Appendix H: Appraisal of Spatial Strategy Policies

Significant Positive Effect	**+ +**	Likely to have a significant positive effects
Minor Positive Effect	**+**	Likely to have a positive effects
Neutral	**0**	Neutral
Minor Negative Effect	**-**	Likely to have negative effects
Significant Negative Effect	**- -**	Likely to have significant negative effects
Uncertain	**?**	Uncertain
No Relationship	NA	Not applicable/No relationship

NB: where more than one symbol is presented in a box it indicates that the appraisal has identified both positive and negative effects (although please note that a colour has been removed where this is the case). Where a box is coloured but also contains a '?', this indicates uncertainty over whether the effect could be a minor or significant effect although a professional judgement is expressed in the colour used. A conclusion of uncertainty arises where there is insufficient evidence for expert judgement to conclude an effect.

Spatial Strategy Policies

Policy SS3 sets out the overall level of housing, employment and retail development that will be provided over the plan period. The appraisal of development requirements is contained in Appendix E. Policy SS3, also sets out further elements which has led to the assessment below. The overall spatial strategy has also been assessed separately as a whole (Appendix F). The policies bring together elements of that spatial strategy.

SA Objective 1. To reduce air pollution and encourage improvements in air quality

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	+ +	+	+/-	+ +/-	+/-	+ +/-

Likely significant effects

There are currently two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the district and increased car use could exacerbate congestion and lead to greater occurrences of poor air quality within and close to the Canterbury 3 AQMA (declared in 2018 following an extension to Canterbury 2 AQMA) and Herne 1 AQMA and other areas with existing poor air quality. The main source of air pollution in the district is road traffic emissions from major roads, notably the A2, A28 and A299.

Policy SS1 supports the provision of significant open space including two country parks and the provision of multifunctional green infrastructure. These measures are expected to help improve local air quality. Policy SS2 supports (inter alia) the provision of developments connected to services and facilities by walking and cycling opportunities, the co-location of community facilities and services and provision of high-quality open space. This is considered to support improvements to air quality.

Policy SS4 seeks to improve air quality within the district as a whole. It supports a variety of measures to improve connectivity with sustainable transport infrastructure measures to improve neighbourhoods, and facilities a shift to low carbon and active journeys. This includes improved public transport connectivity across the district, the provision of a new access off the A299 at Whitstable and the completion of the Crab and Winkle Way cycle and pedestrian path. Improvements are also envisaged to connectivity of the coastal towns. Additionally, new road infrastructure is proposed which is likely to result in increased car use in these locations (although improvements to existing routes, and provision of active travel measures would support improvements to air quality). The policy also supports safe pedestrian and cycle connectivity in new development. This policy is likely to support significant improvements to air quality but likely to result in increased car use which would result in negative effects.

Policy SS5 would support infrastructure improvements including open space delivery which would support this objective, although impacts on air quality would be expected in construction, and during the operational phase for some infrastructure.

Overall, a mix of significant positive and minor negative effects are assessed for the spatial strategy policies.

Mitigation
None.
Assumptions
None.
Uncertainties
None.

SA Objective 2. To minimise greenhouse gases that cause climate change and deliver a managed response to its effects

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	+ +	+ +	+/- -	+	+/-	+ +/-

Likely significant effects

Policy SS1 supports the provision of significant open space including a country park and the provision of multifunctional green infrastructure. These measures are expected to help improve contribute to combatting climate change. The policy also supports carbon sequestration. Additionally, the policy references that developments that increase the risk of flooding will be refused, which will help towards climate change resilience. Policy SS2 supports (inter alia) the provision of developments connected to services and facilities by walking and cycling opportunities, the co-location of community facilities and services and provision of high-quality open space. The policy also seeks new development to be net zero compliant. This is considered to support combatting GHG emissions. The volume of greenhouse gas emissions are primarily influenced by the quantum of development to be accommodated over the plan period. Mixed effects are assessed for SS3 reflecting the scale of development. Overall, a mix of significant positive and minor negative effects are assessed.

Mitigation
Local plan policies that seek to ensure energy efficiency would help to mitigate GHG emissions produced within new development during operation.
Assumptions
None.
Uncertainties
None.

