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Shepway District Council

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for Core Strategy Review

Prepared by LUC

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Planning & EIA
Design
Landscape Planning
Landscape Management
Ecology
Mapping & Visualisation

LUC LONDON
43 Chalton Street
London
NW1 1JD
T +44 (0)20 7383 5784
london@landuse.co.uk

Offices also in:
Bristol
Glasgow
Edinburgh



Land Use Consultants Ltd
Registered in England
Registered number: 2549296
Registered Office:
43 Chalton Street
London NW1 1JD
LUC uses 100% recycled paper

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
	The Plan Area	1
	The Review of the Shepway Core Strategy	1
	Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment	3
	Structure of the Scoping Report	6
2	Relevant Policy Context	8
	Key International Plans, Policies and Programmes	8
	Key National Plans, Policies and Programmes	9
	Local Plans, Policies and Programmes	9
3	Baseline Information	11
4	Sustainability Appraisal Framework	32
	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	32
	Use of SA Framework	38
	Proposed Structure of the SA Report	39
5	Consultation and Next Steps	41
Appendix 1		42
	Review of policies, plans and programmes	42

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Shepway District Council commissioned LUC in October 2016 to carry out Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Review of the Shepway District Core Strategy Local Plan.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Scoping Report is to provide the context for, and determine the scope of, the SA/SEA of the Review of the Core Strategy and to set out the framework for undertaking the later stages of the SA/SEA.
- 1.3 The original SA Scoping Report for the Shepway Core Strategy was published for consultation in 2007¹. In 2014, the Council published a second SA Scoping report for the SA/SEA of the District's Places and Policies Local Plan². This Scoping Report builds on these earlier publications, drawing on the earlier SA work where relevant but updating and amending it to take account of:
 - Changes in other relevant plans, programmes and policies with which the Core Strategy has a relationship.
 - Changes in the current state of the environment and its likely evolution without the Plan.
 - Implications of these changes for the framework of SA objectives against which the Review of the Core Strategy will be assessed.
- 1.4 This Scoping Report was made available for consultation in line with requirements of the SEA Regulations.

The Plan Area

- 1.5 Shepway is a large and diverse coastal district in East Kent in South East England (see **Figure 3.1**). The District benefits from significant transport investment that includes the M20/A20 corridor towards Greater London, high speed rail, the channel tunnel terminus and easy access to the Port of Dover. Folkestone, the District's primary town, is now less than an hour from Central London on regular High Speed 1 rail services.
- 1.6 The District's settlement hierarchy is dominated by the settlements of Folkestone and Hythe in the eastern half of the District; however, there are dozens of villages and hamlets scattered throughout the rural areas of the District.
- 1.7 Shepway is largely rural in character with the north eastern half of the District containing Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and south western half of the District consisting of the largely flat Romney Marsh.
- 1.8 The District shares boundaries with the District's Ashford, Canterbury, Dover and Rother.

The Review of the Shepway Core Strategy

- 1.9 Shepway District Council formally adopted the Core Strategy on 18th September 2013. This planning document sets out the strategic planning policy framework and strategic site allocations³ for the District to March 2031, providing the basis for decisions on land use planning affecting Shepway District. The adopted Core Strategy seeks to strike an overall balance between regeneration aspirations and protecting the District's sensitive landscapes and habitats.

¹ SA of Shepway District Council Local Development Framework Scoping Report, Scott Wilson for Shepway District Council, 2007

² SA of Shepway District Council Places and Policies Local Plan, LUC for Shepway District Council, 2014

³ The two strategic site allocations and two strategic broad locations allocated within the adopted CS now have planning permission.

- 1.10 The Review of the Core Strategy is required to plan for development and growth to at least 2036 and possibly beyond that based on an updated assessment of housing needs. It is unlikely that all policies within the adopted Core Strategy will require review.
- 1.11 The Core Strategy Local Plan will soon be supplemented by the Places and Policies Local Plan, which will be programmed for adoption later in 2017. When adopted the Places and Policies Local Plan will allocate small and medium-sized sites for development and outline detailed development management (DM) policies to guide planning applications in the District.

Drivers for the Review

- 1.12 Since the adoption of Core Strategy in 2013, the Council has reviewed its Corporate Plan which now emphasises a commitment to Shepway residents enjoying a healthy, prosperous lifestyle and benefiting from high quality and affordable housing by making sure new homes are built in the district and by developing a sustainable and vibrant local economy.
- 1.13 The adopted Core Strategy plans to deliver a target of 8,000 new homes (with a minimum requirement of 7,000 new homes) during the plan period from 2006-2026. However, the latest demographic evidence indicates that its future housing need will be unmet unless new growth initiatives are brought forward.
- 1.14 While the Council prioritises development on brownfield land, recent Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) work undertaken to inform the preparation of the Places and Policies Local Plan has confirmed that the options for providing significant housing growth in the District appear to be limited due to the limited availability of brownfield land and the statutory designation of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the coverage of Romney Marsh by flood zone restrictions. The Council therefore envisages that future growth (beyond that allocated in the Core Strategy and Places and Policies Local Plan) cannot be provided by in-filling within existing settlement boundaries and therefore a new, visionary response to meeting future housing need will need to be identified.
- 1.15 Consequently, the Council has commissioned two key updates to its Local Plan Evidence Base:
- An update to the District's Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to establish what the housing needs of the District are likely to be over the remaining period of the Core Strategy plan period and beyond.
 - A Growth Options Study to identify and test potential approaches to strategic planning for growth in Shepway, to determine whether the District can meet its housing needs, and if so the most appropriate approach to do so.
- 1.16 Informed by the updated SHMA, the Growth Options Study, reviewed Corporate Plan and other updates to the District's Local Plan evidence base⁴, the Review of the Core Strategy will plan for development and growth to at least 2036 and possibly beyond.
- 1.17 The SA/SEA of the Review of the Core Strategy will need to take into account how options for delivering additional housing development within Shepway District's boundaries perform in sustainability terms. The SA will need to consider how well the locational options for delivering strategic housing growth relate to the existing and planned communities, jobs, services and facilities, as well as road and rail infrastructure, within Shepway District and neighbouring districts. This is because not all residents of the new housing will work within Shepway; however, it is likely that many everyday needs, such as recreation and sport, shopping, and schools will be accessed locally. It is likely that the Council will wish to explore the potential for one or more new settlements in the work being undertaken for the Review of the Core Strategy, and the SA will need to appraise how well these are likely to perform in terms of creating coherent communities with an appropriate range of jobs, services and facilities, compared with other alternatives, such as urban extensions or more dispersed development.

⁴ For example, alongside the Growth options Study, the council have commissioned a high-level Landscape Appraisal used to inform the strategic review of the relative impacts of strategic level development in various locations.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.18 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC) as transposed into law in England by the SEA Regulations⁵. Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Review of the Core Strategy to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.
- 1.19 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process (as advocated in the National Planning Practice Guidance⁶), whereby users can comply with the requirements of the SEA Regulations through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken in Shepway. From here on, the term ‘SA’ should therefore be taken to mean ‘SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations’.
- 1.20 The SA process comprises a number of stages, with scoping being Stage A as shown in **Figure 1.1** below:

Figure 1.1: Main Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

Stage D: Consulting on the Local Plan Part 1 Review and the SA report

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan Part 1 Review

- 1.21 **Figure 1.2** below sets out the tasks involved in the Scoping stage.

Figure 1.2: Stages in SA Scoping (Stage A)

A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.

A2: Collecting baseline information.

A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.

A4: Developing the SA framework

A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.

Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

- 1.22 **Table 1.1** below signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA of the Review of the Core Strategy). This table will be included in the full SA Report at each stage of the SA to show how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met through the SA process.

⁵ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 No. 1633)

⁶ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainabilityappraisal/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal-and-how-does-it-relate-to-strategic-environmentalassessment/>

Table 1.1: Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Regulations

SEA Regulations' Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
Environmental Report	
<p>Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this regulation. The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of:</p> <p>(a) implementing the plan or programme; and</p> <p>(b) reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme.</p> <p>(Regulation 12(1) and (2) and Schedule 2).</p>	<p>The full SA Report produced to accompany consultation on the Review of the Core Strategy will constitute the 'environmental report' as well, and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>1) An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.</p>	<p>Chapters 1 and 2 and Appendix 1.</p>
<p>2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.</p>	<p>Chapters 3 and 4.</p>
<p>3) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.</p>	<p>Chapter 3.</p>
<p>4) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Chapter 3.</p>
<p>5) The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.</p>	<p>Chapters 2 and 3 and Appendix 1.</p>
<p>6) The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as:</p> <p>(a) biodiversity;</p> <p>(b) population;</p> <p>(c) human health;</p> <p>(d) fauna;</p> <p>(e) flora;</p> <p>(f) soil;</p> <p>(g) water;</p> <p>(h) air;</p> <p>(i) climatic factors;</p> <p>(j) material assets;</p> <p>(k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;</p> <p>(l) landscape; and</p> <p>(m) the interrelationship between the issues referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (l).</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>7) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>8) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>9) A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>10) A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>

SEA Regulations' Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<p>The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 to these Regulations as may reasonably be required, taking account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) current knowledge and methods of assessment; (b) the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme; the stage of the plan or programme in the decision-making process; and (c) the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment. <p>(Regulation 12 (3))</p>	<p>This Scoping Report and the Environmental Reports will adhere to this requirement.</p>
Consultation	
<p>When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies.</p> <p>(Regulation 12(5))</p>	<p>This Scoping Report has been circulated to the consultation bodies for comments. Consultation on the Review of the Core Strategy and accompanying SA will continue as the Addendum develops, including the Final Draft and Proposed Submission versions of the Plan.</p>
<p>Every draft plan or programme for which an environmental report has been prepared in accordance with regulation 12 and its accompanying report ("the relevant documents") shall be made available for the purposes of consultation in accordance with the following provisions of this regulation.</p> <p>As soon as reasonable practical after the preparation of the relevant documents, the responsible authority shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) send a copy of those documents to each consultation body; (b) take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the preparation of the relevant documents to the attention of the persons who, in the authority's opinion, are affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the decisions involved in the assessment and adoption of the plan or programme concerned, required under the Environmental assessment of Plans and Programmes Directive ("the public consultees"); (c) inform the public consultees of the address (which may include a website) at which a copy of the relevant documents may be viewed, and the period within which, opinions must be sent. <p>The period referred to in paragraph (2) (d) must be of such length as will ensure that the consultation bodies and the public consultees are given an effective opportunity to express their opinion on the relevant documents.</p> <p>(Regulation 13 (1), (2), and (3))</p>	<p>This Scoping Report has been published on Shepway District Council's website. Public consultation on the Review of the Core Strategy and accompanying SA will continue as the Addendum develops, including the Final Draft and Proposed Submission versions of the Plan.</p>
<p>Where a responsible authority, other than the Secretary of State, is of the opinion that a plan or programme for which it is the responsible authority is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another Member State, it shall, as soon as reasonable practicable after forming that opinion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) notify the Secretary of State of its opinion and of the reasons for it; and (b) supply the Secretary of State with a copy of the plan or programme concerned, and of the accompanying environmental report. <p>(Regulation 14 (1))</p>	<p>Unlikely to be relevant to the Review of the Core Strategy, as there will be no effects beyond the UK.</p>
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (relevant extracts of Regulation 16)	
<p>As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme for which an environmental assessment has been carried out under these Regulations, the responsible authority shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) make a copy of the plan or programme and its accompanying environmental report available at its principal office for inspection by the public at all reasonable times and free of charge. <p>(Regulation 16(1))</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>

SEA Regulations' Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<p>As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme:</p> <p>(a) the responsible authority shall inform (i) the consultation bodies; (ii) the persons who, in relation to the plan or programme, were public consultees for the purposes of regulation 13; and (iii) where the responsible authority is not the Secretary of state, the Secretary of State,</p> <p>that the plan or programme has been adopted, and a statement containing the following particulars:</p> <p>(a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;</p> <p>(b) how the environmental report has been taken into account;</p> <p>(c) how opinions expressed in response to: (i) the invitation in regulation 13(2)(d); (ii) action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4), have been taken into account;</p> <p>(d) how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account;</p> <p>(e) the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and</p> <p>(f) the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
Monitoring	
<p>The responsible authority shall monitor the significant effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action. (Regulation 17(1))</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>

Habitats Regulations Assessments

- 1.23 Under Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) land-use plans, including Local Plans, are also subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site.
- 1.24 The HRA process for the Review of the Core Strategy will be undertaken separately from the SA and will need to consider the potential for adverse effects on the integrity Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites within the District both alone and in combination with development proposed in neighbouring authorities' plans. These sites are:
- Parkgate Down SAC;
 - Folkestone To Etchinghill Escarpment SAC;
 - Dungeness SAC;
 - Dungeness, Romney Marsh And Rye Bay SPA; and
 - Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar site
- 1.25 The findings will be taken into account in the SA where relevant (for example to inform judgements about the likely effects of potential development locations on biodiversity).

Structure of the Scoping Report

- 1.26 This chapter has described the background to the production of the Review of the Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan and the requirement to undertake SA and other assessment processes. The remainder of this report is structured into the following sections:

- **Chapter 2** describes the review of plans, policies and programmes of relevance to the SA of the Review of the Core Strategy (this is supported by more detailed information in **Appendix 1**).
- **Chapter 3** presents the District's baseline information which will inform the assessment of the policies and allocations in the Review of the Core Strategy.
- **Chapter 4** sets out the SA Framework, i.e. the methodology for the remainder of the SA process, including the SA objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the Review of the Core Strategy, including reasonable alternative approaches to planning for future development. Chapter 4 also describes the proposed structure of the SA Report.
- **Chapter 5** describes the next steps to be undertaken in the SA of the Review of the Core Strategy.

2 Relevant Policy Context

2.1 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires:

(1) An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans or programmes.

(5) The environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.

2.2 Shepway District Council, as the Local Planning Authority (LPA), is preparing a Local Plan in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004. In order to establish a clear scope for the SA it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the environmental, social and economic objectives contained within international and national policies, plans and strategies that are of relevance to the Review of the Core Strategy.

2.3 The Core Strategy is not being reviewed in isolation, being greatly influenced by other plans, policies and programmes and by broader sustainability objectives. It needs to be consistent with international and national guidance and strategic planning policies and should contribute to the goals of a wide range of other programmes and strategies, such as those relating to social policy, culture and heritage. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at the international, national and regional levels.

2.4 It is necessary to identify the relationships between the Review of the Core Strategy and the relevant plans, policies and programmes so that any potential links can be built upon and any inconsistencies and constraints addressed.

2.5 During the preparation of the SA Report accompanying the 'Preferred Options' version of the Places and Policies Local Plan in October 2016, a review was undertaken of the other plans, policies and programmes that are relevant to the Local Plan. This recent review has been used in the Scoping Report and subsequent SA Report for the Review of the Core Strategy. The updated review can be seen in full in **Appendix 1** and the key findings are summarised below.

2.6 The review is not exhaustive. It seeks to identify the main policies, plans and programmes of relevance to the SA and the Review of the Core Strategy.

Key International Plans, Policies and Programmes

2.7 At the international level, Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive') are particularly significant as they require Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken in relation to the Review of the Core Strategy. These processes should be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the plan in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on European-level nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated.

2.8 There are a wide range of other EU Directives and international agreements relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which have been transposed into UK law through national-level regulations and policy; however the relevant international law and agreements have been included in **Appendix 1** for completeness.

Key National Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 2.9 The most significant national policy context for the Review of the Core Strategy is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF. The NPPF sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making, stating that:
- "Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development."*
- 2.10 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be 'aspirational but realistic'. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.
- 2.11 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:
- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
 - the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
 - the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
 - the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
 - climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.
- 2.12 In addition, Local Plans should:
- plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the NPPF;
 - be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date;
 - be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations;
 - indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map;
 - allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate;
 - identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation;
 - identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance; and
 - contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.

Local Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 2.13 At the sub-regional and local levels there are a wide range of plans and programmes that are specific to Kent and Shepway District and which provide further context for the emerging Review of the Core Strategy. These plans and programmes relate to issues such as housing, transport, renewable energy and green infrastructure, and have also been reviewed in **Appendix 1**.

- 2.14 The key relationship of the Review of the Core Strategy is with other components of the Local Plan as follows.

Shepway District Council Core Strategy Local Plan

- 2.15 The highest tier document of the Local Plan, the Core Strategy Local Plan, was adopted in September 2013. It is a strategic planning policy document and interprets national planning policy from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in the context of the District of Shepway.
- 2.16 The Core Strategy is the long term plan for the District up to 2031. It brings together the objectives and actions of the Government, the Council, residents, businesses and voluntary groups for managing land use and development.
- 2.17 Taking into account the economic, social and environmental issues relevant to Shepway, the Core Strategy sets out three over-arching strategic objectives:
- To improve employment, educational attainment and economic performance in Shepway.
 - To enhance the rich natural and historic assets in Shepway.
 - To improve the quality of life and sense of place, vibrancy, and social mix in neighbourhoods, particularly where this reduces existing socio-economic disparities in Shepway.
- 2.18 The Core Strategy seeks to deliver these strategic objectives through a series of strategic policies and strategic allocations to guide development and land use.
- 2.19 Supplementing the Core Strategy is the Shepway District Local Plan Review (2006, policies saved in 2009) which includes policies to manage development applications. However, due to the age of the document, some of these policies are out of date, insufficient or non-compliant with the NPPF which was adopted in March 2012. These policies are currently being reviewed and will be replaced by the Places and Policies Local Plan.

Shepway District Council Places and Policies Local Plan

- 2.20 Shepway is now preparing its Places and Policies Local Plan which must be in general conformity with the Core Strategy. Its purpose is to outline development sites for new homes and business, to recognise important areas of open space and to provide new development management policies to replace those remaining policies that are still being used from the 2006 Local Plan.

Other Local Plan Documents

- 2.21 The Council published a first draft of the Shepway Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule for public consultation during September-October 2014. Following two rounds of consultation and an examination in public, the Council adopted the CIL Charging Schedule on the 20th July 2016. CIL charges came into effect in Shepway on the 1st August 2016 and facilitate charges on new development to provide funding for associated infrastructure requirements, alongside other sources.
- 2.22 New Neighbourhood Planning measures that came into force in April 2012 allow communities to shape new development by coming together to prepare Neighbourhood Plans. These Plans, which must be in general conformity with higher tier plans in the Local Plan, are currently being prepared for Sellindge and St Mary in the Marsh. In addition, Hythe, Lympe and New Romney have been designated as Neighbourhood Areas.

3 Baseline Information

- 3.1 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them.
- 3.2 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires information to be provided on:
- (2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan.*
- (3) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.*
- (4) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.*
- 3.3 During the preparation of the SA Report accompanying the 'Preferred Options' version of the Places and Policies Local Plan in October 2016, a review was undertaken of the District's baseline under a series of key themes. Analysis of the baseline information has enabled a number of key sustainability issues facing Shepway to be identified, as well as consideration of the likely evolution of the plan area if the Review of the Core Strategy was not to be implemented. This recent review has been revised for this Scoping Report for the SA of the Review of the Core Strategy.
- 3.4 In general, the current trends in relation to the various social, economic and environmental issues affecting Shepway would be more likely to continue without the implementation Review of the Core Strategy although the policies in the adopted Core Strategy will go some way towards addressing many of the issues. In most cases, the emerging Review of the Core Strategy offers opportunities to directly and strongly affect existing trends in a positive way, through an up-to-date plan which reflects the requirements of the NPPF, building on the Core Strategy policies. These issues may also be addressed in the Places and Policies Local Plan.
- 3.5 Data referred to has been chosen primarily for regularity and consistency of collection, in order to enable trends in the baseline situation to be established, and also subsequent monitoring of potential sustainability effects. All figures are presented at the end of the Baseline Section. Each of the sustainability issues identified from the baseline information is addressed by an SA objective in the SA framework which will be used in the appraisal of the Review of the Core Strategy (see references below each sustainability issue below).
- 3.6 SEA Guidance recognises that data gaps will exist, but suggests that where baseline information is unavailable or unsatisfactory, authorities should consider how it will affect their assessments and determine how to improve it for use in the assessment of future plans. Where there are data gaps in the baseline and forthcoming reports, these are highlighted in the text. The collection and analysis of baseline data is regarded as a continual and evolving process, given that information can change or be updated on a regular basis.
- 3.7 Relevant baseline information will be updated during the SA process as and when new data is published.

Location of Shepway District

- 3.8 Shepway is located in the south east of England on the southern coast of the County of Kent (See **Figure 3.1**).

Housing

- 3.9 The housing stock in the District is relatively old, with almost 80% constructed prior to 1980, 42% prior to 1945 and 32% prior to 1919. The worst housing conditions are focused in the older housing stock. There are currently around 450 long-term empty homes in the District.

- 3.10 The number of households that approached the council for help between 2009/10 was 714 which rose by 38% to 987 in 2010/11; however this figure fell in 2013/14 to 834. ⁷ Access to the local housing market in the District is an issue as the average house price is more than six times the average household income. There is a high demand for affordable homes in Shepway as in 2014, there were approximately 2,700 household registered on the District's Housing List with only 350-470 affordable homes becoming available. ⁸
- 3.11 Homelessness in Shepway is a growing issue. The number of households that have approached the Council for help with housing difficulties has risen from 714 in 2009/10 to 987 households in 2010/11. This represents an increase of approximately 38%. There are key challenges to housing delivery including the development restrictions posed by the Kent Downs AONB and a lack of large sites, which limits the potential to deliver affordable housing. Shepway has the lowest average household size in Kent and it continues to decline partly driven by the older age profile of the District. ⁹
- 3.12 House prices have fallen from a peak in 2007, but remain relatively buoyant. In 2012, the average price of a home in Shepway was £203,812 which is lower than the Kent and national averages of £238,862 and £238,406 respectively. ¹⁰ Highest values are found in the vicinity of Hythe and in rural areas of the District¹¹. Average house prices in 2011 stood at more than six times the average household income in the District and for newly forming households, closer to 9.5 times the average household income.¹²
- 3.13 The adopted Core Strategy sets out a minimum delivery target of 8,750 dwellings by 2031 under policy SS2. This equates to a minimum delivery of 350 dwellings per annum from 2006/7 to 2030/31 inclusive. ¹³
- 3.14 From dwellings already completed, and identified potential housing locations in the Core Strategy, it is expected that:
- At least 7,500 dwellings will be on previously developed land.
 - The requirements of Policy Core Strategy D1 will provide approximately 2,000–2,500 affordable housing units.
 - Approximately 6,500–7,000 dwellings will be in the Urban Area (Folkestone/Hythe).¹⁴
- 3.15 Reasonable suggestions for residential and mixed-use sites will be appraised alongside other reasonable alternatives as part of the SA of the Review of the Core Strategy. Furthermore, the Council's review of the SHLAA is currently underway.

