

Minerals Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

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1. Introduction

1.1. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the Act), Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is mandatory for Local Development Documents as part of the plan making process.

1.2. The process of undertaking SA assists planning authorities to fulfil the objective of integrating sustainable development principles into the plan making process.

1.3. There are a number of different definitions of sustainable development. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) refers to the UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future in relation to its five 'guiding principles' of sustainable development: living within the planet's environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

1.4. Sustainable development in England will be achieved partly through the planning system by the policies within the NPPF assisting it to fulfil a number of roles under three dimensions:

- "an economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
- a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- an environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources

prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy." (NPPF 2012)

1.5. The requirement to carry out SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are distinct. However it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process. It should be noted that herein where reference is made to SA it should be taken to include the requirements of the SEA Directive.

1.6. The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations into plan preparation and adoption. SA is an integral part of good plan-making and should not be seen as a separate activity.

1.7. SA is an iterative process that identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of the plan and the extent to which implementation of the plan will achieve the social, environmental and economic objectives by which sustainable development can be defined.

Purpose of the Scoping Report

1.8. The aim of the Scoping Report is to fulfil requirements of both the Act and the SEA Directive, and has been produced in accordance with the NPPF. This SA Scoping Report has been prepared within the Planning Policy section of the Environment and Planning Directorate of the Northamptonshire County Council on behalf of Milton Keynes Council under a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

1.9. The integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans is the key focus of the SA process. Within this capacity, as per Government guidance, the purpose of the SA Scoping Report is to determine consistency and compatibility between the SA Framework objectives and the plan objectives.

1.10. The Scoping Report lays the foundation for the SA and focuses on the context of the plan, in this case, the Milton Keynes Minerals Local Plan (MLP). The Scoping Report also acts to assess the plan's context in a holistic manner in order to determine if the plan's objectives

contribute towards sustainable development.

1.11. The Scoping Report is also the mechanism for developing a sound and robust SA Framework and appraisal methodology. Hence the Scoping Report forms the basis for the appraisal and the production of the SA Environmental Report. The Scoping Report details:

- Policies, plans and programmes influencing the plan and SA, including the international, national, regional and local policy context,
- Baseline information and key sustainability issues, including economic, environmental, social and spatial factors,
- Development of the SA framework and objectives,
- Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework,
- Methodology for testing development options and appraising effects of the plan, and
- Outline of the format and content of the SA Environmental Report.

1.12. The Milton Keynes MLP was adopted in 2006 (referred to as the MLP 2006) and is being reviewed and updated in order to ensure that it is up-to-date and in-line with current national policy and guidance. When this review is complete, the emerging MLP will provide the strategic spatial planning framework for Milton Keynes' minerals development that guides future land use planning and promotes sustainable development and sound planning.

1.13. The Act (2004), the NPPF and Government guidance provide for the transition between the existing MLP and the adoption of the reviewed and updated version.

1.14. The MLP 2006 will retain its current status until it is superseded by the updated MLP (upon adoption). This SA Scoping Report will form the base of the MLP development process. The review of the existing policy document will result in an up-to-date MLP for Milton Keynes which will provide strategic minerals land-use planning policy.

Overview of the Minerals Local Plan

1.15. The emerging MLP will:

- Set out the broad strategy for minerals and the amount of provision needed to make for such development
- Identify specific sites for minerals-related development
- Cover aspects of controlling and managing minerals related development, and
- A detailed proposals map indicating the allocated sites for minerals related development.

1.16. Along with the MLP there will also be associated documents. These include:

- Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which sets out how the Council will consult and engage with people during the preparation of the MLP as well as on significant planning applications submitted to the Council.
- The Minerals Development Scheme (MDS) which sets out the composition of and the production process, for the plan development process and its individual components.
- Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), which monitors how the Council is progressing with the MLP and particularly how its policies are being implemented. An AMR is to be produced annually and will be combined with that of the other Local Development Framework documents.

Background

1.17. The MLP will be the main component of minerals planning policy and will set out the long-term spatial vision, spatial objectives and core policies which form the development strategy for minerals development within the administrative area of the Borough of Milton Keynes. The plan will outline the provision requirements for Milton Keynes up until 2031 and indicate the strategic spatial considerations that are required to enable this provision to be accommodated. The document will also set out the monitoring and implementation framework. Detailed locations for minerals development and the locational criteria for specific types of minerals development will

be identified in order for site specific allocations to be implemented.

1.18. The MLP will reflect Government guidance by taking account of the need to contribute towards the development of sustainable communities at acceptable social, environmental and economic costs.

The Vision

1.19. The MLP vision outlines the desired outcome and the plan's intent in spatial planning terms; setting the context for development options for the MLP at a broad level. The vision demonstrates the requirement for local distinctiveness, in particular highlighting the diversity between the urban and rural division of Milton Keynes and how this is supported by economic development and sustainable growth. The draft strategic vision for the MLP is detailed below in Box 1.

Box 1: The draft Minerals Local Plan vision

Milton Keynes will continue to develop as a vibrant place featuring a modern city and sustainable rural settlements supporting a prosperous economy, sustainable growth and environmental networks/linear parks; underpinned by appropriate services, facilities and infrastructure. The community will benefit from access to green infrastructure and open spaces promoting health and quality of lifestyle.

This growth will be supported by the delivery of a sufficient supply of minerals, recognising cross-boundary linkages. The sustainable use of resources and beneficial outcomes of restoration will contribute towards quality of life, local identity and environmental excellence. Milton Keynes will plan positively for the future through the safeguarding of minerals resources, reserves and ancillary development.

The key principles

1.20. The objectives of the MLP set out what the plan is aiming to achieve in spatial planning terms and set the context for development options. The draft objectives for the MLP are listed in Box 2.

Box 2: The draft Minerals Local Plan Objectives

1. Support Milton Keynes', and wider, needs by ensuring a sufficient supply of aggregates in order to facilitate growth and the delivery of infrastructure
2. Provide clear guidance regarding how minerals-related development should relate to growth patterns, other land-use forms and infrastructure networks and support industry investment through the spatial strategy for minerals-related development and the identification of specific sites and preferred areas / areas of search
3. Reinforce local identity through the supply of locally sourced building stone
4. Maximise the efficient recovery and use of mineral reserves and the use of secondary and recycled materials
5. Safeguard Milton Keynes' mineral resources of local and national importance (sand and gravel), reserves and ancillary development from other forms of development
6. Protect and enhance Milton Keynes' key (national and international) environmental and heritage designations and seek to avoid and / or minimise adverse effects of minerals-related development on heritage assets environmental resources.
7. Minimise adverse effects of minerals-related development and associated transport movements on human health and residential amenity
8. Support the provision of green infrastructure and recreational opportunities to promote healthy communities and quality of life in Milton Keynes
9. Ensure progressive restoration of mineral extraction sites and maximise environmental gains and benefits to local communities through appropriate after-uses that reflect local circumstance and landscape linkages

10. Support Milton Keynes' transition to a low carbon economy and tackle climate change through the promotion of sustainable development principles, alternative modes of transport and by addressing flood risk

Practical application of the Sustainability Appraisal process to the Minerals Local Plan

1.21. This Scoping Report focuses on the development and appraisal of the

Plan Process	SA Process	Outcome
Stage 1: Pre-production	Stage A: Setting the context objectives, establishing a baseline and declining the scope	SA Scoping Report for partial review 'Local Plan'
Stage 2: Production	Stage B: Developing and refining options	Consultation
	Stage C: Appraising the effects of the Plan	Draft Plan
Stage 3: Examination	Stage D: Consulting on the Plan and SA report	(draft) SA Environmental Report
		(final draft plan) Proposed Submission
Stage 4: Adoption		Adopted Plan
Review and Monitoring	Stage E: Monitoring and implementation of the Plan	(final) SA Environmental Report

MLP. Specific to Milton Keynes, the MLP will set out the long-term spatial objectives for minerals development. Each of the policies contained within the MLP expand upon and ensures the practical application of the plan's objectives across Milton Keynes.

1.22. The practical application of the SA process in relation to the MLP is illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Practical application of the SA process in relation to the MLP

2. Policy context - Policies, plans and programmes influencing the plan and Sustainability Appraisal

2.1. As part of the SA process a review has been undertaken of the relevant policies, plans and programmes which will influence the policy context of the plan and SA. This process has enabled the identification of potential synergies between other policies, plans and programmes. It also assisted in the identification and clarification of any inconsistencies and constraints. The review incorporated relevant material at an international (including EU), national, regional and local policy context level. The level of identification of documents forming the policy context is considered to comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive. A standard template was used to determine:

- Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA,
- Key targets and indicators relevant to the plan and SA,
- Implications for the plan, and
- Implications for SA.

2.2. The relevant plans and programmes in relation to policy context policy are listed in Appendix 1. This is to be updated as and when new material becomes available. Documents marked with an asterisk (*) are recognised as being of relevance however have not been formally reviewed as they are adequately captured due to the hierarchical nature of the policy context. A review of the policy hierarchy is also available in Appendix 1.

3. Baseline information and key sustainability issues

Baseline information

3.1. Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps to identify key sustainability issues. The baseline data was originally co-ordinated with the development of the

evidence base as required by the MLP plan making process, and development of the SA Framework. This data is based on the monitoring period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012 (Appendix 2).

3.2. Information on the current state and emerging trends of economic, environmental, social and spatial planning factors within Milton Keynes allow the MLP's effects to be adequately predicted and monitored.

3.3. Indicators have been tailored to specifically address issues of relevance to minerals development. Generic information has been included where it was believed to add value to the baseline.

3.4. Data limitations include availability of data (e.g. correct scale, up to date), unreliable sources or statistics and information being commercially sensitive.

3.5. Data collection is ongoing throughout the development and monitoring of the MLP. As such indicators and data will continue to be updated as necessary to ensure that the local factors are accurately reflected.

3.6. An overview of Milton Keynes, with respect to economic, environmental, social and spatial planning matters as they relate to mineral development, is provided in the following sections. This section also highlights key sustainability issues with regards to planning and development. The identification of these key sustainability issues were derived from the analysis of the policy context, focussing on material of specific relevance to Milton Keynes (see Appendix 1) and assisted with the development of the SA Framework.

Overview of Milton Keynes

3.7. Milton Keynes has been recognised as a separate area for administrative purposes since 1997 however it is still included within the county boundary of Buckinghamshire. The administrative area covers approximately 8,900 ha with a population of 248,800 (Census 2011), it is the seventh fastest expanding borough in the country (17% increase between 2001 and 2011).

