

# CORE STRATEGY REVIEW SUBMISSION DRAFT

Regulation 19 incorporating  
Housing Numbers Consultation

February 2020





## Foreword

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## Foreword

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### Core Strategy Review

#### Submission Draft Consultation

I'm delighted to present the Submission Draft Core Strategy Review for consultation - a key stage in our journey to adopt a blueprint for the district's future.

We have already had several hundred responses from town and parish councils, landowners, statutory organisations and many individuals to our earlier consultation about the type of place we want our district to be and where homes and jobs - needed now and in the future - should go.

I would like to thank everyone who took part in that consultation. Wherever possible, your comments and observations have been incorporated in this draft submission document.

In this latest consultation you are invited to submit comments on specific grounds covering the 'soundness' of the Core Strategy Review and whether it complies with legal requirements. You can find out more about how to make appropriate representations in Section 1.1 'About the Core Strategy Review'.

Your comments will go directly to an independent Planning Inspector for consideration alongside the submitted plan. Only comments received in response to this current consultation can be considered. Anyone making appropriate representations will be invited to present their views during the Inspector's public examination of the plan.

So whether you have responded to previous consultations and would like to do so again or you wish to make a representation for the first time, I would urge you to do so now.

I would now invite you to read more about Submission Draft Core Strategy Review.



**Cllr John Collier**

**Cabinet Member for the District Economy**

## Introduction

## 1 Introduction

### Policy Index

#### Spatial Strategy

- Policy SS1 'District Spatial Strategy'
- Policy SS2 'Housing and the Economy Growth Strategy'
- Policy SS3 'Place-Shaping and Sustainable Settlements Strategy'
- Policy SS4 'Priority Centres of Activity Strategy'
- Policy SS5 'District Infrastructure Planning'
- Policy SS6 'New Garden Settlement - Development Requirements'
- Policy SS7 'New Garden Settlement - Place Shaping Principles'
- Policy SS8 'New Garden Settlement - Sustainability and Healthy New Town Principles'
- Policy SS9 'New Garden Settlement - Infrastructure, Delivery and Management'
- Policy SS10 'Spatial Strategy for Folkestone Seafront'
- Policy SS11 'Spatial Strategy for Shorncliffe Garrison, Folkestone'

#### Core Strategy Delivery

- Policy CSD1 'Balanced Neighbourhoods'
- Policy CSD2 'District Residential Needs'
- Policy CSD3 'Rural and Tourism Development'
- Policy CSD4 'Green Infrastructure of Natural Networks, Open Spaces and Recreation'
- Policy CSD5 'Water and Coastal Environmental Management'
- Policy CSD6 'Central Folkestone Strategy'
- Policy CSD7 'Hythe Strategy'
- Policy CSD8 'New Romney Strategy'
- Policy CSD9 'Sellindge Strategy'



## 1.1 About the Core Strategy Review

### About This Document

#### Core Strategy Review

**1.1** This document is the Submission version of the Core Strategy Review (known as the Regulation 19 plan). This version follows the previous draft (Regulation 18) which was consulted on between 29 March and 18 May 2018.

**1.2** The Submission Draft Core Strategy Review has been published under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Submission Draft has been published so that representations relating to issues of 'soundness' can be made before the plan is submitted to the Secretary of State. Comments from the public, landowners, developers and other stakeholders will be considered alongside the submitted plan by an independent planning Inspector, who will be appointed by the Secretary of State to examine the plan.

**1.3** The purpose of the examination is to consider whether the Core Strategy Review is **legally compliant** and whether it is **sound**. The government's National Planning Policy Framework states that plans are "sound" if they are:

- **Positively prepared** - providing a strategy which seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical and sustainable to do so;
- **Justified** - an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;
- **Effective** - deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint-working on cross-boundary strategic matters; and
- **Consistent with national policy** - in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.

**1.4** The form for submitting comments by post, and the Objective system for submitting comments online, therefore contain sections relating to legal compliance and soundness. It will be helpful to the Inspector if you ensure that your comments relate to these matters:

- **Legally compliant** - if you are making comments on the way in which the Core Strategy Review has been prepared, it is likely that your comments will relate to a matter of legal compliance; and/or
- **Sound** - if you want to comment on the content of the Core Strategy Review, it is likely that your comments will be related to the soundness of the document, under one or more of the headings set out above.

Within the Core Strategy Review some policies are new, some are amended and some are largely unchanged from the Core Strategy that was adopted in 2013. However, **you can make comments on any part of the Core Strategy Review whether it is new, amended or unchanged.** Comments can be made against the policies (in purple boxes), supporting text, diagrams and appendices. Comments can also be made against the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

**1.5** If you would like to see changes to the wording of a policy, then it would be helpful to the Inspector if you set out how you think the policy should be worded.

**1.6** To assist you in making your comments:

- If you make comments through the online consultation portal, you will be automatically prompted to comment in relation to the legal compliance and soundness of the Core Strategy Review. A guidance note is provided; or
- If you make comments by email or in writing, a form and guidance note are available for you to download.

**1.7** Comments can be made in a number of ways as set out below:

### Using the consultation portal

**1.8** Comments on the Core Strategy Review can be made directly online, against the policies or text that they relate to, using the consultation portal. This can be found on the council's website: [www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) and then following the links to the Core Strategy Review consultation.

### Using a response form

**1.9** Alternatively, a response form (for filling in electronically or printing out) can be downloaded from the council's website.

**1.10** This form can be returned:

- By email to: [planning.policy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)
- By post to: Planning Policy, Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY.

### For queries about the consultation

**1.11** If you have any queries about this consultation, or would like further advice about how to make your representation, please contact the planning policy team:

- Email: [planning.policy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)
- Telephone: 01303 853000 and ask for the planning policy team.

### Other planning documents

**1.12** The principal focus of the Core Strategy Review is on strategic-scale growth within the district. In parallel with this Core Strategy Review, the council is also finalising the **Places and Policies Local Plan**, which identifies small- and medium-sized sites for development throughout the district for the period to 2031. **The Places and Policies Local Plan is being prepared through a separate process and sites within that document are not considered in this consultation.**

## Role of the Core Strategy

**1.13** Development in England is guided by national and local policy. At the local level the district's Local Plan documents direct change by forming the basis for deciding planning applications for development, and also through guiding public and private sector investment decisions.

**1.14** The Core Strategy Review is a long-term plan bringing together the aims and actions of the government, local councils, residents, businesses and voluntary groups, by managing development. When it is finalised it will replace the current 2013 Core Strategy which was adopted on 18 September 2013. <sup>(1)</sup>

## Role of the Places and Policies Local Plan

**1.15** The Places and Policies Local Plan (PPLP), proposes to allocate approximately 1,600 dwellings across many small- and medium-sized sites following the framework set by the 2013 Core Strategy (some of these sites now have planning permission). The PPLP will also provide a new suite of development management policies to replace the saved policies from the Local Plan Review 2006. Once the PPLP is adopted it will ensure that the council has sufficient allocations to meet development needs to 2030/31.

**1.16** However, local planning authorities are now required to review their plans at least once every five years and update them as necessary. A review of the Core Strategy is now underway which proposes changes to meet development requirements over a longer period to 2036/37. The development proposed in the PPLP has been taken into account in setting the development targets in the Core Strategy Review.

## Community Infrastructure Levy

**1.17** A Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule was adopted by the council on 20 July 2016 and CIL has been in operation from 1 August 2016. CIL provides financial contributions from development to support infrastructure based on a flat-rate fee per square metre of development. Proposals for a new garden settlement within the district will necessitate some amendments to the CIL Charging Schedule; this is explained further in Section 4.6: Strategic Allocations.

## Preparation of the Core Strategy Review

**1.18** Core Strategy Review proposals flow from evidence including technical research and the results of public participation. The first public consultation on the Core Strategy Review (Regulation 18) was undertaken in March to May 2018. The current consultation is the Submission Draft (Regulation 19) consultation before the plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination.

**1.19** Information sources directly guiding the content of the Core Strategy Review include the following:

- **Views and ideas put forward by the public** - In response to consultation on the Regulation 18 Core Strategy Review;
- **Evidence in the form of technical studies** - Including the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) report and Growth Options Study, an assessment that identifies land in the district suitable for strategic level development.<sup>(2)</sup> Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) also inform policy in an iterative way; and
- **National policy** - An update of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in July 2018. The NPPF must be taken into account by local planning authorities when they prepare their development plans. The government also publishes online Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), which is updated periodically.

**1.20** Other documents relevant to the production of the Core Strategy Review include:

1 The list of policies that will be replaced is set out in Appendix 4.

2 This is described in Section 4.6: Strategic Allocations.

- Council Corporate Plan 2017-2020; and
- The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2015, and other district planning policy documents such as Authority Monitoring Reports.

### **Timescale and Structure of the Document**

**1.21** The Core Strategy Review sets out a long-term vision for the district from 2018/19 to 2036/37. As the focus of many organisations is more immediate, the Core Strategy Review can guide their forward planning and lead the co-ordination of long-term development.

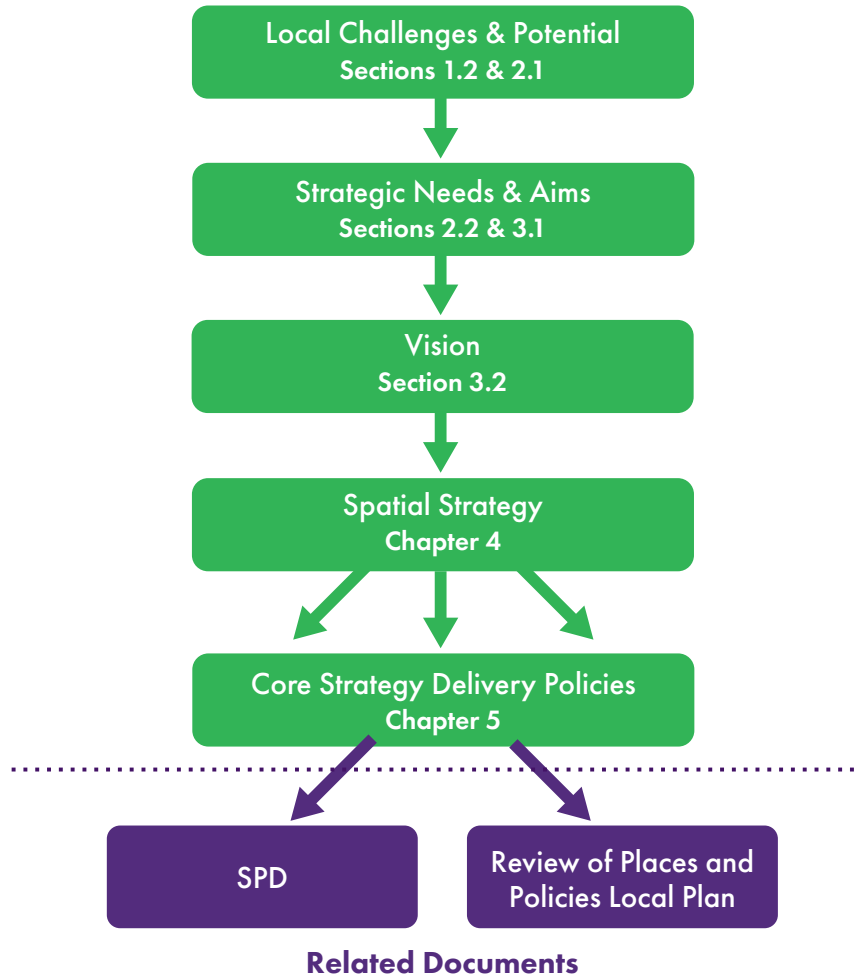
**1.22** The government has introduced a requirement for local planning authorities to review their plans at least once every five years to assess whether they need updating. Reviews should be completed no later than five years from the adoption of the plan, and should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy. Plans are likely to require an earlier review if local housing need is expected to change significantly in the near future<sup>(3)</sup>. The council will monitor the effectiveness of the plan through Authority Monitoring Reports and update the policies should circumstances or national policy change.

**1.23** As illustrated in Figure 1.1, the Core Strategy Review looks firstly at context, to identify key issues, needs and plan aims. After this, and a guiding vision, is the spatial strategy at the heart of the document. It then focuses on implementation and the core policies and areas of change necessary for delivery. Specific policies are included in the Spatial Strategy and Core Strategy Delivery sections (policies labelled 'SS' and 'CSD' respectively).

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3 NPPF, paragraph 33

## Core Strategy Review



### Structure of the Core Strategy



Figure 1.1 Structure of the Core Strategy

**1.24** A summary illustration of proposals is shown in the Key Diagram (Figure 4.1) in section 4.1. Other aspects are highlighted in coloured panels throughout the document as follows:

**Pink panels:** Fundamental issues for the Core Strategy Review brought together in four **Strategic Needs**.

**Grey panel:** The overall **Vision** for the district established in the Core Strategy Review.

**Purple panels:** Specific **Core Strategy Review policies**. These policies will be used to make decisions on planning applications alongside other relevant considerations, such as the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance.

**Green panels:** References and data presented for further **information and guidance**.

### Structural Drivers of Change and Place Shaping

**1.25** The Core Strategy Review will help guide the district through changing pressures. Some of these forces are readily apparent or widely recognised, be it for action to regenerate towns such as Folkestone, or for protection of countryside assets. Yet to plan for the long-term, consideration is needed of the context for development now and in the future.

**1.26** Environmental, social and economic change is occurring with increasing rapidity. Places and communities will continue to face pressures, much of which is driven by major structural shifts impacting widely on places and settlements in different localities and regions. Whether positive or negative, many of the trends have origins in major national and global transitions.

**1.27** The role of the Core Strategy Review is to formulate a consistent local response to these 'structural drivers' which provide a background to development.

**1.28** Due to the complex impact of these changes, an active strategy for the future of localities is required. These influences are related to specific features of the district in devising a forward-looking approach in Chapter 2 'Strategic Issues'.

**1.29** Planning is the leading mechanism to co-ordinate individual actions and investment in the local environment, economy and communities. This planning document addresses implications of change through a 'place-shaping' approach. It concentrates on specific settlements and localities to deliver place-shaping to meet the district's needs. The most resilient strategy to manage change is to draw from the district's own characteristics and unique potential.

**1.30** A guiding 'vision' for the future is set out in Chapter 3. The council is keen to work with partners to allow places to develop sustainably and form a stronger sense of place, and the district's development plans should be a key part of planning by local agencies.

**1.31** The Spatial Strategy (Chapter 4) provides a long-term, integrated approach to this end. It includes the major cross-cutting policies, strategic allocations, the key diagram and an overview of proposed features of change.

## 1.2 About Folkestone & Hythe

**1.32** This sub-section provides a descriptive 'portrait' of the places that make up the district, their heritage and continuing evolution. Chapter 2 analyses the associated strategic issues.

**1.33** Folkestone & Hythe is a coastal district in south eastern England and home to a diverse collection of towns, villages and environments. Chiefly rural in nature, the district is large and covers approximately 363 sq. km (140 sq. miles) stretching from the East Sussex border (near Rye) in the south west, across the low-lying Romney Marsh and through to Folkestone and the escarpment and the hills of the Kent Downs in the north. The settlements and districts of Ashford, Dover and Canterbury adjoin the district in eastern Kent. Folkestone is the primary town, accounting for just under half of the district's 111,200 population (2016 Mid-Year Population Estimates (Census based)).

**1.34** Although the district has some infrastructure constraints, it also benefits from some excellent infrastructure and transport connections, by road (M20), by rail (high speed, Eurostar and local lines) and by air (London Ashford Airport at Lydd), is home to the channel tunnel at Folkestone (junction 12a of the M20) and is just a short distance from the UK's busiest ferry port at Dover. The district is therefore well placed to capitalise on this outstanding infrastructure by providing opportunities for business growth and inward investment.

**1.35** The district has particularly contrasting rural landscapes and urban environments. Many parts have a varied and strong character, creating a whole that exhibits attractive countryside, a stunning coastline and a variety of towns and villages each with their own rich history. The district has also played a unique role in the nation's defence over centuries, including in the creation of the modern British army, which is reflected in a wealth of heritage assets.

**1.36** The district is an administrative area; regard should be had to its constituent elements that shape perceptions of the area. The Core Strategy Review identifies three district character areas as a tool to more clearly articulate strategic proposals:

- **The Urban Area** - The towns of Folkestone and Hythe form a continuous built-up area by virtue of the connecting coastal neighbourhoods of Sandgate and Seabrook, and this can be defined as the Urban Area. The urban area is bound by the sea to the south and escarpment to the north.
- **The North Downs Area** - The north of the district is predominantly but not exclusively protected for its landscape quality, part of a wider area known as the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The North Downs area is centred on traditional villages such as Elham and Lyminge, and the large settlement of Hawkinge within the AONB. It includes a significant rural area near Hythe, encompassing the villages of Lympe and Sellindge which lies outside the national landscape designation, where the three character areas meet and includes the strategic infrastructure of the M20 motorway, junction 11, High Speed 1 rail and domestic services, including Westenhanger railway station. This area is bound by Ashford Borough to the west and the AONB, which wraps around to the north and east forming the Postling Vale, with the Hythe to Lympe escarpment to the south. This area extends almost to the district's eastern boundary with Dover, and west as far as Hythe.
- **The Romney Marsh Area** - South and east of the North Downs Area is the distinctive area of countryside commonly known as Romney Marsh. Within this lie New Romney and Lydd, other coastal communities, small inland villages and the Dungeness peninsula.



**The Three District Character Areas**

**Figure 1.2 The three district character areas**

**1.37** The Urban, North Downs and Romney Marsh Areas are used to reflect the diverse nature the district; for clarity their extent is organised around ward boundaries as shown in Figure 1.2 above. The attributes of these areas are now considered.

**The Urban Area**

**1.38** Folkestone, in the east, is the district's main town with a population of approximately 46,500. International trade, quarrying, farming, military activity, fishing (and smuggling) underpinned the local economy for many centuries, until the coming of the railway in the 1840s led to new prosperity for Folkestone as a highly fashionable sea-bathing resort. Especially in its inner western and coastline area (West End), the town retains much of its Victorian and Edwardian splendour including hotels and the mile-long Leas Promenade. However, many buildings have been lost as a result of the two World Wars and postwar redevelopment, and issues remain with the impact of sub-divided dwellings and the management and maintenance of some privately-owned housing. Communities in inner and northern Folkestone now form some of the most deprived in Kent.





Picture 1.1 Images of Folkestone

**1.39** The town's location as a key coastal 'gateway' has meant that in times of international conflict it often had a high profile. Since its Victorian heyday, and particularly in the post-war twentieth century, its prominence gradually declined. Changes in the national economy hit the town's maritime and tourism industries, leading to an almost complete dissociation between local life, commerce and the sea.

**1.40** Folkestone retains its advantageous position as a gateway to Europe through the investment in significant infrastructure. The Channel Tunnel Terminus at Cheriton allows direct rail-based connections from London and the rest of the country to continental Europe. The nearby Shearway Business Park lies at the end of the M20, and is a key part of Folkestone's varied stock of offices and industry, with further expansion to the west shortly to commence. There is a significant concentration of business activity in Folkestone, with out-of-centre employment areas, in the most part located close to the M20. The largest single private sector employer in the district is the financial, insurance and travel services specialist Saga, based in and around Folkestone and at Sandgate and Cheriton. However the town has seen growth in a number of other businesses, particularly within the media and digital sectors, located around the Creative Quarter.

**1.41** In central Folkestone developments include the Lower Leas Coastal Park and Bouverie Place Shopping Centre, with significant investment in recent years transforming the Old High Street, Tontine Street and harbour area into a cultural and leisure hub. Further investment within the town centre, including the provision of a multi-floor Urban Sports Park, and the redevelopment of Folkestone Seafront over the coming years, will raise the profile of the town as a place to live, work and visit. The Folkestone Triennial, a major artistic and cultural event has raised the town's profile and contributes to its regeneration and evolution, attracting hundreds of thousands of additional visitors every three years.

**1.42** The provision of High Speed Rail services to Folkestone in 2009 opened up significant new opportunities for the town that can be further exploited over the coming years, particularly with investment in digital technologies allowing a more decentralised approach to work. In the mid-nineteenth century the town and its hinterland benefited from the railways, and there are now opportunities to benefit further.

**1.43** Within a short period of time, since the adoption of the 2013 Core Strategy, Folkestone has seen significant change. Core Strategy Review policies SS10 and SS11 set out the policy requirements for the delivery of Folkestone Seafront and Shorncliffe Garrison, both of which now have planning permission, with Shorncliffe Garrison now contributing significantly to the housing needs of the district.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<i>Excellent road and rail links to London and the Continent</i>	<i>Areas of socio-economic deprivation in the centre and east</i>
<i>Close proximity to coast and attractive countryside</i>	<i>Some problems of crime and anti-social behaviour</i>
<i>Resurgent Old Town (Creative Quarter)</i>	<i>Poor-quality private housing in some parts of the town</i>
<i>Rich heritage and significant cultural, leisure and sports offer</i>	<i>Limited opportunities for large scale expansion and development</i>
<i>Highly performing grammar schools and improving education provision</i>	<i>Ageing commercial and retail stock</i>

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<i>Some popular and accessible neighbourhoods</i>	<i>Limited evening economy and need to diversify and improve the town centre</i>  <i>Some infrastructure constraints</i>

**Table 1.1 Folkestone**

**1.44** The district's second settlement is Hythe, an attractive coastal town with a population of 14,516. The town has proved resilient over history and grown generally prosperous despite changes in its commercial function. It is situated behind a long stretch of beach, between Folkestone to the east, and Romney Marsh to the west.



**Picture 1.2 Images of Hythe**

**1.45** The town spreads up the hillside in a pleasing array of streets, forming a distinctive high quality townscape, containing many interesting medieval and Georgian buildings as well as a prominent medieval church on the hill. In and around the town, military heritage includes the prominent Napoleonic Royal Military Canal, rural castles and Martello Towers along the coastline. The linear High Street is narrow but popular, with small-scale buildings running along the medieval east–west axis, hosting local shops. North–south interconnecting passages lead to the former harbour area south of the High Street and up the hillside to the north.

**1.46** The town centre and seafront form the basis of the town's physical appeal - alongside some desirable residential neighbourhoods to the east, north and on the coastline - with some of the highest house prices in the district. Hythe nevertheless also includes certain areas hosting essential functions, for example productive small industry, and military and despoilt land. Much of this is now concentrated in the western part of the town, which is the focus of the main postwar developments, and a 'pocket' of relative deprivation.

**1.47** Hythe has a large proportion of single-person households, with over half its residents being of retirement age. The town benefits from strong local communities with high civic interest and social activity. This provides a positive resource to strengthen the town's identity and character further, and enhance its historic environment.

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<i>A well-liked historic town centre with a range of small retailers</i>	<i>Few major employers and a local workforce increasingly limited in scale</i>
<i>Attractive canal-side, coastal and countryside location, all within easy walking distance throughout the town</i>	<i>Limited development opportunities for new strategic development</i>
<i>Strong communities and existing sense of identity</i>	<i>Lack of connections to the strategic road and national rail network</i>
<i>Rich military heritage</i>	<i>Lack of affordable housing</i>

Strengths	Weaknesses
	<i>Pockets of deprivation in West Hythe</i>

**Table 1.2 Hythe**

**Romney Marsh Area**

**1.48** Romney Marsh is a unique environment reclaimed from the sea over many centuries. The wide expanses of rich agricultural land are crossed by a network of drainage channels and native hedgerows, with parts punctuated by small pockets of wooded scrub. The Marsh contains two small towns, some coastal resorts expanded by postwar development, and a scattering of small inland villages. The A259 and the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway follow the coast south from the Urban Area through several Marsh settlements, with the A2070/A259 national route and Ashford branch-line railway to the west with a stop within the district at Appledore.



**Picture 1.3 Rural images of the Romney Marsh area**

**1.49** New Romney is a market town at the heart of the Romney Marsh. It lies approximately half way (14km or around 9 miles) between Hythe and the Sussex town of Rye. Like Hythe, New Romney is one of the Cinque Ports and, while originally a harbour town at the mouth of the River Rother, the historic centre no longer lies on the coast. The impressive Norman church of St Nicholas once stood on the harbour side. New Romney's linear High Street also has several notable buildings, and still forms the main A259 coastal route.

**1.50** The town serves the daily needs of the local communities and surrounding villages, for example with the only secondary school in the south of the district, the Marsh Academy, as well as a supermarket and a range of services and facilities on the vibrant high street. In addition, the Mountfield Road Industrial Estate in New Romney is the main industrial site for Romney Marsh, with significant opportunity for expansion to serve a more strategic role within the area. The built form of the settlement now extends out towards a coastal strip of modern communities at Littlestone and Greatstone-on-Sea.

**1.51** The special environment and habitats of Dungeness are a prominent part of Romney Marsh. Its famous landscape includes the light railway terminus, lighthouses and nuclear power stations (which have been a key Romney Marsh employer), and the popular visitor attraction of the RSPB Dungeness Nature Reserve.

**1.52** The settlement of Lydd is a small town with a rich heritage: All Saints Church, for instance, has been described as the 'Cathedral of the Marsh'. The airport north of the town, London Ashford Airport, is well-established and has attracted significant investment proposals, with planning permission in place for the extension of the runway and expansion of terminal services.



Picture 1.4 Coastal images of the Romney Marsh

**1.53** Dymchurch and St Mary's Bay lie on the coast and are popular visitor destinations in summer with extensive holiday parks and attractive sandy beaches.

**1.54** The rural hinterland of Romney Marsh is home to a number of small villages and hamlets including Brenzett, Brookland, Burmarsh, Ivychurch and Newchurch. The area is strongly agricultural in character, with limited accessibility off the coastal route as attractive rural lanes follow the paths of old saltmarsh creeks.

**1.55** The attractive towers and spires of churches dotted across Romney Marsh form historic landmarks within the landscape, with Little Cheyne Court windfarm making a dramatic addition to the area's skyline. With jobs at Dungeness Nuclear Power Stations in decline, there are very few large employers but some tourism enterprises are growing, benefiting from the area's distinctive character.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p><i>Unique natural environments, such as Dungeness, and the wildlife they support</i></p> <p><i>Coastal resorts which remain popular in season, especially for beaches and watersports</i></p> <p><i>Strong historic ties and sense of self-identity</i></p> <p><i>Appealing traditional inland settlements and distinctive landscape</i></p> <p><i>Importance for agricultural production</i></p> <p><i>Nuclear industry, including knowledge and expertise</i></p> <p><i>New Romney as a hub town for the Romney Marsh Area has employment and housing growth opportunities</i></p>	<p><i>Lack of affordable housing</i></p> <p><i>Rural deprivation in some towns and villages</i></p> <p><i>A dispersed population, with poor access to centres of employment and services</i></p> <p><i>Many settlements have few existing facilities or are very small, particularly of concern is access to health facilities</i></p> <p><i>Concerns over impact and effectiveness of the A259 route that forms a key link for and through coastal communities and limited access to rail services</i></p> <p><i>Limited large scale employment opportunities (seen as a peripheral location for investors)</i></p> <p><i>Severity of potential tidal and fluvial flood risk, were defences to be overwhelmed</i></p> <p><i>Recreational impact on sensitive ecological areas</i></p>

Table 1.3 Romney Marsh

**North Downs Area**

**1.56** The North Downs is characterised by its rolling topography, steep escarpments and attractive valleys covered by a mix of woodland and open areas of plateau farmland. The significant aesthetic and ecological value of this area is recognised in that much of it falls within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The chalk aquifer of the North Downs also provides valuable water resources for the area. Road and

bus routes provide links northwards towards Canterbury (including on the A260 or the Roman Stone Street), with the strategic corridor formed of the M20, A20 and domestic and international rail services cutting through the areas west to east, to the south of the Kent Downs AONB.



Picture 1.5 Images of the North Downs

**1.57** From the 1990s onwards Hawkinge was a focus of major housing growth in the district, on high ground within the AONB. It has grown significantly from a small village with a historic Battle of Britain airfield into a rapidly expanded settlement, becoming a town in 2011. It is now by far the largest settlement in the North Downs Area, providing a vibrant community centre, two primary schools and local facilities within the High Street and towards the west of the town, where a supermarket and pub are located, as well as a local centre and care home. New employment opportunities are to be provided within this area, together with a retirement village that is currently under construction. Due to the close proximity to Folkestone, Hawkinge has provided housing growth to support the town, with Folkestone providing the majority of employment, secondary education and other service needs to support the town.

**1.58** Most of the North Downs villages within the AONB are relatively prosperous including the attractive, traditional villages of Elham, Lyminge and the dispersed community of Stelling Minnis. These larger settlements play an important role to rural residents in providing commercial services and some public facilities. Around these villages lie several small hamlets that are relatively inaccessible, but are integral to the appeal of the Downs area and community life. The attractive environment, housing stock and presence of surrounding towns and major transport connections have resulted in some of the highest house prices in East Kent.

**1.59** The south west of this area is outside the AONB and is bisected by major transport infrastructure, which has severed communities such as Stanford. These new routes have partly superseded the former main coastal route from London, the Ashford Road (A20), but the historic coaching route's legacy is evident with ribbons of development, creating other linear or fragmented communities, most notably within Sellindge parish. This part of the district is popular for its villages, access to services and employment opportunities, being close to the M20 junction 11 and railway stations.

**1.60** The area is rich in history and places to visit, including castles at Westenhanger and Lympe and the Port Lympe Reserve, which has diversified in recent years to provide popular holiday experiences and accommodation. Hythe provides the nearest town centre to this part of the North Downs, with rail, strategic road and bus connections to both Folkestone and Ashford, with more limited connectivity to Canterbury. As such there are limited facilities within the character area itself, with reliance on nearby towns for most day-to-day facilities, services, leisure and employment.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p><i>Positive image and environment of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and attractive rural villages</i></p> <p><i>Active village communities</i></p> <p><i>Reasonable rural transport links to range of urban centres, including within the district and to Canterbury, Ashford and Dover</i></p>	<p><i>Lack of affordable housing</i></p> <p><i>Some localities impacted by the presence of nearby urban environment and infrastructure routes</i></p> <p><i>Limited opportunities for development within existing villages within the AONB without harming character</i></p> <p><i>Lack of services within communities and character area to meet day-to-day needs.</i></p>

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<p><i>Villages with a reasonable level of facilities such as popular local primary schools and healthcare</i></p> <p><i>Significant strategic infrastructure in place with opportunity for enhancement</i></p> <p><i>Close proximity to Euro-tunnel terminus</i></p>	<p><i>Limited employment opportunities within villages</i></p> <p><i>Lack of High Speed 1 connection to London at Westenhanger</i></p>

**Table 1.4 North Downs Area**

**1.61** The descriptions of these three character areas - the Urban, Romney Marsh and North Downs Areas - suggest that while accessibility varies, many places are attractive or include strong communities and there are significant strengths that can be built on and weaknesses that can be remedied. Nevertheless, there are recurrent themes in relation to deprivation, especially access to decent housing and jobs. However opportunities exist to capitalise on the strategic benefits of the district, in particular with regards to its location, its high quality coast and countryside character and rail and road infrastructure.

## Strategic Issues

## 2 Strategic Issues

This section establishes the major issues and development requirements for the Core Strategy Review to address.

### 2.1 District Development Challenges and Potential

**2.1** This sub-section looks at the district's place in Kent and South East England, its connections and main defining features. To start, an outline is provided of the pressures facing the county and east Kent, and the growth being planned for the area.

#### County-wide Context

**2.2** Strategically, Kent is the country's main international gateway to continental Europe, with important connections to London, and the county makes a major contribution to the United Kingdom's economy.

**2.3** The population of Kent and Medway continues to grow. Migration is the main factor in this growth, accounting for 72 per cent of the county's population growth from 2007-2016. The majority of people came from London; a total of 29,200 people in 2016. In contrast, 13,400 people moved to London, resulting in a net gain of 15,800 people moving from London into Kent and Medway.

**2.4** In recent years, to meet this population growth, Kent has delivered some of the highest rates of housing in the country (for example, over 15,000 new homes were built between 2015-2017) and so has made a significant contribution to the government's housing plans.

**2.5** Looking to the future, an additional 178,600 homes are planned across the county to 2031. This growth is a major challenge and, despite high levels of house-building in recent years, development is currently lagging behind the 8,900 homes a year that the county needs. As well as providing new homes, the county also needs to attract investment and create new jobs to make thriving places; Kent County Council's Growth and Infrastructure Framework (2018) calculates that 170,300 new jobs will be required to 2031 to keep pace with housing growth.

**2.6** Currently much of the county's housing growth is focused in north and east Kent; key growth areas include Ebbsfleet, Sittingbourne, urban extensions to Ashford and at South Canterbury, Sturry, Thanington and Herne Bay, among other areas.

#### East Kent Context

**2.7** The population of east Kent has grown significantly over recent years, outpacing that of the rest of the county and the south east of England. This has mainly been driven by migration; as outlined above, this has been particularly from London, as well as from other parts of Kent. The working age population has also grown, attracted in part by Canterbury (a university city) and Ashford (with new developments of family homes), although in Folkestone & Hythe and Dover districts the proportion of older people is increasing.

**2.8** Economically, east Kent supports a range of businesses and higher value sectors have performed strongly. There is a real diversity of successful business sectors in east Kent including:

- Higher education (Canterbury);
- Pharmaceuticals (Dover);
- Creative, media and nuclear energy (Folkestone & Hythe);
- Creative and agri-tech (Thanet); and
- Advanced manufacturing (Ashford and Thanet).

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership has supported the area's economy and has helped to secure a successful Enterprise Zone at Sandwich, the Discovery Park. Given east Kent's attractive countryside and coast, tourism is also important to the area's economy and employs around 32,500 people directly and indirectly.



**2.9** East Kent has seen improvements in education over recent years, with reductions in the proportion of people with no qualifications. East Kent is now of national significance with regard to higher education, with the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of the Creative Arts. Further education facilities also include Ashford College and the merging of Canterbury College with East Kent College, which has campuses at Dover, Folkestone and Broadstairs.

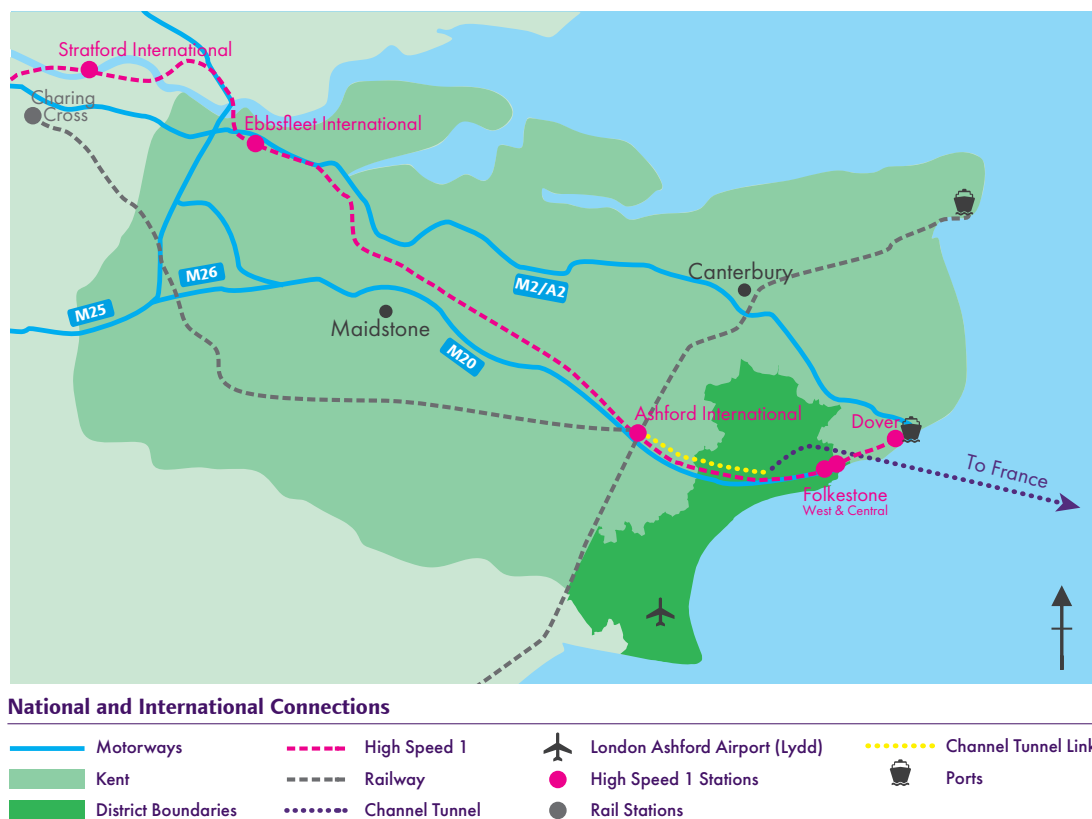
**2.10** As outlined, Kent is the main international gateway to continental Europe and east Kent is key to this role, with the Channel Tunnel, the ports of Dover and Ramsgate and the M20/A20 and M2/A2 road links all within the area.

**2.11** There are significant constraints to growth however. East Kent benefits from varied and important landscapes, such as the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and has internationally significant wildlife sites, such as those located along the coastline from Dungeness to Whitstable. The Environment Agency classifies the whole of South East England as being under "serious" water stress, and new development needs to meet high standards of water efficiency. Infrastructure upgrades are also needed; a major issue is 'Operation Stack' on the M20 which requires a long-term solution. East Kent also has pockets of high deprivation, particularly in Dover, Folkestone and Thanet.

**2.12** Clearly Folkestone & Hythe district sits within an area of significant potential and significant constraints. All the east Kent authorities are seeking to address these challenges through proposals for major sustainable growth and the district must also play its part; the Core Strategy Review should be considered within this wider context. The sections below provide more specific background for Folkestone & Hythe District.

### **Transport Links**

**2.13** Following major investment in transport networks, Folkestone & Hythe District is in a gateway location between the United Kingdom and mainland Europe, with access to the continent through the Channel Tunnel. In addition, the neighbouring port at Dover (one of the world's busiest ports) and London Ashford Airport at Lydd offer further international connections, as does the Eurostar Terminal at Ashford.



**Figure 2.1 National and international connections**

**2.14** Figure 2.1 shows that the district is well-connected to the national trunk road network via the M20. The High Speed 1 rail service to St Pancras has meant that Folkestone is now less than an hour away from Central London. These improvements have benefits elsewhere in Kent, most notably at Ebbsfleet and Ashford, along with the city of Canterbury; nevertheless the district is the best connected coastal district in East Kent, with significant opportunity to extend the benefits that High Speed rail has brought to Folkestone to other locations, through the provision of high speed services from Westenhanger.

**2.15** With these improved communications, functional connections with settlements outside but close to the district can be as important as the relationships between places within it. This is clearly evident between the towns of Folkestone and Dover, only 15 km (10 miles) apart; a close relationship that is recognised in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (PBA, 2017). Likewise some of the district's northern villages may have more functional links with Canterbury than Folkestone/Hythe, and Ashford influences places in the west of the district. Nevertheless, the district is relatively self-contained for many purposes, with a clear axis of movement along the coast between the main towns, as shown in Figure 2.2 below.