Gypsies and travellers

- 3.16 There is relatively limited local need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. A 2014 assessment of the needs of Gypsies and Travellers identified a current provision of four authorised residential pitches in Shepway and a possible need for seven additional pitches between 2013 and 2027. ¹⁵

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Lack of affordability of housing is a growing issue in the District. The Local Plan development should seek to meet this growing by reference to up to date evidence on the required mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures to decrease the number of people living in unfit housing and reduce the increasing number of homeless people in Shepway. [Addressed by SA objective 1].

⁷ Shepway District Council (2014) Shepway Equality & Diversity Profile

⁸ Shepway District Council (2014) Shepway Equality & Diversity Profile

⁹ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016

¹⁰ DCLG (2014) Table 585 Housing market: mean house prices based on Land Registry data, by district, from 1996

¹¹ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016

¹² Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016

¹³ Shepway Adopted Core Strategy (2013)

¹⁴ Shepway Adopted Core Strategy (2013)

¹⁵ East Kent Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment, Salford University, 2014

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.17 The issue of housing affordability is likely to continue without a positive and proactive approach to delivery of local housing through an up to date Local Plan for the District, for example delivery of a range of dwelling types and tenures to meet need. A coordinated approach to housing allocation is essential to ensure that housing delivery takes place in a sustainable manner and to ensure that those sites which are both suitable (e.g. with fewer environmental constraints) and deliverable are selected.

Economy and labour market

- 3.18 The recent economic performance of Shepway has been characterised by high unemployment and long-term contraction of established local industries. There has been relatively strong growth in certain areas, such as business financial and other services; however, this has been insufficient to offset the losses to the Shepway's manufacturing base, and distribution and catering sectors. Shepway's future growth is likely to be characterised by continuing rationalisation of traditional manufacturing activities and shift into the service sector, including some movement into higher value activities.¹⁶
- 3.19 If recent demographic trends of an ageing population and shrinking average household sizes continue there is the potential for Shepway's working age population to fall, with resulting labour supply issues having a negative effect on economic performance. The amounts and type of development proposed by the Core Strategy are designed to address this and are expected to almost maintain the labour supply to 2026.¹⁷
- 3.20 Unemployment in Shepway has dropped significantly from 4.3% (September 2012) to 3.3% (September 2013) to 2.1% in January 2016 based on people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA).¹⁸ The most recent figure is higher than the regional and national average (1.0% and 1.5% respectively),¹⁹ as well as the majority of the districts in Kent (only Thanet and Swale have a higher JSA rate which is 3.2% and 2.2% respectively).²⁰ Youth unemployment (aged 18-24 years) in the District during January 2016 stood at 3.7%, under the rate than amongst those aged 25-49 (2.9%). Levels of youth unemployment are higher than Kent (2.6%) and National levels (2.9%).²¹
- 3.21 A large proportion of the employment available within the District is relatively low paid. Employment within higher skilled managerial and professional occupations is comparably low in relation to overall Kent and South East England levels.²² Employment in the knowledge economy has seen a decline from its peak of 15% in 2007, in contrast to Kent as a whole which has seen a steady overall rise over the period 2003-2010.²³
- 3.22 Shepway has a number of economic strengths, including its good transport links (M20 motorway, High Speed rail links to London, and proximity to the Channel Tunnel), low wage levels and land/building costs relative to the wider South East region, a large working age population and a high quality natural environment. The number of jobs increased by 24% between 2000 and 2012 in the District has - faster than any other comparator area, except for Ashford which has experienced a comparable growth rate.²⁴
- 3.23 Economic weaknesses include its relative remoteness, relatively low rates of entrepreneurship and few residents with higher skills.²⁵ There is a need to increase the take up rate of further education courses and diversify the skills base of the local labour market, to ensure local business sectors are able to improve the long term prosperity of residents.

¹⁶ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Employment Land Review

¹⁷ Shepway District Council (2011) Development Requirements Report

¹⁸ Nomis – Labour Market Profile – Shepway. Accessed 23rd February 2016

¹⁹ Nomis – Labour Market Profile – Shepway. Accessed 23rd February 2016

²⁰ Unemployment in Kent (2016) Kent County Council

²¹ Kent County Council (2016) Unemployment in Kent

²² Shepway District Council (2015) Shepway Economic Development Strategy 2015-2020

²³ Shepway District Council (2012) Shepway Economic Development Strategy 2012-2017

²⁴ Shepway District Council (2015) Shepway Economic Development Strategy 2015-2020

²⁵ Shepway District Council (2015) Shepway Economic Development Strategy 2015-2020

- 3.24 Due its high quality natural environment and its visitor attractions (such as Port Lympne Wild Animal Park; Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway; Medieval castles and Roman remains; the Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge) the tourism, leisure and hospitality sector represent a significant proportion of the local economy. Research conducted in 2013 estimated that this sector contributes £235.2 million to the local economy and supports around 4,500 jobs. This equates to approximately 12% of total jobs in the District.²⁶
- 3.25 Folkestone and Hythe is the District's main centre, with the largest concentration of shops and services in Shepway and is a key focus for economic activity.²⁷ It has suffered a decline over recent years but continues as a tourist destination. In 2013/2014 the primary shopping vacancy rates in Folkestone Primary were 6.1%, 4.7% in Hythe, 3.3% in New Romney and 7.8% in Cheriton.²⁸
- 3.26 In recent years the district has seen a considerable amount of regeneration activity, most notably through socio-economic programmes such as the Single Regeneration Budget in Folkestone and the Romney Marsh. Recent positive changes include the fact that Folkestone has begun carve out an identity as an up-and-coming coastal destination; the arrival of High Speed One; the considerable investment in the Old Town to create a Creative Quarter; and plans for the regeneration of Folkestone Seafront.²⁹
- 3.27 Outside of Folkestone, the main centres of economic activity and employment are industrial estates within the larger towns. On Romney Marsh it is Lydd Airport and Dungeness Power Station that provide much of the employment.³⁰ Having been an element of the Romney Marsh economy for around 50 years, Dungeness 'A' nuclear power station is currently being decommissioned, with this work to be mostly completed by 2015.³¹ A Romney Marsh Socio-Economic Plan jointly produced by the Council and partner organisations is being used to co-ordinate regeneration projects and as a basis for attracting funding for projects designed to offset the loss of employment associated with the loss of Dungeness 'A'. These projects seek to broaden the employment base and develop education and skills in the local population; associated project locations include Mountfield Road Industrial Estate in New Romney, Kitewell Lane Industrial Estate in Lydd, Lydd Airport and areas around the periphery of Romney Marsh (given the constraints on development within the Marsh posed by flood risk and nature conservation designations).
- 3.28 Dungeness 'B' nuclear power station is still operational; decommissioning is set to commence in 2028.³² At present the Government has not included Dungeness as a site for new generation power stations due to concerns over potential damage to the Dungeness Special Area of Conservation.
- 3.29 The District has an ample quantity of employment land allocated.³³ Despite this quantitative oversupply of employment land in the District, for various qualitative reasons and to help meet the economic aims for Shepway, there is a need for new employment land/space as follows³⁴:
- Up to 5 ha more land for industrial development on a well located, readily available site in Folkestone if the existing industrial allocations there appear unlikely to come forward and particularly if the Park Farm industrial area continues to experience losses to retail warehouse uses.
 - Between 5,000 and 8,000 m² of office space in and around Folkestone town centre, potentially including some space within the Harbour redevelopment and/or other town centre or edge of centre development sites.

²⁶ Cool Tourism (2015) The Economic Impact of the Kent Visitor Economy 2013

²⁷ Shepway District Council (2015) Shepway Economic Development Strategy 2015-2020

²⁸ Shepway District Council (2014) Annual Monitoring Report

²⁹ Shepway District Council (2012) Shepway Economic Development Strategy 2012-2017

³⁰ Shepway District Council (2012) Shepway Economic Development Strategy 2012-2017

^{30 & 32} <http://www.edfenergy.com/about-us/energy-generation/nuclear-generation/nuclear-power-stations/dungeness-b.shtml>

³³ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

³⁴ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Employment Land Review

- Further small incubation premises for business start-ups in Folkestone to encourage indigenous business formation and widen employment opportunities; 3,000 to 5,000 m2 of such space could be aimed for by 2026.

3.30 In addition, the employment mix on the existing Nickolls Quarry site should include:

- A broad mix of office and industrial B1 space, of which 2-3 ha should be office space to serve the wider Hythe area.
- Approximately 2-3 ha more land for industrial development or a similar amount of new land within Hythe if Nickolls Quarry does not provide such space.

3.31 While Shepway is assessed as having a sufficient supply of employment land to meet future needs in broad quantitative terms, a cautious approach is required to managing the competing pressures on employment sites within the District.³⁵

3.32 Reasonable suggestions for employment and mixed-use sites will be appraised alongside other reasonable alternatives as part of the SA of the Review of the Core Strategy.

3.33 A Town Centre Study based upon quantitative and qualitative need and focussing on sites in Folkestone, Hythe and New Romney town centres, but also covering other centres has been commissioned by the Council. Its conclusions will be incorporated in to the baseline of the SA once they become available.

3.34 **Figure 3.2** illustrates the location of the District's existing employment areas and education facilities.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Shepway's economic growth is relatively poor. It has suffered from a decline in manufacturing and dependence on relatively low paid and seasonal tourism jobs and on nuclear power generation at Dungeness. [Addressed by SA objective 2].
- Unemployment in general and youth unemployment in particular are high in Shepway and many of the jobs available are relatively low paid. [Addressed by SA objective 2].
- Shepway has relatively low levels of educational attainment and skills which could hinder economic growth in the District. The Local Plan should seek to support access to education. [Addressed by SA objective 2].
- Parts of Folkestone, notably several areas of the 'secondary frontage', suffer from high vacancy rates of retail premises. The Local Plan should support town centre regeneration. [Addressed by SA objective 2].
- There is a need for the Local Plan to:
 - Regenerate the District's principal urban centre, Folkestone. [Addressed by SA objective 2].
 - Provide employment land suitable for the likely continuation in a shift from manufacturing to service industries and encourage higher skill, higher paid sectors through provision of high quality employment sites. [Addressed by SA objective 2].
 - Protect and promote appropriate access to its high quality natural environment. [Addressed by SA objective 2].
 - Support expansion or upgrading of key visitor attractions. [Addressed by SA objective 2].
 - Plan for the consequences of the de-commissioning of Dungeness 'B' nuclear power station. [Addressed by SA objective 2].

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

3.35 Shepway's economy is likely to continue to lag behind that others in the South East without coordinated action from the Local Plan to promote regeneration of its towns, provision of appropriate employment space and access to education and training.

³⁵ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Employment Land Review

Landscape

- 3.36 Shepway is a coastal District with over 20 miles of coastline, a section of which is designated as Heritage Coast. Over 33% of the District falls within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The District has a number of locally designated 'Local Landscape Areas' concentrated around Romney Marsh and also parts of the Sandgate Escarpment and Seabrook Valley, Eaton Lands, Cooling Lane, Enbrook Valley and Mill Lease Valley.³⁶
- 3.37 Shepway features a variety of landscape types, from chalk downland and wooded valleys to areas of marshland. The District of Shepway spans three National Character Areas.
- The southern half of Shepway is within the Romney Marsh NCA:
 - A flat, open and agricultural landscape, with distinctive drainage dykes, marshes and open skies. Dungeness is the largest shingle foreland in Europe, with a real sense of isolation and remoteness especially along the coast. 20th century development is evident in the towns along the coastal strip. Much of this area is dominated by the imposing power station and associated transmission lines. Past gravel extraction pits, now flooded, military uses and expanding holiday resorts add to the general clutter along the coast.
 - The Wealden Greensand NCA runs in a narrow band west from Folkestone:
 - Belt of Greensand typified by woodlands, scattered settlements and scarp / dip-slope topography. The East Kent section has a gentler, more open aspect and can be described as less intimate and less distinctive than other areas. It is also more marked by development, with the presence of major towns and communication corridors.
 - The northern quarter of the District lies within the North Downs NCA:
 - Distinctive chalk downland with a steep scarp, and broad dip slope incised by valleys or "coombes". Unimproved, species rich grassland and ancient woodland are found on some less fertile soils, although much of the lower dip slope in Kent is fertile and is used for intensive arable agriculture. Rural with scattered and distinctive farmsteads and large houses.³⁷
- 3.38 The Kent Downs Management Plan was adopted in 2014 and sets a 20 year vision for the AONB seeking to protect this special designated landscape. 'Up on the Downs Landscape Partnership' is a £2.5 million Heritage Lottery Fund which will operate until 2017 and was set up to provide landscape and nature management investment, community engagement and training, and access improvements to areas including Folkestone Warren.³⁸

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- The District contains a number of distinct rural landscapes as well as those more influenced by human development which could be harmed by inappropriate development. [Addressed by SA objective 3].
- 3.39 The Local Plan should ensure that designated landscapes (such as the Kent Downs AONB and its setting) are protected and enhanced as appropriate and that development outside these designations takes account of the variation in landscape character across the District.

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.40 Pressures on local landscapes are likely to increase with the rising population of the District, new development and climate change. Without the Local Plan, there is increased potential for rise in direct pressures on wildlife as well as less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of open green spaces/green networks for recreation, walking and cycling networks, and wildlife. Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will need to provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the District's environmental assets, including the District's most sensitive landscapes.

³⁶ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

³⁷ Natural England, National Character Areas Profiles (2013) [online] available at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/>

³⁸ Shepway District Council (2014) Annual Monitoring Report

Historic environment

- 3.41 There is a wealth of notable heritage in the District – Iron Age and Roman settlements, medieval churches, Tudor castles and Napoleonic fortifications and other defensive sites.³⁹ The District contains over a thousand Listed Buildings, with over a hundred of these listed as Grade I or Grade II*⁴⁰, and 59 Scheduled Monuments. Listed buildings are not evenly distributed throughout the District but concentrated in the Folkestone area, which is home to 200, and in Hythe and Elham, which feature 100 each.
- 3.42 Shepway District Council has designated 21 Conservation Areas, which make up 1% of the District's land area.⁴¹
- 3.43 The English Heritage at Risk Register 2014⁴² lists three buildings in Shepway deemed at risk: Church of St George, Ivychurch; Church of St Peter, The Durlocks, Folkestone and the Parish Church of St James, Elmsted. One of these heritage assets (Church of St George, Ivychurch) is deemed to be in 'very bad' condition with the rest rated as Poor or Fair.⁴³
- 3.44 The Register also identifies monuments deemed to be at risk. In Shepway there are nine: Martello Towers Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9; Dymchurch Redoubt; Motte and Bailey Castle 200m north west of Stowting Church; Bowl barrow 150m north east of Red House Farm, Swingfield; and Bowl barrow at Minnis Beeches, Swingfield. Two of these are described as having 'extensive significant problems' whilst one (Motte and Bailey) is deemed to be 'generally unsatisfactory'.⁴⁴ The remaining sites are described as being in 'poor' or 'very bad' condition.
- 3.45 **Figure 3.3** illustrates the location of the District's main heritage assets.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- There are many sites, features and areas of historical and cultural interest in the District, a number of which are at risk, and which could be adversely affected by poorly planned development. The Local Plan should seek to conserve and enhance the historic environment. [Addressed by SA objective 4].

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.46 In the absence of a Local Plan, issues are likely to continue be exacerbated without a planned local approach to development. National policy should help to protect and enhance heritage assets but whether or not this will help specific sites is uncertain.

Biodiversity

- 3.47 Shepway District contains a wide range of habitats including species-rich chalk grassland, ancient woodland, low lying marsh, shingle, and dune areas. Within the county of Kent the greatest cover of the habitat type is arable and horticulture (35%). Improved grassland covers the second largest portion of the county at 29.7%. Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland is the largest of the semi-natural habitats, covering 44,490ha (11.4%) of the county, followed by neutral grasslands which cover 28,531ha (7.3% of Kent)⁴⁵.
- 3.48 Parkgate Downs, Dungeness and the Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment have been designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay have recently been designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, which means these areas are regarded as being of international importance under the EU Habitats Directive⁴⁶. Dungeness is also a National Nature Reserve.
- 3.49 There are 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in Shepway District of varying condition. Eight of these are considered to be broadly in "favourable" condition and three broadly in

³⁹ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

⁴⁰ Shepway District Council (2011) Annual Monitoring Report

⁴¹ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

⁴² English Heritage Risk Register (2016)

⁴³ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

⁴⁴ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

⁴⁵ Kent County Council (2012) Kent Habitat Survey

⁴⁶ Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora

“unfavourable recovering” condition. One site is classified as “unfavourable no change” and another “unfavourable declining”.⁴⁷

- 3.50 There is a significant amount of Ancient Woodland in Shepway, concentrated to the west, northwest and north of Folkestone. 26 of the 40 Ancient Woodlands are considered to be in positive management.⁴⁸ The distribution of this woodland is patchy leading to limited ecological connectivity between the areas, although there are some less fragmented areas in the Northwest of the District.
- 3.51 The District contains 40 Local Wildlife Sites. Located mainly to the west and north of Shepway these sites are mainly woodland and species-rich grassland sites, in contrast to the District’s SSSIs, which are primarily coastal or wetland habitats.
- 3.52 **Figure 3.4** illustrates the location of the District’s main ecological assets.
- 3.53 In support of a “Living Landscapes” approach, Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) in Kent have been mapped to indicate where the delivery of Kent Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets was to be focused to secure the maximum biodiversity benefits and the best opportunities for establishing large habitat areas and/or networks. This Plan has subsequently been replaced by the Kent Biodiversity 2020 and beyond – a strategy for the natural environment 2015-2025. However targets have been set up to 2015 for maintaining, enhancing, restoring and creating habitats occurring in each Biodiversity Opportunity Area and for species conservation. Targets to 2020 are currently being reviewed and updated. It is not intended that nature conservation becomes the primary land-use within the BOAs, so long as the targets and objectives for each area can be met, and development of any kind is not precluded. However, consideration may in some cases need to be given to ensuring that development within a BOA does not significantly increase the fragmentation of wildlife habitats within target areas or preclude significant opportunities for habitat restoration or recreation. Four BOAs have been identified in Shepway:
- Dover and Folkestone Cliffs and Downs (KT08).
 - Low Weald Woodlands (KT14).
 - Romney Marsh and Rye Bay (KT15).
 - East Kent Woodlands and Downs (KT07).^{49,50}
- 3.54 Some brownfield sites in Kent support some of the country's most important populations of reptiles and invertebrates.⁵¹
- 3.55 There are two Marine Conservation Zones designated along the Districts Coastline; the Folkestone Pomerania was designated in November 2013⁵² and more recently, in January 2016, the Dover to Folkestone MCZ was designated.⁵³ MCZs protect a range of nationally important marine wildlife, habitats, geology and geomorphology and can be designated anywhere in English and Welsh inshore and UK offshore waters.
- 3.56 Shepway District Council are in the process of commissioning a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Review of the Core Strategy, the results of which will be reflected in the SA as relevant, later in the SA process.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Shepway contains a significant resource of designated biodiversity sites, a number of which are in unfavourable condition. It also contains a significant but fragmented resource of Ancient Woodland. Shepway’s landscape outside of designated sites contains important habitats, including a number which have the potential to contribute to large scale ecological

⁴⁷ Natural England (2014) Condition of SSSI units [online] available at: <http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/special/sssi/report.cfm?category=R,RF>

⁴⁸ Shepway District Council (2011) Annual Monitoring Report

⁴⁹ The Wildlife Trust, A Living Landscape for the South East available online at:

http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/kent.live.wt.precedenthost.co.uk/files/A_Living_Landscape_for_the_South_East.pdf

⁵⁰ <http://www.kentbap.org.uk/kent-boas/>

⁵¹ <http://www.kentbap.org.uk/habitats-and-species/priority-habitat/built-up-areas-and-gardens/>

⁵² Shepway District Council (2014) Annual Monitoring Report

⁵³ DEFRA (2016) Dover to Folkestone Marine Conservation Zone

networks. All of these biodiversity assets could be harmed by inappropriate development. [Addressed by SA objective 5].

- Green networks for wildlife and natural green spaces need to be fully reflected in the GI Strategy to provide a framework for the consideration of development proposal, and for avoiding harm and gaining enhancements where appropriate. [Addressed by SA objectives 5 and 6].

3.57 The Local Plan should ensure that designated wildlife sites are conserved and enhanced and also seek to maintain and enhance the four large scale ecological networks identified in the District.

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

3.58 With the population of the District increasing, pressure on recreation and wildlife areas is likely to be exacerbated.

3.59 Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs and local designations in the District. Furthermore paragraph 118 of the NPPF requires that to conserve wildlife and cultural heritage in designated areas (National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) permission should be refused for major developments except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated to be in the public interest. The Habitats and Birds Directives provide protection to the internationally designated biodiversity sites and certain species in proximity to the District. Adopting a strategic, local approach to the allocation of development will ensure that the impacts of development (both singularly and in combination) on all nature conservation interest can be better managed.

3.60 Without the Local Plan there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated approach to the development of green networks for wildlife and natural green spaces designed to steer recreational pressure away from sensitive wildlife sites. Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will need to provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the District's biodiversity assets and ecological networks.

3.61 The severity and likelihood of adverse impacts on local ecosystems is also likely to increase with predicted climate change. Without an up to date Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to managing the effects of this change through careful site allocations and targeted wildlife conservation and enhancement initiatives.

Soil and minerals

3.62 The 2002 Agricultural Land Classification Survey defined approximately 60% of the District's land area as "Excellent" or "Very Good" for agricultural purposes.⁵⁴ Romney Marsh ward is the most productive area, containing virtually all of the 'Grade I' agricultural land in the District and a significant proportion of the County's.

3.63 There are a range of potentially contaminated sites within the District of which the Council is aware. Contamination can be the result of historic land uses and current uses such as the handling and storage of fuels and the transportation and storage of waste.

3.64 Construction aggregates – sand, gravel and crushed rock - are the most significant (in quantity terms) worked and imported into Kent. Within Shepway, sharp sand and gravel deposits have historically been exploited in the southern part of Romney Marsh although these reserves are to some extent becoming worked out.⁵⁵

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Shepway contains some of the most productive agricultural land in the South East but this could be lost to development. [Addressed by SA objective 7].

⁵⁴ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Rural Services Study

⁵⁵ Kent County Council (2016) Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30

- Shepway contains areas of historically contaminated land which could pose a risk to human health and the natural environment or which could be remediated and brought into appropriate use. [Addressed by SA objective 7].
- Shepway contains valuable sand and gravel reserves which could be sterilised by development. [Addressed by SA objective 7].
- Increased rates of growth within the District may result in the need to increase the productivity of local mineral extraction sites, or allocate new local sites for extraction. [Addressed by SA objective 7].