3.8. The area of Milton Keynes has expanded by almost 30% over the 20 year period between 1991 and 2011. Milton Keynes as it is today has only existed since its designation as a 'New Town' in 1967. Prior to this the area had a population of less than 50,000. The reasoning behind the planned urban area was for it to act as a relief town to assist with the issues surrounding the overburdening population in London. The planned growth absorbed the existing towns of Bletchley, Wolverton and Stony Stratford along with a number of small villages. The area has been identified for further growth and development through various plans and projects contributing towards the Country's housing requirements. Whilst the urban area of Milton Keynes is vast, the administrative area also includes more rural parts, particularly to the north. Within the rural areas are a number of small towns and villages such as Olney, Hanslope and North Crawley.

Economy and growth

3.9. The high proportion of population in employment has resulted in a high economic activity rate within the area. Milton Keynes has maintained economic activity levels above the national average, including during the recession. Between 2004 and 2012 economic activity rates in Milton Keynes were consistently higher than that of the South East of England and nationally. In December 2012 the economic activity rate in Milton Keynes was 81.1% compared to 79.3% in South East England and 76.9% nationally.

3.10. There are 137,700 people in Milton Keynes (2011) who are economically active (in/looking for work). This figure accounts for 75.9% of 16-74 year olds (compared with the 69.9% nationally). The overall employment rate for Milton Keynes is 68% (17-74 year olds) which is again higher than the national average of 62.1%.

3.11. The proportion of 16-74 year olds who are economically inactive in Milton Keynes is 24.1% (compared to 30.1% throughout England). 20.9% is accounted for as being either retired (10.3%), long-term sick or disabled (3.2%) or students

not looking for work (3.9%) (all of which are below the national averages).

3.12. The 2011 unemployment rate in Milton Keynes was 4.8% compared to 4.1% nationally. The amount of people employed in full time employment has followed the national trend and has declined from 51.2% in 2001 to 46.3% in 2011. However the level of part-time employment has increased. 39.9% of females living in Milton Keynes are in part-time employment compared with 12.3% of male residents.

3.13. The employment type breakdown for Milton Keynes generally follows that of the rest of England with 85.3% of residents being employed within the service sector (4.1% above the national level). 8% are employed within the manufacturing sector (8.8% nationally). This sector has shown a decline in employment from 14.4% in 2001 to 8.0% in 2011 which follows the economic state nationally where manufacturing employment has fallen from 14.8% to 8.8%. 6.7% are employed in 'other' industries.

3.14. Breaking down employment by industrial type shows that wholesale and retail is the largest employer within the Milton Keynes area and is 4.7% higher than the national rate (20.6%). The second highest employing industry is education at 10.5%, with this not being a big variation from the national rate of 9.9%. The figures for transport and storage (6.5%) along with information and communication (6.4%) are higher than the national levels (5.0% and 4.1%) and provide some of the larger employing industries in the area. Other industries include: human health and social work (9.3%); construction (5.7%); accommodation and food service (4.5%); public administration, defence and compulsory social security (4.5%). These all feature at below the national average levels (12.4%, 7.7%, 5.6%, 5.9% respectively). 42.6% of people within Milton Keynes are employed in higher level occupations (managers, directors and senior officials, professional occupations, associate professional and technical occupations), this is above the national level of 41.2%.

3.15. The location of Milton Keynes ensures that it is strategically placed for successful economic development with it being an almost equal distance from London, Birmingham, Oxford, Cambridge and Leicester. Gross Value Added (GVA) (the economic measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area) in Milton Keynes between 1995 and 2008 was 6.9% compared to 5.8% within South East England and 5.4% nationally. The area experienced a decline of 0.8% between 2008 and 2009 and the national economic recession. Between 2010 and 2011 GVA had increased again by 6.4% to 6.1% higher than it was prior to the recession.

3.16. The future of economic development in Milton Keynes sees a continued targeted investment in the development of a knowledge based economy (including research and development, design and software development). In turn this will see a concentrated move away from investment in mechanical and vehicular related economic development.

3.17. The key issues related to the achievement of economic growth in a sustainable manner are:

- Enabling economic development that includes diversification of employment types ensuring quality employment opportunities for all.
- Ensuring that economic activity is retained and increased enabling of communities and individuals to benefit.
- Ensuring that an equilibrium is reached where growth, local communities and the environment can positively exist and not to the detriment of each other.
- Ensuring that any lack of innovation and enterprise is tackled, especially through targeting disadvantaged communities.
- Attracting new businesses whilst encouraging existing businesses to grow along with ensuring that any subsequent growth and expenditure remains within the area.

Environment and landuse

3.18. Natural England have identified the Milton Keynes area as being part of the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire

Claylands character area, characterised by gently undulating topography and plateau areas that are divided by broad shallow valleys. Further environmental designations within Milton Keynes include two Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), one Local Nature Reserve, 16 locally designated wildlife sites and around 200 Local Wildlife Sites. Along with these areas, Milton Keynes has been planned and developed to include a large amount of accessible greenspace and linking residential areas, which benefits both wildlife and local residents.

3.19. The urban area of Milton Keynes accounts for approximately 40% of the land-use. The remaining area is predominantly rural with a number of scattered villages and smaller towns such as Olney and Woburns Sands. The rural area underwent a landscape character assessment in 2007. The majority of landscape is designated as part of the Ouse Valley which follows the River Ouse from the Northamptonshire boundary at Passenham northeast-wards where it crosses the Bedfordshire boundary at Turvey. This is the principal water catchment within the area.

3.20. Archaeological evidential finds in Milton Keynes date back to the Palaeolithic period (500,000 – 10,000 BC). The area is first thought to have been settled during the Mesolithic period (10,000 – 4,000 BC) at areas within the river valleys of the Great Ouse, Loughton Brook and Ouzel. Gradual further settlement has been documented throughout the Neolithic (4,000 – 2,200 BC), Bronze Age (2,500 – 700 BC) and Iron Age (800 BC – 43 AD). Larger scale development began during the Roman period (43 – 410 AD) after which the area continued to grow at a relatively steady rate on a town by town / village by village basis. The urban area as it is today is the result of a planned and thought out vision which became a reality with rapid urban development taking place from 1967 onwards.

3.21. The living-past is recorded through the 8,000 historic records which are included in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) Catalogue (2009). In 2012

there were 49 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, three Registered Parks and Gardens and 27 Conservation Areas within Milton Keynes. There are six Scheduled Monuments and one Historic Building included on the English Heritage 'At Risk' Register.

3.22. The need to ensure environmental protection must coincide with further growth and development as this continues to increase in importance. As a new town development, the creation of green space has featured in the plans and projects leading to residential, employment and industrial development. Although such development has still come at the detriment to the environment (for example a decline in biodiversity and the quality of water resources due to increasing demands).

3.23. The increased promotion of sustainable design and improvements to the natural and built environment should lead to the use of renewable energies assisting industry and the wider communities, enabling them to better adapt to the changing climatic effects whilst targeting their reduction (as well as tackling other issues such as those relating to biodiversity and water resources).

3.24. The current biggest source of carbon dioxide (CO₂) is industrial and commercial activity (3.4 tonnes per person in 2008) which is below the average for the South East as a whole. CO₂ emissions per person are higher than the average for the South East (which can be put down to emissions from industrial and commercial activity being high in relation to population). Domestic / residential CO₂ emissions are relatively low which is attributed to the more efficient and modern design of housing which has been constructed to meet the ever increasing energy efficiency standards. Between 2005 and 2010 emission levels reduced by 15%.

3.25. Key issues influencing the effective protection of the environment include:

- Ensuring the integration of sustainable development and carbon reduction into the planning and delivery of further growth.

- Ensure that future development is balanced with the need to protect the environment.
- Targeting the reduction of CO₂ emissions.
- Ending the trend of biodiversity decline and ensuring that this trend is then reversed.
- Ensuring the prudent use of natural resources (including minerals, water and fossil fuels).
- Reducing the contribution to and the effects of climate change by increasing the use of renewable energies and limiting the effects of climate change
- Protection of and improvement to the natural and built environment.

Minerals requirement and development

3.26. The majority of minerals extraction and related development within Milton Keynes relates to sand and gravel. These resources were deposited during the glacial periods (plateau deposits) and due to river action widening and deepening of the valley floor (valley or terrace gravel) during the inter-glacial and post-glacial periods. The main sand and gravel deposits are located in the Great Ouse river valley, north of the M1 motorway (to the north/north-east of the city, however these are still considered to be relatively shallow. Since 1947 there has been approximately 650ha of sand and gravel extraction however only 154ha of this has been taken since 1974.

3.27. There has been limited building stone / limestone workings which have taken place at Weston Underwood. Further deposits have been identified in this area, located to the west of Olney in the north of the borough. This stone is used for building and conservation, the need for which supports restoration and maintenance as well as fulfilling a local identity requirement, and therefore is often geologically tied to specific locations. This can lead to extraction taking place in areas which would not normally be considered suitable and may be visually intrusive; both factors are considered against the overall need for extraction. Quarries for this purpose however, are generally small with low overall outputs.

3.28. There has also been a limited amount of limestone extraction in the area including small scale workings located at Clifton Reynes and Lathbury, neither of which are still active. The area is also historically related the production of Fletton Bricks, a brick clay extraction site for which was located at Newton Longville, although the company ceased operations in 1990.

3.29. The draft Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) has identified potential annual provision rates based on various different approaches. The figures for Milton Keynes range from 0.10 Mt per year to 0.28 Mt per year. Further consultation and development of the MLP will assist with finalising the annual provision requirements.

3.30. The use of recycled aggregates in Milton Keynes is difficult to assess. The majority of this comes from construction and demolition waste, and asphalt road plantings.

3.31. The identification of further extraction sites for sand and gravel has previously proven difficult due to the majority of them falling within locations previously designated as the Ouse Valley Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL). The adopted Core Strategy does not designate AAL's. Previously sites not within this area were allocated in preference to those within the AAL in order to preserve the locally designated sites as it was possible for target extraction levels to be met elsewhere. Current sand and gravel extraction sites include Caldecote Farm, Passenham and Manor Farm.

3.32. Key issues influencing the prudent use of natural resources include:

- Ensuring a steady and adequate supply of minerals.
- Ensuring the prudent use of natural resources whilst also supporting current and future growth.
- Ensuring the protection of the environment and the local communities.
- Ensuring that development takes place on previously developed land where possible.

- Ensuring appropriate and high level schemes for restoration and after-use of sites.

Society and community

3.33. The population of Milton Keynes is at almost 250,000 and is the seventh fastest growing area in the country. Overall the population profile for Milton Keynes is younger than that for the whole of England with 22.3% of the population being under 16 years compared with 18.9% throughout England. Along with this just 11.1% of the population is aged over 65 compared with 16.3% in England over all. However the population of Milton Keynes is an ageing one with the average age having increased from 34 to 35 between 2001 and 2011. This is due to higher growth rates in the 0-4 and 55+ age groups since 2001 (highest in the 60-64 age group (+73.7% 2001-2011)). Growth in the 55+ age group would be accounted for as a result of residents aging rather than an increase in people aged 55+ moving in to the area. The area does however have more than double the number of young couples in their thirties with a young family than the average for the South East region. The population of under 16 year olds is the ninth highest in England.

