

# Sustainability Appraisal for the Leicester and Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground

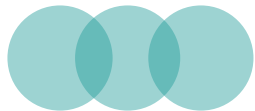


## Non-Technical Summary

June 2022

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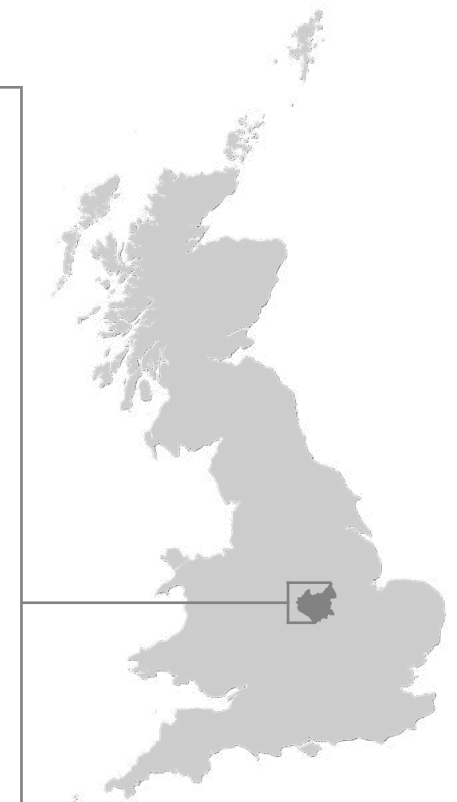
# Introduction

The Leicester and Leicestershire authorities have undertaken work to inform a Statement of Common Ground with regards to unmet housing and employment needs arising from Leicester City.

The authorities considered that it would be useful to undertake a sustainability appraisal to explore the different ways that these unmet needs could reasonably be distributed and what the effects of this would be in terms of sustainability.

This is a non-technical summary of the sustainability appraisal report, which sets out the process and findings.

The map to the right shows the area covered by the Statement of Common Ground, including its constituent Local Planning Authorities.



Leicestershire is within the East Midlands, England. The county is comprised of the Local Planning Authorities of Melton, Oadby and Wigston, Harborough, Blaby, Hinckley and Bosworth, North West Leicestershire

and Charnwood. Whilst Leicester is functionally connected and centred in the middle of the county, administratively it is not within the county of Leicestershire. The area borders Nottinghamshire to the north,

Lincolnshire to the north-east, Rutland to the east, Northamptonshire to the south-east, Warwickshire to the south-west, Staffordshire to the west and Derbyshire to the north-west.

# Scoping Summary

A scoping exercise was carried out in order to establish the key sustainability issues and objectives for the area. The cross-cutting topics reflect broad areas of sustainability which could be significantly affected by the Statement of Common Ground.

The below diagram shows the sustainability topics which have been 'scoped in' for consideration within this Sustainability Appraisal, and the themes which are included within each topic.



# Scoping Key Issues and Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

## Biodiversity and Geodiversity



The Statement of Common Ground area has a relatively low level of designated biodiversity sites. However, these are in a mostly favourable or recovering position.

Opportunities to strengthen ecological networks should therefore be taken advantage of.

The quality of water could affect a range of biodiversity habitats and species across the Plan area, making strategic river networks an important feature to protect, maintain and enhance.

**Objective: Create new, protect, maintain and enhance habitats, species and ecological networks.**

## Health and Wellbeing



The population is aging, with impacts likely for the delivery of health services. Another key issue due to a rising ageing population is the provision of sufficient and appropriate housing within the housing market area / districts.

**Objective: Maintain and improve levels of health, whilst reducing health inequalities.**

## Housing



There is a need to meet needs for housing. In some local authorities it may be difficult to meet full needs 'locally' (i.e. within the district it arises). This could necessitate housing needs for some districts being met in other parts of the housing market area.

Housing affordability is an issue across the housing market area and there is an increasing need to provide housing suitable for an ageing population.

**Objective: Secure the delivery of high quality, market and affordable homes, to meet Objectively Assessed Need.**

## Employment and Economy



The Statement of Common Ground area is well positioned for growth in the strategic distribution sector; though there is a need to identify the appropriate distribution of growth opportunities. Unemployment rates are falling across the housing market area, though remain the highest within the city.

**Objective: Support the continued growth and diversification of the economy.**



## Transport and Travel

There may be constraints to the amount of development that can be accommodated on the edge or near the Leicester urban area in light of congestion along parts of the orbital road network.

Accessibility to services, facilities and jobs is poor in rural areas. Access to strategic employment sites by public transport is also poor. Though generally good, air pollution presents an issue in some parts of the Plan area, typically within areas that suffer from higher levels of

traffic and congestion.

**Objective: Improve accessibility to services, jobs and facilities by reducing the need to travel, promoting sustainable modes of transport and securing strategic infrastructure improvements.**

**Minimise exposure to poor air quality, whilst managing contributing sources.**

## Climate Change



There are opportunities to increase the amount of low carbon and renewable sources of energy above the relatively low baseline position.

**Objective: Contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in the use of low carbon energy.**

## Landscape and Land



There are parcels of high quality agricultural land throughout the Statement of Common Ground area that should be protected given the relatively low amount of Grade 1 and 2 lands present.

No nationally designated landscapes are present, but there are a variety of important landscapes which are important to the character of the countryside, preventing urban sprawl and supporting the natural

environment. Whilst these are in relatively good condition, there are increasing pressures from development that need to be managed.

**Objective: Protect, maintain and enhance landscapes whilst promoting their value to sustainable growth.**

**Protect high quality agricultural land from permanent development.**

## Historic Environment and Heritage



There is a wealth and variety of heritage features, many of which are designated for their heritage value. It will be important to protect the condition and setting of these assets.

Though the number of 'at risk' heritage assets has decreased slightly

from 2015-2017, the majority of heritage assets that remain on the 'at risk' register are declining in condition.

**Objective: Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.**

## Water Quality and Resources



The quality of many water resources across the Plan area is in need of improvement, yet could come under increased pressure from new development.

SUDs should be encouraged to support the natural and sustainable management of water resources.

There are locations across the Plan area sensitive to and at risk of flooding (which could be exacerbated by climate change). There is a need to ensure that future development does not put more people at risk

of flooding whilst ensuring that overall levels of flooding do not increase. This could/should constrain development in some areas, such as the flood plains of the River Soar and watercourses leading to and through Leicester City.

**Objective: Steer development away from the areas at the greatest risk of flooding, whilst supporting schemes that reduce the risk and impacts of flooding.**

**Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of water resources.**

## Waste and Minerals



Levels of recycling, reuse and composting are relatively high, and rates continue to improve. There has also been a general decrease in the amount of waste per capita.

Growth in housing and employment is likely to generate more waste in terms of the overall volume. However, improved efficiency and continued drives to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill should help to reduce the amount of waste generated per capita.

There are mineral resources across the Statement of Common Ground area, some of which could be sterilised by development. It is important to protect such reserves from sterilisation.