3.65 The Local Plan should seek to avoid development on the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where such use is permitted it should, where possible, be temporary and reversible. Previously developed land should be prioritised for development, recognising that brownfield sites may include priority habitats and/or support significant biodiversity interest. The Local Plan should support development which achieves remediation of contaminated sites and avoid development which poses a risk to human health or the wider natural environment. The Local Plan should seek to avoid sterilising economic minerals reserves.

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

3.66 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to take into account the benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be used in preference to those of a higher quality. The NPPF also requires local planning authorities to encourage the effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value. In relation to minerals, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to avoid needlessly sterilising known locations of minerals resources of local and national importance are by non-mineral development.

3.67 The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan⁵⁶ seeks to deliver a sustainable, efficient supply of land-won minerals and to safeguard economic mineral resources for future generations and provides a mechanism by which to implement these requirements via its land allocations for minerals extraction. The incorporation of new strategic allocations with the Core strategy Review local Plan may result in the need for the County Council to review the capacity of local minerals reserves to accommodate this increase local growth.

Water quality and water resources

3.68 Kent has one of the lowest levels of rainfall in the country and is extremely dependent on groundwater for drinking water supplies. The condition of aquifers under Shepway in terms of both water quality and quantity is a matter of concern. It is important for security of drinking water supplies and the health of sensitive surface water habitats that new development does not adversely affect the quality or place unsustainable demands on the quantity of these water resources. The Stour Catchment is of particular importance as it contains the District's principal aquifers. A number of Source Protection Zones have been established, mainly in the north of the District, to protect groundwater quality in sensitive areas.⁵⁷ The Core Strategy states that Source Protection Zones must be protected and that effective pollution prevention measures are required, as appropriate.

3.69 The majority of surface water bodies in Shepway have been classified as having a "moderate" Water Framework Directive (WFD) status. Some areas to the north of the District are classified as being "poor", but none receive the lowest category of "bad". The Seabrook Stream / eastern end of the Royal Military Canal is the only current example of a water course in "good" condition. Given the WFD requirement for all surface waters to achieve "good" status by 2015 it is important, as a precursor to improvements, that the Local Plan prevents any further deterioration in the quality of surface water and where possible supports improvement of water quality.⁵⁸

⁵⁶ Kent County Council (2016) Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30

⁵⁷ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

⁵⁸ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

- 3.70 The quality of Shepway's coastal waters is important, particularly to the District's tourism economy. These are ultimately the 'sink' for urban runoff and whilst the volume of marine water available to dilute pollutants is significant, the Council acknowledges the importance of protecting its generally "excellent" bathing water quality.⁵⁹
- 3.71 The settlements of Shepway have a good level of coverage from waste water treatment works (WWTWs). Most of them have a current or planned capacity sufficient to meet planned growth although there is potentially insufficient capacity in the strategic wastewater connection between the Westenhanger and Lympne area and the Sellindge WwTW, an issue which the Water Cycle Study recommends is addressed via developer contributions to support strategic development in this area.⁶⁰ The Core Strategy (Policy CSD5) requires that "new buildings and dwellings must be delivered in line with wastewater capacity" and that "the quality of water passed on to watercourses and the sea must be maintained or improved". Supporting text specifies that if there is insufficient capacity in the sewerage system to accommodate the increased volumes of flow arising from a new development, the development will need to connect off-site to the nearest point of adequate capacity.
- 3.72 Many parts of Shepway are served by combined sewers, creating the risk that extreme rainfall events (which are increasingly likely under climate change) could lead to combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and associated risks of flooding and adverse effects on water quality. The Water Cycle Study recommends a positive but selective approach to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to reduce the amount of water discharged to combined sewers and WWTWs, where technically feasible.⁶¹
- 3.73 As Shepway falls within a designated Water Scarcity Status Area, water efficiency measures are appropriate in new development and supported by the Environment Agency.⁶² The Water Resources Management Plan⁶³ concludes that demand for water is unlikely to outstrip supply over the Shepway Core Strategy plan period. The Shepway Water Cycle Report⁶⁴ has considered the implications of the Core Strategy on the Water Resources Management Plan and found that the two are consistent but that it is appropriate for local planning policy to directly support efforts to significantly reduce average domestic consumption. The Core Strategy requires all residential developments to achieve a maximum water usage of 105 litres/person/day (as required by Code for Sustainable Homes 'level 3 and level 4') with a more stringent standard of 90 litres/person/day applied to strategic residential allocations at Folkestone Seafrost (Policy SS6) and Shornccliffe Garrison, Folkestone (Policy SS7).⁶⁵

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Surface water and groundwater quality are a significant issue in the District. There is the potential for impacts from development on water quality due to increases in contaminated surface runoff, runoff to combined sewers, and increased discharges of treated wastewater from WWTWs. [Addressed by SA objectives 8 and 11].
 - Drinking water is a scarce resource in the District and population and household growth will place further pressure on this resource. [Addressed by SA objectives 8 and 11].
 - There is potentially insufficient capacity in the strategic link wastewater connection between the Westenhanger and Lympne area and the Sellindge WwTW. [Addressed by SA objectives 8 and 11].
- 3.74 The Local Plan should seek to ensure that the location of development takes into account the sensitivity of the water environment and that wastewater infrastructure (notably in the Westenhanger area) and processes are in place such that development will not result in deterioration in water quality. It should also ensure that development is designed so as to make efficient use of water resources. Efficient use of water resources can also help to safeguard

⁵⁹ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

⁶⁰ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

⁶¹ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

⁶² Shepway District Council (2013) Shepway Core Strategy, Policy SS6

⁶³ Veolia Water Southeast (2009) Final Water Resources Management Plan Main Report

⁶⁴ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

⁶⁵ Shepway District Council (2012) Shepway Core Strategy, Policy SS6

surface water quality by helping to maintain flows within surface water and reducing the risk of combined sewer overflows.

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.75 National plans and strategies encourage new development to meet water efficiency standards and water companies must plan to reduce leaks from the water supply network as well as improve water efficiency. Without the Local Plan, however, it will be more difficult to adopt a co-ordinated approach to water resource planning with water companies and more difficult to implement water efficient design in new development.

Climatic factors

- 3.76 There is widespread scientific consensus that the Earth's climate is changing and that human activity could be the principal cause. Scientific forecasts suggest that the UK's climate will continue to get warmer and that heavy rainfall will be more frequent. Weather extremes, such as heat waves would become more common and others such as snowfall would become less common. Sea levels will continue to rise and storm surges will become more frequent, increasing the risk of flooding in coastal areas.

Climate change mitigation

- 3.77 The Government publishes data on the CO₂ emissions per capita in each Local Authority that are deemed to be within the influence of Local Authorities. The latest available data⁶⁶ show that CO₂ emissions per capita in Shepway fell by 27% over 2005-2012 although this masks widely different falls in the three broad sectors measures: Industry & Commerce -41%; Domestic -8.7%; and Road Transport -8%.
- 3.78 Dungeness 'B' nuclear power station is a significant generator of low carbon energy for the UK Grid. It is currently due to be decommissioned in 2028⁶⁷. Planning for nuclear power generation however, is carried out at the national level and is not a direct current concern for the Shepway Local Plan.
- 3.79 The Local Plan is concerned, though, with ways in which renewable energy generation can be achieved at the macro and the micro scales. Shepway District Council's existing renewable energy capacity is dominated by onshore wind turbines. During 2015, the installation of a 10m high wind turbine at The Grannary, Densole Lane was approved with conditions. In 2012, one onshore 15m high 5.5m diameter freestanding horizontal axis wind turbine was granted planning permission on appeal at Beech Tree Farm, Elmsted and two solar farms have been granted permission: 204 free standing ground solar panels at Lydd Camp and Solar farm at Sycamore Farm, Old Romney. In 2008, 26 wind turbines at Little Cheyne Court, East Guldeford near Brookland started exporting electricity to the National Grid⁶⁸, the scheme was granted planning permission on appeal. The wind farm has the capacity to generate approximately 94GWh of electricity annually – enough to power around 19,000 homes⁶⁹. The site raised considerable controversy, not least because of the potential for risk to wildlife and the sensitive landscape more generally. Planning applications for further large scale wind turbine sites elsewhere in Shepway have been submitted. They are currently undetermined.⁷⁰
- 3.80 The energy efficiency of new dwellings is measured in Shepway using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP). The SAP is the Government system for rating energy efficiency of dwellings. Targets to improve the SAP rating across the District have been set by Shepway District Council.
- 3.81 A Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Plan Viability Study to analyse what level of requirements the Local Plan can place on developers (e.g. for sustainable building design) without

⁶⁶ DECC (2014) CO₂ emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities (previously called National Indicator 186: Per capita CO₂ emissions in the LA area)

⁶⁷ EDF Energy (2016) Dungeness B power station <http://www.edfenergy.com/about-us/energy-generation/nuclear-generation/nuclear-power-stations/dungeness-b.shtml> Accessed 19th February 2016

⁶⁸ RWE (no date) Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm <http://www.rwe.com/web/cms/en/310488/rwe-innogy/sites/wind-onshore/united-kingdom/in-operation/little-cheyne-court/> Accessed 19th February 2016

⁶⁹ Kent Renewable Energy Plan (2012): http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/11955/Kent-Renewable-Energy-Part-1-April-2012-Updated-Version-Final.pdf Accessed: 7th December 2016

⁷⁰ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

threatening financial viability was published in May 2015. The study⁷¹ concluded that residential values across Shepway vary significantly, suggesting CIL differentiation for residential development is appropriate. A residential CIL range of between £0 and £125/m² was recommended over four CIL charging rate zones:

- a) Folkestone (lower end values) & Lydd area (viability scope A) at £0/m²;
- b) Romney Marsh (rural and coastal) and north Folkestone fringe / Hawkinge (B) at £50/m²;
- c) West of Folkestone (Sandgate) and Hythe (C) at £150/m²; and
- d) North Downs rural area settlements (D) at £125/m².

3.82 It was recommended that no geographic differentiation would be required for non-residential development. Larger format retail (retail warehousing and supermarkets) was recommended to have a charging rate of not more than £100/m², other non-residential development not being charged CIL. It is envisaged that these charges will be implemented at the end of 2015⁷².

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- The need to meet national sustainability and carbon reduction targets (such as all new residential development being zero carbon by 2016), The Local Plan could address these through sustainable design and construction standards, reducing reliance on fossil by support for renewables and other low carbon technologies, and reducing the need to travel, especially by private car. [Addressed by SA objective 10].
- The sensitivity of the natural environment in Shepway may limit the number of acceptable locations for further large scale renewable energy developments. [Addressed by SA objective 10].

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

3.83 National renewable energy and carbon reduction targets and the NPPF require local authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and actively support energy efficiency and renewable energy. Additionally, the Building Regulations are setting ever-tighter energy efficiency and carbon reduction requirements for new buildings.

3.84 The Local Plan can contribute to climate change mitigation through policies which require higher energy efficiency standards (e.g. for larger allocations) and provide a positive policy approach to the consideration renewable energy applications. The Local Plan also has a role to play in implementing climate change adaptation, for example through appropriate building design and the identification of less vulnerable locations for development. It can also help to ensure that less environmentally sensitive locations are chosen, thereby reducing development pressure on wildlife which may already be under pressure from climate change.

Climate change adaptation

3.85 Changes to the climate will bring new challenges to the District's built and natural environments. Hotter drier summers may have adverse health impacts and may exacerbate the adverse environmental effects of air and water pollution. The UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) predicts that by the 2050s the climate in the South East is set to get warmer, with wetter winters and drier summers than at present.⁷³ Specifically:

- Under Medium emissions, the increase in winter mean temperature is estimated to be 2.2°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.1°C and is very unlikely to be more than 3.4°C.
- Under Medium emissions, the increase in summer mean temperature is estimated to be 2.8°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.3°C and is very unlikely to be more than 4.6°C.

⁷¹ Shepway District Council (2015) Draft CIL Charging Schedule Overview Report

⁷² Shepway District Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/planning-policy/cil-revised-draft-charging-schedule-submission-version-nov-2022> Accessed 19th February 2016

⁷³ UK Climate Projections (2014) Map and Key Findings <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/22290> Accessed 19th February 2016

- 3.86 A changing climate may place pressure on some native species and create conditions suitable for new species, including invasive non-native species. Adaptation to changes in flood risk that may result from climate change is dealt with in the separate section on flood risk below.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Hotter, drier summers expected under climate change have the potential for adverse effects on human health. [Addressed by SA objectives 6 and 9].
- The Local Plan could take changing climatic and associated weather events into account in the design of new buildings and green infrastructure. [Addressed by SA objectives 6 and 9].
- Climate change is likely to impact upon habitats and thereby biodiversity. The sensitivities of these networks should be reflected in the GI Strategy and the Local Plan's commitment to protect and enhance habitat networks. [Addressed by SA objectives 5 and 6].

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.87 The UK National Adaptation Programme (NAP) sets out what government, businesses, and society are doing to become more climate ready. In addition, the NPPF requires local authorities to consider measures to adapt to climate change.
- 3.88 The Local Plan can contribute to climate change adaptation through policies which require the incorporation of green infrastructure, sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs), river and coastal flood protection measures, as well as the identification of less vulnerable locations for development. The Local Plan can also provide a positive policy approach to the consideration of applications that incorporate these measures.

Flood Risk

- 3.89 There is a long history of flooding within Shepway including over 101 flooding events in the last decade.⁷⁴ Over half of homes in the District are at risk of flooding from either coastal or fluvial sources.⁷⁵ There are 11 watercourses that have been categorised as main rivers in the district and have been sources of flooding in the past. Additionally, 55% of the District at or below sea level and the majority of Districts 41km coastline lies below the mean high water mark.⁷⁶
- 3.90 Virtually all of the Romney Marsh area is within flood zone 3 due to its topography (see **Figure 3.5**). However, the degree of risk varies significantly within the area, being dependent on factors such as topography, hydrological features and position in relation to flood defences.⁷⁷ Much of the coastline is protected by a number sea defences ranging from 'hard' structures to naturally forming shingle barrier beaches that are continually managed, so flooding from the sea will generally result from either the current sea defences breaching or being overtopped by wave action.⁷⁸
- 3.91 The UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) predicts that by the 2050s in the South East, the change in annual mean precipitation is estimated to be 0%, with the change in winter mean precipitation estimated at +16% and the change in summer mean precipitation at -19%.⁷⁹ Furthermore, it is predicted that the net sea level rise (relative to 1990) between 1999 to 2025 will be 4mm/yr, between 2025 to 2055 8.5mm/yr and 2055 to 2085 12mm/yr.⁸⁰
- 3.92 In terms of climate change adaptation, flood defence works have been undertaken at sites across the District. These include a £30 million defence scheme at Dymchurch, covering 2.2km of coastline. This is one of six projects in the "Folkestone to Cliff End Strategy", which is envisaged to protect 14,000 dwellings across Romney Marsh.⁸¹

⁷⁴ Herrington Consulting Ltd (2015) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Shepway District Council

⁷⁵ Shepway District Council (2016) Flooding <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/emergency-planning/flooding> Accessed 19th February 2016

⁷⁶ Herrington Consulting Ltd (2015) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Shepway District Council

⁷⁷ Shepway District Council (2011) Annual Monitoring Report

⁷⁸ Herrington Consulting Ltd (2015) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Shepway District Council

⁷⁹ Map and Key Findings (2014) UK Climate Projections <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/22290> Accessed 19th February 2016

⁸⁰ Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Shepway District Council (2015) Herrington Consulting Ltd

⁸¹ Shepway District Council (2010) Annual Monitoring Report

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Risk of flooding is a major concern in Shepway with 55% of the District at or below sea level. [Addressed by SA objective 9].
- The expected magnitude and probability of significant fluvial, tidal, ground and surface water flooding is increasing in the District due to climate change. [Addressed by SA objective 9].
- Coastal erosion and the associated flood risks are a considerable spatial constraint on new development in the District. [Addressed by SA objective 9].

3.93 The Local Plan should seek an integrated approach to reducing flood risk.

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.94 The severity and likelihood of flooding is likely to increase with current trends of climate change. Without a Local Plan it will be more difficult to manage the effects of developments on flood risk, although all developments would need to take account of national policy on flood risk, including the NPPF requirement that “inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere” (paragraph 100).
- 3.95 Climate change and a rising local population are in combination and at certain times of the year, likely to exacerbate water and air pollution independently of any Local Plan. However, without a planned approach to development through the Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach that would help to manage health and environmental risks.

Waste

- 3.96 During 2014/2015, 39,347 tonnes of household waste was collected in the District where nearly half (47.6%) of this was sent for recycling/composting/reuse.⁸² In comparison, during 2011/2012, 38,000 tonnes of household waste was collected where 27% of this waste was recycled and 17% composted (44.2% in total).

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Shepway performs relatively well in terms of recycling and composting of household waste in comparison to other local authorities in the UK. Whilst poorly planned new development could reduce recycling rates and increase waste generation from construction and demolition, achievement of waste and recycling objectives is mainly dependent on factors outside the scope of the Review of the Core Strategy, as described under ‘Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan’ below. However, given the strategic nature of the Review of the Core Strategy, and in an effort to draw out the potential of reasonable alternatives to contribute positively to managing waste in the District, a new SA objective has been included in the SA framework. [Addressed by SA objective 12].

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.97 Achievement of the waste reduction and recycling objectives will mainly depend on the success of policies in Kent County Council’s Minerals and Waste Plan, the County Council being the Waste Planning Authority for Shepway. The increasingly stringent national sustainability requirements of the building regulations will also have a positive contribution. However, the creation of new communities, potentially new sustainable villages and towns even, through the Review of the Core Strategy has the potential to positively influence waste management at a strategic-scale across the District.

Air pollution

- 3.98 Shepway District currently has no Air Quality Management Areas⁸³. In 2013, all prescribed air quality objectives were met.⁸⁴

⁸² DEFRA (2015) Local authority collected waste generation from April 2000 to March 2015 (England and regions) and local authority data April 2014 to March 2015

⁸³ Defra, Air Quality Management Areas [online] available at: <http://aqma.defra.gov.uk/aqma/home.html> Accessed 23rd January 2016

⁸⁴ Bureau Veritas Air Quality (2013) Shepway District Council LAQM Progress Report 2013

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Air quality is not currently judged to be a significant issue in the District. However, locations targeted for large scale development could experience significant increases in road traffic from residents and/or employees, resulting in localised adverse effects, in urban areas such as Folkestone and along major roads such as the A20. [Addressed by SA objective 13].

3.99 The Local Plan should seek to minimise the need to travel by car by promoting sustainable locations for development and travel by sustainable modes.

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

3.100 The need to travel by unsustainable modes and associated emissions of air pollutants are likely to increase without action from the Local Plan to direct development to sustainable locations and increase provision of sustainable transport infrastructure. Nevertheless, the ability of the Local Plan to influence air pollution in the District is limited by the fact that much of the traffic passing through it is on the strategic road network and driven by regional and national factors. Kent's Local Transport Plan⁸⁵ has a lead role to play in managing transport related issues and its objectives include reducing emissions, encouraging a shift to sustainable transport and tackling congestion, all of which should help to manage transport-related air quality issues, even in the absence of the Local Plan.

Transport

- 3.101 Whilst the District is primarily of a rural nature there have been significant improvements in transport connections in and out of Shepway over recent decades. Rail connections have been improved by the High Speed 1 domestic rail service which began to operate in December 2009, reducing the journey time from Folkestone to London to under an hour. According to the operators of the Southeastern rail franchise, High Speed 1 has been steadily drawing additional users from around Kent who wish to take advantage of the reduced journey times it offers to and from central London. In 2014, the Department of Transport funded a new car park at Folkestone West to meet this increased passenger demand.⁸⁶
- 3.102 All of the four railway stations in Shepway provide direct connections to Dover to the east and Ashford to the northwest, as well as direct rail access into London, at London Bridge, via Ashford and Tonbridge. Of the four stations, it is noted that Folkestone Central is the most intensely used, reflecting its mainline and high speed rail services and its location in Folkestone town centre.⁸⁷ There are plans to improve the linkages between Folkestone Central Railway Station and Folkestone Town Centre and Coastline.⁸⁸
- 3.103 Stanford West lorry area has been proposed within the District to alleviate the traffic congestion along the M20 which results due to the procedure of holding lorries on the motorway, known as Operation Stack. Up to 11,000 lorries per day make use of Kent's roads given its strategic location for international freight passing through the Strait of Dover. The Secretary of State for Transport announced that a single lorry area would be provided at Stanford West in July 2016. Consultation on the £250 million site to the west of the village of Stanford took place between August and September 2016⁸⁹. Future development in the District will be required to be considerate of the potential impact of this site.
- 3.104 **Figure 3.6** maps the District's transport network.
- 3.105 2001 Census information⁹⁰ indicated that approximately 59% of the Shepway working population travelled to work by car, which is a slightly higher than the average for England. Of those who drive to work, approximately 65% travel to work by car within the District itself. More recent data show that although there is a heavy dependency on the use of private transport to access employment, relatively few people commute out of Shepway (73% of Shepway's working

⁸⁵ Kent County Council (2011) Local Transport Plan for Kent 2011-2016

⁸⁶ Shepway District Council (2014) Annual Monitoring Report

⁸⁷ Shepway District Council (2011) Annual Monitoring Report

⁸⁸ Shepway District Council (2014) Annual Monitoring Report

⁸⁹ Highways England (2016) Managing freight vehicles through Kent: A consultation on proposals for a lorry area at Stanford West

⁹⁰ 2011 Census data not available for this measure

residents worked in Shepway and 77% of its workforce was resident in the District in 2011⁹¹). This creates a good starting point for efforts to promote decreased car dependency.