3.34. The population of Milton Keynes is becoming increasingly ethnically diverse with black and minority ethnic groups having increased from 13.2% in 2001 to 26.1% in 2011. This compares to 20.2% for England overall. Between 2001 and 2011 the number of residents in Milton Keynes who were born outside of the UK increased by over 100% to 46,100 (18.5% of the population compared with 13.8% nationally).

3.35. Overall social deprivation levels within Milton Keynes could be classed as above average. The 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) (measured using economic, social and housing related indicators) enables each area to be ranked in order of their level of deprivation. The Index ranks Milton Keynes at 211 out of 326 (1 being the most deprived). In comparison to the surrounding authorities (see Graph 1), Milton Keynes score is relatively low. This

however is comparing an urban area with what is generally a more rural and affluent area and would therefore be the expected outcome.

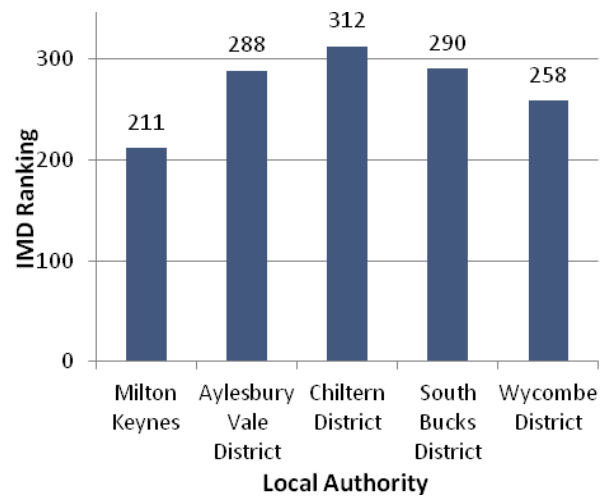
3.36. The IMD ranking of areas has also led to the identification of Super Output Areas. The lower scoring of these areas are then classed as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The IMD map (Figure 1) shows that Milton Keynes has 139 LSOAs (2010) (out of 32,482 across England), of which seven of them are included within the top 10% of the most deprived areas in England and 18 within the top 20%. The map shows that the more deprived areas are located within the more urbanised areas, and that (generally) the more rural the area is the more likely it is to have a lower level of deprivation. The map shows that there are 18 areas which are in the top 10% least deprived areas within the UK. Whilst some of these are in the city, the larger areas are comparatively rural.

3.37. Social exclusion (measured by a combination of levels of unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown) in Milton Keynes is high in comparison to the rest of the South East. The average life expectancy from birth for Milton Keynes is 80.2 years, compared to 81.6 across the South East and 80.3 for England and Wales (2008-2010). The range between wards however is almost 11 years with the Middleton ward having an average of 86.3 years and Woughton having 75.4 years. In comparison to the rest of the South East, the number of people living in Council owned accommodation is approximately double, as is the number of single parents on income support.

3.38. Key issues influencing the development of sustainable communities include:

- Ensuring that the areas growing population is provided for in terms of housing, employment, infrastructure, services and facilities.
- Ensuring that growth related provisions reflect the demographics of the area and promote social inclusion through reducing deprivation, inequalities, discrimination and disadvantage.

- Increasing and improving access to recreational opportunities.
- Increasing awareness and engagement in relation to environmental issues.



Graph 1: Milton Keynes and surrounding Local Authorities – Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) (2010)

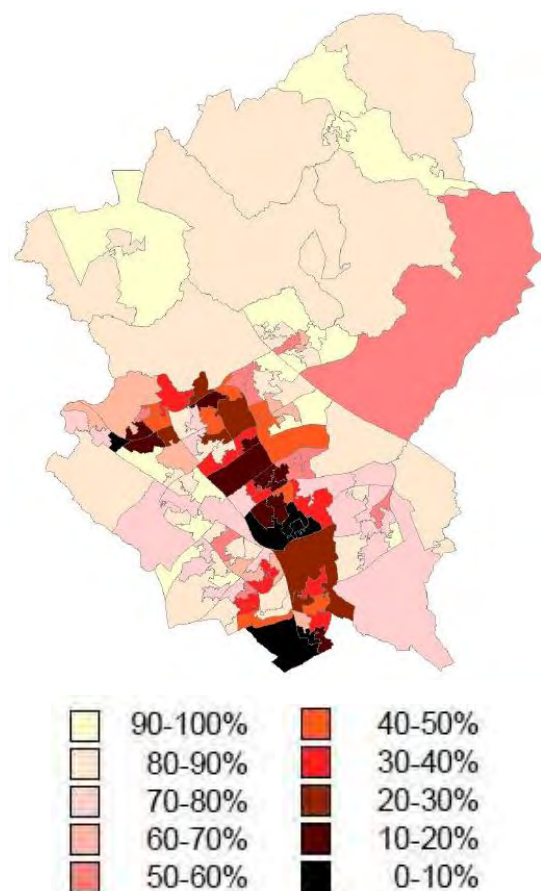


Figure 1: Index of multiple deprivation in Milton Keynes (100% - least deprived areas in UK)

Spatial planning and development

3.39. Centrally located within England, Milton Keynes is one of the UK's smallest administrative areas in terms of area. Milton Keynes is part of the broader area of Buckinghamshire and is bordered by the neighbouring administrative counties of Northamptonshire, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Milton Keynes is considered to be predominantly an urban area, however the administrative area is over 50%, what would be considered, relatively rural. The area can be divided in to northern and southern sections with the southern area being urbanised. Within the northern section there are a number of smaller towns and villages, all of which are generally served by Milton Keynes.

3.40. Whilst referred to as a 'city', Milton Keynes does not have official city status and is the result of a 'New Town' initiative commencing in 1967. Uncharacteristically for the UK, the development of the city was based on a grid system scenario. There are a number of roads running east-west and north-south (horizontally and vertically) across the city with roundabouts at the intersections enabling maximum efficiency for car travel. The roads are heavily landscaped, generally dual carriageway and run at national speed limit enabling relatively quick access to and from the city centre and between locations. The grid squares between the roads are known as districts and contain the lower hierarchal streets.

3.41. The segregated development of Milton Keynes and the hierarchical road system has lead to higher reliance of private vehicle use for travel and therefore increased traffic levels. 61% of those in employment drive to work compared with just 54.2% nationally and only 9.8% of people in employment use public transport for their commute, significantly lower than the 15.9% across England. Walking to work and bicycle use (9.9%) in Milton Keynes is again lower than the national rate (12.5%).

3.42. Strategically Milton Keynes is well located adjacent to the M1 motorway and with the A5 western transport corridor (London to Holyhead) forming one of the main arterial routes through the city. Both

of these routes enable relatively quick and easy access to London and the south and Birmingham and the north. Rail connections are also available to London Euston and Birmingham New Street stations enabling onward train travel to many locations throughout the UK and Europe. The nearest airport to the city is located approximately half an hour away at Luton, however the larger terminals at Gatwick and Heathrow are easily accessible by road or train travel.

3.43. The more rural area to the north is connected to Milton Keynes town by the A509 heading north towards Wellingborough and the A508 towards Northampton. The River Ouse crosses the Milton Keynes / Northamptonshire border at Old Wolverton flowing east across the northern part of the city. The river then heads north-east through the more rural section of the authority crossing the Milton Keynes / Bedfordshire border to the east of Cold Brayfield. The majority of the river valley is generally undeveloped, except for a few villages including Olney and Emberton. The more developed area of the river valley within Milton Keynes is located to the south of the western section between Old Wolverton and the centre of Milton Keynes.

3.44. Key issues influencing development and spatial planning include:

- Supporting the required development and that growth takes place.
- Protecting and enhancing the urban and rural communities.
- Supporting the existing road network.
- Ensuring that further growth and development supports the reduction of private car use and increases the use of public transport and pedestrian travel.

Minerals Local Plan performance baseline information

3.45. When adopted the MLP will provide the planning policy supporting all minerals related development throughout the authority's administrative area by contributing towards the decision making process related to determining planning applications. Annual monitoring is to be carried out and based upon the associated Monitoring Framework (Appendix 2). This

process allows the performance of the MLP to be measured and for trends to be identified along with highlighting any issues and constraints. This enables the informed updating of documents and policies as and when required and will ensure that these updates and modifications reflect the current state of Milton Keynes, in relation to minerals development.

4. Development of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

4.1. The SA Framework is fundamental to the SA process and is used as the basis for appraising the plan. The SA Framework sets objectives, sub-objectives and indicators used to appraise the plan's objectives and policy options in order to identify specific sustainability issues and ascertain how these issues are being addressed. Movement towards, or away from, SA objectives should be able to be monitored through the identified indicators. The SA Framework also highlights the potential social, environmental and economic implications of the proposals set out in the plan.

4.2. Objectives have been further developed to take account of local strategies and issues, identified by the policy context and key sustainability issues. Sub-objectives and proposed indicators have also been identified. SEA Directive topics have been cross-referenced with the SA objectives to indicate how these issues have been accounted for. Objectives have been categorised to address the economic, environmental, social and spatial factors. Appendix 4 details the development of the SA Framework.

4.3. The SA Framework reflects local priorities for sustainable development to ensure that the plan, policy proposals and processes are appraised at an appropriate level and that they contribute to the aims of sustainable development.

4.4. The SA objectives were developed as part of the plan-making process for the MLP. As part of this SA Scoping Report

the objectives were considered in relation to the baseline and policy hierarchy.

Sustainability Appraisal objectives

4.5. The SA objectives are listed in Box 3.

Box 3: The Sustainability Appraisal objectives

SA1. Maintain and improve air quality (including noise and dust)

SA2. Maintain and improve water resources and reduce flood risk

SA3. Conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity

SA4. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting

SA5. Promote the distinctiveness and character of landscapes and townscapes

SA6. Conserve natural resources (including soil resources) and encourage the use of secondary and recycled aggregates

SA7. Promote progressive restoration that maximises beneficial outcomes and after-use

SA8. Address climate change and reduce the potential for greenhouse gases (including by promoting opportunities for sustainable development and sustainable / alternative transport options)

SA9. Protect human health and minimise potentially adverse impacts on residential amenity

SA10. Improve access to green infrastructure, recreation facilities and opportunities

SA11. Ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals to support sustainable economic growth

SA12. Support employment opportunities in urban and rural areas

SA13. Safeguard mineral resources of local and national importance for future generations

SA14. Safeguard committed minerals-related development and associated

infrastructure from incompatible forms of development

SA15. Maximise efficient use of existing infrastructure and transport networks

5. Testing the plan against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

5.1. The objectives of the MLP and its sustainability principles must be in accordance with each other. As well as this the Plan's objectives must not contradict one another and should be compatible with those contained in the MLP. The SA process therefore requires the Plan's objectives to be tested for consistency and compatibility with the SA objectives continually throughout the Plan's development. The compatibility matrix and summary of results of the initial testing has been included below.