SA Objective 3. To conserve, connect and enhance biodiversity across the District

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	+ +	+	+/--	-/?	+ +/-	+ +/-

Likely significant effects

Policy SS1 supports investment in natural and semi natural open space, parks and gardens and at least one new country parks. The policy also protects and seeks to enhance features including rivers, streams and ponds. A requirement for a 20% biodiversity net gain is also included in the policy wording. The policy also supports the full recovery of the Stodmarsh Nature Reserve (which is a SAC, SPA, Ramsar) to meet its targets for water quality and improve biodiversity, and thus will support achievement of nutrient neutrality. Overall, significant positive effect is assessed.

The requirements in SS3 would result in negative effects, although biodiversity net gain would potentially support positive effects, whilst the strategy would seek to direct development to the most sustainable settlements, and other policies in the plan would ensure effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated. SS5 would support infrastructure including the provision of country parks and wastewater treatment which would support achievement of this objective and nutrient neutrality. However, the delivery of the full range of infrastructure is likely to result in some effects on biodiversity habitats (although may be offset by biodiversity net gain).

Overall, a mix of significant positive and minor negative effects are assessed.

Mitigation

Local Plan policies and proposals should seek to avoid negative effects on the District's biodiversity assets and identify opportunities for enhancing their quality where appropriate.
Careful consideration should be given to the selection of site allocations in order to avoid adverse effects on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites. Appropriate mitigation should be identified where necessary, along with commitments for enhancement (anticipating contributions to net gain, where appropriate).
Habitat creation and enhancement with careful consideration regarding priority habitats/species as well as designated sites should be supported.
Local Plan policies should plan for a network of green infrastructure assets, closely linked with existing and new development.
The need to provide mitigation to achieve nutrient neutrality through implementation of the Canterbury District Nutrient Mitigation Strategy.

Assumptions

None.

Uncertainties

The ability to deliver 20% biodiversity net gain for all sites is unclear at this stage.

SA Objective 4. To conserve geological sites and safeguard mineral resources within the District

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	+	+	-	-/?	+/-	+/-

Likely significant effects

Policy SS1 supports investment in natural and semi natural open space, parks and gardens and at least one new country parks. This would support the protection of geology and mineral assets within the district. Overall, a positive effect is assessed. SS5 would support infrastructure including the provision of a country park which would support achievement of this objective. However, the delivery of the full range of infrastructure is likely to result in some effects on mineral assets. Minor negative effects have been assessed against this objective for SS3 in recognition of the scale of development outlined. Overall, a mix of minor positive and minor negative effects are assessed.

Mitigation
Implementation of minerals assessments to mitigate any impacts on MSA.
Support implementation of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
Assumptions
It is assumed that development would avoid being located on RIGS.
Uncertainties
None.

SA Objective 5. To conserve and enhance the landscapes of the District for people and wildlife

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	+ +/-	+ +	+ +/-	+/-	+/-	+ +/-

Likely significant effects
Policy SS1 would include provision for a range of new open spaces; and protection and enhancement of existing green and blue infrastructure; and tree planting to achieve at least 20% tree coverage for new development sites over 300 dwellings. These measures are considered likely to have significant positive effects on this objective. However, the policy also supports renewable energy schemes, which may have landscape impacts. Some minor

negative effects are also assessed. Significant positive effects are assessed for Policy SS2 in reflecting the policy provisions for development that is responsive to local character, townscape and landscape and provides open space. Policy SS3 sets out the development requirements and seeks to direct development to sustainable settlements. The rural character of the countryside will be protected as part of the policy. This is likely to support protection of important landscapes. However, there are likely to be some landscape effects associated with the scale of development. The remaining policies are likely to have a mix of effects. Overall, a mix of significant positive and minor negative effects are assessed.

Mitigation
Local Plan policies should consider how to protect and enhance the visual setting of Canterbury City.
Local Plan policies should require strategic mitigation to address the landscape impacts of the allocations.
Assumptions
None.
Uncertainties
The exact location of future development, the quality of the receiving landscapes and the proximity of sensitive receptors.

