

Appendix III: Central Bedfordshire Local Plan Strategic Objectives and SA Objectives Compatibility Analysis

Key:

Neutral	○
Compatible	+
Uncertain	?
Incompatible	-

Plan Strategic Objectives													
SA Objective	1) Ensure sustainable growth; promote community hubs	2) Meet housing and job targets; good urban design	3) Conserve and enhance heritage assets and settings	4) High quality and sustainable design of neighbourhoods	5) Meet employment targets	6) Employment land for different Sectors & manage surplus land	7) Link deprived areas with employment benefits	8) Meet housing needs in Central Bedfordshire	9) Promote sustainable transport and reduce car use	10) Improved access to services and facilities & bus/rail links	11) Promote healthier & more active Lifestyles	12) Protect and enhance biodiversity	13) Support adaptation to Climate Change; reduce pollution
1.Housing	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
2.Communities	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0
3.Accessibility to Services & Facilities	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	?	+	+	0	0	0
4. Economy & Employment	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0
5.Health & Equality	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
6.Highways AQ	+	+	0	+	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	0	+
7.Sustainable Transport	+	+	0	+	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	0	+
8.Energy & Climate change	0	+	0	+	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
9.Water Resources & Quality	0	-	0	+	-	-	-	-	0	0	+	+	+
10.Reduce Flood Risk	0	+	0	+	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	+

11. Soils	0	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	+	+
12. Biodiversity & Geodiversity	0	+	0	+	?	?	?	?	0	0	+	+	+
13. Landscape & Townscape	0	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	0	0	+	+	+
14. Historic Environment	0	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0

Summary Findings:

All the strategic objectives are compatible with and support the progression of at least one of the sustainability objectives. As would be expected there is incompatibility in the strategic objectives to deliver new housing and employment growth with the sustainability objectives to conserve water resources and protect soil quality. Increased water supply and loss of greenfield land are inevitable consequences of growth in the Plan area that cannot be avoided. Other strategic objectives however do seek to minimise the effects and protect these resources in so far as possible. Without precise locational and lower level details, the compatibility of strategic objectives for growth with sustainability objectives for environmental protection are also largely uncertain.

Recommendations:

- The opportunities for positive effects on equalities could be enhanced by expanding Strategic Objective 9 to link deprived areas with both employment and housing major development site benefits
- Settlement identities could be further protected by a Strategic Objective relating to the protection of essential areas of Green Belt land
- Environmental protection could be enhanced by the inclusion of soil quality in Strategic Objective 13, this would provide enhanced protection for best and most versatile agricultural land
- Environmental protection could be enhanced by the inclusion of a strategic water efficiency objective for new development in a water stressed plan area, this would support the objectives of Water Resource Management Plans in the area.