5.2. The process of testing the plan assists in refining objectives and policies as well as identifying options. The full

evolution of the objectives and the final policies will be detailed in the SA Environmental Report which will be finalised alongside the drafting of the final plan for consultation.

5.3. The SA objectives and associated assessment criteria is outlined in Table 2. The SA objectives will be used to test the options presented through the development of the Plan.

5.4. The compatibility of the plan and SA objectives were tested using a compatibility matrix (Table 3), to assist in highlighting potential conflicts that may emerge between objectives. The compatibility relationship between the two objectives is indicated as follows:

✓ Positive ? Uncertain
 × Potential conflict □ Neutral

5.5. Overall the plan objectives are consistent with the SA objectives, in addition the level of potential conflict between objectives is considered acceptable.

Table 2: SA objectives assessment criterion for testing the plan objectives

SA Objective & Decision Making Criteria
SA1. Maintain and improve air quality (including noise and dust) <i>Will the plan..?</i> Protect and enhance air quality where possible? Mitigate any potential adverse impacts?
SA2. Maintain and improve water resources and reduce flood risk <i>Will the plan..?</i> Protect and enhance water quality where possible? Mitigate any potential adverse impacts? Consider water quantity? Reduce the risk of flooding?
SA3. Conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity <i>Will the plan..?</i> Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity? Avoid or mitigate any potential adverse impacts? Consider national and local BAP requirements?
SA4. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting <i>Will the plan..?</i> Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting? Avoid or mitigate any potential adverse impacts? Identify any benefits? Support and secure an appropriate supply of local building and roofing stone?
SA5. Promote the distinctiveness and character of landscapes and townscapes <i>Will the plan..?</i> Endeavour to preserve the character of the landscapes and townscapes?

<p>Endeavour to minimise and/or mitigate any potential adverse impacts to overall character and local communities?</p>
<p>SA6. Conserve natural resources (including soil resources) and encourage the use of secondary and recycled aggregates</p>
<p><i>Will the plan..?</i> Manage the rate of extraction to ensure that natural resources are conserved? Promote the use of secondary and recycled aggregates? Avoid sterilisation of natural resources? Protect and enhance soil quality where possible? Mitigate any potential adverse impacts?</p>
<p>SA7. Promote progressive restoration that maximises beneficial outcomes and after-use</p>
<p><i>Will the plan..?</i> Ensure appropriate and high level restoration schemes based on the characteristics of individual locations and their requirements? Ensure that restoration schemes are phased and progressive? Ensure that restoration schemes result in outcomes and after-uses which provide benefits to the local and wider communities?</p>
<p>SA8. Address climate change and reduce the potential for greenhouse gases (including by promoting opportunities for sustainable development and sustainable / alternative transport options)</p>
<p><i>Will the plan..?</i> Endeavour to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance energy efficiency? Promote sustainable development through sustainable design? Promote the use of alternative / sustainable transport options?</p>
<p>SA9. Protect human health and minimise potentially adverse impacts on residential amenity</p>
<p><i>Will the plan..?</i> Endeavour to minimise and potential adverse impacts on human health, residential amenity and quality of life? Ensure any potential adverse impacts are reduced to an acceptable level?</p>
<p>SA10. Improve access to green infrastructure, recreation facilities and opportunities</p>
<p><i>Will the plan..?</i> Seek to improve overall access to services and amenities including facilities for recreational use? Seek to promote and improve recreational opportunities? Ensure that restoration schemes provide recreational opportunity where appropriate?</p>
<p>SA11. Ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals to support sustainable economic growth</p>
<p><i>Will the plan..?</i> Endeavour to ensure that an adequate and steady supply of minerals is planned for? Ensure that the planned supply will support sustainable economic growth?</p>
<p>SA12. Support employment opportunities in urban and rural areas</p>
<p><i>Will the plan..?</i> Encourage and support economic development within the minerals industry? Create employment opportunities? Encourage and support economic growth in rural areas? Support an increase in employment opportunities in urban and rural areas? Promote innovative development and encourage further skills development?</p>
<p>SA13. Safeguard mineral resources of local and national importance for future generations</p>
<p><i>Will the plan..?</i> Safeguard mineral resources from sterilisation? Provide the appropriate landuse planning mechanisms that aim to avoid the sterilisation of mineral resources? Encourage the use of recycled aggregates? Encourage the management of waste, including minimisation, recovery and recycling?</p>
<p>SA14. Safeguard committed minerals-related development and associated infrastructure from incompatible forms of development</p>
<p><i>Will the plan..?</i> Provide the appropriate landuse planning mechanisms to ensure that mineral reserves and associated development are protected from incompatible forms of development?</p>
<p>SA15. Maximise efficient use of existing infrastructure and transport networks</p>
<p><i>Will the plan..?</i> Support the use of existing infrastructure?</p>

Support the use of existing transport networks? Promote alternative / sustainable transport options?

Testing the plan objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Table 3: Compatibility matrix – MLP Objectives vs. SA Objectives

Plan	SA objectives														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	?	?	?	?	?	✓			?		✓	✓			
2											✓	✓			✓
3				✓	✓						✓	✓			
4						✓					✓	✓			✓
5						✓					✓		✓	✓	
6	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					
7	✓					✓		✓	✓						✓
8		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					
9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
10	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓					✓

Table 4: Summary of matrix results

Matrix code	Comments	Overall consistency of the plan objective with the SA objectives
P1 SA1 SA2 SA3 SA4 SA5 SA9	Mineral extraction will inevitably have some level of impact on the surrounding environment. As minerals can only be worked where they are found, options for locations are limited. Minerals extraction is temporary in nature and it should be recognised that effective restoration and appropriate after-use of sites can contribute towards improvements to environmental assets / resources (including air quality, water resources, biodiversity / geodiversity, historic environment, landscapes / townscapes).	Overall, draft Plan Objective 1 is consistent with the SA Objectives. Mitigation measures to avoid and / or reduce potentially adverse impacts, as well as sensitive site working, are addressed through the other draft Plan objectives. It should be recognised that the form and scale of potential impacts to environmental assets / resources is largely determined by site location and the nature of the surrounding environment.

6. Moving forward

6.1. This is the first version of the Scoping Report which has been prepared in relation to the 'Issues and Options' stage of the plan-making process and aims to set the context, objectives, establish a baseline and develop the SA Framework. Quality assurance checks of the Scoping Report will continue to be undertaken internally by the Council as per Government guidance. Amendments resulting from feedback from consultation or the quality assurance assessment will be detailed as appropriate through the plan and SA process.

Methodology for testing development options and appraising effects of the plan

6.2. The appraisals are undertaken primarily on the basis of professional judgement informed by the evidence base and other information available. In undertaking the assessments of the effects any judgements of significance are

systematically documented. The appraisal of options will be presented in the SA Environmental Report.

6.3. The range of techniques that may be used in the prediction and assessment of effects includes expert judgement, public participation and consultation, GIS, network analysis, modelling, scenario or sensitivity analysis, multi-criteria analysis, carrying capacity or ecological foot printing, and compatibility assessment. The appropriateness of individual techniques to meet the Council's needs and requirements will be determined and implemented accordingly.

Format and content of the Sustainability Appraisal report

6.4. The final SA Environmental Report will incorporate the Scoping Report and will fulfil both legislative and SEA Directive requirements. An example of the content and structure of the SA Environmental Report is outlined in Appendix 5.

7. Consultation

7.1. Consultation on the SA Scoping Report helps to ensure that the SA will be comprehensive and robust to support the plan during later stages of public consultation and examination. Consultation includes the SEA Consultation Bodies as required by the SEA Directive (English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency).

7.2. The following outcomes are sought through the Scoping Report consultation process:

- Ensure that due consideration has been given to the relevant policies, Plan's and programmes and sustainable development objectives that may influence the Plan and the SA;
- Develop a sound base for both the Plan and the SA Report which satisfies legislative and SEA Directive requirements; and
- Ensure that the baseline information is appropriate and sufficient within the context of the Plan.

7.3. Consultation on the SA Scoping Report is being undertaken at this stage with the SEA Consultation Bodies.

Consultation commenced on Wednesday 30 October 2013 for a period of twelve weeks, the closing date for feedback is Wednesday 22 January 2014. All responses must be received before 5:00pm on this date. The Scoping Report (and Form for Making Representations) will also be made available to other parties via the Milton Keynes Council website or upon request.

Appendix 1: Policy context –Policies, plans and programmes influencing the plan and Sustainability Appraisal

The table below includes the policy context in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal which will be updated as new material becomes available. Documents marked with an asterisk (*) are recognised

as being of relevance however have not been formally reviewed as it is believed that they have been adequately captured due to the hierarchical nature of the policy context.