- 3.106 According to the 2011 census data⁹², Shepway has slightly lower than the national average for car ownership categories, but higher compared to Kent especially in and surrounding Folkestone, which may well be related to the large elderly population. Nearly a quarter (23.7%) of residents in Shepway had no cars or vans in their household, with the national average of 25.6% and county average of 20%. 44.3% of Shepway's households had one car or van with national average of 42.2% and Kent's average of 42.7%. 24.4% of Shepway households had two cars or vans in household and the national average being of 24.7% and Kent's average of 28.0%.
- 3.107 Commuting estimates⁹³ reveal that nearly 10,000 travel into Shepway with approximately half originating from Dover and 2,000 journeys from Ashford and another 2,000 from Canterbury. Around 12,600 people commute from Shepway with 3,400 commuting to Ashford and 3,000 to Dover. There is a lower than average modal share of bus use, with 4% travelling to work by this means in comparison to 8% across England.⁹⁴ In March 2011 the Shepway Joint Transport Board adopted the 2011 Shepway Cycling Plan which was endorsed as Council policy in 2013.⁹⁵ The document sets out a five year plan promoting cycling across the District. The plan recognises the scope for people to switch to using the bicycle to make local trips, particularly across Romney Marsh, and in parts of Hythe and Folkestone where there is a flat terrain.⁹⁶
- 3.108 An update of the Shepway Transport Model was commissioned in October 2013 and this is currently being undertaken by URS. The update will reflect the adopted Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and will incorporate any recent traffic surveys which have been undertaken as part of major development proposals. Whilst updated maps showing results for key junctions were not yet available at the time of writing, the Council has confirmed that the new modelling work has not revealed any additional junctions which are predicted to be over-capacity based on the latest assumptions. Additionally, surveys of Dungeness and Romney Marsh have been confirmed for the preparation of a Sustainable Access Strategy/SPD. The details of both documents will be incorporated in the baseline of the SA once they have been published.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- A significant number of people in Shepway do not have access to a car. Where this combines with poorer public transport provision, such as in rural areas with a dispersed population, it leads to difficulty in accessing services and facilities. Inappropriately located development could exacerbate this. [Addressed by SA objective 13].
- There is a heavy dependency on the private car to access employment. If this pattern continues, planned housing and employment growth could lead to problems of traffic congestion and increasing emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants. [Addressed by SA objective 13].

- 3.109 The Local Plan could address these issues by promoting sustainable locations for development, provision of sustainable transport infrastructure and support for the Shepway Cycling Plan.

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.110 The adopted Core Strategy already includes policies encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport such as Policy SS5: District Infrastructure Planning, which requires applicants to ensure the location, design or management of development, provides a choice of means of transport and allows sustainable travel patterns, for pedestrians, cyclists and/or public transport. While such policies would continue to apply, the Review offers an opportunity to tailor policies that would address private vehicle use within the District, and encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport in specific areas. This would also help to address health and obesity issues.

⁹¹ Commuting Patterns from the Annual Population Survey, Great Britain, 2010 and 2011, ONS, 2013

⁹² ONS (2011) Table KS404EW Car or Van availability, Local Authorities in England and Wales

⁹³ Commuting flows from the Annual Population Survey, Great Britain (2011)

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/HTMLDocs/Commute_APS_Map/Index.html Accessed 23rd February 2016

⁹⁴ URS/Scott Wilson (2011) Shepway District Council Transport Strategy

⁹⁵ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

⁹⁶ Kent County Council (2011) Shepway Cycling Plan

Population and human health

Demographics

- 3.111 The latest data⁹⁷ shows that in 2014 the population of Shepway was 109,500 people (an increase of 1.4% between 2011 and 2014) which is predicted to increase to 127,300 people in 2037.⁹⁸ However, past trends may be disrupted by changes in policies relating to future housing and economic growth and for this reason Kent County Council produces population forecasts which take account of future house building plans in each of the Kent districts' Core Strategies. The Shepway Core Strategy aims of delivering 8,000 dwellings between 2006 and 2026 (which would result in a rate of house building in line with trends of recent decades) would result in lesser population growth of 7.3% for 2011-2031.⁹⁹ The Core Strategy states that this is expected to lead to a more manageable change in the social balance and labour supply and only limited decrease in the size of the labour force.
- 3.112 A small majority of residents in Shepway live in urban areas (60.6%), with the remaining 39.4% to be found living in rural areas.¹⁰⁰ Approximately 1 in 10 people in Shepway (9%) live in isolated dwellings, hamlets or small villages (below 1,000 people). Romney Marsh ward is the largest and the most sparsely populated area in the District.
- 3.113 The rate of household formation in Shepway for the period 2001-2011 was 15.6%, very high relative to the England and Wales average of 7.5%; this is the 11th highest in England and Wales (the next highest increase in Kent is Dartford at 14.6% and ranked 18th).¹⁰¹ Average household size in Shepway is projected to decrease notably during 2006-2016 under all housing growth scenarios, although slightly less so under higher growth scenarios.¹⁰² The latest Annual Monitoring Report¹⁰³ states that 50% of housing completion between 2006 and 2031 needs to consist of 3 or more bedroom dwellings, however this was unmet between 2013 and 2014, as only 46.8% of the 175 dwellings comprised of 3 or more bedrooms.
- 3.114 The average age in Shepway (mid 2014) was 43.2 years (44.4 for females, 42.1 for males) which is slightly higher than the mean age in Kent at 41 years and the national average age of 40 years.¹⁰⁴ In 2011, births in the district (1,185) narrowly exceeded deaths (1,135). A high proportion of Shepway's population is aged 65 or above, with the District ranking in the top 20% of authorities in England in terms of this indicator. Around 34% of all households include people over the state retirement age¹⁰⁵ and 50% of the district's population in aged 45 or over.¹⁰⁶ Shepway is forecast to continue to have a large proportion of older people in its population compared to the Kent County average over the period 2010-2035. This will be in conjunction with a decline in the number of residents who are of working age (16-64).

Crime

- 3.115 Crime rates are not disproportionately high in Shepway as whole but local pockets of higher crime rates exist.

Health

- 3.116 Compared to other English authorities, Shepway has a high proportion of people with limiting long term illness. A high percentage of the population claim disability related benefits, with the District ranked amongst the top 20% of authorities in England for this indicator. Life expectancy at the age of 65 for females in Shepway stands at 21.4 years, which is 3.1 years higher than males in the District. This figure is above the Kent County Council average of 20.8 and the average for England (20.6). For males in Shepway, life expectancy at age 65 is 18.3 years. This is below the County average (18.5) years, but above the national average of 18 years.

⁹⁷ Nomis – Labour Market Profile – Shepway. Accessed 22nd February 2016.

⁹⁸ Shepway Equality & Diversity Profile (2014) Shepway District Council

⁹⁹ Interactive Population Forecast Toolkit available from http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/kent_facts_and_figures/population_and_census/population_forecasts.aspx

¹⁰⁰ Kent County Council (2015) 2014 Mid-year population estimates: Ward level population in Kent

¹⁰¹ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

¹⁰² Shepway LDF Core Strategy Cabinet Report April 2011 Appendix 1: Strategic Requirement

¹⁰³ Shepway District Council (2014) Annual Monitoring Report

¹⁰⁴ 2014 Mid-Year Population Estimates: Age and gender profile (2015) Kent County Council

¹⁰⁵ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016

¹⁰⁶ Shepway Equality & Diversity Profile (2014) Shepway District Council

Deprivation

- 3.117 Based on death rates over the period 2006-2010, the difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived members of the population is 9.4 years in males and 6.9 years in females. Over a fifth (21%) of children in Shepway lived in poverty (defined as children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits) during 2013, which is the higher than most of the areas in Kent.¹⁰⁷
- 3.118 The English Indices of Deprivation 2015¹⁰⁸ is a measure of multiple deprivations in small areas or neighbourhoods, called Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOA), in England which are a similar size to electoral wards. Seven domains of deprivation are measured: Income Deprivation; Employment Deprivation; Health Deprivation and Disability; Education, Skills and Training Deprivation; Crime; Barriers to Housing and Services; and Living Environment Deprivation. Each domain contains a number of indicators. The seven domains are combined to give a multiple deprivation score. There are 32,844 LSOAs nationally and 67 LSOAs in the Shepway District.¹⁰⁹ An examination of the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation (illustrated in **Figure 3.7**) data reveals that:
- Shepway is ranked 113th in the IMD out of 326 local authorities nationally, and is the third most deprived authority in Kent.¹¹⁰
 - Shepway has moved down in the rankings which indicate that levels of deprivation have reduced between 2010 and 2015 relative to other local authorities in England.¹¹¹
 - The District has four LSOAs that are in the top 10% most deprived nationally which to be found in or around the urban area of Folkestone with the most deprived of these having been ranked 572nd out of 32,844 SOAs nationally; Folkestone Harbour (014A), Folkestone Harvey Central (014B), Folkestone East (003C) and Folkestone Harvey Central (014D).
 - Whilst much deprivation is concentrated in the urbanised coastal areas of the District, there are also significant areas of high deprivation in the rural south.
 - The majority of least deprived SOAs in Shepway are located in the north of the District, in the vicinity of the M20 motorway, the Kent Downs and on the outskirts of Folkestone/Hythe. In 2007, the least deprived SOA in Shepway ranked 30,824th nationally, whilst in 2010 the least deprived SOA ranked 28,308th nationally and 2015 the least deprived SOA ranked 31,159th nationally.

Access to services

- 3.119 Folkestone has the largest concentration of shops and services in the District. However, due to accessibility factors, residents in the west of the District at New Romney may choose to visit Ashford, whilst those to the north around Elham and Stelling Minnis may look to Canterbury.
- 3.120 Within the rest of the District's town centres, Hythe and New Romney continue to maintain a mixture of essential services and goods provision. Other centres, such as Sandgate and Lydd, have retained convenience goods and local service provision in their small retail units. There is limited future retail need for additional convenience floorspace in the District.
- 3.121 In terms of access to healthcare services for example, the proportion of households within walking distance in rural areas is approximately half that of urban areas. This relative isolation from health services is coupled with a generally older population. Around 52% of rural dwellings are within 0.5 mile of a post office service and nearly 50% of rural dwellings are within 500 metres of a primary school.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Shepway as a whole suffers from considerable deprivation relative to the national average and there is also significant inequality within the District with deprivation concentrated in the urbanised coastal areas and the rural south. Rural areas have poorer access to services and

¹⁰⁷ Shepway Equality & Diversity Profile (2014) Shepway District Council

¹⁰⁸ The English Indices of Deprivation (2015), DCLG

¹⁰⁹ The English Indices of Deprivation (2015), DCLG: File 1: Index of multiple deprivation

¹¹⁰ The English Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2015): Headline findings for Kent (2015) Kent County Council

¹¹¹ The English Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2015): Headline findings for Kent (2015) Kent County Council

facilities. It will be important that the Local Plan sets out to reduce deprivation and inequality. [Addressed by SA objective 14].

- Shepway suffers from high levels of disability / long term illness, reflecting, in part, the relatively high proportion of older people living in the District. The Local Plan must provide for the needs of older people and tackle the health of its residents more generally in an integrated fashion by providing for, or encouraging access to, healthcare facilities, opportunities to walk or cycle, access to natural greenspace, as well as addressing deprivation and social inequality. [Addressed by SA objectives 13 and 14].
- Population growth, household growth and demographic change will place additional and changing demands on key services and facilities such as housing, health, education and social care. These should be reflected in the Local Plan. [Addressed by SA objective 14].
- There are some areas of Shepway where crime is likely to have a significant effect on the health and well-being of individuals and communities, as well as the potential for economic growth and diversification. By addressing deprivation and providing for jobs, housing, services, facilities and other opportunities the Local Plan can help to deal with the causes of criminality. It can also have more direct effects by development management policies which help to 'design out' crime. [Addressed by SA objective 15].

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.122 The issues described above are likely to continue without appropriate policy responses. For example, responding to the housing needs of an ageing population may be less co-ordinated in the absence of the Local Plan.
- 3.123 The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the District is likely to continue without a local policy response e.g. providing opportunities to access jobs, community services and education facilities in areas where these are lacking.

Open Space

- 3.124 Shepway features a number of significant open spaces. These include four with greater than local importance for their facilities or natural features: the Coastal Park in Folkestone; Brockhill Country Park in Hythe; Dungeness National Nature Reserve and The Warren, Folkestone. The majority of parks and major open spaces of Shepway are within urban areas, predominantly Folkestone. The Lower Leas Coastal Park, Brockhill Country Park and the Royal Military Canal have Green Flag status in recognition of their value to local people as a recreational resource.¹¹²
- 3.125 Shepway's latest Annual Monitoring Report records the loss of a number of open spaces to residential development but no gains in the extent of open space were noted.¹¹³ The Council's 2011 Open Spaces study¹¹⁴ and discussion with the Council reveal that whilst the quantity of open space provision in the District is generally adequate that are some issues with the quality of open spaces, particularly parks.
- 3.126 Core Strategy Policy CSD4 states that "Green infrastructure will be protected and enhanced and the loss of GI uses will not be allowed, other than where demonstrated to be in full accordance with national policy, or a significant quantitative or qualitative net GI benefit is realised or it is clearly demonstrated that the aims of this strategy are furthered and outweigh its impact on GI."
- 3.127 Reasonable suggestions for open space will be appraised alongside other alternatives as part of the SA of the Review of the Core Strategy.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- There is a need for the quality of some open spaces, particularly parks, to be improved. Recent development has resulted in some open spaces in the District being lost with no net gains. Future development could lead to further losses and greater demand. [Addressed by SA objectives 6 and 14].

¹¹² Green Flag Award (2016) South East <http://greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org/award-winning-sites/south-east/> Accessed on 23rd February 2016

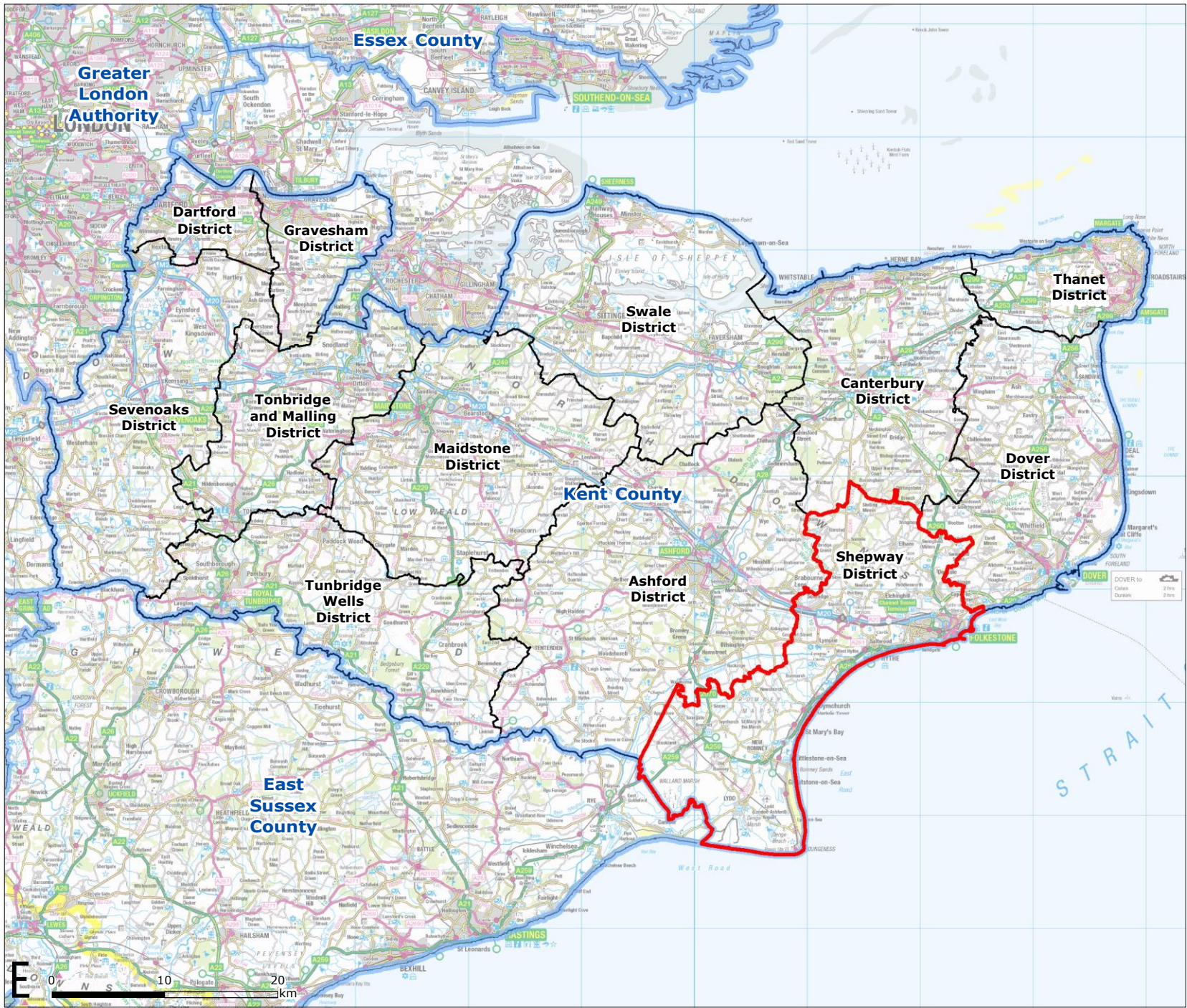
¹¹³ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

¹¹⁴ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

- The Local Plan should seek to ensure that existing open spaces are protected, and where necessary, enhanced. Open space quality improvements should be sought, where relevant. [Addressed by SA objectives 6 and 14].

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.128 With the rising population of the District, pressures on the quality and availability of open space are likely to continue without a planned approach to development. Without the Local Plan there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of open green spaces/green networks for recreation, walking and cycling networks, and wildlife.
- 3.129 The adopted Core Strategy already includes Policy CSD4: Green Infrastructure of Natural Networks, Open Spaces and Recreation, which requires such assets to be protected and enhanced. In addition, the adopted Core Strategy includes strategic allocation policies which make provision new open spaces. While such policies would continue to apply, the Review offers an opportunity to create new policies associated with new development allocations, helping to protect and improve existing open spaces and provide new, multifunctional open spaces.



Shepway Sustainability Appraisal

Figure 3.1: Location of Shepway District







- Shepway District
- County boundary
- District boundary

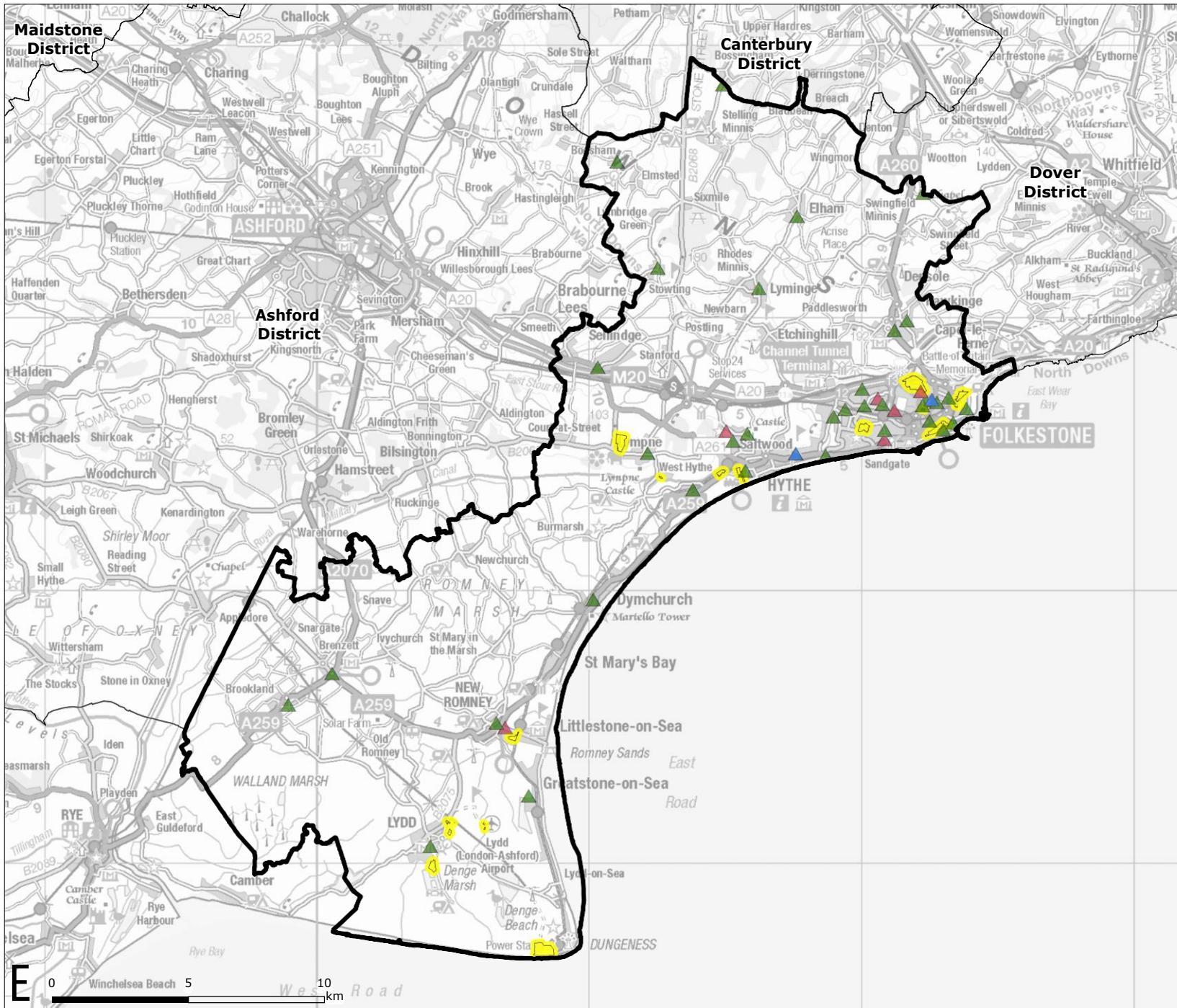
Source: OS

Map Scale @ A4: 1:480,000



Figure 3.2: Employment Areas and Educational Facilities

-  Shepway District
-  District boundary
-  Employment site
-  Primary school
-  Secondary school
-  Special school