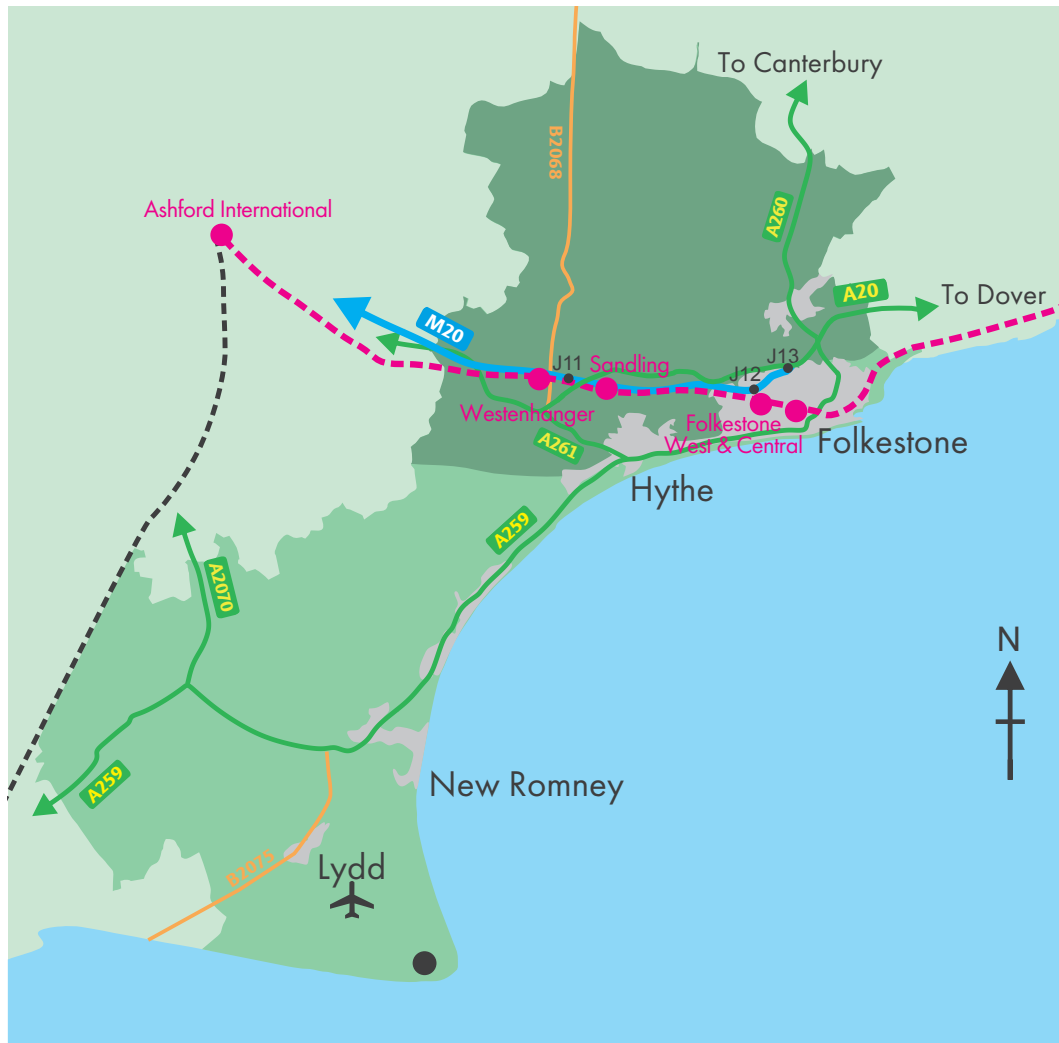


### Towns and Main Links in the District

- Main Internal Links
- Primary External Connections
- Towns

**Figure 2.2** The towns and main links in the district

**2.16** The east–west mainline rail route, along with the M20/A20, forms a central transport corridor within the district. Folkestone is now very well served by rail and road links to the capital and growing towns in Kent. As shown in Figure 2.3 below, other main road and bus links out of the towns include the A259 coastal route through a series of settlements towards Sussex, and roads northwards to Canterbury. The B2068 Stone Street to Canterbury, for example, is an important route north from the centre of the district and will assume greater importance in light of proposals for a new garden settlement in the North Downs Area.



### Physical Features of the District



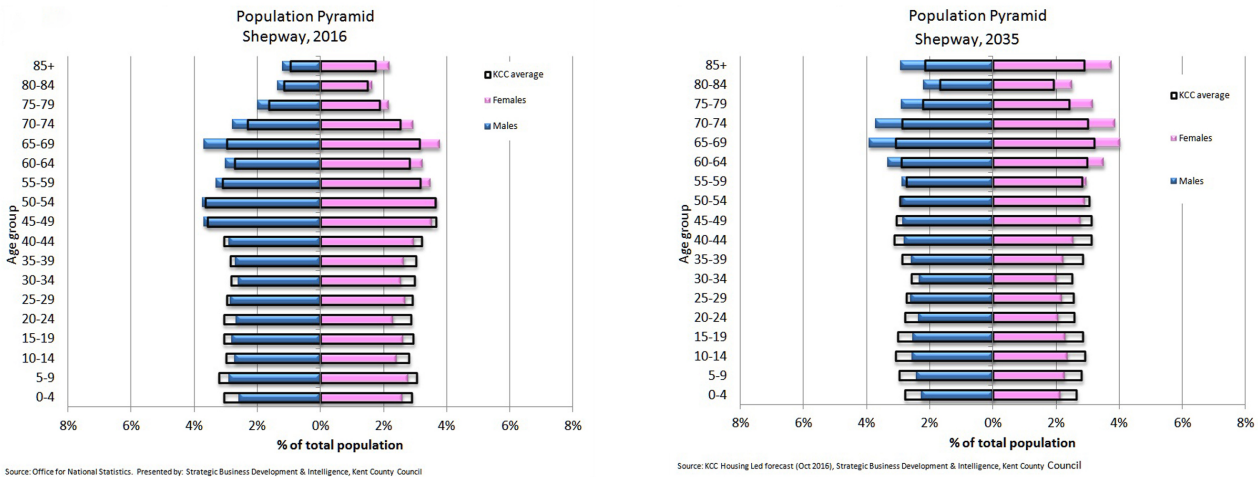
Figure 2.3 Physical features of the district

**2.17** The main towns provide employment and higher-level services for the vast majority (but not all) of the district's villages. Rural areas in the north and south of the district are less well connected, and the population is often dependent on cars (or buses in some instances) for longer journeys to Ashford, Canterbury and Folkestone.

**Population and Health**

**2.18** The district's population has increased by 15.4 per cent in the last fifteen years according to the mid-2016 population estimates. This rate of growth outpaces both the national and county averages<sup>(1)</sup>. Over this period natural change in the population has broadly balanced out and growth can be mainly attributed to domestic migration, particularly from London County as well as other parts of the country, although international migration is also positive.

**2.19** Population growth is expected to lead to a very significant ageing of the population over the course of the plan period to 2036/37 as illustrated in population pyramid in Figure 2.4<sup>(2)</sup>, unless this trend can be reversed. This means that the population is growing fastest for people aged 45-65, whereas the proportion of residents aged 20-44 has shrunk over the last 20 years; this could be attributed to the 'university effect' (young people moving away from the district to take up opportunities in further education), as well as the general shift of 'baby boomers' through the population pyramid. The proportion of the district's residents aged under 19, or over 70, has remained broadly consistent over the last 20 years.



**Figure 2.4 Current and future projected age groups of the district's population**

**2.20** The ageing population has implications for the district's health and care requirements. The health of the district's population is similar to the England average. It can be seen from Table 2.1<sup>(3)</sup> that since 2010 the life expectancy of the district's residents has increased. Positively, it also shows that the difference in life expectancy between the least- and most-deprived residents is narrowing; however the most-deprived fifth of males are expected at birth to live approximately six-and-a-half years less than those in the top fifth. The anticipated ageing of the population highlights the need to enhance employment opportunities and leisure, cultural and entertainment facilities to keep young people in the district.

	Life Expectancy		Gap between least and most deprived quintiles	
	2010	2017	2010	2017
<b>Male</b>	78.2 years	79.2 years	10.1 years	6.7 years
<b>Female</b>	82.5 years	83.2 years	5.8 years	3.5 years

**Table 2.1 Life Expectancy in Folkestone & Hythe District**

1 KCC (2017) Time series of Mid-Year Population Estimates 1996-2016, Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation  
 2 KCC (2016)  
 3 NHS (2017) Health Profile

**2.21** Disparities also emerge with the district's geography and neighbourhoods. The district includes some places where the community is particularly active, and others where there is significantly less sense of community. One way of considering this is through the concept of 'social capital' which describes the formation of networks and trust between people, often based on them sharing similar objectives.

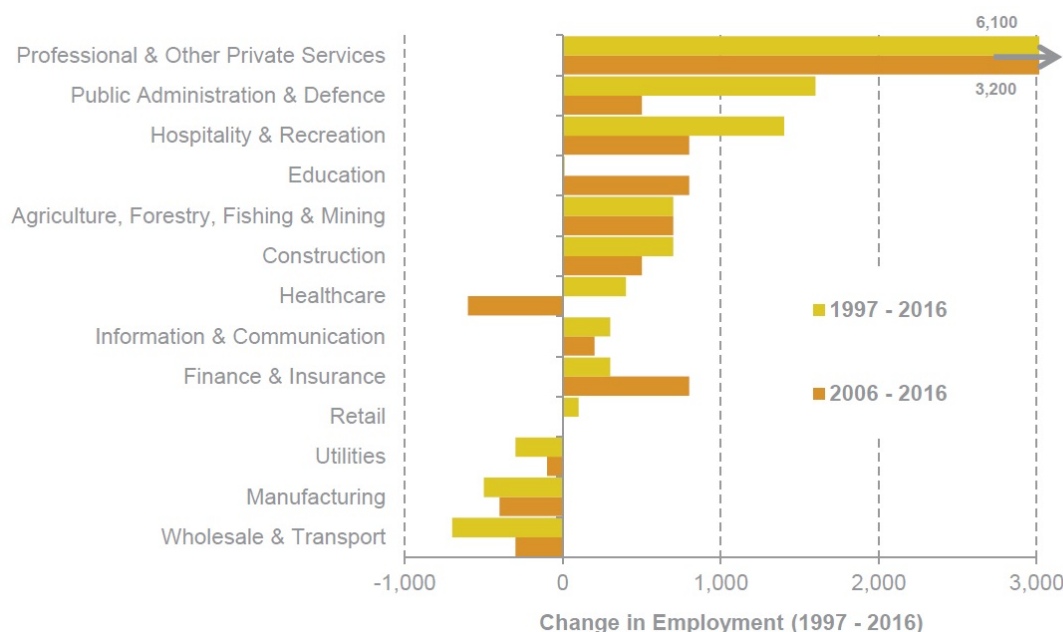
**2.22** Examination of the concept by Kent County Council<sup>(4)</sup> suggests that the district has both the lowest social capital (Folkestone Central) and the highest social capital (some of the most rural wards) of all neighbourhoods in Kent, based on data perceptions of trust, social inclusion and collective action. Strong social networks may help foster a sense of security in communities. Social capital is not necessarily always positive, but it emphasises the diverse nature of the district's communities as well as its geography.

**2.23** The challenge in addressing social capital is to use social resources in a way that all places and people can share in. Increasingly interactions are of a digital nature, and ensuring high quality connectivity for all residents is an essential requirement in improving social capital.

### Economy and Education

**2.24** Between 1997 and 2016 the growth in employment in the district was higher than the growth recorded in Kent, the South East and the United Kingdom. The number of jobs in the district has grown by 13 per cent over the period 2006 to 2016, higher than the overall growth in Kent (8 per cent), the South East (8 per cent) and the UK (8 per cent) during this period<sup>(5)</sup>.

**2.25** District-wide, the single greatest concentration of jobs is in the 'professional and other private services' sector, as shown in Figure 2.5 below. However, primary and secondary industries remain very important to many communities away from the main urban area.



**Figure 2.5 Jobs by sector in Folkestone & Hythe District**

**2.26** Moreover, it can be seen in Figure 2.5<sup>(6)</sup> that employment growth in the district between 1997 and 2016 was driven by professional and other private services, public administration and defence, hospitality and recreation and education. The district has experienced a stronger growth in finance and insurance over the period 2006 to 2016, as well as losses of employment in healthcare over this period contrasting with gains between 1997 and 2016. At the same time, employment losses were recorded in wholesale and transport,

4 KCC (2009) Social Capital: What Is It and Can It Be Measured?

5 Lichfields (2017) Employment Land Review

6 Lichfields (2017) Employment Land Review

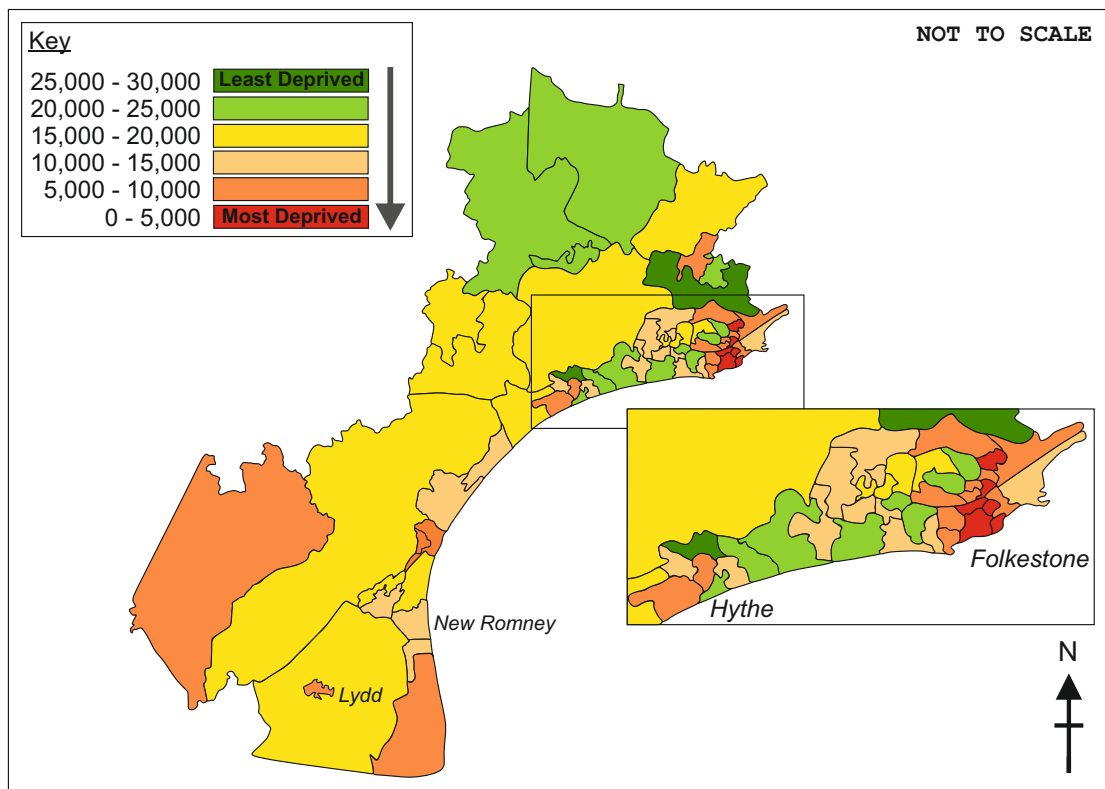
manufacturing and utilities. Around 67 per cent of the employment growth registered in the professional and other private services sector during this period related to the administrative and supportive services sub-sector which provides valuable employment but low wages.

	Folkestone & Hythe District	Kent	South East England
Jobseeker's Allowance claimants (November 2016)	1.6%	1.1%	0.7%
Gross Weekly Earnings (2016) district by residence	£490.60	£553.30	£582.00

**Table 2.2 Labour market attributes**

**2.27** Table 2.2<sup>(7)</sup> shows earnings are below county and regional levels. Unemployment is relatively high (above national averages) and the district has pockets of extensive unemployment.

**2.28** The district has severe areas of deprivation compared with much of South East England, and is ranked as the third most deprived of the 13 council areas in Kent (IMD 2015).



**Figure 2.6 Indices of Multiple Deprivation in Folkestone & Hythe District**

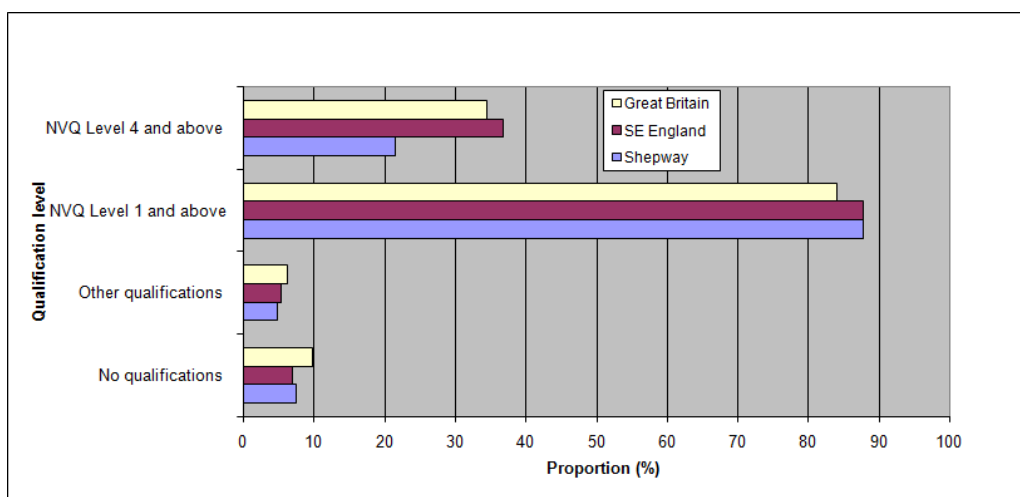
**2.29** Figure 2.6 shows several parts of the district where socio-economic disadvantage (red/orange coloured areas) has been a long-standing problem. The largest cluster of deprivation (communities in the top third nationally – ranking 10,000 or below) is found in inner/northern Folkestone. The inset shows deprivation can often be found very close to affluent areas.

7 Office for National Statistics (2016) Nomis - Official Labour Market Statistics

**2.30** The picture is also complex in rural areas. Many villages in the northern part of the district are less deprived (Elham and Stelling Minnis is the only ward to be shown as "least deprived" in Figure 2.6). In the south west of the district, concentrations of rural deprivation are found in and around Lydd and small villages such as Brenzett.

**2.31** In line with the issues highlighted in Figure 2.6 for the south of the district, a national study<sup>(8)</sup> confirmed economic problems in St Mary's Bay/Dymchurch. This indicates that high multiple deprivation may primarily relate to worsening access to services and jobs, the local demographic make-up or isolation.

**2.32** With continuing deprivation, poor skills attainment is of concern in several parts of the district.



**Figure 2.7 Qualifications held by the district's residents (2012)**

**2.33** Figure 2.7<sup>(9)</sup> illustrates that most residents hold qualifications, but there are fewer people with higher-level qualifications than average. In particular, the district has a lower proportion of people holding NVQ4 level qualifications (degree equivalent) and above than in the region or Great Britain as a whole; this may reflect the 'drain' in population as residents go elsewhere to study or for jobs that require higher level qualifications.

**2.34** Further and higher education provision has changed within the district and the sector as a whole, with an increasing focus on skills and vocational qualifications. While there are no higher education institutions within the district, both the University of Kent and Canterbury Christchurch University are nearby. With employment growth within key identified sectors a priority - together with significant investment in regeneration and housing and enhanced connectivity (both physical and digital) - there is opportunity to address the net outflow of young adults. What is needed is a well-connected urban and rural environment, with social, cultural and entertainment facilities, that is attractive as a place for young people to live and work in.

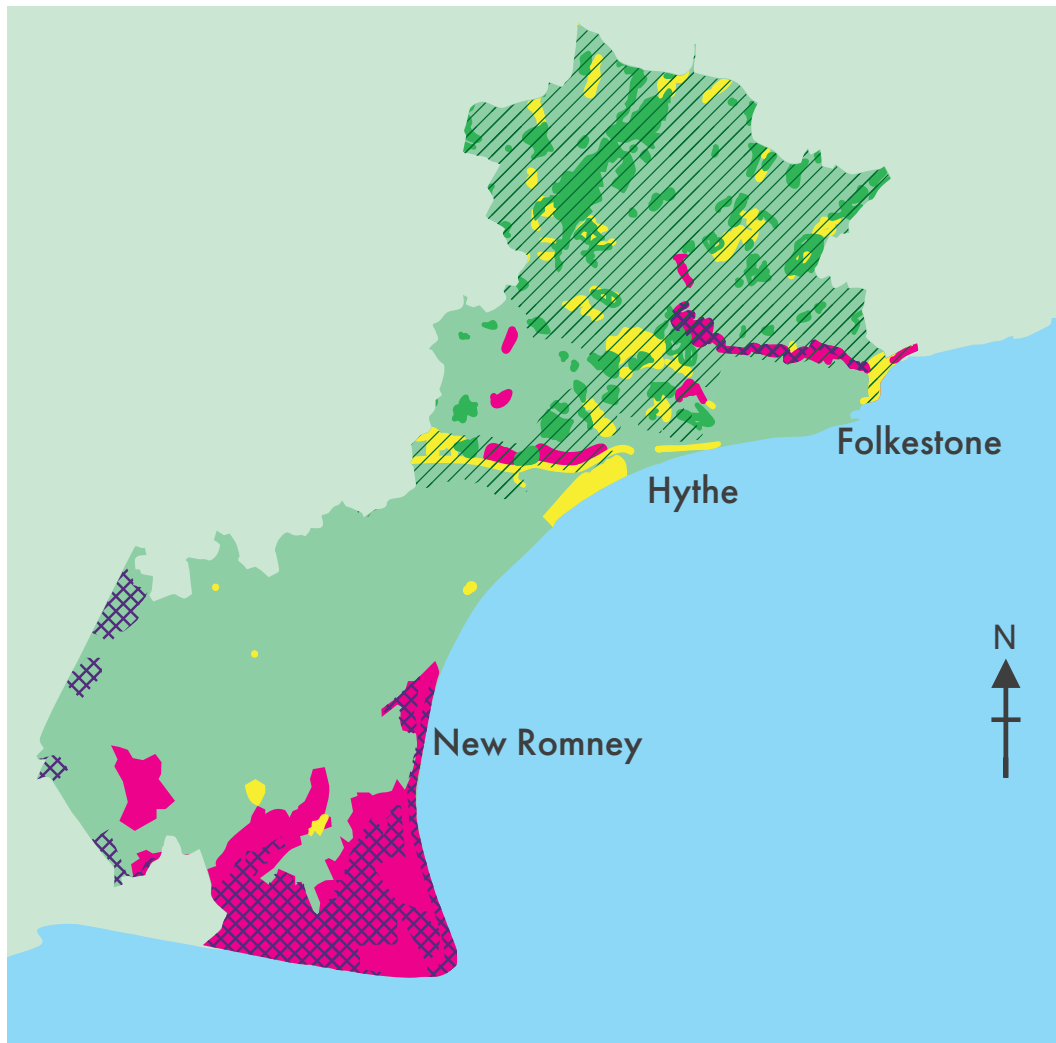
**Environment and Natural Assets**

**2.35** The district features environments of great geodiversity and biodiversity. The largest single environmental designation is the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Romney Marsh landscape is also highly notable, especially Dungeness, which is cherished for its shingle landscape and special habitats.

8 DCLG (2011) England's Smaller Seaside Towns: A Benchmarking Study

9 Office for National Statistics (2012) Annual Population Survey





### Nature Conservation Sites in Folkestone & Hythe



Figure 2.8 Nature conservation sites in Folkestone & Hythe District

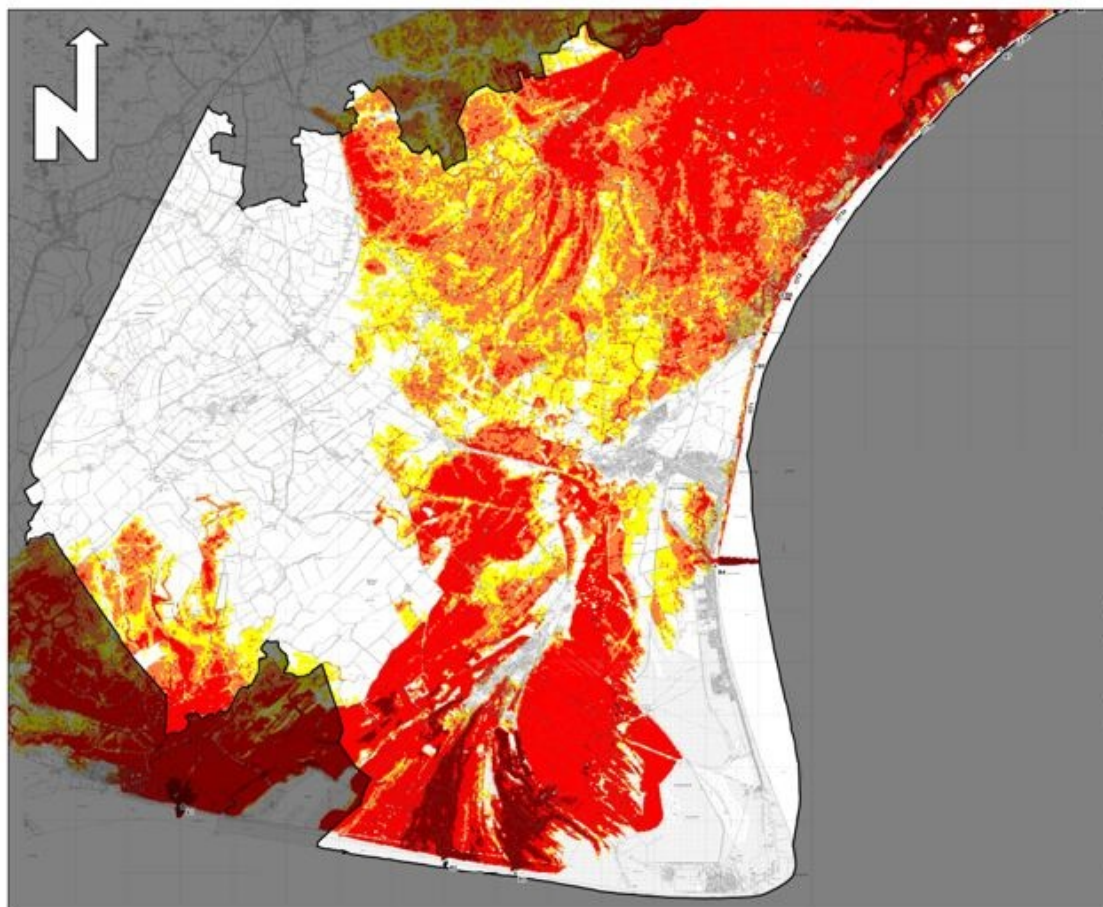
2.36 Figure 2.8<sup>(10)</sup> shows internationally designated habitats, other areas of land with an international designation for scientific interest and ancient woodlands. These cover large areas on the southern edge of the district, and several smaller sites in the north. Figure 2.8 also shows local wildlife sites, designated for their local nature conservation value. The district's local wildlife sites include the Hythe Ranges, Midley Chapel, Postling Wood and Down, Stelling Minnis Common, Acrise Wood and Park, Brockhill Country Park and others (these sites may be private land, although some areas are open to the public).<sup>(11)</sup>

10 Authoritative maps held by Natural England and others should be consulted.

11 For more information see Kent Wildlife Trust's website: <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/>

**2.37** These natural areas add to the appeal of the district, and are complemented by many open spaces in and around towns. There are country parks at the East Cliff and Folkestone Warren, New Romney Warren, Peene Quarry and Brockhill. The area now also benefits from improving sports pitches and parks such as at Three Hills Sports Ground, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, while there is opportunity for further investment in both indoor and outdoor sports facilities to meet the needs of the population. The Lower Leas Coastal Park and the Royal Military Canal are recognised for their quality, both holding Green Flag awards.

**2.38** The district's particularly fragile relationship with its water environment is becoming increasingly significant, especially with the impact of climate change. This is an important issue for the very low-lying land in Romney Marsh where flood risks and the maintenance of coastal defences have long been a concern, with significant investment made in recent years at Dymchurch, and further investment planned within Lydd in the near future.



Hazard Map Legend*	
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:yellow; border:1px solid black;"></span>	0.5 - 0.75 [Low]
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:orange; border:1px solid black;"></span>	0.75 - 1.25 [Moderate]
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:red; border:1px solid black;"></span>	1.25 - 2.5 [Significant]
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:darkred; border:1px solid black;"></span>	> 2.5 [Extreme]
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; border-bottom:2px solid blue;"></span>	Overtopping Boundary
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; border-bottom:2px solid cyan;"></span>	Overflow Boundary
<span style="display:inline-block; width:10px; height:10px; background-color:blue; border-radius:50%;"></span>	Breach Locations
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; border:2px solid black;"></span>	Boundary

\*Hazard Rating calculated in accordance with criteria set out in 'Flood Risk to People' [R&D Output FD2320/TR2]

This map shows flood hazard from coastal sources comprising flooding from breaching and overtopping of defences. It should be noted that certain locations not shown may be at risk of flooding from other sources (fluvial, pluvial, sewer flooding etc) and from other watercourses not shown in this study.

**HAZARD MAPS [2115]**  
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Refer to Table 9.1 for details of Breach Characteristics  
Refer to Table 9.2 for details of Breach and Overtopping Scenarios

**Figure 2.9** Extract from Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2115 flood risk hazard map

**2.39** The specific nature and degree of flood hazards (modelled in Figure 2.9 for the south of the district) varies significantly between locations, but all water-related issues are of growing importance. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was completed in 2015 and will be updated as appropriate.

**2.40** The whole local hydrological cycle is of notable significance. Water availability depends on maintaining aquifer stocks, however the area has relatively low levels of rainfall with the South East of England classified by the Environment Agency as being under "serious" water stress. There is also a pressing need to maintain the integrity of water quality and coastal environments as a whole.

**2.41** The district's coastal location is a defining influence in a variety of ways: its extensive shoreline, marine habitats, the Marsh topography, and settlements founded on access to the sea. Moreover, several features reflect its historic importance for military purposes throughout the nation's past.

**2.42** As described in section 1.2, the district's natural and built heritage forms a potentially rich inheritance. A varied and often precious human history and natural environment can be found across much of the district, but is often hidden from the sight of visitors and residents, or only seen as fragile or disjointed fragments.

## 2.2 Strategic Needs for Sustainable Development

**2.43** Sustainable development is central to the planning system. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that: *"The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*<sup>(12)</sup>

**2.44** To achieve sustainable development, government policy sets out three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and mutually supportive. These objectives are:

- **Economic** - ensuring that sufficient land is available to build a competitive economy, supported by infrastructure;
- **Social** - providing a sufficient number and range of homes to meet the needs of present and future generations, with a well-designed and safe environment, and accessible services and open spaces; and
- **Environmental** - protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently and mitigating and adapting to climate change.<sup>(13)</sup>

**2.45** The National Planning Policy Framework sets out a general "presumption in favour of sustainable development"<sup>(14)</sup> that has been followed in preparing the Core Strategy Review and will also be used in planning decisions. Policies in the Core Strategy Review deal with the three sustainability objectives in more detail; economic, social and environmental objectives are all important to the long-term future of the district, and to people of all ages and backgrounds.

**2.46** Four over-arching strategic needs have been brought together and presented thematically to underpin planning policy and to express the nature of the challenges that the Core Strategy Review is seeking to address. These draw from the identified opportunities and challenges, and relate to the issues within the district's places (section 1.2).

**2.47** The strategic needs are not mutually exclusive, and with the relationships between them, a single planning response may benefit more than one need.

**2.48** One clear strategic need is to break the chain of factors that result in persistent multiple deprivation and local economic weakness, as highlighted in paragraphs 2.24-2.34.

### **The challenge to improve employment, educational attainment and economic performance: Strategic Need A.**

This includes: tackling the limited range of jobs and skills by improving educational attainment; building on existing economic strengths by supporting key sectors, boosting productivity and supporting business growth; and promoting further investment to improve residents' wages, address the district's demographic profile and reduce unemployment levels and maximise opportunities for growth.

**2.49** Another important strategic need is to address growing threats to the substantial (but fragmented) natural and built environmental assets of the district, as outlined in paragraphs 2.35-2.42.

12 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, July 2018, paragraph 7.

13 NPPF, paragraph 8.

14 NPPF, paragraph 11

**The challenge to enhance management and maintenance of natural and historic assets: Strategic Need B.**

This includes: addressing climate change strategically; monitoring and managing air quality; the sensitivity of habitats and landscapes; precious water resources; and preventing undesirable coastal and countryside change (including growing flood risks); allied with further sustainable and positive management of the district's distinctive set of natural environments and historic features.

**2.50** The third key strategic need relates to opportunities for people and places to improve quality of life where it is most needed, as established in paragraphs 2.20-2.23 and throughout section 1.2.

**The challenge to improve the quality of life and sense of place, vibrancy and social mix in neighbourhoods, particularly where this minimises disparities: Strategic Need C.**

This includes: responding to variations in living conditions, personal health and wellbeing and improving opportunity for independence in old age; managing communities to increase shared feelings of identity, community and cohesion; and promoting the collective enhancement of the quality and sustainability of places.

**2.51** The final key strategic need is concerned with meeting future housing need, given limited opportunities for development as identified in section 1.2.

**The challenge to plan for strategic development which fosters high quality place-making with an emphasis on sustainable movement, buildings and green spaces: Strategic Need D.**

This includes: promoting strategic development following the principles of garden settlements, addressing climate change with the goal of creating new communities that are carbon neutral; creating opportunities to increase the level of economic activity in the district in existing and new sectors and raise standards of living across local communities; and encouraging healthier, more active lifestyles.

**2.52** If these needs are addressed, the district could offer a rich quality of life for all, although wider influences will also need to be addressed.

**2.53** Strategic needs are considered below against the drivers to identify how they can best be tackled. The following points can be established for strategic planning with reference to the structural drivers in section 1.1.

**2.54** *Economic and political pressures and fluctuations:*

- Continuing restrictions on expenditure and potentially radical national policy changes show the wide-ranging development impacts of a structural shift such as a severe recession;
- The unpredictable consequences to the economy of leaving the European Union, particularly in relation to the district's location at the gateway to Europe;
- Potential changes when the country eventually moves out of a low interest rate environment;
- Rapid changes in technology that are radically altering the way people communicate and companies do business;
- Nevertheless, over the time period of this strategy significant growth and change is expected, with the benefits of the district - its high quality landscape, townscape and location and connectivity - providing strong building blocks towards meeting strategic needs. Businesses in traditional economic sectors may

have proved resilient and may help to see the district through to more stable conditions. Communications improvements can help increase local confidence over the economic cycle; and

- In this context, deprived communities are in particular need of a strategy to protect against risk and to continue to support standards of living, maximising the sustainable use of collective human and physical resources.

**2.55** *Finite natural resources and growing environmental risks:*

- There is a clear connection between global environmental change and the future of the district's landscapes and habitats. The strategy must take full account of the risks and need for co-ordinated interventions, in particular in transitional and coastal zones and sensitive and designated areas;
- The particular location and physical characteristics of the district mean that the strategy needs to address increased flood risk, potential constraints to drinking water availability, and a growing imperative for sensitive handling of special habitats;
- Air quality needs to be monitored, particularly nitrogen emissions (NO<sub>x</sub>) from vehicles and their potential impacts on protected habitats; and
- Infrastructure, building design and travel habits will have to be altered to minimise carbon emissions and unnecessary water and energy usage.

**2.56** *Social trends and changing household structures:*

- This broad trend is allied with local circumstances through the way places attract (or fail to serve) groups of people in the same stage of life. This means overall migration trends of people are not random but the particular environment is itself influential – as well as the economy within the area. The district already has a comparatively elderly population, and the appeal of the coast to retirees is well-established and not likely to diminish; however this appeal increasingly applies to younger age groups who are able to work on an increasingly mobile basis;
- Therefore a combination of national and local factors mean that the district's population is likely to become increasingly middle-aged or elderly over the time period of this strategy, in the absence of any interventions to address this. Evidence indicates that affordability is limiting opportunity for younger people to be able to buy or rent a home of their own. The 'typical household' will continue to become smaller because of older single-person households and other social changes, with a need for specialist housing to be provided that meets the needs of the elderly or provides opportunity for adaptation. In the absence of in-migration the population will fall, even though an ageing population will require an increase stock of housing as people live longer. Therefore additional housing is needed to serve the ageing population and also to provide suitable homes to attract and retain a younger population; and
- The Core Strategy Review can both provide opportunities to address the outcomes of trends, and also tackle the root causes behind trends. Both the amount and type of housing is influential, as is the strategy for community services and employment. The provision of entertainment facilities, such as music venues, and the creation of a thriving evening economy will also help to retain and attract a younger population.

**2.57** *Technological innovations and shifting relationships between people and place:*

- The need to travel has reduced with new ways of exchanging information, with an increased reliance on digital forms of communication and technologies. It is likely that growth in artificial intelligence, connectivity (the 'Internet of Things') and automation will change the employment landscape beyond recognition. It does not follow, however, that travel demand or migration will reduce (not least as digitisation can stimulate whole new strands of economic activity). Additionally, journeys have become quicker and travel options wider, opportunities the district needs to capitalise on. These communication channels have increased pressure on some traditional commercial areas and infrastructure by shifting demand and changing business and customer needs;
- Alongside boundaries becoming less restrictive, the distinctions between settlements, regions and nations can feel as if they are disappearing. Nevertheless with this form of 'globalisation', continuing geographic distinctions can present an opportunity, as the character and environment of individual places and local

history becomes more valued. The need is for the district to become more competitive, and the Core Strategy Review must help enhance the district's distinctiveness; and

- A growing reliance on virtual connections, transport and electronic communications can be balanced with a focus on public spaces and buildings where people meet and interact, such as parks, town centres, public transport stations and neighbourhood facilities.

**2.58** The nature of risks is examined further in Section 5.3: Implementation.





## Aims and Vision for Folkestone & Hythe District

## 3 Aims and Vision for Folkestone & Hythe District

This section sets out – through specific aims for the district, and a future vision of local places – the challenges that the Core Strategy Review must meet.

### 3.1 District Planning Aims

**3.1** The four strategic needs set out priorities for the sustainable development of the district. In order to address the needs fully, specific aims are set out below. In addition these aims may be addressed by further topic- or area-specific development plan documents or supplementary planning documents.

**3.2** These aims are broad and most can apply district-wide, although specific environments and places are highlighted where directly part of the Core Strategy Review. These aims will be delivered through the actions of the council, developers, landowners, private-sector investors and a range of infrastructure and service providers and local interest groups, working in a co-ordinated way.

**Strategic Need A:** The challenge to improve employment, educational attainment and economic performance.

#### 3.3 Aims arising from Strategic Need A:

1. Increase prosperity across the local population;
2. Improve accessibility and transport infrastructure;
3. Enhance the viability/vitality and appeal of Town Centres, with Folkestone as a major commercial, cultural and tourism centre featuring upgraded connections and public realm;
4. Achieve real-term increases in gross incomes;
5. Increase the proportion of residents with higher-level qualifications, helping to create an 'innovation district' to provide a distinct employment offer that reflects changing patterns of work;
6. Deliver a flexible supply of 'super-connected' employment space in terms of location, size and type, particularly space that allows businesses to start-up and scale-up their operations;
7. Expand the range of jobs and the skills of the local workforce;
8. Maximise the efficient use of infrastructure and secure further improvements, unlocking the development of priority sites, communities and areas to develop business clusters and centres of excellence;
9. Provide housing of a quality and type suited to long-term economic development needs;
10. Regenerate deprived neighbourhoods, including Central and Northern Folkestone and pockets within Romney Marsh; and
11. Expand cultural and creative activity in the district and enhance the evening economy, with refurbished premises and spaces in Folkestone's old town forming a vibrant Creative Quarter.

