

# Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Debenham Neighbourhood Plan

SEA Scoping Report

Debenham Parish Council

March 2018

## Quality information

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# 1. Introduction

## Background

- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment in support of the emerging Debenham Neighbourhood Plan (hereafter referred to as the DNP).
- 1.2 The DNP is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The DNP is being prepared in the context of the adopted Mid Suffolk Core Strategy (2008) and focussed review (2012) and the emerging Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan. Key information relating to the DNP is presented below.

**Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Debenham Neighbourhood Plan**

Name of Responsible Authority	Debenham Parish Council
Title of Plan	Debenham Neighbourhood Plan (DNP) 2016 to 2036
Purpose	The DNP is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the emerging Mid Suffolk and Babergh Joint Local Plan,. It will be used to guide and shape development in the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Timescale	To 2036
Area covered by the plan	The DNP area covers the administrative area of Debenham Parish. See Figure 1.1.

## Relationship of the DNP with the adopted Mid Suffolk Core Strategy

- 1.3 The adopted Mid Suffolk Core Strategy (2008) & Focused Review (2012) contain current strategic planning policy for Mid Suffolk and the DNP area. The Core Strategy was originally adopted in 2008 and includes a number of policies related to a strategy for growth in the District, the delivery of growth and the provision of infrastructure. A Sustainability Appraisal was carried out for the Core Strategy as well as 'Appropriate Assessment' in accordance with the Habitats Directive and Regulations. The Core Strategy categorised Debenham as a 'Key Service Centre' and establishes that towns should be the main focus for development in the District, and that Key Service Centres are the main focus for development outside of the towns. Policy CS1 Settlement Hierarchy of the Core Strategy states that:
  - 1.4 *"The majority of new development (including retail, employment and housing allocations) will be directed to towns and key service centres."*
  - 1.5 Policy CS8 of the Core Strategy provides the outline for housing distribution across Mid Suffolk. A total of 830 homes were proposed for the 15 year period between 2010 and 2025, with 500 of these being located within Key Service Centres.
  - 1.6 The Core Strategy Focused Review (2012) sets a requirement of 750 new homes in the Key Service Centres between 2012 and 2027. Across all 10 Key Service Centres, 424 new homes were completed between 2012 and 2016 which leaves a minimum of 326 new homes to be built in the remaining 11 years of the plan period.

## Relationship of the DNP with the emerging Joint Local Plan

- 1.7 Given that the Neighbourhood Plan is planning through to 2036, there is a need to make provision for a further 9 years beyond the Core Strategy projection, thereby aligning the DNP to the emerging Joint Local Plan. In this context, the Joint Local Plan will set out the spatial plan for both Mid Suffolk and Babergh and the DNP is required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Joint Local Plan. However, it can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Joint Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in Debenham, with finer detail established by the DNP.
- 1.8 In this context, the current version of the Consultation Document states *“For Mid Suffolk district, once development already built from 2014-2017 and committed through existing planning permissions has been taken account of, there is a residual need to plan for approximately 5,820 new homes by 2036.”*
- 1.9 The Regulation 18 stage Local Plan Consultation Document identifies Debenham as a Core Village, with a ‘District Centre’ role related to its defined Principal Shopping Area. A number of strategic options are being explored relevant to Debenham. These are:
- County Town Focus – 20 % district growth in Core Villages
  - Market town / rural area balance – 20% - 25% district growth in Core Villages
  - Transport corridor focus – 30% district growth in Core Villages
  - New Settlement focus – 15% district growth in Core Villages
- 1.10 The emerging Local Plan has reviewed Settlement Boundaries and shows three potential development sites adjacent to the existing settlement boundary of the village, and also illustrates proposed extensions to the settlement boundary.
- 1.11 The current Consultation Document for the emerging Local Plan outlines high level options with initial preference for approaches included. However, there is currently an absence of draft policy wording at this stage. As such, at later stages in this SEA scoping report, Policy Context is instead discussed for the adopted Core Strategy as this is the most relevant document.

## Vision for the DNP

- 1.12 The vision statement for the DNP area is as follows:

*“Debenham will strive to celebrate its proud heritage, develop a vibrant economy, and support a thriving community. Our community will endeavour to ensure that it remains at ease with itself.”<sup>1</sup>*

## Objectives of the DNP

- 1.13 The Vision for the DNP is supported by a range of key objectives which are as follows:

Objective 1: *“To provide new and appropriate housing that meets the needs of our community, in areas that are the most appropriate in terms of their impact on the village, and that provide for the potential number of homes that would satisfy the requirements in the emerging Joint Local Plan”.*

Objective 2: *“To ease and improve the traffic flow and parking around, and in the village”.*

Objective 3: *“To support initiatives which enhance the diversity of the local economy”*

Objective 4: *“To protect and enhance the unique and special character of Debenham for residents and visitors.”*

Objective 5: *“To ensure that with any new housing growth, appropriate infrastructure is provided in a timely manner”*

<sup>1</sup> Debenham Neighbourhood Plan (2017) Draft Pre Submission Document [online] available at: <http://debenhamnp.onesuffolk.net/assets/documents/Draft-NP-v-35b.pdf>

## SEA explained

- 1.14 The DNP has been screened in by Essex County Council as requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the potential impacts of an emerging plan, and alternatives, in terms of key environmental (and, more broadly, 'sustainability') issues.
- 1.15 SEA is undertaken to meet specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations). Two key requirements are that:
1. When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' to be covered in the SEA there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
  2. A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan (i.e the 'pre-submission' version of the DNP) that presents SEA outcomes (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from implementation of the plan and 'reasonable alternatives').

## This Scoping Report

- 1.16 This 'Scoping Report' is concerned with item (1) above. It presents a suggested scope for the SEA so that the designated authorities (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) can provide timely comment.

## SEA 'scoping' explained

- 1.17 Developing the draft scope, as presented in this report, has involved the following steps:
1. Context review
  2. Baseline review
  3. Drawing on (1) and (2) to identify key environmental/sustainability issues
  4. Refining key issues into a discrete list of objectives and appraisal questions ('the SEA framework')

## Structure of this report

- 1.18 Steps 1 to 4 are each discussed under the following thematic headings -
- Air Quality
  - Biodiversity
  - Landscape and Historic Environment
  - Climate Change (including flood risk)
  - Land, Soil and Water Resources
  - Population and Community
  - Health and Wellbeing
  - Transportation
- 1.19 The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive<sup>2</sup>. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects.

## Next steps

- 1.20 Section 11 discusses next steps in detail, but in summary -

Following the scoping consultation this Scoping Report will be finalised, and at that point the SEA framework will be ready to be used to structure / focus the assessment of the emerging draft plan and reasonable alternatives. Other information presented within this report (plus any updates) will also be drawn upon as evidence base to inform the assessment. Once assessment work is complete the Environmental Report will be prepared and published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan.

<sup>2</sup> The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on 'the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors' [our emphasis]

## 2. Air Quality

### Focus of theme

- Air pollution sources
- Air quality hotspots
- Air quality management

### Policy context

2.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- 'Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan'.
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.

2.2 Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'<sup>3</sup> sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, Goal 1 'Clean air' and the policies contained within 'Chapter 4: Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste' within the 25 year plan directly relate to the air quality SEA theme.

2.3 In terms of the local context, Policies contained within the Adopted Core Strategy, and those updated by the focussed review, and which relate to Air Quality include Policy CS3 (Reduce contributions to Climate Change).

### Baseline

#### Current baseline

2.4 As of September 2016 the DNP area has no recorded Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), and air quality is not automatically monitored anywhere within the DNP area as part of the Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment process carried out by Mid Suffolk District Council.

#### Future baseline

2.5 New employment and or housing provision within the DNP has the potential to create adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO<sub>2</sub>, particularly along the main route through the DNP area.

2.6 The emerging Joint Local Plan Consultation Document has identified three potential development sites within the DNP area. These have the potential to increase traffic flows in the area both during construction and operation. It is noted though that the implementation of the policies in the Local Transport Plan (discussed in Chapter 9) present opportunities to improve air quality. An increased uptake of low emission vehicles is also likely to have benefits for air quality.

<sup>3</sup> GOV.UK (2018): 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment', [online] available to download via: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>> last accessed [13/02/2018]

## Key sustainability issues

- As of September 2016 the DNP area has no recorded Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), and air quality is not automatically monitored anywhere within the DNP area as part of the Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment process carried out by Mid Suffolk District Council.
- New employment and or housing provision within the Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to create adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO<sub>2</sub>, particularly along the main routes through the DNP area.

However, taking the above into account, including the current baseline and future baseline without the implementation of the plan, it is considered that air quality is not a key issue for the DNP area and that **air quality should be scoped out** for the purposes of the SEA process.