SA Objective 6. To protect water resources and ensure a high quality of inland and coastal waters

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	+ +	+	-	-/?	+ +	+ +/-

Likely significant effects

The district is in an area of water stress whilst there are recognised nutrient neutrality issues in relation to Stodmarsh. Policy SS1 protects and seeks to enhance features including rivers, streams and ponds - which provide important water based habitats. The policy also supports the full recovery of the Stodmarsh Nature Reserve to meet its targets for water quality and improve biodiversity, thus will support achievement of nutrient neutrality. SS1 also identifies the Broad Oak Reservoir, which is identified to support water resources within the district. Significant positive effects are assessed for this policy. SS5 supports provision of Broad Oak Reservoir and new waste water treatment facilities (amongst other things). Significant positive effects are assessed. SS2 supports, amongst other things, maximise water efficiency in new development, which would support this objective. Overall, a mix of significant positive and minor negative effects are assessed.

Mitigation
Local Plan policies should provide detailed policy wording on addressing water pollution and water efficiency.
Assumptions

New development will increase water resource use within the district in both the short term during construction and in the longer term once development is complete.
It is assumed that the Council will continue to liaise with Southern Water with regard to wastewater infrastructure requirements for future development. Measures contained in the South East Water and Southern Water WRMP would be expected to help ensure that future water resource demands are met.
Uncertainties
The exact location of developments and the potential impact on waterbodies is uncertain at this stage

SA Objective 7. To reduce the risk of flooding and where appropriate prevent coastal erosion

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	++	++	-/?	-/?	+	++/-/?

Likely significant effects

Policy SS1 will protect blue infrastructure, including rivers, streams and ponds and also states that proposals that would increase flood risk in an area would not be acceptable. Furthermore, the policy seeks to ensure that new development is located outside of Flood Zone 2 and 3 and provide suitable mitigation (SuDS and flood risk management initiatives) where such zones cannot be avoided. The policy also makes reference to ensuring developments over 300 houses delivering tree planting to, amongst other things, support floodplain management. Additionally, the protection of existing assets and new greenspaces is likely to support effective surface water management. Policy SS2 requires the delivery of green and natural open spaces which is likely to support effective surface water management and support mitigation of flood risk. Policy SS2 also specifically mentions that new development should integrate sustainable drainage and water management measures into their design. Significant positive effects are assessed. Overall, a mix of significant positive and minor negative effects are assessed.

Mitigation
Policy SS2 could be enhanced by making specific reference to sustainable drainage techniques, appropriate water management onsite and mitigation of flood risk within the policy wording.
Assumptions
Site specific Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) will be required where relevant.
Uncertainties
None.

SA Objective 8. To promote sustainable waste management

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	+	+	-/?	-	+/-	+/-

Likely significant effects

Policy SS2 will seek, wherever possible, to secure development that improves the (inter alia) environmental conditions in the area through sustainable design. This will involve supporting net zero operational carbon, which will indirectly likely support improvements to waste management. Minor positive effects are assessed.

Policy SS3 would support new development which will lead to waste generation during construction and occupation. However, the extent is uncertain. Additionally, the infrastructure envisaged would require the use of resources and lead to waste generation, particularly in the construction phase. Policy SS5, meanwhile, will ensure that development does not contribute to the pollution of water and seeks enhancements to water treatment capacity although other infrastructure may increase waste. This policy has therefore been assessed as having a mixed positive and negative effect on this objective.

Cumulatively, the policies in this section will have a minor positive and negative effect on this objective.

Mitigation
None.
Assumptions
None.
Uncertainties
None.

SA Objective 9. To preserve, enhance, promote and capitalise on the significant qualities, fabric, setting and accessibility of the District's historic environment

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects

Score	++	+ +	+/-/?	+/-/?	+/-/?	+ +/-

Likely significant effects

Canterbury District benefits from a variety of designated and undesignated heritage assets, including rich archaeology. Canterbury City includes a World Heritage Site (WHS) comprising of the Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church as well as a range of listed buildings and scheduled monuments. There are nearly 100 conservation areas, over 50 scheduled monuments and nearly 2,000 listed buildings in the District as a whole.