**Objective: Protect mineral resources from sterilisation, and support their sustainable extraction.**

**(Waste: scoped out)**

# Spatial Strategy: Housing



## Reasonable Alternatives

A key element of the SA process is to explore different ways in which the objectives of the plan (in this case the statement of common ground) can be met. In this case, several options were explored looking at the amount and distribution of unmet housing and employment needs.

The starting point for identifying reasonable alternatives was the June 2021 Statement of Common Ground, which highlighted a working assumption of unmet need of 15,900 dwellings (rounded). For the purposes of the sustainability appraisal, this is referred to as **Growth Scenario A**.

In addressing the potential for unmet need to increase, the authorities considered that a 25% uplift on identified unmet needs was a reasonable alternative (i.e. 20,000 dwellings). For the purposes of the sustainability appraisal, this is referred to as **Growth Scenario B**.

In addressing the potential for unmet needs to decrease, the authorities considered that a 50% reduction on unmet needs was a reasonable alternative (i.e. 7950 dwellings). For the purposes of the sustainability appraisal, this is referred to as **Growth Scenario C**.

No other growth alternatives were considered to be reasonable.



Growth Scenario A: **15,900**  

Growth Scenario B: **20,000**   

Growth Scenario C: **7,950** 

In terms of distribution, the Council identified five options.

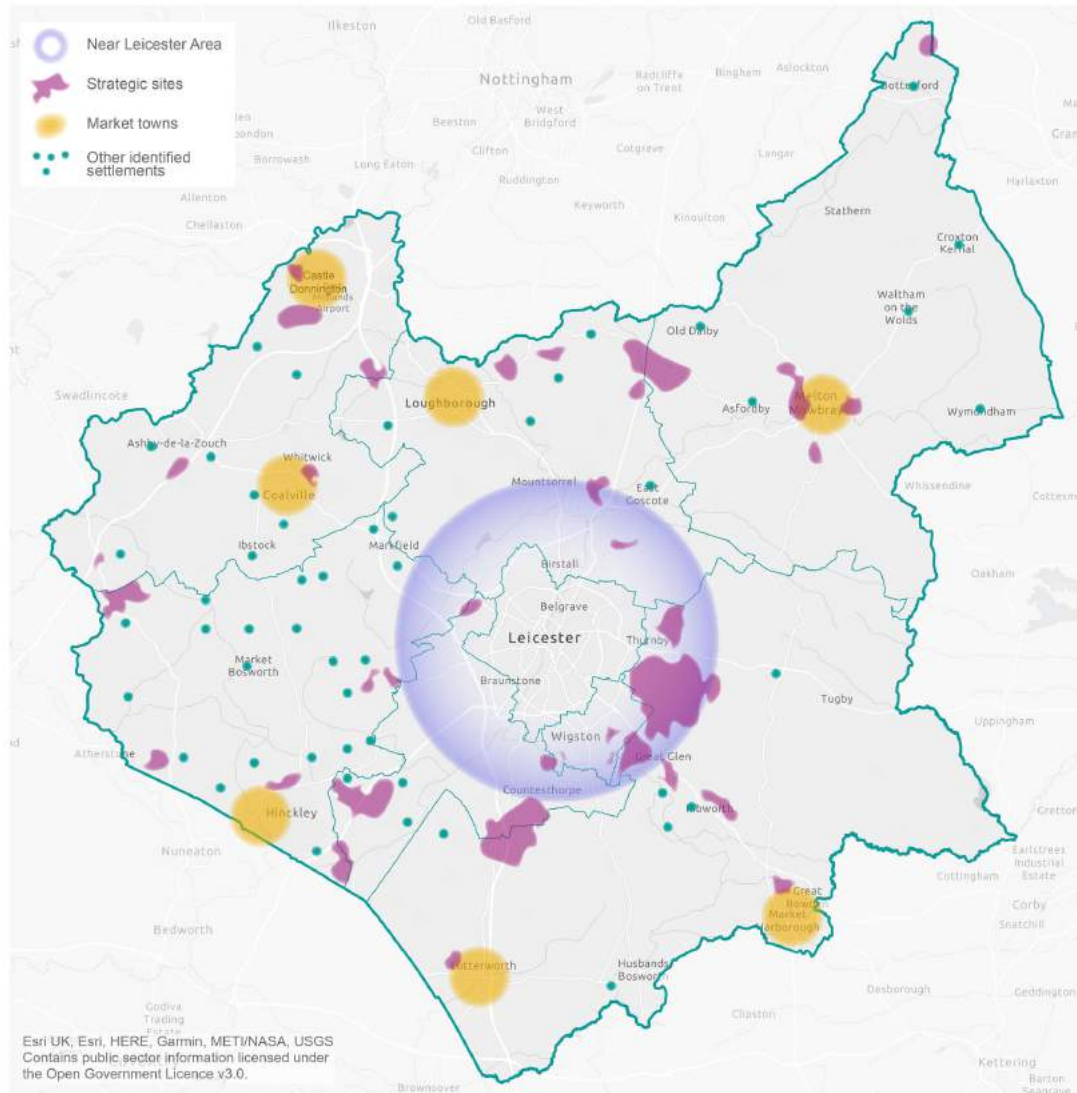
1. **Roll forward of local plan settlement patterns**
2. **Equal share of needs between each authority**
3. **Focus on strategic sites**
4. **Focus on growth near to the Leicester urban area**
5. **HENA distribution**

The distribution options were tested at each scale of growth. The graphics on the following pages visualise each of the distribution options with corresponding charts showing the split of growth across different settlement and area types across Leicestershire.

'NLA' refers to Near Leicester Area (within 10km from the centre of Leicester).

# Options Maps: Distribution One

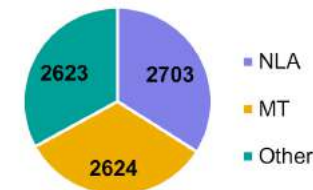
**Local Plan Roll Forward:** Leicester's unmet need is distributed to the NLA, Market Towns and Other Identified Settlements, with a third of growth allocated to each settlement type.