## 3. Biodiversity

### Focus of theme

- Nature conservation designations
- Habitats
- Species
- Geodiversity

### Policy context

- 3.1 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy<sup>4</sup> was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to '*halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020*'.
- 3.2 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:
- Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
  - Promote the 'preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
  - Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.
  - Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').
  - Plan positively for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.
  - High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.
- 3.3 Goal 3 'Thriving plants and wildlife' and the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Chapter 5 'Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans' within the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' directly relates to the Biodiversity SEA theme.
- 3.4 The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)<sup>5</sup> sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:
- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;
  - Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas;
  - Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and

<sup>4</sup> European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/EP\\_resolution\\_april2012.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/EP_resolution_april2012.pdf) > last accessed 13/02/2018

<sup>5</sup> Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf> > last accessed 13/02/2018

- Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.
- 3.5 Reflecting the commitments within the Natural Environment White Paper and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services' aims to *'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'*<sup>6</sup>.
- 3.6 The recently published 25 Year Environment Plan sets out the Government's environmental plan of action over the next quarter century, in the context of Brexit. The Plan aims to tackle the growing problems of waste and soil degradation, improving social justice through tackling pollution and promoting the mental and physical health benefits of the natural world. It also sets out how the Government will address the effects of climate change. These aims are supported by a range of policies which are focused on the following six key areas:
- Using and managing land sustainably
  - Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes
  - Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing
  - Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste
  - Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans
  - Protecting and improving the global environment
- 3.7 In terms of the local context, Policies contained within the Adopted Core Strategy, and those updated by the focussed review, and which relate to Biodiversity include:
- Policy CS4 (Adapting to Climate Change)
  - Policy CS5 (Mid Suffolk's Environment)

## Baseline

### Current baseline

#### European designated sites (Ramsar/SPA/SAC)

- 3.8 There are no European designated sites within or in close proximity to the DNP area.

#### Nationally designated sites (SSSI/NNR)

- 3.9 There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located within the DNP area. However, the Mickfield Meadow is located 285 metres from the Western DNP area boundary. The site consists of a small meadow managed on traditional lines and is designated for its species-rich unimproved neutral grassland flora of a type formerly widespread in Suffolk before the advent of modern farming methods. Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) for this SSSI extend into the DNP area. As such, Natural England will need to be consulted on any development within 710 metres of the western boundary of the DNP comprising of 50 or more houses.

- 3.10 There are no National Nature Reserves (NNRs) located within or in proximity to the DNP area.

#### Locally designated sites (LNR/SINC)

- 3.11 There are no Local Nature Reserves (LNR) or Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) currently designated within the DNP area.

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<sup>6</sup> DEFRA (2011): 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services', [online] Available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>> last accessed 13/02/2018

## Biodiversity Action Plan habitats

- 3.12 Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats cover a wide range of semi-natural habitat types, and were those that were identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).
- 3.13 As a result of devolution, and new country-level and international drivers and requirements, much of the work previously carried out by the UK BAP is now focussed at a country-level rather than a UK-level, and the UK BAP was succeeded by the 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' in July 2012. The UK list of priority habitats, however, remains an important reference source and has been used to help draw up statutory lists of priority habitats in England, as required under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006<sup>7</sup>.
- 3.14 In this context, the DNP area contains small isolated patches of BAP habitats. These are shown in figure 3.1, and include:
- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
  - Deciduous Woodland
  - Good Quality Semi-improved Grassland
  - Lowland Meadows
  - Traditional Orchard

## Future baseline

- 3.15 Habitats and associated species may potentially face increasing pressures from future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area, which may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, and has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats.
- 3.16 The DNP presents an opportunity to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important habitats, species and designated sites at an early stage of planning for future growth. To achieve this it will be important for the DNP to include aims to improve green infrastructure and ecological corridors.

## Key sustainability issues

- The DNP area contains small isolated patches of BAP habitats
  - There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located within the DNP area. However, the Mickfield Meadow is located 285 metres from the western DNP area boundary. As such, Natural England will need to be consulted on any development within 710 metres of the western boundary of the DNP comprising of 50 or more houses. However, this location is separate from the existing built up areas of the parish and comprises open countryside.
  - The key biodiversity features within the Neighbourhood Plan Area are isolated patches of BAP habitats.
- 3.17 As concluded by the SEA Screening Opinion produced for the Neighbourhood Plan by Essex County Council, the current provisions of the emerging DNP policies will help ensure that development proposals will not result in significant impacts on biodiversity. In light of the lack of other biodiversity designations within the DNP area, it is considered that biodiversity should not be focus of further assessment work and that **biodiversity should be scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process**.

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<sup>7</sup> Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2016) UK BAP Priority Habitats [online] available at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5718>



## 4. Climate Change

### Focus of theme

- Contribution to climate change
- Effects of climate change
- Climate change adaptation
- Flood risk

### Policy context

4.1 The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It required the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then to develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report aiming to understand the current and future climate risks and opportunities. The evidence report contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, see below<sup>8</sup>:

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
- Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
- Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry;
- Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and
- New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals

4.2 Along with policies contained in Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 6 'Protecting and improving the global environment', Goal 4 'A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought' and Goal 7 'Mitigating and adapting to climate change' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' directly relates to the Climate Change SEA theme.

4.3 The UK Climate Change Act<sup>9</sup> was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement.

4.4 The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- The Act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
- Carbon Budgets. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
- The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The National

<sup>8</sup> GOV.UK: 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017', [online] available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017>> last accessed 13/02/2018

<sup>9</sup> GOV.UK (2008): 'Climate Change Act 2008', [online] accessible via <<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>> last accessed 13/02/2018

Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same. For more detail, visit the UK adaptation policy page<sup>10</sup>.

4.5 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions, including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008<sup>11</sup>. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
  - Planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GhG emissions;
  - Actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
  - Setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;
  - Positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
  - Encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in GhG emissions and reduce congestion.
  - Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
  - Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

4.6 The Flood and Water Management Act<sup>12</sup> highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)<sup>13</sup>
  - Further guidance is provided in the document 'Planning for SuDS'.<sup>14</sup> This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

4.7 In terms of the local context, Policies contained within the Adopted Core Strategy, and those updated by the focussed review, and which relate to Climate Change include:

- Policy CS3 (Reduce contributions to Climate Change)
- Policy CS4 (Adapting to Climate Change)

<sup>10</sup> Committee on Climate Change (2017): 'UK Adaptation Policy' [online] accessible via <<https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-adaptation-policy/>> last accessed 13/02/2018

<sup>11</sup> The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GhG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

<sup>12</sup> Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

<sup>13</sup> N.B. The provision of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

<sup>14</sup> CIRIA (2010) 'Planning for SuDs – making it happen' [online] available to access via <[http://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free\\_publications/Planning\\_for\\_SuDS\\_ma.aspx](http://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free_publications/Planning_for_SuDS_ma.aspx)> last accessed 13/02/2018

## Baseline

### Current baseline

#### Contribution to climate change

4.8 In relation to GhG emissions, source data from UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions National Statistics suggests that Mid Suffolk has generally had higher per capita emissions total in comparison to the trends and for the South East and England between 2005 and 2012 (see Table 4.1). Mid Suffolk has however seen a 24% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012. Although this is lower than the reduction seen for the East of England (32%) it is higher than that for England (22%).

**Table 4.1: Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita, 2005-2012<sup>15</sup>**

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO2)	Domestic (t CO2)	Transport (t CO2)	Total (t CO2)
<b>Mid Suffolk</b>				
2005	3.5	2.7	3.3	9.4
2006	3.3	2.7	3.3	9.3
2007	3.2	2.6	3.3	8.9
2008	3.0	2.5	3.0	8.4
2009	2.8	2.3	2.9	7.9
2010	2.9	2.5	2.9	8.2
2011	2.8	2.2	2.8	7.6
2012	2.8	2.3	2.7	7.7
2013	2.7	2.2	2.7	7.4
2014	2.4	1.8	2.7	6.7
2015	2.8	1.7	2.8	7.2
<b>East of England</b>				
2005	2.6	2.5	1.9	6.9
2006	2.5	2.5	1.8	6.9
2007	2.4	2.4	1.8	6.7
2008	2.4	2.4	1.7	6.5
2009	2.1	2.2	1.6	5.9
2010	2.3	2.3	1.6	6.2
2011	2.0	2.0	1.6	5.6
2012	2.1	2.2	1.5	5.8
2013	2.0	2.1	1.5	5.5
2014	1.6	1.7	1.5	4.9
2015	1.5	1.7	1.5	4.7

<sup>15</sup> Department of Energy and Climate Change (2013) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions, UK local and regional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: subset dataset (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities) available to download via: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates>> last accessed [30/01/18]

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO2)	Domestic (t CO2)	Transport (t CO2)	Total (t CO2)
<b>England</b>				
2005	4.1	2.5	2.3	8.8
2006	4.0	2.5	2.2	8.7
2007	3.9	2.4	2.2	8.5
2008	3.7	2.4	2.1	8.2
2009	3.2	2.2	2.0	7.3
2010	3.3	2.3	2.0	7.5
2011	3.0	2.0	2.0	6.8
2012	3.2	2.1	1.9	7.1
2013	3.1	2.1	1.9	6.9
2014	2.7	1.7	1.9	6.2
2015	2.5	1.6	1.9	5.9

## Potential effects of climate change

- 4.9 The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team<sup>16</sup>. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.
- 4.10 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the East of England by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario<sup>17</sup> are likely to be as follows:
- The central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.2°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.5°C; and
  - The central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 14% and summer mean precipitation is -17%.
- 4.11 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Neighbourhood Plan area and wider region. These include:
- Effects on water resources from climate change;
  - Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
  - Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
  - A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
  - Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
  - Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
  - Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
  - Increased demand for air-conditioning;
  - Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;

<sup>16</sup> The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <<http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/>>