**Strategic Need B:** The challenge to enhance management and maintenance of natural and historic assets.

#### 3.4 Aims arising from Strategic Need B:

1. Expand green infrastructure and enhance its connectivity, making a positive contribution to managing the impacts of climate change through adaptation and mitigation;
2. Minimise local carbon emissions, maintain and manage air quality (particularly nitrogen emissions (NO<sub>x</sub>) from vehicles along the A20), control pollutants and promote sustainable waste management;
3. Achieve a net gain in biodiversity and geodiversity, particularly where of international and national significance, including a focus on Dungeness and Folkestone Warren;
4. Conserve and enhance sensitive landscapes, especially on the edge of settlements and within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its setting;

5. Increase the efficiency of water management to maintain local water resources and to improve the quality of watercourses and the sea;
6. Maintain the sense of openness and tranquillity of the countryside and undeveloped coast;
7. Manage the district's coast to ensure resilience to climate change processes, reducing the risk to life and property from flood hazards, and actively managing coastal environments for green infrastructure and sustainable recreation;
8. Enhance the character and function of the district's historic towns and villages, and the management of historic assets/visitor attractions to promote heritage tourism; and
9. Promote choice in means of transport through improving opportunities for walking and cycling, public transport networks and information.

**Strategic Need C:** The challenge to improve the quality of life and sense of place, vibrancy and social mix in neighbourhoods, particularly where this minimises disparities.

### 3.5 Aims arising from Strategic Need C:

1. Create distinctive places and cohesive neighbourhoods and encourage increased voluntary activity, the provision of new community buildings and the retention of valued facilities and services;
2. Improve the choice of good-quality homes in neighbourhoods and villages, with a mix of housing size, type and tenure, including opportunities for self- and custom-build homes;
3. Assist in meeting the essential needs of vulnerable social groups and provide more properties that allow people to remain living independently;
4. Improve sports, recreational space, healthcare and other facilities and reduce relative disparities in the health of communities;
5. Increase access to services for the local population and improve and maintain essential rural services and infrastructure;
6. Improve the urban environment, increasing the use and sense of security of key public spaces including parks, town centres and public transport stations;
7. Reintegrate physically divided or highly linear villages and neighbourhoods through central social infrastructure or community development;
8. Improve Town Centre environments, facilities and communications for businesses and visitors in the Romney Marsh area; and
9. Consolidate communities that are hosting significant new developments.

**Strategic Need D:** The challenge to plan for strategic development which fosters high quality place-making with an emphasis on sustainable movement, buildings and green spaces.

### 3.6 Aims arising from Strategic Need D:

1. Ensure adequate land is identified to meet housing need over the plan period, with an aim to provide sufficient capacity beyond 2036/37 to plan for the long-term;
2. Provide a balanced mix of land uses, housing tenures, community facilities and strategic open spaces with long term stewardship and management arrangements established at an early stage;
3. Promote innovative and distinctive architecture while protecting and enhancing unique landscapes and heritage assets. Building construction should be characterised by longevity, smart energy solutions and environmentally adapted materials;
4. Encourage healthier living by the generous provision of sports pitches, recreation facilities and land for locally-grown produce;
5. Provide public spaces and facilities that are accessible to all, through links such as public transport, walkways, bridleways and cycle paths;
6. Provide homes that meet the different and changing needs of young people, growing families and the elderly;

7. Integrate public transport with strategic development, providing local links and strategic connections;
8. Provide generous green corridors within and connecting built-up areas, particularly to enhance the built environment in high-density areas, prevent the coalescence of settlements and mitigate the impact of strategic development on the landscape setting; and
9. Reduce waste from new homes and businesses and increase recycling rates significantly higher than in existing towns in Kent.

### **Air quality monitoring**

As outlined under **Strategic Need B**, there are potential harmful impacts from nitrogen emissions (NO<sub>x</sub>) from vehicles on the A20 on protected habitats, such as the Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Core Strategy Review identifies a need to monitor this situation. **The council will monitor roadside NO<sub>x</sub> at regular intervals over the plan period in order to identify any improving or deteriorating trends.** Any deterioration may trigger the need for local mitigation measures and could lead to a review of the plan.

## 3.2 Vision for Folkestone & Hythe District

**3.7** The district's environments and accessibility mean as a whole it has significant potential. To capture this, all places across the district can play a role; and for change to be delivered a positive and ambitious vision is set out, looking to 2037 and beyond.

**3.8** Aiming high will maximise achievement. With the delivery of the major proposals, the right conditions, confidence and resources will be generated, resulting in the innovation, pride and social capital needed to deliver this future. For such growth to be 'smart' it must make the most of hard infrastructure, digital technologies and data to engage people and make the district a more liveable, resilient and welcoming place.

### Future Vision for Folkestone & Hythe District

**The district will flourish into a distinct area of high-quality towns, including a new garden settlement, complemented by the contrasting strengths and distinctiveness of attractive countryside and coastal places.**

This will occur through planning for a smart, self-confident, secure and low-carbon district, and through enhancing the district's many diverse and special environments.

**3.9** With this vision, the diverse parts of the district should develop, moving towards a future, including a high-quality garden settlement, coastal towns and attractive countryside, as set out in the paragraphs below.

- **Urban Area Future**

**3.10** Major economic opportunities will have been realised, especially through High Speed 1 rail service enhancements. Folkestone will be well-connected to major European cities, with an increasing focus on digital connectivity; movement within the town will be easier and clearer for all modes of travel, with an improved public realm and pedestrian environment within a mixed-use town centre. Key urban facilities such as the Central railway station and town centre will be clearly linked to each other and to the natural attractions of the coast and countryside, with a choice of travel modes (foot, bicycle, bus and car). The town will be at the heart of East Kent's economic and cultural life, with a rejuvenated Seafront supporting a town centre vibrant with new offices, facilities and improved public spaces. Folkestone will have grown in importance as an 'events town', with recognised cultural and artistic festivals, as well as new evening entertainments and music events. The town's day-time and evening economy will be thriving, with new investors alongside existing employers, upgrading the fabric of the town by improvements to buildings and an expanded range of shops and offices.

**3.11** Residents and workers will have an enhanced choice of independent shops, workshops, galleries, cafés, restaurants and entertainment venues, bringing new life to small shop units and historic streets; these will be supported by high-quality visitor attractions and accommodation. Greater flows of pedestrians during the day and improved evening attractions will lead to a reduction in anti-social behaviour and crime. The heart of the town will be enhanced by improved facilities for shoppers, diners and visitors. It will attract people from elsewhere in the region, the country and the continental mainland.

**3.12** The town will be family-friendly, benefiting from affordable housing integrated into new developments, improved schools, accessible sports and recreational facilities, easy access to the countryside and new medical facilities. Sports, open spaces and the coastline will benefit from major improvements.

**3.13** Through a combination of increased market confidence, public sector assistance and an active voluntary sector, central and north Folkestone's range of housing, employment opportunities and community services will match the rest of the urban area. Regeneration will be apparent in the improved urban environment spreading out from inner Folkestone.

**3.14** West Folkestone and Sandgate will still be accessible and strongly desirable seaside communities – with their character maintained and enhanced – for residents and commercial investors. Cheriton will be a growing community, with increased choice of housing and prosperity, acting as a centre for local services, well-connected to Folkestone West station. The Military Estate at Shorncliffe will be consolidated and improved, sitting alongside substantial new housing-led development that improves connectivity and provides improved open space, recreational and sports and community facilities. The northern fringe of the town will be characterised by strong small- and medium-sized enterprises and educational facilities, operating from modern premises and contributing to a diverse local economy.

**3.15** Hythe will continue to be an attractive hub for residents and visitors, with small shops and traders in the attractive, vibrant and pedestrian-friendly High Street environment. The town will benefit from new sports facilities, more attractions and leisure facilities at the sea and by the Royal Military Canal. Hythe will be prominent in the sub-region as an appealing tourism base, with better-graded accommodation. Accessibility will have improved, especially to Sandling railway station, and for pedestrians to the west of the town centre and its surrounds.

**3.16** West Hythe will be transformed into a community well-integrated within the landscape and town. It will contribute to pressing needs in the centre and south of the district for affordable housing and new local services, sports and jobs, having attracted new families and people of working age to Hythe. Flood risks will be reduced through enhanced defences.

**3.17** Seabrook, Horn Street and other small, high-quality neighbourhoods will continue to thrive and prosper as distinctive, characterful places where the town meets the country, and with essential services maintained and strengthened.

- **Romney Marsh Area Future**

**3.18** Opportunities for work and investment, and awareness of the Marsh's outstanding natural environment, will be considerably expanded. The countryside and towns of Romney Marsh will be as distinct and immediately recognisable as they are today, with readily apparent local opportunities for the future alongside a clear sense of history.

**3.19** Natural assets, coastal habitats and key infrastructure will show greater adaptability to climate change. The special coastal ecology and wildlife sites – especially at Dungeness – will continue to be a haven for rare species and actively managed to ensure sustainability. The flat topography of the Marsh will continue to provide an alluring environment for cyclists, and those interested in our history and rural life. These features will form a central part of the appeal of the district to visitors. Agricultural practices and land management will not be intrusive but will continue to be central to the heritage of the Marsh and its economic diversification, with a focus in tourism on environmentally-friendly trips and greater emphasis on local produce.

**3.20** New Romney will have evolved and expanded to be recognised as a prominent centre for the Romney Marsh area. The town will play a vibrant role serving the whole of the area through expanded health, education and retail facilities, new business space, an improved town centre, and additional family housing. Day-to-day life for Marsh residents will be improved through people being able to access well-paid employment, improved infrastructure and transport, and essential services. Travel to other services, large offices and urban facilities will be more convenient and focus on Hythe (including the former Nickolls Quarry), Ashford and Folkestone. Smart and focused improvements will have increased the efficiency for all transport modes (car, bus, cycling and pedestrians) using the A259 route, and will have delivered more efficient and attractive coastal travel through to New Romney and Lydd.

**3.21** The availability of a wider range of jobs and services will be underpinned by the growth of sectors such as tourism and energy, through new developments and small firms. This economic transition, tackling underlying rural deprivation, will have been made possible by the impact of new communications and technology, and training up a better-qualified workforce. Technology will enable better access to information for a range of business and social purposes, including about convenient transport options when travelling to work, shops, school and healthcare, or when visiting the area.

**3.22** Lydd and St Mary's Bay will have upgraded their appeal and local services to become highly popular to visitors and as places to live, and with flood risks safely managed. The economy in Lydd town will be boosted, capitalising on its historic centre, including by an expansion at Lydd Ranges of defence employment and training, and through residential and commercial investment on key approaches. Dymchurch will continue to be the primary coastal tourist resort for the Marsh, with visitors particularly benefiting from accessibility and environmental improvements.

**3.23** The villages of the Marsh, including Brookland and smaller settlements such as Ivychurch and Burmarsh, will continue to be attractive rural communities, attracting new visitors and residents and retaining community facilities, addressing problems of isolation and exclusion.

- **North Downs Area Future**

**3.24** As identified by the Growth Options Study (see Section 4), there is an opportunity and environmental capacity for strategic scale development in this area in the form of a new garden settlement to meet the increased housing needs of the district.

**3.25** The new settlement will be a landscape-led garden town, which respects the setting of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) by including strategic landscaping and lower density development in those parts of the town that are more visible from the North Downs ridge and the wider escarpment. It will deliver low-carbon homes and increased resource conservation, with development that is highly water efficient. It will provide opportunities to achieve health benefits through walkable neighbourhoods and the construction of homes to meet the changing needs of occupants. There will be a range of character areas and housing tenures, as well as self-build and custom-build homes. It will provide a range of employment opportunities, maximising the potential of the location, infrastructure and opportunities to deliver new forms of employment.

**3.26** The settlement will be an attractive place that is aesthetically, culturally and environmentally rich and stimulating, centred around an attractive park forming an enhanced setting to Westenhanger Castle. It will have a range of multi-functional green and blue spaces (rivers, streams and water bodies) linked in a network (known as 'green infrastructure'). The green infrastructure network will enhance local biodiversity, avoiding the fragmentation of habitats. It will help to create a healthy environment, providing space for community orchards and allotments, and reduce the impact of flooding, through the storage and slow release of water during storm events. Green infrastructure will improve access to nature, linking to the wider network of routes and spaces within and beyond the North Downs area.

**3.27** Existing villages within this area will consolidate their place as some of the most popular and relatively accessible rural communities in East Kent, with the maintenance of a quality natural setting befitting the Kent Downs AONB and its surrounds. The hills, valleys and woodlands will be an increased attraction, and along with strategic transport links, holding wide appeal to new residents, employers and visitors. Environmental quality will be respected and appreciated, with management, protection and enhancement of prominent natural assets such as the Saxon shoreline and special habitat of the escarpment to Etchinghill. The whole Downs landscape will be managed sensitively to form an attractive base for visitors, home-grown businesses and tourists.

**3.28** The area will still be characterised by a broad range of well-served rural communities. Housing affordability and poor access to healthcare and youth facilities will have been addressed through development tailored to local needs and improved public transport to London, Ashford, Folkestone, Dover and Canterbury. The area will benefit from improved technology encouraging more small- and medium-sized rural enterprises, and with clusters of buildings converted to small offices, and increased homeworking. Significant numbers of jobs will be created within the garden town, which will provide employment opportunities for nearby towns and the wider area.

**3.29** Sellindge will have grown to the south and east, consolidated around a central core of expanded and new facilities and open space at its heart, creating a compact, social village. It will be well-connected to the adjoining garden town, with improved connectivity to Ashford, Folkestone and beyond through improved walking, cycling, bus and rail routes.

**3.30** Hawkinge will continue its growth as an important centre. It will be a family-friendly place, providing attractive walking and cycling routes to its improved shops, new care facilities and jobs, and well managed community facilities and open space. The consolidation of the town as a maturing community will mean greater integration and an established identity as a key settlement.

**3.31** Villages at the heart of the AONB such as Lyminge and Elham will remain highly attractive places to live and visit, with a wide range of local facilities serving the surrounding countryside. Lyminge will be recognised for its very good range of shops and public services, where sensitive small-scale developments have improved access to rural housing. Elham will be a key centre for the expanded visitor economy in the Kent Downs AONB. Villages such as Stelling Minnis, and hamlets in the Elham Valley and the countryside surrounding Stone Street, will continue to be 'quiet gems' of the Kentish countryside, with local schools and other essential services maintained, benefiting from the economic possibilities of electronic communications, while nestled in a landscape overseen with pride and care.

**3.32** Outside the AONB, the provision of a garden town will capitalise on existing infrastructure to open up opportunities for wider communities, while also ensuring that villages such as Lympne and those within the AONB retain their distinct character. Communities will have become better-served with expanded schools, employment, leisure and recreational activities and healthcare, with significant access to new housing to meet changing needs. The strategic transport corridor running through this area will be managed to bring greater local advantages, with the provision of a significantly improved station and High Speed 1 services at Westenhanger acting as a local transport hub to the Kent Downs area and beyond to Hythe and the Marsh. The area has significant appeal to tourists, at an important international gateway. This location will be capitalised on, with the provision of new tourist facilities to support existing attractions such as Port Lympne Reserve and as a central point to visit the Romney Marsh, Folkestone, Kent Downs AONB and Canterbury, capitalising on visits from those arriving from or departing to Europe.

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**3.33** Key local themes of this narrative are addressed for each character area in section 5.2.

**3.34** The delivery of these aspirations requires a shift in the trajectory of development with the creation of a new garden town. Accordingly the next chapter sets a demanding, but deliverable, spatial strategy, ensuring the district continues to meet its housing and employment needs over the plan period to 2037 and beyond.



## The Spatial Strategy for Folkestone & Hythe

## 4 The Spatial Strategy for Folkestone & Hythe

The objectives and vision of the spatial strategy have been revised from those of the adopted Core Strategy (2013). The revised strategy reflects wider needs to capitalise on existing strategic infrastructure. New infrastructure will be delivered alongside employment and housing to deliver sustainable development and generate opportunities for job growth across the district to 2037 and beyond, within identified landscape capacity. Accordingly, this chapter sets out proposals for long-term development (policies labelled 'SS'). The main element of the spatial strategy is a set of overarching provisions. A number of strategic policies then follow for a new garden settlement (SS6-SS9), Folkestone Seafront (SS10) and Shorncliffe Garrison, Folkestone (SS11).

### 4.1 District Spatial Strategy

#### Introduction

**4.1** The district's appeal is primarily based on its connectivity and variety of towns, villages and high quality environments of coast and countryside. The heart of the North Downs and Romney Marsh areas are within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Grade 1 classified agricultural land (respectively), both of which have a rich and diverse influence on the landscape character. Accordingly, the district's highest quality rural landscapes need to be maintained as a key part of its attractiveness. Allied to this is the historic influence of the coast on the evolution of settlements and on current perceptions of the district.

**4.2** Maintaining the district's distinctive coast and rural areas are key aims that shape the spatial strategy. Nevertheless, towns are the places where most people live and work, and the strategy has to address the needs of these places, alongside villages and the rural area.

**4.3** Folkestone is the largest settlement in the district and represents the main hub for economic and business activity. Broadly, the district can be characterised as having three distinct economic and market sub-areas:

- Folkestone and Hythe;
- Romney Marsh; and
- The North Downs.

#### Population Change

**4.4** The population of the district based on the mid-year estimate in 2016 stands at 111,200. The district (along with Dover and Thanet) has an older age profile than the other Kent local authority areas and, as such, it is subject to a higher annual rate of deaths to births, which resulted in a negative natural change. However, overall between mid-2015 to mid-2016 the district was one of four of Kent's local authorities subject to a population increase which can be attributed to migration alone.

**4.5** Looking at these trends in more detail:

- **Movements to/from Kent** - The majority of people who moved into Kent in the year ending June 2016 came from London. 24,800 people, equivalent to 45.9 per cent of all in-migrants, came from the capital. In contrast, of all the people leaving Kent, 24.3 per cent (11,200 people) moved to London. The result was a net gain of 13,600 people from London to Kent. This trend is expected to continue as improved digital connectivity allows for more diverse patterns of work, while high speed rail makes the district more attractive for those who still regularly commute to the capital; and
- **Movements to/from Folkestone & Hythe district** - The matrix drawn from the Migration Indices bulletin provides data on the origin and destination of internal migrants to and from Kent local authority areas from mid-2015 to mid-2016. This shows that:

- **Folkestone & Hythe District to/from London** - During the 12-month period some 500 people moved from Folkestone & Hythe District to London, with 1,100 people moving from London to the district, a net gain of 600 internal migrants (residents) to the district; and
- **Folkestone & Hythe District to/from all areas** - Overall, the trend of net migration into the district (from all areas) between 2003/04 and 2015/16 has ranged between 200 (2008/09) and 1,300 a year (2015/16), although the annual net in-migration was relatively stable at between 400 and 800 net additional migrants a year between 2005/06 and 2013/14.

### Calculating the Housing Need

**4.6** There is an acknowledged national shortage of housing, not only in the district but across the South East of England generally, and providing more homes is now a high priority for both the council and the government (which has set an ambitious national target of 300,000 new homes a year).

**4.7** The 2013 Core Strategy is delivering a minimum of 8,750 new homes from 2006 to 2031; this amounts to 350 homes a year, with a target of 400 planned for delivery. The Places and Policies Local Plan, currently in the final stages of preparation, provides for additional development to meet the 2013 Core Strategy housing requirement.

**4.8** (Paragraph deleted to update following Housing supply consultation 2020)

**4.9** (Paragraph deleted to update following Housing supply consultation 2020)

### National Methodology for Calculating Housing Need

**4.10** While the council has been preparing the Core Strategy Review, the government consulted on **and then introduced** a standard national methodology for calculating housing need. **This was brought into force following the introduction of a Revised National Planning Policy Framework in 2019.** Regarding new housing, this states that, *"To determine the minimum number of homes needed, strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance - unless exceptional circumstances justify an alternative approach which also reflects current and future demographic trends and market signals".*<sup>(1)</sup>

**4.11** The national methodology for housing need factors in the latest household projections<sup>(2)</sup> and information on housing affordability<sup>(3)</sup> to arrive at a figure for the minimum number of new homes that local authorities should plan for. The latest household projection and affordability ratio for the district indicate that the council should plan for **738 new homes a year.**

**4.12** Given this, the Core Strategy Review will plan for a total of **13,284 new homes over the period 2019/20 to 2036/37.** This will provide for the minimum amount of new development required by national planning policy.

**4.13** **The local housing need calculated using the standard method may be relied upon for a period of two years from the time that a plan is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination, after which it may change. National policy requires local planning authorities to update their local plans at least every five years, or sooner, if housing numbers are likely to change.**

**4.14** It is clear from this that the district's future housing requirement will not be met unless ambitious new growth initiatives are brought forward, at pace. The time is right, therefore, for the council to consider a strategic response to provide significant medium- and long-term housing growth in the district.

1 National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, July 2018, paragraph 60.

2 Updated every two years to take account of the latest demographic trends (usually in April).

3 The most recent [median workplace-based affordability ratios](#), published by the Office for National Statistics at a local authority level and updated every year (usually in March).

## Meeting the Housing Need

**4.15** The housing need identified above, will be met by a combination of new sites allocated in the Core Strategy Review, small- and medium-sized sites in the Places and Policies Local Plan, the remaining allocation in the 2013 Core Strategy and existing sites with planning permission.

**4.16** The potential to provide significant new housing is limited due to the statutory designation of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the high flood risk affecting much of Romney Marsh. Proportionately, the majority of housing growth over the past decade has been met within the urban areas of Folkestone and Hythe and at Hawkinge. Work undertaken between 2015 and 2017 in preparing the Places and Policies Local Plan concluded that the opportunities to accommodate further strategic growth in towns and villages is extremely limited.

**4.17** In October 2016 consultants AECOM were commissioned to develop a Strategic Growth Options Study for the district, alongside a high-level landscape appraisal, as part of the early work to inform the Core Strategy Review. The context for the Growth Options Study comprised a new calculation of housing need arising from the SHMA, as described above. These homes will need to be supported by new employment opportunities and supporting infrastructure; this Core Strategy Review is therefore being undertaken to help ensure that housing need can be met and that the accompanying jobs and infrastructure can be successfully delivered.

**4.18** Strategic growth also enables greater social mobility and provides labour for local employers, helping businesses to expand, which in turn benefits the wider local economy. The delivery of new housing at the right scale enables a critical mass to be reached, providing a sufficient number of people to sustain services, facilities and employment.

## Employment and Indices of Multiple Deprivation

**4.19** Levels of deprivation have reduced between 2010 and 2015 relative to other local authorities in England; the district now ranks as the third most deprived authority in Kent (of 12). Notwithstanding recent improvements, this relatively poor position in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, especially when contrasted with other areas in South East England, emphasises the need for an ambitious development strategy that ensures the district and its residents can prosper.

**4.20** The approach set out in the Core Strategy Review is to positively support employment needs so that the economy is not unduly constrained, but also to recognise the problems around limited land supply and the competing pressure on available development sites from other uses (non B use classes).

**4.21** Outside the central commercial hub in Folkestone and Hythe, the district is mostly rural in nature, with more limited opportunities for new economic development. As drawn from the Employment Land Review (July 2017), the district supported around 48,200 jobs in 2016, which represented an employment growth of 27 per cent over the period from 1997. This employment growth was materially higher than the growth recorded in Kent (22 per cent), the South East (19 per cent) and the UK (19 per cent). The number of jobs in the district in 2006 (the base year of the 2013 Core Strategy) was in the region of 42,600 jobs, meaning job growth over the period 2006 to 2016 was equivalent to 13 per cent. This level of growth was also higher than in Kent (8 per cent), the South East (8 per cent) and the United Kingdom (8 per cent) during this period.

**4.22** An over-representation of lower value employment sectors (such as public administration and defence, agriculture, forestry and fishing, and utilities) has contributed to the district's economy being less productive compared to the regional and national average. The lower value employment base aligns with a less-skilled resident workforce capturing lower earnings compared to other parts of Kent, while the employment mix in the local economy is likely to have contributed to a proportion of the resident workforce choosing to commute outside the district for work.

**4.23** One of the drawbacks of the district as a business location is a shortage of skilled labour for local businesses. Other identified weaknesses include a lack of good quality flexible commercial space that meets modern occupier needs and, outside Folkestone, employment allocations that do not maximise access to the

strategic road network at junctions 11, 12 and 13 of the M20. These drawbacks have contributed to the district being highly self-contained in terms of local businesses operating in mostly local markets, attracting little inward investment.

**4.24** The weaknesses of the district as a business location have reduced its competitiveness compared to other more established centres such as Ashford, Canterbury and Dover, particularly in terms of capturing 'footloose' occupiers. In contrast to this, one of the district's main strengths relates to its lower business and rental costs compared to other locations, which makes it a cost-competitive location for occupiers. However, the lower rental values deter speculative developments due to concerns that future rental yields will not support the costs of providing new premises.

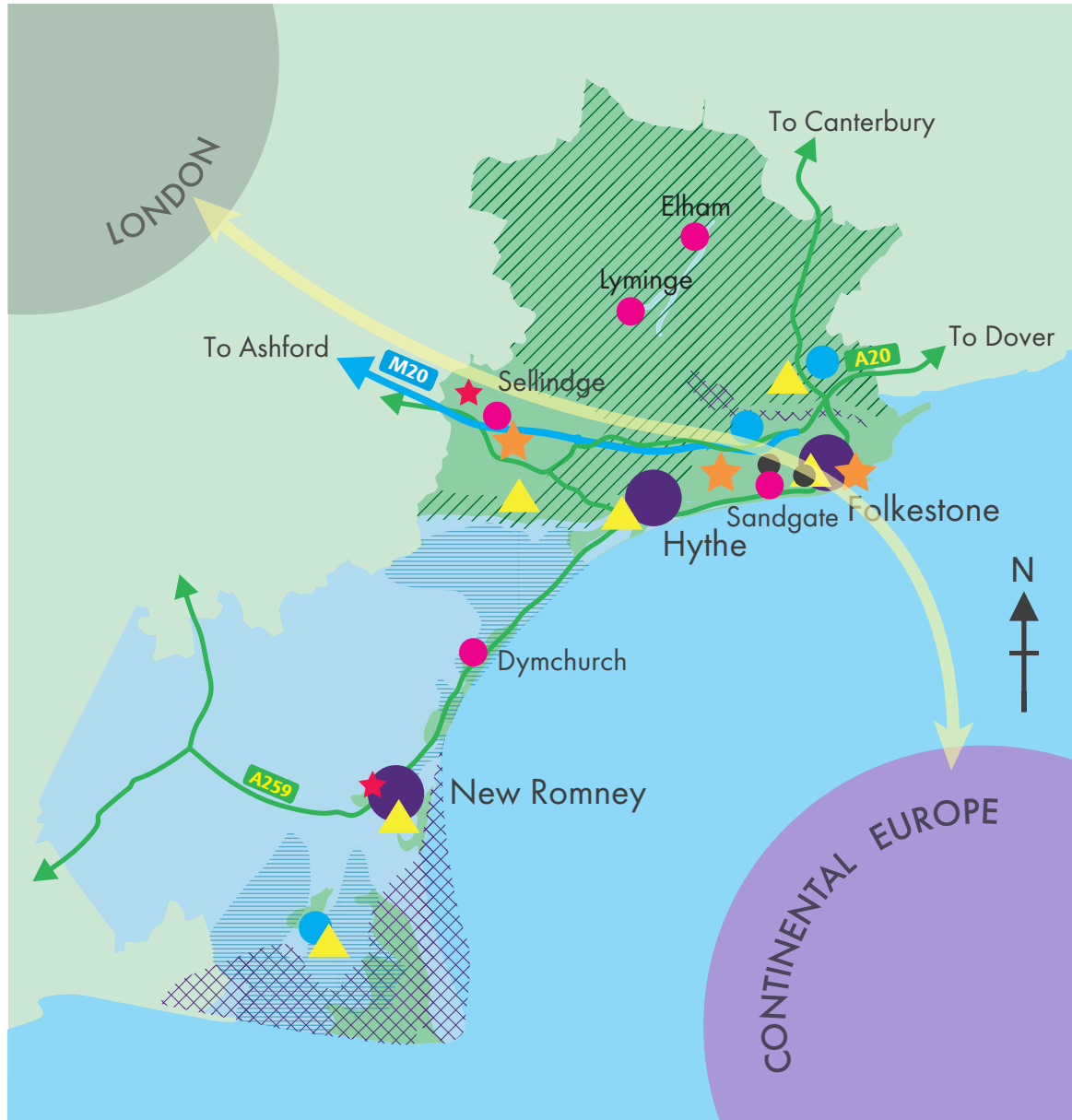
**4.25** Overall, these recent trends have had a significant effect on how the commercial property market in the district has performed. Long-term trends suggest a gradual decline in office space and an increase in industrial space since 2000. These trends are in contrast to recent employment trends which indicate growth in office jobs and a decline in industrial jobs. This divergence is likely to reflect more efficient use of existing office space, as well as the delivery of some new industrial space that supports fewer jobs (for example, the trend towards automation reduces the number of jobs previously supported by industrial space). As such, the trends between delivery of space and jobs are not linear and the changing nature of work and increasing efficiencies may require an increase in floorspace for advanced manufacturing, with more flexible office space provided to support co-working or space that can be expanded as businesses grow.

**4.26** The council has identified a number of actions to boost growth sectors and increase job opportunities, including increasing the supply and quality of employment land. A more active programme of intervention in the market is likely to address some of the barriers to commercial development (for example, site infrastructure and viability) and also stimulate greater levels of market demand as business growth increases. Alongside this, proposals for strategic development, including a new garden settlement, provide a major opportunity to create a new focus for expanding sectors and new forms of economic growth.

**Overview of key features of change proposed in the spatial strategy, and associated major proposals for delivery:**

- The creation of a major new settlement based on garden town principles in the North Downs Area. *See policies SS6, SS7, SS8 and SS9.*
- Develop Folkestone's centre, employment sites and deprived residential neighbourhoods to improve connectivity, vibrancy and activity led by major opportunities on 'brownfield' land at Folkestone seafront and Shorncliffe Garrison, as well as employment sites, with opportunities to consolidate and improve the existing housing, commercial and retail stock. *See policies SS1, SS3, SS4, SS10, SS11 and CSD6.*
- Focus major new development in Hythe on regenerating the west/south of the town, and maintain the character and vitality of the town centre, improving opportunities for sport, recreation and leisure. *See policies SS2, SS3, SS4 and CSD7.*
- Regenerate Romney Marsh through a positive approach to sustainable economic development and infrastructure opportunities, and through increasing the strategic role of New Romney town in serving the area, as the key service, health, education and employment hub for the Marsh. *See policies SS1, SS4, CSD3 and CSD8.*
- Improve precious habitats, critical landscapes and efficiency of natural resource use (including water) and manage carbon emissions and flood risks in response to climate change. *See policies SS1, SS3, CSD4 and CSD5.*
- Target construction of **738** dwellings per year to 2036/37. *See policies SS2 and SS3*
- Accommodate new retail, leisure and an improved public environment at Folkestone, Hythe and New Romney town centres. *See policies SS3, SS4 and CSD6-8.*
- Secure resources from developers for new physical and social infrastructure through developer contributions, including the Community Infrastructure Levy. *See policy SS5.*
- Provide public access to major new green infrastructure for Folkestone, Hythe and the district at Seabrook Valley, Folkestone seafront and elsewhere. *See policies SS11 and CSD4.*

**4.27** Primary provisions are set out in Figure 4.1, the Core Strategy Review Key Diagram.



### The Key Diagram



Figure 4.1 The Key Diagram

**4.28** The spatial strategy is informed by a range of studies and the understanding of places as portrayed in sections 1.2 and 3.2.



## Policy SS1

### District Spatial Strategy

Housing will be delivered through a new sustainable, landscape-led settlement, with supporting town centre and community uses, based on garden town principles in the North Downs Area, in accordance with policies SS6-SS9. The garden town will maximise opportunities arising from the location, access to London and continental Europe and strategic infrastructure. Housing and supporting community uses will also be delivered through growth in Sellindge (policy CSD9).

Elsewhere in the district, priority will continue to be given to previously developed land in the Urban Area in Folkestone, for main town centre uses and housing, to enhance the town's role as a sub-regional centre, with opportunity for increased densities within the town centre and maximisation of employment opportunities at key locations.

Development in the Urban Area will be led through strategically allocated developments at Folkestone Seafront (policy SS10) and Shorncliffe Garrison, Folkestone (policy SS11), and the delivery of strategic mixed-use development at Hythe (policy CSD7).

Remaining development needs should be focused on the most sustainable towns and villages as set out in policy SS3. Development outside the new settlement and identified centres in the open countryside and on the coast (defined as anywhere outside settlements within Table 4.3 Settlement Hierarchy) will only be allowed exceptionally, where a rural or coastal location is essential (policy CSD3).

This is supported by the following strategic priorities for the three character areas of the district:

- **Urban Area** - The future spatial priority for new development in the Urban Area (Folkestone and Hythe) is on promoting the development of vacant previously developed land, central Folkestone and the north of the town, and other locations within walking distance of Folkestone Central railway station; securing new accessible public green space, plus regenerating western Hythe.
- **Romney Marsh Area** - The future spatial priority for new development in the Romney Marsh Area is on accommodating development at the towns of New Romney and Lydd, and at sustainable villages; improving communications; protecting and enhancing the coast and the many special habitats and landscapes, especially at Dungeness; and avoiding further co-joining of settlements and localities at the most acute risk to life and property from tidal flooding.
- **North Downs Area** - The future spatial priority for new development in the North Downs area is on the creation of a landscape-led sustainable new settlement based on garden town principles outside the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) boundary and without material impact on its setting, and the expansion of Sellindge. Within the Kent Downs AONB development will be limited to consolidating Hawkinge's growth and sensitively meeting the needs of communities at better-served settlements. Major development will be refused within the AONB other than in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

The strategic growth of New Romney is also supported through policy CSD8 to allow the market town to fulfill its potential to sustainably provide for the bulk of the housing, community infrastructure and commercial needs of the Romney Marsh Area. Development will also be planned at other identified settlements in line with the Settlement Hierarchy sufficient to ensure the achievement of growth requirements. In particular, development which helps to maintain and support the local role of the market town of Lydd can meet priority needs. Should development proposals come forward for the further expansion of London Ashford Airport at Lydd, the council will work with the airport, local community and other stakeholders to prepare and adopt an Action Area Plan for the site.

Within identified settlements, development as agreed by the local community in neighbourhood plans will be encouraged where well-related in scale and location to the Settlement Hierarchy, and in line with the strategic policies of the Core Strategy Review and Places and Policies Local Plan.

In all locations throughout the district, development should be designed to directly contribute to the sense of place and sustainable design as set out in policy SS3.

**4.29** SS1 primarily addresses Core Strategy Review aims under the following Strategic Needs: A, B, C and D.

### **Urban Area**

**4.30** Currently the majority of the district's population, jobs, shops and higher-order public facilities are found in Folkestone and Hythe. Major transport connections - including High Speed 1 services, the Channel Tunnel terminus and the M20/A20 - open up central and northern Folkestone and north/west and central Hythe as accessible locations for investment, less than one hour from central London.

**4.31** These connections, alongside the overall attractiveness and competitiveness of the district, have the potential for transforming its economic performance. This will be supported by a critical mass and choice of premises, markets, supporting facilities and working/living environments, all well-served by regional, national and international transport connections.

**4.32** The development of homes, jobs, shops and services close to public transport facilities will help to minimise carbon emissions. Similarly, avoiding the main tidal flood risk zone will ensure risks from sea level rise are reduced.

**4.33** In and around Folkestone and Hythe the character and quality of the natural environment also varies significantly, but includes part of the AONB and other valuable features. There are opportunities for a range of targeted improvements, not only housing and jobs, but also developing networks of green infrastructure close to the majority of the district's population. Former military training land at Seabrook Valley is well placed to both Folkestone and Hythe and the AONB, and can be a catalyst for improved management of the urban/rural fringe.

**4.34** Maintaining the environmental quality and vitality of the district's rural area must be allied with the regeneration of its towns. The spatial strategy therefore prioritises opportunities in central Folkestone (including the Seafont and central sites near High Speed 1 railway stations) and at Shorncliffe Garrison. These opportunities provide the most feasible means to secure new community services in the Urban Area.

**4.35** Hythe can play an appropriate complementary role, led by its attractive town centre and the implementation of remaining proposals for major housing-led mixed-use development at the former Nickolls Quarry (Martello Lakes) development.

### **Romney Marsh Area**

**4.36** The Romney Marsh Area has its own particular strategic development needs. These should be addressed in the context of potential flood risk and infrastructure constraints. Rural transport is a priority, especially along the coastal route, to benefit from services in and around Folkestone and Hythe (for example development at the former Nickolls Quarry). Its coast and distinctive environmental features need to be protected, most notably at Dungeness. To this end, the spatial strategy focuses new development at New Romney to serve both the town and the wider area, complemented by actions to address regeneration needs at Lydd. At better-served Romney Marsh villages, there may be potential for some sensitive modest development to create more sustainable villages.

**4.37** Opportunities also exist for employment development at London Ashford Airport at Lydd, through the implementation of the existing planning permission. Should further proposals arise, the council will seek to work with the airport, local community and other stakeholders to agree a framework by preparing an Action Area Plan for the site. The further development of the Mountfield Road Industrial Estate and investment within the nuclear and tourism industries also present opportunities for job creation.

**4.38** Change is also inevitable in places outside these towns and villages, but the spatial strategy seeks to manage the countryside for green infrastructure and sustainable agriculture, coastal protection and tourism, while restricting inappropriate development. Countryside protection will also allow a focus on local community, rural business, affordable housing and other development where a countryside location is essential. Specific criteria are set out in other Core Strategy Review policies including CSD3 and CSD4.

#### **North Downs Area**

**4.39** The potential for significant sustainable development in the district is focused on maximising strategic infrastructure where landscape capacity exists, with the creation of a new settlement in the North Downs Area. This will be a major, long-term growth opportunity, developed on garden town principles during the plan period and beyond. Policies SS6-SS9 set out rigorous design requirements and ambitious environmental and sustainability targets that the new settlement must meet to ensure its potential is realised.

**4.40** Further opportunities for growth exist in Sellindge (policy CSD9) to consolidate the village around a central core. At other settlements in the North Downs Area further strategic growth is not proposed within this plan. Small- and medium-sized allocations are identified within the Places and Policies Local Plan to provide for development well-integrated within settlements, to protect the countryside and AONB and to enhance their sense of place. Elsewhere in the North Downs/AONB development will be limited.

## 4.2 Housing and the Economy Growth Strategy

**4.41** The level, balance and timing of development in the spatial strategy will determine whether places change appropriately and whether strategic needs are addressed. The following policy SS2 establishes the quantity of development in the district.

### Approach to housing provision

**4.42** Section 4.1 sets out the government's methodology for assessing how many homes councils need to plan for. Using the latest household projections and affordability figures, the government methodology requires the provision of **a minimum of:**

- **738 new homes a year on average** over the period **2019/20** to 2036/37 (**18** years); or
- **13,284 additional homes in total.**

**4.43** This requirement will be delivered by development of the new garden settlement, other strategic sites, sites with planning permission and a number of small- to medium-sized site allocations in the Places and Policies Local Plan. An indicative housing trajectory is given in Appendix 3. All types of homes will be counted towards this requirement, including family homes and flats (C3 use class) and specialist accommodation for the elderly (C2 use class).

### Neighbourhood plans and the housing requirement

The National Planning Policy Framework states that strategic policies should set out a housing requirement for designated neighbourhood areas which reflects the overall strategy set out in the authority's local plan. Where it is not possible to provide a housing requirement for a neighbourhood area, the local planning authority should provide an indicative figure, if requested to do so by the neighbourhood planning body.<sup>(4)</sup>

Five neighbourhood areas have been designated in Folkestone & Hythe district: St. Mary in the Marsh; Hythe; New Romney; Sellindge; and Lympne. Of these neighbourhood areas, St. Mary in the Marsh is significantly advanced and its Neighbourhood Development Plan has proceeded to referendum; however the other areas have not progressed with neighbourhood plans since the areas were designated some time ago.

Given this, the Core Strategy Review does not set out a housing requirement for any designated area within the district and neighbourhood plans have not been relied on in meeting the district's housing requirement. If existing or new neighbourhoods progress with proposals for neighbourhood plans, the district council will provide them with an indicative figure for new homes based on the latest evidence of local housing need, the population of the neighbourhood area and the adopted local plan strategy.