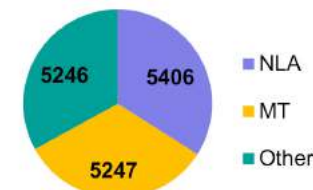
## Distribution One Settlement Spread



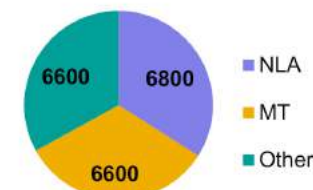
**Growth Scenario C**  
7,950 dwellings



**Growth Scenario A**  
15,900 dwellings

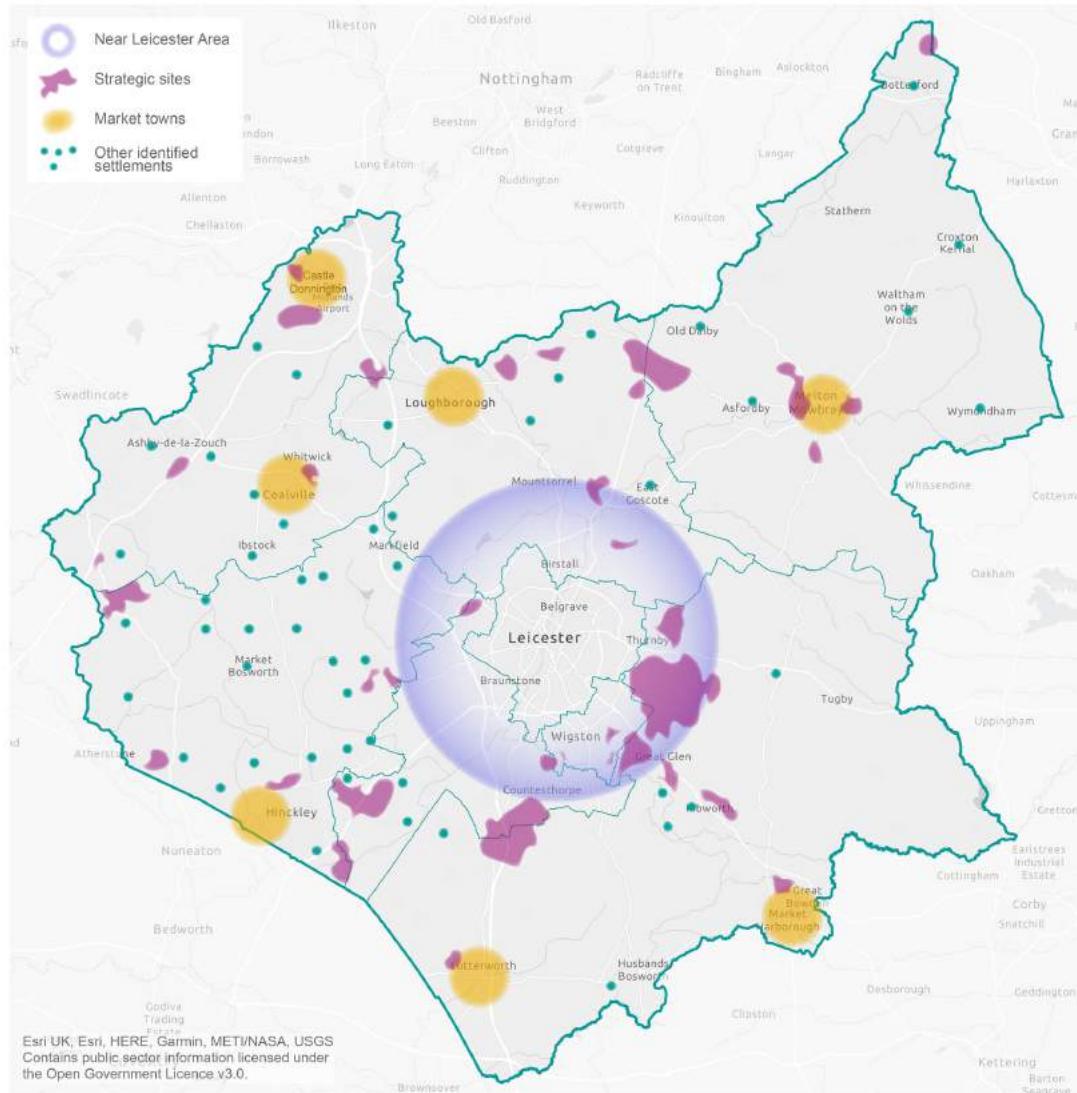


**Growth Scenario B**  
20,000 dwellings



# Options Maps: Distribution Two

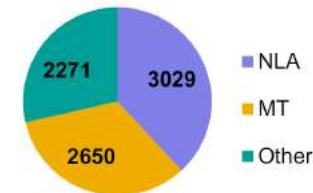
**Spread (equal share):** Leicester's unmet need is distributed 'equally' between the Local Planning Authorities with potential capacity. The split is not based upon area size or population size.