SS1 would likely help to support the conservation of the historic environment through the protection of natural environment assets and through identification of a range of open spaces. The policy also specifically references the heritage policy of the Local Plan (Policy DS26), alongside specifically calling for heritage assets to be preserved and enhanced. SS1 further seeks to protect the UESCO Canterbury World Heritage Site and increase its accessibility and connectivity. A significant positive effect is assessed.

SS2 sets overarching strategy for sustainable design. New development is required to be responsive to the distinctive character and history of the district and its landscape/townscape. Such elements are important to the conservation of local heritage assets This is considered to have likely significant positive effects on this objective.

A mix of effects is assessed for SS3 and SS4. Policy SS3 will lead to a significant scale of development and includes development within the Canterbury area. Policy SS4 would support, amongst other things, public realm improvements within Canterbury City which are likely to support conservation and enhancement of heritage assets. However, the development of new transport infrastructure could also be expected to have some effects on heritage assets, depending on design and proximity to receptors. Similarly, the development of new services and facilities envisaged in SS5 may impact on heritage assets although open space provision could be expected to support conservation of the historic environment. There is uncertainty over these effects.

Overall, a mix of significant positive and minor negative effects is assessed.

Mitigation

None.

Assumptions

None.

Uncertainties

None.

SA Objective 10. To ensure the supply of high quality homes, which cater for identified needs

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	+	+	+ +	+	+	+ +

Likely significant effects
Policy SS3 sets out the development requirements and hierarchy. The requirements would meet identified Local Housing Need (LHN) for district and direct development to existing sustainable settlements across the district and to a new settlement. This will have a significant positive effect on this objective. Policy SS2 would support high quality and well-designed development, including residential development. Policy SS4 would support transport infrastructure, which would support housing growth, whilst SS5 would support a range of other infrastructure, services and facilities, supporting high quality housing development. Policy SS1 would likely ensure an attractive environment which would support high-quality residential development. Although, protection of environmental assets may reduce the ability to deliver housing, on balance minor positive effects are assessed. Overall, significant positive effects are assessed.

Mitigation
None.
Assumptions
None.
Uncertainties
None.

SA Objective 11. To promote the sustainable use of land and conserve soil quality

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	+ +	+	+/- -	+/- -	+/- -/?	+/- -

Likely significant effects

Policy SS1 supports the provision of significant open space including two country parks and the provision of multifunctional green infrastructure. These measures are expected to help to support the sustainable use of land and conserve soil quality. Policy SS2 supports (inter alia) the co-location of

community facilities and services and provision of high-quality open space. The policy also requires the use of appropriate densities, which may support effective use of land. This is considered to have a positive effect. Policy SS3 sets out the development requirements and settlement hierarchy. Inevitably, the requirements will place pressure on greenfield land resources, although previously developed land will also be developed within existing settlements. Similarly, for SS4 and SS5 these policies support infrastructure delivery which will largely take place on greenfield sites although some will take place on previously developed. SS5 also includes specific open space requirements which will support sustainable use of land.

Overall, a mix of positive and significant negative effects are assessed.

Mitigation
Policy SS3 could make specific reference to making as much use of previously developed land as possible as part of the approach to the overall location of new development within the district.
Assumptions
None.
Uncertainties
None.

SA Objective 12. To achieve a strong and sustainable economy, and revitalise town, local and rural centres

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	+	+	+ +	+ +	+ +	+ +

Likely significant effects
Policy SS1 would likely ensure an attractive environment which would support tourism investment. Although, protection of environmental assets may reduce the ability to deliver employment and other economic opportunities, on balance minor positive effects are assessed for the policy. Similarly, Policy SS2 supports the preservation and enhancement of heritage assets. On balance, this is considered to support visitor economy and provide high quality non-residential developments which would support the economy of the district. SS2 also supports delivery of digital infrastructure, which is required to support economic growth.