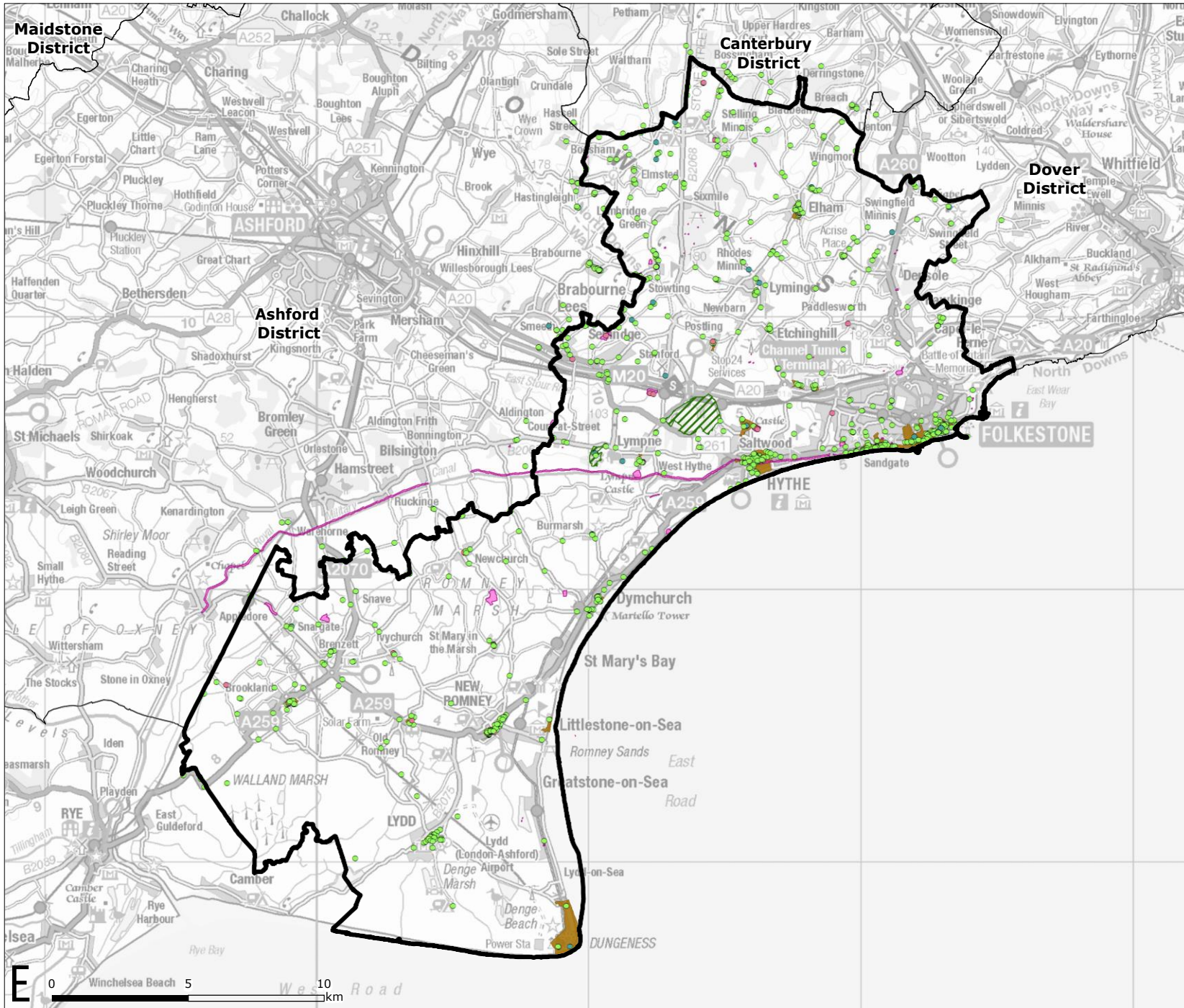
Source: OS, Shepway District Council

Map Scale @ A4: 1:200,000



Figure 3.3: Heritage Assets

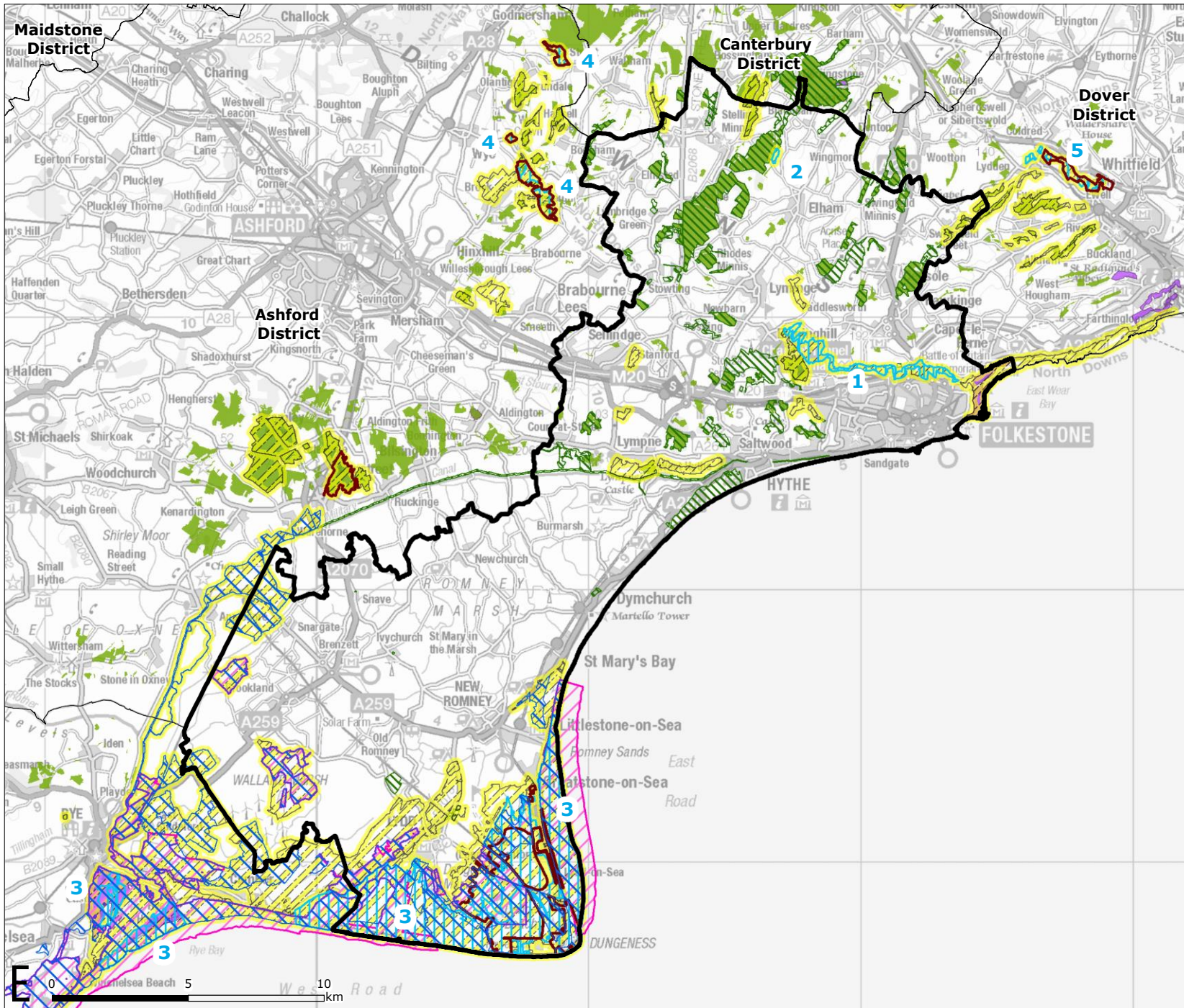
-  Shepway District
-  District boundary
-  Grade I Listed Building
-  Grade II Listed Building
-  Grade II* Listed Building
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Registered Park & Garden
-  Conservation Area



Source: OS, Shepway District Council, Historic England

Map Scale @ A4: 1:200,000





Shepway Sustainability Appraisal

Figure 3.4: Ecological Assets

- Shepway District
- District boundary
- Dungeness to Pett Level Ramsar site
- Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA
- NNR
- SSSI
- Local Wildlife Site
- Ancient Woodland
- LNR
- SAC (labelled in blue text on map)

- 1: Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment
- 2: Parkgate Down
- 3: Dungeness
- 4: Wye & Crundale Downs
- 5: Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs





Source: OS, Shepway District Council, Natural England, JNCC

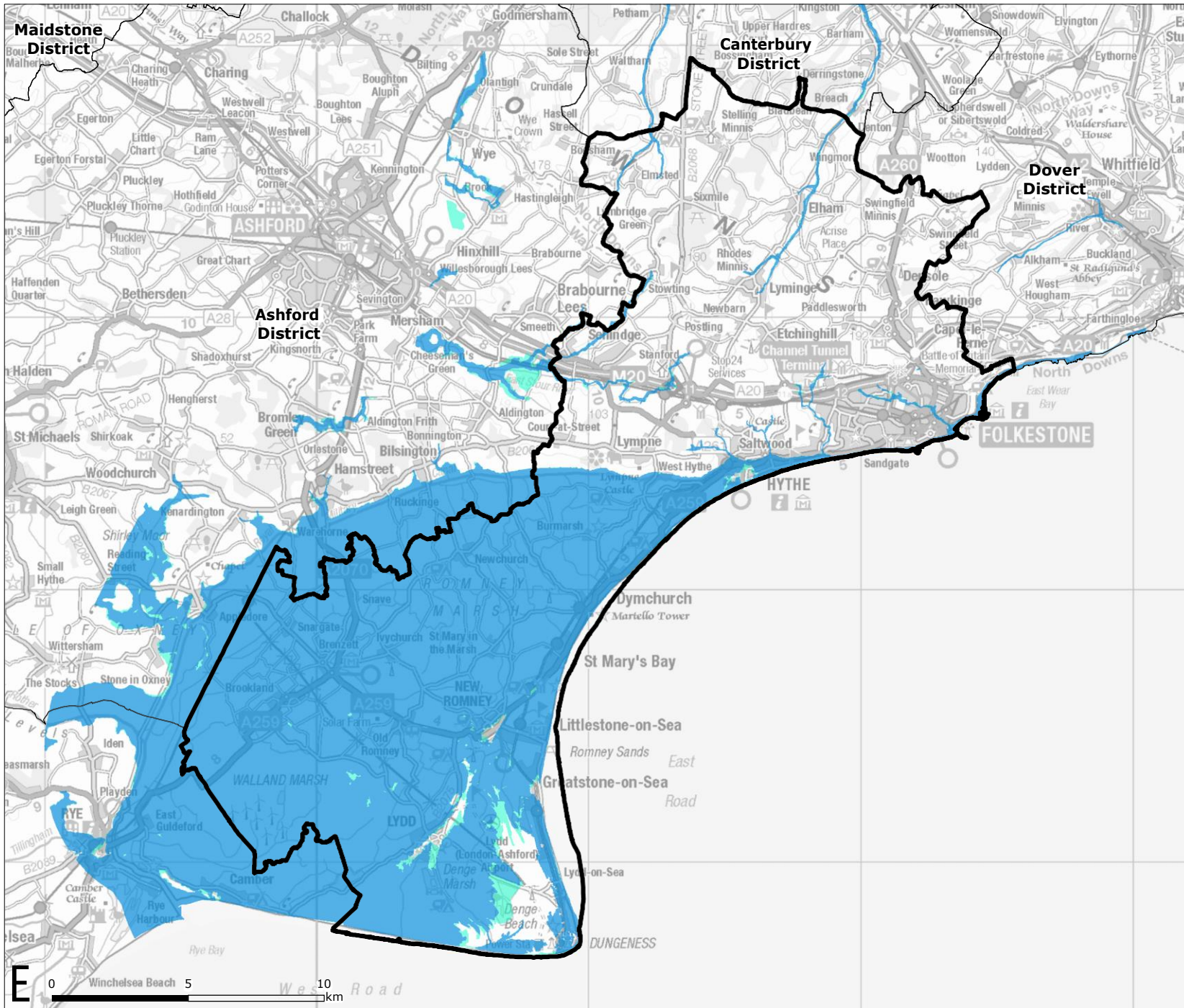
Map Scale @ A4: 1:200,000



Shepway Sustainability Appraisal

Figure 3.5: Flood Risk

-  Shepway District
-  District boundary
-  Flood Zone 2
-  Flood Zone 3














Source: OS, Shepway District Council,

Map Scale @ A4: 1:200,000



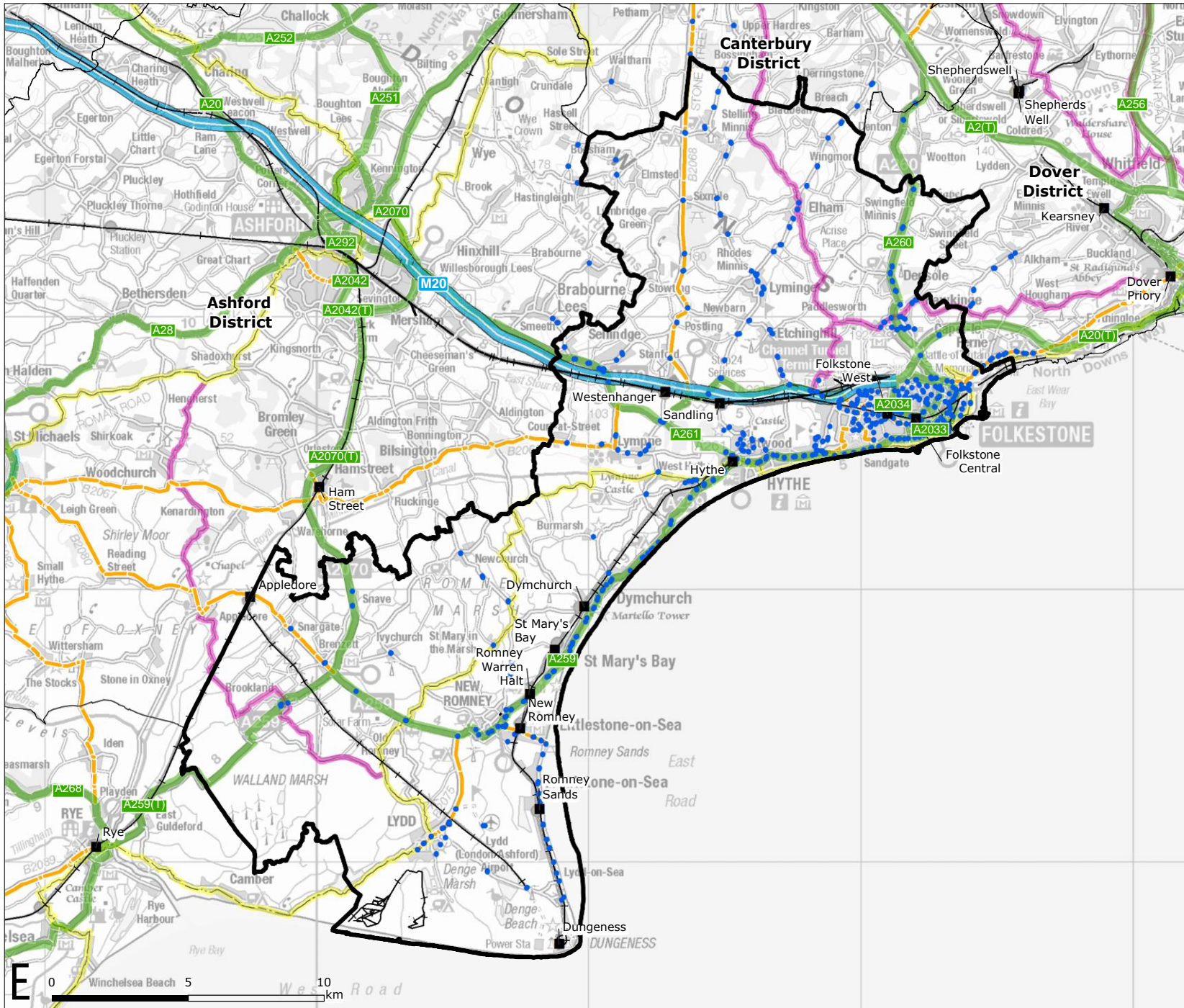
Shepway Sustainability Appraisal

Figure 3.6: Transport Network

-  Shepway District
-  District boundary
-  Train station
-  Bus stop
-  Railway track
-  Motorway
-  A road
-  B road
- Cycle routes**
-  National route
-  Regional route
-  NCN link

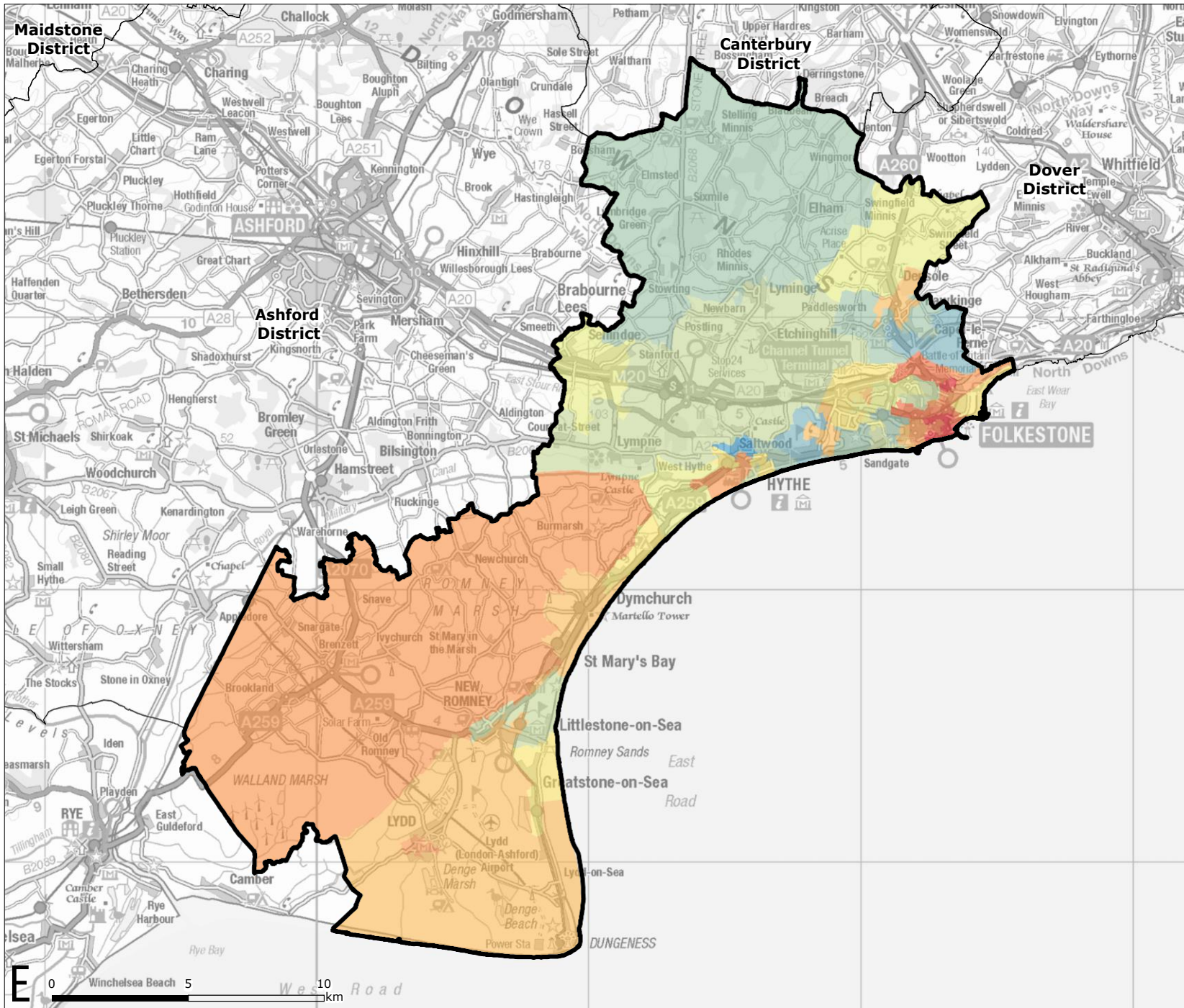
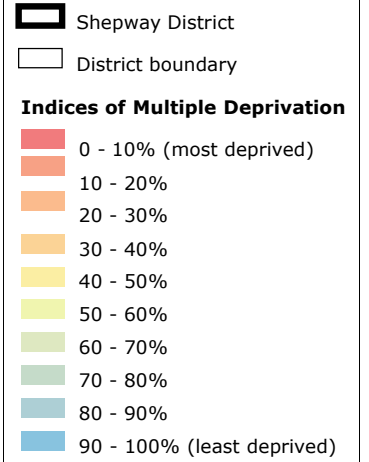
Source: OS, Shepway District Council, Sustrans

Map Scale @ A4: 1:200,000



Shepway Sustainability Appraisal

Figure 3.7: Indices of Multiple Deprivation



Source: OS, DCLG

Map Scale @ A4: 1:200,000



4 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 4.1 The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2(6) require the Environmental Report to consider:

"The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as (a) biodiversity, (b) population, (c) human health, (d) fauna, (e) flora, (f) soil, (g) water, (h) air, (i) climatic factors, (j) material assets, (k) cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, (l) landscape and (m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a)–(l)."

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

- 4.2 The development of a set of SA objectives (known as the SA framework) is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared. SA objectives are developed from the review of plans, policies and programmes, the collection of baseline information and the identification of the key sustainability issues at that time.
- 4.3 The District's latest set of SA objectives, used for the appraisal of its forthcoming Places and Policies Local Plan, have been used as a starting point for the development of a set of SA objectives for the Review of the Core Strategy. The Places and Policies Local Plan SA objectives took those developed for SA of the adopted Core Strategy as a starting point and amended them to reflect an up to date assessment of sustainability issues facing the District as well as the different scope of the Places and Policies Local Plan. The objectives were consulted on during the SA Scoping stage and the representations received were considered when deciding whether any amendments were required to the SA objectives, supporting assessment criteria and detailed assumptions for SA of site allocations.
- 4.4 The Places and Policies Local Plan SA objectives have been reviewed and reordered in light of the review of plans, policies and programmes, baseline information and key sustainability issues for Shepway (as presented in **Chapters 2 and 3**) and amendments have been made to a number of the objectives to ensure that they are appropriate for the SA of the Review of the Core Strategy. All of the topics specifically required in Schedule 2(6) of the SEA Regulations are clearly addressed by the headline SA objectives. The total number of SA objectives has increased from 14 to 15, with the inclusion of strategic waste management SA objective. The review of the SA objectives has sought to avoid duplication and any single SA objective covering too many issues (as this would result in mixed effects always being identified for that SA objective).
- 4.5 The proposed SA framework for the Review of the Core Strategy is presented in **Table 4.1** overleaf. The final column in the table demonstrates which SA objective addresses each of the topics that are required by the SEA Directive to be covered (set out in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations), which broadly correlates with the health and wellbeing of the District – a key strand to the District's new Corporate Strategy. The SA framework also provides indicative appraisal questions to illustrate the considerations that will be relevant when assessing the Review of the Core Strategy options.