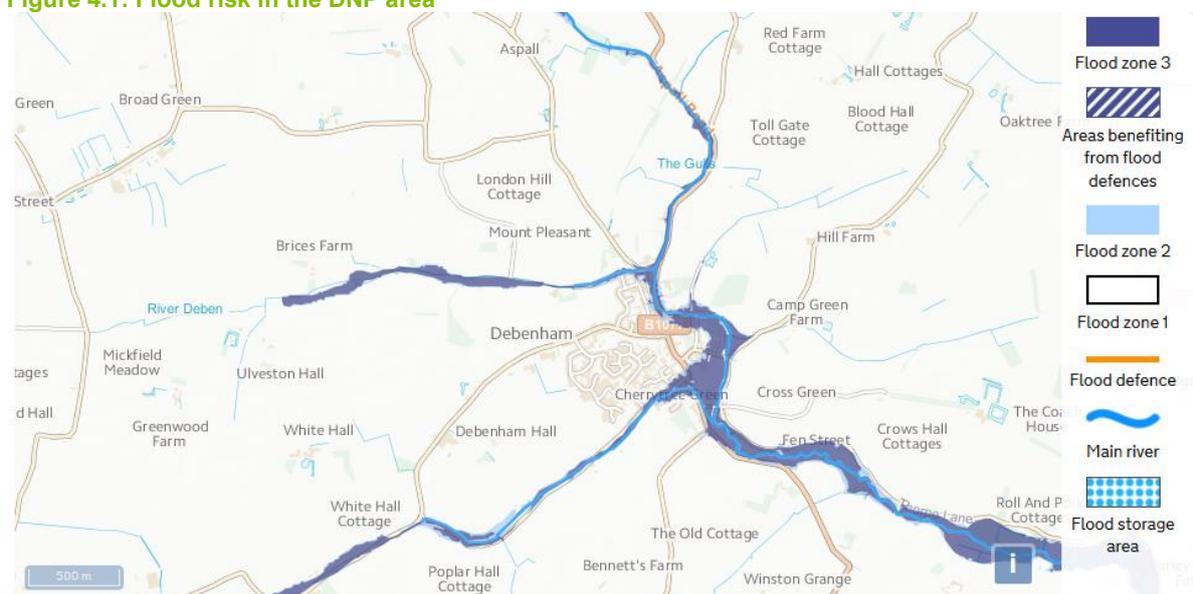
<sup>17</sup> UK Climate Projections (2009) East of England 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <<http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23954?emission=medium>>

- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- Flooding of roads.

## Flood risk

- 4.12 Figure 4.1 one shows the extent of Flood Zones within the DNP area. There are three flood zones as defined by the EA; Flood Zone 1, 2 and 3. These areas have been defined following a national scale modelling project for the EA and are regularly updated using recorded flood extents and local detailed modelling.
- 4.13 Areas deemed to be in Flood Zone 1 have been shown to be at less than 0.1% chance of flooding in any year and there are very few restrictions in terms of flood risk to development in these areas. The exception is for development over 1ha in size which must have a flood risk assessment undertaken.
- 4.14 Areas deemed to be in Flood Zone 2 have been shown to have between 0.1% – 1% chance of flooding from rivers in any year or between 0.1% – 0.5% chance of flooding from the sea in any year. Flood Zone 2 development needs to submit a flood risk assessment as part of its planning application which shows the risk of flooding to the site.
- 4.15 Flood Zone 3 is split into two separate zones; 3a and 3b. However this level of detail is not readily available for mapping purposes. As such Figure 4.1 identifies a general Flood Zone 3. Areas within Flood Zone 3 have been established as being at a 1% or greater probability of flooding from rivers or 0.5% or greater probability of flooding from the sea. Flood Zone 3 development needs to submit a flood risk assessment as part of its planning application, which determines if the site is classified as Flood Zone 3a or 3b as well as reviewing flood risk on the site and proposing suitable mitigation.
- 4.16 As can be seen in figure 4.1 there are significant areas of Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3 within and adjoining Debenham village.

**Figure 4.1: Flood risk in the DNP area**



- 4.17 The East Suffolk Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan<sup>18</sup> confirms the data visible in Figure 4.1. The Management Plan highlights that Debenham is located in the headwaters of the River Deben and is at risk from flash flooding due to intense rainfall events and rapid run-off, and that currently there are 132 properties at risk from the 1% annual probability river flood. There is also risk from lower magnitude fluvial flooding in this settlement, with 100 properties at risk from the 10% annual probability of fluvial flooding. By 2100, properties at risk from 1% probability flooding is likely to increase to 147, and those at risk from 10% probability flooding will have increased to 133.

<sup>18</sup> Environment Agency (2009) East Suffolk Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/east-suffolk-catchment-flood-management-plan>

- 4.18 The catchment Flood Risk Management Plan also notes that there are no formal flood defences within Debenham. In this context, Debenham Parish Council have stated that fluvial flood risk in the DNP area is currently managed through routine maintenance of the watercourses. However, the benefits of this approach will reduce in the future as flood risk is likely to increase as extreme weather events become more frequent and intense. There is also risk from surface water flooding due to a combination of impermeable surfaces and steep slopes within the built up area of Debenham.

## Future baseline

- 4.19 Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Neighbourhood Plan area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change, with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.
- 4.20 In terms of climate change contribution, GhG emissions generated in the Neighbourhood Plan area may continue to decrease with wider adoption of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies. However, increases in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area would contribute to increases in the absolute levels of GhG emissions.

## Key sustainability issues

- Any increases in the built footprint of the DNP area (associated with the delivery of new housing and employment land) has the potential to increase overall greenhouse gas emissions.
- Mid Suffolk has generally had a higher per capita emissions total in comparison to the trends and for the East of England and England between 2005 and 2015. It has also seen a smaller reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2015 compared to the East of England, however it is slightly higher than England.
- The East Suffolk Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan highlights that there are currently 132 properties at risk from the 1% annual probability river flood. There is also risk from lower magnitude river floods in this settlement, with 100 properties at risk from the 10% annual probability river flood.

## SEA objectives and appraisal questions

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### SEA objective

### Assessment Questions

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Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Reduce the number of journeys made and reduce the need to travel?
  - Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?
  - Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?
  - Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?
  - Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
- 

Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change?
  - Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?
  - Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)?
  - Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area?
  - Increase the resilience of biodiversity to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?
-

## 5. Landscape and Historic Environment

### Focus of theme

- Landscape and townscape character and quality
- Designated and non-designated sites and areas
- Setting of heritage assets
- Archaeological assets

### Policy context

5.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Heritage assets should be recognised as an 'irreplaceable resource' that should be conserved in a 'manner appropriate to their significance', taking account of 'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits' of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a 'positive strategy' for the 'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment', including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- Develop 'robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics'.
- Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt 'proactive strategies' to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

5.2 Additionally, the National Planning Policy Guidance states that Neighbourhood Plans should include enough information, where relevant, "about local heritage to guide decisions and put broader strategic heritage policies from the local plan into action at a neighbourhood scale" and "about local non-designated heritage assets including sites of archaeological interest to guide decisions".

5.3 Along with the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes', Goal 6 'Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment' of the Government's "A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment" directly relates to the Landscape and Historic Environment SEA theme.

5.4 The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England<sup>19</sup> sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

5.5 In terms of the local context, Policies contained within the Adopted Core Strategy, and those updated by the focussed review, and which relate to Landscape and the Historic Environment include:

- Policy CS2 (Development in the Countryside and Countryside Villages)
- Policy CS5 (Mid Suffolk's Environment)
- Policy CS6 (Services and Infrastructure)

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<sup>19</sup> HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: <[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/6763.aspx](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx)> last accessed [26/01/18]

- Policy CS7 (Brown Field Target)

## Baseline

### Current Baseline

#### Landscape

- 5.6 National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. Developed by Natural England, NCA profiles describe the natural and cultural features that shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to its character.
- 5.7 The DNP area is located within NCA Profile 83: South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands<sup>20</sup>, which is defined as a high and predominantly flat clay plateau which is incised by numerous small-scale wooded river valleys with complex slopes that in places are much unexpected for East Anglia. The underlying geology is chalk, which forms the principal aquifer, and shallow marine deposits overlain with glacial till, buried river gravels, lake sediments and bands of glacial outwash deposits.
- 5.8 Updated and revised in 2011, The Suffolk Landscape Character Typology<sup>21</sup> highlights that the DNP area has four separate Landscape Typologies present within it. These are:
- Plateau Claylands: This landscape is described as being a Plateau of heavy clay soil which is made up of ancient organic patterns of fields which are gently undulating and dissected by small streams with substantial hedges of hawthorn and dispersed settlements.
  - Rolling Valley Claylands: these landscapes are found in the upper reaches of most of the East Suffolk rivers. They are comprised of gently sloping valleys with fields which are often smaller than on the surrounding plateau with ancient woodland present on the upper fringes of the valley sides.
  - Ancient Estate Claylands: This is a gently rolling heavy clay plateau with ancient woodlands and parklands with villages dispersed with hamlets and farmsteads.
  - Valley Meadowlands: these landscapes are deprived as flat valley floor grasslands on silty and peaty soils with grassland divided by a network of wet ditches and occasional Carr Woodland and plantations of Poplar.