Policy SS3 would deliver 1,149 dwellings per annum (equivalent to 24,129 dwellings over the plan period), 141,100 sqm of employment floor space and around 5,704 sqm of retail floorspace. The spatial strategy focusses growth within Canterbury with the towns of Whitstable and Herne Bay being the secondary focus of development. This is supported by a new settlement with more limited growth in Rural Service Centres and Local Service Centres. Development in the countryside will be strictly controlled. The policy would therefore support economic investment and economic growth in the district and ensure employment needs are met. Additionally, it would help to support Canterbury City Centre and Whitstable and Herne Bay town centres. Improved

infrastructure and connectivity may also increase the ability for people to sustainably access town centre services and amenities, and support tourism and the night-time economy. Additionally, focusing growth in Canterbury would help to support the four universities, which are important employers and help to support economic growth within the district.

Policy SS4 would support investment in sustainable transport and road infrastructure. Policy SS5 would ensure other necessary infrastructure and facilities are developed, including schools. These policies will support direct economic investment (during construction). SS4 will ensure the necessary sustainable transport infrastructure is in place to support effective movement around the district (and particularly within Canterbury) whilst SS5 will ensure community services and facilities, necessary to support new development, are provided. These policies will directly support new economic development and indirectly contribute to the attractiveness of the district as a location for economic investment.

Overall, the policies are considered to have significant positive effects on achievement of this objective.

Mitigation
None.
Assumptions
None.
Uncertainties
None.

SA Objective 13. To promote and encourage sustainable transport

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	+	+ +	+ +/-	+ +/-	+/-	+ +/-

Likely significant effects

Policy SS1 seeks the provision of multifunctional green infrastructure and multi-benefit connections, which is likely to support opportunities for walking and may reduce the need to travel to access open space. A positive effect is likely. Policy SS2 supports (inter alia) the provision of developments connected to services and facilities by walking and cycling opportunities, the co-location of community facilities and services. The positive effects are considered to potentially be significant.

Policy SS3 would support development in sustainable locations well served by facilities and services and restrict development in countryside locations which is likely to support significant positive effects for transport. However, it is recognised that the strategy would result new development, which is likely to increase vehicular movements and negative effects.

Policy SS4 seeks to improvements to sustainable transport infrastructure as a whole and a bus led transport strategy. It supports a variety of measures to improve connectivity by sustainable transport measures including park and ride and new access off the A299 at Whitstable and the completion of the Crab and Winkle Way cycle and pedestrian path. Improvements are also envisaged to connectivity of the coastal towns with a Park and Bus at Whitstable. Additionally, new road infrastructure upgrades and accesses, will likely to result in some increased car use in these locations (although this could reduce congestion within Canterbury City Centre). The policy also supports safe pedestrian and cycle connectivity in new development. This policy is likely to support significant improvements to transport infrastructure but likely to result in increased car use which would result in negative effects.

Policy SS5 would support infrastructure improvements which would support this objective through the delivery of services and facilities to support growth, although impacts on congestion would be expected in the construction phase, and potentially during the operational phase for some infrastructure.

Overall, a mix of significant positive and minor negative effects are assessed for the spatial strategy policies.

Mitigation
None.
Assumptions
None.
Uncertainties
None.

SA Objective 14. To promote safe, healthy, inclusive and sustainable communities

Policy	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	Cumulative Effects
Score	+ +	+ +	+/-	+ +/-	+ +	+ +/-

Likely significant effects

Policy SS1 supports the provision of significant open space including two country parks and the provision of multifunctional green and blue infrastructure. These measures are expected to help to support improvements to health and help to support sustainable communities. Policy SS2 supports (inter alia) the provision of developments connected to services and facilities by walking and cycling opportunities, the co-location of community facilities and services

and provision of high-quality open space. This is considered to support sustainable communities within the district. The positive effects are considered to potentially be significant on health and sustainable communities.

The implementation of Policy SS3 would help to create further employment opportunities in the urban and rural areas and support vibrant and vital city/town centres. This could ensure that employment opportunities and service facilities are accessible, helping to promote healthy lifestyles. There is also strong evidence showing that work is generally good for physical and mental health and well-being. In this context, these policies have been assessed as having a positive effect on this objective. By restricting development in the countryside, SS3 is expected to encourage growth in Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay, with lower development requirements in Rural and Local Centres thereby helping to ensure that development is accessible to healthcare facilities. Development in accessible locations may also help to promote walking and cycling, thereby supporting healthy and active lifestyles. However, it is recognised that new development outlined in SS3 would also have negative effects on health, related to noise and emissions to air, especially during the construction phase, in the operational phase of some developments.