Table 1: Policy context of the plan and SA

Policy context of the plan and SA
International policy context
Aalborg Charter*
Aarhus Convention*
European Union Spatial Development Perspective
The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC
EC Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive 2008/1/EC
EC Mining Waste Directive 2006/21/EC
EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC
EC Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC
EC Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
EC Noise Directive 2000/14/EC
EC Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC
EC Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe 2008/50/EC
European Landscape Convention
Kyoto Climate Change Protocol & UK Climate Change Programme
EC White Paper: Adapting to Climate Change
EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan*
European Programmes, Objective 1 and 2*
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development*
National policy context
Securing the Future – Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy
UK Renewable Energy Strategy
Energy White Paper: Meeting the Energy Challenge
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2005 – 2020
English Nature Policy Position Statement: Aggregate extraction and nature conservation
English Nature Policy Position Statement: Non-aggregate mineral extraction
English Heritage Mineral Extraction and the Historic Environment 2008
Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England
Water for People and the Environment – Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales
Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England
Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future
Urban White Paper- Your Region, Your Choice
Rural White Paper- Our Countryside, the Future
National Planning Policy Framework
National Planning Policy Framework – Technical Guidance
Regional policy context
Sub-regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2005 – 2020
South East Biodiversity Strategy
Water Resources Strategy Regional Strategy Actions for South East Region
Local policy context
A Transport Vision and Strategy for Milton Keynes
Milton Keynes Sustainable Community Strategy, Our Handbook for Change
Milton Keynes Adopted Statement of Community Involvement
Milton Keynes Minerals Local Plan (2006)

Policy context of the plan and SA
Milton Keynes Core Strategy (adopted July 2013)
Milton Keynes Waste Development Plan Document
Relevant saved Local Plan (2005) policies
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan 2000 – 2010
Milton Keynes Local Landscape Designations Study
Milton Keynes Draft Landscape Character Assessment
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Rural Strategy 2008-2012*
Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Strategy*
Milton Keynes Green Infrastructure Plan
Milton Keynes Strategic Flood Risk Assessment*
Milton Keynes Water Cycle Study Outline Strategy *
Surface Water Management Plans*
Milton Keynes Drainage Strategy – Development and Flood Risk Supplementary Planning Guidance*
Catchment Flood Management Plans – The Great Ouse

Table 2: International policy context review

Plan	Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for the Plan / SA (including key targets and indicators)
European Union Spatial Development Perspective	<p>The development of a polycentric and balanced urban system and the strengthening of the relationship between urban and rural areas</p> <p>The promotion of integrated transport and communications which support integration and the polycentric development of the European Union territory</p> <p>The development and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage contributing both to the preservation and deepening of regional identities and the maintenance of the natural and cultural diversity of the region.</p>	<p>Plan will seek sustainable development that balances urban and rural areas, promote integrated transport and communications and to protect and enhance natural and cultural heritage assets, as well as landscapes and townscapes.</p> <p>Ensure that the requirements of the EUSDP are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>
The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC	<p>Requires a formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>In preparing plans or programmes subject to the Directive authorities must prepare a report on the likely significant environmental effects, consult, and take the report and the consultation results into account during the preparation and adoption process.</p>	<p>Environmental assessment in accordance with the SEA Directive. SEA requirements included in SA.</p>
Directive Concerning Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control 2008/1/EC	<p>Requires industrial and agricultural activities with high pollution potential to have a permit. This permit can only be issued if certain environmental conditions are met, so that the companies themselves bear responsibility for preventing and reducing any pollution they may cause.</p>	<p>Plan policies to support overall objectives and requirements of the Directive.</p> <p>Ensure that the requirements of the Directive are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>
EC Mining Waste Directive 2006/21/EC	<p>Covers the management of waste from land-based extractive industries, including the working of quarries. Included are a number of requirements to ensure protection of the environment and human health, depending on the risks posed by the type of waste. All operators are required to provide a waste management plan of the minimisation, treatment, recovery and disposal of the extractive waste.</p>	<p>Plan policies to support overall objectives and requirements of the Directive.</p> <p>Ensure that the requirements of the Directive are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>
Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC	<p>Provides a framework for the conservation and management of wild birds in Europe, including their habitats.</p>	<p>Plan policies to support overall objectives and requirements of the Directive.</p> <p>Ensure that the requirements of the Directive are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>
EC Directive on	<p>Conserve fauna and flora and natural habitats of EU importance.</p>	<p>Plan policies to support overall objectives and requirements of the</p>

the Conservation of Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC	Establish a network of protected areas throughout the community designed to maintain both the distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats.	Directive. Ensure that the requirements of the Directive are reflected in the SA Framework.
EC Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	Promote sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources. Contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. Ensure the progressive reduction of pollution of groundwater and prevent its further pollution.	Plan policies to support overall objectives and requirements of the Directive. Ensure that the requirements of the Directive are reflected in the SA Framework. All inland and coastal waters to reach good ecological and chemical status by 2015.
EC Noise Directive 2000/14/EC	Monitor the environmental problem by drawing up strategic noise maps. Informing and consulting the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures considered to address noise. Addressing local noise issues by requiring authorities to draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise where it is good. Develop a long term EU strategy.	Plan policies to support overall objectives and requirements of the Directive. Ensure that the requirements of the Directive are reflected in the SA Framework.
EC Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC	In order to protect the environment as a whole and human health, concentrations of harmful air pollutants should be avoided, prevented or reduced and limit values and/or alert thresholds set for ambient air pollution levels. This directive sets the basic principles of how air quality should be assessed and managed and lists the pollutants for which air quality standards and objectives will be developed and specified in subsequent legislation.	Plan policies to support overall objectives and requirements of the Directive. Ensure that the requirements of the Directive are reflected in the SA Framework. Established in related 'Daughter Directives'
EC Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe 2008/50/EC	Streamlines existing air quality objectives. Confirms many of the existing directive's obligations. Introduces controls on fine particles.	Plan policies to support overall objectives and requirements of the Directive. Ensure that the requirements of the Directive are reflected in the SA Framework. Reduce exposure to PM _{2.5} in urban areas by an average of 20% (based on 2010 levels) by 2020. Reduce exposure levels in urban areas below 20 micrograms/m ³ by 2015. Reduce PM _{2.5} values below 25 micrograms/m ³ by 2015 or, where possible, by 2010.
European Landscape Convention	Promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues.	Plan policies to support overall objectives and requirements of the Convention. Ensure that the requirements of the Convention are reflected in the SA Framework.

Kyoto Climate Change Protocol & UK Climate Change Programme	<p>Enhancement of energy efficiency in relevant sectors of the national economy.</p> <p>Limitation or reduction of methane emissions through recovery and use in waste management, as well as in the production, transport and distribution of energy.</p> <p>Established to limit emissions of greenhouse gases. 6 gases addressed: Carbon dioxide, Methane, Nitrous oxide, Hydrofluorocarbons, Perfluorocarbons, Sulphur hexafluoride</p>	<p>Sets targets relating to reductions of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>Kyoto Protocol sets a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5% of 1990 levels, 2008-12.</p> <p>UK agreement is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008-12.</p> <p>UK Climate Change Programme national goal of a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions below 1990 levels by 2010.</p>
EC White Paper: Adapting to Climate Change	<p>Presents the framework for adaptation measures and policies to reduce the EU's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Outlines the need to create a mechanism by 2011 where information on climate change risks, impacts and best practices would be exchanged between governments, agencies and organisations working on adaptation policies. Since the impacts of climate change will vary by region, many adaptation measures will need to be carried out nationally or regionally. The role of the EU will be to support and complement these efforts through an integrated and co-ordinated approach, particularly in cross-border issues and policies which are highly integrated at EU level.</p> <p>Adapting to climate change will be integrated into all EU policies.</p>	<p>Give due consideration to how the plan can reflect climate change issues.</p> <p>Ensure that the issues and options raised are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>
EC White Paper: Adapting to Climate Change	<p>Presents the framework for adaptation measures and policies to reduce the EU's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Outlines the need to create a mechanism by 2011 where information on climate change risks, impacts and best practices would be exchanged between governments, agencies and organisations working on adaptation policies. Since the impacts of climate change will vary by region, many adaptation measures will need to be carried out nationally or regionally. The role of the EU will be to support and complement these efforts through an integrated and co-ordinated approach, particularly in cross-border issues and policies which are highly integrated at EU level.</p> <p>Adapting to climate change will be integrated into all EU policies.</p>	<p>Give due consideration to how the plan can reflect climate change issues.</p> <p>Ensure that the issues and options raised are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>

Table 3: National policy context review

Plan	Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for the Plan / SA (including key targets and indicators)
Securing the Future – Delivering UK Sustainable	<p>Sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment.</p> <p>Effective protection of the environment;</p> <p>Prudent use of natural resources.</p>	<p>Give due consideration to how the plan can contribute to the objectives and targets of the Strategy.</p> <p>Ensure that the requirements of the Strategy are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>

Plan	Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for the Plan / SA (including key targets and indicators)
UK Renewable Energy Strategy	Establishes the methods and reasons for increasing the use of renewable electricity, heat and transport. Models scenarios to show how targets might be met.	Give due consideration to how the plan can contribute to the objectives and targets of the Strategy. Ensure that the requirements of the Strategy are reflected in the SA Framework. 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020.
Energy White Paper: Meeting the Energy Challenge	Sets out the government's international and domestic energy strategy to tackle climate change and secure clean and affordable energy. Recognises the need to save energy, develop cleaner energy supplies and secure reliable energy supplies at prices set in competitive markets. The key elements of the strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an international framework to tackle climate change. • Providing legally binding carbon targets for the whole UK economy. • More progress in achieving fully competitive and transparent international markets. • Encouraging more energy saving through better information, incentives and regulation. • Providing more support for low carbon technologies. • Ensuring the right conditions for investment. 	Give due consideration to how the plan can contribute to meeting energy challenges. Ensure that the strategy is reflected in the SA Framework.
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	Ensure a level of ambient air quality in public places, which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life, for all to enjoy.	Give due consideration to how the plan can contribute to the objectives and targets of the Strategy. Ensure that the requirements of the Strategy are reflected in the SA Framework. Sets national targets for air quality: Sulphur dioxide 20ug/m3, Nitrous oxides 30ug/m3, Particles (PM10) 40UG/m3, Nitrogen dioxide 40ug/m3.
Air Quality and Climate Change: A UK Perspective	Provides the long term air quality strategy for the UK. Sets out air quality objectives and policy options to further improve air quality. As well as direct benefits to public health, these options are intended to provide important benefits to quality of life and help to protect our environment.	Give due consideration to how the plan can contribute to the objectives and targets of the Strategy. Ensure that the requirements of the Strategy are reflected in the SA Framework. Various objectives establish limits for air pollutants.
National and Regional Guidelines for	Sets out national and regional guidelines for aggregates provisions in England for the period 2005-2020 inclusive.	Ensure that the provisions are incorporated into the plan. Ensure that the requirements of national and regional guidelines are reflected in the SA Framework.

Plan	Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for the Plan / SA (including key targets and indicators)
Aggregates Provision in England 2005 - 2020		Various objectives establish limits for air pollutants.
English Nature Policy Position Statement: Aggregate extraction and nature conservation	English Nature acknowledges the vital role of the aggregates industry in supplying minerals needed by local and national economies. Objective of the policy statement is to work to incorporate the principles of sustainable development in order to deliver well planned and managed minerals workings to safeguard and enhance England's wildlife and geology (including geomorphology). Furthermore, restoration of mineral sites can provide major opportunities to develop or enhance new and existing wildlife and geological sites.	Ensure that objectives and requirements of the policy position statement are incorporated into the plan. Ensure that the objectives are reflected in the SA Framework.
English Nature Policy Position Statement: Non-aggregate mineral extraction	English Nature recognises that minerals are critical to national chemical, energy and construction industries. And recognises that the role of extractors in winning these minerals and the social and economic benefits arising from their use. English Nature considers that mineral deposits should be worked within the principles of sustainability, integrating extraction with care for the natural environment. Mineral extraction should operate within wider efforts to maintain the natural environment and should look to ensure wise use of the finite minerals resource. Furthermore, restoration of mineral sites can provide major opportunities to develop or enhance new and existing wildlife and geological sites.	Ensure that objectives and requirements of the policy position statement are incorporated into the plan. Ensure that the objectives are reflected in the SA Framework.
Working with the Grain of Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for England	Ensure cities, towns and other settlements contribute fully to goals of biodiversity conservation. Ensure construction, planning, development and regeneration has minimal adverse impacts on biodiversity and enhances it where possible. Ensure that biodiversity conservation is integral to sustainable urban communities, both in the built environment, and in parks and green spaces. Ensure that biodiversity conservation is integral to measures to improve the quality of people's lives.	Plan policies should support the national biodiversity strategy objectives. Ensure that the requirements of the Strategy are reflected in the SA Framework.
Water for People and the Environment –	Establishes how water resources should be managed to 2050 and beyond to ensure that there will be enough water for people and the environment.	Plan policies should support the Water Resources Strategy. Ensure that the requirements of the Strategy are reflected in the SA Framework.