#### Historic environment

- 5.9 The DNP area has a rich historic environment.
- 5.10 Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of Listed Building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms. In this context, the DNP area contains a total of 93 nationally listed buildings. Of this number, one is Grade I, seven are Grade II\* and a further 85 are Grade II, which are also protected through the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990. There are no scheduled monuments in the DNP area.
- 5.11 Conservation areas are designated because of their special architectural and historic interest<sup>22</sup>. Conservation area appraisals are a tool to demonstrate the area's special interest, explaining the reasons for designation and providing a greater understanding and articulation of its character - mentioned within the 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management' advice note by Historic England.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Natural England (2014): 'NCA Profile: 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands (NE544)', [online] available to access via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6106120561098752?category=587130> last accessed 21/03/2018

<sup>21</sup> Suffolk County council (2011): 'Landscape Character Typology', [online] available at: [http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/landscape\\_map.aspx](http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/landscape_map.aspx) last accessed 21/03/2018

<sup>22</sup> Historic England (2017): 'Conservation Areas', [online] available to access via: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/conservation-areas/>> last accessed 21/03/2018

<sup>23</sup> Historic England (2016): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management Advice Note 1', [online] available to download from: <<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-designation-appraisal-management-advice-note-1/>> last accessed 21/03/2018

Ideally, appraisals should be regularly reviewed as part of the management of the Conservation Area, and can be developed into a management plan.

- 5.12 In this regard, the Debenham Conservation Area is located within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The Conservation Area Appraisal notes that the Grade I listed Church of St Mary is of key importance to the Historic Environment of Debenham with a late 13<sup>th</sup> Century chancel and 14<sup>th</sup> Century tower. Debenham also has a large number of timber frame buildings, seven of which are make up the Grade II\* listed buildings in the DNP area. The Appraisal also notes that the many small grassed areas in the village are an important part of Debenhams character.<sup>24</sup>
- 5.13 Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I, Grade II and Grade II\* Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Wreck Sites and Conservation Areas deemed to be 'at risk'. According to the 2017 Heritage at Risk Register<sup>25</sup>, none of the heritage assets in the Neighbourhood Plan are at risk. However, it is important to recognise that the Heritage at Risk Registers for areas outside of London do not contain information about the status of Grade II Listed Buildings. As such, it is currently not possible to determine whether any Grade II Listed Buildings within the DNP area are at risk.
- 5.14 With regards to Archaeological sites of importance, there are 230 records listed on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record<sup>26</sup>. These finds are primarily comprised of Roman or Medieval pottery along with a number of Stone Age sites, the earliest finds of which include Neolithic flint arrowheads. The area is particularly significant for Roman finds as about two miles south of the village there is the remains of an important east-west Roman Road.
- 5.15 It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment features are subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. Although not designated, many buildings and areas are of historic interest and are seen as important by local communities. The designated heritage assets within the DNP area are shown in Figure 5.1.

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<sup>24</sup> Mid Suffolk District Council (2009) Debenham Parish Conservation Area Appraisal [online] available at: <http://debenhamnp.onesuffolk.net/assets/documents/Debenham-CAA-2009-copy.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> Historic England (2017): 'Heritage at Risk Record', [online] available at: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2017-registers/>> last accessed 21/03/18

<sup>26</sup> Suffolk Heritage Explorer [online] available at: <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/hbsmr-web/Results.aspx?pageid=12&mid=16&freetext=Debenham&searchopt=AllWords&range=250&queryguid=269a6ca6-a5a5-44fb-95c5-a51f56557e41&firstrec=101&lastrec=120>



## Future baseline

- New development areas in the Neighbourhood Plan area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets; for example through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings.
- Alongside, new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset, and in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area there may be opportunity for new development to enhance the historic setting of the village and better reveal assets' cultural heritage significance.
- New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and areas with an important visual amenity value.

## Key sustainability issues

- The DNP area contains a total of 93 Listed Buildings. Of this number, one is Grade I, seven are Grade II\* and a further 85 are Grade II.
- There are 230 archaeological records listed on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record. These finds are primarily comprised of Roman and Medieval pottery along with a number of Neolithic sites.
- There are no designated heritage assets within the DNP area currently on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.
- The Debenham Conservation Area covers the core of Debenham village.

## SEA objectives and appraisal questions

SA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect, maintain and enhance the cultural heritage resource, including the historic environment and archaeological assets located within and within the setting of the Neighbourhood Plan area.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of the Debenham Conservation Area and its setting?</li> <li>• Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance local diversity and character?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, including historic landscapes?</li> <li>• Support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies.</li> </ul>
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the integrity of the Landscape in the Neighbourhood Plan area?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance landscape and townscape features?</li> </ul>

## 6. Land, Soil, and Water Resources

### Focus of Theme

- Soils resource
- Waste management
- Watercourses
- Water availability
- Water quality

### Policy context

- 6.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy<sup>27</sup> presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.
- 6.2 The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is establishing 'Significant Water Management Issues' and recently presented second River Basin Management Plans to ministers. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:
- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
  - Promote the sustainable use of water;
  - Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
  - Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.
- 6.3 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:
- Protect and enhance soils. The value of best and most versatile agricultural land should also be taken into account.
  - Prevent new or existing development from being 'adversely affected' by the presence of 'unacceptable levels' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate 'despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate'.
  - Encourage the effective use of land' through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, 'provided that this is not of high environmental value'. Whilst there is no longer a national requirement to build at a minimum density, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to 'set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances'.
  - Produce strategic policies to deliver the provision of a variety of infrastructure, including that necessary for water supply.
- 6.4 With regards to waste, the NPPF does not contain any specific waste policies as waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan.
- 6.5 Along with the policies contained within Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 4 'Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste', Goal 2 'Clean and plentiful water', Goal 5 'Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently' and Goal 8 'Minimising waste' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' directly relates to the land, soil and water resources SEA theme.

<sup>27</sup> European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: <[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm)> last accessed 13/02/2018

- 6.6 Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England<sup>28</sup>, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper<sup>29</sup>, which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England<sup>30</sup> recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.
- 6.7 In terms of the local context, Policies contained within the Adopted Core Strategy, and those updated by the focussed review, and which relate to Land, Soil, and Water Resources include:
- Policy CS2 (Development in the Countryside and Countryside Villages)
  - Policy CS5 (Mid Suffolk's Environment)
  - Policy CS6 (Services and Infrastructure)
  - Policy CS7 (Brown Field Target)
  - Policy CS8 (provision and distribution of housing)
  - Policy SC11 (Supply of Employment Land)

## Baseline

### Current baseline

#### Quality of Agricultural Land

- 6.8 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as being the 'best and most versatile' land, and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality. In this context there is a need to avoid loss of higher quality ('best and most versatile') agricultural land. In terms of the location of the best and most versatile agricultural land, a detailed classification has not been undertaken within the Neighbourhood Plan area. As such, there is a need to rely on the nationally available 'Provisional Agricultural Land Quality' national dataset.<sup>31</sup>
- 6.9 The provisional Agricultural Land Quality dataset shows that the entirety of the DNP area is covered by Grade 3 agricultural land. However, the data does not differentiate as to whether this is Grade 3a (e.g. the best and most versatile) or lower quality 3b land. It is also important to note, that the national dataset is of very low resolution and it is not an accurate reflection of the agricultural land quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area (e.g. a proportion of land within the DNP area will be used for non-agricultural purposes).

#### Watercourses

- 6.10 The DNP area is located within the River Deben catchment area, and is found in the headwaters of the River Deben, which is the main surface water body in the area. In regards to water quality, in 2016 the overall water quality for the Deben upstream of Brandeston Bridge is described as being heavily modified and as being overall of moderate water quality (moderate ecological and good chemical quality).

### Future baseline

- 6.11 Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates.

<sup>28</sup> Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available to download from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england> last accessed 13/02/2018

<sup>29</sup> Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf> last accessed 13/02/2018

<sup>30</sup> Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf> last accessed 13/02/2018

<sup>31</sup> Natural England (2011): 'Agricultural Land Classification map East Midlands', [online] available to download via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/143027?category=5954148537204736> last accessed [31/01/18]

- 6.12 In terms of water quality, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. Additionally, the Debnem water body already meets the 2027 required classification of 'moderate' overall water quality as set by the Water Framework Directive<sup>32</sup>. Water quality has the potential to be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and future physical modifications to waterbodies.
- 6.13 future development may result in the loss of grade 3a (the best and most versatile) agricultural land. Additionally, future development has the potential to reduce the overall water quality of the river Deben through increases in impermeable surfaces and associated surface water runoff.

## Key sustainability issues

- The provisional Agricultural Land Quality dataset shows that there are areas of Grade 3 agricultural land across the entire DNP area. However, the data does not differentiate as to whether this is Grade 3a (e.g. the best and most versatile) or lower quality 3b land.
- The river Deben flows through the DNP area, and in regards to water quality, in 2016 the overall water quality for the Deben (upstream of Brandeston Bridge) is described as being heavily modified and as being of moderate overall water quality.

