have a significant effect on any European habitats or species located in or close to North Lincolnshire. Plans can only be adopted if no adverse impact on the integrity of a site or sites in question is proven. Assessments will be published at each stage in the Local Plan process.

Consultation

17.5 4 respondents provided a total of 18 separate comments on the Sustainability Appraisal Report, whilst 3 respondents provided 13 separate comments on the contents of the Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Responses	Number of Responses
Sustainability Appraisal Report	18
• General Comments	3
• Non-Technical Summary	1
• Section 2: Appraisal Methodology	2
• Section 3: Assessment of Spatial Objectives	3
• Section 4: Assessment of Spatial Strategy Options	6
• Section 5: Implementation	2
• Appendix A: Appraisal Summary	1
Habitat Regulations Assessment	13
• General Comment	2
• Section 4: Potential Impacts & Pathways	3
• Section 5: North Lincolnshire Local Plan & Other Relevant Plans	2
• Section 6: Screening Assessment	5
• Appendix A: Review of Other Plans and Projects	1

Sustainability Appraisal - Summary of Comments

17.6 As part of the consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Report, a number of general comments were received. They related to a specific site, the strategic aims of the Local Plan, and the link between the Habitat Regulations Assessment and the Sustainability Appraisal.

17.7 Specific reference was made to future development at the North Killingholme Airfield employment site and the issue for traffic to/from the site. It was considered traffic levels are increasing in this area and having an effect on local roads and residents. It was suggested a new road network needs to be provided in this area to allow better access to the site as well as the nearby ports.

- 17.8 Another respondent considered that the strategic direction of the emerging Local Plan was unclear, and therefore difficult to assess through the SA process. It was considered that subsequent versions of the plan should include a specific chapter clearly setting out how its strategic aims have been carried forward from the overall vision. It was also suggested the evidence used to support the HRA (and its conclusion) should inform the SA process, particularly where they have similar effects on the interest features of SSSIs. Furthermore, it was stated that reasonable alternative site allocations should be considered via the SA/SEA process to select those that are less environmentally sensitive.
- 17.9 The main comments received in relation to section 2 of the SA Report related to the historic environment and the green infrastructure. It was highlighted that terminology covering heritage assets should be amended to ensure consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework as well as the remainder of the SA, i.e. reference to “*undesigned*” heritage assets should be amended to “*non-designated*” heritage assets. It was also suggested references should be included to the setting of heritage assets in subsequent versions of the SA, whilst inclusion of the SA objective in respect of the historic environment was welcomed. In relation to the area’s green infrastructure network, it was felt that the SA should consider it, and its protection and enhancement via the use of appropriate indicators.
- 17.10 In relation to section 3 of the SA report, the comments again focussed on consideration of the environment, in particular the historic environment and heritage in the appraisal summary and recommendations.
- 17.11 It was felt that there should be greater consideration given to the impact of greater economic activity and growth on the historic environment, heritage assets or their setting. The use of a single spatial objective in the Local Plan to cover all aspects of the environment could have implications for the SA and as such, it was recommended that the natural and historic environment should be covered by separate objectives in the plan. Furthermore, it was suggested other forms of development, not just housing could have a potential negative impact on the historic environment. With regard to the natural environment, it was noted that the SA highlighted a number of negative impacts had been identified and recommendations proposed to address them through future versions of the Local Plan.
- 17.12 Section 4 of the SA report set out the assessment of the spatial strategy and policy options. It was suggested that the assessment for spatial strategy Option B should be clearly in a similar to those for the other proposed options. A number of comments also referred to the need to consider the impact on the historic environment of the spatial strategy options, as well as the options for Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation and Managing the Impacts of Mineral Development. It was felt that in all case there was potential for negative impacts on the historic environment. Suggestions were also made to amend some of the recommendations in order to correct printing or typographical errors.
- 17.13 Section 5 covers the implementation of the SA and the next steps in its preparation. One respondent highlighted the need to ensure that the Local Plan’s monitoring regime is suitable to monitor the effects of the Local Plan. Also, it was felt that monitoring regime should be clear about how it will inform when environmental limits are reached. It was considered that all efforts should be made to ensure that a credible plan for monitoring is put in place that is as achievable as possible through the use easily available data and focussing on the parts of the Local Plan where the greatest risks are identified. This, in turn, will ensure that the Local Plan complies with the NPPF. Another respondent considered that where the SA identifies negative impacts, they should be addressed as part of the next stage of the Local Plan. This allows for any policies or proposals that do not adequately protect the natural environment to be removed from the plan or modified.
- 17.14 A respondent disagreed with the positive effect identified in the Appraisal Summary for Spatial Objective 6 and the SA objective 8. It was felt that other land uses (employment, renewables energy, minerals and waste proposals) could cause negative effects in addition to housing proposals. In relation to potential measure to avoid and reduce negative effects, another respondent recommend that the plan/SA should seek a reduction in agricultural sources of air quality emissions, in addition to seeking to reduce the effects of new development on air quality. This is due for the potential for them to have a negative impact on habitats.