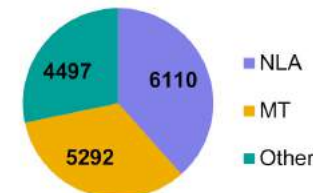
## Distribution Two Equal Share



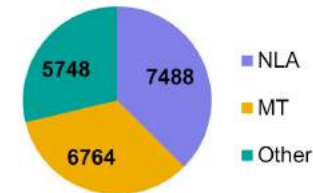
### Growth Scenario C 7,950 dwellings



### Growth Scenario A 15,900 dwellings

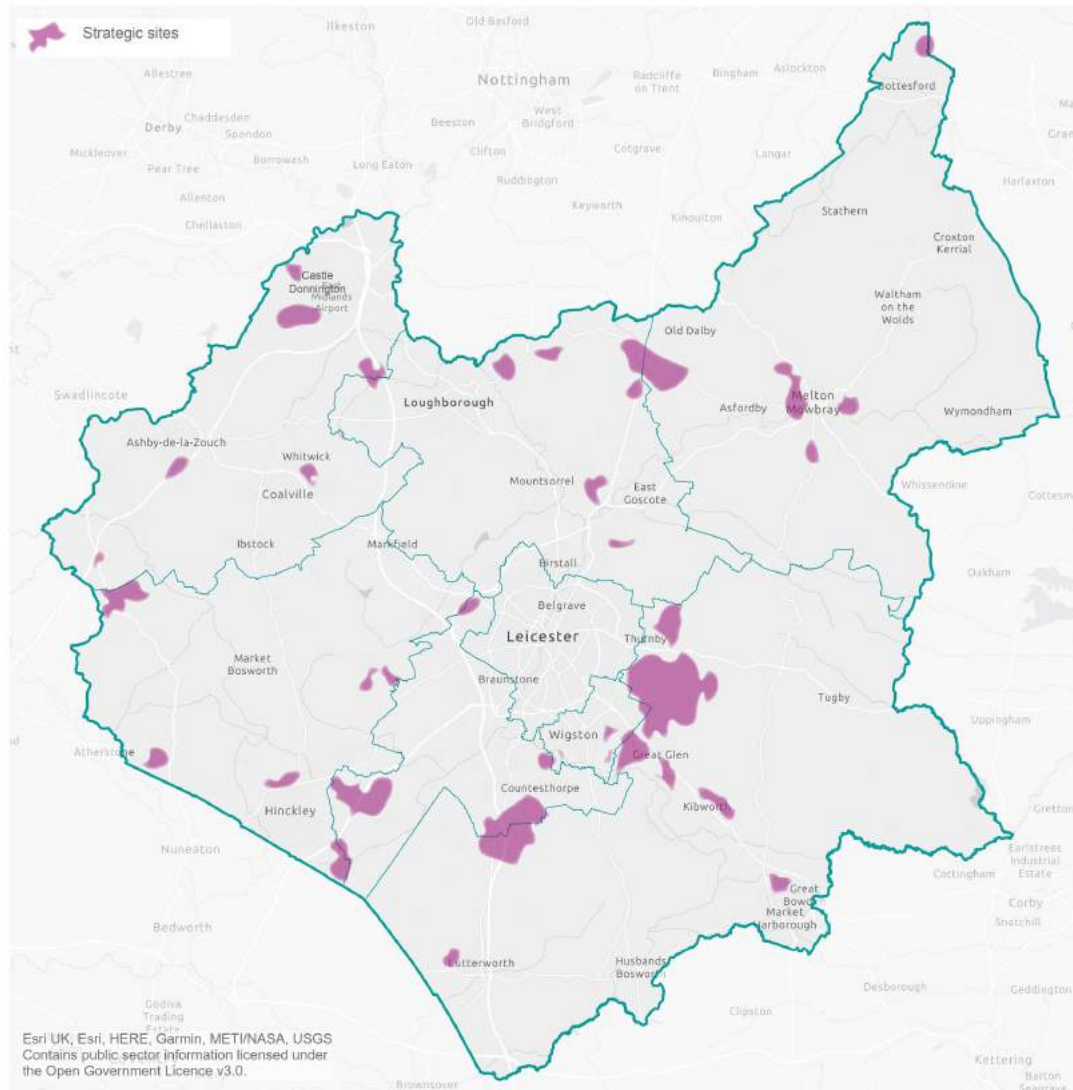


### Growth Scenario B 20,000 dwellings



# Options Maps: Distribution Three

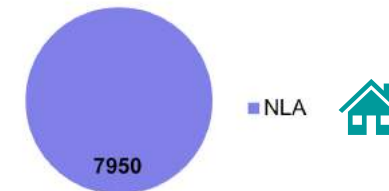
**Strategic Sites:** Leicester's unmet need is directed to Strategic Sites. The preference is to locate Leicester's unmet need to Strategic Sites within or close to the NLA in the first instance.



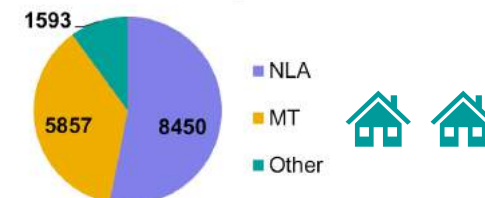
## Distribution Three Strategic Sites



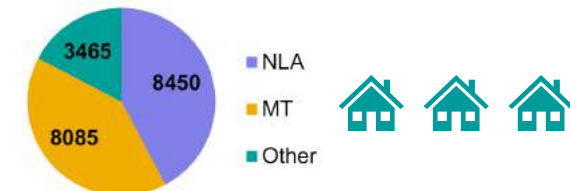
### Growth Scenario C 7,950 dwellings



### Growth Scenario A 15,900 dwellings

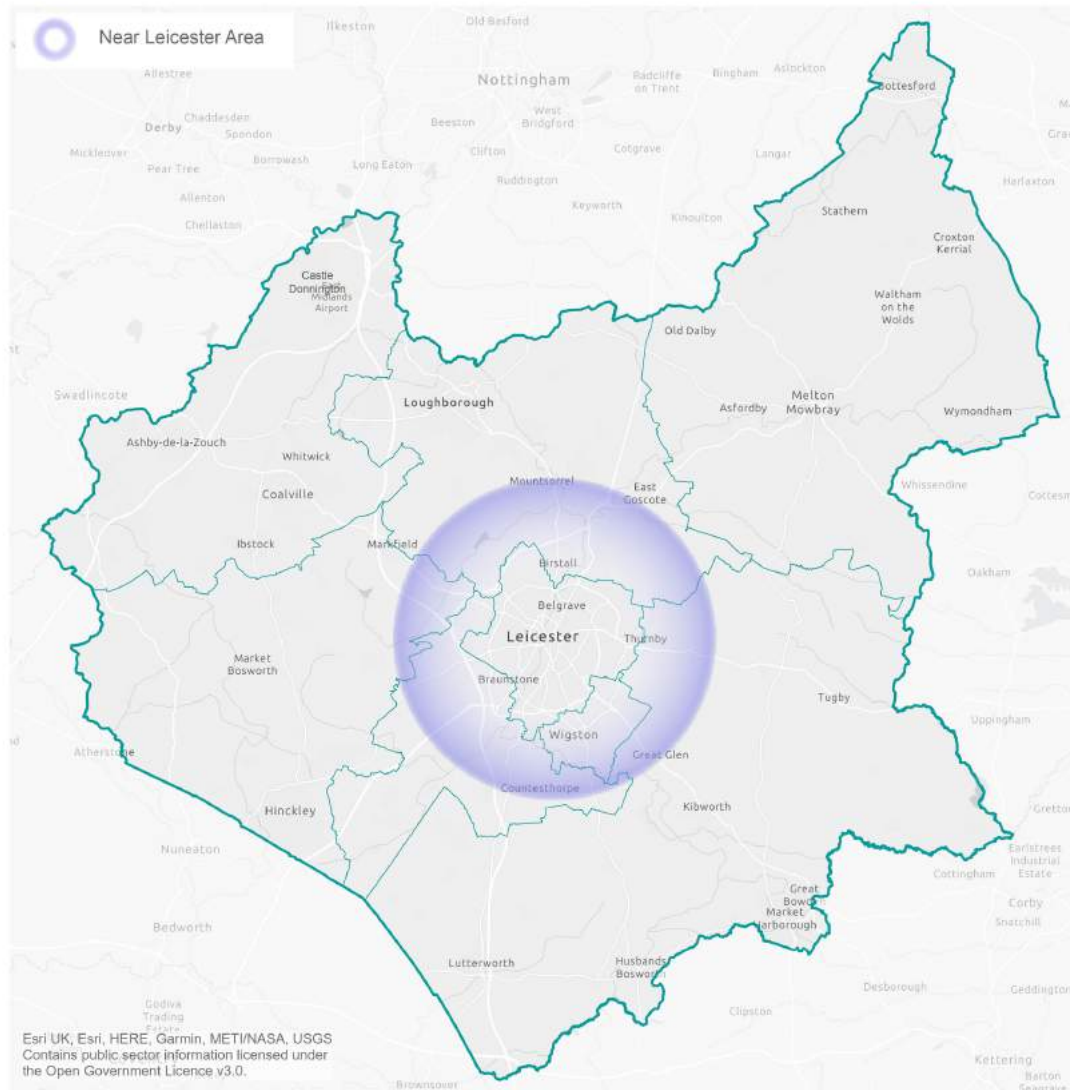


### Growth Scenario B 20,000 dwellings



# Options Maps: Distribution Four

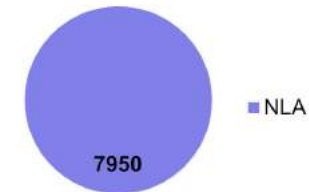
**Near Leicester Area:** 100% of Leicester's unmet need is distributed in the Near Leicester Area.