## SEA objectives and appraisal questions

SA objective	Assessment Questions
Ensure the efficient use of land.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote the use of previously developed land?</li><li>• Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the parish comprises Grade 3a agricultural land?</li></ul>
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support improvements to water quality?</li><li>• Minimise water consumption?</li></ul>

<sup>32</sup> Environment Agency (2016) Catchment Data Explorer [online] available at: <http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB105035046200>

# 7. Population and Community

## Focus of theme

- Population size
- Population density
- Age structure
- Deprivation
- House prices and affordability
- Homelessness
- Education and skills
- Employment and the economy

## Policy context

7.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- To 'boost significantly the supply of housing', local planning authorities should meet the 'full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing' in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
- With a view to creating 'sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities' authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
- In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.
- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' is of 'great importance' and there is a need to take a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

- 7.2 The 'Ready for Ageing?' report, published by the Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change<sup>33</sup> warns that society is underprepared for an ageing population. The report states that *'longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises'*. The report recognises that the supply of specialist housing for the older generation is insufficient for the demand. There is a need for central and local Government, housing associations, and house builders to ensure that these housing needs are better addressed, giving as much priority to promoting an adequate market of social housing for the older generation as is given to the younger generation.
- 7.3 Policies contained in Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 4 'Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' directly relates to the Population and Community SEA theme.
- 7.4 In terms of the local context, Policies contained within the Adopted Core Strategy, and those updated by the focussed review, and which relate to Population and Community include:
- Policy CS2 (Development in the Countryside and Countryside Villages)
  - Policy CS5 (Mid Suffolk's Environment)
  - Policy CS6 (Services and Infrastructure)
  - Policy CS7 (Brown Field Target)
  - Policy CS8 (Provision and Distribution of Housing)
  - Policy CS9 (Density and Mix)
  - Policy CS11 (Supply of Employment Land)
  - Policy CS12 (Retail Provision)

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<sup>33</sup> Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/> last accessed 13/02/2018

## Baseline

### Current baseline

7.5 The geographical extent of the DNP area is shown in Figure 1.1 (see Chapter 1). The total population for the DNP area has been calculated based on the Debenham Parish boundary.

### Population

7.6 As shown in Table 7.1, the population of Debenham increased at a faster percentage between 2001 and 2011 than the increases observed for Mid Suffolk, the East of England, and England as a whole.

**Table 7.1: Population growth 2001-2011<sup>34</sup>**

Date	Debenham	Mid Suffolk	East	England
<b>2001</b>	1926	86837	5388140	49138831
<b>2011</b>	2210	96731	5846965	53012456
<b>Population Change</b>				
<b>2001-2011</b>	13%	11.39%	8.52%	7.88%

### Age structure

7.7 Table 7.2 shows that there is a skew towards older persons within Debenham when compared to Mid Suffolk, the East of England and the national average. For instance, 30.32% of residents in Debenham are aged over 60 compared to 27.93% in Mid Suffolk, 23.89% in the East of England, and only 22.30% in England.

7.8 There is a slightly lower proportion of people younger than 24 in Debenham (27.56%) compared to Mid Suffolk (27.62%), East of England (29.88%) and England (30.80%). Furthermore there appear to be fewer persons aged between 25-44, but more aged between 45 and 69 in Debenham compared to all other comparators.

7.9 This suggests that Debenham has a proportionally older population age structure within the resident population than all other comparators.

**Table 7.2: Age Structure (2011)<sup>35</sup>**

	Debenham	Mid Suffolk	East	England
<b>0-15</b>	20.14%	18.43%	18.96%	18.90%
<b>16-24</b>	7.42%	9.19%	10.92%	11.90%
<b>25-44</b>	19.95%	22.94%	26.45%	27.50%
<b>45-59</b>	22.17%	21.52%	19.78%	19.40%
<b>60+</b>	30.32%	27.93%	23.89%	22.30%
<b>Total Population</b>	2210	96731	5846965	53,012,456

### Household deprivation

7.10 Census statistics measure deprivation across four 'dimensions' of deprivation, summarised below:

<sup>34</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: Population Density 2011 (Table QS102EW); Population Density 2001 (Table UV002)

<sup>35</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: Age Structure 2011 (Table KS102EW)

- **Employment:** Any person in the household (not a full-time student) that is either unemployed or long-term sick.
- **Education:** No person in the household has at least a level 2 qualification and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student.
- **Health and Disability:** Any person in the household that has generally 'bad' or 'very bad' health, or has a long term health problem.
- **Housing:** The household accommodation is either overcrowded (with an occupancy rating of -1 or less), in a shared dwelling or has no central heating.

7.11 Based on the information presented in Table 7.3, 55.53% of households in Debenham are deprived in some form. This is slightly higher than the proportion seen in Mid Suffolk as a whole (51.25%), but comparable to that seen in the South East (55.24%) and lower than England as a whole (57.50%).

7.12 There are no households within the DNP area which are deprived in four dimensions compared to 0.14% in Mid Suffolk, 0.38% in the East of England, and 0.50% nationally.

**Table 7.3: Relative household deprivation dimensions<sup>36</sup>**

	Debenham	Mid Suffolk	East	England
<b>Household not deprived</b>	44.47%	48.75%	44.76%	42.50%
<b>Deprived in 1 dimension</b>	33.40%	32.28%	32.98%	32.70%
<b>Deprived in 2 dimensions</b>	19.34%	16.25%	17.92%	19.10%
<b>Deprived in 3 dimensions</b>	2.79%	2.59%	3.96%	5.10%
<b>Deprived in 4 dimensions</b>	0.00%	0.14%	0.38%	0.50%

## Index of Multiple Deprivation

7.13 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD)<sup>37</sup> is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

1. **Income:** The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work but who have low earnings (satisfying the respective means tests).
2. **Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those individuals who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.
3. **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.
4. **Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.
5. **Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
6. **Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains.
  - i. 'Geographical Barriers': relating to the physical proximity of local services

<sup>36</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Households by Deprivation Dimensions 2011 (Table QS119EW)

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>

- ii. 'Wider Barriers': relating to access to housing, such as affordability.
7. **Living Environment:** The quality of the local environment, with indicators falling categorised in two sub-domains.
- i. 'Indoors Living Environment' measures the quality of housing.
  - ii. 'Outdoors Living Environment' measures air quality and road traffic accidents.
- 7.14 Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:
1. **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index:** The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
  2. **Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index:** The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.
- 7.15 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They are standardized geographies designed to be as consistent in population as possible. In relation to the IMD 2015, LSOAs are ranked out of the 32,844 LSOAs in England and Wales, with 1 being the most deprived. The majority of Debenham Parish boundary is covered by LSOA Mid Suffolk 007A.

### General trends in LSO 007A

- 7.16 As can be seen in Table 8.4, the DNP area generally sees low levels of deprivation, scoring well across the majority of deprivation indices, with many indices being in the least 30% to least 10% deprived in the country. In particular, the DNP area is within the least 10% deprived in the country for the 'Health Deprivation and Disability' and 'Outdoor' sub-domain indices. It does however also perform poorly in two indices; specifically it is within the 20% most deprived LSOAs within the country for the 'Living Environment' domain, and within the 10% most deprived for the 'Indoors' sub domain. The 'indoors' sub domain measures the quality of housing and is made up of the following indicators –
- Houses without central heating: The proportion of houses that do not have central heating
  - Housing in poor condition: The proportion of social and private homes that fail to meet the Decent Homes standard
- 7.17 This would suggest that some of the housing within the DNP area is potentially of poor quality and is a key contribution to deprivation within the DNP area.

**Table 7.4: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (rank)<sup>38</sup> for the LSOA 007A (the DNP area).**

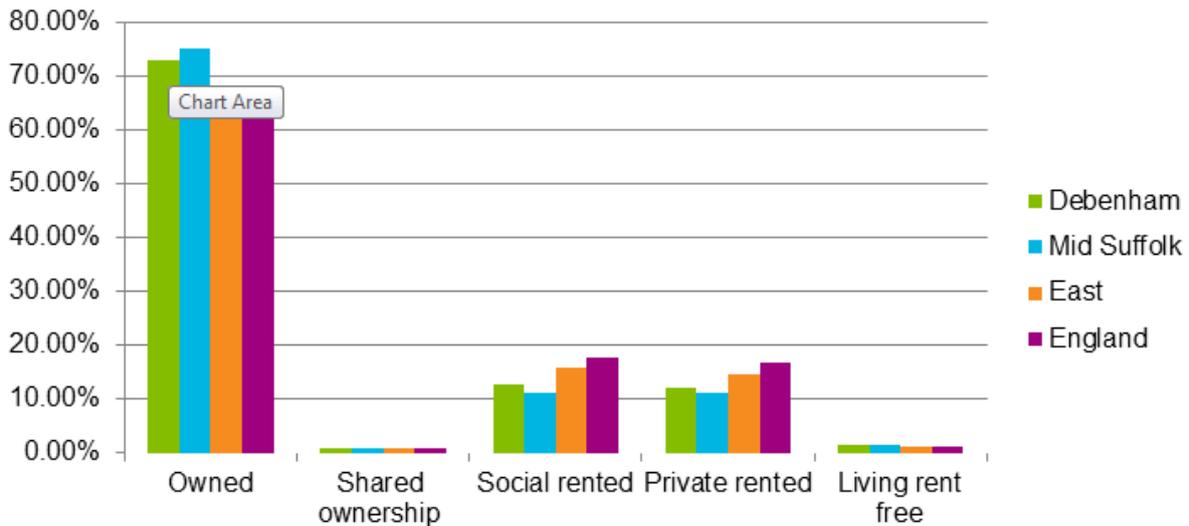
	Overall IMD	Income	Employment	Education, Skills and Training	Health, Deprivation and Disability	Crime	Barriers to Housing and Services	Living Environment	Income Deprivation Affecting Children	Income Deprivation Affecting Older People	Children and Young People Sub-domain	Adult Skills Sub-domain	Geographical Barriers Sub-domain	Wider Barriers Sub-domain	Indoors Sub-domain	Outdoors Sub-domain
Rank	23,966	22,098	23,583	23,344	29,684	25,371	24,140	4,861	24,658	20,316	24,167	20,924	12,765	24,127	2,204	30,169
Decile	8	7	8	8	10	8	8	2	8	7	8	7	4	8	1	10

## Housing tenure

- 7.18 Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, 71.92% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area either own their home outright or with a mortgage. This is slightly lower than the average for Mid Suffolk (75.08%) but higher than the East (67.6%) and the proportion (63.3%) seen across England.
- 7.19 There are also slightly more residents within socially rented accommodation (12.62%) than Mid Suffolk (11.27%). However, this is lower than both the percentage in the East of England (15.70%) and the National Average (17.7%). The numbers in privately rented accommodation in Debenham also follow the same pattern with (12.00%) renting privately compared to 11.20% in Mid Suffolk, 14.70% in East of England and 16.80% nationally (shown in Figure 7.1).