Table 4.1: Shepway Framework for SA of Review of the Core Strategy

SA Objective Reference	SA Objective	Appraisal questions: will the Plan/option lead to...?	Relationship with the SEA Topics / District's Health and Well Being
SA1	Improve the provision of homes, including affordable housing, having regard to the needs of all sections of society, including the elderly.	<p>Create strategic-scale developments that make significant contributions to local housing needs in the short, medium and long term?</p> <p>Provision of a high-quality mix of housing developments suitable for the full range of ages and abilities in need of affordable accommodation?</p> <p>The provision of the range of types and tenure of housing as identified in the housing market assessment?</p>	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
SA2	Support the creation of high quality and diverse employment opportunities.	<p>An adequate supply of land, skills and infrastructure (such as ICT and high speed broadband) to meet the requirements of sectors targeted for economic growth and diversification, including those set out in the Shepway Economic Strategy?</p> <p>New and improved education facilities which will support raising attainment and the development of skills, leading to a work ready population of school and college leavers?</p> <p>The promotion of the development of education services which retain young people through further and higher education in order to develop and diversify the skills needed to make Shepway prosper?</p> <p>Improved access to jobs for local people from all sectors of the community that will lift standards of living?</p> <p>Enhanced vitality and vibrancy of town centres?</p> <p>Expansion or upgrading of key visitor attractions to support the visitor economy?</p> <p>Employment opportunities which address the economic consequences of the de-commissioning of Dungeness nuclear power station?¹¹⁵</p> <p>Provision of high quality employment sites and associated infrastructure suitable for the likely continuation in a shift from manufacturing to higher skill, service industries?</p>	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
SA3	Conserve, and where relevant enhance, the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape.	<p>Areas of the highest landscape sensitivity (i.e. Kent Downs AONB) being protected from adverse impacts on character and setting?</p> <p>Development which considers the existing character, form and pattern of the District's landscapes, buildings and settlements?</p> <p>The protection and enhancement of local distinctiveness and contribution to a sense of place?</p>	Landscape, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

¹¹⁵ Power generation at Dungeness 'A' finished in 2006; that at Dungeness 'B' is currently scheduled for 2018 but EDF has applied to extend this to 2028; employment levels at the site are typically maintained for several years after operation ceases to carry out de-commissioning.

SA Objective Reference	SA Objective	Appraisal questions: will the Plan/option lead to...?	Relationship with the SEA Topics / District's Health and Well Being
SA4	Conserve and enhance the fabric and setting of historic assets.	<p>Development that avoids negative effects on listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled ancient monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, and registered battlefields and their settings?</p> <p>Provision of appropriately scaled, designed and landscaped developments that relate well to and enhance the historic character of the District and contribute positively to its distinctive sense of place?</p> <p>Promotes the enhancement of the District's archaeological resource and other aspects of heritage, such as, parks and open spaces, and areas with a particular historical or cultural association?</p> <p>Promotes access to as well as enjoyment and understanding of the local historic environment for people including the District's residents?</p> <p>Improves participation in local cultural activities?</p> <p>Helps to foster heritage-led regeneration and address heritage at risk?</p> <p>Improves existing and provides new leisure, recreational, or cultural activities related to the historic environment?</p>	Cultural Heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
SA5	Conserve and enhance biodiversity, taking into account the effects of climate change.	<p>Protect and where possible enhance internationally and nationally designated biodiversity sites and species?</p> <p>Avoidance of net loss, damage to, or fragmentation of locally designated and non-designated wildlife sites, habitats and species (including biodiverse brownfield sites)?</p> <p>Opportunities to enhance and increase the extent of habitats for protected species and priority species identified in the Kent BAP or the England Biodiversity Strategy 2020?</p> <p>Opportunities for people to come into contact with resilient wildlife places whilst encouraging respect for and raising awareness of the sensitivity of these sites?</p> <p>Development which includes the integration of ecological habitats and contributes to improvements in ecological connectivity and ecological resilience to current and future pressures, both in rural and urban areas?</p> <p>Maintenance and enhancement of the ecological networks in the District?</p> <p>N.B. Climate change is likely to impact upon habitats and thereby biodiversity. Plan policies which achieve the goals listed above should all help to enhance the ability of wildlife to adapt to a changing climate.</p>	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
SA6	Protect and enhance green infrastructure and ensure that it meets strategic needs.	Provision, stewardship and maintenance of green infrastructure assets and networks (including green open space, river/canal corridors and the coastline), ensuring that this is linked into new and existing developments, to improve the connectivity of green spaces and green networks?	Landscape, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

SA Objective Reference	SA Objective	Appraisal questions: will the Plan/option lead to...?	Relationship with the SEA Topics / District's Health and Well Being
		<p>N.B. The East Kent Green Infrastructure (GI) Working Group has identified an East Kent GI Typology which encompasses the following GI types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity e.g. Natura 2000 sites, SSSIs, LNRs, Local Wildlife Sites. - Civic Amenity e.g. parks, allotments, cemeteries. - Linear features e.g. the Royal Military Canal, railway corridors. <p>The full list of GI components of this typology is available from the Shepway GI Report, 2011.</p>	
SA7	Use land efficiently and safeguard soils, geology and economic mineral reserves.	<p>Development that avoids high quality agricultural land?</p> <p>Remediation of contaminated sites?</p> <p>Re-use and re-development of brownfield sites?</p> <p>Efficient use of recycled/ secondary materials?</p> <p>Protection of mineral resources and infrastructure?</p> <p>Development that protects sites valued for their geological characteristics?</p> <p>Development that avoids sterilising local mineral reserves and can be accommodated by existing or planned local mineral reserves?</p>	Soil, Climatic Factors and Landscape
SA8	Maintain and improve the quality of groundwater, surface waters and coastal waters and the hydromorphological (physical) quality of rivers and coastal waters.	<p>Development that will not lead to the deterioration of groundwater, surface water, river or coastal water quality, i.e. their Water Framework Directive status?</p> <p>Development where adequate foul drainage, sewage treatment facilities and surface water drainage are, or can be made, available?</p> <p>Development which incorporates SuDS (including their long-term maintenance) to reduce the risk of combined sewer overflows and to trap and break down pollutants?</p>	Water, Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora
SA9	Reduce the risk of flooding, taking into account the effects of climate change.	<p>Avoid development in locations at risk from flooding or that could increase the risk of flooding elsewhere having regard to the Shepway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, taking into account the impacts of climate change?</p> <p>Create development which incorporates SuDS (including their long-term maintenance) to reduce the rate of run-off and reduce the risk of surface water flooding and combined sewer overflows?</p>	Water, Soil, Climatic Factors and Human Health
SA10	Increase energy efficiency in the built environment and the proportion of energy use from renewable sources.	<p>Create strategic-scale developments that make significant and lasting contributions to the UK's national carbon target of reducing emissions by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050?</p> <p>Create connected energy networks that provide local low carbon and renewable</p>	Air, Climatic Factors, and Human Health

SA Objective Reference	SA Objective	Appraisal questions: will the Plan/option lead to...?	Relationship with the SEA Topics / District's Health and Well Being
		electricity and heat?	
SA11	Use water resources efficiently.	Development where adequate water supply is, or can be made, available? Water efficient design and reduction in water consumption (e.g. rainwater recycling/grey water reuse and BREEAM)?	Water and Climatic Factors
SA12	To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste.	Will it promote sustainable waste management practices through a range of waste management facilities? Will it reduce hazardous waste? Will it increase waste recovery and recycling? Will it protect existing waste facilities and infrastructure or support the delivery of new facilities or infrastructures of this kind?	Soil, Climatic Factors and Material Assets
SA13	Reduce the need to travel, increase opportunities to choose sustainable transport modes and avoid development that will result in significant traffic congestion and poor air quality.	A complementary mix of land uses within compact communities that minimises the length of journeys to services and facilities and employment opportunities, increases the proportion of journeys made on foot or by cycle, and are of a sufficient density to support and enhance local services and public transport provision? Development in locations well served by public transport, cycle paths and walking routes? Development of new and improved sustainable transport networks, including cycle and walking routes, to encourage active travel and improve connectivity to local service centres, transport hubs, employment areas and open/green spaces?	Air, Climatic Factors, Population and Human Health
SA14	Promote community vibrancy and social cohesion; provide opportunities to access services, facilities and environmental assets for all ages and abilities and avoid creating inequalities of opportunity for access.	Create well-designed developments that contain compact communities with a sufficient critical mass or density to support local services and public transport provision? Create new opportunities to improve educational attainment, qualification levels and participation in education and training through access to existing or the provision of new educational infrastructure? Provision of new or enhancement of existing leisure facilities for young people, where thresholds/standards require these? Create opportunities to lead healthier lifestyles, including development that enhances existing and /or makes provision for and maintenance towards open spaces, sports and recreational facilities e.g. publicly available pitches, allotments, swimming pools, courts, etc.? Provision of new or enhanced local health services to support new and growing communities? Improvements to strategic public transport infrastructure? Reintegration of physically divided or highly linear villages or neighbourhoods	Population, Human Health and Material Assets

SA Objective Reference	SA Objective	Appraisal questions: will the Plan/option lead to...?	Relationship with the SEA Topics / District's Health and Well Being
		<p>through, for example, provision of central social infrastructure?</p> <p>Provision for the specific needs of disabled and older people?</p>	
SA15	Reduce crime and the fear of crime.	Reduced levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime through high quality design and intervention, i.e. street layout, public space provision, passive surveillance, lighting etc.?	Population and Human Health

Use of SA Framework

- 4.6 The SA will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Shepway District Council officers responsible for drafting the Local Plan in order to fully integrate the SA process with the production of the Review of the Core Strategy.
- 4.7 The findings of the SA of the policies and proposals for the Review of the Core Strategy will be presented in SA matrices, which will include a colour coded symbol showing the score for the site allocation/policy against each of the SA objectives along with a concise justification for the score given. The detailed SA matrices will be presented as an appendix to the full SA report.
- 4.8 The use of colour coding in the matrices will allow for likely significant effects (both positive and negative) to be easily identified, as shown in the key below.

Table 4.2: Symbols to be used in the SA of the effects of the Review of the Core Strategy

++	Significant positive effect likely
+	Minor positive effect likely
0	Negligible effect likely
-	Minor negative effect likely
--	Significant negative effect likely
--/+	Mixed significant negative and minor positive effects likely
++/-	Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects likely
+/-	Mixed minor effects likely
?	Likely effect uncertain

- 4.9 The dividing line between sustainability scores is often quite small. Where we distinguish significant effects from more minor effects this is because, in our judgement, the effect of the allocation or policy on the SA objective will be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect compared with other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective.
- 4.10 In determining the significance of the effects of the options contained in the Review of the Core Strategy it will be important to bear in mind its relationship with the other documents in the planning system such as the NPPF, existing policies in Shepway's adopted Core Strategy that are not subject to the Review, and the forthcoming Places and Policies Local Plan (as described in **Chapter 2**), as these may provide additional safeguards or mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects.

Reasonable alternatives

- 4.11 Part 3 of the SEA Regulations 12(2) require that:

"The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of:

(a) Implementing the plan or programme; and

(b) Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the Plan or Programme."

Schedule 2 (h) of the SEA Regulations requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of:

“(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with”

- 4.12 Therefore, the SA must appraise not only the policies or site allocations preferred by the Review of the Core Strategy but “reasonable alternatives” to those policies and allocations. This implies that alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. There is no requirement in the SEA Regulations for all possible reasonable alternatives to be subject to appraisal. Part (b) of Regulation 12(2) above notes that reasonable alternatives will take into account the objectives of the plan, as well as its geographical scope. Therefore, alternatives that do not meet the objectives of national policy, or are outside the Plan area are unlikely to be reasonable.
- 4.13 The objectives, policies and site allocations of the Review of the Core Strategy and reasonable alternatives are still being defined. The Council’s reasons for selecting the alternatives to be included in the Review of the Core Strategy and for preferring particular alternatives for inclusion in the Proposed Submission Plan will be reported at a later stage in the SA process.

Proposed Structure of the SA Report

- 4.14 A Sustainability Appraisal Report will be produced as a key output of the appraisal process. The SA Report will contain information on the effects of the proposed plan options, policies or site allocations (depending on the stage) and will be published for formal public consultation. It will include the updated table ‘signposting’ where each of the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met (as shown in **Table 1.1** of this Scoping Report).
- 4.15 The SA report will be written in a user-friendly way in order to ensure that it will be understood by as wide an audience as possible. It will include a non-technical summary and is likely to be structured as set out below:

Summary

- Non-technical summary.
- A statement of the likely significant effects of the plan.
- Statement on the difference the process has made.
- How to comment on the SA Report.

Introduction

- Purpose of the SA and the SA Report.
- Review of the Core Strategy objectives and an outline of its contents.
- Compliance with the SEA Directive.

Appraisal methodology

- Approach to the SA.
- When the SA was carried out.
- Who carried out the SA.
- Who was consulted, when and how.
- Difficulties encountered in compiling information or carrying out the assessment.

Sustainability objectives, baseline and context

- Links to other strategies, plans and policies and sustainability objectives and how these have been taken into account.
- Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline.
- Difficulties in data collection and its limitations.

- The SA framework, including objectives, targets and indicators.
- Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified and the likely evolution of those issues without implementation of the Review of the Core Strategy.

Options considered in the Review of the Core Strategy ('alternatives')

- Main policy and site options considered and how they were identified.
- Comparison of their social, environmental and economic effects.
- How social, environmental and economic were considered in choosing the preferred options.
- Other options considered and why these were rejected.
- Any proposed mitigation measures.

Review of the Core Strategy policies/site allocations

- Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the draft policies and site allocations. Reference will also be made to the HRA findings as relevant.
- How social, environmental and economic problems were considered in developing the policies and proposals.
- Proposed mitigation measures.
- Uncertainties and risks.

Conclusions and monitoring

- Conclusions regarding the SA findings, including summary of the potential significant effects.
- Proposals for monitoring.

- 4.16 As described above, the SA matrices presenting the detailed assessment of each option, policy or site allocation against each of the SA objectives will be presented as appendices to the main SA report. Information about how any consultation responses received in response to earlier stages of the SA have been addressed will also be presented in an appendix.
- 4.17 Once the appraisal work is undertaken, it may be necessary to make refinements to the proposed report structure described above, in order to present the findings of the SA in the most easily understandable way. However, the content of the report will reflect the above list of issues, and will be fully compliant with the reporting requirements of the SEA Regulations.

5 Consultation and Next Steps

- 5.1 The SA Scoping Report was published for consultation for a seven week period between December 2016 and February 2017.
- 5.2 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations, the views of the three statutory consultees (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) have been sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA Report.
- 5.3 In particular, the consultees were requested to consider:
- Whether the scope of the SA is appropriate as set out considering the role of the Review of the Core Strategy to help meet Shepway District's needs.
 - Whether there are any additional plans, policies or programmes that are relevant to the SA and should be included (see **Appendix 1**).
 - Whether the information provided in **Chapter 3** is robust and comprehensive, and provides a suitable baseline for the SA of the Review of the Core Strategy.
 - Whether the Scoping Report identifies the significant issues which new development in Shepway can make a significant contribution towards addressing (see **Chapters 3 and 4**).
 - Whether there are any additional key sustainability issues (see **Chapters 3 and 4**) that should be included.
 - Whether the SA framework (**Chapter 4**) is appropriate and includes a suitable range of objectives for assessing the effects of the Shepway Review of the Core Strategy.
- 5.4 Responses from consultees have been reviewed and appropriate amendments made to the Scoping Report, including the baseline, policy context and SA Framework.
- 5.5 The Review of the Core Strategy will be subject to the later stages of the SA using the SA Framework presented in **Chapter 4**.
- 5.6 The next formal output of the SA process will be at the Draft Plan stage, during which reasonable alternative site allocations and development management policies will be assessed. The results of this assessment will inform the Shepway planning team in their preparation of subsequent iterations of the Review of the Core Strategy. The SA of the Draft Plan will be reported in an SA Report (incorporating the later stages of the SA process) which will be published for public consultation alongside the Draft Plan.

LUC

March 2017

Appendix 1

Review of policies, plans and programmes

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
INTERNATIONAL		
European		
EU Seventh Environmental Action Plan (2002-2012)	<p>The EU's objectives in implementing the programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; (b) to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy; (c) to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing; (d) to maximise the benefits of the Union's environment legislation; (e) to improve the evidence base for environment policy; (f) to secure investment for environment and climate policy and get the prices right; (g) to improve environmental integration and policy coherence; (h) to enhance the sustainability of the Union's cities; (i) to increase the Union's effectiveness in confronting regional and global environmental challenges. 	Include sustainability objectives to protect and enhance the natural environment and promote energy efficiency. [Addressed by SA objectives 5, 6, 9 and 10].
SEA Directive 2001 Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	<p>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p> <p>The Directive must be applied to plans or programmes whose formal preparation begins after 21 July 2004 and to those already in preparation by that date.</p>	Requirements of the Directive must be met in Sustainability Appraisals.
The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010 Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	This Directive lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objective for reducing pollution. [Addressed by SA objectives 10 and 13].</p>
Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU	<p>The Directive aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units.</p> <p>It requests that member states adopt either national or regional methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objective relating to the energy performance/efficiency of existing and proposed buildings. [Addressed by SA objective 10].</p>
The Birds Directive 2009 Directive 2009/147/EC is a codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as	Article 1 and 2 of the Directive require that Member States take the requisite measures to maintain the population of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory at a level which	Local Plan documents should make sure that the upkeep of recognised habitats is maintained and not damaged from development.

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
amended	<p>corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements, or to adapt the population of these species to that level.</p> <p>Article 3 of the Directive requires that the preservation, maintenance, and re-establishment of biotopes and habitats shall include the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of protected areas. • Upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones. • Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes. • Creation of biotopes. 	Avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats or any other disturbances effecting birds. [Addressed by SA objective 5 and 6.
The Waste Framework Directive 2008 Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include SA objectives that minimise waste production as well as promote recycling. [Addressed by SA objective 12].
The Floods Directive 2007 Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risk	Establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risk, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include SA objectives that relate to flood management and reduction of risk. [Addressed by SA objective 9].
The Water Framework Directive 2000 Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy	Protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include SA objectives to protect and minimise the impact on water quality. [Addressed by SA objective 8].
The Environmental Noise Directive 2002 Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise	<p>Defines a common approach to avoid, prevent and reduce the adverse effects due to the exposure to environmental noise.</p> <p>It also provides a basis for developing European wide measures to deal with noise emitted by road and rail vehicles, infrastructure, aircraft and outdoor, industrial and mobile machinery.</p>	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include SA objectives to manage and reduce the impacts of noise. [Addressed by SA objectives 5, 6, 13 and 14].

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	Principles of the directive include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the environmental problems. • Informing and consulting the public. • Addressing local noise issues 	
The Landfill Directive 1999 Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include SA objectives to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste. [Addressed by SA objective 12].
The Drinking Water Directive 1998 Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. [Addressed by SA objectives 8 and 11].
The Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management	Avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient air pollution on human health and the environment.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. [Addressed by SA objectives 10 and 13].
Air Quality Directive 2008 Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	This directive sets legally binding limits for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead • Nitrogen dioxide • Sulphur dioxide • Benzene • Carbon Monoxide • Arsenic • Cadmium • Nickel • Benzo(a)pyrene • Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons • ozone 	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include SA objectives to maintain and enhance air quality. [Addressed by SA objective 10 and 13].
The Packaging and Packaging Waste	Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the	Local Plan documents should take account of the

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
Directive 1994 Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste	environmental impact of packaging waste. By June 2001 at least 50% by weight of packaging waste should have been recovered, at least 25% by weight of the totality of packaging materials contained in packaging waste to be recycled with a minimum of 15% by weight for each packaging material.	Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include SA objectives to minimise the environmental impact of waste and promote recycling. [Addressed by SA objective 12].
The Habitats Directive 1992 Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	Promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. Conservation of natural habitats and maintain landscape features of importance to wildlife and fauna.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include SA objectives to protect and maintain the natural environment and important landscape features. [Addressed by SA objectives 4, 5 and 6].
The Nitrates Directive 1991 Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.	Reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and prevent further such pollution. Identification of vulnerable areas.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include SA objectives to reduce water pollution. [Addressed by SA objectives 8].
The Urban Waste Water Directive 1991 Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment	Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include sustainability objectives to reduce water pollution. [Addressed by SA objective 8].
European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)	Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include SA objectives to conserve natural resources and cultural heritage. [Addressed by SA objectives 3, 4 and 5].
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2002)	The convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Convention. Include SA objectives to protect the urban and rural landscape and identify opportunities for enhancement. [Addressed by SA objective 3].
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992) Revision of the 1985 Granada Convention	Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Convention. Include SA objectives to protect the archaeological heritage. [Addressed by SA objective 4].
Other International		

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all. • Renewable energy and energy efficiency. • Accelerate shift towards sustainable consumption and production. • Greater resource efficiency. • New technology for renewable energy. 	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Declaration.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to enhance the natural environment, promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources. [Addressed by SA objective 10].</p>
Aarhus Convention (1998)	<p>Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right of everyone to receive environmental information • The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making 	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Convention.</p> <p>Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production.</p>
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985)	<p>The convention defines 'architectural heritage' and requires that the signatories maintain an inventory of it and take statutory measures to ensure its protection. Conservation policies should also be integrated into planning systems and other spheres of government influence as per the text of the convention.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Convention.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect architectural heritage in Shepway. [Addressed by SA objective 4].</p>
UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972)	<p>Aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Convention.</p> <p>There are currently no World Heritage Sites in Shepway but if any were to be declared there would require special consideration.</p>
NATIONAL		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG, 2012)	<p>Presumption in favour of sustainable development.</p> <p>Delivering sustainable development by:</p>	<p>Local Plan documents must be in conformity with the NPPF.</p>
	<p>Building a strong, competitive economy.</p>	<p>Set out clear economic visions for that particular area. [Addressed by SA objective 2].</p>
	<p>Ensuring vitality of town centres.</p>	<p>Recognise town centres as the heart of their communities. [Addressed by SA objectives 2 and 14].</p>
	<p>Promoting sustainable transport.</p>	<p>To implement sustainable transport modes depending on nature/location of the site, to reduce the need for major road transport infrastructure. [Addressed by SA objective 13].</p>

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	Supporting high quality communications infrastructure.	Enhance the provision of local community facilities and services by supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks. [Addressed by SA objective 14].
	Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes.	Identify size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations. [Addressed by SA objective 1].
	Requiring good design.	Establish a strong sense of place to live, work and visit. [Addressed by all SA objectives].
	Promoting healthy communities.	Promote safe and accessible environments with a high quality of life and community cohesion. [Addressed by SA objectives 6 and 14].
	Protecting Green Belt Land.	To prevent the coalescence of neighbouring towns. [Addressed by SA objective 3].
	Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding, and coastal change.	Use opportunities offered by new development to reduce causes/impacts of flooding. [Addressed by SA objectives 9 and 10].
	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.	Recognise the wider benefits of biodiversity. [Addressed by SA objective 5 and 6].
	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Sustain and enhance heritage assets and put them to viable uses consistent with their conservation. A plan may be considered unsound if there has been no proper assessment of the significance of heritage assets in the area, and the plan does not contain a positive strategy for the conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the historic environment. [Addressed by SA objective 4].
	Facilitating the use of sustainable minerals.	Include policies which identify and safeguard mineral resources and associated infrastructure and promote the use of recycled/secondary materials prior to the extraction of primary materials. [Addressed by SA objective 10].
Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)	Provides the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment.	Local Plan documents should consider this Act to ensure the protection of oceans and coastal areas including biodiversity at such locations. [Addressed by SA objectives 5 and 6].
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)	The Act makes provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of	Local Plan documents should consider this Act to ensure Ancient Monuments and Archaeological

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	matters of archaeological or historical interest.	Areas are protected in the Plan. [Addressed by SA objective 4].
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)	Legislation for the protection of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.	Local Plan documents should consider this Act to ensure Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas are protected in the Plan. [Addressed by SA objective 4].
White Papers		
Natural Environment White Paper, 2011 The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (HM Government, 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and improving our natural environment. • Growing a green economy. • Reconnecting people and nature. 	Local Plan documents should protect the intrinsic value of nature and recognise the multiple benefits it could have for communities. [Addressed by SA objective 10].
Electricity Market Reform White Paper 2011, Planning our Electric Future: A White Paper for Secure, Affordable and Low-Carbon Electricity (DECC, 2011)	<p>This White Paper sets out the Government's commitment to transform the UK's electricity system to ensure that our future electricity supply is secure, low-carbon and affordable.</p> <p>15 per cent renewable energy target by 2020 and 80 per cent carbon reduction target by 2050.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should support renewable energy generation and encourage greater energy efficiency.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives to reduce carbon emissions and increase proportion of energy generated from renewable sources. [Addressed by SA objective 10].</p>
The Future of Transport White Paper 2004: A network for 2030 (DfT, 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure we can benefit from mobility and access while minimising the impact on other people and the environment, now and in the future. • Get the best out of our transport system without damaging our overall quality of life. • Develop strategies that recognise that demand for travel will increase in the future. • Work towards a transport network that can meet the challenges of a growing economy and the increasing demand for travel but can also achieve the government's environmental objectives. 	<p>Local Plan documents should provide for an increase in demand for travel whilst minimising impact on the environment. Policies also needed to promote public transport use rather than increasing reliance on the car.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives to reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of sustainable transport modes. [Addressed by SA objective 13].</p>
Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future (2003)	<p>There are four key aims in this document:</p> <p>To put ourselves on a path to cut the United Kingdom carbon dioxide emissions- the main contributor to global warming- by some 60 % by about 2050, with real progress by 2020;</p> <p>To maintain the reliability of energy supplies;</p> <p>To promote competitive markets in the United Kingdom and beyond,</p>	The Local Plan and its policies need to promote development that is energy efficient and increases the use and/ or availability of renewable energy. [Addressed by SA objective 10].