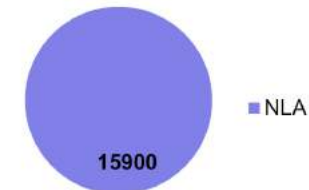
## Distribution Four Near Leicester Area



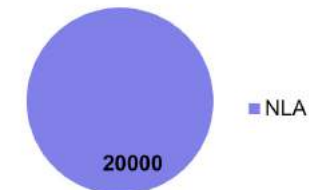
**Growth Scenario C**  
7,950 dwellings



**Growth Scenario A**  
15,900 dwellings

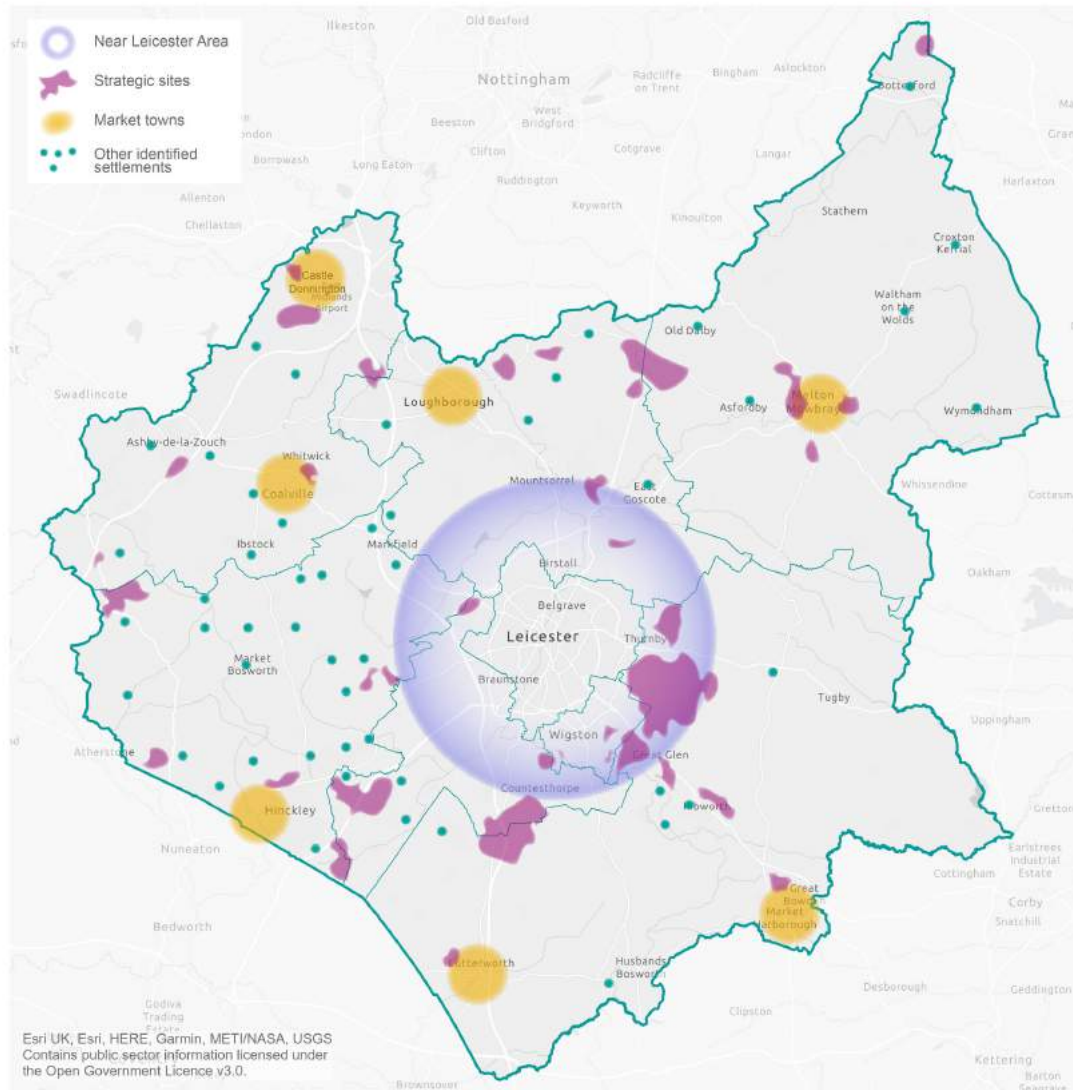


**Growth Scenario B**  
20,000 dwellings



# Options Maps: Distribution Five

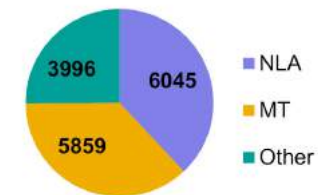
**HENA Distribution:** Leicester's unmet need is distributed according to the HENA evidence base for specific needs relating to jobs growth, functional connectivity with Leicester, deliverability and market capacity.



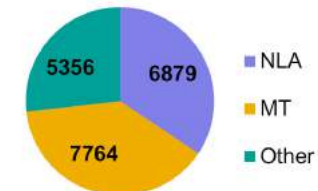
## Distribution Five HENA Distribution



### Growth Scenario A 15,900 dwellings



### Growth Scenario B 20,000 dwellings



# Appraisal Findings

The below table shows the scores recorded for the reasonable alternatives (all distribution options, across three scales of growth).

✓✓✓	Major positive	?	Uncertain
✓✓	Moderately positive	x	Minor negative
✓	Minor positive	xx	Moderately negative
-	Neutral	xxx	Major negative

	Growth Scenario	Option	Biodiversity	Health & wellbeing	Housing	Economy & employment	Transport & travel	Climate change	Landscape and land	Cultural heritage	Water	Minerals
Settlement tiers	A (15,900)	A1	x	xx <sup>2</sup> / ✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓✓/xx	✓	xxx <sup>2</sup>	xx <sup>2</sup>	-	x
Equal Share		A2	x	xx <sup>2</sup> / ✓✓	✓✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓✓/xx	✓	xxx <sup>2</sup>	xx <sup>2</sup>	x <sup>2</sup>	x
Strategic Sites		A3	x / ✓	x / ✓✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓✓✓	✓✓/x	✓✓	xxx <sup>2</sup>	xx	x <sup>2</sup>	x
Near Leicester Area		A4	x	x / ✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓ <sup>2</sup> /x xx <sup>2</sup>	✓	xx <sup>2</sup>	x	x <sup>2</sup>	x <sup>2</sup>
HENA distribution		A5	x	xx / ✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓/xx	✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	xx	xx	x <sup>2</sup>	x
Settlement tiers	B (20,000)	B1	x	xx / ✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓/xx	✓	xxx	xx	x <sup>2</sup>	x
Equal Share		B2	xx <sup>2</sup>	xx / ✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓/xx	✓	xxx	xx	x	x
Strategic Sites		B3	xx <sup>2</sup> / ✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	xx <sup>2</sup> / ✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓/xx <sup>2</sup>	✓✓	xxx	xxx <sup>2</sup>	x <sup>2</sup>	xx <sup>2</sup>
Near Leicester Area		B4	xx	xx / ✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓/xx x	✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	xx	x	x	x
HENA distribution		B5	xx	xx / ✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓/xx	✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	xxx	xx	x <sup>2</sup>	xx <sup>2</sup>
Settlement tiers	C (7,950)	C1	-	x / ✓	✓✓/xx x <sup>2</sup>	✓/x	✓/x	✓ <sup>2</sup>	xx <sup>2</sup>	x	-	x <sup>2</sup>
Equal Share		C2	-	x / ✓	✓✓/xx x <sup>2</sup>	✓/x	✓/x	✓ <sup>2</sup>	xx <sup>2</sup>	x	-	x <sup>2</sup>
Strategic Sites		C3	x / ✓	x / ✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓✓/xx	✓✓/x	✓✓/x	✓✓ <sup>2</sup>	xx <sup>2</sup>	x	x <sup>2</sup>	x
Near Leicester Area		C4	-	✓	✓✓/xx	✓✓/x	✓✓/xx	✓	x	x <sup>2</sup>	-	-

The following page will summarise the key effects across the distribution options and scales of growth.