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

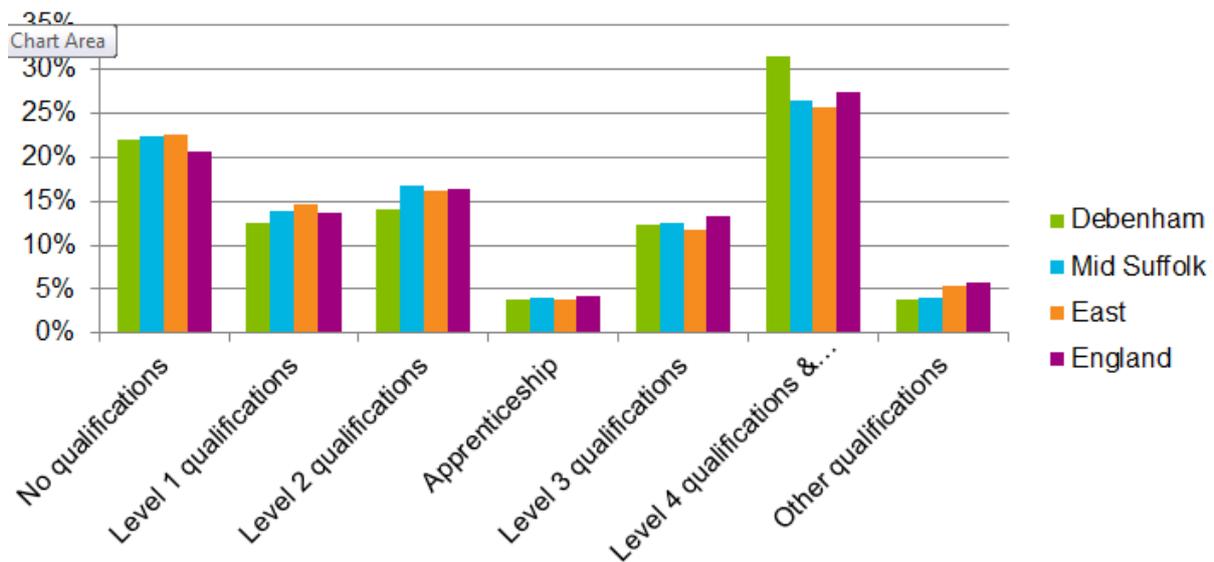
Figure 7.1: 'Tenure by Household'<sup>39</sup>



## Education

7.20 Based on the 2011 census data, 21.98% of residents in the DNP area have no qualifications. This is marginally lower than the number for Mid Suffolk (22.33%), and East England (22.53%) but slightly higher than the total for England (20.7%). The percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area with a Level 4 qualification or above (31.39%) is significantly higher than the totals for Mid Suffolk (26.44%) and is significantly higher than the totals for the East (25.72%) and England (27.3%). Generally, the total percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area with Level 1, 2, 3 qualifications are slightly lower than the regional and national trends.

Figure 7.2: 'Highest Level of Qualification'<sup>40</sup>



## Employment and economy

7.21 The following three occupation categories support the most residents:

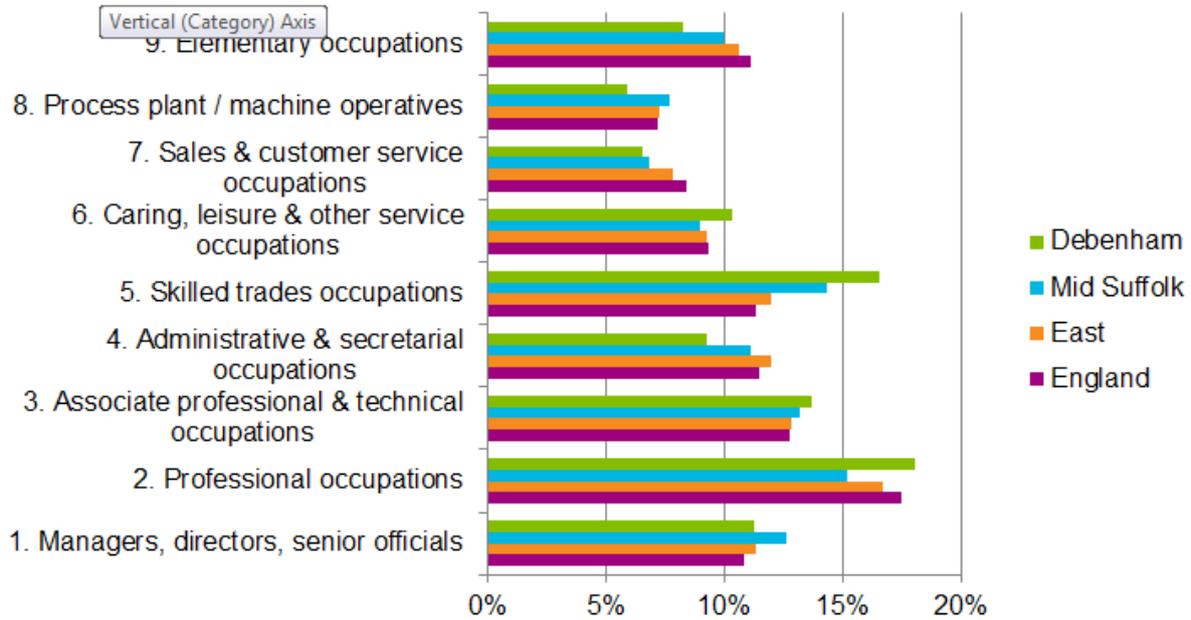
- Skilled Trades
- Professional occupations (18.06%);
- Skilled Trades (16.57%)

<sup>39</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: Tenure-Households 2011 (Table QS405EW)

<sup>40</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: Highest Level of Qualification 2011 (Table QS501EW)

- Associate, professional and technical occupations (13.67%); and
- Comparatively, a smaller percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area are employed in 'elementary occupations', 'sales and customer service occupations' and 'Process plant / machine operative occupations' in comparison to the regional and national trends.

Figure 7.3: 'Occupation of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment'<sup>41</sup>



### Future baseline

- 7.22 The population structure of the DNP area has a skew towards older generations when compared to the district, region, and national averages. However, between 2001 and 2011 the population in Debenham has grown at a faster rate than all other comparators..
- 7.23 Population growth is likely to continue, particularly with proposed Local Plan allocations. The proportion of older people within the Neighbourhood Plan area is also likely to continue, has the potential to have knock-on effects in terms of health and social care provision.
- 7.24 Deprivation rates are likely to remain low, and incomes in the plan area is likely to remain generally high as evidenced by the high level of skills and educational attainment. However, Living Environment and the Indoors sub domain have been identified as indices of deprivation where the DNP performs poorly. The DNP may be able to address some of these issues through housing policies.

<sup>41</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Occupation 2011' (Table KS608EW)

## Key sustainability issues

- The population of Debenham increased at a faster rate between 2001 and 2011 than the increases observed for Mid Suffolk, East England or England as a whole.
- There are a higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age category in the DNP area (20.90%) in comparison to the percentages for Mid Suffolk, the East of England and the national average.
- The DNP area generally experiences very low levels of deprivation, with the LSOA being within the least 10% to least 30% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country amongst the majority of deprivation indices. .

## SEA objectives and appraisal questions

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
<p>Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.</p> <hr/> <p>Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities?</li> <li>• Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities?</li> <li>• Minimise fuel poverty?</li> <li>• Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?</li> <li>• Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?</li> <li>• Support the provision of land for allotments and cemeteries?</li> </ul>
<p>Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes?</li> <li>• Support enhancements to the current housing stock?</li> <li>• Meet the needs of all sectors of the community?</li> <li>• Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?</li> <li>• Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</li> </ul>
<p>Support a vibrant, mixed economy which enables residents of Debenham to work locally.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and enhance the viability of small local businesses?</li> <li>• The diversity of local business and the economy?</li> <li>• Support employment opportunities which enable residents to work from home?</li> </ul>

## 8. Health and Wellbeing

### Focus of theme

- Health indicators and deprivation
- Influences on health and well-being

### Policy context

8.1 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- The social role of the planning system involves ‘supporting vibrant and healthy communities’.
- A core planning principle is to ‘take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all’.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities’
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Set out the strategic policies to deliver the provision of health facilities.
- Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

8.2 The policies contained in Chapter 3 ‘Connecting people with the environment to improve ’ of the Government’s ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’ directly relates to the Health and Wellbeing SEA theme.