Plan	Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for the Plan / SA (including key targets and indicators)
Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales		
Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England	<p>Sets out a vision to improve the sustainable management of soil and tackle degradation within 20 years. Aims to ensure that England's soils are better protected and managed. Four main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable use of agricultural soils • Role of soils in mitigating and adapting to climate change • Protecting soil functions during construction and development • Preventing pollution and dealing with historic contamination. • Details 16 key objectives for meeting these themes. 	<p>Give due consideration to how the plan can contribute to the objectives of the Strategy. Ensure that the objectives of the Strategy are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>
Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future	<p>Maintaining and creating sustainable communities that people want to live which: are economically prosperous, have decent homes at a price people can afford, safeguard the countryside, enjoy a well-designed, accessible and pleasant living and working environment, and are effectively and fairly governed with a strong sense of community.</p>	<p>Give due consideration to how the plan can contribute to the objectives of the Strategy. Ensure that the objectives of the Strategy are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>
Urban White Paper- Your Region, Your Choice	<p>The aim is to create high quality towns through good design and planning and cities which people can be proud to live in. They must be attractive, clean, safe and well cared-for, combining vitality and interest with practicality, sensitivity to the environment and continuity with the past, as well as offer a high quality of life. They must be well designed and planned, and make the best use of previously-developed land and existing buildings. They must provide good quality services that meet the needs of all. The urban renaissance will benefit everyone, making towns and cities vibrant and successful, and protecting the countryside from development pressure.</p>	<p>Give due consideration to how the plan can contribute to the objectives of the Strategy. Ensure that the objectives of the Strategy are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>
Rural White Paper- Our Countryside, the Future	<p>To facilitate the development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside, tackling poverty in rural areas. To maintain and stimulate communities, and secure access to services which is equitable in all the circumstances, for those who live or work in the countryside.</p>	<p>Give due consideration to how the plan can contribute to the objectives of the Strategy. Ensure that the objectives of the Strategy are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>

Plan	Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for the Plan / SA (including key targets and indicators)
National Planning Policy Framework	Secure an adequate and steady supply of indigenous minerals needed to support sustainable growth, whilst encouraging the recycling of suitable materials to minimise the requirement for new primary extraction; and facilitate sustainable use of energy minerals.	Develop plan policies in line with national planning policy on minerals and planning. Ensure that the requirements of national planning guidance are reflected in the SA Framework.
National Planning Policy Framework – Technical Guidance	Provides further detail in relation to the NPPF with regard to dust, noise, stability in mine workings and tips, restoration and aftercare of mineral sites and landbanks for industrial minerals.	Develop plan policies in line with national planning policy on minerals and planning. Ensure that the requirements of national planning guidance are reflected in the SA Framework.

Table 4: Regional policy context review

Document	Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for the Plan / SA (including key targets and indicators)
South East Biodiversity Strategy	The South East Biodiversity Strategy aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a framework for the delivery of biodiversity • targets that guide and support all those who have an impact on biodiversity in the region • embed a landscape scale approach to restoring whole ecosystems in the working practices and policies of all partners • create the space needed for wildlife to respond to climate change 	Give due consideration to how the plan can incorporate the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. Ensure that the Biodiversity Strategy is reflected in the SA Framework.
Water Resources Strategy Regional	Establishes the regional actions that will enable the aims and objectives of the Water Resources Strategy for England.	Give due consideration to how the plan can contribute to the regional actions required. Ensure that the requirements of the plan are reflected in the SA Framework.

Document	Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for the Plan / SA (including key targets and indicators)
Strategy Actions for South East Region		
Sub-regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2005 – 2020	Apportions the National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England (2005-2020) to Mineral Planning Authority level. Based on average sales 2001-2007 expressed as a percentage of regional sales, with minor adjustments.	Ensure that the aggregates apportionment figures are deliverable under the plan. Ensure that the guidelines are reflected in the SA Framework. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milton Keynes (proposed) provision rates.

Table 5: Local policy context review

Document	Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for the Plan / SA (including key targets and indicators)
A Transport Vision and Strategy for Milton Keynes	Provide real and attractive transport choices to encourage more sustainable travel behaviour as Milton Keynes grows. Support the economic growth of the borough through the fast, efficient and reliable movement of people and goods. Reduce transport based CO2 emissions to help tackle climate change.	Ensure that key transport objectives are supported by the plan and that they are incorporated into minerals policy in order to ensure that the impacts of transport related to minerals development is minimised. Ensure that the requirements of the transport strategy are reflected in the SA.
Milton Keynes Sustainable Community Strategy, Our Handbook for Change	Provides a framework for which a range of stakeholders and partners can work together in order to establish Milton Keynes' long term aims and requirements in relation to sustainable community development The vision includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable development, successful economy and satisfying services, • Cohesive communities, collaborative spirit and creative energy, • Fresh space, fun places and frontier design and technology. 	Ensure that the aims and objectives of the strategy are reflected within the minerals development plan. Ensure that the plan contributes to the development of sustainable communities. Ensure that the strategy is reflected within the SA.
Milton Keynes Statement of Community Involvement	Sets out how the Council will involve people in planning (developing policies and proposals for the use of land and buildings), including people who do not have English as a first language. It also gives advice to developers about involving the community in planning applications.	Ensure that the aims and objectives of the statement are reflected within the minerals local plan and its development process Ensure that the plan contributes to the development of sustainable communities. Ensure that the statement requirements are reflected within the SA.
Milton Keynes Minerals Local	Document sets out detailed land use policies and proposals for mineral development in the Milton Keynes administration area	Informs the development of the replacement minerals local plan

Document	Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for the Plan / SA (including key targets and indicators)
plan (adopted April 2006)	and was adopted in April 2006.	
Milton Keynes Core Strategy (adopted July 2013)	<p>Document provides the key spatial strategy for Milton Keynes Borough up to 2026.</p> <p>Summary of key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop Milton Keynes as a major 21st century city and deliver land for at least 28,000 new homes within the Borough between 2010 and 2026 • To allocate and manage the development of employment land and pursue a vigorous economic development strategy sufficient to deliver a minimum of 1.5 jobs for every house build in Milton Keynes • To promote the development of Central Milton Keynes as the vibrant cultural centre of the region • To seek the protection of existing key services and facilities in sustainable rural settlements and to encourage the development of further provision, including shops, education, community and health services • To facilitate the delivery of housing that meets the needs of all sections of the community • To protect, maintain and enhance the important environmental features, character and assets of the New Town and the towns and villages throughout the Borough • To encourage healthy lifestyles with the provision of recreation facilities and biodiversity 	<p>Ensure that the aims and objectives of the strategy are reflected within the Minerals Local Plan</p> <p>Ensure that the strategy is contributes to the development of sustainable communities</p> <p>Ensure that the strategy is reflected within the SA</p>
Milton Keynes Waste Development Plan Document	Document refers to the provision of sites and facilities for secondary and recycled aggregates processing within Milton Keynes	<p>Ensure that provision is made for the processing of secondary and recycled aggregates</p> <p>Ensure that the plan contributes to the development of facilities required to process secondary and recycled aggregates</p> <p>Ensure that the requirements are reflected within the SA</p>
Relevant saved Local Plan (2005) policies	The policies provide detail relating to the shaping of future development and growth of Milton Keynes along with protection of the built and natural environment and are read in conjunction with the adopted Core Strategy (2013)	<p>Ensure the Plan reflects policy requirements</p> <p>Ensure that requirements are reflected within the SA</p>
Buckinghamshire and Milton	<p>The BAP aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deliver the Biodiversity Action Plan 	Ensure that the Plan gives consideration to the BAP requirements and enhancing biodiversity and habitat creation where and when

Document	Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for the Plan / SA (including key targets and indicators)
Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan 2000 – 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen policy and legislation • To promote positive management for biodiversity in agri-environment schemes • To safeguard existing semi-natural habitats, prevent further losses and encourage restoration and creation • To establish data on species and habitats • To provide advice on conservation management to landowners and managers • To continue and establish further monitoring and research systems • To raise awareness of habitats and species • To build in resilience to the impacts of climate change 	<p>possible. Ensure that the document details specific policy requirements for beneficial outcomes and after-uses Ensure that the BAP requirements are reflected within the SA</p>
Milton Keynes Local Landscape Designations Study	<p>Document forms a review of the Local Landscape Designations (LLDs) known as 'Areas of Attractive Landscape' (AALs) in the rural areas of the authority.</p>	<p>Ensure that the AALs are considered in the Plan outcomes Ensure that the AALs are considered during the formalisation of the MSAs/MCAs Ensure that the AALs are reflected within the SA</p>
Milton Keynes Draft Landscape Character Assessment	<p>The document completes the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies, describes and maps the different landscape character areas in Milton Keynes rural areas • Provides guidance on the management of the landscape character areas • Informs Milton Keynes's Local Development Documents • Ensures that decisions about the location of new development take landscape character into account in line with national and regional guidance • Assesses the landscape in terms of its sensitivity to change 	<p>Ensure outcomes of document are reflected within the Plan and related policy Ensure that outcomes are reflected in the SA</p>
Milton Keynes Green Infrastructure Plan	<p>Document aims to embed high quality, sustainable and multifunctional GI into the design or 'place-making' process at a site level to add value to development.</p> <p><u>Economic priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • economic growth and employment <p><u>Environmental priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate change adaptation and mitigation • protect and enhance the landscape, geodiversity • and natural environment 	<p>Ensure that aims are considered during the Plan making process Ensure that requirements are reflected within the SA</p>

Document	Key objectives and policies relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for the Plan / SA (including key targets and indicators)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biodiversity conservation and enhancement • protect and enhance cultural heritage <u>Social priorities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community cohesion, life long learning and • volunteering healthy communities, health and well being 	
Catchment Flood Management Plans – The Great Ouse	This CFMP identifies flood risk management policies to assist all key decision-makers in the catchment and is the first step towards an integrated approach to flood risk management.	Ensure that aims are considered during the Plan making process Ensure that requirements are reflected within the SA