**4.44** Setting a housing delivery framework to 2036/37 in the Core Strategy Review ensures housing supply is guided for a period in excess of 15 years after adoption of the plan. With these provisions, land can be managed to ensure sufficient and continuous supply for future decades, although it is only appropriate for this document to allocate sites of strategic priority (policies SS6-SS11) and broad locations for growth, with additional expansion of Sellindge proposed in policy CSD9.

**4.45** A positive approach is set to increase opportunities to meet selected housing and employment needs, and to reduce the projected decline in the working population and younger age groups.

4 National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, July 2018, paragraphs 65-66.

## Approach to employment provision

**4.46** To maintain commercial activity and attract new businesses, sufficient development must be permitted to attract investment, increase levels of economic activity and ensure that there is a skilled and flexible workforce. Development through the planning system will be complemented by other public policy measures delivering regeneration; for example working with partners in tackling the under-utilisation of some properties or retraining to improve the skills of the local workforce.

**4.47** The 2013 Core Strategy set out under 'Strategic Need A' that one of the key aims is *“to deliver a flexible supply of employment land in terms of location, size and type”*; and policy SS2 specifically identified a target of approximately 20ha (gross) to be delivered between 2006/07 and 2025/26 inclusive.

**4.48** As part of the Core Strategy Review, the Employment Land Review (ELR) (Lichfields, 2017) assessed the future requirements for office and industrial employment uses to 2026. The 2017 ELR considered three different scenarios for office and industrial uses (labour demand, past completion rates and labour supply).

- For **office uses**, the labour demand and supply scenarios indicated that there is a need to plan for approximately 19,000 sqm of office space. The past completion scenario suggests a declining requirement which reflects recent losses in office space as a consequence of changes to permitted development rights allowing the conversion of office space to residential use; and
- For **industrial uses**, the labour demand and supply scenarios indicated that there is no requirement for further industrial space. However, notwithstanding the long-term decline of industrial jobs in the district, recent development activity indicates that there remains a requirement for some industrial floorspace at a relatively modest level (around 15,500 sqm based on the past completion scenario).

**4.49** Regarding the existing supply, the ELR finds that generally the district's employment sites show good activity and low vacancy rates. In particular, a low level of vacancy was evident among industrial sites, demonstrating that much of the current industrial stock is meeting a need in the market. This includes good occupancy at lower quality sites, with high demand at the lower end of the rental market. Overall, occupancy levels in the office market appear to be lower than the industrial market.

**4.50** The ELR concludes that, based on the current supply of employment space from planning permissions and allocated sites (some 50,825 sqm of office development and 97,745 sqm of industrial development), there is a sufficient supply of space to meet the estimated office and industrial requirements under all scenarios to at least 2031.

**4.51** Nevertheless, the ELR also stresses that the district's strategic employment allocations need to be well connected with key motorway junctions and/or transport hubs in order to maximise opportunities for their delivery. There are also some concerns around:

- The balance between limited supply in Folkestone, which exhibits the strongest demand, and the rest of the district; and
- The quality of available employment sites.

**4.52** These considerations will be closely monitored to see if further intervention, beyond the protection and allocation of land through Places and Policies Local Plan policies E1 and E2, is necessary. The ELR particularly recommends the regular assessment of sites and the preparation of an employment land trajectory through the council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).

**4.53** The Employment Opportunities Study (Lichfields, 2018) examines the employment opportunities and growth sectors that could be harnessed through the creation of a new garden settlement in the North Downs Area (through policies SS6-SS9). The delivery of a garden town will provide significant opportunity for innovative types of employment development, that are 'super-connected' and which could form a cluster of excellence around junction 11 of the M20 and Westenhanger station. Masterplanning of the settlement will need to reflect the findings of the study, to ensure the settlement maximises employment opportunities within both existing and emerging key sectors, and provides for interim uses that support the growing town.

**4.54** An updated Employment Land Needs Assessment has been completed (2018) to supplement the 2017 ELR and Otterpool Park Employment Opportunities Study. The update sets out district-wide growth projections and employment land requirements over the period to 2037 by drawing on the latest population projections and economic forecasts. It also provides estimates of employment land needs for the district and the garden town specifically, based on different assumptions about where growth and demand could come from.

**4.55** In terms of new jobs growth, the update forecasts a much lower level of job growth on an ‘average per annum basis’ than the 2017 study, albeit covering different periods of time and an end year of 2037. The latest forecasts imply growth of 237 jobs a year (between 2018 and 2037) compared with 445 jobs a year (between 2006 and 2026) in the 2017 ELR. Translated into net floorspace requirements, jobs growth forecasts indicate a total demand for all ‘B class’ employment uses of 16,360 sqm net.

**4.56** As outlined in the Employment Opportunities Study, however, the creation of a new garden settlement offers a clear opportunity to plan for a higher level of employment growth to accommodate wider growth and inward investment opportunities that exist across the wider district, elsewhere in Kent and beyond. Adopting a labour supply scenario for the new settlement indicates that 4,770 new jobs should be planned for by 2037, leading to a requirement for around 36,760 sqm of ‘B class’ employment floorspace or 8.1ha of employment land.

**Approach to retail provision**

**4.57** The council has completed an update to the recent Retail Study (PBA, 2015) to take account of changing retail trends, particularly the increase in online shopping and other ‘special forms of trading’, and the growth of population over the Core Strategy Review plan period to 2037. <sup>(5)</sup>

**4.58** New retail space needs to be planned for to meet the changing demands of the existing population and the needs of new households. This will ensure that the district’s retail centres retain existing trade and generate new jobs and economic activity, so that this spending is not lost to competing centres elsewhere. It also helps to reduce journeys, so that local people can meet their needs close to where they live and are not forced to travel long distances for shopping.

**4.59** The updated study indicates that there is a total need for around 31,200 sqm (gross) of retail floorspace within the district over the plan period, a reduction of the need identified by the 2013 Core Strategy (although over a different time period). The need for convenience floorspace (everyday items, including food) and comparison floorspace (occasional and special items) is set out in Table 4.1 below.

**4.60** Policy SS2 seeks to meet this need over the plan period. Retail is, however, a highly volatile sector, as shown by the failures of many well-known high street names in recent years. The council will therefore review the retail capacity of the district every five years: future studies will be material considerations in determining planning applications and, if the studies indicate major changes in retail needs, they may trigger a partial review of policies within the plan.

**4.61** The retail need will be met by developments within existing centres in the district, particularly Folkestone town centre (identified as a strategic town in the district settlement hierarchy), and in the new garden settlement.

Floorspace (district-wide)	Cumulative totals			
	2022	2027	2032	2037
Convenience goods	439	1,784	3,185	4,620
Comparison goods	4,578	11,105	18,570	26,585
Totals	5,017	12,889	21,755	31,205

**Table 4.1 Folkestone & Hythe District Retail Floorspace Capacity (sqm gross)**

5 Folkestone & Hythe Retail and Leisure Need Assessment - 2018 Update (Lichfields, 2018)

## Policy SS2

### Housing and the Economy Growth Strategy

The core long-term requirement is to deliver **738 dwellings (Class C2/C3) a year on average from 2019/2020 to 2036/37**, a total requirement of **13,285 new homes** over the plan period. This will be achieved by major strategic growth in the district including the delivery of a new garden town, as well as a number of small- and medium-sized sites as allocated in the Places and Policies Local Plan.

Allied to this rate of housing delivery, business activity and the provision of jobs will be facilitated through supporting employment opportunities in the garden settlement, existing town centres, the protection of sufficient employment land across the district, allocations and delivering rural regeneration (especially in the south and west of the district).

Use	Target amount of additional development 2019/20 - 2036/37	Delivery of plan period
Housing (Classes C2/C3)	Minimum of <b>13,284</b> dwellings	A requirement is set to deliver land for an average of <b>738</b> dwellings a year over the plan period ( <b>18</b> years)
Employment Uses (B classes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 8.1 ha strategic employment allocation at new garden settlement (36,760 sqm floorspace)</li> <li>Employment sites in Places and Policies Local Plan policies E1 and E2</li> </ul>	Targets to be monitored and employment/retail needs to be reviewed every five years. Any future studies will be a material planning consideration and may trigger a review of relevant plan policies.
Goods Retailing (Class A1-A5, excluding A2 services)	Approximately 31,205 sqm gross, comprising 4,620 sqm convenience goods floorspace and 26,585 sqm comparison goods floorspace	

**Table 4.2**

Provisions to ensure the effective implementation of this policy are detailed in section 5.3.

**4.62** SS2 primarily addresses Core Strategy Review aims under the following Strategic Needs: A, C and D.

**4.63** The table below shows how the housing requirement to 2036/37 will be met. Due to the scale of strategic allocations (policies SS6-SS11) and need for phasing with infrastructure, they will play a medium- and long-term role in maintaining housing supply.

Source	Contribution (net dwellings)
Delivery through the allocated garden settlement over the plan period 2018/19 to 2036/37 <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>5,925</b>
Delivery through the further expansion of Sellindge <sup>(2)</sup>	<b>188</b>
Delivery through allocated development sites (remaining Core Strategy Policy CSD8 and Places and Policies Local Plan allocations) without planning permission.	<b>1,703</b>

Source	Contribution (net dwellings)
'Windfall' sites - allowance of 95 units per annum for 15 years <sup>(3)</sup>	1,425
Delivery (minimum) through extant planning permissions and sites under construction. <sup>(4)</sup>	4,274
<b>Total 2019/2020 – 2036/37 (minimum)</b>	<b>13,515</b>

**Table 4.3 How the housing minimum requirement will be delivered through the plan period**

1. Core Strategy Review Policies SS6-SS9
2. Core Strategy Review Policy CSD9. Remaining part of proposed allocation without planning permission
3. Windfall development accounts for the housing delivery arising from small and medium sites of one to nine dwellings. Evidence from the years 2012/13 to 2018/19 indicates an average of 97 dwellings from windfall development per annum. Early years have been discounted to avoid double counting with existing planning permissions.
4. 5 per cent deducted from sites where construction has not started to take account of non-delivery.

**4.64** Table 4.3 shows the different components of the housing land supply over the Core Strategy Review plan period, including allocations in the Places and Policies Local Plan, existing planning permissions, 'windfall' delivery (small sites of 1 to 9 dwellings) and the strategic allocations in this plan. A cautious approach has been taken, with deductions made for the possible non-delivery of sites (where planning permissions lapse, sites are developed for fewer homes than anticipated or some homes are completed beyond the plan period) and a conservative estimate has been made for windfall development. It is estimated that a minimum 13,515 new homes will be delivered over the plan period, exceeding the requirement of 13,284 currently set by the Government's national formula for housing need.

**4.65** Housing policy can contribute directly to securing employment, with the approach to the type of dwellings important (CSD1 and CSD2). The size and design of housing should tackle the requirement for accommodation for families and working age people and allow independent living for older people. Further lower-cost housing is critical to meet housing needs, and this should include a mix of tenures to support low-income households.



### 4.3 Place Shaping and Sustainable Settlements Strategy

**4.66** The following policy sets out key local principles for the location and design of proposed development, so that these strategic issues are considered collectively at an early stage.

**4.67** Development is channelled to existing settlements and the new garden settlement in the North Downs Area, not only to help protect the district's specially designated countryside, but also to shape distinctive places and maximise infrastructure potential. The long-term roles of many settlements should also reflect provision in towns and villages nearby and in adjoining districts.

**4.68** The following settlement hierarchy provides a framework to accommodate change, to clarify places not regarded as countryside, to guide regeneration and to co-ordinate development decisions.

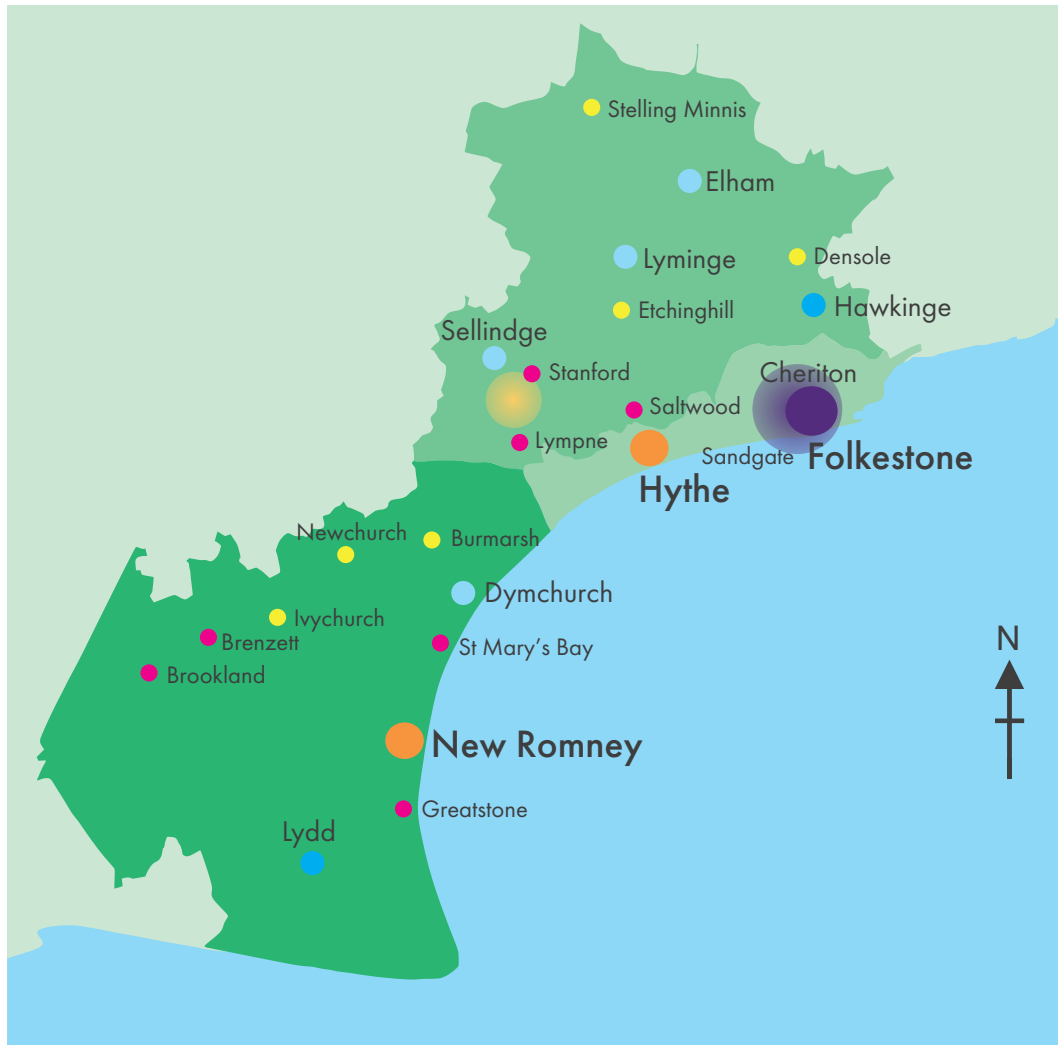
Status and Strategic Role	Urban Area	Romney Marsh Area	North Downs Area
<b>The Sub-Regional Town:</b> <i>To accommodate substantial residential, commercial and social development. To provide improved (inter-) national transport links, and a good choice of employment, retail, cultural/leisure and public services for the whole of the district, adjoining districts and visitors</i>	Folkestone (incorporating Cheriton and Sandgate)		
<b>Strategic Towns:</b> <i>To accommodate significant development – in so far as consistent with maintaining historic character – appropriate to the needs of their wider hinterlands, and maintaining the viability of their local transport hubs, Town Centres and higher-order tourism, employment and public services.</i>	Hythe	New Romney Town (incorporating Littlestone-on-Sea)	New garden settlement (North Downs Area)
<b>Service Centres:</b> <i>To accommodate development appropriate to the district and the centre's own needs, in order to grow and consolidate their position as centres serving the local hinterland with shops, employment and public services.</i>		Lydd Town	Hawkinge
<b>Rural Centres:</b> <i>To develop – consistent with enhancing the natural and historic environment – in a manner that supports their role as integrated tourist and local centres providing shops and services for a significant number of residents, visitors, and also for other villages in the North Downs or Romney Marsh.</i>		Dymchurch	Elham, Lyminge, Sellindge
<b>Primary Villages:</b> <i>To contribute to strategic aims and local needs; and as settlements with the potential to grow and serve residents, visitors and neighbourhoods in the locality with rural business and community facilities.</i>		St Mary's Bay, Greatstone-on-Sea, Brookland, Brenzett	Lympne, Saltwood,
<b>Secondary Villages:</b> <i>To continue to provide crucial rural facilities to visitors and their own residents and workforce, in line with local needs, their environment, and role as relatively small country settlements.</i>		Ivychurch, Newchurch, Burmarsh	Stelling Minnis, Densole, Etchinghill, Stanford

Table 4.4 District Settlement Hierarchy

**4.69** This settlement hierarchy is intended to concentrate development in selected locations across the district, maximise use of existing infrastructure and support business and community facilities. It will also deliver land and resources for strategic needs. The settlement hierarchy should be used throughout planning, investment and infrastructure development processes. It includes the proposed new garden settlement in the North Downs Area.

**4.70** To maintain the character and integrity of the countryside, and protect small rural places, the extent of existing and proposed settlements is defined through boundaries separating settlements from open countryside.

**4.71** Focusing attention on these places protects the open countryside, particularly that covered by strategic constraints, and also seeks to create sustainable places. A complementary mix of uses within an area minimises the length of journeys to services and employment, and other regular trips, and increases the proportion of people who can travel healthily by walking or cycling. Alongside more efficient use of energy in buildings, minimising the number and length of car trips will help to reduce carbon emissions and the local contribution to climate change. Figure 4.2 and Table 4.4 identify the settlement hierarchy for the district, demonstrating that communities are recognised and supported across the district, including essential higher-order settlements in the Romney Marsh and North Downs Areas.



### The District Settlement Hierarchy



Figure 4.2 District Settlement Hierarchy

**4.72** Many of the larger settlements (as well as some distinct neighbourhoods within towns) benefit from recognised centres where a sense of place and economic vibrancy is particularly strong. Their economic role is supported in SS4.

**4.73** Given the importance of defined settlements and the proportionate approach to future needs behind the hierarchy, it can also be used for targeting new social, community and green infrastructure improvements. This ensures not only that the local population can support the viability of services, but also, for those who have to travel further, that there is much more likely to be a practical choice of transport modes (see policy SS5). Nevertheless, planning must reflect the predominantly rural nature of the district, and provision could also meet the collective needs of more isolated communities through focusing on locations best placed within clusters of villages.

**4.74** The settlement hierarchy will underpin planning decisions, help implement the Core Strategy Review and guide future plan-making, with the following implications:

- *Strategic Towns:* Existing important and well-served settlements are expected, along with Folkestone as the Sub-Regional Town, to be suitable for expansion from their current built limits. There will be a new garden settlement within the North Downs Area, designed on garden settlement principles (policies SS6-SS9). The district spatial strategy in SS1 is for managed growth of these settlements sufficient to meet strategic needs and subject to environmental impact. Major growth will predominantly be delivered through specific development allocations.
- *Service Centres:* These key settlements have played a significant role in the district's development and include some significant opportunities, but they should be delivered without a substantial expansion of the outer extent of their built environment.
- *Rural Centres and Primary Villages:* These are larger or better-served rural settlements within their character area, and as a group of locations there may be potential – subject to further examination of environmental impact – for modest expansion from their current built limits to meet rural development needs. There is a particular contrast in size between the largest and smallest settlements in these categories, so any growth should be proportionately limited in scale and well-related to the existing built environment and infrastructure. Neighbourhood plans are particularly encouraged in these locations to define locally preferable development, although they have not been relied on in meeting the development requirements within the Core Strategy Review.

**4.75** As part of this approach to encouraging positive change, the strategy supports development which enhances a sense of place. This place-shaping entails facilitating development where the quality of life and the physical environment is lower, for example in terms of landscape value, and only encouraging development in locations of high townscape, strategic landscape, established historic or biodiversity value where it reinforces or contributes to local character and sustainability. The strategic approach to growth taken in this plan is underpinned by a district-wide study to ensure that the approach delivers sustainable development, capitalises on existing infrastructure investment and protects the highest value and designated landscapes.

**4.76** Alongside a focus on distinctiveness, the objective is for a higher-quality environment and a more complete range of services for residents and visitors. Development needs to ensure services are maintained or expanded, and the prosperity and vibrancy of neighbourhoods is enhanced.

**4.77** The place-shaping of developments requires consideration of the wider character of the area as well as reference to the immediate locality or neighbourhood. This applies to strategic features, such as the Kent Downs AONB, where the specific design advice should be applied to protect the landscape. The principle also incorporates the coastal setting, watercourses and topography of the district that result in widespread areas of potential flood risk. Responding to this risk is vital, especially taking into account the potential implications of climate change and sea level rise.

**4.78** Close attention will be paid to minimising hazards and flood risks in line with national policy using the sequential approach. It is critical that, where possible, development is directed away from those areas identified as facing greatest hazards in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)<sup>(6)</sup> should a flooding event occur. A high priority will be placed on upgrading flood defence infrastructure (see SS5).

**4.79** Residential development within Flood Zones 2 and 3 will be necessary to support sustainable growth, subject to the principles of the spatial strategy, CSD5 and national policy. Developments at risk of flooding must consider alternative locations that may minimise risk (the sequential approach). If within the Romney Marsh, the Urban Area, or the North Downs Area, there are locations that are in a Flood Zone of lesser risk that could provide a similar development, then the presumption should be that the development should be refused. If no suitable site outside Flood Zone 2 or 3 is available, then consideration should be given to minimising hazards to life and property utilising the SFRA. This identifies and grades large parts of central and western Romney Marsh where flood hazards exist, but the threat posed in a flooding event is less than extreme.

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6 Herrington Consulting (2015) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

**4.80** Specific provisions are set out in policy SS3 drawing from the SFRA in relation to proposals such as replacement dwellings. For safety reasons it is unlikely that single-storey dwellings are appropriate in areas of flood risk. Particularly close attention should be given to 'high vulnerability' proposals in flood zones, including caravans and mobile homes for permanent residential use.

**4.81** This plan has made provision for strategic development through a study to identify suitable land across the district. However, other new major proposals could potentially emerge after the adoption of this plan. If these proposals (including development scale, uses and form) address strategic district needs (or wider) – and not purely local issues arising from within the applicable character area – then they should be considered on a district-wide flood risk basis and must fully meet national policy.

**4.82** Development will be promoted in policy SS3 using the principles of protecting places, avoiding hazards and allowing for adaptation, operating within the three character areas. This will be delivered through high-quality and sustainable design; protecting the countryside and natural and historic environments; applying a sequential approach for developments at risk of flooding or at risk of impacting adversely on viability; and promoting the efficient use of land that is well-related to settlements, previously developed or well-served by a choice of transport modes.

**4.83** The location and design of development should integrate with settlements, ensure more efficient use of natural resources and management of risks, and reflect the community and future occupiers. To achieve this developments should be planned with close regard to their contribution to the place in question from environmental, social and economic perspectives.

## Policy SS3

### Place-Shaping and Sustainable Settlements Strategy

**Development within the district is directed towards existing sustainable settlements and a new sustainable garden settlement south of the M20 near Westenhanger to protect the open countryside and the coastline, in accordance with policy SS1. Change in settlements will be managed to contribute to their role within the settlement hierarchy (Table 4.4) and local place-shaping objectives, to promote the creation of sustainable, vibrant and distinct communities.**

The principle of development is likely to be acceptable on previously developed land within defined settlements, provided it is not of high environmental value. All development must also meet the following requirements:

- a. The proposed use, scale and impact of development should be proportionate and consistent with the settlement's status and its identified strategic role (see Table 4.4) within the district.
- b. Consideration of alternative options within the appropriate area should be evident, with a sequential approach taken as required for applicable uses set out in national policy, for example to inform decisions against clause (c) below on flood risk. In considering appropriate site options, proposals should identify locational alternatives with regard to addressing the need for sustainable growth applicable to the Romney Marsh Area, or Urban Area or North Downs Area.
- c. For development located within zones identified by the Environment Agency as being at risk from flooding, or at risk of wave over-topping in immediate proximity to the coastline (within 30 metres of the crest of the sea wall or equivalent), site-specific evidence will be required in the form of a detailed flood risk assessment. This will need to demonstrate that the proposal is safe and meets with the sequential approach within the applicable character area (Urban Area, Romney Marsh Area or North Downs Area), and (if required) exception tests set out in national policy. It will utilise the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and provide further information. Development must also meet the following criteria as applicable:
  - i) no residential development, other than replacement dwellings, should take place within areas identified at "extreme risk" as shown on the SFRA 2115 climate change hazard maps; and
  - ii) all applications for replacement dwellings, should, via detailed design and the incorporation of flood resilient construction measures, reduce the risk to life of occupants and seek provisions to improve flood risk management.
  - iii) strategic-scale development proposals should be sequentially justified against district-wide site alternatives.
- d. A design-led and sustainable access approach should be taken to density and layout, ensuring development is suited to the locality and its needs, and transport infrastructure (particularly walking/cycling). Efficient use should be made of central land in town centres or in easy walking distance of rail and bus stations, with appropriate redevelopment of complementary uses above ground floor retail, leisure or other active uses, to directly support the vitality of centres.
- e. Proposals should be designed to contribute to local place-shaping and sustainable development by:
  - i) respecting and enhancing key historic features of conservation interest; and
  - ii) through appropriate sustainable construction measures, including water efficiency and a proportion of energy from renewable and low carbon sources on new-build development.
- f. Development must address social and economic needs in the neighbourhood and not result in the loss of community, cultural, voluntary or social facilities (unless it has been demonstrated that there is no longer a need or alternative social/community facilities are made available in a suitable location).

**4.84** SS3 primarily addresses Core Strategy Review aims under the following Strategic Needs: A, B, C and D.

**4.85** Towns and villages will be planned to accord with the settlement's strategic role and enhance its sense of place. Infrastructure requirements (see policy SS5) should be planned in early. Particular emphasis will be placed on distinctive design that responds to local character while still being innovative and delivering sustainable buildings in which people of all ages and mobility can live and work.

**4.86** Development must respect and enhance the character of historic and/or coastal settlements and landscapes<sup>(7)</sup>; and in all instances a high-quality built environment and green infrastructure uses should be created (see CSD4) which promote security and a sense of place and community.

**4.87** The Kent Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) offers a useful framework for building a sense of place into design, and illustrates good examples of layout, the pattern of streets, housing types and parking management. The public realm should be 'people friendly' and not dominated by the car; the needs of pedestrians and cyclists should be placed at the heart of design and addressed in the Design and Access Statements of planning applications. The Places and Policies Local Plan sets out detailed design policy, including reference to national standards, including Building for Life 12, that when followed will ensure good design can be achieved. Proposals within the Kent Downs AONB should follow the guidance and principles set out in the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and its associated Design Guidance. The new garden settlement will achieve the highest quality of design, landscape and townscape, providing local distinctiveness and character that draws from the surrounding countryside, vernacular and heritage. This approach is explored further in the Charter for Otterpool Park.

**4.88** There is an increasing range of mechanisms available to local communities to plan for their own places, alongside district-wide planning. The council will support initiatives, especially where they help deliver the aims of the Core Strategy Review and there is a good prospect of the community successfully implementing plans for sustainable development.

**4.89** Positive proposals have emerged from local communities in the district, including to support the sense of place in Sellindge, which is proposed to be further extended within this plan (see policy CSD9). Neighbourhood plans and other community-led development will be supported, and the settlement hierarchy provides guidance for rural settlements where community-led planning could be particularly suitable. Alternative local documents, such as a Village Design Statements or the planning-related elements of Parish Plans, may also be beneficial. Provided the requirements for Supplementary Planning Documents are followed, and proposals align with the district's development plan, these may be adopted by the council and become material considerations in determining planning applications.

**4.90** Development should address the social needs of occupiers and neighbourhoods, contributing to vibrant and mixed places, and should contribute to the provision or direct support of community facilities in line with SS5. It is appropriate for the planning system to protect facilities that are cherished and needed within the neighbourhood. The long-term needs of future occupiers should be addressed in designs, enabling flexible use and adaptation to reflect the changing lifestyles and needs of occupants (see policy CSD2), the protection of residential amenity and the creation of a sense of security.

**4.91** It is also increasingly critical that new buildings perform more efficiently in their use of natural resources. It is not the purpose of planning policy to duplicate the provision of Building Regulations; these provide a national minimum level of performance on some aspects of sustainable construction, including water and energy efficiency. In line with national policy, local plans can – on the basis of local evidence – provide a framework for improved design requirements in relation to the most critical local needs. Water and energy usage are particular concerns in the district, and these are primarily addressed in policy CSD5 and the Places and Policies Local Plan, while policies supporting the delivery of the garden settlement provide site-specific requirements to ensure delivery of an exemplar project.

7 See also key historic features of interest shown in Figure 5.1 (section 5.1).

**4.92** New-build development must include appropriate sustainability measures, seeking to maximise energy efficiency and reduce water consumption (see policy CSD5 and the Places and Policies Local Plan), and should seek to deliver the highest viable standards of construction. The refurbishment of existing building stock will be encouraged and should, where possible, incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques to improve environmental performance.

**4.93** Designs should seek to increase the use of natural lighting, heating and ventilation and take a 'fabric-first' approach to reducing energy demand. During the build-out stage there are also opportunities for increased recycling of construction and demolition waste, the preservation of soil and the procurement of low-impact and locally-sourced materials and native species.

**4.94** The council will keep sustainable design requirements under review to ensure that new development is built to appropriate standards having regard to best practice, Core Strategy Review aims and national policy. The garden settlement will achieve the highest possible standards for energy and water efficiency, with an overall aspiration towards carbon and water neutrality.



## 4.4 Priority Centres of Activity Strategy

**4.95** The following policy sets out the council's approach to places at the heart of settlements or those central to future prosperity, such as town centres, to promote active places throughout the district.

**4.96** Economic development and prosperous neighbourhoods are essential, not least to help overcome problems in deprived communities. The district's assets and points of competitive advantage can attract investment and support existing business and start-up enterprises; businesses often seek convenient attractive locations in or around town centres, or to cluster with other concentrations of economic activity. These mixed-activity places can complement and bring together neighbourhoods, offering vibrancy and a range of job opportunities.

**4.97** Locations with retail centres, shopping streets, mixed inner urban areas, business parks and industrial estates at their core are therefore identified as potential priority centres of activity.

**4.98** Town and village centres play a critical role in anchoring the character and economy of settlements. Many centres have remained resilient to change over long periods, providing a sense of history as well as meeting economic and community needs. Although Folkestone's town centre has shifted slightly inland over time, most of the district's towns have retained their central focal point despite the decreasing importance of maritime activity and the growing influence of railways and roads over the form of settlements.

**4.99** There has been general growth in a variety of business activities on the edge of towns, and perhaps less of a range of trade in central areas, with growing competition from services such as shopping on-line. Similarly industrial functions face particular competition and challenges to remain viable. These business locations require management as other land uses (sometimes commanding higher monetary returns) put pressures on their health, with the potential for them to be wholly undermined.

**4.100** Town and local centres still retain a strong practical and symbolic significance. This is largely due to their proximity to many residents, provision of public transport, cultural and community services, public spaces and features of historic interest. These features are often particularly valued by visitors, although wider awareness of the appeal of some of the district's market towns is perhaps limited.

**4.101** The place-shaping and community-building roles of town and local centres are allied with the benefits of minimising dependence on the private car to access shops and services. Accordingly, their vitality and viability is supported in national policy. Clusters of industry also shape places by providing jobs in convenient locations for the workforce and practical services supporting other businesses and residents.

**4.102** As concentrations of activity and interest, these areas are where people meet face-to-face (by accident or arrangement). This is particularly likely in many of district's historic centres originally built to a modest human scale, or those which have evolved on a simple layout such as a linear high street. At a different scale similar principles can apply to smaller centres within individual neighbourhoods or villages, underpinning quality of life and essential services, and these should also be recognised and supported.

**4.103** To guide planning, investment and place-shaping, the general distribution of settlements with major employment sites and economic (retail) centres across the district is outlined below (Table 4.5)<sup>(8)</sup>.

Location and Development Purpose	Urban Area	Romney Marsh Area	North Downs Area
<b>Major Employment Sites:</b> <i>To protect existing and provide further industrial (B-class and similar sui generis uses) premises suitable to the needs of the district's businesses and inward investors.</i>	Sites in Folkestone and Hythe	Site at New Romney, sites in Lydd	Site at Lympne, site at Hawkinge, sites within new garden settlement

8 The current geographic extent of identified economic sites and centres is shown on the Policies Map.

Location and Development Purpose	Urban Area	Romney Marsh Area	North Downs Area
<b>Town Centres:</b> <i>To accommodate the majority of identified needs for retail, office and leisure uses in the district through new development to improve their vitality, public realm, mix of uses, and daytime and evening economy.</i>	Folkestone (main town centre) and Hythe	New Romney	New garden settlement
<b>District Centres:</b> <i>To accommodate appropriate development to maintain their mix of uses and improve their vitality, viability and public realm.</i>	Cheriton	Lydd	Hawkinge
<b>Local Centres:</b> <i>To protect crucial services and accommodate development that maintains their viability for residents and visitors.</i>	Sandgate village, other neighbourhood parades	Dymchurch	Lyminge, Elham, Sellindge, sites within new garden settlement

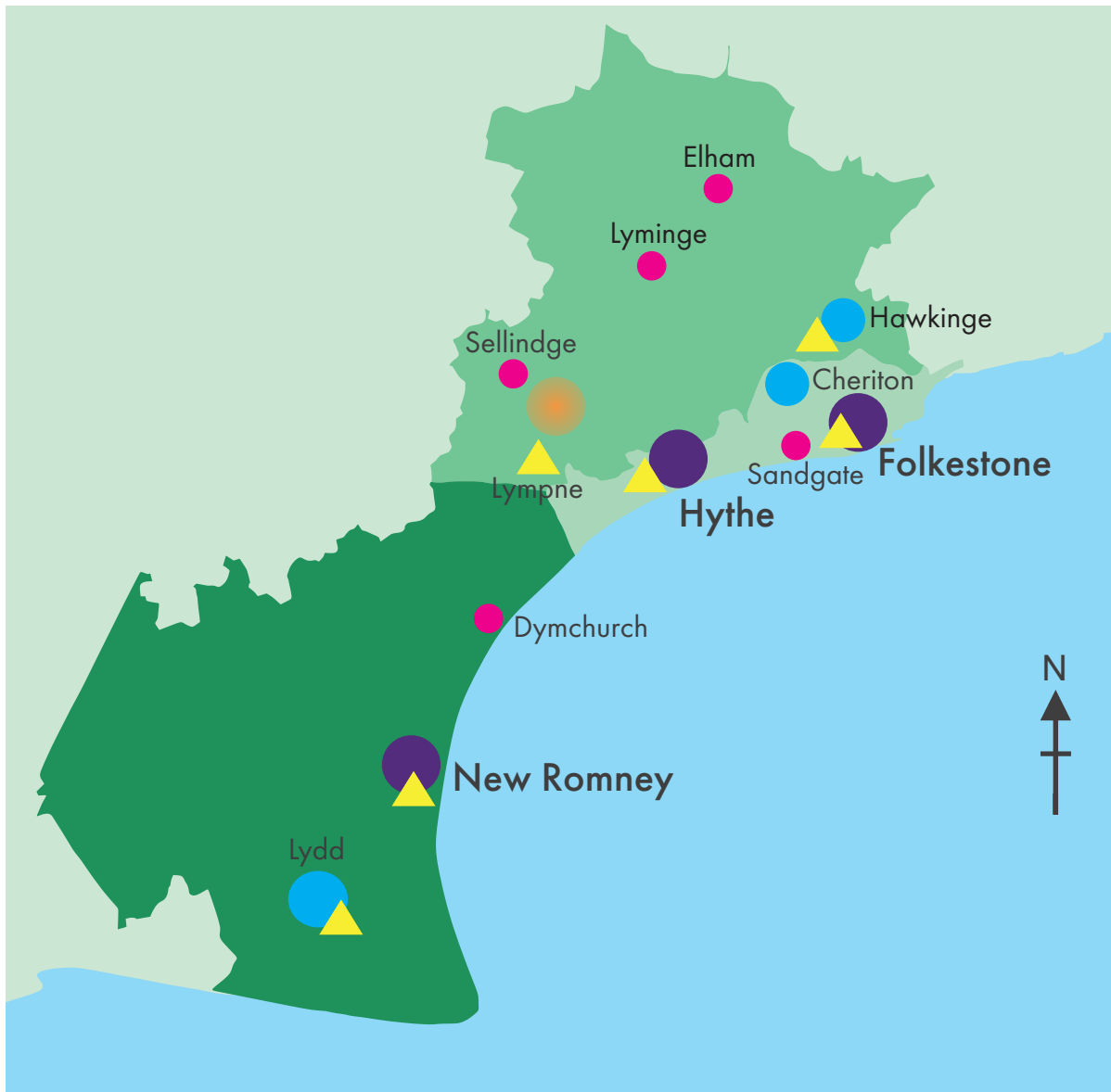
**Table 4.5 Priority Centres of Activity Network**

**4.104** Retail centres at the heart of Folkestone, Cheriton, Hythe and New Romney serve a large proportion of the district's population but some shopping expenditure is lost to competing centres (especially Canterbury and Ashford). However, there are sites with potential for redevelopment within the district's centres, particularly within Folkestone around the bus station and existing shop units on Guildhall Street, Gloucester Place and Shellons Street. Long-term scope also exists for the redevelopment of the Sainsbury's store and adjacent areas of Bouverie Place West. The new garden settlement will help to retain local spending, while at the same time being of a scale that would not compete with the larger retail centres of Folkestone, Canterbury, Ashford and Dover and, more locally, Hythe and New Romney.

**4.105** Cheriton and Sandgate in the Urban Area, Lydd and Dymchurch in the Romney Marsh, and Hawkinge, Lyminge, Elham and Sellindge in the North Downs all contain a range of services vital for the district's residents, and often tourists. The degree of choice of shops and services varies, reflecting population density and accessibility, most notably in the Urban Area (the lengthy active frontages of Cheriton contrasting with much smaller but still locally important parades). Nevertheless these centres all offer vital local facilities for day-to-day life, such as Post Offices or healthcare, contribute to their sense of place and minimise the need to travel. These centres, and larger concentrations of services, are appropriate for development that maintains and enhances their role.

**4.106** Figure 4.3 illustrates the range of locations driving the district's economic development.<sup>(9)</sup>

9 Locations and number of Major Employment Sites relative to centre of settlements is only illustrative.



### Priority Centres of Activity Network

- Town Centres
  Major Employment Locations
  Urban Area
- District Centres
  North Downs
- Local Centres
  Proposed Strategic Town
  Romney Marsh

Figure 4.3 Priority Centres of Activity Network

**4.107** With High Speed 1 the prospects for business formation in target creative industries, financial/business services and other services are positive. Along with the provision of suitable new premises for these growth sectors, policies provide protection to resilient local industries, with the objective of building on a diverse economic base.

**4.108** The council's Economic Development Strategy (2015) seeks to boost the local economy and job opportunities through a number of actions, including increasing the supply and quality of employment land by identifying and bringing forward appropriate sites for commercial development, particularly around the district's three junctions with the M20 motorway.

**4.109** This strategy is supported by the Employment Land Review (2017) which identifies several weaknesses of the local economy, including a lack of good quality commercial space that meets modern occupier needs and an absence of strategic road access to much of the district outside Folkestone. These drawbacks have contributed to the district being highly self-contained in terms of local businesses operating in mostly local markets, with little inward investment.