# Appraisal Findings



## Growth Scenario A (15,900 dwellings)

The options at this scale of growth are largely aligned and not expected to have major effects aside from the following sustainability themes. Significant positive effects are likely for housing and economy and employment outcomes across all distribution options. Negative effects are likely across all options for biodiversity (albeit mixed for Option A3), landscape and land, cultural heritage, water and mineral outcomes, with more pronounced negative effects seen for landscape and land outcomes (Options A1, A2 and A3 are expected to see major negative effects, albeit with a degree of uncertainty).

Mixed effects are anticipated for transport and travel as well as health and wellbeing outcomes; though in these cases the positive effects are largely anticipated to be more pronounced than the negatives. Within these mixed effects are some predicted major positive outcomes, including for health and wellbeing outcomes under Option A3 and transport and travel under Option A4. Conversely, some uncertain major negative outcomes could arise under Option A4 for transport and travel, linked to increased pressure on the road network.

## Growth Scenario B (20,000 dwellings)

As could be expected, the uplift in housing delivery under this approach generally results in effects of a greater magnitude than those seen under Scenario A. However, as a result of the potential for mitigation as well as

some potential to spread growth across a large number of sites, not all sustainability themes would see this anticipated exaggeration of effects. Positive effects upon health and wellbeing, transport, housing and economy are predicted with more certainty. There are, however, some options where the significance of effects increases due to an uplift in growth. For example, the effects upon mineral resources are likely to increase from minor to moderate for options B3 and B5, which reflects a reduced ability to avoid constraints at a higher scale of growth for these distributions. Likewise, the potential for negative effects in terms of transport could increase for concentrated growth at strategic sites.

## Growth Scenario C (7,950 dwellings)

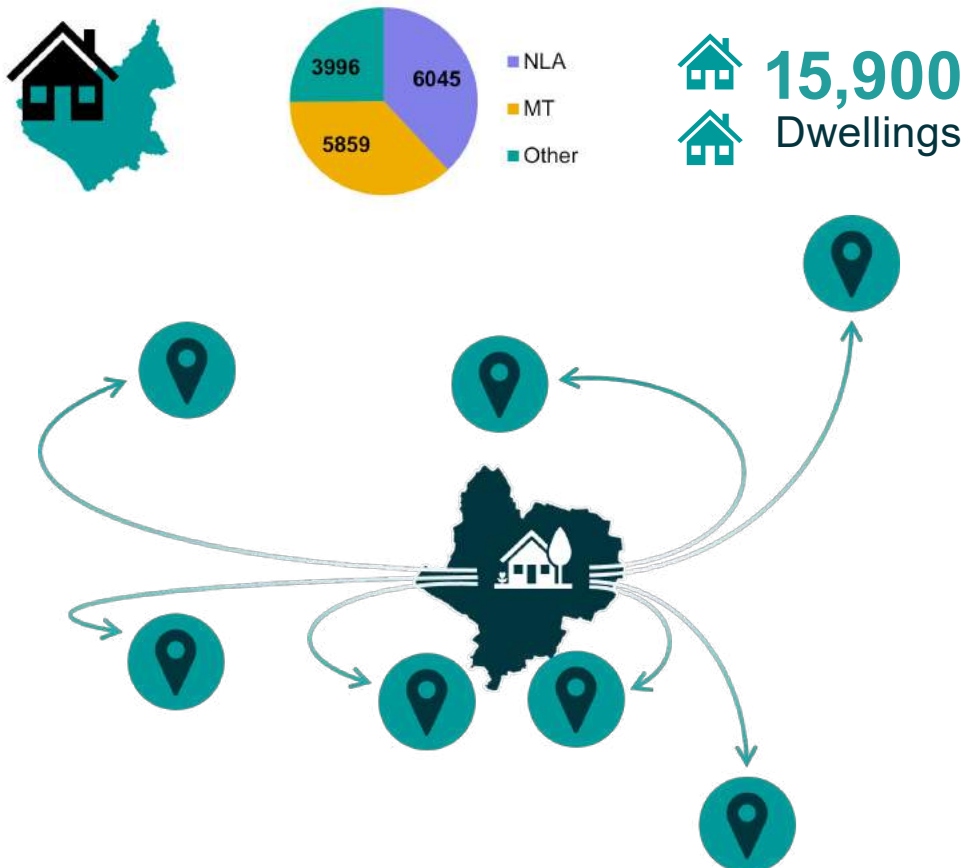
This reduced scale of growth offers some more distinctive effects than seen under higher growth scenarios. In terms of housing and economy, the positive effects are only moderate alongside potential major negative effects arise given that there could be a shortage of homes. This is offset to an extent by those options (C3 and C4) that focus more growth into the near Leicester area. This scale of growth is likely to largely avoid significant effects (aside from potential negatives associated with a housing shortfall). Generally more negative effects are anticipated across landscape and land, cultural heritage, water and mineral outcomes, though to a reduced magnitude of significance. Biodiversity outcomes are likely to be neutral, aside from some potential mixed effects for Option C3.

# Rationale for the preferred Option



The authorities preferred approach was to plan for needs identified in the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment and according to the proposed distribution of needs across the authorities. Relatively speaking, the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment distribution option performs as well or better than the alternatives for most sustainability topics. The Housing and Economic Needs Assessment option is supported by robust evidence taking into account the authority's

functional relationship with Leicester, economic and commuting factors, and deliverability. This serves to provide confidence to the authorities that following the recommendations of the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment would be an appropriate approach to take to meeting unmet housing needs from Leicester (and there are no clear indications that suggest a different approach should be taken in the statement of common ground).