Habitat Regulations Assessment – Summary of Comments

- 17.15 During the consultation period on the Habitat Regulations Assessment, several general comments were received. The first objected to the construction of residential development on an area of open space, adjacent to Quibell Park in Scunthorpe and wished to see the site protected. The second highlighted the importance of the strategic approach to mitigation of development on the Humber Estuary SPA/Ramar site, established in the South Humber Gateway Strategic Mitigation Strategy. It was considered that this strategy should be carried through into the emerging Local Plan and its accompanying Habitat Regulations Assessment. Other general comments related to the printing of the document.

- 17.16 Several comments focussed on several elements of the assessment. These related to the assessment of potential effects of recreational pressures, urbanisation and atmospheric pollution on the area's SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites. In the case of recreational pressures, it was felt that more evidence should be provided to support the assessment's conclusions regarding estuary's vulnerability to disturbance from recreation and the impact on habitats and species. It was suggested that an alternative approach could be adopted or fuller assessment could be undertaken in relation to habitats and species.
- 17.17 With regard to urbanisation, it was stated that when considering use of development buffers around internationally designated sites, the planning authority will need to ensure that the size of the buffer is appropriate to the site in order to reflect the relative sensitivities of sites depending on their interest features along with other local factors. It was also suggested similar buffer zones could be use in relation to other sensitive areas, such as nationally designated sites. Furthermore, it was considered one of the evidence papers quoted was not relevant and given no significant weight.
- 17.18 In respect of atmospheric pollution, it was highlighted the council should be aware of the Wealden Judgement and its implications for including the contributions of plans and projects from neighbouring authorities when assessing impacts from traffic emissions.
- 17.19 Several documents were highlighted as being useful in assisting the development of the Local Plan. These include:
- South Humber Gateway Strategic Mitigation Strategy
 - Greater Lincolnshire Nature Strategy
 - Management Plans for Far Ings and Humber Peatlands National Nature Reserves
 - Humber Estuary European Marine Site Management Scheme documents.
- 17.20 It was also suggested that emerging Neighbourhood Development Plans and the potential for in combination effects should be monitored as they emerge, whilst further explanation was sought regarding any in-combination impacts for the North Lincolnshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan being ruled out.
- 17.21 With regard to the screening assessment, it was suggested that references to recreational disturbance on the River Derwent SAC should be amended – it is not a prioritised issue for the site. In addition, it was noted that in relation to employment sites, Option A would only result in no potential impact on international nature conservation sites if the strategic mitigation plan for the South Humber Gateway is fully implemented.
- 17.22 One respondent agreed with the overall screening conclusion that an Appropriate Assessment will be required to assess in more detail, the likely effects of the emerging Local Plan on the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and RAMSAR site, and on Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA and Hatfield Moor and Thorne Moor SACs.