**4.110** The new garden settlement provides an opportunity to deliver a major change to the economy of the district by providing a focus for well-located strategic employment development. The Otterpool Park Garden Town Employment Opportunities Study identifies a range of potential sectors and premises that could be targeted to drive employment growth including advanced manufacturing, a business park, an element of hybrid employment space and dispersed workspaces in local centres. These types of provision are largely absent from the current employment land portfolio and will significantly widen the market appeal of the district for inward investment from other parts of Kent and further afield.

**4.111** However, development should not only take the form of new employment land; the Employment Land Review identified other, more qualitative, business needs. Existing industrial sites require investment with industrial and warehousing-based businesses forming a critical part of the district's economy. New start-up business space and modern offices will also be required over the plan period.

**4.112** Furthermore, attracting office and modern business uses – in particular to Folkestone and Hythe – is strategically significant in stimulating growth and providing additional expenditure to support local retailers. A positive approach to employment-led mixed-use development may help deliver further employment sites and economic development objectives. Similarly there is potential to enrich the appeal of the district's larger centres by extending the hours of activity into the evening through new leisure-based enterprises.

## Policy SS4

### Priority Centres of Activity Strategy

**In focal points for maintaining and developing jobs and services, as represented by the Priority Centres of Activity, development will be encouraged where it complies with national policy and contributes to continued centre viability. Major commercial development, including A and B-class uses, should be located in accordance with the Priority Centres of Activity network as shown on the Policies Map and should reinforce the role of the centre. Development in Priority Centres of Activity will be allowed where it does not result in a net loss of on-site B-Class uses, and it does not jeopardise the identified commercial purpose of areas set out in the Priority Centres of Activity network (see Table 4.5).**

Strategic objectives will be delivered through the following principles:

- a. A 'town centre first' policy will operate for applicable uses in line with national policy. Potential town centre activities or those creating significant transport demand, including retail, leisure and major office uses, should be located:
  - Sequentially, looking firstly at locations within town centres, then on the edge of centres, and only then out of centre with a preference given to accessible sites which are well connected to the town centre; and
  - With regard to their impact on the vitality and viability of, and existing, committed and planned investment in, the defined town, district and local centres.
- b. For other employment-generating (non-town centre) activities, investment should alternatively be directed to designated Major Employment Sites. If suitable sites are shown to be unavailable and unfeasible within any Priority Centre of Activity, development for employment-generating uses will only be acceptable:
  - In accordance with policies SS1, SS3 and CSD3; and
  - Where demonstrated to be in locations suffering longstanding deprivation (and subject to directly contributing to local workforce up-skilling, sustainable transport provisions and an acceptable environmental impact on the locality).

To deliver commercial regeneration objectives, mixed-use development on employment land may be acceptable in line with the above principles where appropriate new B-class premises are provided, the proposals provide a net gain of suitable local job opportunities, and where it can also be demonstrated that a following criterion is also satisfied, unless other site specific policies apply:

- At appropriate older Major Employment Sites, it directly delivers a range of small new and replacement industrial premises more appropriate to local needs; or
- In and on the edge of Town Centres, it provides a significant quantum of small incubation premises/offices designed to meet the needs of indigenous start-up businesses.

All development in Town and District Centres should contribute to a mix of active ground floor uses, with predominantly retail goods (A1) frontage shopping retained at the core of centres. Elsewhere in Town Centres an appropriate mix of offices (A2/B1), cultural, community and voluntary facilities, and other shop uses will be permitted; with a limited increase in the proportion of restaurants (A3) where shown to be adding to the choice, vitality, tourist appeal and evening economy of Town Centres.

**4.113** SS4 primarily addresses Core Strategy Review aims under the following Strategic Needs: A, C and D.

**4.114** The above policy, and Priority Centres of Activity network, will guide plan-making and implementation, and seek to maintain a balance of uses within places and across the district, managing change in line with national policy. Detailed provisions for particular Priority Centres of Activity will be reviewed in a subsequent local plan document, with any adopted changes to the extent of designations shown on the Policies Map.

**4.115** *Major Employment Sites:* boundaries and sites will be considered with regard to quantitative needs (SS2), national policy, and:

- Their existing or realistic future commercial quality and attractiveness as defined primarily by assessment/criteria in the Employment Land Review<sup>(10)</sup>;
- The need to maintain a sufficient supply of affordable premises for local industry, and to address the employment needs of deprived communities in the vicinity of the site; and
- The desirability of access by a choice of travel modes and of promoting the reuse of previously-developed land before considering 'greenfield' sites.

**4.116** *Town Centres:* Primary Shopping Frontages have been designated in Folkestone and other town centres on the Policies Map. The purpose of Primary Shopping Frontages is to prevent the loss of retail uses in main shopping streets. (Secondary Shopping Frontages have also been designated within Folkestone Town Centre to support the primary area, providing a wide range of shops, services and restaurants as well as space where more specialist and individual shops can locate to). Folkestone Town Centre is the most sustainable and viable location for major retail, leisure and office development within the district, capable of accommodating substantial commercial growth in line with SS2 and CSD6. The Core Strategy Review will provide for the retail needs of the district by applying the Priority Centres of Activity Network and national policy.

**4.117** *District and Local Centres:* District and Local Centres are designated on the Policies Map to safeguard the viability and the shopping and service needs of communities in smaller centres. The prospects of delivering development in Sellindge will be reviewed before confirming whether to designate it a Local Centre. Neighbourhood parades in the Urban Area will be protected in line with local evidence.

**4.118** In town, district and local centres development should also foster a sense of vibrancy and place through a mix of public, private and voluntary facilities in accordance with SS3. These services support visitors, as well as local businesses and residents, complementing the tourist attractions and rural appeal of the district (policy CSD3). Modest expansion of existing business sites in sustainable locations outside the Priority Centres of Activity may accord with plan aims, but should be dealt with in accordance with national and local policy.

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10 Lichfields (2017)

## 4.5 District Infrastructure Planning Strategy

**4.119** This policy sets out the Core Strategy Review approach to overseeing the delivery of significant infrastructure. Key principles of major infrastructure topics such as transport are outlined.

**4.120** One of the primary tasks of the Core Strategy Review is to co-ordinate the delivery of new or upgraded infrastructure alongside development, particularly in planning for the delivery of a new garden town. Infrastructure can be defined as economic, social or environmental measures that provide critical or necessary support for the sustainable functioning of communities. The district has benefited from some significant infrastructure upgrades including national and international transport connections, major flood defence works, improvements to utility networks, and investment in new educational facilities. This has occurred – and will continue to do so – through a variety of organisations, legal measures and funding sources.

**4.121** It is important that infrastructure is used efficiently, and development must be designed to minimise impacts on essential facilities. It is not always necessary to provide new infrastructure, if demand can be managed or additional capacity can be created. Nevertheless new development will create demand for new social and community facilities and physical infrastructure upgrades at certain locations under the spatial strategy.

**4.122** Not all new infrastructure will be funded through development, although it is likely that the proportion directly financed by central government will fall. The spatial strategy will ensure that a significant element of the new infrastructure required will be derived from development contributions, either in terms of direct on- and off-site investment by developers or by pooled contributions arising from a number of development projects.

**4.123** Before 2016 section 106 legal obligations and agreements with planning permissions were the principal means to secure funding towards part or all of new infrastructure within the district. These developer contributions are subject to tests set out in Planning Practice Guidance and the 2010 Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations. Section 106 agreements are individually negotiated and commonly cover matters such as on-site works, affordable housing, transport upgrades and contributions to social and community infrastructure. The majority of contributions collected in the district - for education, adult social services and youth and community facilities - have up to now been passed to Kent County Council as the leading public service provider in these areas.

**4.124** However the funding arrangements for helping to deliver new infrastructure have changed since the 2013 Core Strategy was adopted. The previous arrangement for collecting contributions through section 106 agreements and obligations has been scaled back<sup>(11)</sup>. In place of this, the council has developed a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule for the district. CIL is a flat-rate levy, with charges based on the size, type and location of new development, as a set charge per square metre of new floorspace. CIL charges for the district came into effect on 1 August 2016. The CIL charge is in addition to any site-specific planning obligations required to mitigate the direct impacts of a development. More information on CIL can be found on the CIL pages of the council's website. The different types of infrastructure to be funded from CIL and from site-specific planning obligations are set out in the council's Regulation 123 List (June 2016).

**4.125** When planning permission is granted a CIL liability notice is issued setting out the levy due when development is started, the payment procedure and the possible consequences of not following the procedure.

**4.126** As well as developer finance through section 106 and CIL, the council will consider funding for infrastructure through other sources, such as partnership agreements with statutory agencies, central government grant allocations and bidding mechanisms such as the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). In March 2018 the Government announced that Kent County Council had not been successful in the first stage application for forward funding from the HIF to support infrastructure delivery for the new garden settlement. The district council will continue to work alongside Kent County Council to monitor the position.

11 For any one specific infrastructure item, there is a maximum of five contributions possible from section 106 agreements and obligations, so for infrastructure needs that arise from developments over a wide area, section 106 contributions are not being used; however, the government is currently reviewing this arrangement

**4.127** Critical and necessary infrastructure needed to support the spatial strategy is set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. All projects highlighted are important, however, critical infrastructure is outlined in order to assist with the delivery of the Core Strategy Review and to provide initial guidance for planning and investment decisions. The policy below allows more detailed and financially specific provisions to be made through CIL, while addressing priority requirements flowing from the spatial strategy and strategic allocations.

**4.128** Infrastructure planning as set out in the Core Strategy Review and CIL requirements provides – along with the development plan's growth as a whole – additional certainty for other strategies and programmes. For instance, the early identification of a project enables forward planning by infrastructure funding bodies and utility companies, and can be used to support bids to regulators and other organisations. This maximises the opportunities for securing funding and helps ensure the Core Strategy Review delivers its strategic objectives, with infrastructure provided when needed.

## Policy SS5

### District Infrastructure Planning

**Development should provide, contribute to or otherwise address the district's current and future infrastructure needs. Infrastructure that is necessary to support development must exist already, or a reliable mechanism must be available to ensure that it will be provided at the time it is needed.**

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been introduced to ensure that, alongside Section 106 contributions, resources are in place sufficient to meet the infrastructure needs of the district in line with the growth provisions of this strategy. CIL applies to all qualifying forms of development across the district, and a meaningful proportion of levy revenues raised in each neighbourhood will be used to deliver infrastructure within that neighbourhood. Developer contributions through specific legal agreements will continue to be negotiated taking appropriate account of the development's viability for required local infrastructure (including facilities essential for development to take place or to mitigate the immediate impact of development).

CIL and developer contributions will be used to secure resources contributing towards essential infrastructure needs. Potential infrastructure requirements of this Core Strategy Review are identified in the council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Planning permissions will only be granted where suitable developer contributions are secured or are accompanied by a CIL liability notice, and where:

- a. The design of a development aims to reduce unnecessary or unsustainable demands on physical and social/community infrastructure, and environmental or utility network capacity;
- b. Development does not jeopardise current or planned physical infrastructure;
- c. 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. All major trip-generating uses will provide Travel Plans.

**4.129** SS5 primarily addresses Core Strategy Review aims under the following Strategic Needs: A, B, C and D.

**4.130** These potential major upgrades, most notably in the strategic allocations (SS6–SS11), are illustrated below in Figure 4.4.





### Identified Infrastructure Upgrades

A Roads	Railway	Focus for Extended Bus Network
M20	Key Highway Improvements	New Primary School
Rail Stations to be Upgraded	Completed Highway Improvements	Seabrook Valley Green Infrastructure
Upgraded Rail Stations	Priority Flood Defences	

Figure 4.4 Identified infrastructure upgrades

**4.131** In addition to supporting spatial strategy delivery, infrastructure planning will assist in meeting statutory development and environmental requirements, for example green infrastructure provisions necessary under the Habitats Regulations Assessment regime (see policy CSD4).

**4.132** Communication networks are at the heart of the district's future growth. In relation to transport, the district has benefitted from major investment in transport infrastructure connecting it nationally and internationally. The Core Strategy Review seeks to ensure this investment is fully utilised and where required improved to ensure strategic needs are met. In particular infrastructure improvements will be required to the strategic and

local road network and Westenhanger Station. The station will require substantial upgrades to form a transport hub, ready for High Speed 1 services to the new garden town and surrounding area as part of a future franchise award.

**4.133** To fully benefit from this economically, and to address social inclusion and environmental objectives, a focus is now needed on the links that serve the interchanges and allow movement from strategic infrastructure to and from homes and businesses. This applies across the district, with significant opportunities to improve connections to railway stations and between settlements within the district and beyond. Accordingly, in implementing travel infrastructure improvements, a spatial focus is advantageous, potentially on the M20 corridor, through rail and more integrated travel solutions that improve connectivity both within and beyond the boundaries of the district.

**4.134** Providing an increased choice of means of travel is integral to long-term development, meeting the district's travel needs, and moving towards a low-carbon and inclusive economy. The spatial strategy focuses on places that reduce demand to travel, particularly by car. Nevertheless it is particularly important that the approach of maximising walking and cycling within settlements is supported through attractive and secure developments and urban environments (policy SS3).

**4.135** A key infrastructure requirement is the provision of broadband technology. This sector is undergoing major changes and the government, through its agency Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) is supporting investment in improving broadband coverage. The availability, reliability and speed of broadband provision is now a key consideration for house buyers and many view it as essential as the standard utilities. Similarly, it is also a key requirement for the business sector, while the provision of 5G technology will further revolutionise how mobile devices are used.

**4.136** In light of changing work patterns, the increase in remote office working, and the need for local businesses to maintain an online presence, the council is keen to ensure new developments, and existing settlements, are serviced with the fastest available broadband speeds. Policy E8 of the Places and Policies Local Plan seeks the provision of Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) as part of new developments. Within this Core Strategy Review proposals for a new garden settlement in the North Downs Area offer the opportunity to create a 'smart town', making the best use of new technology while allowing flexibility for future upgrades; requirements are set out in Policy SS9.

**4.137** Given the district's characteristics, maintaining investment in new coastal defences is essential, albeit costly. The upgrading and improvements of flood defence and coastal engineering will be informed by the conclusions of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment<sup>(12)</sup> and will seek to implement the recommendations of the Shoreline Management Plan, the Folkestone to Cliff End Flood and Erosion Management Strategy<sup>(13)</sup>.

**4.138** It is clear that the scale of works will necessitate drawing funding from a range of local and national sources. A partnership approach between the Environment Agency, the council and landowners will be required to deliver essential coastal and flood defences given significant risks in some areas of the district.

**4.139** In relation to many other aspects of physical infrastructure, the planning system will ensure landowners and developers work with utility companies and that the provision of sufficient essential services is maintained.

**4.140** Social and community uses are also essential to create successful places, as recognised under policy SS3. Priority will be given to schemes which are critical or necessary for the allocated strategic sites and other major developments central to implementing the plan's growth strategy. The council will work closely with the county council and national agencies to manage existing and deliver new community infrastructure.

**4.141** Further, higher and adult education facilities are limited in number in the district. As addressed in many spatial policies in this plan, it is critical that development facilitates investment in the local education system. The positive spatial strategy will help ensure that there is no major decline in the number of families and young

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12 Herrington Consulting (July 2015) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

13 Environment Agency (February 2015) Folkestone to Cliff End Flood and Erosion Management Strategy

children in the district (and contributions secure new primary and secondary school facilities). Opportunities for focused development, to ensure the continued feasibility, attractiveness and relevance of education facilities, will be welcome and contributions sought as appropriate.

**4.142** Planning for minerals and waste infrastructure is undertaken by Kent County Council. The principles of efficient and sustainable infrastructure used in SS5 would benefit minerals and waste planning. The Core Strategy Review seeks to ensure that any applicable development is designed to minimise waste production and promote sustainable waste management, while opportunities may exist in the district to explore opportunities for waste to energy production.

## 4.6 Strategic Allocations

**4.143** This section sets out strategic allocations for the district. The allocations are:

- New Garden Settlement in the North Downs Area (Policies SS6-SS9);
- Folkestone Seafront (Policy SS10); and
- Shorncliffe Garrison (Policy SS11).

**4.144** Although permission has been granted on both the Folkestone Seafront and Shorncliffe Garrison sites, and development is underway at Shorncliffe Garrison, policies SS10 and SS11 are included from the 2013 Core Strategy to guide the remaining phases of the developments.

**4.145** As set out in Section 4.2: Housing and the Economy Growth Strategy, there is a need to plan for significantly more homes than was identified in the 2013 Core Strategy. The Core Strategy Review plans for an overall requirement of **an average of 738 new homes a year** over the period **2019/20** to 2036/37, a **minimum of 13,284 new homes in total** for the district.

### New Garden Settlement

**4.146** Policies for a new garden settlement in this section follow from **the new national method for determining housing need** and the capacity of the district to accommodate growth. This introductory section outlines the assessment.

**4.147** The provision of new homes is an important priority for the government and the council with legislation and policy seeking to significantly boost the supply. <sup>(14)</sup> A new national methodology has since been introduced by government; this indicates that the district needs to plan for **a minimum of 738** new homes a year.

**4.148** Having identified the need for significant growth, the council commissioned consultants AECOM to undertake a Growth Options Study for the district to assess whether and, if so, how, this growth could be accommodated. All options have been considered in this work, such as looking at the use of brownfield land or the further expansion of existing towns and villages. Through the work for the Places and Policies Local Plan, the council considers that all currently available, suitable and deliverable sites within or adjacent to existing settlements have been identified. While the sites in the Local Plan will contribute to the district's growth needs, the development identified in that plan will fall short of the total requirement looking to the period 2036/37.

**4.149** Given this, the Growth Options Study considered the capacity of the district for strategic-scale development, dividing it into six character areas. Constraints and opportunities within each character area were examined, and their suitability for development was assessed. The district has some major constraints, including nationally-important landscapes, areas of high flood risk and protected habitats, which were all considered in the work.

**4.150** From this high-level assessment, one of the character areas was found to have capacity for strategic-scale development, and more detailed work was undertaken to determine the most suitable areas for development within the broad character area.

**4.151** This led to the identification of an area for the creation of a new settlement, to be developed on garden town principles. As well as reflecting the evidence of the district's capacity for growth, the creation of a new town can also provide substantial new infrastructure and facilities, such as schools, health, recreational and community facilities, that could not be secured if development was spread into a number of smaller sites around the district.

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14 National Planning Policy Framework, July 2018, paragraph 59.

**4.152** The sections below describe the assessment process in more detail. Following sections then outline the issues considered in the studies and set out policies for the new settlement to meet the requirement for new homes, infrastructure, employment and social needs, and to integrate this successfully with existing communities and the surrounding environment. The need for long-term management and governance is also addressed.

### Growth Options Study (2016-17)

**4.153** The Growth Options Study is divided into two parts, and is supported by a district-wide High Level Landscape Appraisal. The findings of the study are outlined below.

### High Level Options Report

**4.154** The purpose of the High Level Options Report<sup>(15)</sup> was to assess the potential for strategic growth across the district (sites with the capacity to deliver 250 homes or more).

**4.155** Strategic constraints were mapped, including the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the functional flood plain. The study identified 14 spatial planning principles drawn from government policy, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

**4.156** The [High Level Options Report](#) divided the district into six character areas, based on the three general character areas identified in the Core Strategy<sup>(16)</sup> as follows:

The Urban Area	Romney Marsh Area	North Downs Area
1. Folkestone and surrounding area	3. Romney Marsh and Walland Marsh	5. Sellindge and surrounding area
2. Hythe and surrounding area	4. Lydd, New Romney and Dungeness	6. Kent Downs

**Table 4.6 Growth Options Study Character Areas**

**4.157** Each character area was assessed against 10 criteria drawn from the spatial planning principles. These criteria were:

1. Environmental constraints (including statutory and non-statutory designations, flood risk and agricultural land);
2. Transport and accessibility;
3. Geo-environmental considerations (including contaminated land and hydro-geology);
4. Infrastructure capacity and potential;
5. Landscape and topography;
6. Heritage;
7. Housing demand (including house prices, viability and affordability);
8. Regeneration potential (including an assessment of Indices of Multiple Deprivation);
9. Economic development potential (including opportunities for employment growth); and
10. Spatial constraints and opportunities (including the need to avoid settlements coalescing).

15 Growth Options Study - High Level Options Report, AECOM, December 2016

16 See Core Strategy Review, Section 1.2

**4.158** The consideration of landscape and topography was informed by a [High Level Landscape Appraisal](#)<sup>(17)</sup> a comprehensive study of landscape character and the capacity for change across the district. A number of different spatial distributions to growth were then developed and assessed with stakeholders and partner organisations.

**4.159** Through this process of analysis and testing, the study concluded that the areas of Folkestone, Hythe, Romney Marsh and Walland Marsh, Lydd, New Romney and Dungeness and the Kent Downs were not suited for housing growth of a strategic nature, although smaller developments may be appropriate and will continue to be delivered through the Places and Policies Local Plan.

**4.160** The Phase One study concluded that **Sellindge and surrounding area** was the most free from strategic constraints, although some constraints were identified (notably proximity to the Kent Downs AONB, ecological constraints, heritage, the presence of villages and grade 2 agricultural land). This area then formed the basis for more detailed study in the Phase Two Report.

### Phase Two Report

**4.161** The purpose of the [Phase Two Report](#)<sup>(18)</sup> was to take the findings of the High Level Options Report and assess the potential of **Sellindge and the surrounding area** to accommodate strategic growth. This report added detail and site-specific evidence to define boundaries that were then used to inform policies in the Core Strategy Review.

**4.162** Four areas of land within the Sellindge and surrounding area location were identified as having potential in the broad appraisal:

- Area A: North and East of Sellindge;
- Area B: South of the M20;
- Area C: South and West of Sellindge; and
- Area D: East of Stone Hill.

**4.163** In a similar process to the High Level Options Report, these four areas were then tested against eight criteria drawn from national planning policy:

1. Agricultural land quality;
2. Transport and accessibility;
3. Landscape;
4. Infrastructure;
5. Heritage;
6. Regeneration potential;
7. Economic development potential; and
8. Spatial opportunities and constraints.

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17 High Level Landscape Appraisal, AECOM, February 2016

18 Growth Options Study - Phase Two Report, AECOM, April 2017

**4.164** The Phase Two report found that within the study area, there are around 235 hectares of land considered suitable for residential development and appropriate supporting uses, and a further 258 hectares of land also considered suitable for residential development, subject to appropriate mitigation. This gives a total of approximately 493 hectares of land identified as having potential for strategic development.

**4.165** The report concludes that: "... options should build in the necessity of achieving sustainability through concentrating development into a critical mass. This would help minimise the risk of fragmented development dispersed across a wider area or a 'suburban' model of development lacking appropriate supporting facilities and services alongside housing. Providing development as a critical mass will conversely provide more scope and opportunity to attract employment uses of a meaningful size and to provide strategic-scale open space, playing fields, schools and the other relatively large-scale land uses and infrastructure that any community needs to promote social cohesion and sustainability."<sup>(19)</sup>

**4.166** Although undertaken independently, the Growth Options Study gives support to the council's Expression of Interest prepared in response to the Locally-Led Garden Villages, Towns & Cities Prospectus issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2016 - 'Otterpool Park - A Garden Town of the Future' (June 2016).

### **A Charter for Otterpool Park**

**4.167** Following this initial work, the council prepared 'A Charter for Otterpool Park' (November 2017). Although the charter does not form planning policy, it does set out the council's aspirations for the new settlement and was the subject of stakeholder consultation before being finalised.

**4.168** The charter is based on the three themes of environmental, social and economic sustainability. The Foreword summarises these themes and is given in the box below.

#### **Charter for Otterpool Park**

Otterpool Park will be a new growing settlement, planned from the outset on garden settlement principles, that responds to its unique setting close to the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The town will enhance the natural environment with carefully designed homes and gardens, generous parks and an abundance of trees, woodlands and natural habitats.

The garden town will have a distinctive townscape, outstanding local landscape, its very own heritage and access to a diverse coastline. There will be an emphasis on quality landscaping, open space and recreation that supports healthy lifestyles and an inclusive community.

It will be a community built on sustainability with a wide range of mixed tenure homes and jobs for all age groups that are within easy walking, cycling and commuting distance.

The masterplanning of Otterpool Park will be a beacon of best practice that embraces new technologies and designs to achieve a low carbon, low waste and low water usage environment.

Community involvement and participation in the planning of Otterpool Park has been encouraged from the outset. Land value will be captured so as to provide long-term funding for the stewardship of community assets.

**4.169** From this evidence and initial work four policies have been developed to guide new strategic scale development in the North Downs Area:

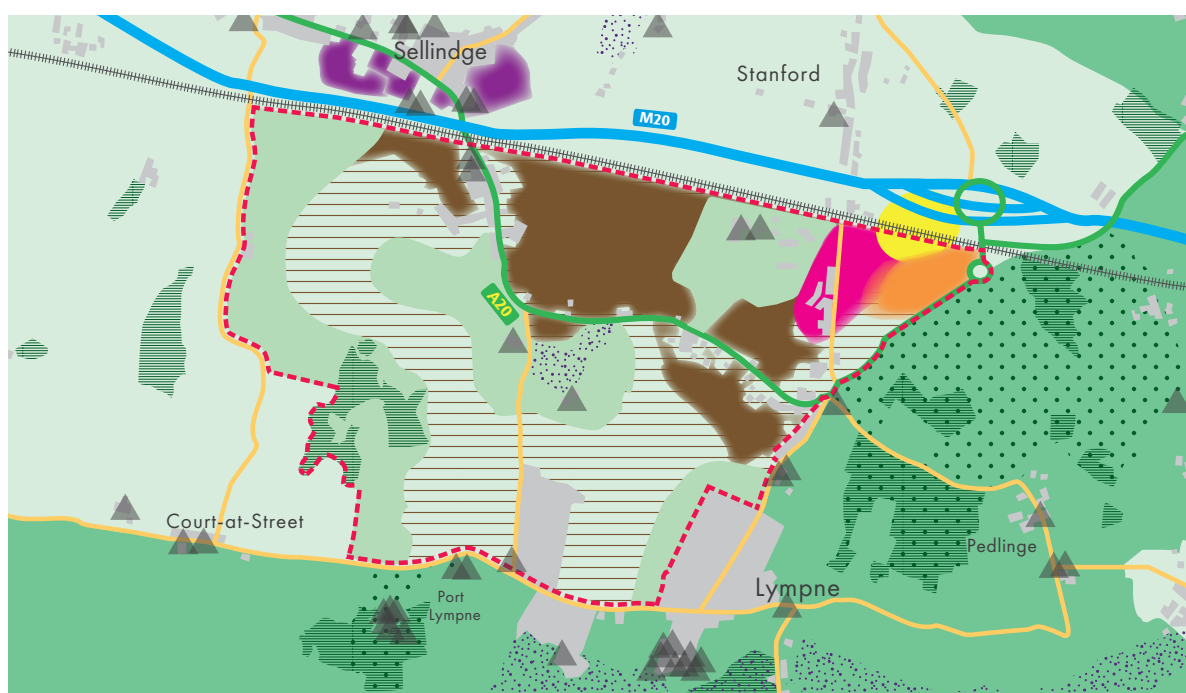
- SS6: New Garden Settlement - Development Requirements;
- SS7: New Garden Settlement - Place Shaping Principles;

- SS8: New Garden Settlement - Sustainability and Healthy New Town Principles; and
- SS9: New Garden Settlement - Infrastructure, Delivery and Management.

These are set out in turn in the following sections.

### New Garden Settlement - Development Requirements

**4.170** The development of a new garden settlement provides the opportunity to meet the district's housing needs on a strategic scale, within and beyond the plan period of this Core Strategy Review. An indicative strategy for Policy SS6 is shown below, based on the evidence work outlined in the preceding sections.



**Policy SS6 - Garden Settlement North Downs - Indicative Strategy**

A Roads	Policy SS6 Boundary	Town Centre	Business Hub	Historic Park/ Garden
Motorway	Railway	Westenhanger Station - Transport Hub	SSSI	Policy CSD9
Minor Roads	Strategic Open Space	Mixed-Use Neighbourhoods	Ancient Woodland	
Existing Built Areas	Kent Downs AONB	Neighbourhoods with Landscape Mitigation	Heritage Assets	

**Figure 4.5 Garden Settlement North Downs - Indicative Strategy**

**4.171** As well as providing strategic-scale growth the garden town also provides a unique opportunity for local self-build and custom-builders on a large scale.<sup>(20)</sup> Custom and self-build housing can bring a level of innovation, diversity and choice not found in conventional housing developments, providing opportunity for small- and medium-sized enterprises through construction and the local supply chain. The garden settlement will place self-build and custom-build housing as a central element of housing delivery.

**4.172** The council will explore whether a community-led homes fund can be established to enable local people, and groups of people working together, to build innovative forms of housing to meet their individual needs. In allocating sites for custom-build and self-build homes, priority will be given to people on the council's self-build register, which may include a local connection test. The council will actively review the requirement

<sup>20</sup> 'Self-build' is the practice of aspiring homeowners creating their own homes. Self-builders' inputs may vary from undertaking the building work themselves to contracting out some or all of the work to an architect or building package company. Consequently the term 'custom house-building' is also commonly used



for self-build plots through the interest recorded on its self-build register; this should inform the proportion of plots to be released at each phase of the development. The council has an aspiration for 10 per cent self-build over the course of the plan period.

**4.173** The council has undertaken an Employment Opportunities Study for Otterpool Park and an Employment Land Needs Assessment for the district (Lichfields) that have been used to inform the employment strategy for the garden settlement, including the provision of employment space, the types of businesses that could be attracted to the town and the numbers of jobs that could be created. Potential target sectors include:

- Green construction;
- Environmental goods and services;
- Advanced manufacturing;
- Creative digital media and business; and
- Professional and financial services.

**4.174** The scale of the garden settlement offers the opportunity to create a vibrant local economy, supporting the sustainability of the town, growing new businesses and supporting local suppliers, as well as serving the wider district. The Employment Land Needs Assessment indicates that there is the potential to provide around 36,700 sqm of 'B class' employment floorspace within the settlement by 2037. Additional jobs will be generated by retail, food and drink and other town centre uses, as well as community uses, as part of a sustainable new town.

**4.175** To promote job creation, the council will provide skills development and apprenticeships, working with local businesses and the construction industry. The garden settlement can offer a unique selling point to businesses, by promoting and delivering innovation, fostering new and growing sectors, being well-connected to outstanding infrastructure, the coast and countryside.

**4.176** The required community infrastructure will be provided at the appropriate phase of development. Community facilities may include sport venues, open space (including accessible space for the elderly), cultural buildings, libraries, places of worship and public houses.

## Policy SS6

### New Garden Settlement - Development Requirements

Land is allocated within the North Downs area for a new garden settlement as shown on the Policies Map.

The settlement will be developed on garden town principles and will have a distinctive townscape and outstanding accessible landscape, both of which will be informed by the historic character of the area. It will be planned to be sustainable, providing new homes with a broad mix of tenures, employment opportunities and community facilities within easy walking and cycling distance. It will be a landscape-led development that responds to its setting within the Kent Downs AONB landscape and the adjacent Lympne Escarpment with an emphasis on a network of green and blue spaces including woodland and other planting, open space and recreation that supports healthy living, encourages interaction between residents, enhances local biodiversity and mitigates impacts on views from the scarp of the Kent Downs. Environmentally the settlement will be a beacon of best practice, making best use of new technologies, and will be designed to achieve a low carbon, low waste and highly water efficient development.

Outline planning permission will be granted for a comprehensive proposal that is supported by a masterplan prepared by the site promoters. The masterplan shall be prepared in partnership and in consultation with the local planning authority, stakeholders, partner organisations, local people and interest groups and include a detailed phasing and delivery strategy.

#### (1) New homes

- a. The settlement shall provide for a minimum of 5,925 new homes in a phased manner within this plan period (2019/20 to 2036/37) with potential for future growth to provide a total of 8000-10,000 homes (subject to detailed masterplanning) within the site allocation area beyond the plan period;
- b. The mix of tenure and sizes of new homes shall be in accordance with Policies CSD1 and CSD2 and evidence in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Parts 1 and 2 (PBA, 2016/2017) (or subsequent revision to the evidence base) and shall include build for rent provision to meet identified need. A minimum of 22 per cent of all dwellings should be provided as affordable homes, subject to viability;
- c. All homes shall meet the adopted Nationally Described Space Standards in accordance with Policy HB3 of the Places and Policies Local Plan (or any revision to that policy);
- d. Within the early phases, development shall provide homes in neighbourhoods located in and around the town centre (Policy SS7(2)), well-connected to the centre by a walking, cycling and public transport network. Close to the town centre there shall be a higher proportion of smaller residential units serving all age groups;
- e. Additional neighbourhoods will be masterplanned in future phases in accordance with Policy SS7(3). All neighbourhoods will be expected to provide a mix of home typologies, with plots provided for custom-build and self-build development in accordance with Policy SS6(2);
- f. A minimum of 10 per cent of homes in each substantial phase shall be built to meet the needs of the elderly, from active retired people to those requiring intensive nursing care, including specialist C2 provision. All such homes shall be built to meet [M4\(3\) Category 3: Wheelchair User Dwellings](#) standards as set out in Building Regulations; and
- g. The remaining 90 per cent of homes shall be built to meet [M4\(2\) Category 2: Accessible and Adaptable Dwellings](#) as set out in Building Regulations. Homes should be designed to be flexible to respond to the changing needs of families.

**(2) Self-build and custom-build homes**

- a. A proportion of proposed dwellings shall be provided as self-build or custom-build plots, having regard to the need identified by the council, with each substantial phase contributing a proportion of self-build and custom-build housing;
- b. Innovative self-build and custom-build designs will be encouraged that are flexible and incorporate new technologies, particularly those that achieve carbon and water neutrality; and
- c. Self-build and custom-build housing will not be required to be uniform in scale, plot width or materials. Design requirements will be established by:
  - i. Planning policy and a design code approach setting out principles of place-making and sustainability;
  - ii. A 'plot passport' scheme introduced alongside a Local Development Order (should a substantial self-build phase be pursued) or alternative approval mechanism, allowing plot purchasers to submit an application to the council for assessment of compliance against the code; and
  - iii. Where plots have been made available and marketed appropriately for at least 12 months and have not sold, the plot(s) may either remain on the open market as self-build or be built out by the developer.

**(3) Employment development**

- a. The settlement shall provide approximately 36,700 sqm net of employment floorspace (B use classes) by 2037. Development beyond the plan period has the potential to provide for approximately 57,600 sqm of employment floorspace in total within the site allocation area. A different delivery rate or quantum of employment development will need to demonstrate that employment provision aligns with population growth to ensure that the town grows in a sustainable way following garden town principles. Other employment opportunities will be created by the retail and other town centre development set out in Policy SS7(2)(b) as well as community uses. The settlement's location near the gateway to Europe (Channel Tunnel) provides the opportunity to deliver employment and town centre development that complements other centres including Folkestone town centre, Hythe and other growth areas across East Kent;
- b. The employment development set out in 3(a) shall provide business space suitable to accommodate growing sectors operating in regional, national and international markets with a capacity to contribute to employment and GVA growth, as informed by the Employment Opportunities Study;
- c. Employment space should be delivered alongside infrastructure and new homes so that job opportunities are available when the first phases of housing are occupied; subsequent phases should show how further employment development will be delivered alongside new housing as agreed with the local planning authority. Interim business uses will be encouraged on suitable sites as successive phases are developed;
- d. An innovation centre or business hub shall be included within the initial phases of development (unless otherwise agreed with the local planning authority), to support business start-ups and provide space for growing businesses; and
- e. Details of interim uses which support the delivery of the garden town itself or the growth of future employment sectors shall form part of the implementation strategy in support of the outline planning application.

**(4) Community and educational facilities**

- a. Community facilities shall be provided at each phase of development in accordance with the neighbourhood principles set out in Policy SS7(3);
- b. A health centre shall be provided in the early phases of development, in partnership with local Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board, drawing from exemplar facilities elsewhere. The centre shall be designed to deliver an integrated service for patients - including a cluster of general practitioners, a wide range of diagnostic services and primary care treatment - to minimise the requirement for secondary care treatment at local hospitals. The centre should be located on an accessible site close to other community services; and
- c. Primary, secondary, special and nursery school facilities shall be provided and fully funded by the development to meet projected needs in accordance with the forecast requirements of the Local Education Authority (LEA) and shall be delivered in partnership with appropriate providers. This includes the provision of land at nil cost (both on and off site) and the safeguarding of additional, suitable land to allow for future expansion in accordance with forecast needs. The layout of the development should demonstrate that walking distance of 800 metres/10 minutes from every home to the nearest primary school are achievable, with an aspiration that homes are within a 400 metre/5 minute walking distance.

#### **New Garden Settlement - Place-Shaping Principles**

**4.177** The new garden settlement will demonstrate a landscape-led approach to development that respects topography, views and historic character. The development will enhance existing networks of woodland, green spaces, ponds, rivers and streams (termed 'green infrastructure'). Generous structural landscaping should be provided that includes advanced planting and habitat creation for future phases and buffers to the motorway and high speed rail corridor. The masterplan will be supported by a green infrastructure strategy which should enhance natural features while providing high levels of accessibility and enjoyment for those who live in the area. A long-term management plan of the green infrastructure estate should be set up in a way which gives the community control and custodianship, avoids fragmentation and degradation in future years, and ensures features provided as specific mitigation measures remain intact and functioning.

**4.178** Landscape-led masterplanning and the high quality design and layout of the town (its 'townscape') will be key to the success of the settlement, with particular regard to the impact on views from the AONB. Each neighbourhood should have a distinctive character with different densities of development. The masterplan should show the relationship of different land uses, the height and massing of buildings, the legibility of streets and how the development will make use of high quality materials that are sensitive to, and sit comfortably alongside, the local environment. There is existing design guidance that can be drawn on, including the [Kent Design Guide](#) (Kent Design Initiative) and the [Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Landscape Design Handbook](#) (Kent Downs AONB Unit), but the development will need to be informed by detailed design codes drawn up with the participation of the local community. The area's heritage assets, in particular Westenhanger Castle and its setting, together with other non-designated heritage assets, can make a significant contribution to the character of the new settlement, that can help attract future residents, businesses and visitors and create a strong sense of place from the outset.

**4.179** At the heart of the development will be a vibrant town centre that will meet the needs of residents, workers and visitors with attractive cultural, community, shopping and leisure facilities, as well as spaces for events and meetings to foster community cohesion. The Retail and Leisure Need Assessment 2018 Update indicates that the new garden settlement can support approximately 12,900 sqm (gross) of retail (convenience and comparison) and food and beverage floorspace by 2037. Service uses (class A1 non-retail and class A2 financial and professional services) could increase this requirement to 15,500 sqm (gross) by 2037. This will need to be carefully planned and phased, particularly any proposals above these indicative requirements, to avoid any detrimental impacts on nearby town centres (such as Folkestone, Hythe, New Romney, Ashford and Dover) or shops and facilities in nearby villages, yet also meet the everyday needs of the settlement and nearby communities. Each neighbourhood in the garden settlement will also need to be supported by educational, recreational and community facilities.

**4.180** The settlement presents a major opportunity to secure a high speed rail service between Westenhanger and London St Pancras. The council is pursuing this with the train operating companies, which are bidding for the new South Eastern franchise, infrastructure providers and also with Network Rail and other stakeholders. A transport hub should be provided, located at Westenhanger station, allowing easy transfer between walking, cycling, bus and train journeys. The railway station upgrade and hub will potentially deliver:

- Lengthening of the existing platforms;
- New and refurbished station buildings with improved customer facilities;
- A new footbridge between platforms; and
- Car parking to meet the needs of the new town and nearby villages.

Ways of integrating the station improvements with other land uses and facilities should also be explored.

**4.181** An innovative approach must be taken to maximise walking, cycling and the health and wellbeing of residents. This and other travel plan requirements, including the setting of targets, monitoring and the use of technology and incentives, will require detailed consideration and must support the emerging masterplan, with opportunity for revisions and amendments as the development is delivered.