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	<p>helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve our productivity; and</p> <p>To make sure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.</p>	
<p>Water White Paper, 2011</p> <p>Water for Life</p>	<p>Objectives of the White Paper are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint a clear vision of the future and create the conditions which enable the water sector and water users to prepare for it; • Deliver benefits across society through an ambitious agenda for improving water quality, working with local communities to make early improvements in the health of our rivers by reducing pollution and tackling unsustainable abstraction; • Keep short and longer term affordability for customers at the centre of decision making in the water sector; • Protect the interests of taxpayers in the policy decisions that we take; • Ensure a stable framework for the water sector which remains attractive to investors; • Stimulate cultural change in the water sector by removing barriers to competition, fostering innovation and efficiency, and encouraging new entrants to the market to help improve the range and quality of services offered to customers and cut business costs; • Work with water companies, regulators and other stakeholders to build understanding of the impact personal choices have on the water environment, water resources and costs; and • Set out roles and responsibilities – including where Government will take a stronger role in strategic direction setting and assessing resilience to future challenges, as well as clear expectations on the regulators. 	<p>Include sustainability objectives that relate to water quality and quantity. [Addressed by SA objectives 8 and 11].</p>
<p>Urban White Paper 2000, Our Towns and Cities: The Future – delivering an urban renaissance (ODPM, 2000)</p>	<p>Provide for new sustainable homes that are attractive, safe and practical. Retain people in urban areas by, for example, making them more desirable places to live. Improve quality of life, opportunity and economic success through tailored solutions in towns and cities.</p> <p>3.8 million more homes needed by 2021. Local strategies needed to meet</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should seek to deliver better towns and cities taking into account the key aims of the White Paper.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives to ensure that the majority of new development is built on brownfield</p>

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	the needs of local people developed through partnerships. Sets targets for development on brownfield sites and through conversion of existing buildings now superseded by the NPPF.	sites and aim to improve the quality of life of residents in towns and cities. [Addressed by SA objective 7].
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century: White Paper (2007)	<p>The proposals in this White Paper reflect the importance of the heritage protection system in preserving our heritage for people to enjoy now and in the future. They are based around three core principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a unified approach to the historic environment; • Maximising opportunities for inclusion and involvement; and • Supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system 	The new Shepway Review of the Core Strategy policies will need to ensure that they protect the Borough's heritage assets. [Addressed by SA objective 4].
Rural White Paper 2000, Our Countryside: The Future – a fair deal for rural England (ODPM, 2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside. • Maintain and stimulate communities and secure access to services for those who live and work in the countryside. • Conserve and enhance rural landscapes. 	Local Plan documents should help increase employment and services in the rural parts of the District whilst conserving the landscape. [Addressed by SA objectives 2 and 3].
Policies and Strategies		
National Planning Practice Guidance, DCLG, 2014	<p>On a range of topics that link to the promotion Of sustainable development including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality • Climate change • Conserving and enhancing the historic environment • Flood risk • Health and well being • Housing and economic development • Natural environment • Minerals • Rural housing • Open space 	The NPPG sets out a range of social, economic and environmental considerations for the preparation of the Local Plan. It also includes information on undertaking sustainability appraisals which can be taken into consideration. [Addressed by all SA objectives].

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Waste • Water supply, wastewater and water quality 	
National Planning Practice Guidance (2014)	The National Planning Practice Guidance provides technical guidance on topic areas in order to support policies set out within the NPPF. It aims to allow for sustainable development as guided by the NPPF.	The new Shepway Review of the Core Strategy will need to reflect the guidance set out within the NPPG. [Addressed by all SA objectives].
Localism Act (2011)	<p>The Localism Act introduces a number of measures to decentralise decision making process to the local level, creating space for Local Authorities to lead and innovate, and giving people the opportunity to take control of decisions that matter to them. The Localism Act includes a number of important packages.</p> <p>The new act makes it easier for local people to take over the amenities they love and keep them part of local life;</p> <p>The act makes sure that local social enterprises, volunteers and community groups with a bright idea for improving local services get a chance to change how things are done.</p> <p>The act places significantly more influence in the hands of local people over issues that make a big difference to their lives.</p> <p>The act provides appropriate support and recognition to communities who welcome new development.</p> <p>The act reduces red tape, making it easier for authorities to get on with the job of working with local people to draw up a vision for their area's future.</p> <p>The act reinforces the democratic nature of the planning system passing power from bodies not directly to the public, to democratically accountable ministers.</p> <p>The act enables Local Authorities to make their own decisions to adapt housing provision to local needs, and make the system fairer and more effective.</p> <p>The act gives Local Authorities more control over the funding of social housing, helping them plan for the long- term.</p> <p>In relation to planning, the Localism Act enables the Government to abolish regional spatial strategies, introduce Neighbourhood Plans and Local Referendums.</p>	The Local Plan will need to reflect the principles of Localism as identified in the document. The Local Plan will need to incorporate the concept of Neighbourhood Planning, with the intention of giving neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which people live.
National Policy Statement EN1: Overarching Energy Policy Statement (2011)	This policy document sets out government policy for the delivery of major planning applications for energy development. The document also specifies the criteria for waste management, traffic and transport , water quality and quantity, noise and vibration, open spaces and green infrastructure, the	The new Review of the Core Strategy will need to be consistent with the National Policy Statement. [Addressed by SA objective 10].

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	landscape , visual impact , dust flood risk, historic environment, odour, light, smoke/steam, insects, coastal change, aviation, biodiversity and geodiversity.	
National Policy Statement EN3: Renewable Energy Infrastructure (2011)	The statement provides the primary basis for decisions on major applications for nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure; this includes biomass ad waste combustion and onshore and offshore wind.	The new Review of the Core Strategy will need to be consistent with the National Policy Statement [Addressed by SA objective 10].
National Policy Statement EN4: National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas Oil pipelines (2011)	Taken with the overarching national policy statement for energy, the statement provides the primary basis for decisions on major applications for gas supply infrastructure and gas and oil pipelines.	The Local Plan will need to consider and be consistent with the policies and objectives of the National Policy Statement where applicable. [Addressed by SA objective 10].
EN5: National Policy Statement for Electricity for Electricity Networks (2011)Infrastructure	This statement provides the primary basis for decisions on major applications for electricity networks infrastructure.	The Local Plan will need to consider and be consistent with the policies and objectives of the National Policy Statement where applicable. [Addressed by SA objective 10].
National Policy Statement EN6: Nuclear Power Generation (2011)	This statement provides the primary basis for decisions on major planning applications for Nuclear Power infrastructure.	The Local Plan will need to consider and be consistent with the policies and objectives of the National Policy Statement where applicable. [Addressed by SA objective 10].
Energy Act (2008)	<p>The Act works towards a number of policy objectives including carbon emissions reduction, security of supply, and competitive energy markets. Objectives: Electricity from Renewable Sources: changes to Renewables Obligation (RO), designed to increase renewables generation, as well as the effectiveness of the RO.</p> <p>Feed in tariffs for small scale, low carbon generators of electricity. Smart meters: the Act mandates a roll-out of smart meters to medium sized businesses over the next five years.</p> <p>Renewable heat incentives: the establishment of a financial support mechanism for those generating heat from renewable sources.</p>	Review of the Core Strategy Policies and Site Allocations will have to ensure a positive contribution in meeting the climate change challenge by capitalising on renewable and low carbon energy opportunities and adaptation measures which reduce the threat of climate change. [Addressed by SA objective 10].
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	<p>Key planning objectives are identified within National Planning Policy for Waste, requiring panning authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy • Ensure waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns • provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste 	Include sustainability objective that relates to waste reduction. [Addressed by SA objective 12].

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment, • ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management 	
National Policy Statement: Waste Water (2012)	The National Policy Statement sets out Government Policy for the provision of major waste water infrastructure. It will be used by the decision makers as the primary basis for deciding development consent that fall within the definition of Nationally Significant Infrastructure projects as defined in the Planning Act 2008.	The Local Plan will need to consider and be consistent with the policies and objectives of the National Policy Statement where applicable. [Addressed by SA objectives 8 and 11].
Door to Door: A Strategy for Improving Sustainable Transport Integration (DfT, 2013)	<p>The strategy focuses on four core areas which need to be addressed so that people can be confident in choosing greener modes of transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate, accessible and reliable information about different transport options • Convenient and affordable tickets • Regular and straightforward connections at all stages of the journey and between different modes of transport • Safe and comfortable transport facilities 	<p>Local Plan documents should take into account their role in addressing the four core areas outlined in the Strategy.</p> <p>Include SA objectives relating to high quality, efficient sustainable transport systems. [Addressed by SA objective 13].</p>
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2012)	<p>This document sets out the Government’s planning policy for traveller sites, replacing ODPM Circular 01/2006: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and Circular 04/2007: Planning for Travelling Showpeople. It sets out the Government’s aims in respect of Traveller’s sites, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites. • To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale. • That plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development. • For local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies. • To increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain 	<p>The Review of the Core Strategy Policies will need to be in conformity with this document which sets out national policy for planning for Traveller sites.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relative to supply of housing available to all. [Addressed by SA objective 1].</p>

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	<p>an appropriate level of supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan making and planning decisions. • To enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure. • For local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment. 	
<p>DECC (2011) UK Renewable Energy Roadmap (updates setting out progress and changes to the strategy dated 2013 and 2013)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the UK more energy secure • Help protect consumers from fossil fuel price fluctuations. • Help drive investment in new jobs and businesses in the renewable energy sector. 	<p>Include objectives relating to renewable energy generation and energy efficiency. [Addressed by SA objective 10].</p>
<p>Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (DEFRA, 2011)</p>	<p>The aim of the Strategy is to guide conservation efforts in England up to 2020. Moving further on from 2020, the ambition is to move from a net biodiversity loss to gain.</p> <p>The strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Forestry • Planning and Development • Water Management • Marine Management • Fisheries • Air Pollution 	<p>Local Plan documents should take into account their role in seeking to prevent the degradation of biodiversity and ecosystem services within Shepway. Local Plan documents should also recognise their contribution to securing a net gain in biodiversity.</p> <p>Include SA objective relating to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. [Addressed by SA objective 5 and 6].</p>
<p>Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2009)</p>	<p>The vision is "by 2030, all England's soils will be managed sustainability and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England's soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations".</p> <p>The Strategy highlights the areas for priority including:</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should help protect and enhance the quality of soils and seek to sustainably manage their quality for future generations.</p> <p>Include SA objective which seeks to safeguard and enhance the quality of soil. [Addressed by SA objective 7].</p>

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better protection for agricultural soils. • Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon. • Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate. • Preventing soil pollution. • Effective soil protection during construction and development. 	
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (DCLG, 2011)	Aims to provide support to deliver new homes and improve social mobility.	Local Plan documents should encourage development of residential properties. [Addressed by SA objective 1].
Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA, 2005)	<p>Enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life for future generations. There are 4 shared priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable consumption and production; • climate change and energy; • natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and • sustainable communities. <p>Sets out indicators to give an overview of sustainable development and priority areas in the UK. They include 20 of the UK Framework indicators and a further 48 indicators related to the priority areas.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should meet the aims of the Sustainable Development Strategy.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to cover the shared priorities. [Addressed by SA objectives 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14].</p>
Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (DCLG, 2007)	This Statement confirms the government's intention to achieve 25% more energy efficient homes by 2010, 44% more efficient homes by 2013 and zero carbon (net carbon emissions should be zero per annum) homes by 2016.	Local Plan documents should ensure residential development is zero carbon by 2016. [Addressed by SA objective 10].
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (DECC, 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase our use of renewable electricity, heat and transport, and help tackle climate change. • Build the UK low-carbon economy, promote energy security and take action against climate change. • 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020. • ₂ emissions by 750 million tonnes by 2030. 	<p>Local Plan documents should encourage developments that would support renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.</p> <p>Include SA objectives relating to increasing energy provided from renewable sources. [Addressed by SA objective 10].</p>

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The Climate Change Act (2008)	<p>The Climate Change Act was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also strengthened the UK's leadership internationally by highlighting the role it would take in contributing to urgent collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>The Climate Change Act includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2050 target. The act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. This target was based on advice from the CCC report: Building a Low- carbon Economy. The 80% target includes GHG emissions from the devolved administrations, which currently accounts for around 20% of the UK's total emissions. • 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 first four carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2027. 	The Review of the Core Strategy policies must reflect the objectives of The Climate Change Act, in order to contribute to reducing UK carbon emissions. [Addressed by SA objective 10].
The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (DECC, 2012)	<p>This is an Energy Efficiency Strategy aiming to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy.</p> <p>The Strategy identifies four barriers to energy efficiency which need to be overcome which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embryonic markets. • Information. • Misaligned financial incentives. • Undervaluing energy efficiency. <p>The Strategy draws attention to maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should seek to address the barriers identified within the Strategy and improve the existing building stock through appropriate adaptation measures.</p> <p>Include SA objectives relating to energy efficiency and adaptation of the existing building stock. [Addressed by SA objective 10].</p>
UK Bioenergy Strategy (2012)	<p>The UK Government has a responsibility to ensure that its policies only support bioenergy use in the right circumstances. This strategy is based on four principles which will act as a framework for future government policy on bioenergy.</p> <p>In summary the four principles state that:</p> <p>Policies that support bioenergy should deliver genuine carbon reductions</p>	The principles of the Bioenergy Strategy 2012 will need to be reflected within the new Review of the Core Strategy policies. [Addressed by SA objective 10].

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	<p>that help meet UK carbon emissions objectives to 2050 and beyond.</p> <p>Support for bioenergy should make a cost effective contribution to UK carbon emission objectives in the context of the overall energy goals.</p> <p>Support for bioenergy should aim to maximise the overall benefits and minimise costs (quantifiable and non-quantifiable) across the economy.</p> <p>At regular time intervals and when policies promote significant additional demand for bioenergy in the UK, beyond that envisaged by current use, policy makers should assess and respond to the impacts of this increased deployment on other areas, such as food security and biodiversity.</p>	
<p>The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013)</p>	<p>The report sets out visions for the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built Environment – “buildings and places and the people who live and work in them are resilient to a changing climate and extreme weather and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and take the opportunities from climate change”. • Infrastructure – “an infrastructure network that is resilient to today’s natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate”. • Healthy and resilient communities – “a health service, a public health and social care system which are resilient and adapted to a changing climate. Communities and individuals, including the most vulnerable, are better prepared to cope with severe weather events and other impacts of climate change. Emergency services and local resilience capability take account of and are resilient to, a changing climate”. • Agriculture and Forestry – “profitable and productive agriculture and forestry sectors that take the opportunities from climate change are resilient to its threats and contribute to the resilience of the natural environment by helping maintain ecosystem services and protect and enhance biodiversity”. • Natural Environment – “the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides”. 	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the visions set out in the Programme.</p> <p>Include SA objectives which seek to promote the implementation of adaptation measures to make Shepway more resilient to a changing climate. [Addressed by SA objectives 6 and 9].</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business – “UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change”. • “Local government plays a central in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risk and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate”. 	
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our Strategy for public health in England (Department of Health, 2010)	Protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives; and improving the health of the poorest, fastest. Prioritise public health funding from within the overall NHS budget.	Policies within the Local Plan documents should reflect the objectives of the strategy where relevant. [Addressed by SA objectives 6 and 14].
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA, 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality in public spaces, which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life. • Render polluting emissions harmless. 	Local Plan documents should take account of the likely impact on air quality from development. Include SA objectives to protect and improve air quality. [Addressed by SA objective 6 and 13].
Future Water: The Government’s Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008)	<p>Sets out how the Government want the water sector to look by 2030 and an outline of the steps which need to be taken to get there.</p> <p>The vision for 2030 is one where we, as a country have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “improved the quality of our water environment and the ecology it supports, and continue to maintain high standards of drinking water quality from taps; • Sustainably managed risks from flooding and coastal erosion, with greater understanding and more effective management of surface water; • Ensure a sustainable use of water resources, and implement fair, affordable and cost-reflective water charges; and • Cut greenhouse gas emissions. 	Local Plan documents should aim to contribute to the vision set out in this Strategy. Include SA objectives which seek to protect, manage and enhance the water environment. [Addressed by SA objective 8 and 11].
Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (Environment Agency, 2009)	<p>The Strategy vision for water resource “is for there to be enough water for people and the environment, meeting legitimate needs”.</p> <p>Its aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To manage water resource and protect the water environment from climate change. • Restore, protect, improve and value species and habitats that 	Policies within the Local Plan should reflect the aims of the strategy where relevant. Include SA objective which seeks to promote water management and efficiency. [Addressed by SA objective 11].

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	<p>depend on water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to sustainable development through good water management. People to understand how water and the water environment contribute to their quality of life. 	
The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (Environment Agency, 2011)	<p>This Strategy sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities.</p> <p>The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “manage the risk to people and their property; Facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level – individual, community or local authority, river catchment, coastal cell or national; 	<p>Local Plan documents should seek to reduce and manage the risk of all type of flooding.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to reduce the risk and manage flooding sustainably. [Addressed by SA objective 9].</p>
Waste Strategy for England 2007 (DEFRA, 2007)	<p>Future of waste management – the government commitment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackle the amount of waste produced, by breaking the link between economic growth and waste production. Put waste which is produced to good use through substantial increases in re-use, recycling, composting, and recovery of energy. 	<p>Local Plan documents should encourage the minimisation of waste production and the maximisation of recycling and re-use of materials. [Addressed by SA objective 12].</p>
Waste Management Plan for England (2013)	<p>The Waste Management Plan follows the EU principal of waste hierarchy. This requires that prevention of waste, preparing for reuse and recycling should be given priority order in any waste legislation and policy. From this principal a key objective of The Plan is to reduce the level of waste going to landfill and to encourage recycling. The Plan also requires that larger amounts of hazardous waste should be disposed of at specially managed waste facilities.</p>	<p>The Review of the Core Strategy policies will be required to incorporate the objectives of the national waste policy. In order to encourage the reduction of waste and the reuse of materials. [Addressed by SA objective 12].</p>
National Policy Statement: Hazardous Waste (2013)	<p>Without sustainable management, hazardous waste may pose a risk to human health and the environment. We also need to manage our hazardous waste in a more sustainable way and ensure that where possible, we recycle and recover hazardous waste rather than sending it for disposal. The NPS was published by the Secretary of State and sets out the strategic need justification of government policy for the provision of such infrastructure. It will be used to guide decisions made by the planning inspectorate.</p>	<p>The Local Plan will need to consider and be consistent with policies and objectives of the National Policy Statement. [Addressed by SA objective 12].</p>
The Carbon Plan: Delivery our Local Carbon Future (2011)	<p>The Carbon Plan sets out the government’s plans for achieving the emissions reductions it committed to in the first four carbon budgets.</p>	<p>The Review of the Core Strategy will need to include policies that reflect the targets within the Carbon</p>

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	Emissions in the UK must, by law, be cut by at least 80% of 1990 by 2050. The UK was first to set its ambition in law and the Plan sets out progress to date.	Plan. [Addressed by SA objective 10].
National Infrastructure Plan 2014	The Infrastructure Plan allows for long term public funding certainty for key infrastructure areas such as: roads, rail, flood defences and science. All elements highlighted in the Plan represent firm commitment by government to supply the funding levels stipulated. The Plan also highlights what steps the government will take to ensure effective delivery of its key projects	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy objectives and policies should support the delivery of infrastructure to support new development. [Addressed by SA objective 13 and 14].
English Heritage Historic England Corporate Plan 2015 to 2018 (2015)	<p>The plan sets out its three purposes as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the preservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings; • Promote the preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of conservation areas; and • Promote the public's enjoyment of, and advance their knowledge of, ancient monuments and historic buildings. 	The local plan should contain a planning framework which safeguards the historic environment. [Addressed by SA objective 4].
Safeguarding our Soils- A Strategy for England (2011)	Current practices focus on protecting English soils and the important ecosystem services they provide. Research is focused on addressing evidence gaps to adapt and refine these policies in order to strengthen protection and their resilience as the climate changes. A Soil Strategy for England sets out the current policy context on soils and a number of core objectives for policy and research.	The Review of the Core Strategy will need to include policies on the safeguarding of soils. [Addressed by SA objective 7].
Lifetime Neighbourhoods (2011)	This document is a national strategy for housing in an ageing society. It seeks to support residents to develop lifetime neighbourhoods in terms of resident empowerment, access, services and amenities, built and natural environment, social networks/well-being and housing.	The policies and site allocations will need to reflect the requirements set out within the national strategy. [Addressed by SA objective 14].
The Plan for Growth implementation update (2013)	<p>The plan for growth, published alongside Budget 2011, and as part of the Autumn Statement 2011, announced a programme of structured reforms to remove barriers to growth for businesses and equip the UK to compete in the global race. These reforms span a range of policies including improving UK infrastructure, cutting red tape, root and branch reform of the planning system and boosting trade and inward investment, to achieve the governments four ambitions for growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating the most competitive tax system in the G20 • Encouraging investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy • Making the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow 	The Review of the Core Strategy policies will need to reflect the ambitions set out within the Plan for Growth 2013. [Addressed by SA objectives 2 and 14].