18. OTHER COMMENTS (STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & CALL FOR SITES)**Introduction**

- 18.1 During the Issues and Options stage for the Local Plan, a number of comments relating to the development strategy and particular sites or settlements were received via other channels. Those received on the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment are outlined in the previous chapter. This section provides a summary of the comments submitted as part of the consultation on Draft Statement of Community Involvement and the Call for Sites exercise.
- 18.2 Alongside the Issues & Options version of the Local Plan, the council prepared a Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Its purpose is to set out how the council will involve local communities, businesses and organisations in preparing the Local Plan and the planning application process. It includes details on how and when community involvement will take place and who will be consulted.
- 18.3 A draft version of the SCI was published for a four-week consultation between 29th January and 26th February 2018. **10** comments on Draft SCI were received from **10** respondents. The majority of these referred to issues affecting specific communities or sites, which are more properly related to the Local Plan – Issues & Options consultation and will be incorporated within the responses received as part of that consultation. Others centred on the Issues & Options consultation itself, and community involvement in planning applications. All comments have been reported separately as part of the SCI adoption process.
- 18.4 As mentioned above, a number of the comments received (**4** in total) on the Draft SCI are more properly related to the Local Plan – Issues and Options consultation. They are summarised below.
- 18.5 Alongside the Issues & Options consultation, a second Call for Sites exercise was undertaken. This allowed landowners, developers and/or agents to put forward land to be considered for potential site allocations within the emerging Local Plan. Around 200 sites were proposed for various land uses. As part of the Call for Sites one respondent submitted a representation that more properly relates to the development strategy and settlement hierarchy.

Summary of Responses – Draft Statement of Community Involvement & Call for Sites

- 18.6 The comments received as part of the consultation on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement and Call for Sites related to the status of the Lincolnshire Lakes project, flood defences, infrastructure provision (particularly in the Scunthorpe area and Goxhill), the use of green spaces for development, and the status of Wrawby in the emerging plan.
- 18.7 The status of the Lincolnshire Lakes project was queried, in particular how it relates to employment provision in the area. It was suggested that any out-commuting from the Lakes villages to other areas would not occur due to increased costs of motoring. Concerns were also expressed about the flood defence scheme due to take place along the River Trent, in particular the impacts that this may have for communities on the western bank of the river.
- 18.8 The comments around infrastructure provision centred on the Scunthorpe and Goxhill areas. It was suggested that additional improvements needed to occur in Scunthorpe. These included improvements to the Berkeley Circle and Ashbyville roundabouts to allow for an easier flow of traffic in both locations and the completion of the cycle path to Normanby Hall and associated traffic calming.
- 18.9 In relation to Goxhill and its surrounding area, it was felt that new housing development in the village should ensure a mix of homes are provided to meet the needs of local people and that any growth takes account of existing infrastructure provision, the surrounding environment and habitats, and where appropriate seeks to improve infrastructure. Specific reference was made to the village's drainage network and capacity of the primary school. In addition, it was considered that if villages were to develop alongside employment on the South Humber Gateway, the local transport network (road, rail and bus) will need to be increased or improved. It was suggested that a petrol station and more retail provision is needed to reduce the need to travel, and more provision should be made for children and young people. The loss of the local public house was highlighted and it was felt that the village would benefit from a social community facility.
- 18.10 Another respondent considered that existing plans promoted too much housing growth and opposed the use of green spaces for development. Specific reference was made to the potential development of an area of playing fields adjacent to Quibell Park in Scunthorpe. It was felt that it should be retained as a recreation area for local people.
- 18.11 It was considered that Wrawby should remain a village and, as such, should not have any further development within the emerging Local Plan. Any development, it was felt will have a negative impact on the village's character and the

amenity of existing residents. A recent rejection of a planning appeal was cited in support of this view. Development should be centred on Brigg, in line with existing plans.