**4.182** Kent County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) is currently being reviewed and updated. A new ROWIP is expected to be published later this year. The Plan assesses the extent to which Public Rights of Way (PRoW) meet current demand and how they will need to evolve to meet future requirements.

## Policy SS7

### New Garden Settlement - Place Shaping Principles

#### (1) A landscape-led approach

- a. Proposals shall demonstrate a landscape-led approach that respects topography and views, particularly from the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and helps mitigate impact on views from the scarp of the Kent Downs, guided by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment; and
- b. A green and blue infrastructure strategy shall be developed that enhances existing green and blue infrastructure assets in accordance with Policy CSD4. Additionally the strategy shall deliver:
  - i. Advanced woodland planting and habitat creation using native species to benefit later phases of development, particularly from prominent locations visible from the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and to avoid as far as possible temporary loss of biodiversity value when construction begins. Advanced woodland planting, habitat creation and community green space shall also be designed to relate to local landscape character and to prevent the coalescence of the new settlement with Lympne and to separate neighbourhoods within the settlement itself. Planting and habitat creation should also be used to provide distance buffers between the M20/High Speed transport corridor for noise and air quality mitigation purposes;
  - ii. Clear net biodiversity gains over and above residual losses through the planting of native species and the creation of green ecological corridors to improve species' ability to move through the environment in response to predicted climate change, and to prevent isolation of significant populations of species. The strategy shall enhance nearby Harringe Brooks ancient woodlands (including ecological connections, future management and community access), Local Wildlife Sites, Otterpool Quarry Site of Special Scientific Interest and other sensitive ecological features, including the existing pond at the former Folkestone Racecourse, both within and outside the allocation boundary;
  - iii. A new country park, easily accessible from the town centre and beyond and supported by and linked to other areas of strategic open space, that enhances the historic landscape setting of Westenhanger Castle;
  - iv. Playing fields and sports provision, play areas, informal open spaces, allotments and woodland located to maximise use and meet the sporting, leisure and recreational needs of the garden settlement as informed by the council's Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategies;
  - v. Publicly accessible, well-managed and high quality open spaces, which are linked to the open countryside and adjoining settlements. This shall be informed by an access strategy that seeks to protect and enhance existing public rights of way, and create new public rights of way. The strategy shall balance demands for public access with ecological and landscape protection, taking into account the impacts of increased access on the Kent Downs AONB and Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment Special Area of Conservation and other protected areas, which might necessitate the need for mitigation to be secured;
  - vi. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to maximise landscape and biodiversity value and to prevent downstream flooding of the East Stour River, developed as part of an integrated water management solution; and
  - vii. A long-term security and management plan of the Green Infrastructure estate which ensures community involvement and custodianship.

#### (2) A vibrant town centre

- a. A town centre shall be created, of higher density housing and town centre uses to act as a focal point to the settlement, providing for a mix of employment opportunities at the heart of the garden settlement. The town centre shall be planned so that it is within easy walking distance of the station and located within an area of higher density housing to increase its vitality and viability. Higher density mixed-use development with several storeys of residential use above commercial premises will be appropriate in the town centre;
- b. Food shopping (convenience retail) shall be provided within the town centre to allow choice and variety as well as reducing the need to travel for day-to-day needs. The Retail and Leisure Need Assessment 2018 Update indicates that the new garden settlement can support approximately 3,150 sqm (gross) of convenience retail floorspace within the plan period. A range of other shopping floorspace (comparison retail) shall also be provided to create a vibrant town centre. The 2018 Update indicates that the new garden settlement can support approximately 7,300 sqm (gross) of comparison retail floorspace within the plan period. A mix of other town centre uses should be provided, including food and beverage space (approximately 2,450 sqm gross) and non-retail and financial and professional services (approximately 2,600 sqm gross). An impact assessment shall be undertaken to demonstrate that there would be no detrimental impacts on the vitality and viability of nearby local village centres and other town centres including Folkestone, Hythe, New Romney, Dover and Ashford, by the scale and/or phasing of town centre development, particularly where provision above these indicative thresholds is proposed; and
- c. Street level frontages in the centre shall be active frontages that open up to public spaces to promote activity throughout the day and into the evening. Indoor and outdoor eating and drinking places and an adaptable town square shall be provided, designed to accommodate outdoor markets and public events.

**(3) Village neighbourhoods**

- a. The town centre shall be closely integrated with village neighbourhoods, reflecting garden town principles, easily accessible by walking and cycling links to the town centre and each other;
- b. Neighbourhoods and the town centre shall be connected by a legible network of active streets, footways, cycle ways and open spaces;
- c. Each neighbourhood centre will include a primary school, pre-school nursery, food (convenience) shopping, open space, recreational and community facilities in the first phase of its development; and
- d. Each neighbourhood shall be designed to have its own distinctive identity, to create a special character within the unique setting of the Kent Downs.

**(4) A high quality townscape**

- a. Neighbourhoods, buildings and spaces within the settlement shall be planned to create a unique and distinctive character, taking advantage of long-range and local views to create interest and drawing on the historic character and grain of the area;
- b. Design codes shall be drawn up to guide all phases of development with the participation of the local community. The codes should establish the parameters for achieving the highest standards of urban design, architecture and landscaping;
- c. A high quality palette of building materials will be used throughout, drawing on a thorough understanding of local distinctiveness, landscape, local materials and tone. Building materials, landscaping, including the use of mature trees, and design should be of a consistently high quality regardless of tenure;
- d. Modern methods of construction will be encouraged where high standards of design, durability and sustainability can be demonstrated; and
- e. External lighting should be designed to support the aims of the [Kent Downs Management Plan](#) on Dark Skies and the Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Light Pollution, to ensure the impact of lighting is minimised and that the most efficient technology is used.

#### **(5) Enhanced heritage assets**

- a. A heritage strategy shall be agreed that identifies how the development will conserve and enhance local heritage assets and their setting, including the Grade I listed Scheduled Monument of Westenhanger Castle (and its associated barns, stables and outbuildings), the Grade II listed Otterpool Manor Farm and Upper Otterpool and any other designated or non-designated heritage assets identified. The application shall be supported by a detailed heritage strategy, setting out how the long term, viable use of heritage assets will be established and where necessary providing mechanisms for their integration into the development. The Heritage Strategy shall be informed by a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) setting out the management and re-use of the site in relation to Westenhanger Castle, Manor and Barns. The implementation of the Heritage Strategy and undertaking of works on site with potential to affect heritage assets will need careful management; consideration should be given to appointing a Historic Environment Clerk of Works to fulfil this role;
- b. The heritage strategy should include an archaeology strategy, with an initial archaeological assessment guiding archaeological works and to inform decisions about preservation in situ or investigation. The archaeology strategy should then be kept under active review;
- c. The provision of public art should be an integral part of the heritage strategy;
- d. Westenhanger Castle and its setting shall become a focal point for the new settlement that informs its character. The development shall provide an enhanced setting for the Castle, including generous public open space through the delivery of a new park, and shall protect key historic views. Proposals shall explore the opportunity to recreate the historic southern approach to the Castle and provide mechanisms for its integration with the development;
- e. Other archaeological and heritage assets will be evaluated, conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced. Proposals must include an appropriate description of the significance of any heritage assets that may be affected, including the contribution of their setting; and
- f. Proposals should explore the potential for:



- i. Renovating the existing buildings and barns to conserve the heritage assets at Westenhanger Castle and improve the setting of the building;
- ii. Providing space for appropriate sustainable uses for the asset and its setting; and
- iii. Enhancing and positively contributing to the conservation of all relevant heritage assets both within and outside the allocation boundary, such as the setting of Lympne Castle and the Lympne Conservation Area where appropriate.

#### **(6) Sustainable access and movement**

- a. The development shall be underpinned by a movement strategy which prioritises walking, cycling and access to public transport and demonstrates how this priority has informed the design of the new settlement. All homes shall be within 800 metres/10 minutes walk of a local neighbourhood centre with an aspiration that all homes are within 400 metres/5 minutes walk of such facilities;
- b. Development shall incorporate smart infrastructure to provide real-time and mobile-enabled public transport information in accordance with smart town principles (Policy SS9 (2));
- c. The capacity of M20 junction 11 shall be upgraded and other key junctions on the road network will be redesigned and improved in partnership with Highways England and Kent County Council;
- d. A permeable network of tree-lined streets, lanes, pathways, bridleways, cycleways and spaces will be created that provides connections between neighbourhoods, the town centre, employment opportunities and public transport facilities. Footpaths, cycleways and bridleways should link to existing public rights of way, nearby villages and the wider countryside, including the North Downs Way and the Sustrans national cycle route network, taking account of the findings of the access strategy (Policy SS7 (1)) on sensitive habitats;
- e. Road infrastructure should be designed for a low speed environment, with priority given to pedestrians and cyclists through the use of shared space in ultra low speed environments and dedicated cycle routes and separate pedestrian walkways where appropriate in line with Kent Design guidance. The use of grade separations, roundabouts, highway furniture and highway signage should be minimised;
- f. A parking strategy shall be developed that balances the necessity of car ownership with the need to avoid car parking that dominates the street scene to the detriment of local amenity. The parking strategy shall deliver well-designed and accessibly located cycle parking facilities within the town and neighbourhood centres, at Westenhanger Station and transport hub, as well as at employment developments;
- g. Westenhanger Station shall be upgraded at the earliest opportunity to provide the capacity required to enable a high speed service ready and integrated transport hub, in partnership with Network Rail, the rail operator and Kent County Council, which gives priority to pedestrians, cyclists, bus and train users. The council will continue to work with the rail operator to introduce high-speed rail services from Westenhanger to central London, subject to discussions with stakeholders; and
- h. The existing bus network that serves the surrounding towns and villages will be upgraded and new services provided as an integral element of the transport hub and settlement. All new homes shall be within a five minute walk of a bus stop.

## **New Garden Settlement - Sustainability Principles**

**4.183** Sustainability principles are based on environmental, social and economic objectives as three integrated perspectives. While policy SS7 is more focussed on environmental sustainability the issues are often interwoven. For example sustainable transport options, such as cycling and walking, reduce environmental impact but also bring benefits for health and well-being. The NPPF makes it clear that the environmental objective includes "to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment".

**4.184** There is the potential for the garden settlement to become a beacon of best practice for environmental sustainability, embracing new technologies to achieve a low carbon, low waste and low water environment, with an aspiration for carbon, water and waste neutrality to be further explored and investigated as masterplanning and policy develops. The need to plan for the supply of water and control water usage will be essential, as the district is an area of 'serious water stress'.

**4.185** The sustainability of the town will be driven by an energy strategy that will set out how the lowest possible carbon targets will be achieved, in both the short- and long-term, making best use of renewable energy on- and off-site. As technology is rapidly evolving, the strategy will need to demonstrate how buildings can be designed to be adaptable with the potential to incorporate new technologies, such as battery energy storage, creating individual or decentralised energy networks. The strategy will show how the use of energy efficient technologies will result in significantly lower energy use than the national average.

**4.186** The council will work closely with local Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board to develop a healthy new town programme that delivers high levels of public health for new residents, using the principles set out in Policy SS8. Neighbourhoods will be planned to foster community development and promote healthy living by encouraging people to be active. Providing spaces for local food growing, such as allotments and community orchards, is one way that health can be promoted. A scheme could be developed that encourages produce grown on allotments and in orchards to be sold in local shops or at a market, so promoting healthy living, encouraging community interaction and reducing 'food miles.' Such a project would provide opportunity for local producers beyond the new settlement to benefit through direct sale and provision to the community.

**4.187** An element of the area allocated for the new garden settlement is protected by a minerals safeguarding designation within the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-2030 (Kent M&WLP). The purpose of minerals safeguarding is to protect the county's supply of minerals from development which could prevent its extraction; in this location the identified minerals are Limestone Hythe Formation (Kentish Ragstone), Sandstone – Sandgate Formation, Silica Sand/Construction sand – Sandstone: Folkestone Formation and Sub Alluvial River Terrace Deposits. Proposals for development will, however, come forward within areas overlying mineral resources and the Minerals and Waste Local Plan provides policies for dealing with these proposals, which may include the requirement to remove the minerals before development begins. Further guidance is provided in Kent County Council's 'Safeguarding Supplementary Planning Document' (April 2017).

**4.188** Moreover, the Kent M&WLP also emphasises the need to address the safeguarding considerations for waste management facilities. The garden settlement allocation coincides with a permitted waste recovery facility that has been implemented but not fully developed to date. As such, the proposals will need to satisfy Policy DM8 which requires an Infrastructure Assessment to be prepared to assess whether or not the development would be compatible with the use of the waste facility, particularly in regards to noise, dust, light and air that may legitimately arise from the waste activities that could take place on site. It should demonstrate that the future use of the safeguarded waste management facility would not be constrained by any incompatibility of the proposed development. If the proposed development does not demonstrably fall under the relevant clauses under Policy DM8, the applicant will need to demonstrate that the need for the development overrides the presumption to safeguard.

## Policy SS8

### New Garden Settlement - Sustainability and Healthy New Town Principles

#### (1) A sustainable new town

- a. Development shall be guided by an energy strategy. The strategy shall demonstrate how best practice in energy conservation and generation will be achieved at both the micro- and macro-level in homes and commercial buildings. The strategy shall include the potential for a site-wide heat and power network and decentralised energy networks, taking into account the AONB and its setting;
- b. All new build housing shall be built to water efficiency standards that exceed the current building regulations so as to achieve a maximum use of 90 litres per person per day of potable water (including external water use). The development shall be informed by a Water Cycle Strategy which includes detail of:
  - i. Water efficiency, and demand management measures to be implemented to minimise water use and maximise the recycling and reuse of water resources (i.e. through the use of 'grey' water) across the settlement, utilising integrated water management solutions;
  - ii. The need to maintain the integrity of water quality, how it will be protected and improved, and how the development complies with the Water Framework Directive;
  - iii. Surface water management measures to avoid increasing flood risk through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); and
  - iv. Water services infrastructure requirements and their delivery having regard to Policy CSD5, and as agreed with the relevant statutory providers, and the Environment Agency's guidance on Water Cycle Studies;
- c. For non-residential development, development shall achieve BREEAM 'Outstanding' standard including addressing maximum water efficiencies under the mandatory water credits;
- d. The energy strategy shall demonstrate how the development takes a fabric-first approach, makes the maximum use of passive solar gain, as well as energy generation from the latest technologies in and on buildings and structures. All community buildings shall seek to meet zero carbon standards as exemplars, with an aspiration for the development to achieve carbon neutrality;
- e. The energy strategy shall demonstrate how the settlement will meet the government's commitment to ban all new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040 and include measures from the outset for all properties to have ready access to slow, fast and rapid electric charging points; with integration of technologies into work places, community buildings, car parks and infrastructure to facilitate the transition to electric vehicles and provide appropriate charging facilities for electric bus provision at the transport hub;
- f. The application shall be accompanied by a site-wide waste strategy that demonstrate how a significant reduction in household waste and an increase in recycling rates will be delivered in comparison with the average across the county. Internal and external storage for recycling and waste shall be provided for all homes and businesses;
- g. Construction and landforming of the settlement shall be soil neutral to avoid any importing or exporting of earth;

- h. Proposals will be accompanied by a minerals assessment which includes information concerning the availability of minerals within the site, their scarcity, the timescale for the development and the practicality and viability of the prior extraction of any identified mineral resources. Reference should be made to 'Safeguarding Supplementary Planning Document' (KCC, 2017) and 'Minerals Safeguarding in England: Good Practice Advice' (British Geological Survey, 2011); and
- i. Proposals shall set out measures for the remediation of contaminated land. The assessment of contaminated land should be phased, starting with a Phase 1 Investigation (or Desk Study) the results of which will determine the requirement for a Phase 2 Investigation (intrusive investigation), which will in turn determine any requirement for a Remediation Strategy and Verification Report.

## **(2) A healthy new town**

- a. Proposals shall create a vibrant, healthy place to live by promoting physical activity and more active lifestyles for all age groups, facilitating community building. Preventative health care measures shall include:
  - i. The provision of high quality public open spaces that are easily accessible for all age groups;
  - ii. Noise and air pollution mitigation measures such as distance buffers between the M20/High Speed 1 transport corridor and the development, incorporating landscaping within the buffers designed to integrate with the wider green infrastructure network;
  - iii. The design of streets and spaces shall encourage community outdoor activities including play and meeting places and the provision of tactile public art, with homes orientated to encourage informal overlooking. Provision should be made for elderly people through the careful consideration of access, mobility, facilities, shelter and seating, with opportunity given for intergenerational activity; and
  - iv. Sustainable access and transport shall be promoted in accordance with Policy SS7(6);
- b. Allotments and community orchards for local food growing shall be provided on fertile land with safe and convenient access from all residential neighbourhoods; and
- c. In lower density areas generous gardens should be provided as part of an appropriate mix of housing, alongside high quality communal spaces. In higher density areas where larger gardens are not feasible, new homes should have access to an allotment or community orchard within 800m (10 minutes' walk).

## **New Garden Settlement - Infrastructure, Delivery and Management**

**4.189** The creation of the new garden settlement will be a long-term initiative, lasting 20 to 30 years and delivered through a phased approach. Initial development will focus on new housing in and around a town centre (Policy SS7(2)) and additional village neighbourhoods will grow around this core.

**4.190** The creation of a new settlement generates economies of scale that can be used to deliver critical infrastructure at the earliest opportunity and throughout the town's development. The uplift in land value that will be created by the granting of planning permission will be captured to provide:

- The highest quality townscape and landscape;
- High standards of energy and water efficiency;

- Early investment in infrastructure; and
- A sustainable funding stream for the management and maintenance of the community facilities and public realm over the long-term.

#### **New garden settlement and the Community Infrastructure Levy**

In order to capture the uplift in land value created by the new settlement, the garden settlement will be excluded from the application of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This will maximise the funding that can be secured through Section 106 and Section 278 legal agreements to deliver the infrastructure and community facilities set out in Policies SS6-SS9 at the right phases of the development. The council will amend its Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule to implement this approach.

The opportunity for Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) funding will continue to be monitored, and pursued, when appropriate. If achieved, this may provide opportunity for a tariff-based approach to Section 106 payments to enable the delivery of strategic infrastructure at the earliest opportunity.

**4.191** The garden settlement will be designed as a 'smart town' to ensure infrastructure and services are made more efficient through the use of digital and telecommunications technology for the benefit of residents and businesses. Where feasible, the latest high speed internet technology should be made available to the neighbouring communities of Lympne, Postling, Stanford, Westenhanger and Barrow Hill, with 5G connectivity also explored as an early opportunity for innovation. This technology also offers opportunities to improve health, for example by providing elderly people with information links between their homes and the health centre and also allowing the monitoring of data about the town's infrastructure, energy and water usage.

**4.192** Arrangements will be put in place for the long-term maintenance and management of this infrastructure, through the creation of a Community Trust or elected local body. Although the exact model will need to be agreed, any structure must ensure that the settlement has an active community that can manage its own assets, with local people shaping the future of the town. The Trust or body must be capable of generating a sustainable income so that its future can be secured; increases in land value will be captured to provide funding for stewardship and maintenance of the community's assets.

**4.193** A key objective will be to develop a network of local volunteers. A community development programme should allow for governance arrangements to change as the town grows, with the potential for the creation of a Town Council or similar representative body. The creation of a post of community development worker could be invaluable in establishing and reinforcing a sense of community, and this should be explored as part of the Section 106 agreement. Businesses will also be active in the new community, helping to generate a spirit of entrepreneurship to further the economic prosperity of the town.

## Policy SS9

### **New Garden Settlement - Infrastructure, Delivery and Management**

#### **(1) Delivery of infrastructure**

- a. The settlement should be self-sufficient regarding education, health, community, transport and other infrastructure, where necessary allowing for the expansion and improvement of nearby facilities such as secondary education and waste;
- b. Critical infrastructure, such as primary education, should be provided in the first phases of development to support investment and community development. The provision of infrastructure should be phased in a way that does not disadvantage early residents or neighbouring communities through placing pressure on existing infrastructure in the local area. The creation of a post of community development worker should be explored, to serve the early phases until the town is established, secured through the Section 106 agreement;
- c. The nearby communities of Lympne, Barrow Hill, Sellindge, Westenhanger, Saltwood, Stanford and Postling should have appropriate access to and benefit from the infrastructure provided. If it is appropriate for infrastructure to be shared with existing communities then this shall be decided through local consultation as part of the masterplanning process; and
- d. Infrastructure provision will be secured and/or funded through Section 106 and Section 278 legal agreements to ensure it is delivered at the appropriate phase of the development.

#### **(2) A smart town**

- a. All residential, business, community and town centre buildings and public spaces shall be enabled for ultra-fast fibre-optic broadband provided to premises (FTTP). Broadband speeds shall be reviewed at periodic intervals to provide the highest standards of connectivity. Periodic reviews of the masterplan shall demonstrate how the latest information technology will be incorporated into each phase of development;
- b. New dwellings shall provide adaptable space suitable for home working and other buildings (including shops, cafes, commercial buildings and community facilities) shall provide facilities for working on the move;
- c. Data analysis and smart monitoring of water and energy use and waste generation shall be available to all new homes, business and community buildings. Aggregated and comparative data shall be accessible to allow households to compare usage against the average for the development; and
- d. Ducting for fibre-optic and other cabling, energy and other service infrastructure shall be provided in multi-service corridors outside the public highway that are easily accessible to statutory undertakers to avoid unnecessary highway works and surface repairs.

#### **(3) Long-term management and governance**

- a. Infrastructure, the urban realm, open spaces including informal pedestrian and cycle pathways, and facilities shall be designed to take into account long-term management and maintenance requirements; and
- b. A strategy for the long-term stewardship of the settlement shall be developed. This shall include the creation of a Community Trust or new elected body. The infrastructure that will need to be managed and maintained by the Trust or elected body may include:

- i. Strategic and local open spaces;
  - ii. Sports pitches;
  - iii. Leisure facilities;
  - iv. Community buildings;
  - v. Public squares and spaces including public art and street furniture;
  - vi. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS);
  - vii. Allotments, community orchards and woodlands; and
  - viii. Heritage facility, such as a museum or archive storage
- c. Requirements to ensure the quality of all open space and physical assets on handover to the Trust or elected body will be set out in a Section 106 legal agreement.

## Folkestone Strategic Allocations

**4.194** The Core Strategy Review's two site allocations at Folkestone make up this sub-section of the plan.

### Folkestone Seafront

Planning permission for Folkestone Seafront (12/0897/SH) was granted on 30 January 2015; a subsequent Section 73 application for amendments to the masterplan was approved on the 26 September 2018. Policy SS10: Spatial Strategy for Folkestone Seafront is retained from the 2013 Core Strategy<sup>(21)</sup> to guide future phases of development.

### The Site

**4.195** Vacant land at Folkestone's Seafront and Harbour – including the former port area – lies close to the town centre. On the main route between these areas of potential is the Creative Quarter (which will develop further in line with policy CSD6). At its western end, the Seafront meets the rejuvenated Coastal Park, and the site is highly prominent from the Leas part of the town centre lying on the cliff-top above.

**4.196** The redevelopment of Folkestone Seafront provides a unique opportunity for the town to reconnect with the coast and reinvent itself as a place to live, work and visit. It can provide new facilities and a design providing a contemporary sense of place, but also drawing on strong historic maritime associations. The Harbour, built from 1807 onwards, is grade II listed in part. From the mid-nineteenth century it benefited from a direct connection to the national railway network, and the area played an important military role during times of war in the first half of the twentieth century. The decline of seaside mass tourism, and then the closure of ferry services in 2000, have left a large under-used area which has lost its sense of vitality and purpose and currently benefits little from its prominent coastal location.

### The Proposal

**4.197** Although most of the land is cleared, there is a collection of listed buildings and the Folkestone Leas and Bayle Conservation Area in and around the site. It is essential that the redevelopment of the harbour and seafront adopts sound urban design principles, recognising the strategic importance of the site, its history and key role in the town's future. The policy does this by allowing for a variety of uses, complementing Folkestone town centre and creating a meaningful and successful place in its own right.

**4.198** The site is suitable for mixed-use development, focused around distinct character areas and comprising the beach and residential uses, allied with significant active or commercial uses to provide a vibrant destination. It is important that recreational and open space uses, and leisure (potentially including food and drink) premises utilise the site's waterside location. Infrastructure upgrades will need to be provided to improve connections from the Seafront to the heart of the town centre lying above. Adjoining land to the north of the site will need to be addressed to ensure ease of movement to and from the town centre.

**4.199** The Harbour frontage provides a special waterside environment to attract new commercial investors. This would introduce new forms of activity to the area (complementing recent restaurant developments), extend the appeal of Folkestone, boost the local housing market and regenerate the area.

**4.200** Key aspects of the current proposals are shown illustratively in Figure 4.6 below, and should be used to inform further masterplanning of the development. The exact extent of land allocated is shown on the Policies Map. Reference should also be made to policy CSD6's provisions for regeneration in the Creative Quarter, and the interrelationship with central Folkestone.

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21 This policy is numbered SS6 in the 2013 Core Strategy



## Folkestone Seafront Strategic Site and Surroundings

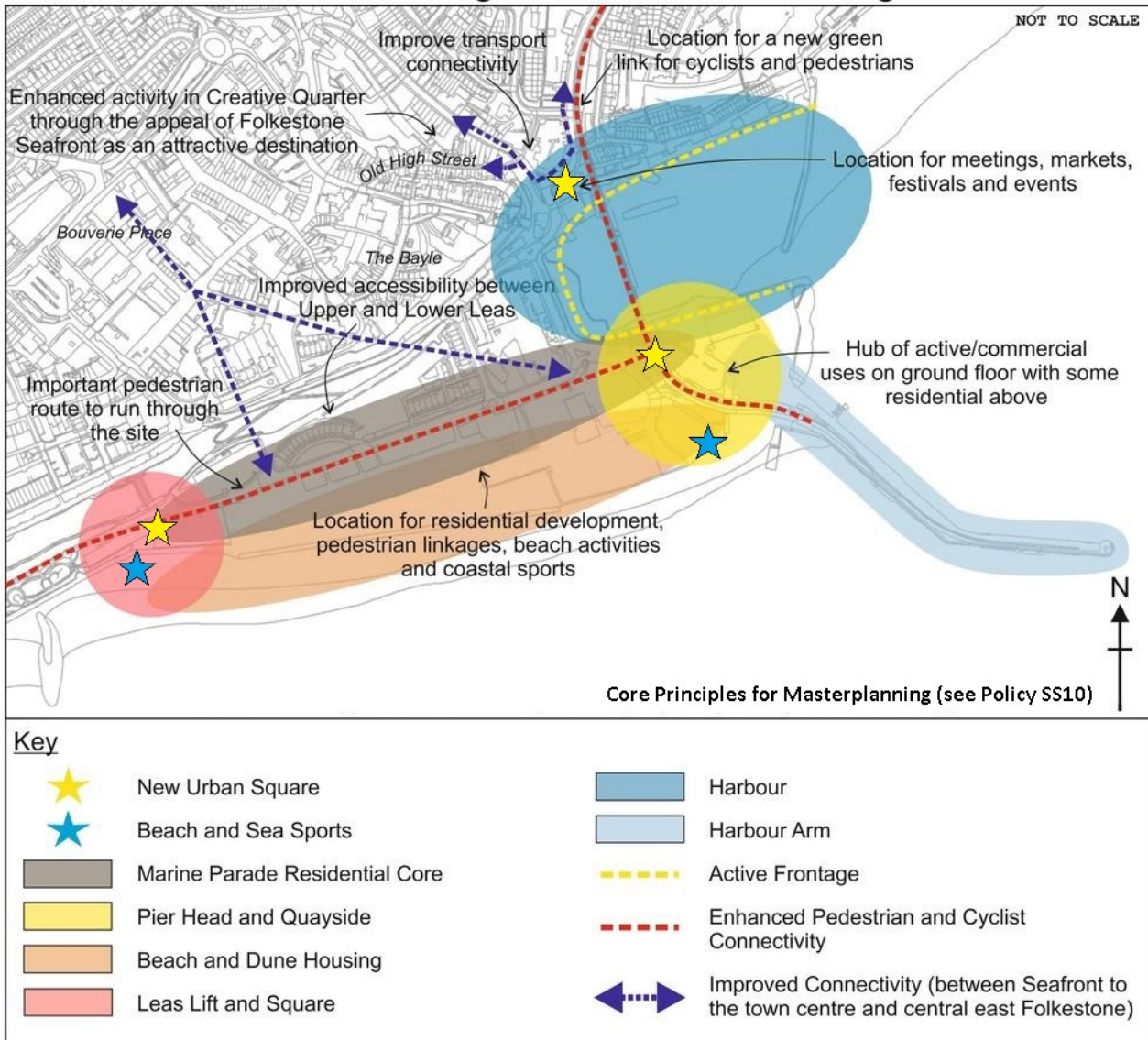


Figure 4.6 Folkestone Seafront Strategic Site and Surroundings

**4.201** Local partners should work together to further improve connectivity between the seafront and town centre. The area at the entrance to the Harbour and Creative Quarter forms a natural meeting point and should be significantly improved to develop its role as a public open space. It requires a partnership between district and county councils and the developer to deliver movement enhancements (see policy SS5). Sympathetic highway improvements (including the public realm, and along Tontine Street/Tram Road for bus access) will be necessary, in addition to the proposed green link.

**4.202** South of the Harbour lies the Pier Head and Quayside Quarter which could be suitable for more intensive development and a greater mix of uses. Together with the high-quality beach and the Harbour, the Pier Head and Quayside should provide a cluster of uses and activities creating a destination to visit in its own right, providing a mixture of retail, restaurants, bars, offices and homes, in a historic maritime environment.

**4.203** This will be supported by connections from the Harbour area to East Folkestone, together with a re-imagined, attractive Marine Parade featuring beach-side homes alongside existing listed buildings, forming an appealing route for pedestrians and cyclists (linking to the Coastal Park).

**4.204** Development in the area (CSD6) will be able to draw from both the coastal environment and the rich history of the site; for instance through design features, public art and displays. Redevelopment of the site must both conserve and enhance the character and setting of the wider conservation area and listed buildings. The marine environment also offers opportunities for significant biodiversity enhancement. All these aspects should be addressed through high-quality design and architecture complementing a mix of active uses, providing the appeal and vibrancy of a flagship coastal destination and visitor attraction for central Folkestone.

**4.205** The development lends itself to the promotion of standards of sustainable construction that are higher than current national requirements. This may include: high levels of energy efficiency; decentralised and low carbon energy generation; grey water recycling and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS); and development to promote healthy lifestyles.

## Policy SS10

### Spatial Strategy for Folkestone Seafront

**Folkestone Seafront is allocated for mixed-use development, providing up to 1,000 homes, in the region of 10,000 sqm of floorspace comprising small shops and retail services (A use classes), offices (class B1) and other community and leisure (C1, D1, D2 and sui generis) uses; together with beach sports and sea sport facilities and with associated and improved on- and off-site community and physical infrastructure.**

Planning permission will only be granted where:

- a. Proposals clearly support the delivery of planned incremental redevelopment for a distinctive, unique and high-quality seafront environment, with a mix of uses providing vitality for the whole site and Folkestone.
- b. The proposals directly contribute to the regeneration of Folkestone by reconnecting the town centre to the Seafront, and enhancing the attractiveness of Folkestone and its appeal as a cultural and visitor destination, complementary to the Creative Quarter and existing traditional maritime activities.
- c. Development is appropriately phased to ensure benefits can be fully realised, with infrastructure improvements delivered at appropriate stages to ensure on-and off-site facilities are available to create a sense of place and community and to manage environmental improvements in relation to infrastructure capacity.
- d. Sufficient contributions are made to highways, public transport and parking arrangements to provide sustainable connectivity between the Seafront development, the town centre and central and eastern Folkestone, including improved pedestrian, cycle and bus links and according with SS5.
- e. Appropriate financial contributions are provided to meet additional school pupil places generated by the development.
- f. Design is of very high quality, preserving the setting of the key heritage assets and archaeological features of the site, sympathetic to the landscape and coastal character of the area including the retention of the Inner Harbour Bridge.
- g. The layout is planned to achieve sufficient ground floor active/commercial uses in and around the Harbour and at the Pier Head Quarter to ensure a sense of vitality can be maintained, fully utilising the setting, and also featuring a central avenue and a range of open and enjoyable coastal environments.
- h. Development delivers 300 affordable housing dwellings for central Folkestone, subject to viability (or if the total residential quantum is less than 1,000 units, a 30 per cent contribution).
- i. Residential buildings achieve a minimum water efficiency of 90 litres/person/day. All development must be designed and constructed to achieve high standards of environmental performance, and buildings should be designed to allow convenient waste recycling.
- j. All development is located within the site in accordance with national policy on the degree of flood risk and compatibility of specific use and, where necessary, includes design measures to mitigate flood risk.
- k. Development proposals include an appropriate recreational access strategy to ensure additional impacts to Natura 2000 site(s) are acceptably mitigated, in accordance with policy CSD4.

Any detailed planning application submitted in relation to any of the site will only be granted if it is supported by and consistent with either:

- A masterplan for the whole site produced in line with this policy, or
- An outline/detailed planning application for the whole site that provides satisfactory masterplanning in line with this policy, including phasing proposals and necessary viability assessments.

Masterplanning for the site should accord with the core principles shown in Figure 4.6.

**4.206** For the avoidance of doubt, any planning application should comply with other applicable elements of Core Strategy policy, including the provision of Lifetime Homes within the mix of residential development (CSD2), and flood risk management (SS3).

## Shorncliffe Garrison, Folkestone

A hybrid permission, including full planning permission for phases 1A and 1B at Shorncliffe Garrison, Folkestone (14/0300/SH) was granted in 17 December 2015. Development is progressing on site, with subsequent Reserved Matters approval in place for phases 1D and 2B of the development. Policy SS11: Spatial Strategy for Shorncliffe Garrison, Folkestone is retained from the 2013 Core Strategy<sup>(22)</sup> to guide the remaining phases of development.

### The Site

**4.207** The Shorncliffe area, in west Folkestone, is part of the district's rich military heritage. The military presence here dates back to the early nineteenth century. Along with the Shorncliffe Redoubt, Martello Towers and the Royal Military Canal, the garrison formed part of the key fortifications built in anticipation of invasion by Napoleon following the French revolution and has remained an important training area for the British Army, used alongside Hythe and Lydd Ranges.

**4.208** Military land take in the area has changed periodically, with land historically released for expansion of the community of Cheriton, which is centred around its district shopping centre north of the railway. Folkestone West High Speed 1 railway station and M20 junction 12 are close to Cheriton. Although integrated within Cheriton, topography in particular distinguishes Shorncliffe from the coastal communities of Sandgate and Seabrook to the south, further military land in the Seabrook Valley (including the small settlement of Horn Street) and open countryside to the west. The site is therefore located within a transitional area between the town and less built-up land, currently dominated by utilitarian military uses.

**4.209** The Ministry of Defence (MoD) concluded a review of its land holdings and operational requirements within the area (which include further married quarters accommodation for service personnel) which found that significant improvements were needed to the Military Estate within the district to meet the MoD's needs, while much of the land in the garrison comprised old, inefficient and underutilised buildings that were not suitable for modern defence purposes.

**4.210** In total the area released by the MoD comprises over 70 hectares, over half of which forms open space such as the "back door training area" to the west within the Seabrook Valley, Shorncliffe Redoubt and sports pitches such as "The Stadium". The remaining area provides predominantly previously developed 'brownfield' land with potential for a new neighbourhood. This includes the current Risborough and Burgoyne Barracks and part of St Martin's Plain on the western edge of Cheriton.

**4.211** Folkestone is constrained to the north and east by key elements of the green infrastructure network, and to the south by the sea. The logic of an urban extension in this location has therefore been long-established. A land consolidation project by the MoD has made this area available for redevelopment while the MoD upgrades its facilities at Shorncliffe and elsewhere in the district. Release of superfluous sites for redevelopment raises public sector funds for investment in high-quality modern accommodation at Shorncliffe and elsewhere in the district (notably Lydd Training Camp). A significant military presence will be retained at Shorncliffe on the Sir John Moores barracks land in the south east of the site and at St Martin's Plain.

**4.212** The MoD has worked closely with the council in ensuring that land is brought forward for development in a managed and comprehensive way. An indicative masterplan document, including technical appendices in relation to transport, utilities and environmental conditions, was prepared for the MoD to underpin this strategic allocation. The conceptual diagram below (Figure 4.7) broadly reflects the indicative masterplan, which forms a key element of the evidence underpinning this policy.

### The Proposal

22 This policy is numbered SS7 in the 2013 Core Strategy

**4.213** The scale and location of available land at Shorncliffe offers an important opportunity for providing high-quality family housing contributing to and benefiting from existing and upgraded services and infrastructure (including Cheriton High Street and High Speed 1 rail services). Enhancing the public realm and open spaces in the locality can benefit the surrounding community.

**4.214** There is excellent potential to provide a primarily residential development which can integrate well with the existing residential area, increasing local housing choice and services. Additionally it can support improved sports facilities, unlock new public greenspace and improve access and bus services in west Folkestone and Cheriton. The development can also provide significant new community and public services.

**4.215** Key aspects of the current proposals are shown illustratively in Figure 4.7 below and should be used to inform further phases of the development. The exact extent of land allocated is shown on the Policies Map.

### Shorncliffe Garrison, Folkestone, Strategic Site

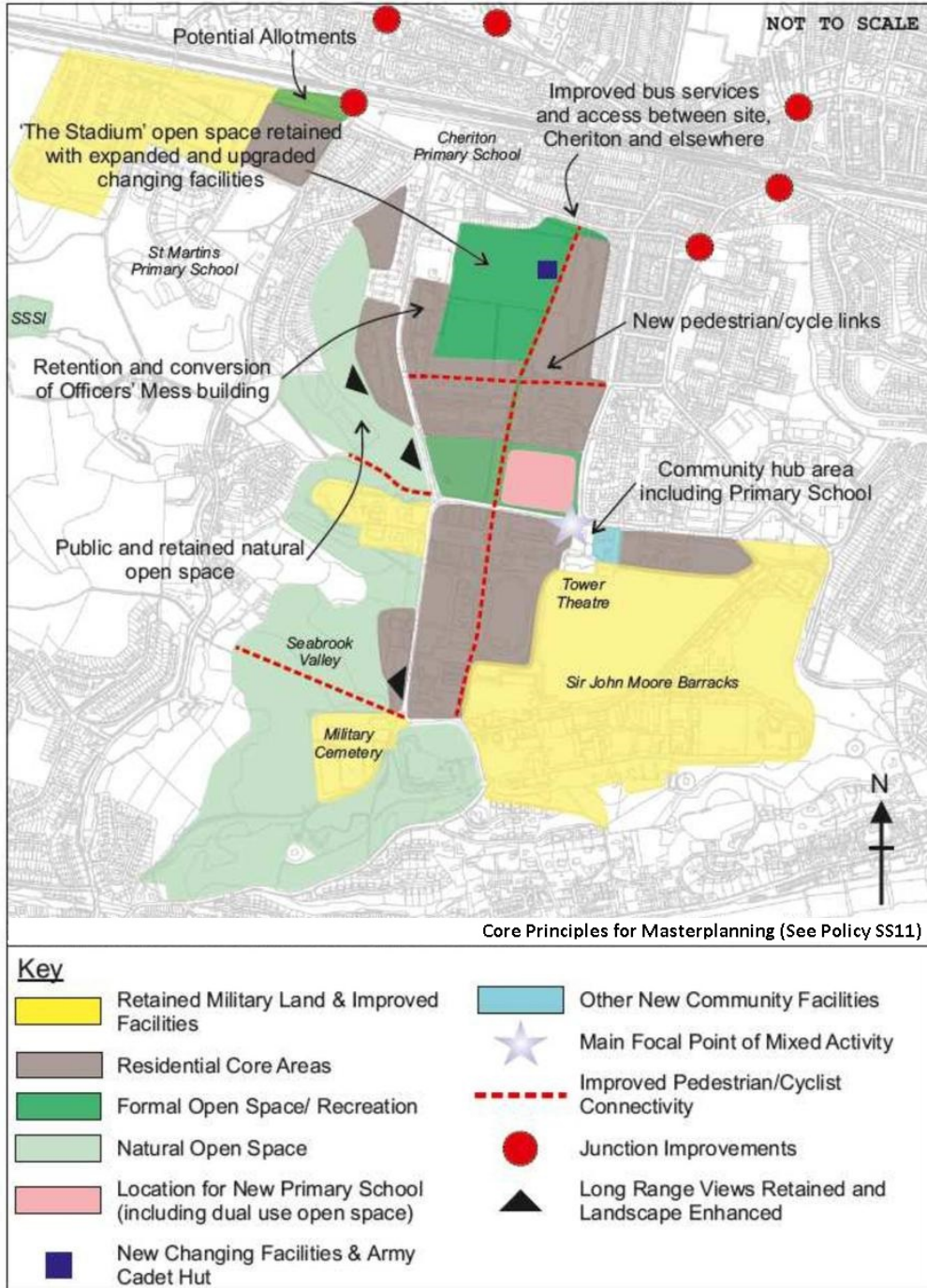


Figure 4.7 Shorncliffe Garrison Strategic Site

**4.216** Development should be laid out to form a legible street network, drawing on the scale and pattern of development in nearby Victorian streets. The development should contribute to the sense of place and Kent Design objectives (policy CC3 of the SPD) and enhance connectivity and legibility from north to south and east to west, improving access for pedestrians, cyclists and the management of vehicular traffic.