Appendix 2: Monitoring framework and baseline data

Potential significant sustainability effect and link to SA objective	Indicator	Comparators and target	Likely significant effects	Baseline Data (monitoring period 1 Jan 2012 – 31 Dec 2012)	Links to Minerals Local Plan
Minerals					
Aggregate extraction Steady and adequate supply of aggregates SA objectives: 7, 12, 14, 15	Level of aggregates extracted	To meet annual aggregate provision rate Building and roofing stone will be provided for restoration, conservation, and enhancement	Aggregate extraction levels meet the provision rate Sufficient aggregates are made available to support growth and development of sustainable communities	The extraction data for 2012 is confidential. This is due to a confidential figure or a figure which cannot be recorded without revealing a confidential figure A sustainable amount of building and roofing stone was extracted for restoration, conservation and enhancement	Local Plan objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4
Landbanks Maintain landbanks SA objectives: 7, 12, 14, 15	Aggregate landbanks	S&G: 7 years	Maintenance of landbanks	Landbank figures for 2012: S&G: 3 years (10 year average sales provision rate) S&G: 2 years (3 year average sales provision rate)	Local Plan objectives: 1, 2, 3
Sterilisation Protect economically important resources from sterilisation SA objectives: 7, 12, 14, 15	Number of applications in MSAs satisfying Local Plan requirements	100% of all new development	Mineral reserves of local and national importance do not become unnecessarily sterilised	All development applications identifying sites within MSAs meet the requirements set out in the Local Plan that relate to sterilisation of mineral resources. As a result no development took place which caused sterilisation to identified resources.	Local Plan objective: 5
Development adversely affecting minerals development Development does not adversely affect committed or allocated	Number of applications satisfying Local Plan requirements	100% of all new development	Minerals (committed or allocated) development and associated use are not adversely affected by other development	No development permitted within the monitoring period would adversely affect committed or allocated locations for mineral development Mineral sites have been	Local Plan objectives: 1, 5

minerals development, including the safeguarding of minerals-related uses (such as storage / processing, rail head / links and wharfage facilities) from other forms of development SA objectives: 7, 12, 14, 15				safeguarded from other forms of development	
Sustainable minerals transport movements Promote the use of sustainable transportation movements / methods SA objectives: 16	Number of applications including a sustainable transport assessment or incorporating alternative transport methods	100% of all new minerals development	Increase in developments incorporating sustainable transportation movements and methods	No minerals permissions were granted during the monitoring period	Local Plan objectives: 7, 10
Waste and recycling Encourage the use of secondary and recycled aggregates along with the appropriate management of waste, including minimisation, recovery and recycling SA Objectives: 14	Level of secondary and recycled aggregates use along with waste management and minimisation	Increase in secondary and recycled aggregates processing capacity Development applications include a waste minimisation strategy	Reduction in CD&E disposed of to landfill	No permissions for secondary and recycled aggregates processing facilities were granted during the monitoring period	Local Plan objectives: 1, 4
Environment and landuse					
Natural Protect and enhance the natural environment Avoid and / or minimise environmental impacts	The number of incidents of enforcement action taken against the minerals industry	Reduction in the number of incidents where enforcement action is taken against the minerals industry	Reduction in substantiated complaints and pollution incidents requiring	No enforcement action or reports of any issues during the monitoring period	Local Plan objectives: 6, 8, 9, 10

where necessary (including the protection of water and soil resources) SA objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11	relating to environmental impact	in relation to environmental impact	enforcement action for developments satisfying Local Plan requirements		
Historic Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting SA objectives: 5, 6	Number of minerals developments that have an approved scheme addressing the historic environment or include a scheme which secures a supply of building and roofing stone (where relevant)	100% of all new development (where relevant)	Increase in the proactive management of historic environment	No minerals permissions were granted during the monitoring period	Local Plan objectives: 3, 6, 9, 10
Built Minerals development which is complementary to the surrounding landscape and townscape SA objectives: 5, 6	Number of minerals applications that include a landscape character assessment and support landscape enhancement (e.g. through restoration)	100% of all applications (where relevant)	Increase in creative design and innovation of minerals developments	No minerals permissions were granted during the monitoring period	Local Plan objectives: 3, 9
Flood risk Avoid adverse impact on flood risk from minerals development SA objectives: 2	Number of minerals applications receiving permission contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding along with restoration supporting flood attenuation	All applications / permissions meet flood management requirements	No increase in flood risk level Increase in restoration supporting flood attenuation	No minerals permissions were granted during the monitoring period	Local Plan objectives: 6, 9, 10
Restoration and after-use After-use should	Number of minerals permissions that include an approved	100% of all new development (where relevant)	Increase in the enhancement of biodiversity (BAP	No minerals permissions were granted during the monitoring period	Local Plan objectives: 6, 9

include progressive restoration that enhances biodiversity, the historic & natural environment and amenity whilst benefitting the local community and / or economy SA objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11	restoration scheme that seeks to maximise beneficial outcomes	Increase in creation of BAP priority habitats (BAP targets)	targets), geodiversity, the historic & natural environment, landscape and amenity with increased benefits to the local community and / or economy		
Climate change reduction measures Carbon emission reduction within the minerals industry SA objectives: 9, 10, 16	Number of applications satisfying the Local Plan requirements relating to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing energy efficiency i.e. the regular servicing of vehicles and machinery	100% of all development	County carbon emissions continue to decrease	No minerals permissions were granted during the monitoring period	Local Plan objectives: 10
Economic and community benefits					
Employment Increase in investment and employment in the minerals industry (urban and rural locations) SA objectives: 13	Continued investment in minerals development (e.g. new mineral workings)	Net increase	Economic growth due to further investment and increased skills / knowledge	No minerals permissions were granted during the monitoring period	Local Plan objective: 1
Health and safety Ensure that minerals development does not adversely affect the health and safety of our	Number of applications that satisfy the Local Plan requirements relating to sustainable	100% of all development	Decrease in potentially adverse impacts on health and safety	No minerals permissions were granted during the monitoring period	Local Plan objectives: 7, 8, 9, 10

communities. SA objectives: 9, 10	transport , avoiding and / or reducing potentially adverse impacts, prevent landuse conflict, reducing carbon emissions and residential amenity				
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Appendix 3: Key sustainability issues affecting the plan

Table 1: Key sustainability issues and source

Key sustainability issues	Source
Economy and growth	
Higher unemployment rates than the national average (4.8% compared to 4.1%). Full time employment has declined from 51.2% in 2001 to 46.3% in 2011. Increase in levels of part time employment. Result of recession.	MKEDS
Reduction in manufacturing (sector employment declined from 14.4% in 2001 to 8.0% in 2011).	MKEDS
Higher level of highly skilled employment positions (42.6% compared to 41.2% nationally).	MKEDS
Economic development targeted towards growth in knowledge based industry leading to issues with a potential decline in / a lack of growth in lower-skilled positions, reflected through the IMD and the identified LSOAs.	MKEDS
Continued pressure on Milton Keynes' contribution towards one of the most economically significant regions, both nationally and internationally.	SERP
High level population growth	MKEDS
Level of highly qualified population higher than the national average. Attracted to area by higher skilled employment opportunities.	MKEDS
Milton Keynes does not have a university. Instead it is dependent on those in the surrounding area.	MKEDS
Environment and landuse	
Contribution to the global issue of climate change through minimising carbon output. Also minimising, mitigation and adapting to the affects.	MKSF
Balancing economic growth and protection of the environment through sustainable development.	SERP
Halting and reversing the decline in BAP habitat and species.	BBAP
Pressure on water resources	WRSSE
Natural resources extraction and waste management development is required to support current and anticipated growth patterns, however it is essential to minimise potential adverse impacts on the environment and community	MKSMSRS
Optimising the use of previously-developed land and ensuring the appropriate restoration and after-use of sites	MKSMSRS
Waste generation and management, including minimisation, recovery and recycling of wastes to meet targets	MKSMSRS
Minerals requirement and development	
Ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals is achieved whilst protecting the environment and safeguarding resources	MKSMSRS
Society and community	
Provision of housing, services, infrastructure, employment and amenities for Milton Keynes' growing population.	MKSMSRS
Addressing changing demographics. Ageing population will require further provisions.	MKSMSRS
Addressing social deprivation and exclusion. Reducing levels of inequalities, discrimination and disadvantage.	IMD MKSMSRS
Addressing issues relating to skills and the labour market.	MKSMSRS
Spatial planning and development	
Shortage of housing for growing population coupled with housing provision not matching need	MKSMSRS

Key sustainability issues	Source
Requirement to meet existing infrastructure needs and to provide further provision to support future growth and economic development	MKSMSRS
Protection of the diverse character and distinctiveness of the townscapes and landscapes.	MKSMSRS
Reducing the need to travel and increase use of sustainable travel options	MKSMSRS
Safeguard existing landuses in order to avoid conflicts between development types	MKSMSRS

Source abbreviations:

MKEDS – Milton Keynes Economic Development Strategy 2011 - 2016

SERP – South East Regional Plan

MKSF – Milton Keynes A Sustainable Future – A Low Carbon Prospectus

BBAP – Buckinghamshire BAP

WRSSE – Water Resources Strategy - Regional Strategy Actions for South East Region

IMD – Indices of Multiple Deprivation

MLP –Minerals Local Plan

MKSMSRS – Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy

Appendix 4: Development of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Table 1: Development of the SA objectives

SEA Directive	Other plans & programmes	Sustainability issues identified	Proposed SA objectives
Support economic development and employment	National Planning Policy Framework National Planning Policy Framework: Technical Guidance Rural White Paper- Our Countryside, the Future Urban White Paper- Your Region, Your Choice MLP Milton Keynes Core Strategy Milton Keynes Development and Implementation SPD	Higher unemployment rates than the national average Increase in levels of part time employment. Reduction in manufacturing Higher level of highly skilled employment positions Economic development targeted towards growth in knowledge based industry Continued pressure on Milton Keynes' contribution towards one of the most economically significant regions Level of highly qualified population higher than the national average Milton Keynes does not have a university	Ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals to support sustainable economic growth Support employment opportunities in urban and rural areas
Effective protection of the environment (including biodiversity, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets and cultural heritage - architectural and archaeological heritage)	Kyoto Climate Change Protocol & UK Climate Change Programme EC White Paper: Adapting to Climate Change EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan UK Renewable Energy Strategy Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland English Nature Policy Position Statement: Aggregate extraction and nature conservation English Nature Policy Position Statement: Non-aggregate mineral extraction	Contribution to the global issue of climate change through minimising carbon output. Also minimising, mitigation and adapting to the affects. Balancing economic growth and protection of the environment through sustainable development. Halting and reversing the decline in BAP habitat and species. Pressure on water resources Natural resources extraction and waste management development is required to support current and anticipated growth patterns, however it is essential to minimise potential adverse impacts on the environment	Maintain and improve air quality (including noise and dust) Maintain and improve water quality and reduce flood risk Promote progressive restoration that conserves and enhances soil resources and maximises beneficial outcomes and after-use Conserve and enhance the historic environmental, heritage assets and their setting Promote the distinctiveness and character of landscapes and townscapes Promote progressive restoration that maximises beneficial outcomes and