# Spatial Strategy: Employment

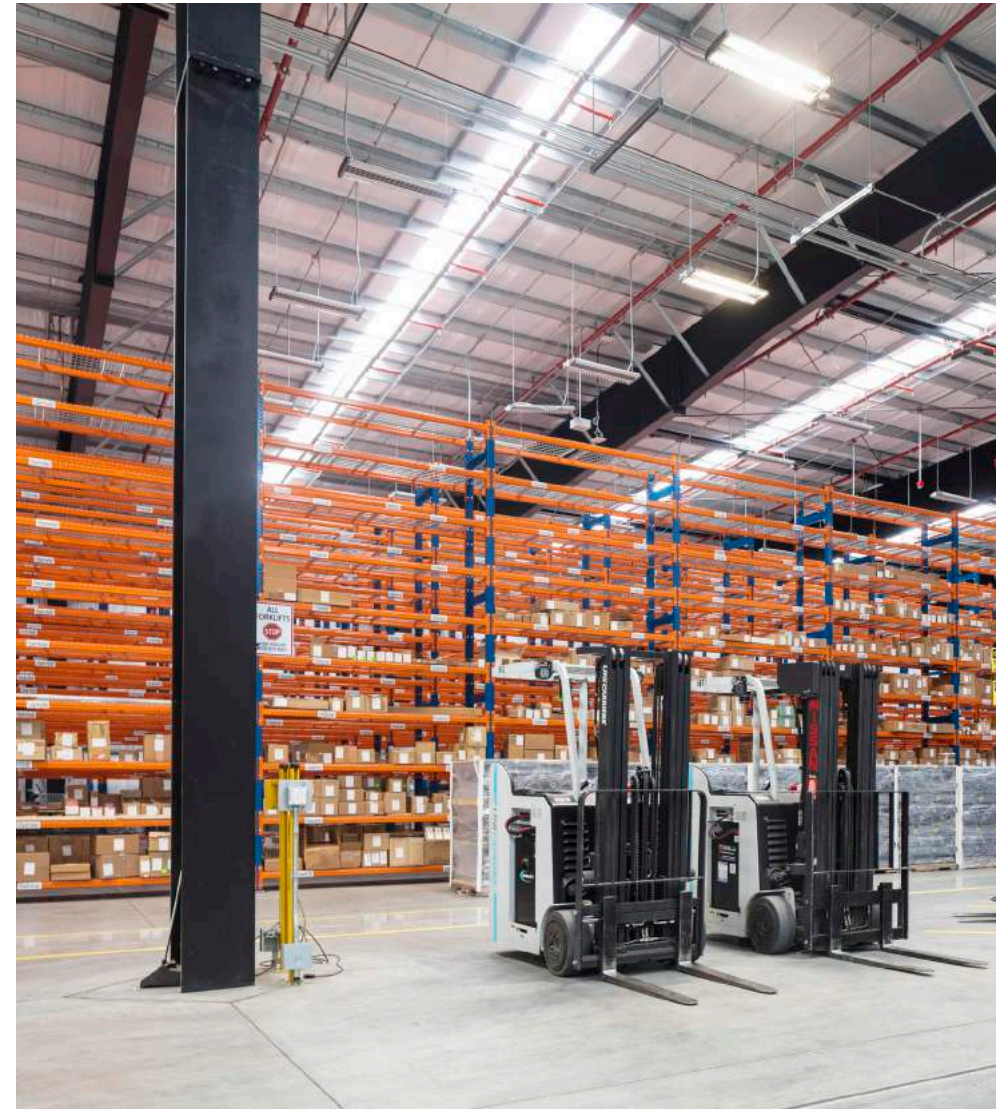


## Employment Options

The appraisal of employment options focuses on the provision of additional employment land (beyond that identified in the existing supply position), and looks to address the type of employment land required (I.e. B2/B8) to meet Leicester's unmet needs.

Combining a low, medium and high growth scenario with four distribution options led to the identification of the following reasonable alternatives.

	Scenario A Current	Scenario B Higher	Scenario C Lower
<b>1. Local Plan Roll Forward</b>	A1 3.3 ha for each local authority	B1 6.6ha for each local authority	C1 1.7ha for each local authority
<b>2. Strategic Sites</b>	A2 11.5 ha for Blaby and Harborough only	B2 23ha for Blaby and Harborough only	C2 5.75ha for Blaby and Harborough only
<b>3. Near Leicester Focus</b>	A3 11.5 ha for Blaby and Charnwood only	B3 23 ha for Blaby and Charnwood only	C3 5.75 ha for Blaby and Charnwood only
<b>4 HENA Distribution</b>	A4 23ha for Charnwood only	B4 46 ha for Charnwood only	C4 11.5 ha for Charnwood only



# Appraisal Findings

The below table shows the scores recorded for the reasonable alternatives (all distribution options, across three scales of growth). It is important to note that, considering existing need and supply elements in each authority, appraisals focused on effects relating to additional growth. Where an authority had an existing oversupply, the area of proposed allocation was offset against the surplus.

✓✓✓	Major positive	×	Minor negative
✓✓	Moderately positive	×	Moderately negative
✓	Minor positive	×	Major negative
?	Uncertain		

		Biodiversity	Health & wellbeing	Housing	Economy & employment	Transport & travel	Climate change	Landscape and land	Cultural heritage	Water	Minerals
1. Dispersed	A1	-	✓?	-	✓?	×?	×?	×?	×?	×?	×?
	B1	×	✓	-	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×
	C1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Strategic sites	A2	-	✓✓?	-	✓✓	××? / ✓✓?	✓	×	×	-?	×?
	B2	×?	✓✓	-	✓✓✓?	×× / ✓✓	✓✓?	×	×	×?	×
	C2	-	✓	-	✓	×	-	×?	×?	-	-
3. Near Leicester Area	A3	-	✓?	-	✓	× / ✓	-	×	×?	-	-
	B3	-	✓	×?	✓✓?	×× / ✓	-	×	×	-	-
	C3	-	✓?	-	✓?	-	-	×?	-	-	-
4. HENA distribution	A4	-	-	-	✓?	-	-	-	-	-	-
	B4	×	✓?	-	✓	×? / ✓?	-	×	-	-	×
	C4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The following page will summarise the key effects across the distribution options and scales of growth.

# Appraisal Findings



There were no major effects predicted to arise from any of the employment growth or distribution options which were appraised.

## Growth Scenario A (current growth)

Effects under this scale of growth are similar for each distribution option in terms of positive effects (although Option A2 would see the most pronounced benefits), with each bringing benefits for health and wellbeing and the economy. That said, the strategic growth (A2) may also see the most pronounced negative effects. The housing and economic needs assessment distribution (A4) largely results in neutral effects or more minor effects.

## Growth Scenario B (higher growth)

When increasing the scale of unmet needs to be delivered under this scenario, the effects for each distribution option become slightly more pronounced. This generally removes uncertainties or implicates a wider range of SA topics. For example, for a dispersal approach (B1), the positive effects for health and the economy remain minor, but are more certain. However, minor negative effects arise for biodiversity that were not identified under A1, and the likelihood of negative effects for other topics becomes more certain. Likewise, for the strategic site focus (B2), the potential for positive effects increases with regards to the economy, but the effects on landscape and land would be more prominent. For the housing and economic needs assessment distribution (B4), the effects remain largely neutral, but there would be increased potential for health and wellbeing and economic benefits at this higher scale of growth. Conversely minor negative effects could arise for landscape, land, transport, water and biodiversity (that do not exist under A4).