**4.217** While the majority of buildings on the barracks are not listed, an assessment of the site undertaken by Historic England as part of application Y14/0300/SH considered that the Racquet Court, Concrete Barrack Block, Sir John Moore Library and the Risborough Gates should be retained as heritage assets and were afforded Grade II Listed status. Nevertheless, it also identified other features within the site that were worthy of retention, and required developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost. Further investigation may reveal opportunities for confirmation of, and improvements to, features of military interest for visitors.

**4.218** The site is well placed in the district, with motorway and high speed rail services nearby. The provision of day-to-day services on site (such as the primary school) will limit overall traffic generation. However in line with policy SS5, close attention is needed to the package of upgrades and contributions necessary to offset travel impacts generated by new residents, especially connections to strategic transport routes. A list of junction improvements, including tackling the existing limitations of Horn Street railway bridge and critical upgrades on Cheriton High Street (notably the highway near the M20 junction approach, where it may be appropriate for other developments to contribute) are outlined in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

**4.219** Pedestrian and cycle access routes underpin the layout and linkages to the new community hub, and towards the heart of Cheriton. There is scope for a substantial expansion to the local bus network. With a developer contribution and other support measures an expansion of services can be delivered in the early phases of the development, with the prospect of an increased choice of destinations within the Urban Area for Cheriton and Shorncliffe residents. Improvements to integrated bus and cycle links with Folkestone West High Speed 1 railway station are a priority.

**4.220** The site should provide high-quality well-designed dwellings. Sustainability features should in particular seek to achieve very high levels of water efficiency and address the social needs of the district.

**4.221** The site will make an important contribution to meeting the housing needs of western Folkestone. In accordance with Core Strategy Review policies, a significant proportion of homes will be designed to be flexible to the needs of residents as they age, and affordable homes will also be provided (intermediate<sup>(23)</sup> and rented tenures).

**4.222** The proposals will provide increased public open space in the Shorncliffe/Seabrook/Horn Street area. Any changes will be governed by a protective open space strategy, taking account of national policy and the council's green infrastructure approach. In particular, many existing sports pitches play an important recreational and open space amenity role for residents, especially at The Stadium, and these can be enhanced through the proposals.

**4.223** The steeply sloping training land in the Seabrook Valley will be released from military use and under these proposals will be better used for its green infrastructure (conservation and landscape) functions, subject to arranging improved public management of the land. Improvements to the Seabrook Valley are very important to deliver the district's green infrastructure strategy (policy CSD4). Particular attention should be paid to biodiversity enhancement, with potential connections to the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to the west of Seabrook Valley, and facilitating use of the new public open space (consistent with nature conservation objectives). Enhancements may also contribute to Water Framework Directive objectives (see CSD5).

**4.224** The redevelopment of the barracks shall include a replacement army cadet centre and changing rooms facility at The Stadium. A central community hub will be delivered through making land available and possible contributions to a new primary school, plus a health and medical centre or similar adjacent to the Tower Theatre, linking in with the existing community facilities serving the wider area.

**4.225** The strategic allocation involves land disposal to fund further public investment in the district and on-site. Development delivery must be flexible in terms of the MoD's operational requirements. An appropriate phasing arrangement will need to be secured to enable development to proceed successfully and for infrastructure

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23 There is the opportunity for the MoD to provide married quarters for qualifying soldiers serving in local regiments, as part of the 'intermediate' element of the mix of housing, subject to there being a mechanism to ensure these houses can be returned to the district's general stock of affordable housing in the longer term if no longer required by the MoD.



to be delivered in a timely manner. Specific proposals should relate to whole development parcels of land, or for smaller areas should demonstrate that they do not risk prejudicing the implementation of future proposals within the allocation.

## Policy SS11

### Spatial Strategy for Shorncliffe Garrison, Folkestone

**The Shorncliffe Garrison complex is allocated for a predominantly residential development of around 1,000 dwellings to 2026 (up to 1,200 by 2031) and an improved military establishment, together with a hub of new community facilities, associated enhancements to sports and green infrastructure, and on- and off-site travel infrastructure upgrades.**

Planning permission will also only be granted where:

- a. Residential development is shown to be part of a comprehensive approach to modernisation and consolidation of military land within the district.
- b. Development is appropriately phased to ensure benefits can be fully realised, with infrastructure improvements delivered at appropriate stages to ensure on- and off-site facilities are available to create a sense of place and community and to manage environmental impacts in relation to infrastructure capacity.
- c. Significant transport improvements are delivered including appropriate contributions for critical junction upgrades, and other highway improvements, and a contribution is made to improved and extended bus services and further sustainable travel measures for walking and cycling (including connections to Cheriton High Street and Folkestone West railway station) in accordance with policy SS5.
- d. The proposal includes on-site provision of appropriate community infrastructure including land and possible contributions towards a new primary school (up to two-form entry) and health/care facility (and/or delivery of a community/public facility of equal social value).
- e. The proposal incorporates high-quality green infrastructure at the design stage, with sports and public open space usable for active recreation retained in line with national policy, and improved changing facilities provided at 'The Stadium'.
- f. Land at Seabrook Valley as shown in Figure 4.7 is released from military use for public and natural open space purposes, and a management strategy is in place to enhance biodiversity and to increase accessibility to the countryside where appropriate. Development proposals shall include an appropriate recreational access strategy to ensure additional impacts to Natura 2000 site(s) are acceptably mitigated, in accordance with policy CSD4.
- g. The design and layout of development should form a legible network of streets, drawing on the scale and pattern of surrounding development so as to enhance connectivity from east to west with a strong new south to north pedestrian/cycle axis, through the site. Townscape, heritage and archaeological analysis should be undertaken prior to the demolition of any buildings. This should ensure good place-making through the retention of important features, including heritage assets and reference to former uses on the site.
- h. Development design integrates fully and sensitively with the existing residential neighbourhoods of Cheriton and with the Seabrook Valley landscape.
- i. Development delivers 360 affordable housing dwellings for the Urban Area subject to viability (or if the total residential quantum is less than 1,200 units, 30 per cent).
- j. Residential buildings achieve a minimum water efficiency of 90 litres/person/day. All development must be designed and constructed to achieve high standards of environmental performance, and buildings should be designed to allow convenient waste recycling.
- k. A programme is agreed for the satisfactory remediation of the land.

Any detailed planning application submitted in relation to any of the site will only be granted if it is supported by and consistent with either:

- A satisfactory masterplan for the whole site produced in line with this policy, or
- An outline/detailed planning application for the whole site that provides satisfactory masterplanning in line with this policy, including phasing proposals and necessary viability assessments.

Masterplanning for the site should accord with the core principles shown in Figure 4.7.

**4.226** For the avoidance of doubt, any planning application should comply with other applicable elements of Core Strategy policy, including on the provision of Lifetime Homes and family dwellings within the mix of residential development (CSD2).



## Core Strategy Delivery

## 5 Core Strategy Delivery

This section focuses on the delivery of the Core Strategy Review with policies labelled 'CSD'. Apart from the last part devoted to implementation, it focuses on more thematic or area-based policies.

### 5.1 Core Policies for Planning

#### Balanced Neighbourhoods

- Primary aims: *A1, A7, A8, C2, C5, D2, D5, D6, D8* (see section 3.1).
- Main local evidence base studies: *Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Housing Market Assessment (PBA, March 2017)*

**5.1** This section covers one of the key influences on the social makeup of neighbourhoods: the tenure mix of housing. Popular settlements are those that not only appeal in terms of having a distinctive identity, high-quality environment and good infrastructure, but where there is a balanced community. Neighbourhoods are made up of a mix of people and to this end, and to address significant needs for housing, every development should include a range of accommodation if feasible.

**5.2** In addition to new residential development in this plan, housing priorities for the district as set out in the council's Housing Strategy are to provide high-quality affordable homes to meet local needs, improve the condition of the homes, support vulnerable people and make the best use of the existing housing stock.

**5.3** Many of these issues are addressed through the spatial strategy (policies SS2 and SS3). In regard to affordable housing it is important that a variety of different tenures are provided. There is a growing range available to meet individual circumstances; alongside affordable rented, affordable housing can include starter homes, discounted market sales housing and shared equity products which allow occupiers to 'staircase up' to full ownership.<sup>(1)</sup>

**5.4** All new developments with a residential element should address the district's significant affordable housing needs, including smaller sites, which form a considerable proportion of the housing supply. This policy is complemented by substantial new provision to be delivered through a new garden settlement in the North Downs Area and other strategic sites, some of which have planning permission or are under construction (see policies SS6-SS11).

**5.5** Since the adoption of the Core Strategy in 2013, the government has introduced legislation that limits the requirement to provide affordable homes to developments of 11 or more dwellings or, in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, six dwellings or more. Given this, the Core Strategy Review amends policy CSD1 to take account of this change.

**5.6** The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) indicates that 139 new affordable homes are required a year in the district.<sup>(2)</sup> Of these affordable homes, the SHMA indicates that 70 per cent should be affordable rent/social rent and 30 per cent should be shared equity.

**5.7** Historically affordable housing delivery as part of market housing developments has been relatively low in the district, with 178 affordable homes delivered by Section 106 agreement over the period 2012/13 to 2017/18 (around 30 affordable homes a year). However, 303 additional affordable homes have been delivered over this period by other means (around 50 affordable homes a year), including direct provision by the district

1 A definition of affordable housing is given in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This definition includes: affordable housing for rent; starter homes; discounted market sales housing; and other affordable routes to homes ownership (such as shared ownership, other low cost homes for sale and rent-to-buy).

2 SHMA Part 2 - Objectively Assessed Need for Housing (PBA, December 2016), paragraph 5.29

council and registered affordable housing providers. Given the strategic development allocated in this Core Strategy Review it is anticipated that the numbers of affordable homes delivered through market housing developments will increase significantly.

### **Affordable housing delivery**

The 2013 Core Strategy set a target to deliver 100 affordable homes a year. The council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment found that an average of 139 affordable homes a year now need to be provided to meet existing need and the future need that is likely to arise over the Core Strategy Review plan period.

The target is therefore set to provide **139 affordable homes a year over the plan period 2018/19 to 2036/37 or 2,640 affordable dwellings in total.**

Discounting smaller sites which are not required to provide affordable homes ('windfall' development), 2,640 homes represents approximately 22 per cent of the projected housing provision for the plan period. Affordable housing contributions have therefore been set at a minimum of 22 per cent of all new sites in the Core Strategy Review, subject to viability; for those allocations with planning permission (for example Policies SS10 and SS11) requirements are unchanged from the 2013 Core Strategy.

**Provision at 22 per cent is considered to be realistic and deliverable. If, over the course of implementing the Core Strategy Review, monitoring identifies that targets are not being met this will be assessed as part of a future review of the plan.**

## Policy CSD1

### Balanced Neighbourhoods

Development resulting in new housing (class C3) will be allowed in line with policy SS3 (optimising distinctiveness, appeal, sustainability and accessibility of places) where it contributes to the creation of balanced neighbourhoods through high-quality design proposals which address identified affordable housing needs.

All housing development should include a broad range of tenures incorporating market housing for sale and affordable housing (affordable housing for rent, starter homes, discounted market sales housing and other affordable routes to home ownership), wherever practicable and subject to viability, as follows:

- Development proposing (or land capable of accommodating) 6 to 10 dwellings (net gain) within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty should provide financial contributions towards the provision of affordable housing equivalent to one affordable dwelling on-site;
- Development proposing (or land capable of accommodating) 11 to 14 dwellings (net gain) at any location within the district should provide **a minimum** of two affordable dwellings on-site; and
- Development proposing (or land of 0.5ha or more in size) 15 or more dwellings (net gain) at any location within the district should provide **a minimum** of 22 per cent affordable dwellings on-site.

For development proposing 15 or more dwellings, as a starting point approximately 30 per cent of the affordable housing provision shall be shared equity and 70 per cent affordable rent/social rent. For sites under this threshold, the proportion of affordable housing tenures will be negotiated on a site-by-site basis.

Provision should be made on-site unless off-site provision through a financial contribution of broadly equivalent value can be robustly justified.

Affordable housing developments will be allowed at sustainable rural settlements as an exception to policies of rural development restraint where it has been demonstrated that there is a requirement in terms of local need and a suitable site.

Provision of affordable housing within individual sites and settlements should not be concentrated in one location, and must be designed to integrate in function and appearance with private housing and existing properties.

**5.8** Full account will be taken of viability in achieving these targets where a site-specific viability assessment is provided with individual planning applications.

**5.9** It is expected that, to ensure the delivery of mixed and sustainable communities, affordable housing provision will be made on-site, especially on medium-scale and larger developments. Should this be shown to be impractical on a specific site, then an equivalent financial contribution will be required. This will be monitored and reviewed.

**5.10** The tenure mix within affordable housing products is set out in policy CSD1 to guide larger developments, based on evidence in the SHMA. For smaller developments these proportions may not be achievable, and the type of tenure will be negotiated in the context of local needs and the circumstances of individual sites.

**5.11** Nearly all non-urban housing areas face particularly acute problems of access to local housing, especially in the north of the district. To meet rural housing needs, and to address the often significantly more expensive nature of the district's rural housing markets, an 'exceptions' approach to rural affordable housing will be important as set out in national policy and Places and Policies Local Plan Policy HB6.



**District Residential Needs**

- Primary aims: A1, A4, A8, C2, C3, C5, D1, D2, D6 (see section 3.1).
- Main local evidence base studies: *Sustainability Appraisal*, *Strategic Housing Market Assessment (PBA, 2016-17)*; *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (Arc4)*.

**5.12** This policy covers a range of other strategic needs in the mix of residential development. Local planning authorities are required under national policy to plan for a mix of housing to meet the needs of different types of household, having regard to demographic trends and the accommodation requirements of specific groups. The district has an increasingly ageing population and a trend towards people living in smaller households.

**5.13** To plan for a sustainable community in line with strategic needs, an appropriate housing mix is required, meeting the needs of existing residents while also attracting new households; it is particularly important to appeal to families and key employees.

**5.14** A more balanced social make-up will support economic objectives and public services for all the community but developments must also be designed to address demographic pressures. Good residential development should respond to local needs for the right type of housing, and decently designed and sized accommodation provides the flexibility for a variety of living, caring and working arrangements to take place within the home.

## Policy CSD2

### District Residential Needs

Residential development and new accommodation should be designed and located in line with the spatial strategy's approach to managing demographic and labour market changes and meeting the specific requirements of vulnerable or excluded groups.

Within developments of 15 or more dwellings (net gain), where viable and practical:

- A range of housing tenures should be provided including owner-occupied and private rented and affordable housing in accordance with CSD1. The council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) will be used as a starting point for determining the mix of tenures; and
- A range of sizes of new dwellings should be provided. As a starting point, this range should reflect the mix identified in the SHMA as follows:

Tenure	One bed (per cent)	Two to three bed (per cent)	Four bed + (per cent)
Owner-occupied / private rent	5 - 20	65 - 70	15 - 30
Affordable tenures (shared ownership / affordable rent / social rent)	20 - 25	50 - 60	20 - 25

Specialist units for older people (Class C3(b)) will be delivered primarily through strategic allocations as part of a new garden settlement in the North Downs Area (Policies SS6-SS9) and expansion at Sellindge (Policy CSD9).

Elsewhere, residential accommodation providing an element of care will be permitted in line with the above and where:

- It does not lead to an over-concentration of socially vulnerable people in a neighbourhood, and
- It makes a suitable contribution as necessary to the community and sustainable transport infrastructure needs associated with residents, and
- It is shown to be designed to provide a high quality of care.

The accommodation needs of specific groups will be addressed on suitable sites based on evidence of local need, including appropriate provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

**5.15** The Spatial Strategy requires a mix of housing size to be provided, as set out in Policy CSD2. In planning decisions consideration should be given to the particular circumstances of the development including design, practicality (for example regarding the management of properties) and viability.

**5.16** The very elderly or other vulnerable people (including those with significant care needs) should be enabled to remain in their own homes wherever possible, as an alternative to institutional accommodation. The adaptation of existing housing stock to enable independent living is supported. Given the district's demographic

profile it is essential to build flexibility into new homes, enabling them to meet the lifelong needs of their occupants. (In turn this can reduce unnecessary demands on healthcare resources, although it may still be appropriate for developers to make a contribution towards needs that directly arise from new development in line with SS5.)

**5.17** Proposals that feature a mix of residential development, including dwellings that meet M4(3) Category 3: Wheelchair User Dwellings standards as set out in Building Regulations, will be welcomed. Kent County Council estimates that people with physical disabilities will be the most sizeable group of Adult Social Services clients arising from planned residential development. All accommodation designed to meet the needs of the elderly should meet the above standard and include suitable, accessible storage for mobility scooters.

**5.18** Alongside independent living support, new facilities that provide care for the elderly and other vulnerable groups may be required. In particular, large developments may provide an opportunity to construct facilities to contribute to more sustainable communities, in addition to new affordable housing and general market dwellings (Class C3).

**5.19** Development for care facilities should be integrated within neighbourhoods, with close consideration to a design and location appropriate to the needs of occupants. This relates to both the adequacy of services in the vicinity, and whether the proposals themselves would allow modern and effective care provision (both internally and through features for prospective residents such as suitable garden areas on-site).

#### Planning for travellers' sites

In August 2015 the Government introduced new guidance, 'Planning policy for traveller sites' which contains a revised definition of the term 'gypsies and travellers'. The council has completed a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), to reflect the new definition, working in partnership with the other Kent local planning authorities and consultancy Arc<sup>4</sup>.<sup>(3)</sup> Findings from the assessment will inform policy and site allocations in the review of the development plan.

#### Rural and Tourism Development

- Primary aims: A1, A2, A3, A8, B6, B7, B8, C5, C8, D2, D3, D4, D8 (see section 3.1).
- Main local evidence base studies: *Sustainability Appraisal, Rural Services Study, Employment Land Review*.

**5.20** This policy provides a district-wide approach to economic and social regeneration, complementing spatial strategy policies through addressing needs of small settlements, businesses and the countryside. In line with national policy a positive framework needs to be provided for more scattered functions and places, small business and rural needs, capitalising on sense of place and heritage. This must accord with countryside protection and sympathetic design and landscaping.

**5.21** Appropriate flexibility is needed for genuinely rural uses – including the exceptional rural housing need in areas outside settlements – where the countryside protection principle established in SS1 would otherwise substantially constrict development, and the detail of this may be brought forward through policies in neighbourhood plans. (In addition, Places and Policies Local Plan policies E6 and E7 contain further guidance on this issue.)

**5.22** Like most of Kent and many rural areas, the district's economy is reliant on the employment generated by small firms, but diversity brings its own resilience and a range of opportunities that need to be seized.

3 The new GTAA supersedes the East Kent Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment, (University of Salford, April 2014).

**5.23** Improved communications, particularly digital, can improve the competitive offer of rural East Kent economies. The rural parts of the district have particular infrastructure and communication needs, particularly regeneration requirements in places like Romney Marsh. More immediate benefits to business from upgrades such as High Speed 1 rail are most likely to be felt in Folkestone and the M20 corridor, but competitive advantages accrue in 'access dependent' sectors elsewhere (for example tourism).

**5.24** Improved connectivity will be important, through maximising transport choice, reinforcing coastal travel routes, and promoting rural cycling and walking as healthy activities in their own right.

**5.25** Many of the district's enterprises, especially smaller ones, are found in its villages and countryside. In particular, tourism-related activities have traditionally been important along the coast. Tourism activities (visiting an area for leisure, business or family reasons) by their nature present challenges in co-ordinating the work of different sectors and the mix of attractions and accommodation across a wide area. Overnight stays by visitors to the district need to increase to maximise value to the local economy.

**5.26** The district still retains many traditional tourism facilities, especially in coastal areas – for instance beach resorts and the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway – as well as accommodation such as caravan and camping parks on the Romney Marsh.



### Features of the Rural and Coastal Built Environment


	Conservation Areas		Churches		Military Museums
	District Boundaries		Acoustic Mirrors		Castles
	Settlements		Windmills		Martello Towers
	Royal Military Canal				

Figure 5.1 Features of the rural and coastal built environment

**5.27** Figure 5.1 shows that although clusters exist on the coast, key features of the district's attractive historic environment are also found across the North Downs and Romney Marsh, especially the built environment and military artefacts. The latter may particularly help to attract visitors given increasing interest in the area's role as a frontier in times of national conflict.

**5.28** The Heritage Strategy identifies the positive role heritage can play in the district's future, including:

- Acting as a catalyst for economic and social regeneration;
- Encouraging tourism and visitors; and
- Contributing to improved public health and wellbeing.

**5.29** However, while proposals affecting heritage assets will be considered positively, some assets are worthy of conservation for their significance alone and some may be incapable of re-use or being made viable. Places and Policies Local Plan policy HE1 supports proposals that provide, where possible, a viable use that assists in social and economic regeneration and ensures the long term protection, conservation and, where appropriate, the enhancement of heritage assets in line with legislation.

**5.30** This approach will be complemented by the restoration and enhancement of historic military landmarks within towns, and the upgrade of cultural attractions in the Urban Area. Events in and around the town centres, such as the Folkestone Triennial, are drawing in new visitors. Improvements to the public realm and the retail, leisure and cultural mix of centres, and maintaining sufficient accommodation will underpin tourism in the Urban Area in line with policies CSD6, CSD7 and SS10.

## Policy CSD3

### Rural and Tourism Development

Proposals for new development in locations outside the settlement hierarchy may only be allowed if a rural or coastal location is essential, and to meet green infrastructure requirements. Development in these locations will only be acceptable in principle if forming a site for:

- a. affordable housing (rural exceptions in accordance with CSD1, or allocated sites)
- b. agriculture, forestry or equine development
- c. sustainable rural diversification, and tourism enterprises as set out below
- d. local public or essential services and community facilities in line with policies SS3/4
- e. replacement buildings (on a like-for-like basis)
- f. conversions of buildings that contribute to the character of their location
- g. sustainable rural transport improvements
- h. essential flood defences or strategic coastal recreation.

To underpin the sustainable development of the countryside, the loss of facilities in the centre of any village will be resisted unless appropriately demonstrated to be unviable, and rural economic diversification will be supported, especially through the re-use or refurbishment of redundant rural buildings.

Tourist, recreation and rural economic uses will be appropriately protected and new development allowed within defined settlements in the settlement hierarchy. Where sites are unavailable within settlements – and development is proportionate in scale/impact and also accessible by a choice of means of transport – it may also be acceptable on the edge of Strategic Towns and Service Centres, and failing that, Rural Centres and Primary Villages.

Rural economic development must be consistent with green infrastructure (GI) and coastal and water environment principles.

**5.31** The district's rural areas offer a range of attractions from Stelling Minnis in the AONB through to Dungeness at the southern tip of the district. The district's high-quality natural environment can help to support 'footloose' enterprises, existing tourist accommodation and opportunities for new small-scale high-quality accommodation and marketing of local food, drink, craft and natural produce. The North Downs offers particular opportunities for investment in existing tourist facilities, including Westenhanger and Lympne Castles, through the development of a new garden settlement (see policies SS6-SS9) and at, or adjoining, Port Lympne Reserve, subject to sympathetic consideration of the natural and historic environment.

**5.32** As a rural district with places of particular interest to visitors specifically because of their unique environments (for example, Dungeness), rural and coastal development must be appropriately managed. Planning for rural areas should therefore sympathetically utilise and enrich the beauty and character of the countryside. Therefore this policy should be read in parallel with national policy and environmental and coastal policy, particularly with green infrastructure provisions (CSD4) and Habitats Regulations Assessment findings on recreational uses and impact. Given the characteristics of the district, the scope of this policy is wide. In the countryside, rural services and infrastructure for residents and visitors alike may be found in a range of locations and serve far afield. It is an important principle that the stock of rural economic or social uses should be managed for the benefit of the countryside as a whole. National policy requires that services and facilities found within settlements should be retained and protected.

**5.33** There is a particular sensitivity around new buildings and structures in the countryside. This is especially so in landscapes such as the AONB or where not within or adjoining villages. Existing building(s) that contribute to the character and appearance of the local area by virtue of their historic traditional or vernacular form and are in sound structural condition should be retained and re-used. Buildings should be converted without requiring substantial alteration, extension or rebuilding, and proposed works must not detract from the character of the building(s) or their setting. Re-use and conversion of buildings can also be more resource efficient and sustainable than new build development.

### Green Infrastructure of Natural Networks, Open Spaces and Recreation

- Primary aims: *B1, B3, B4, B6, B7, C4, D4, D5, D8* (see section 3.1).
- Main local evidence base studies: *Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment (sites other than Dungeness complex), Habitats Regulations Assessment (Dungeness SAC, Dungeness to Pett Level SPA), Green Infrastructure Report, Open Space Strategy (2017), Play Area Review (2017), Play Area Strategy (2017)*.

**5.34** This policy covers the district's varied and extensive green and open spaces. To enable a strategic approach a 'green infrastructure' (GI) perspective is used. It complements the fundamental objectives of countryside protection and urban regeneration; and the policy's GI principles can also apply to the district's water features and coast.

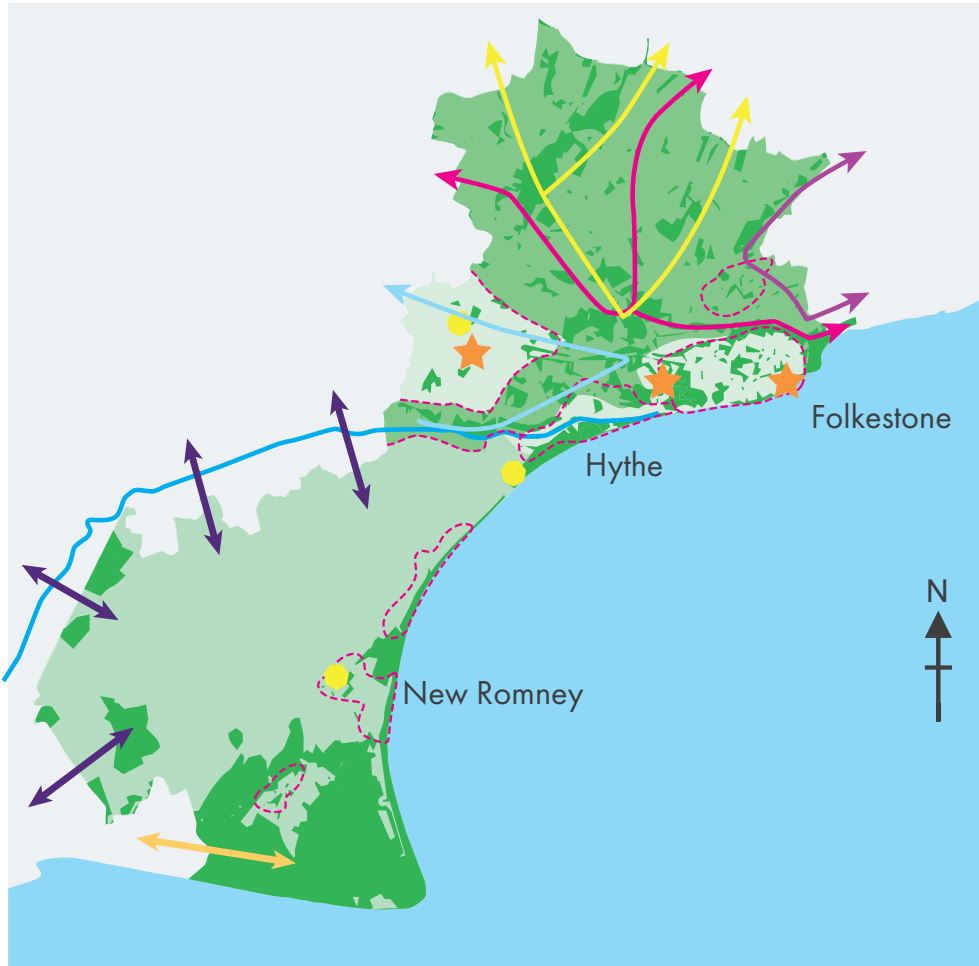
**5.35** The following definition<sup>(4)</sup> is applied for this plan: "*For the purposes of spatial planning the term Green Infrastructure relates to active planning and management of sub-regional networks of multi-functional open space. These networks should be managed and designed to support biodiversity and wider quality of life, particularly in areas undergoing large scale change*".

**5.36** Climate change is a major issue that will affect land use and development, particularly around the coast. The GI approach offers land management and site-specific opportunities to co-ordinate local mitigation and adaptation, parallel with spatial strategy measures to reduce carbon emissions such as through more sustainable modes and patterns of travel.

**5.37** Climate change and associated flood risks illustrate how GI provisions should be applied alongside policy (CSD5) on water and the coastline.

4 Land Use Consultants (2009) South East Green Infrastructure Framework from Policy into Practice

**5.38** Natural and open spaces, including inland aquatic environments, enhance the district's character and the quality of its towns and villages. The different functions of these spaces are not mutually exclusive, and this multi-functional dimension has underpinned the concept of planning for an integrated 'green infrastructure'. For example, forests can produce fuel, define a landscape, hold recreational value, play a positive role in biodiversity and contribute to combating climate change.



### Green Infrastructure Network

Strategic Green Infrastructure Opportunities		Green Infrastructure Layers
Royal Military Canal	Potential to Reinforce Mid Kent Greensand & Gault BOA Corridor	Romney Marshes
Strategic Sites	Potential to Reinforce Chalk Grassland BOA Corridor	AONB
Major Areas of Change with Potential GI Connections with Surrounding Landscape	Potential to Reinforce East Kent Woodland & Downs BOA Corridor	Strategic & Local Green Infrastructure Wash
Romney Marsh & Rye Bay Habitat	Potential to Reinforce Dover & Folkestone Cliffs & Downs BOA Corridor	
Romney Marsh Connections with Ashford and Rother	GI Strategic Fringe Zones	

Figure 5.2 Green Infrastructure Network



**5.39** It is not the case, however, that in all instances all facets of GI are necessarily equally sustainable or suitable; this is contingent on the nature of the asset. Some sites have a recognised primary function and may be sensitive to other uses and warrant strong protection for that sole purpose, and their future sustainable management should be based on a precautionary principle.

**5.40** A range of internationally protected habitats are notable within the district, including the Dungeness/Romney Marsh complex, with the United Kingdom's largest shingle structure at Dungeness (demonstrating the most diverse and extensive examples of stable vegetated shingle in Europe) and the grassland sites at Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment, and Park Gate Down.

**5.41** The district's international Natura 2000 series sites (shown in Figure 2.8) are protected by the Habitats Regulations. Following assessment<sup>(5)</sup> of the 2013 Core Strategy's compliance with these regulations, the council is working with partners to ensure the integrity of international habitats (areas outside the boundaries of international sites where these support the species for which an international site has been selected will also be protected). Key principles in this regard are set out below for Dungeness.

**5.42** As a funder of the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership, the council has long supported work to sustainably manage tourism and recreation at Dungeness and will continue to do so. By working with stakeholders including Natural England, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Environment Agency, landowners and neighbouring authorities, the council is developing a sustainable access strategy for the area – which may include proposals to support sustainable visiting and to monitor impacts on the Dungeness Natura 2000 series sites. Given the breadth of its membership and its cross-boundary scope, the Romney Marshes Living Landscape project, or a similar grouping, would appear to offer a good vehicle to achieve such a strategy.

**5.43** With regard to the internationally important calcareous grassland, improved GI management and evidence gathering, including site monitoring, is specifically recognised as a necessary part of sustainable development and this applies district-wide. As at Dungeness, the council has long supported work to sustainably manage the Downs and will continue to do so through working with partners including the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, Natural England and the Kent Downs AONB Unit, to explore new opportunities to monitor impacts and manage the Folkestone–Etchinghill international habitat.

**5.44** After internationally designated sites, protection and enhancement will apply to green infrastructure district-wide, but guided through recognising a hierarchy of sites such as national Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and then sub-national designations (for example Kent Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)<sup>(6)</sup> habitats and geological sites and Local Wildlife Sites).

**5.45** There are other areas of strategic opportunity for biodiversity improvements in the district and these will be addressed through the green infrastructure strategy, with action complementing management of development through the planning system. At the local level, Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) corridors are shown on Figure 5.2 to inform protection, and increase connectivity and habitat creation. Some linear features, including other habitats and the coastal environments and watercourses (notably the Royal Military Canal) are also of major significance due to their multi-functional and cross-boundary nature. The multi-functional nature of green infrastructure also encompasses other more local open spaces and play areas, and a network of these spaces is identified in the Open Space Strategy, Play Area Review and Play Area Strategy.<sup>(7)</sup> These documents assess the quantity, accessibility, quality and value of the district's open and play spaces and contain recommendations for their conservation and enhancement to meet future needs. Reference should also be made to Sport England's 'Active Design' guide which aims to maximise the opportunities for design in physical activity.

**5.46** In short, using this evidence the council will coordinate efforts to conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and geological diversity and to increase provision of, and sustainably managed access to, green infrastructure within the district. This policy will support a programme of action on critical sites between partners from across administrative boundaries. To verify this, green infrastructure, in particular the condition of key sites and the implications of developments, will be a focus of increased monitoring.

5 URS/Scott Wilson (2012) Habitat Regulations Assessment for Dungeness & URS/Scott Wilson (2012) Habitat Regulations Assessment for sites other than Dungeness

6 Kent BAP Steering Group (1997) Kent Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

7 Open Space Strategy, LUC, 2017; Play Area Review, LUC, 2017; Play Area Strategy, LUC, 2017

**5.47** The district's coastal environment is clearly a defining element of the district's green infrastructure, as acknowledged in this plan's place-shaping objectives and Figure 5.2. In addition to marine-related habitats, the coast provides outdoor recreation for residents and visitors. The general multi-functional principle of green infrastructure needs careful consideration in this respect, as development of these functions may not be mutually complementary. However a tailored green infrastructure approach recognises that the varied nature of the coast (indeed all water assets as covered in policy CSD5) can manage stretches of coastline sustainably. A positive and integrated approach can relieve potential pressures on sensitive elements of green infrastructure, through absorbing and managing activities such as coastal recreation in places best served for that purpose, enabling enhanced protection of other key natural environments.

**5.48** It is particularly important for green infrastructure that development is consistent with coastal management plans. Proposals must not adversely affect dynamic coastal processes and should avoid unnecessarily exacerbating 'coastal squeeze' impacts as recognised in the Habitat Regulations Assessment and elsewhere.

## Policy CSD4

### Green Infrastructure of Natural Networks, Open Spaces and Recreation

Improvements in green infrastructure (GI) assets in the district will be actively encouraged as will an increase in the quantity of GI delivered by the council working with partners and developers in and around the sub-region, including through pursuing opportunities to secure net gains in biodiversity, and positive management of areas of high landscape quality or high coastal/recreational potential.

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. Moreover:

- a. Development must avoid a net loss of biodiversity, achieve net gain over and above residual loss.
- b. The highest level of protection in accordance with statutory requirements will be given to protecting the integrity of sites of international nature conservation importance.
- c. A high level of protection will be given to nationally designated sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Ancient Woodland) where development will avoid any significant impact.
- d. Appropriate and proportionate protection will be given to habitats that support higher-level designations, and sub-national and locally designated wildlife/geological sites (including Kent Biodiversity Action Plan habitats, and other sites of nature conservation interest).
- e. Planning decisions will have close regard to the need for conservation and enhancement of natural beauty in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and its setting, which will take priority over other planning considerations. Elsewhere development must not jeopardise the protection and enhancement of the district's distinctive and diverse local landscapes (especially where these support the setting of the AONB), and must reflect the need for attractive and high-quality open spaces throughout the district.

The GI network shown in Figure 5.2 and identified in supporting evidence, and other strategic open space, will be managed with a focus on:

- Adapting to and managing climate change effects.
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and access to nature, particularly in green corridors and other GI strategic opportunities in Figure 5.2, with appropriate management of public access (including the Sustainable Access Strategy for Dungeness and together with a strategic approach to the international sites as detailed above); and also avoiding development which results in significant fragmentation or isolation of natural habitats.
- Identifying opportunities to expand the GI functions of greenspaces and their contribution to a positive sense of place (including enhancements to public open spaces and outdoor sports facilities).
- Tackling network and qualitative deficiencies in the most accessible, or ecologically or visually important GI elements, including improving the GI strategic fringe zones in Figure 5.2 through landscape improvements or developing corridors with the potential to better link greenspaces and settlements.

**5.49** The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is the largest countryside designation in the district. The Kent Downs AONB Landscape Design Handbook is used for development management and can continue to inform development decisions in order that they best contribute to GI and AONB objectives. Landscapes outside the AONB should primarily be managed through the above green infrastructure policy and national policy, as landscapes can play an important role in supporting the district's varied character.

**5.50** 'Natura 2000' series habitats benefit from specific protection under the Habitats Regulations (Appropriate Assessment), but spatial planning for GI purposes can still offer benefits through setting out positive and integrated management provisions. These district-wide features, along with the GI assets of the central part of the district, suggest priorities in delivering network improvements.

#### **Appropriate Assessment Key Findings: Dungeness<sup>(8)</sup>**

The Appropriate Assessment of Dungeness for the Core Strategy has highlighted a range of issues in relation to the Natura 2000 series habitats. Some aspects of management through the planning system will primarily take place in more detailed planning policy documents, or directly through planning applications (e.g. supporting ecological studies must have regard to the supporting habitats not designated but still associated with protected habitats, especially in Romney Marsh; if such land is lost then – if significant – alternative provision may need to be secured).

The specific proposals of the spatial strategy avoid substantial impacts on ecologically sensitive land, but Appropriate Assessment has identified that indirect implications through potential increases in recreational pressure must be addressed, especially for Dungeness's Natura 2000 series habitats. Any plans, programmes or approaches introduced to promote greater tourism or watersports usage (either in relation to tourism and policy CSD3 or any other initiative) of these sites will:

- Be required to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment, to protect the integrity of the habitats (this applies to planning policy proposals in any instance and can include other measures, for example planning for new paths, cycle routes, visitor facilities etc).
- Be required to follow an agreed formal Sustainable Access Strategy (implementation must not commence prior to the strategy) including considering provisions for improving sustainable access to/from the Dungeness area.

The Sustainable Access Strategy for Dungeness will identify resources, oversee the update of surveys of visitor usage and activity, and decide on appropriate management interventions (which may include increased stewardship, surveillance, education and further targeted controls on public access).