8.3 In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives<sup>42</sup> (‘The Marmot Review’) investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: “overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities”.

8.4 The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions. At the regional level, the Suffolk Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy<sup>43</sup> sets the long term strategic framework for improving health and wellbeing in Suffolk and guides the direction of a range of statutory, voluntary, community and private sector agencies that impact on health and wellbeing in Suffolk. The vision for this Strategy is as follows: “*People in Suffolk live healthier, happier lives. We also want to narrow the differences in healthy life expectancy between those living in our most deprived communities and those who are more affluent through greater improvements in more disadvantaged communities.*”

8.5 In terms of the local context, policies contained within the Adopted Core Strategy, and those updated by the focussed review which relate to Health and Wellbeing include:

- Policy CS2 (Development in the Countryside and Countryside Villages)
- Policy CS5 (Mid Suffolk’s Environment)
- Policy CS6 (Services and Infrastructure)

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<sup>42</sup> The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available to download from: <<http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=106106>> last accessed [21/03/2018]

<sup>43</sup> Suffolk County Council (2018): ‘Joint Strategic Needs Assessment’ [online] available to access via: <<https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/about> [21/03/2018]

- Policy CS7 (Brown Field Target)
- Policy CS8 (Provision and Distribution of Housing)
- Policy CS9 (Density and Mix)
- Policy CS11 (Supply of Employment Land)
- Policy CS12 (Retail Provision)

## Baseline

### Current baseline

#### Health indicators and deprivation

- 8.6 Deprivation is a significant contributor to poor health and can have adverse effects on wellbeing, with elements related to poor housing quality, living environment, income and employment previously discussed in detail in Chapter 7.
- 8.7 As highlighted in Figure 8.1, 80.06% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health'; this proportion is marginally lower than the proportions for Mid Suffolk (83.19%), the East (82.46%) and England (81.4%). Comparatively, the total percentage of residents in the DNP area who report either 'bad health' or 'very bad health' (4.21%) is higher than the district total (3.95%), but lower than both the regional total (4.67%), and national total (5.23%).
- 8.8 Based on the 2011 census data, the total number of residents within the DNP area who report that their activities are limited 'a lot' by disability is lower than the totals for the East of England and England, but marginally higher than that for Mid Suffolk, as shown in Table 8.1. Overall, 81.36% of residents within the DNP area report that their activities are not limited, which is slightly lower than the totals for Mid Suffolk (83.45%), East England (83.30%) and England (82.40%).

Figure 8.1: 'General Health'<sup>44</sup>

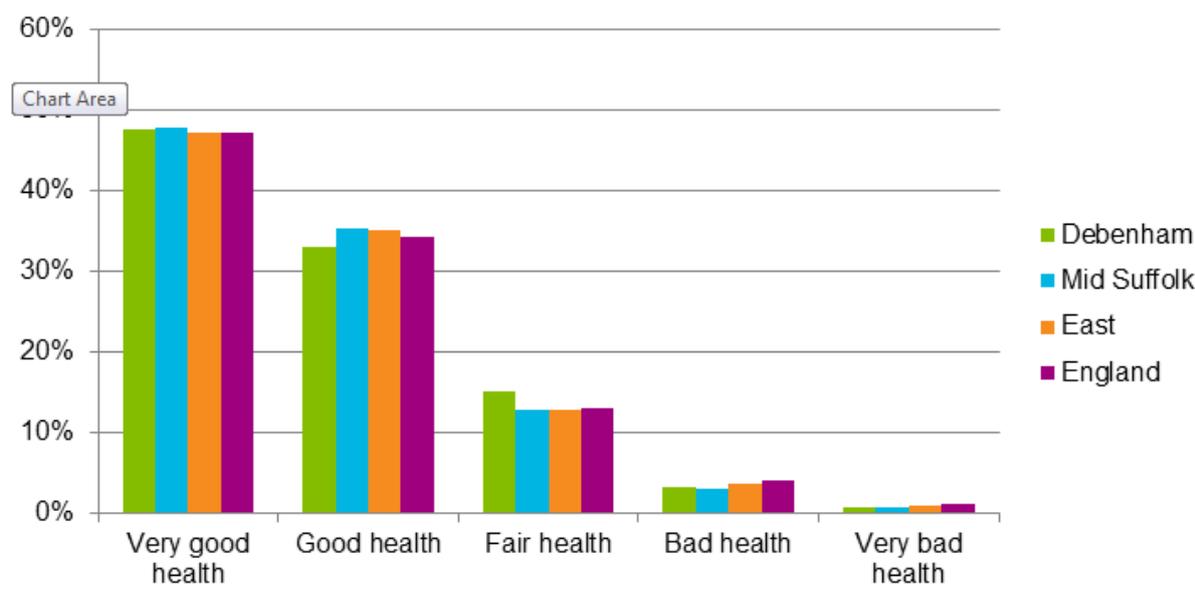


Table 8.1: Disability<sup>45</sup>

	Debenham	Mid Suffolk	East	England
Activities limited 'a lot'	7.42%	6.67%	7.43%	8.30%
Activities limited 'a little'	11.22%	9.88%	9.28%	9.30%
Activities 'not limited'	81.36%	83.45%	83.30%	82.40%

## Future baseline

- 8.9 Health and well-being levels within the Neighbourhood Plan area are generally good, with a high percentage of residents reporting as having 'good' or 'very good' health. However, the number of residents reporting that their activities are limited by disability is slightly higher than district, regional, and national comparators.
- 8.10 A growing and ageing population within the Neighbourhood Plan area may increase the reported cases of disability, reduce the levels of good health, and place future pressures on health services in the area. Similarly, ongoing cuts to community services have the potential to lead to effects on Health and Wellbeing over the long term.
- 8.11 Obesity is also seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts on individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer.

## Key sustainability issues

- The majority of residents in the DNP area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health'; this proportion is marginally lower than that seen in Mid Suffolk the East of England and England.
- The total percentage of residents in the DNP area who report either 'bad health' or 'very bad health' is lower than the regional total and national total but is slightly higher than the total for Mid Suffolk..
- The total percentage of residents in the DNP area who report either 'bad health' or 'very bad health' is higher than the district total but lower than both the regional and national totals.

<sup>44</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'General Health 2011' (Table QS302EW)

<sup>45</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Long-term Health Problem or Disability 2011' (Table QS303EW)

- Generally the level of disability in the DNP area is lower than that seen in East England and England, but marginally higher than that for Mid Suffolk.

## SEA objectives and appraisal questions

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### SEA objective

### Assessment Questions

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Improve the Health and Wellbeing residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?
  - Align to the vision and key themes of Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy ?
  - Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?
  - Reduce noise pollution?
  - Promote the use of healthier modes of travel?
  - Improve access to the countryside for recreational use?
  - Avoiding any negative impacts to the quality and extent of existing recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths?
-

# 9. Transportation

## Focus of theme

- Transportation infrastructure
- Traffic flows and congestion
- Accessibility
- Car ownership
- Travel to work

## Policy context

9.1 European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth.

9.2 At the local level, each Local Transport Authority in England and Wales has a statutory duty to produce and adopt a Local Transport Plan through the Local Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008. Adopted in 2012, the Local Transport Plan (LTP3) strategy for Suffolk County Council sets out the vision for transport to 2031 and includes a framework for how the Council will manage and develop the transport system in Suffolk to support sustainable economic growth. In this context, the LTP3 outlines the following key areas for growth and development within Suffolk:

- Growth of ICT and ICT based businesses;
- Expansion of the Port of Felixstowe;
- The 'Energy Coast', including offshore wind and renewable energy focussed
- around Lowestoft and the development of Sizewell C nuclear power station;
- Construction of SnOasis;
- Development of University Campus Suffolk as a research centre;
- Development and growth of biotech in west Suffolk and around UCS;
- Growth of equine related organisations around Newmarket;
- Tourism, and local food and drink;
- Creative Industries

9.3 In terms of the local context, Policies contained within the Adopted Core Strategy, and those updated by the focussed review, and which relate to Population and Community include:

- Policy CS2 (Development in the Countryside and Countryside Villages)
- Policy CS8 (Provision and Distribution of Housing)
- Policy CS11 (Supply of Employment Land)
- Policy CS12 (Retail Provision)

## Baseline

### Current baseline

#### Rail network

- 9.4 There are no railway stations within the DNP area, the nearest station is Needham Market which is located approximately 11.2km south west from the DNP area. Needham Market Railway Station is on the Ipswich to Cambridge rail line, with destinations including Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket, and sees regular services (typically one per hour) between Ipswich and Stowmarket. No main line London trains call at this station. Direct mainline services to London and Norwich run from Stowmarket which is located 15km south west of the DNP area.

#### Bus network

- 9.5 In regards to the bus network, as of August 2017 the principal routes through the DNP area are the 114, 113, 115 and 116 services. Further information on these services and the time tables can be accessed on the Suffolk County Council Website.<sup>46</sup>

#### Road network

- 9.6 In relation to the road network, the main through routes within the DNP area include the B1077 and Gracechurch Street. It has been highlighted that there are concerns about parking and traffic flows around and through the village, especially at the junction with the High St and Gracechurch St, outside the High School, in the vicinity of the Primary School, the doctors' surgery and Great Back Lane.