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	<p>a business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe. 	
Green Infrastructure and the Urban Fringe (Natural England, 2009)	Promotes the concept of multifunctionality – the integration and interaction of different activities on the same parcel of land. The Countryside In and Around Towns programme acknowledges Green Infrastructure as a key mechanism for delivering regional and local change. The strategy promotes regional coalitions to pool resources, regional stocktakes to examine the extent, state and potential of the GI, influencing RSS and LDFs, putting forward exemplar projects as examples of good practice to learn from.	Review of the Core Strategy Policies and Site Allocations to deliver new green infrastructure and enhancement of existing assets in and around new developments to contribute to better quality, multifunctional environments. [Addressed by SA objective 6].
Working with the grain of nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England (2011))	This Strategy seeks to protect and improve the rural, urban, marine and global environment and lead on the integration of these with other policies across Government and internationally.	<p>Reversing the long-term decline in the number of farmland birds by 2020, as measured annually against underlying trends.</p> <p>Minimise loss of biodiversity when allocating sites for development. [Addressed by SA objective 5].</p>
Water for Life and Livelihoods: A Strategy for River Basin Planning (Environment Agency, 2006)	This document set out the Environment Agency's strategy to implement the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) by managing water based on river basin planning. The document aims to reduce pollution, prevent deterioration and improve the condition of aquatic ecosystems including wetlands.	Shepway Local Plan policies should promote efficient use of water in new developments and good management of water resources. [Addressed by SA objective 8].
SUB-NATIONAL/REGIONAL		
Kent and Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework	<p>The Framework sets out a picture over the Local Plan period to 2031 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • housing and economic growth planned to 2031 across Kent and Medway; • the fundamental infrastructure needed to support this growth; • the cost of this infrastructure; • the potential funding sources across the public and private sector funding during this period: and • the likely public sector funding gap and work towards solutions. 	<p>Local Plan documents should take into account expected delivery of homes and economic development over the plan period as well as the infrastructure which will be needed across Kent and Medway to support this level of growth.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives which seek to support the delivery of new homes and employment opportunities in the District. [Addressed by SA objectives 1 and 2].</p>
Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2016-2020	The Plan details the future need for education provision in Kent and sets out how it will be ensured that there are sufficient places of high quality, in the right places for all learners. At the same time the County Council as the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent will seek to fulfil its responsibilities to raise education standard and secure other provisions such as training and apprenticeships.	<p>Local Plan documents should address the aim of improved education provision in the District.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives which address improved access to education facilities and overall educational attainment in the District. [Addressed by SA objectives 2 and 14].</p>
Kent Minerals and Waste Plans 2013-2030	Set out the vision and strategy for mineral provision and waste management in Kent	Local Plan documents should take into the mineral supply and waste hierarchies and ensure mineral supply is not compromised. Take account of

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	<p>Contain a number of development management policies for evaluating minerals and waste planning applications</p> <p>Consider strategic site provision for all minerals and waste management facilities, and</p> <p>Plan to the year 2030.</p>	<p>mineral safeguarding areas, new primary extraction facilities and safeguarded existing facilities during the selection of land for development.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives which consider the safeguarded sites and areas for future minerals supply. [Addressed by SA objectives 7 and 12].</p>
Local Transport Plan for Kent 2011-2016 ¹¹⁶	<p>The Plan explains how the County will prioritise planned measures under five Themes based on the previous Government's five National Transport Goals as set out in the LTP3 Guidance, but made relevant to Kent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Without Gridlock • A Safer and Healthier County • Supporting Independence • Tackling a Changing Climate • Enjoying Life in Kent 	<p>The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should take into account the five themes of the Plan and ensure they are not compromised.</p> <p>SA objectives/indicators should seek to improve access to sustainable high quality modes of transport, ensure safety on the network is enhanced and reduce congestion. [Addressed by SA objective 13].</p>
East Kent Local Investment Plan 2011-2026	<p>The Local Investment Plan (LIP) family of publications present the East Kent Local Strategic Partnership's (LSP) proposals to deliver its vision:</p> <p>By 2030, East Kent will have blended the best of its coastal location, landscape, culture and heritage to build a lasting beacon of success for the benefit of all its communities.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take into account their role in addressing the key themes and priorities identified within the Investment Plan.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters. [Addressed by all SA objectives].</p>
Lighting the way to success The EKLSP Sustainable Community Strategy (2009)	<p>"Lighting the Way to Success" is a long-term vision – it looks forward more than 20 years to 2030. By 2030, East Kent will have blended the best of its coastal location, landscape, culture and heritage to build a lasting beacon of success for the benefit of all its communities.</p>	<p>The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should take into account its role in achieving the objectives set out in the East Kent Community Strategy.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters. [Addressed by all SA objectives].</p>
A Living Landscape for the South East	Vision for the South East ecological network.	<p>The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should take into account its role in promoting the green network across the area.</p> <p>The SA framework should include</p>

¹¹⁶ This document is to be replaced by the Local Transport Plan 4: Delivering Growth without Gridlock 2016-2031 which was consulted upon from August 2016 to October 2016 and is scheduled for adoption in July 2017

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		objectives/indicators which seek to maintain and enhance the green network. [Addressed by SA objective 6].
East Kent Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Report (2014)	Assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the sub-region from 2013 – 2027.	The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should take into account its role in allocating and Review of the Core Strategy safeguarding sites for Gypsy and traveller accommodation. The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to preserve the rights of gypsy and travellers and improve their integration into the local community. [Addressed by SA objectives 1 and 14].
Growing the Garden of England: A strategy for environment and economy in Kent (2011)	The 2011 strategy has three themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living well within our environmental limits. • Rising to the climate change challenge. • Valuing our natural, historic and living environment. It is one of a suite of strategies, developed in 2010, that supports a revised Vision for Kent to deliver social, economic and environmental wellbeing for Kent’s communities over the next 20 years. The 2011 strategy sets out how we will achieve a high-quality Kent environment, low carbon, resilient to climate change, and that has a thriving ‘green economy’ at its heart.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should take into account its role in protecting, managing and maximising the benefits of the District’s Ecosystem Services without compromising the environment. The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to maximising the benefits of the District’s Ecosystem Services without compromising the environment. [Addressed by SA objectives 5 and 6].
Kent Biodiversity 2020 and beyond – a strategy for the natural environment 2015-2025'	Identifies the priorities for the natural environment in Kent and Medway, coordinates, facilitates and supports work that contributes to the objectives of the Strategic Framework for the Natural Environment, and ensures that this work is reported to capture the contribution that is being made in Kent and Medway to the England Biodiversity Strategy.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should protect the intrinsic value of the identified habitats and seek to improve them where possible. The SA framework should include an objective/indicator which seeks to conserve and enhance the identified habitats and species. [Addressed by SA objectives 5 and 6].
Kent Design Initiative (and Guide)	Initiative to create a showcase of great buildings, memorable and attractive new places that reinforce Kent’s distinctive character.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should contain development management policies that are consistent with the content of the Kent Design Guide. The SA framework should include an objective/indicator which seeks to retain the character of the District built environment and promote its qualities in new developments. [Addressed by SA objective 3, 4 and 10].
Kent Health and Affordable Warmth	Fuel poverty is linked to general poverty. Strategy aimed at leading to the	Local Plan documents should take into account their

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Strategy	eradication of fuel poverty in Kent.	role in providing local communities with more opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing and reduced inequality.
Active Lives: 2007-2016, Kent Adult Social Services	A picture of how Kent Adult Social Services will look in 10 years' time.	The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social and environmental matters, including health and wellbeing and affordable warmth. [Addressed by SA objectives 13 and 14].
Kent Downs AONB management plan (2014-2019)	The ultimate goal of the Management Plan remains to ensure that the natural beauty of the landscape and vitality of the communities of the Kent Downs AONB are recognised, valued and strengthened well into the future.	Local Plan should take account of the special qualities of the Kent Downs AONB and ensure that its policies are compatible with those outlined within the management plan. The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider landscape and ecological matters. [Addressed by SA objectives 3 and 5].
Kent Renewable Energy Plan (2012)	The plan takes forward actions recommended by the County Council's Renewable Energy Select Committee and the priorities set out in the Kent Environment Strategy and builds on the actions of the County's recent renewable energy capacity study. The plan champions the growth and diversification of the County and its constituent District's renewable and low carbon energy generation capacity through joint working.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should encourage the incorporation of renewable and low carbon energy generation technologies within planned allocations. SA objectives should encourage the incorporation of such technologies within allocations at a strategic and local scale. [Addressed by SA objective 10].
Strategic Housing Market Assessment for the East Kent Sub-region (SHMAA) (2009)	The study has identified twenty-one local housing markets, some of which straddle district boundaries, and some of which cross into areas administered by other local authorities. The proximity of East Kent to Kent Thames Gateway (which includes part of Swale), Ashford, and the London housing markets all exert influence on the housing and employment markets in the sub-region. There are different degrees of isolation and interaction with, for example, the Thanet markets being self-contained, while others, such as local markets based within Swale and Canterbury, exhibiting broader horizons. All told, however, compared to the rest of Kent and the rest of the South East, East Kent is relatively isolated and self-contained.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should provide sites for high quality, affordable homes with an appropriate range of tenures, layouts and designs and encourage the refurbishment of empty homes in the District. SA objectives should improve access to good quality and affordable housing. [Addressed by SA objective 1].
East Kent Homelessness Strategy (2010-2013) Action Plan	Major considerations include homelessness prevention, temporary accommodation and long-term housing solutions	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should take into account its role in supplying and safeguarding accommodation for the homeless. SA should consider use of district wide homelessness data as an indicator. [Addressed by SA objective 1].
Countryside and Coastal Access	The plan sets out an approach to providing access to Kent's countryside for	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
Improvement Plan (2013)	the benefit of all of Kent's residents.	take into account its role in helping to protect and where possible improve public rights of way. SA should address potential losses of public rights of way. [Addressed by SA objective 13]
LOCAL		
Shepway Rural Services Study (2011)	This study aims to review the current position of rural areas within Shepway by combining existing data sources and officer field studies to aid in the assessment of Local Plan policies and inform the direction of future policy.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should take into account the needs and opportunities of the Districts rural economy. The SA framework should consider the needs and opportunities of the District's rural economy and communities. [Addressed by SA objective 2].
Shepway District Local Brownfield Strategy (2011)	The key aim of Shepway's Brownfield Land Strategy is to develop an understanding of the brownfield land in the area and to establish how this can be brought back into productive and beneficial use.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should maximise the use of brownfield before allocating land on greenfield sites. The SA framework should consider the need to maximise the efficiency of land use in the District by using brownfield land before greenfield land. [Addressed by SA objective 7].
Population Forecasts 2006 - 2026	Forecasts/ projections have been produced for the district as a whole and for individual wards within the district.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should take into account its role in supplying accommodation and employment opportunities for its growing population. SA should consider the use of accurate and up-to-date population data as an indicator. [Addressed by SA objective 1 and 2].
Shepway Employment Land Review (2011)	Employment land review to inform the preparation of the District's planning policies.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should provide sites for a range of high quality employment sites with an appropriate range of use classes. SA objectives should improve access to good quality, easily accessible employment opportunities. [Addressed by SA objective 2].
Retail Need Assessment Study (2010 Update)	The study identifies a lower expenditure growth to 2026 compared with the 2007 study, and consequently identifies lower need for retail floor space compared to figures given in the 2008 update. This reflects the impact of the current recession on retail expenditure growth forecasts for the next ten year period.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should provide sites for a range of retail sites. SA objectives should improve access to good quality and a good range of easily accessible retail services. [Addressed by SA objective 14].
Folkestone Town Centre Spatial Strategy (2011)	Key objective of the study is to improve the quality and functionality of the public realm through identifying:	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should take into account the existing visions for Shepway's

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> opportunities to re-model the highway network to reduce its dominance and improve legibility; improvements to accessibility and connectivity for pedestrians, particularly from the station to the town centre and seafront; opportunities to enhance the character and public realm of the town centre. 	<p>town centres and contribute to the regeneration of Folkestone town centre.</p> <p>The SA framework should consider regeneration of key areas within Shepway District. [Addressed by SA objective 7, 14 and 15].</p>
Windfalls, Housing Supply and Policy Update (2012)	Evidence supporting modifications put forward by Shepway District Council to its Core Strategy Local Plan [G15] in October 2012.	<p>The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should provide high quality, affordable homes with an appropriate range of tenures, layouts and designs and encourage the refurbishment of empty homes in the District.</p> <p>SA objectives should improve access to good quality and affordable housing. [Addressed by SA objective 1].</p>
Economic Viability Assessment (2011)	A district-wide affordable housing viability assessment for housing delivery over the lifetime of the Core Strategy.	<p>The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should provide high quality, affordable homes and encourage the refurbishment of empty homes in the District.</p> <p>SA objectives should improve access to good quality and affordable housing. [Addressed by SA objective 1].</p>
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (2009-2010) & Update (2011-2012)	The Shepway SHLAA has produced a very large amount of information. However the conclusions are clear: the identified pool of possible housing sites is more than sufficient to allow a genuine range of strategic options to be considered.	<p>The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should provide sites for high quality, affordable homes with an appropriate range of tenures, layouts and designs and encourage the refurbishment of empty homes in the District.</p> <p>SA objectives should improve access to good quality and affordable housing. [Addressed by SA objective 1].</p>
Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Study (2011)	The purpose of this report is to inform the Shepway planning policies for planning, especially the Core Strategy. It does this by bringing together findings of two primary research studies undertaken by Shepway District Council on open space topics; and is complemented by other evidence base studies.	<p>The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should take into account its role in protecting formal playing pitches from inappropriate development and ensuring the supply of formal playing pitches meets the demand.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the protection, enhancement, increasing provision of, increasing participation in and improving access to the District's sports pitches and facilities. [Addressed by SA objective 14].</p>

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Shepway Green Infrastructure Report (2011)	This report comprises the evidence base in respect of Green Infrastructure (GI), which is essentially the network of multi-functional green space which supports natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should take into account its role in promoting the green network across the area. The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to maintain and enhance the green network. [Addressed by SA objective 6].
Shepway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (2009) & Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Update (2015)	This study provides an analysis of the main sources of flood risk to the District, together with a detailed means of appraising development allocations and existing planning policies against the risks posed by coastal flooding over this coming century.	Policies within the Local Plan should reflect the actions identified within the assessment where relevant. Include SA objective which seeks to promote flood risk management. [Addressed by SA objective 9].
Shepway Water Cycle Study (2011)	This report examines the issues relating to water within the context of the district and the physical characteristics of its hydrology. One of the primary reasons for producing this report was to investigate the potential impact of new growth proposed under the Core Strategy. The report provides a simple analysis of the hydrology of the district in the context of the South East of England, a résumé of existing planning legislation and an overview of the Water Framework Directive, the primary piece of legislation that exists to protect the quantity and quality of water in the natural environment.	Policies within the Local Plan should reflect the actions identified within the study where relevant. Include SA objective which seeks to promote water management and efficiency. [Addressed by SA objective 8 and 11].
Shepway Transport Strategy (2011) Appendices and Update Highways Impact Report (2012) – to be updated.	The remit of the Transport Strategy is to include and consider both transport matters which relate to the existing district area, as well as those relating to the potential Strategic Site allocations which have been made for future development.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should consider transport matters relating to its strategic site allocations for future domestic, economic and mixed-use developments. SA objectives/indicators should seek to improve access to sustainable high quality modes of transport, ensure safety on the network is enhanced and reduce congestion. [Addressed by SA objective 13].
Shepway Economic Development Strategy (2012-2017)	This strategy provides a framework for the economic development of Shepway over the coming years and followed the Council's Corporate Plan 2012-2017 which sets out to support the growth and sustainability of the economy to increase prosperity.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should seek to promote economic growth through an appropriate allocation of mixed-use developments and town centre regeneration in line with the vision and priorities set out in the strategy. The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters. [Addressed by all SA objectives].
Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016	There are approximately 48,200 residential dwellings in the Shepway District. Overall the housing market within Shepway is essentially similar to	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should provide high quality, affordable homes and

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	other district housing markets across South East England. Owner-occupation is the dominant form of tenure. The key differences for the Shepway District are the relatively high proportion of private rented accommodation and the relatively low proportion of council and housing association rented accommodation.	encourage the refurbishment of empty homes in the District. SA objectives should improve access to good quality and affordable housing. [Addressed by SA objective 1].
Shepway Core Strategy (2013)	Key part of the Local Plan, containing the spatial strategy for the area and strategic planning policies.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should build on the spatial and strategic planning policies outlined in the Shepway Core Strategy. The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range spatial and strategic policies covering the spectrum of sustainable development issues. [Addressed by all SA objectives].
Shepway Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (2005-2008)	Aims to build safer communities by addressing key causal factors of crime by fostering good partnerships between the voluntary, private and public sectors and the local community.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should ensure measures are secured which enhance community safety and reduce the fear of crime. Include a sustainability objective which seeks to make Shepway a safer place. [Addressed by SA objective 15].
Shepway Contaminated Land Strategy (2002)	Requirement of Environmental Protection Act 1990. Sets out the approach to identification of contaminated land across Shepway and how certain sites will be designated special sites.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should ensure that contaminated land is taken into account when selecting sites for development and in consideration of appropriate mitigation. The SA framework should include an objective/indicator which considers soils, including the potential for pollution of soils (e.g. from sources of contaminated land). [Addressed by SA objective 7]. The SA framework should include an objective/indicator which considers the benefits of sport and recreation facilities (particularly open space) in improving the health and wellbeing of the District's residents. [Addressed by SA objective 14].
Shepway Sports and Physical Activity Strategy (2004)	Encourage residents to participate in sporting activity, to improve the health and well-being of local residents in line with key national targets/initiatives, to ensure access to sports facilities for all and develop a wide variety of sport in Shepway.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should ensure new developments provide or enhance an appropriate sport and recreation facilities in close proximity. [Addressed by SA objective 14].
Shepway Playing Pitch Strategy (2004)	Ensuring future provision of pitches is balanced, meets the needs of the community and is protected for future generations.	The Shepway Review of the Core Strategy should take into account its role in protecting formal playing pitches from inappropriate development and

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		<p>ensuring the supply of formal playing pitches meets the demand.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the protection, enhancement, increasing provision of, increasing participation in and improving access to the District's sports pitches and facilities. [Addressed by SA objective 14].</p>
Beachy Head to south Foreland SMP (2006)	Coastal defence management plan for Beachy Head to south Foreland to provide a 'route map' for decision makers to move from the present situation towards a more sustainable future.	Policies within the Local Plan should reflect the actions identified within the management plan.
Folkestone to Cliff End Flood and Erosion Management Plan	The Folkestone to Cliff End Flood and Erosion Management Strategy sets out our plan to manage flood and erosion risks along this coastline.	Include SA objective which seeks to promote flood and erosion risk management. [Addressed by SA objective 9].
Shepway CIL and Local Plan Viability Study	Analyses what level of requirements the Local Plan can place on developers (e.g. for sustainable building design) without threatening financial viability.	A residential CIL range of between £0 and £125/m ² has been recommended/proposed over four CIL charging rate zones:
Shepway CIL Charging Schedule	<p>The consultation on the CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (PDCS) closed on the 13th October 2014. The document sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The background and regulations governing CIL; • It's relationship to the delivery of the Local Plan; • The viability methodology used to arrive at the proposed CIL rates; • The proposed rates that developers will need to pay when undertaking different types of development in different parts of the District, once a CIL charging schedule is adopted; and • An indication of how CIL receipts will be allocated in support of the infrastructure required to support development of the area. • The Council is currently reviewing all responses received. 	<p>a) Folkestone (lower end values) & Lydd area (viability scope – A);</p> <p>b) Romney Marsh (rural and coastal) and north Folkestone fringe / Hawkinge (B);</p> <p>c) West of Folkestone (Sandgate) and Hythe (C);</p> <p>d) North Downs rural area settlements (D).</p> <p>No geographic differentiation has been proposed for non-residential development. Only larger format retail – retail warehousing and supermarkets – have a proposed rate of not more than £100/m². All other non-residential development would not be charged.</p>
Commissioned Reports Pending Publication		
High-level Growth Strategy Report	Study modelling the future growth needs of the District.	To be published March 2017.
Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) Update	Joint study with Dover District Council.	To be published February 2017.
Town Centre Study	To focus on sites in Folkestone, Hythe and New Romney Town Centres, but will also cover other centres.	To be published in 2017.
Shepway Energy Study	Energy Capacity, renewable and low carbon energy opportunities and constraints, energy efficiency of building stock.	To be published in 2017.

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Shepway Heritage Study	Discussing scope and nature of required evidence base with English Heritage.	To be published in 2017.
Shepway Transport Study	Update completed which identifies road junctions requiring improvement, for example Shorncliffe Garrison.	To be published in 2017.
Shepway Air Quality Study	Air quality across the district is usually quite good and there is no need to take action in respect of introducing any air quality management areas (AQMA) although potential air quality issues may arise in proximity to the A20 and M20.	To be published in 2017.
Shepway Employment Land Review	Significant over-supply of employment land in the District and a need to rationalise this and identify which sites are suitable for mixed use.	To be published December 2016.
Shepway Employment Needs and Opportunity Study	Study aims to outline a strategic employment strategy for the District.	To be published in 2017.
Shepway Retail Impact Study	Evidence has been gathered to support policy protection of local parades of shops.	To be published in 2017.
Shepway Socio-economic Study	Particularly focuses on the Romney Marsh Area and impacts of loss of employment associated with closure of Dungeness Nuclear Power Station.	To be published in 2017.
Shepway Sustainable Access Strategy (possible SPD)	Surveys of Dungeness and Romney Marsh have been confirmed.	To be published in 2017.