Policy SS5 would support the provision of necessary infrastructure, including health care facilities and open space, which would support the achievement of this objective. This is considered to be a significant positive effect.

Overall, the policies in this section are considered to have a mixed significant positive and minor negative effect on this objective.

Mitigation
None.
Assumptions
None.
Uncertainties
None.

Summary

Given the scope of the spatial strategy policies significant effects have been assessed for the majority of SA Objectives. Significant positive significant effects are assessed for SA housing (SA Objective 10) and economy (SA Objective). The policies include setting out the development requirements in terms of meeting the LHN and the employment needs. The spatial strategy sets out the settlement hierarchy and the strategic approach to deliver the necessary infrastructure to support housing and employment growth. Additionally, the policies would help to support Canterbury City Centre and Whitstable and Herne Bay town centres. Improved infrastructure and sustainable transport connectivity may also increase the ability for people to sustainably access town centre services and amenities, and support tourism and the night-time economy.

Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects are assessed for the majority of SA Objectives. With regards to air quality (SA Objective 1), the policies support significant open space provision and a variety of measures to improve connectivity by sustainable transport measures, including public transport and walking and cycling, particularly within and around Canterbury. Improvements are also envisaged to the connectivity of the coastal towns. SS2 sets out the requirement for the co-location of services and facilities with new residential development. SS4 sets out a bus-led transport strategy although some car

movement increases are inevitable. A mix of significant positive and minor negative effects are therefore also assessed for the cumulative effects on transport (SA Objective 13).

Overall, with regards to climate change (SA Objective 2) mixed significant positive and minor negative effects are assessed. Although the carbon required to deliver the requirements under Policy SS3 is considered likely to be significant, Policy SS2 seeks new development to be net zero compliant, whilst SS1 supports carbon sequestration, flood risk resilience, and large-scale renewable energy, whilst SS5 supports a shift to low carbon journeys. As mentioned above the proposed connectivity through improved walking and cycling routes and co-location of facilities and services would also support this objective.

Effects on biodiversity (SA Objective 3) are also considered to be mixed. Policy SS1 supports investment in natural and semi natural open space, parks and gardens and a new country park. The policy also protects and seeks to enhance features including rivers, streams and ponds. A requirement for a 20% biodiversity net gain is also included in the policy wording. The policy also supports the full recovery of the Stodmarsh Nature Reserve (which is a SAC, SPA, Ramsar) to meet its targets for water quality and improve biodiversity, and thus will support achievement of nutrient neutrality. Overall, a significant positive effect is assessed as well as minor negative effects. The requirements in SS3 would result in significant negative effects, although biodiversity net gain would likely see positive effects. SS5 would support infrastructure including the provision of a country park and wastewater treatment works which would support achievement of this objective and nutrient neutrality. With regards to water resource and quality (SA Objective 6) similar overall effects are assessed, as the policies would support water resources (through, for example, the identification of Broad Oak reservoir) and water efficiency in new development, some pressures on water resources are inevitable.

The effects on landscape (SA Objective 5) are also assessed as mixed significant positive and minor negative overall. Policy SS1 would include provision for a range of new open spaces and protection and enhancement of existing green and blue infrastructure. These measures are considered likely to have significant positive effects on this objective. However, the policy also supports renewable energy schemes, which may have landscape impacts although the extent is uncertain to some extent, depending on their delivery. Significant positive effects are assessed for Policy SS2 in reflecting the policy provisions for development that is responsive to local character, townscape and landscape and provides open space. Policy SS3 sets out the development requirements and seeks to direct development to sustainable settlements. The rural character of the countryside will be protected as part of the policy. This is likely to support protection of important landscapes. However, there are likely landscape effects associated with the scale of development and development on greenfield sites that may be more sensitive to change than previously developed sites.