## Growth Scenario C (lower growth)

At the lower level of development (Scenario C), the effects of dispersal (C1 and C4) are mostly neutral, given that the majority of growth could be met through existing commitments. There would be some more notable effects for the focus on strategic sites and Near Leicester Area approaches (C2 and C3), given that both would involve greater amounts of new land provision. However, the effects would be minor and uncertain.

## Rationale for the preferred option

The authorities have come to a decision on a preferred approach to the apportionment of unmet employment needs from Leicester City. The approach is to rely upon the suggestions within the housing and economic needs assessment, which distributes employment according to evidence relating to; accessibility to the City, associated labour supply and connectivity to the strategic road network (amongst other things). The findings of the options appraisal are broadly supportive of this approach, demonstrating that there would be limited negative effects, whilst still bringing potential positive effects on the economy and housing topic areas.

# Appraisal of the Preferred Approach

Following the appraisal of strategic options for housing and employment growth, the authorities have determined that the preferred approach to addressing unmet needs should follow the suggested distribution in the housing and economic needs assessment.

At options stage, some assumptions were made about the amount and distribution of housing in the housing and economic needs assessment. Once the needs assessment was finalised, there were some slight differences. Therefore, further appraisal of the preferred approach was undertaken to understand the effects. These are summarised in the table below.

The proposed approach is predicted to have a range of effects. It is broadly positive from a socio-economic perspective, particularly with regards to the delivery of housing, much of which would be in close proximity to where needs are arising in Leicester. There are knock on benefits for the economy in terms of supporting local centres, providing accommodation for workers and increasing gross value added.

New development is also likely to help support new services and infrastructure, which should help to improve health and wellbeing, and potentially sustainable transport infrastructure.

The distribution of housing should mean that most new homes are accessible to services and jobs and public transport, but there could possibly be increased congestion and traffic, especially in areas that are already busy and where substantial additional housing is proposed (for example in the near Leicester area). These are only predicted to be potential minor negative effects though.

In terms of environmental receptors, the choice of sites should mean that significant negative effects are avoidable. Therefore, only minor negative effects are predicted for biodiversity, heritage, water and minerals. For landscape and land, the effects are potentially of greater significance, because there are lots of locations that are sensitive to change, whether this be a large scale development or the cumulative effects of multiple smaller scale developments in smaller settlements. There would also be loss of agricultural land regardless.

With mitigation and enhancement, the negative effects for most topics could perhaps be reduced or avoided, but this would need to be explored through individual local plans.

Biodiversity	Health & wellbeing	Housing	Economy	Transport	Climate change	Landscape and land	Heritage	Water	Minerals
x	✓✓/x	✓✓✓?	✓✓?	✓/x?	✓?	xx?	x	x?	x?

# Mitigation and Monitoring

## Mitigation

Where appropriate, recommendations have been made as part of the appraisal of the SOCG options. These are summarised below.

- Under a dispersed approach, larger site options in less sensitive locations might be preferable (in terms of landscape and heritage impacts) to many smaller-medium sites in more sensitive settlements.
- A strategic approach is recommended to planning biodiversity recovery and net gain.
- It would be beneficial to focus some growth in the Near Leicester Area given that it gives rise to the most positive effects in terms of housing. However, there are also clear benefits to strategic sites and dispersal to the market towns and other settlements. A hybrid approach could provide a suitable balance between effects.
- There are sufficient sites that do not fall within flood zone 2/3 so as to ensure that no development is required in these locations under any approach.
- There are several benefits recorded with regards to the development of brownfield land. Given that these needs are presumed to be met in the later stages of the plan periods, it would be beneficial to maximise growth in these areas

- Given the potential for significant negative effects occurring in a range of settlements at higher levels of growth (for landscape and land in particular), it would be beneficial to continue to maximise the reuse and repurposing of land and buildings. Consideration of higher densities will also be important in this respect.
- In order to help address climate change, there is a need to promote a pattern of growth that concentrates development into the urban areas at higher densities. Likewise, strategic sites could provide opportunities for comprehensive sustainability packages (particularly the larger sites).

It is important to remember that the Statement of Common Ground is not a detailed policy document, rather it sets an agreement on housing and employment distribution of unmet needs. Therefore, it is expected that more detailed work would be undertaken through local plans.

At this stage, the focus of recommendations is on how negative effects could be avoided and positives maximised by influencing how unmet needs are distributed at a strategic level. These can be taken into consideration by individual authorities in due course, but can also be used to 'sense check' and tweak the preferred approach to the Statement of Common Ground if deemed necessary.

## Monitoring

At this stage there is a requirement to outline the measures envisaged to monitor the predicted effects of a Plan. In particular, there is a need to focus on the significant effects that are identified. It is important to track predicted effects to ensure that positive effects are actually being realised and to identify any unforeseen negative effects that may occur.

These factors would typically be addressed through monitoring frameworks for each individual Local Authority. Given that the Statement of Common Ground is not a statutory plan as such, the effects can be better monitored through a review of Local Plans and subsequent SA Reports. However, for completeness, some suggested monitoring measures are outlined below (these mirror those set out for the strategic growth plan as far as possible for consistency).



### **Biodiversity:**

- Net loss/gain in designated habitats (ha).
- Ecological enhancement schemes delivered at strategic sites.
- Ecological water quality.
- Establishment of a green infrastructure strategy.



### **Health and wellbeing:**

- Net change in open space provision.
- Number of new health care facilities delivered.
- Access to local green space.
- Change in levels of deprivation in the top 20% areas.
- Achievement of air quality objectives.
- Health impact assessments undertaken.



### **Housing:**

- Rates of housing delivery.
- Percentage of affordable housing delivered.
- Availability of land for strategic development opportunities in the key locations.



### **Economy and employment:**

- Gross Added Value Leicester and Leicestershire.
- Unemployment rate.
- Retention of working age population.
- Changes in the levels of deprivation.
- Change in numbers of people employed by sector.



### Transport and travel:

- Number and proportion of homes within walking distance of key public services, recreational opportunities and public transport services.
- New / expanded public transport services secured through strategic development.
- Average annual traffic flows. Average trip length to access employment.



### Climate change:

- Change in the amount of carbon emissions generated from transport and the built environment (per capita).



### Landscape and land:

- Amount of best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development by grade.
- Number of allotments established at strategic development sites.
- Landscape character assessments undertaken to identify sensitive parcels of land at key growth areas.



### Cultural heritage:

- Loss of or change in the significance of designated heritage assets.
- Townscape and landscape character assessments completed.
- Amount of derelict land restored (ha).
- Heritage assets removed or added from the 'at risk' register.
- Net loss/gain of open space in Leicester City.



### Water:

- Percentage of new development within flood zones 2 and 3.
- SUDs schemes incorporated into new developments.
- Development in nutrient sensitive zones.



### Minerals:

- Amount of development within Minerals Safeguarding Areas (ha).
- Potential sterilisation of minerals at strategic development sites.



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