	<p>English Heritage Mineral Extraction and the Historic Environment 2008 Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England Water for People and the Environment – Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England Rural White Paper- Our Countryside, the Future Urban White Paper- Your Region, Your Choice Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan 2000 – 2010 Milton Keynes Local Landscape Designations Study Milton Keynes Draft Landscape Character Assessment Milton Keynes Green Infrastructure Plan Milton Keynes Green Infrastructure Plan Milton Keynes Water Cycle Study Outline Strategy Surface Water Management Plans Milton Keynes Drainage Strategy – Development and Flood Risk Supplementary Planning Guidance Catchment Flood Management Plans – The Great Ouse</p>	<p>and community Optimising the use of previously-developed land and ensuring the appropriate restoration and after-use of sites Waste generation and management, including minimisation, recovery and recycling of wastes to meet targets</p>	<p>after-use Address climate change and reduce the potential for greenhouse gases (including opportunities sustainable development and sustainable / alternative transport options)</p>
<p>Prudent use of natural resources</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework National Planning Policy Framework – Technical Guidance National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2005 – 2020 Sub-regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2005 – 2020</p>	<p>Ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals is achieved whilst protecting the environment and safeguarding resources</p>	<p>Conserve natural resources (including soil resources) and encourage the use of secondary and recycled aggregates</p>

<p>Support social progress that recognises the needs of everyone Minimise potential adverse impacts on human health Address population growth</p>	<p>Kyoto Climate Change Protocol & UK Climate Change Programme Securing the Future – Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy UK Renewable Energy Strategy Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Water for People and the Environment – Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future Urban White Paper- Your Region, Your Choice Rural White Paper- Our Countryside, the Future Milton Keynes Sustainable Community Strategy, Our Handbook for Change</p>	<p>Provision of housing, services, infrastructure, employment and amenities for Milton Keynes' growing population. Addressing changing demographics. Ageing population will require further provisions. Addressing social deprivation and exclusion. Reducing levels of inequalities, discrimination and disadvantage. Addressing issues relating to skills and the labour market.</p>	<p>Protect human health and minimise potentially adverse impacts on residential amenity Improve access to green infrastructure, recreation facilities and opportunities</p>
<p>Promote sustainable development Protect and enhance landscape character and its components</p>	<p>European Union Spatial Development Perspective Kyoto Climate Change Protocol & UK Climate Change Programme Securing the Future – Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future National Planning Policy Framework National Planning Policy Framework – Technical Guidance A Transport Vision and Strategy for Milton Keynes Milton Keynes Core Strategy Pre-Submission Version</p>	<p>Shortage of housing for growing population coupled with housing provision not matching need Requirement to meet existing infrastructure needs and to provide further provision to support future growth and economic development Protection of the diverse character and distinctiveness of the townscapes and landscapes. Reducing the need to travel and increase use of sustainable travel options Safeguard existing landuses in order to avoid conflicts between development types</p>	<p>Safeguard mineral resources of local and national importance for future generations Safeguard committed minerals-related development and associated infrastructure from incompatible forms of development Maximise efficient use of existing infrastructure and transport networks</p>

Table 2: SEA Directives cross-referenced with the SA objectives

SEA Directive topic	Milton Keynes MLP SA objective
Biodiversity	1, 2, 3, 7, 8,
Fauna	1, 2, 3, 7, 8,
Flora	1, 2, 3, 7, 8,
Soil	1, 2, 3, 7, 8,
Water	1, 2, 3, 7, 8,
Air	1, 7, 8
Climatic factors	1, 2, 3, 5, 8
Material assets	2, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 15
Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage	2, 5, 5, 11
Landscape	2, 4, 8,
Human health	1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Population	2, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

Table 3: Development of the SA objective indicators

SA Objective	Sub-objective	Indicator
Economy and growth		
Ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals to support sustainable economic growth	Do the policies support mineral extraction Do the policies support and enable growth in the mineral extraction industry Do the policies support sustainable development	Mineral extraction permissions and permitted reserves Active mineral workings Sufficient supply of minerals - landbanks
Support employment opportunities in urban and rural areas	Do the policies encourage an increase in employment in urban and rural areas	Urban and rural employment positions associated with the minerals industry
Environment and landuse		
Maintain and improve air quality (including noise and dust)	Do the polices support a reduction in air pollution (including the installation of noise reduction techniques and dust output minimisers)	Impact on surrounding area from permitted operations (air quality)
Maintain and improve water resources and reduce flood risk	Do the policies seek to protect water resources and enhance water quality Do the policies help to mitigate the potential effects of flood and reduce the overall flood risk	Impact on surrounding area from permitted operations (water quality) Flood risk level Restoration and after-use of sites that contribute towards flood attenuation measures
Conserve and enhance biodiversity (including important nature conservation	Do the policies conserve and enhance (where possible) the Boroughs biodiversity and geodiversity?	Restoration and after-use of sites that contribute towards biodiversity and

SA Objective	Sub-objective	Indicator
areas) and geodiversity		geodiversity outcomes
Conserve natural resources (including soil resources) and encourage the use of secondary and recycled aggregates	Do the policies support the conservation and enhancement of soil resources	Impact on surrounding area from permitted operations (soil quality) Permitted mineral extraction sites with a soil management plan
Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting	Do the policies support the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting Do the policies mitigate any potential negative effects the minerals industry may have on the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting Do the policies ensure a ready supply of conservation and building	Protection of heritage assets, their setting and their surrounding environment Restoration and after-use of sites that contributes towards the historic environment
Conserve natural resources (including soil resources) and encourage the use of secondary and recycled aggregates	Do the policies support the efficient and effective use of natural resources (e.g. the use of secondary and recycled aggregates) Do the policies help to protect agricultural resources including soils and best and most versatile agricultural land Do the policies help to reduce land contamination	Consumption of primary aggregates Protection of best and most versatile agricultural lands Permitted mineral extraction sites with a soil management plan
Promote progressive restoration that maximises beneficial outcomes and after-use	Do the policies support a requirement for a progressive and suitable restoration scheme, beneficial outcome and after-use Do the policies support restoration and after-use schemes which include positive outcomes in relation to society and community, the environment and the economy	Projects include schemes for progressive restoration of mineral sites Restoration schemes maximise beneficial outcomes and after-use of mineral site
Address climate change and reduce the potential for greenhouse gases (including opportunities sustainable development and sustainable / alternative transport options)	Do the policies support a reduction in greenhouse gases through promotion of sustainable development measures Do the policies support the use of alternative / sustainable transport options	Emission reduction / sustainable development techniques employed
Minerals requirement and development		
Safeguard mineral resources of local and national importance for future generations	Do the policies safeguard minerals resources and seek to avoid unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources	Identification of mineral safeguarding areas Extent of sterilisation of mineral resources
Safeguard committed minerals-related development and associated infrastructure from incompatible forms of development	Do the policies safeguard committed minerals related development Do the policies include appropriate land-use constraints which when implemented will protect minerals related development from incompatible development	Impact of non-minerals development on committed and allocated mineral sites
Society and community		
Protect human health and minimise potentially adverse impacts on residential amenity	Do the policies avoid and or minimise adverse impacts on human health and safety, residential amenity and quality of life	Impact on human health Impact on residential amenity and quality of life
Improve access to green infrastructure,	Do the policies seek to improve access to green infrastructure,	Access to green infrastructure, recreation

SA Objective	Sub-objective	Indicator
recreation facilities and opportunities	recreation facilities and opportunities Do the policies seek to improve access through the implementation of beneficial restoration schemes with after-uses and outcomes which benefit the community	facilities and opportunities Restoration and after-use of sites that contributes towards recreational opportunities
Spatial planning and development		
Promote the distinctiveness and character of landscapes and townscapes	Do the policies support the distinctiveness and character of the landscapes and townscapes	Restoration of mineral development sites which enhances local landscapes
Maximise efficient use of existing infrastructure and transport networks	Do the policies allow for the provision of the necessary infrastructure and transport networks required to support mineral extraction and the related economic growth	Requirement for / development of infrastructure and transport

Appendix 5: Methodology for testing development options and appraising effects of the plan

Table 1: Example matrix for documenting the appraisal of plan policy

Sustainability objective	Predicted effects			Justification for assessment - Likelihood or certainty of effect occurring - Geographical scale - Temporary or permanent - Assumptions made - Recommendations for mitigation or improvement	
	Nature of effect	Assessment of effect and likely term			
		Short	Medium		Long
Minerals					
Environment and landuse					
Economic and community benefits					

Table 2: Example content and structure of the SA Environmental Report

Structure of the report	Information to be included
1.0 Summary and outcomes	1.1 Non-technical summary 1.2 Statement on the difference the process has made 1.3 How to comment on the report
2.0 Appraisal methodology	2.1 Approach adopted to the SA 2.2 When the SA was carried out 2.3 Who carried out the SA 2.4 Who was consulted, when and how
3.0 Background	3.1 Purpose of the SA and the SA Report 3.2 Plan objectives and outline of contents 3.3 Compliance with the SEA Directive/Regulations
4.0 Sustainability objectives, baseline and context	4.1 Links to other strategies, Plans and programmes and sustainability objectives 4.2 Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline 4.3 Difficulties in collecting data and limitations of the data 4.4 The SA Framework, including objectives, targets and indicators 4.5 Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified
5.0 Plan issues and options	5.1 Main strategic options considered and how they were identified 5.2 Comparison of the social, environmental and economic effects of the options 5.3 How social, environmental and economic issues were considered in choosing the preferred options

	5.4 Other options considered and why these were rejected 5.5 Proposed mitigation measures
6.0 Plan policies	6.1 Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the preferred policies 6.2 How the social, environmental and economic problems were considered in developing the policies 6.3 Proposed mitigation measures 6.4 Uncertainties and risks
7.0 Implementation	7.1 Links to other tiers of Plans and programmes and the project level (environmental impact assessment, design guidance etc) 7.2 Proposals for monitoring

Milton Keynes Council

Development Plans
Civic Offices,
1 Saxon Gate East,
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ

T 01908 252599

F 01908 252330

E minerals.plan@milton-keynes.gov.uk

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-policy