Positive and negative effects are assessed for waste management (SA Objective 8). Policy SS3 would support new development which will lead to waste generation during construction and occupation which is potentially significant given the scale of development. Additionally, the infrastructure envisaged in the policies would require the use of resources and lead to waste generation, particularly in the construction phase. However, positive effects are likely associated with Policy SS1, SS2 and SS5. These are reflected in the cumulative effect assessment.

The district benefits from a variety of designated and undesignated heritage assets, including rich archaeology. Canterbury City includes a World Heritage Site (WHS) comprising of the Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church as well as a range of listed buildings and scheduled monuments. There are nearly 100 conservation areas, over 50 scheduled monuments and nearly 2,000 listed buildings in the District as a whole. Policy SS1 specifically states that the historic environment will be conserved and enhanced and also references increasing accessibility to the WHS. This is considered to have likely significant positive effects on this objective (SA Objective 9). However, there are negative effects associated with the scale of development in Policy SS3.

It is recognised that there are a limited number of suitable brownfield sites (i.e. sites that are not significantly constrained or with no valuable existing use) that could be developed within the district. Therefore, the spatial strategy requirements are largely to be developed within allocations on greenfield land. Policy SS1 does support the provision of significant open space and the provision of multifunctional green infrastructure. These measures are expected to help to support the sustainable use of land and conserve soil quality. Cumulatively, the policies have therefore been assessed as having mixed positive and significant negative effects on land use (SA Objective 11).

Policy SS1 would support the protection and enhancement of open spaces, whilst Policy SS2 supports, amongst other things, the provision of developments connected to services and facilities by walking and cycling opportunities, the co-location of community facilities and services, and the provision of high-quality open space. The implementation of Policy SS3 would help to create opportunities in the urban and rural areas and support vibrant and vital town centres. This could ensure that employment opportunities and services and facilities are accessible, helping to promote healthy lifestyles. There is also strong evidence showing that work is generally good for physical and mental health and well-being. Policy SS5 would support the provision of necessary infrastructure, including health care facilities and open space. In this context, these policies have been assessed as having a positive effect on this objective (SA Objective 14). However, there are impacts during the construction phase, and often as a result of occupation, where increased noise and emissions can affect adjacent occupiers. Overall SA Objective 14 is considered to have a mixed significant positive and minor negative effects.

Mitigation

- Local plan policies that seek to ensure energy efficiency would help to mitigate GHG emissions produced within new development during operation.
- Policy SS3 could make specific reference to making as much use of previously developed land as possible as part of the approach to the overall location of new development within the district.
- Local Plan policies and proposals should seek to avoid negative effects on the District's biodiversity assets and identify opportunities for enhancing their quality where appropriate.
- Careful consideration should be given to the selection of site allocations in order to avoid adverse effects on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites. Appropriate mitigation should be identified where necessary, along with commitments for enhancement (anticipating contributions to net gain, where appropriate).
- Habitat creation and enhancement with careful consideration regarding priority habitats/species as well as designated sites should be supported.
- Local Plan policies should plan for a network of green infrastructure assets, closely linked with existing and new development.
- The need to provide mitigation to achieve nutrient neutrality through implementation of the Canterbury District Nutrient Mitigation Strategy.
- Implementation of minerals assessments to mitigate any impacts on MSA.
- Support for implementation of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- Local Plan policies should consider how to protect and enhance the visual setting of Canterbury City.
- Local Plan policies should require strategic mitigation to address the landscape impacts of the allocations.
- Local Plan policies should provide detailed policy wording on addressing water pollution and water efficiency.
- Policy SS2 could be enhanced by making specific reference to sustainable drainage techniques, appropriate water management onsite and mitigation of flood risk within the policy wording.

Assumptions

- It is assumed that development would avoid being located on RIGS.

- It is assumed that the Council will continue to liaise with Southern Water with regard to wastewater infrastructure requirements for future development.
- Site specific Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) will be required where relevant.

Uncertainties

- The ability to deliver 20% biodiversity net gain for all sites is unclear at this stage.
- The exact location of future development, the quality of the receiving landscapes and the proximity of sensitive receptors.
- New development will increase water resource use within the district in both the short term during construction and in the longer term once development is complete.