#### Cycle and footpath network

- 9.7 Regional Cycle Route 40 of the National Cycle Network passes through the DNP and provides an outwards link north and south from the DNP area for cyclists.<sup>47</sup> In regards to footpaths, there is a network of local footpaths which pass through the DNP area.

#### Availability of cars and vans

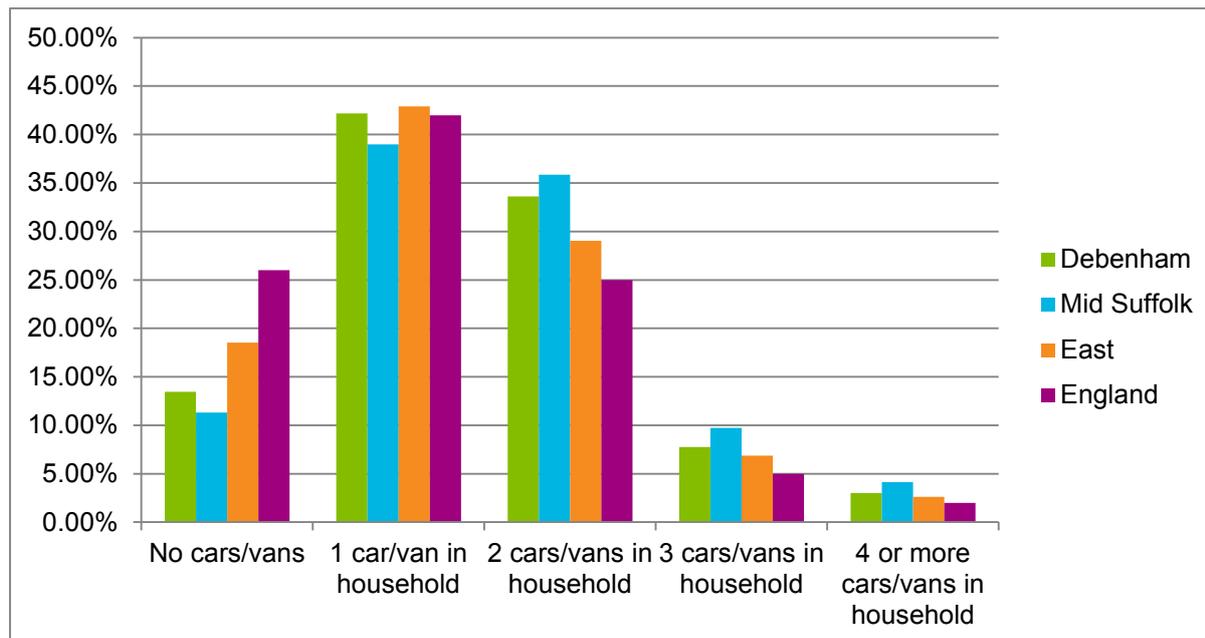
- 9.8 Based on the 2011 census data, 86.6% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to at least one car or van, this is slightly lower than the value for Mid Suffolk (88.7%), but higher than that seen in the East of England (81.45%), and significantly higher than the average for England (74.2%).

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<sup>46</sup> <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/buses/bus-timetables-by-area/debenham-eye-surrounding-area/>

<sup>47</sup> Sustrans (2017): 'National Cycle Network Map', [online] available to view via: <<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map>> last accessed [15/02/2018]

Figure 9.1: Car and van ownership<sup>48</sup>

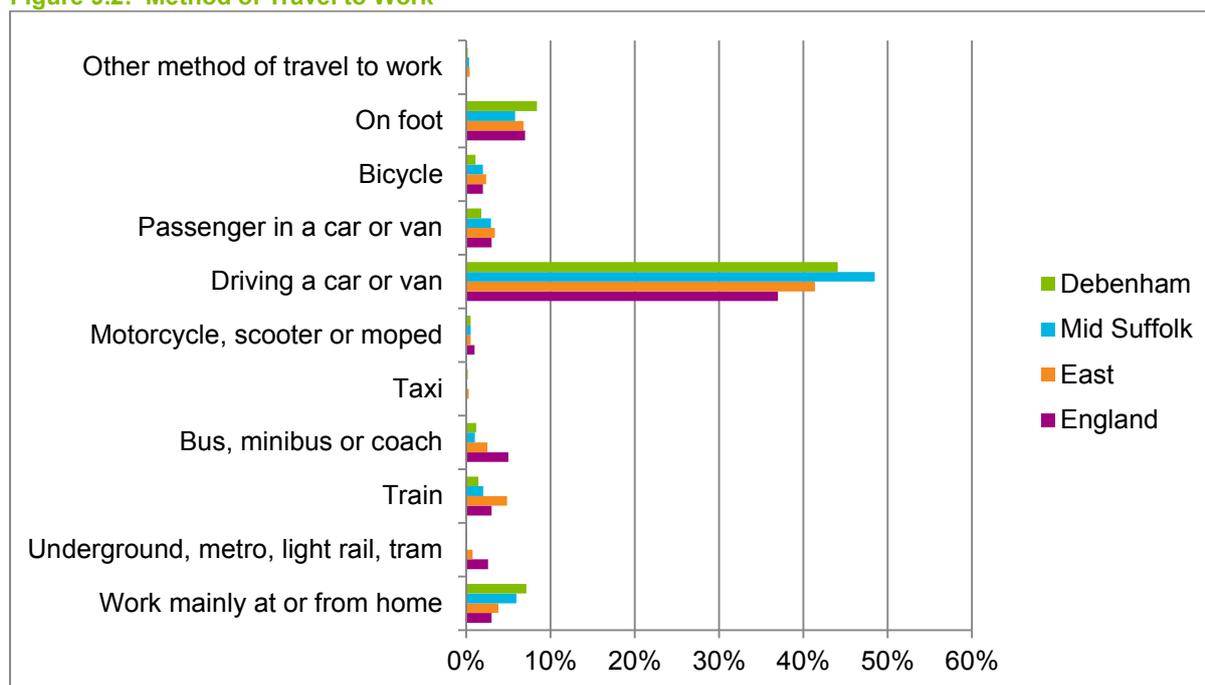


## Travel to work

9.9 As shown in Figure 9.2, the most popular method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving a car or van (44.1%), this is lower than the total for the district as a whole (48.5%), but slightly higher than the East of England (41.4%) and significantly higher than England (37.0%). The next most common form of travel to work in Debenham is by foot (8.3%), this level is higher than that seen in the district (5.8%), the East of England (6.8%) and England (7.0%)

<sup>48</sup> ONS (no date): 'Car or Van Availability 2011', (Table QS416EW)

Figure 9.2: 'Method of Travel to Work'<sup>49</sup>



## Future baseline

- 9.10 New development has the potential to increase traffic and cause congestion within the Neighbourhood Plan area, principally along the key routes.
- 9.11 Additionally, public transport use has the potential to remain low compared with private car use. This is due to the infrequent nature of the bus services provided within the area and the absence of a train station within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 9.12 Whilst negative effects of new development on the transport network are likely to be mitigated in part by the Suffolk Local Transport Plan, there will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by private car.

## Key sustainability issues

- There are no railway stations directly within the DNP area, the nearest is located at Needham Market which is located approximately 11.2km from the DNP area.
- In regards to the bus network, as of August 2017 the principal routes through the DNP area are the 114, 113, 115 and 116 services. The main through routes within the DNP area include the B1077 (Aspall Road) and Gracechurch Street.
- 86.6% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to at least one car or van, this is slightly lower than the value for Mid Suffolk (88.7%), but higher than that seen in the East of England and significantly higher than the average for England]
- The most popular method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving a car or van which is lower than the total for the district as a whole (48.5%), but slightly higher than the East (41.4%) and significantly higher than England (37.00%). The next most common form of travel to work in Debenham is by foot (8.34), this level is higher than that seen in the district (5.8%), the East of England (6.8%) and England (7.0%)

<sup>49</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Method of Travel to Work 2011' (Table QS701EW)

## SEA objectives and appraisal questions

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### SEA objective

### Assessment Questions

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Promote sustainable transport use  
and reduce the need to travel.

Will the option/proposal help to...

- Support the goals outlined in the Suffolk Transport Strategy?
  - Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development?
  - Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?
  - Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements?
  - Facilitate working from home and remote working?
  - Improve road safety?
  - Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?
-

## 10. Next Steps

### Subsequent stages for the SEA process

- Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage of the SEA process -
  1. Screening
  2. Scoping
  3. Assess reasonable alternatives (to inform preparation of the draft plan)
  4. Prepare the Environmental Report (to informing consultation and plan finalisation)
- 10.1 The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the DNP. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back to the DNP group so that they might be taken into account when preparing the draft plan.
- 10.2 Once the draft ('Submission version') plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan group, it will be subjected to SEA and the Environmental Report prepared for consultation alongside it.
- 10.3 Following consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the Environmental Report, the Neighbourhood Plan will be finalised and submitted to Mid Suffolk Council for Independent Examination.

### Consultation on the Scoping Report

- 10.4 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public. The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.
- 10.5 Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA Framework.

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