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF RESPONDENTS

- Acorn Planning
- Adams Hendry (for Associated British Ports [ABP])
- Addison Planning Consultants Ltd (for Lincolnshire Estates Ltd)
- AMEC Foster Wheeler (for National Grid)
- Anglian Water Services Ltd
- Anonymous x 2
- Avoca Planning, Landscape & Design (for Keigar Homes)
- Barratt & David Wilson Homes
- Barton Willmore (for Egdon Resources UK Ltd)
- Barton Willmore (for KCS Developments Ltd)
- Barton Willmore (for St. Modwen Developments Ltd)
- BOC Limited
- Bottesford Town Council
- Brocklesby Estate
- Brown & Co (Ms. A. Riggall)
- Brown & Co (Ms. J. Bell)
- Brown & Co (Ms. J. Strawson)
- Burton upon Stather Parish Council
- C. Sutton
- Canal & River Trust
- Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team
- Chave Planning (for M.F. Strawson Ltd)
- Cushman Wakefield (for Uniper UK Ltd)
- David Lock Associates (for ABLE UK)
- DBA Estates (for Weinerberger Ltd)
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation (Safeguarding)
- DLP Planning
- DLP Planning Ltd (for Glenrock Ltd)
- DLP Planning Ltd (for S. Jackson & Son Ltd)
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Environment Agency
- Epworth Town Council
- Forestry Commission England (Yorkshire & North East Area Team)
- Health & Safety Executive
- Highways England
- Historic England
- Home Builders Federation
- Hughes Craven
- Hull City Council
- I. Shuttleworth
- ID Planning (for J.M. Dodds Ltd)
- Isle of Axholme & North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board
- Julie
- Kirsten Wright, Brown & Co
- Kirton in Lindsey Town Council
- KVA Planning Consultancy (for CPRE North Lincolnshire)
- Lincolnshire County Council
- M. Carlile
- Marine Management Organisation
- Montagu Evans (for Scottish & Southern Energy [SSE])
- Mr. A. Broughton
- Mr. A. Jackson
- Mr. A. Tebb
- Mr. B. Girling
- Mr. B. Troop
- Mr. B. Wesley
- Mr. C. Morley
- Mr. D. Blair
- Mr. D. Martin
- Mr. D. Parkinson
- Mr. D. Redhead
- Mr. D. Schofield
- Mr. G. Horton
- Mr. G. Wraith
- Mr. H. Thorpe
- Mr. J. Miller
- Mr. J. Sanderson
- Mr. J. Teasdale
- Mr. J. Took
- Mr. J. Startin
- Mr. K. Batch
- Mr. K. Burnley
- Mr. K. Hughes
- Mr. L. Etherington
- Mr. M. Nainby
- Mr. M. Whittaker
- Mr. M. Wilkins
- Mr. N. Connell
- Mr. N. Cooper
- Mr. N. Hebden
- Mr. N. Jacques
- Mr. P. Altoft
- Mr. P. Maw
- Mr. P. Tattersfield
- Mr. S. Knox
- Mr. S. Morgan
- Mr. S. Mosey
- Mr. T. Jackson
- Mrs. G. Clayton
- Mrs. J. Walker
- Mrs. L. Parkinson
- Mrs. S. Kilmore
- Mrs. W. Witter
- Ms. A. Lawtey
- Ms. C. Atkins
- Ms. C. Hassall
- Ms. C. Maud
- Ms. C. Portess
- Ms. C. Stephenson
- Ms. C. Whittingham
- Ms. C. Wood
- Ms. G. Connell
- Ms. H. Hedison
- Ms. J. Evans
- Ms. J. Mulhearn

- Ms. K. Wilson
- Ms. L. Broddley
- Ms. M. Davies
- Ms. M. Taylor
- Ms. P. Hynes
- Ms. R. Whittaker
- Ms. S. Bell
- Ms. S. Collins
- Ms. S. Greenslade
- Ms. S. James
- Ms. S. Martin
- Ms. S. Wesley
- Ms. V. Maccabe
- Ms. Z. Tuxworth
- N. Mumby
- Natalie Dear Planning Consultancy (for DDM Agricultural Ltd)
- Natural England
- North Lincolnshire Council Labour Group
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Oxalis Planning (for Merryvale Developments)
- P. Stapleton
- Planning & Design Group (UK) Ltd (for Tony Webster)
- Planware Ltd (for McDonalds)
- Porta Planning LLP (for Centrica PLC)
- R. Shuttleworth
- Richard & John
- Rollinson Planning Consultancy
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- S. Price
- Savills
- Savills (for Caddick Developments Ltd)
- Savills (for Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance)
- Savills (for St John's College)
- Savills (for Trustees of Lord St. Oswald Deceased)
- Scunthorpe Charter Trustees
- Scunthorpe Renaissance Town Team
- Sibelco
- South Killingholme Parish Council
- SSA Planning (for Kentucky Fried Chicken (Great Britain) Limited)
- Stephenson Halliday (for Partner Construction Ltd)
- The Coal Authority
- Theatres Trust
- WYG (for Church Commissioners for England)
- WYG (for Moorwalk Ltd)