**5.51** GI features – including parks, play spaces and sports pitches<sup>(9)</sup> – in population centres are also highly valued for their accessibility and contribution to local neighbourhoods, despite covering a less extensive area. There are a large number of facilities such as outdoor sports grounds, parks and playspace providing for the district's population, although their quality varies substantially. Improvements to provision should enhance green infrastructure through complementary functions, for example the promotion of wildlife on the perimeter of sports fields.

**5.52** Folkestone and Hythe now have some high-quality major open spaces including the Coastal Park, and improvements to various play spaces have been delivered in neighbourhoods across the district. Working with partners, most notably the De Haan Charitable Trust, a package of improvements in west Folkestone has been agreed centred on the Three Hills Sports Ground, Cheriton Road, in close proximity to a number of the town's

8 URS/Scott Wilson (2012) Habitat Regulations Assessment for Dungeness

9 Private domestic spaces, such as gardens, often not normally regarded as part of the GI network, may play a key role in underpinning urban biodiversity.

secondary schools. The challenge is to ensure further progress, including at Shorncliffe (SS11); the delivery of new sports and play facilities elsewhere within the district; and that national policy continues to be addressed in the implementation of this policy.

**5.53** As the concept of GI addresses the integration of open spaces, places and natural networks to help their management for environmental and human needs, one potential area of significance is land in and around the edge of settlements. This 'urban fringe' is a logical place of interest given its role as a zone between where most people live and the large GI features often found within the open countryside. Urban fringe problems are often most acute where development has been most significant (such as at Hawkinge). 'Strategic Fringe Zones' in Figure 5.2 show current areas of GI interest in this respect, and potential future focal locations are also shown.

**5.54** Traditionally this has been considered in terms of landscaping but the urban/rural fringe is better not considered in isolation but in multi-functional terms. Similarly a spatial approach can also focus on corridors that may function as a key link for biodiversity and residents between urban areas and larger expanses of green infrastructure.

**5.55** In and around urban areas, development should be planned to deliver multiple GI benefits, involving provision and upgrading of public parks, remedying of deficiencies in sports provision, provision of play spaces in deprived areas and the provision of allotments. An example of potential improvements to GI that could be delivered under the Core Strategy Review is the Seabrook Valley (see policy SS11).

## Water and Coastal Environmental Management

- Primary aims: *B1, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, C4, D4, D9* (see section 3.1).
- Main local evidence base studies: *Sustainability Appraisal, Water Cycle Report, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment*.

**5.56** The policy covers a range of issues relating to water, supplementing SS3 which focuses on strategic flood risk by addressing flooding, water and coastal issues.

**5.57** The populous South East England already suffers incidents of water stress and low rainfall. This will be further exacerbated with climate change and more extreme weather events intensifying summer drought or flooding in the winter period. Given the district's natural characteristics it is covered by a special Water Scarcity Status (formally designated in 2006) and the careful management of the water cycle is critical to ensure reliable supply and protection of the district's key environmental assets.

**5.58** The Water Framework Directive<sup>(10)</sup> presents a serious challenge to deliver sufficient upgrades in the quality of water bodies (including groundwater) in a relatively rapid timescale, and one where local planning decisions can assist. The protection of water supply and quality falls under the jurisdiction of a number of bodies: notably the Environment Agency, Kent County Council, the council, the Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board and water companies.

**5.59** The district's coastal location means that it is susceptible to maritime flooding and therefore requires significant flood defences. However, coastal land contributes positively to the district's ecology and natural networks while, more accessible coastal environments are subject to both developmental and recreational pressures. Consequently, an integrated and strategic approach to the water cycle and coastal environments is required.

10 And the Environment Agency's (December 2015) South East River Basin District: River Basin Management Plan


**5.60** The district's hydrology presents a contrast between the river basins of the Stour in the north and Rother in the south, as shown in Figure 5.3. The chalk and greensand geology underneath the rolling countryside in the north provides for the district's principal aquifers, vital assets for the district. In the south, the Romney Marsh has a dense network of drainage channels and the Royal Military Canal, and some particularly sensitive ecological attributes.

**5.61** Climate change will increase the risk of flooding from all sources. The key requirements in relation to major flooding risks and the location of development are included in policy SS3. In particular, all development at risk of flooding should be subject to a site-specific flood risk assessment (appropriate to the scale and type of development), and developers will be required to contribute to mitigation and/or relief measures which will reduce the overall risk of flooding.

**5.62** In addition, developers should strive to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water and foul water and its contribution to fluvial flooding, reducing the amount of water discharged to foul water drainage. The Flooding and Water Management Act (2010) requires developers to consider Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), and this should include provisions for their long-term management. In all instances developers should aim to reduce the rate of water runoff from sites.



### Watercourses of the District

1	East Stour	6	Brockhill Stream		Watercourses
2	Nailbourne	7	Royal Military Canal		District Boundaries
3	Pent Stream	8	New Sewer		Kent
4	Seabrook Stream	9	White Kemp Sewer		Settlement
5	Saltwood & Mill Leese Stream	10	Jury's Gut Sewer		

**Figure 5.3 District Watercourses**

**5.63** In terms of supply, Affinity Water currently serves all the major centres of population in district, including the strategic sites and broad locations of the Core Strategy Review. The local Water Resources Management Plan<sup>(11)</sup> sets out how a positive supply/demand balance will be maintained. The company has investigated the way in which it can encourage its customers to use water more efficiently through measures including leakage reduction and a tariff-based system of demand management charges.

11 Affinity Water (June 2014) 'Our Plan for Customers and Communities' Final Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2020. (The Water Resources Management Plan 2020-2080 is currently in preparation.)

**5.64** As the district falls within a designated Water Scarcity Status Area, water efficiency measures are necessary in new developments and supported by the Environment Agency. The Water Cycle Report<sup>(12)</sup> assesses the implications of the spatial strategy on water resources; as part of this, planning policy will support efforts to significantly reduce average domestic consumption.

**5.65** Most of the district's recent residential planning permissions have required Code for Sustainable Homes standards, predominantly at what was level 3. This level (and Code level 4) required design features to enable a maximum consumption of 105 litres of water per person per day. Since the adoption of the 2013 Core Strategy, there have been significant changes to the planning and building regulations systems relating to energy efficiency and low carbon development. Following the Housing Standards Review, the Code for Sustainable Homes was withdrawn (effective from 26 March 2015). As a result of this, local planning authorities can no longer stipulate compliance with Code levels or require Code assessments in planning policy. In place of this, the government introduced a number of changes to building regulations standards, along with some new standards. These included for water (Part G), a new optional standard (110 litres per person per day) for water-stressed areas that has been added to the baseline standard of Part G (125 litres per person per day).

**5.66** The council requires that all new development meets the new optional standard. Proposals that achieve the water-related elements of good design standards and exceed the optional standard will be encouraged, and will be required for the new garden town to ensure it fully meets the principles at the heart of the garden settlement movement. For non-residential developments, the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) is the most commonly accepted assessment tool by which to judge and require increased sustainability standards. In relation to water, non-residential developments will be expected to reach a minimum of the BREEAM 'Outstanding' standard.

**5.67** These standards will support wider measures (including through CSD4), encouraging the more efficient use of water through fully integrated water management practices that significantly reduce pressure on water resources and also decrease discharges. These opportunities can all contribute to climate change mitigation measures.

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12 Water Cycle Report, Folkestone & Hythe District Council.



## Policy CSD5

### Water and Coastal Environmental Management

Development should contribute to sustainable water resource management which maintains or improves the quality and quantity of surface and ground water bodies, and where applicable, the quality of the coastal environment and bathing waters.

This will be achieved by protecting or enhancing natural water reserves through sustainable design and construction, managing development in relation to wastewater infrastructure, and promoting long-term resilience to climatic pressures on the coast and water systems. Proposals must be designed to contribute to the maintenance of a sustainable supply of water resources in the district; the achievement of water management plans for the district; and the maintenance of coastal ecological habitats (through seeking to avoid the inhibition of natural coastal processes).

Development will be permitted where the following criteria are met:

- a. All developments should incorporate water efficiency measures appropriate to the scale and nature of the use proposed. Planning applications for the construction of new dwellings should include specific design features and demonstrate a maximum level of usage to meet the higher water efficiency standard under Regulation 36(3) of the Building Regulations to achieve a maximum use of 110 litres per person per day (including external water use). Proposals should demonstrate that water efficiency and water re-use measures have been maximised and should seek to significantly exceed this standard.
- b. For non-residential development, the development achieves BREEAM 'outstanding' standard addressing maximum water efficiencies under the mandatory water credits, where technically feasible and viable; and
- c. New buildings and dwellings must be delivered in line with wastewater capacity, and designed so as to ensure that peak rate of surface water runoff from the site is not increased above the existing surface water runoff rate, incorporating appropriate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and water management features, with full consideration given to integration of water management. The quality of water passed on to watercourses and the sea must be maintained or improved, and flood risk must not be increased by developments within the district.

Water reserves and the coastal environment will be maintained and enhanced through the council working with partners to manage development and upgrade water infrastructure and quality, and through green infrastructure provisions (policy CSD4).

**5.68** Policy CSD5 highlights that the objectives of efficient water management and measures such as sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) need to be balanced with long-term coastal management and planning decisions.

**5.69** It will also be necessary to ensure that development on brownfield land includes an appropriate strategy for addressing past contamination, where present, on a risk assessed basis. In practical terms this could lead to conflict with the objective to the implementation of SuDS, as infiltration drainage is not always appropriate on brownfield sites.

**5.70** When planning new development and growth it is important to consider both local and strategic wastewater infrastructure. Local infrastructure generally comprises local sewers funded by the development, whereas strategic infrastructure encompasses trunk sewers, pumping stations and wastewater treatment works and is normally funded by the water company. Specific construction features (such as separate and adoptable quality foul and surface water sewers) are important to new developments.

**5.71** Capacity in the sewerage system is finite and the spare capacity available (headroom) varies from location to location. 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 or provide appropriate on-site solutions. The council will consider applying appropriate planning conditions when granting planning permission.

**5.72** Most of the district's water supply comes from groundwater sources. Water resources must be maintained, and ground source protection zones must be effective. Pollution prevention measures are required in areas of high groundwater (in consultation with the Environment Agency and Natural England). A key target of the Water Framework Directive is to aim for a 'good' status for all water bodies by 2015, where this is not possible the aim is to achieve 'good' status by 2021 or 2027. The aim is also to achieve 'good' ecological potential and 'good' surface water chemical status for heavily modified water bodies and artificial water bodies.

**5.73** New developments should explore options other than a reliance on tank storage; for example the incorporation of open water storage and conveyance (including swales and wetlands) as a positive design feature of developments.

**5.74** Coastal areas face issues of specific economic development pressures and opportunities, and risks from changing physical conditions<sup>(13)</sup>. Beaches along the district's central and eastern coastline are important for leisure and fishing. Elsewhere, there are a number of prominent coastal areas in addition to Dungeness, for example the Dover–Folkestone Heritage Coast, requiring flexible management that balances conservation and public access.

**5.75** This applies both to impacts from the possible overall growth of recreational pressures (see Appropriate Assessment provisions for Dungeness<sup>(14)</sup>, policy CSD4) and developments in the immediate vicinity. The strategy's green infrastructure approach offers principles for integrated management.

**5.76** Coastal defences provide essential security for many parts of the district. In terms of flood risk and development proposals on the coast, under policy SS3, a site-specific flood risk assessment (FRA) will be required due to over-topping risks close to the coast. Policy CSD5 sets out that development should avoid adverse impact on coastal habitats and allow species adaptivity ('coastal squeeze'), and maintain the integrity of existing defences (including with sufficient access or development set back to allow maintenance and improvement of defences). Core Strategy Review policy may also require that developments strengthen the green infrastructure network through measures such as the improvement of watercourses, coastal environmental management, or flood prevention; developer contributions for these purposes will be explored in line with SS5.

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13 Halcrow for South East Coastal Group (2007) South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan and The Environment Agency (February 2015) Folkestone to Cliff End Flood and Erosion Management Strategy

14 URS/Scott Wilson (2012) Habitat Regulations Assessment for Dungeness

## 5.2 Areas of Strategic Change

**5.77** Provisions for Core Strategy Review delivery in places of change are presented around the three district character areas introduced and mapped in Figure 1.2.

### The Urban Area

Primary area aims : A2, A8, A9, B3, B7, C6, C9, D2, D3, D5, D7 (see Chapter 3, including Future Vision).

Main local evidence base studies: SHLAA Update, Employment Land Review and Folkestone Town Centre Spatial Strategy.

**5.78** This area comprises the Folkestone and Hythe wards (65,700 of the district's population in the 2011 census). The Urban Area includes centres and facilities that provide much of the district's cultural, educational, health and sporting facilities (policy SS3 and policy SS4).

**5.79** To provide an overview of spatial issues within the area, the following table highlights priority areas for regeneration, building on the spatial strategy (also note the deprivation map Figure 2.6).

Community	Necessity and rationale	See also
<i>Central Folkestone</i>	Reasserting its role as an appealing, well-connected, sub-regional centre for commerce, entertainment, culture, tourism and a high-quality coastal living environment. Framework set for charitable and private sectors working in partnership, to secure spatial and sectoral benefits to other parts of the town.	Policy CSD6 below, and policy SS10
<i>Northern/Eastern Folkestone</i>	Regenerating its quality and choice of housing and associated community and local services, expanding local employment and reducing deprivation and disparities within the town. Public sector-led neighbourhood regeneration to be increasingly complemented by market-led investment in area.	Policy SS4
<i>Cheriton</i>	Improving its appeal by enhancing community service provision, choice of housing and connectivity to Folkestone West Station. Maintain local shops and improve Cheriton High Street. Led by a mix of national/local public sector investment and private development.	Policies SS11 and SS4
<i>Western Hythe</i>	Expanding its role as a community at the heart of the district providing a wider choice of housing, commercial and local services for the town and district, primarily through private sector development.	Policy CSD7 below

**Table 5.1 Priority areas for regeneration**

**5.80** In the attractive and popular environments of Hythe and West Folkestone the focus will be on further action to maintain their sense of place in line with policy SS3. The accessibility and relative appeal to commercial investment means there are clear opportunities for development of under-used or previously developed land. Development should preserve and enhance the built form and retain important open spaces that characterise the area. Urban environments with a variety of uses, natural surveillance and high pedestrian flows can also promote security and minimise anti-social behaviour.

**5.81** For instance at Sandgate, the local centre is recognised in policy SS4 and there is potential for development to contribute to the upgrade of the High Street. Sandgate hosts the major office headquarters of Saga, an important employer for the district. The council will support Sandgate Parish Council in delivering

sustainable development in line with strategic needs. As well as the need to address traffic problems identified in the Transport Strategy<sup>(15)</sup>, public realm upgrades could include improvements to the beach area and the upgrading of existing and provision of new facilities.

**5.82** Cheriton High Street is also identified in SS4 as a Priority Centre of Activity, and serves a wide community. It provides a wide range of services and a number of independent stores; however, its long length means it is a disjointed high street. With local travel and junction upgrades there could be opportunities for public realm improvements (for example, co-ordinated signage, lighting, repairs to pavements, seating, green space and cycle storage). It may be appropriate under policy SS5 for developments to contribute to the delivery of suitable projects.

**5.83** There are evident economic and community development opportunities across the towns. Although Folkestone town centre acts as the major catalyst for transformation, it is also appropriate under the spatial strategy (policy SS4) to focus on securing further employment development, especially in the north and east of Folkestone and in and west of Hythe town centre, with the new garden town providing opportunities for transformational employment provision within the district. The improving coastal recreation and cultural offer of the Urban Area complements the rural tourism attractions encouraged under policies SS10 and CSD3.

**5.84** There are opportunities to tackle deprivation through significant job creation and training programmes, potentially as part of developer contributions. This should also be related to investment in education in Folkestone and Hythe in partnership with Kent County Council and other organisations to ensure that the right skills are available to potential employers. Housing and employment growth at the new garden town will provide significant opportunities to attract and retain residents of working age, assisting new and existing companies in retaining and recruiting a skilled workforce.

**5.85** Improvements to educational facilities can raise standards, behaviour and performance. This will be an important element of tackling deprivation, not least as all but one of the district's state secondary schools are within the urban area. Upgrades to the school building stock and improvements to the layout of educational sites will be supported, particularly where arrangements are included for additional community use of premises and sporting facilities. Civic buildings, including education provision at the garden town, should be of the highest design standard and environmental performance, so as to engender a sense of place and 'set the bar' at the highest level for private sector buildings.

**5.86** In relation to secondary and special education, there is a particular need to support investment in the fabric of school buildings and supporting facilities such as suitable and accessible playing fields. Enhancement of further and higher education provision is also important in Folkestone and Hythe - recent provision at 'The Beacon' in Folkestone has been delivered by Kent County Council, with a requirement for further secondary school and special education provision at the new garden town.

**5.87** The provisions of policy CSD4 are pertinent, particularly for improving access to sports and green spaces within and on the edge of the towns. In line with policy SS5, development contributions will be sought for upgrades to the open spaces and sports provision of Folkestone and Hythe where a need is generated by the development. Some small- and medium-sized parks and play spaces in and around this area also need improvement.

**5.88** The Core Strategy Review supports and seeks to directly contribute to plans to substantially improve the quality of sport provision in Folkestone and Hythe. A significant programme of upgrading of sports facilities is in preparation by the council, town councils and voluntary and charitable groups. The implementation and completion of plans for major new facilities at Cheriton Road Sports Ground, as delivered at the new Three Hills facility, the new urban sports park in Folkestone, current enhancements to Folkestone Sports Centre, and improvements in central Hythe (through the provision of a replacement swimming pool and leisure centre) will significantly contribute to quality of life and health and recreation provision. Further investment is likely to be required elsewhere in the district over the plan period, including at the new garden town and Sellindge.

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15 AECOM (2017) Transport Strategy

**5.89** The location of major new sports and leisure facilities or pitches in the Urban Area can best serve demand across the district, albeit the provision of a new garden settlement will generate need, as well as provide opportunity for provision that serves the surrounding area. The delivery of major developments at the former Nickolls Quarry, Hythe, Folkestone Seafront and Shorncliffe Garrison will all provide significant new investment in water sports and team sports pitches, with further facilities to be delivered through Section 106 agreement at allocations within this plan. More local coastal access and recreation opportunities should be managed in accordance with policies CSD4 and CSD5. Investment in other sports should continue through a variety of sources; similar opportunities may exist in the district's smaller urban parks.

**5.90** Biodiversity, nature conservation objectives and other less formal open spaces are important both within and adjacent to large towns. Therefore development should where appropriate contribute to enhancing these aspects of green infrastructure (policy CSD4). This approach also improves the visual integration of the urban area into the surrounding countryside and coast.

**5.91** The council will work with town and parish councils to provide additional allotments to address any long-term deficiencies in the Urban Area as well as elsewhere in the district, as identified by recent evidence supporting this plan.

- **Central Folkestone**

**5.92** The arrival of the railways and the rise of tourism shaped much of Folkestone's historic growth. The town now benefits from good transport links, and retains a significant stock of hotel accommodation, but has failed to fully utilise the advantages of its coastal location in more recent years, particularly in East Folkestone. Investment in the 'Creative Quarter' and Folkestone seafront has seen an increase in visitors to the town, with recent investment in hotels further supporting a resurgence in the town's role as a cultural and tourist destination.

**5.93** Further new development in central Folkestone should support the town's expansion and sub-regional role, helping to enhance infrastructure, services and jobs.

**5.94** Inner Folkestone presents a varied environment and contrasting opportunities, as outlined in the following summary box. Areas notable for their appealing built form and greenery, such as Folkestone's West End, adjoin the core of the town centre. However, the highway network is complex, with numerous one-way streets and a ring road system that encloses the commercial heart. The topography of the town has also impeded its growth and regeneration, adding vertical distance to places in close physical proximity. Pedestrian links are poor between the Harbour, the Seafront, the Leas, the Town Centre and the bus and railway stations, with recent changes to the circulatory system seeking to improve connectivity and reduce journey times for public transport. Further investment in restoring historic cliff paths is proposed, while investment in the restoration of the Grade II\* listed Leas Lift should be a priority.

### Central Folkestone Urban Design and Movement: Summary Points<sup>(16)</sup>

#### *Identified strengths:*

- There are good rail connections, with Folkestone Central Station within walking distance from the town centre and nearby access to the Channel Tunnel providing links to France and continental Europe.
- Grand Victorian architecture, imposing buildings and the abundance of intricate detailing, grid-like development pattern and tree-lined avenues promote strength of character, especially in the town's West End.
- The coastal setting of The Leas offers quality public open space with impressive views. The historic core of The Old High Street, Harbour and The Bayle are picturesque, with the Stade on the Harbour adding historic charm.

#### *Identified weaknesses:*

- The one-way system/ring road complicate movement and access, and vehicular routes provide physical barriers for pedestrians at Middelburg Square, Bouverie Square and Foresters Way.
- Folkestone Central Station lies north of the railway line and its location is particularly inconspicuous. Similarly, the link between the station and the town centre is unclear both for pedestrians and vehicle travellers.
- New development has not always respected the character and the setting of traditional buildings, being sometimes inappropriate in terms of style, scale and materials. Insensitive alterations and extensions, the removal of traditional features and front gardens to accommodate car parking have led to deterioration in building quality in places.
- Inappropriate usage and signage also degrade visual quality, but it is physical deterioration and vacancy which degrades the built environment most of all.

**5.95** Inward investment will be sought within the town's retail and commercial core, the Creative Quarter and Seafront to develop their own sense of place and specific role. Development in these locations should enhance the area's cultural and commercial appeal and vibrancy, and provide a property market impetus for the wider town. Proposals should contribute to public realm upgrades.

**5.96** Significant progress has been made to develop the creative sector in Folkestone's Creative Quarter. However, experience elsewhere suggests higher value uses displace creative industries which have been central to forming the character of the Creative Quarter. To maintain momentum and support the continued development of the Creative Quarter, the following principles relating to creative enterprise zones should apply to the future planning and management of the area:

1. Secure permanent, affordable, creative workspace and live-work space and ensure current provision is not eroded;
2. Recognise the creative quarter mix also includes training, museums, space for meetings and performances, retail, visitor attractors and maker-space;
3. Support provision of the fastest broadband infrastructure to support digital and creative industries;

16 Jacobs (2011) Folkestone Town Centre Spatial Strategy

4. Encourage development for the creative sector through use of simplified planning such as Local Development Orders to encourage the development of creative and digital space within the Creative Quarter; and
5. Emphasise policies that promote culture.

## Policy CSD6

### Central Folkestone Strategy

New development in central Folkestone should deliver investment in the daytime and evening economy through a mix of commercial, cultural, entertainment and educational uses and contribute to public realm improvements that enhance the physical environment/sense of security, and improve connectivity both to and within the Town Centre, in line with policies SS4 and SS5.

Figure 5.4 identifies zones within the town where there are sets of linked opportunities: two spatial 'arcs' where Folkestone can develop to maximise its potential. Between these lies the heart of the historic Bayle and Leas Conservation Area, a place which should be the focus of preservation and enhancements.

Within the *Central/West Development Arc* there are opportunities for mixed-use development providing major new office and retail businesses or other services that will contribute to the wider regeneration of Folkestone and the district, particularly at the bus station site and at Guildhall Street, Gloucester Place and Shellons Street and, in the long-term, the redevelopment of the Sainsbury's store and adjacent areas at Bouverie Place West. Residential development may be supported, provided it delivers genuinely mixed-use development or it enables the full commercial potential of the area to be realised. Furthermore:

- New development should be of very high-quality design that contributes to and improves the existing character and townscape of the area.
- It is appropriate for development to support delivery of public realm and transport improvements within and to the north of the arc.
- Development will need where appropriate to detail the delivery of measures, or contribute to improvements in, skills/training in nearby deprived areas.

The *Seafront/Creative Quarter Enterprise Zone* provides major opportunities for development to contribute to strategic needs and to upgrade the fabric of the town, drawing from its past and potential sense of place:

- Further development by the charitable sector and others through conversion and re-use of derelict land promoting cultural, educational uses, visitor attractions, and other small-scale active uses will be encouraged.
- Principles relating to creative enterprise zones will be applied to the Creative Quarter to intensify use for creative and digital industries to ensure no net erosion of space.
- Within this arc development must maximise wider benefits to the Town Centre through improved connectivity and transport links and providing uses that attract pedestrian footfall, and proposals within the boundary set out in the Policies Map must be in accordance with policy SS10 (Folkestone Seafront).

Across these arcs, and within central or deprived places in the town, development bringing investment for schools, new education and training provision and workforce development measures that increase the skills attainment of local people in priority economic sectors will be acceptable.

**5.97** This policy supports the spatial strategy and thematic policies elsewhere in the Core Strategy Review, which will be applied before considering the additional guidance of this policy.

**5.98** The *Central/West Development Arc* is a focus for strategic commercial development. Its environment varies from the high-quality (western) area around Castle Hill Avenue, through to the existing town centre. Developments on and near Castle Hill Avenue benefit from easy walking access to Folkestone Central station and the Leas sea views, and may be the most appealing part of the district to attract high-quality businesses and office development. Developments will need to respect the conservation area and high-quality townscape and street-scene that characterise the West End of Folkestone, and should contribute towards the public realm improvements in and around Folkestone Central station. This arc includes the Ingles Manor site for employment and residential use. Other sites have been identified for a mix of uses (including education opportunities). There are residential-led opportunities in the *Central/West Development Arc* and the existing concentration of office uses in and around the Castle Hill Avenue area provides potential for expanding the cluster to meet strategic employment needs (policies SS2 and SS4).

**5.99** In the town centre, there are several under-used or unappealing spaces and streets. On the central Sandgate Road several buildings are tired in appearance or detrimental to the townscape. The sites with the greatest potential for redevelopment are the bus station site and the existing retail units on Guildhall Street, Gloucester Place and Shellons Street:

- The bus station site provides the opportunity for a mixed-use development that could include new retail units, restaurants and bars and leisure uses. This could enhance the leisure offer in the district, as residents currently look to other towns outside the district to meet their leisure needs;
- Guildhall Street, Gloucester Place and Shellons Street could be redeveloped to provide larger footprint, modern shop units. This would allow larger, national retailers to occupy space in the town centre through the provision of better quality, larger shop units; and
- Long-term scope also exists for the redevelopment of the Sainsbury's store and adjacent areas at Bouverie Place West.

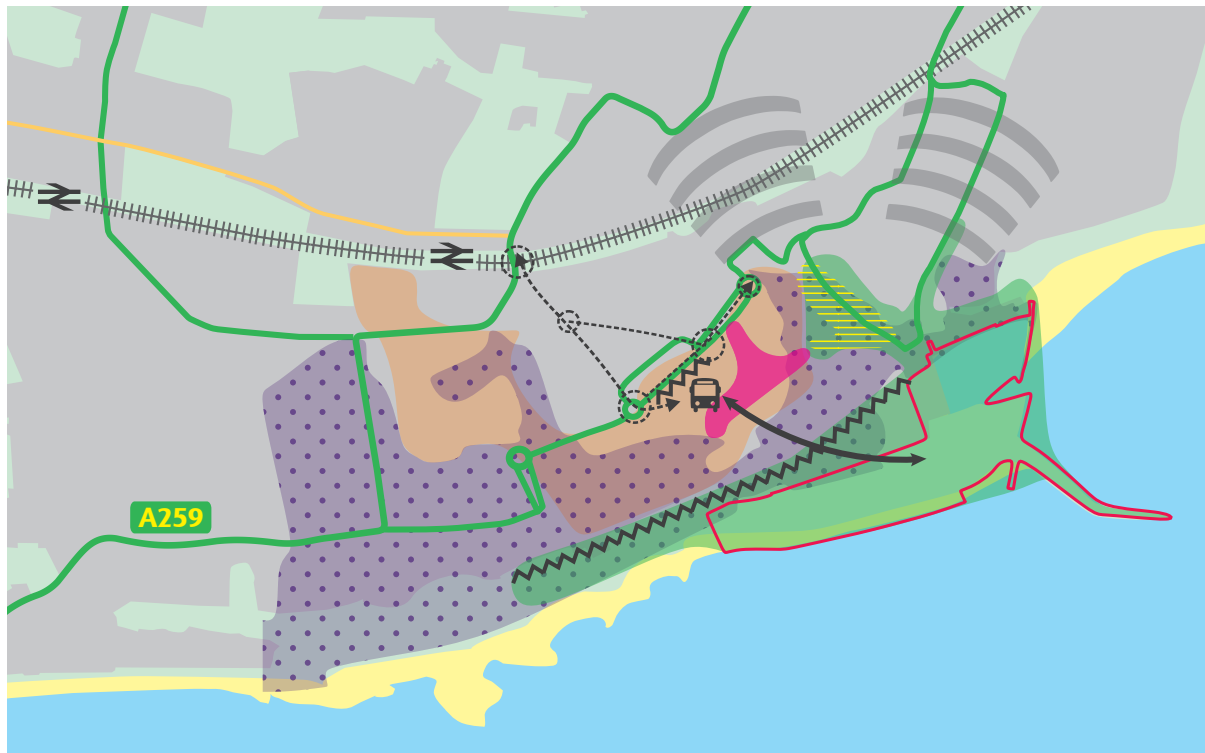
**5.100** Development within the town centre should be in line with policy SS4 and contribute to major public realm improvements within the core retail area, addressing barriers to movement at Bouverie Place/Shellons Street, by the Central railway station and elsewhere.

**5.101** Folkestone's retail core and historic heart is divided from the sea by a major change in levels and the highway network. This is most noticeable where the two arcs meet, where the historic and tranquil neighbourhood centred on the Bayle lies overlooking the Seafront, with close connections to Folkestone's old town (Creative Quarter area).

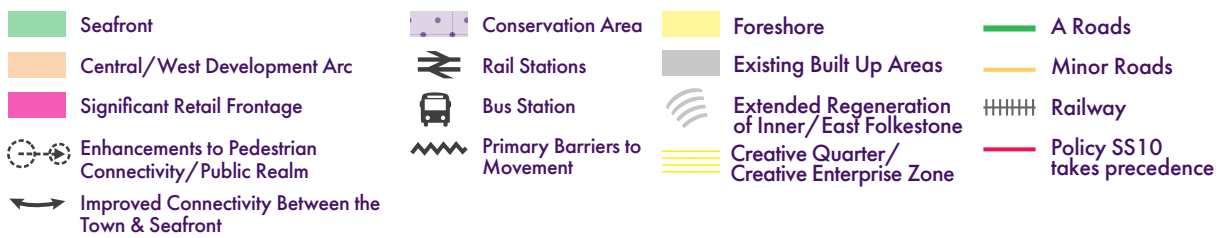
**5.102** For opportunities in the *Seafront/Creative Quarter Enterprise Zone* to be realised, measures are necessary to reintegrate Folkestone's maritime environment into the town, and proposals should contribute to overcoming barriers to movement. The regeneration of this arc should provide new services and accommodation complementary to the town centre and seize opportunities to articulate Folkestone's history and contemporary vibrancy and creativity. At the western end of the arc, beyond the Seafront site, lies the high-quality Coastal Park.

**5.103** Investment by the Creative Foundation in refurbishing the built environment has delivered significant improvements along the Old High Street and Tontine Street. The Creative Quarter now hosts major arts and entertainment events, and includes further, higher and adult education uses. The potential of the University Centre Folkestone in the Creative Quarter needs to be maximised to attract students from the surrounding deprived neighbourhoods.





**Central Folkestone Strategy**



**Figure 5.4 Central Folkestone strategy**

**5.104** In line with objectives set out in policy SS10, the vacant previously developed land at Folkestone Seafront presents a major opportunity to improve connections to the sea and visitor attractions, and generate additional pedestrian footfall to the Town Centre and Creative Quarter. The Seafront site should be integrated with the Town Centre, cycle and pedestrian routes and deprived urban communities to the north.

- **Hythe**

**5.105** Growth in Hythe must be appropriate to meeting needs while preserving and enhancing its special character (see policy SS3). As a Strategic Town and recognised Town Centre for the district, Hythe will continue to play a prominent role as an attractive town to live in, work in and visit. Figure 5.5 shows current and potential development sites.

## Policy CSD7

### Hythe Strategy

Hythe should develop as the high-quality residential, business, service, retail and tourist centre for the central district in line with the vision in paragraph 3.15. New development should respect the historic character of the town and the established grain of the settlement in line with the place-shaping principles set out in policy SS3.

Development should contribute to the priorities for investment in the town which include:

- a. Attracting additional employment to the town, especially in the town centre or in deprived urban communities in west Hythe, including by sustaining demand and labour supply in the local population.
- b. Upgrading the stock of business accommodation and the environment of employment areas, and regenerating the appearance and sense of security of west Hythe.
- c. Developing new/expanded primary and secondary schools to improve educational attainment, and where appropriate, the delivery of improvements in skills/training in nearby deprived areas.
- d. Expanding and upgrading of tourism accommodation and visitor and leisure attractions.
- e. Investing in strategic flood defences to protect residents and the Hythe Ranges.
- f. Delivering public realm improvements in the High Street and town centre:
  - i. improving the setting of historic buildings and the Royal Military Canal,
  - ii. increasing the ability of shoppers, visitors and residents to access and circulate along the main retail frontage
- g. Aiming for a convenient, flexible and integrated public transport system, with improvements to services to the west and north of the town, better linking in the town centre and coastal bus routes to railway stations or development in western Hythe.

**5.106** This policy supports spatial strategy and thematic policies elsewhere in the Core Strategy Review, which will be applied before considering the additional guidance of this policy.

**5.107** Strategic development at Hythe is consistent with its demographic characteristics, housing need and good accessibility and range of services (policies SS3 and SS4). The primary area of change is to the west of the town, where a mixed-use development is underway including 1,050 dwellings, employment and a new halt on the light railway, at the former Nickolls Quarry. There is also the potential for significant green infrastructure facilities, including water-based recreation.

**5.108** Developments in the west of the town and on the seafront will provide new facilities and accommodation to ensure the continued viability of the town centre, and protection of its historic core. Future major or mixed-use developments should contribute to these ends and the principles above.

**5.109** Investment in affordable housing, schools, healthcare and premises for voluntary activities can help support the strong communities of Hythe. In particular, following the construction of the Sports Pavilion, there are opportunities for the further renewal of sports facilities for the benefit of Hythe and the surrounding area.

**5.110** Existing employment sites within the town play an important role and should be retained, where possible being upgraded to provide higher-quality accommodation or linked into surrounding deprived communities, in line with SS4.



**Hythe Strategy**

A Roads	New Development Site	Existing Built up Areas	Brockhill Park College
Minor Roads	Conservation Areas	AONB	Planned Highway Upgrade Completed
Railway Track	Employment (Existing & Potential)	The Roughts (SSSI)	Supermarket
Royal Military Canal	Sea/Lakes	MOD Land	GP Surgeries
RH&D Railway Station	Retail	Landscaping/Open Space	St Leonard's Church
Rail Station	Primary Shopping Area	Movement Corridors with Potential for Upgrade	

**Figure 5.5 Hythe Strategy**

**5.111** Key infrastructure projects include the need for long-term and potentially costly investment in flood defences and junction improvements at the A259/A261 Scanlon's Bridge junction. Transport improvements in this area and in the western parts of the town can have several benefits including increasing the connections from the south of the district to the urban area, further improvements for pedestrians and cyclists along Dymchurch Road (to ensure integration within the town and the former Nickolls Quarry site) and public realm upgrades encouraging shoppers to walk between the Sainsbury's superstore and the town centre.

## The Romney Marsh Area

Primary Area Aims: A1, B3, B6, B7, C8, D3, D5, D8 (see Chapter 3 including Future Vision).

Main local evidence base studies: *Rural Services Study*, *SHLAA Update*, *Employment Land Review and Land at New Romney LDF Core Strategy Policy Advice*.

**5.112** The spatial strategy in this area seeks to: regenerate settlements to help define the Romney Marsh as a unique place to visit, live and work; improve communications; respect the natural environment; and deliver additional employment and housing development.

**5.113** The Romney Marsh Area accounted for 22,200 of the district's population in the 2011 census. Although strategic growth will be concentrated at New Romney, all identified settlements in Policy SS3, including Lydd and villages such as Dymchurch, Brookland and Brenzett, which have retained a range of services may play a proportionate role in addressing development needs and tackling social exclusion.

**5.114** The Marsh's coast and beaches attract visitors; and the area's unique environment offers opportunities – with suitable management – to increase visitor expenditure and to promote sustainable development to increase local employment. To this end connections (through transport accessibility, travel information and electronic media), town and village centres, visitor accommodation, and the maintenance of key visitor sites will all need to improve, particularly to maximise benefits from growth elsewhere in the district. Investment in this key infrastructure will help encourage more visits, especially those focused on enjoyment of the natural environment, local produce, walking, cycling and the light railway.

**5.115** Romney Marsh is one of the district's priority areas for investment. As part of this regeneration, the council is implementing a socio-economic action plan for the area, working with local partners including other councils and nuclear power bodies. A suitable long-term development strategy is essential given the impact of the Marsh's isolation on its economic performance (low skills, small workforce, pockets of deprivation).

**5.116** For larger and other appropriate developments, the council will seek training and environmental improvements to provide support for local communities. This is important given the more self-contained labour market in the south of the district and the need to encourage a wider range of employment opportunities.

**5.117** Existing concentrations of industrial and warehousing uses will be protected under policy SS4 to provide affordable premises for smaller-scale manufacturing, distribution and other industries. Any major investment in the Romney Marsh area should make the best use of the area's assets and reinvigorate the small business economy (CSD3), with significant opportunity for investment and job creation at the Mountfield Road Industrial Estate.

**5.118** As well as tourism and recreation (subject to appropriate management in line with policy CSD4), land-based enterprises (including agriculture and equestrianism) and environmental technologies may be appropriate at locations where environmental impact and risks are minimised. The rural economy should continue to diversify, with new forms of bio-fuels and food production supported alongside traditional sustainable agriculture.

**5.119** The area's cherished habitats, landscape, historic settlements and activities need careful management. Under green infrastructure objectives (CSD4), opportunities should be seized for habitat creation. All new development will be subject to meeting environmental and flood risk requirements, and planned with reference to the availability of sewage and water infrastructure.

**5.120** The nuclear power stations at Dungeness have been central to the Marsh's economy for many years, contributing some £50 million to the local economy annually. They employ some 1,200 people, many of whom live on the Marsh and elsewhere in the district as well as Ashford and Rother districts. The decommissioning of the power stations will have a big impact on the area's economy. Decommissioning of the Magnox 'A' site is underway with the site planned to enter care and maintenance in the mid-2020s. EDF Energy's 'B' station is now expected to cease generation in 2028, following which a lengthy process of decommissioning would ensue.

In response to this, and supported by Magnox and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the council and Kent County Council produced a socio-economic action plan for Romney Marsh to ensure the area has a sustainable economic future and remains a great place to live. This led to the formation of the [Romney Marsh Partnership](#) in 2012 to lead the delivery of the Romney Marsh Socio-Economic Action Plan, an economic strategy to tackle the negative impacts of nuclear decommissioning. In the case of the Dungeness sites, the potential for employment creation, through alternative nuclear generated power and ancillary uses relating to the nuclear or other industries, will be kept under review.

**5.121** Lydd Airport has been significant in the area for more than 50 years and, by 2019, is expected to have implemented planning consent for extended runways and a new terminal building, to allow passenger flights using aircraft the size of Boeing 737 or Airbus 319, thereby creating up to 200 jobs locally. Should development proposals come forward for the further expansion of London Ashford Airport, the council will work with the airport, local community and other stakeholders to prepare an Action Area Plan for the site.

**5.122** The area's economy will be closely monitored, given uncertainty about the power station, as well as the economic impact of the expansion of the airport, and if the southern part of the district is substantially affected, the council will consider amending the Core Strategy Review as part of a future review.

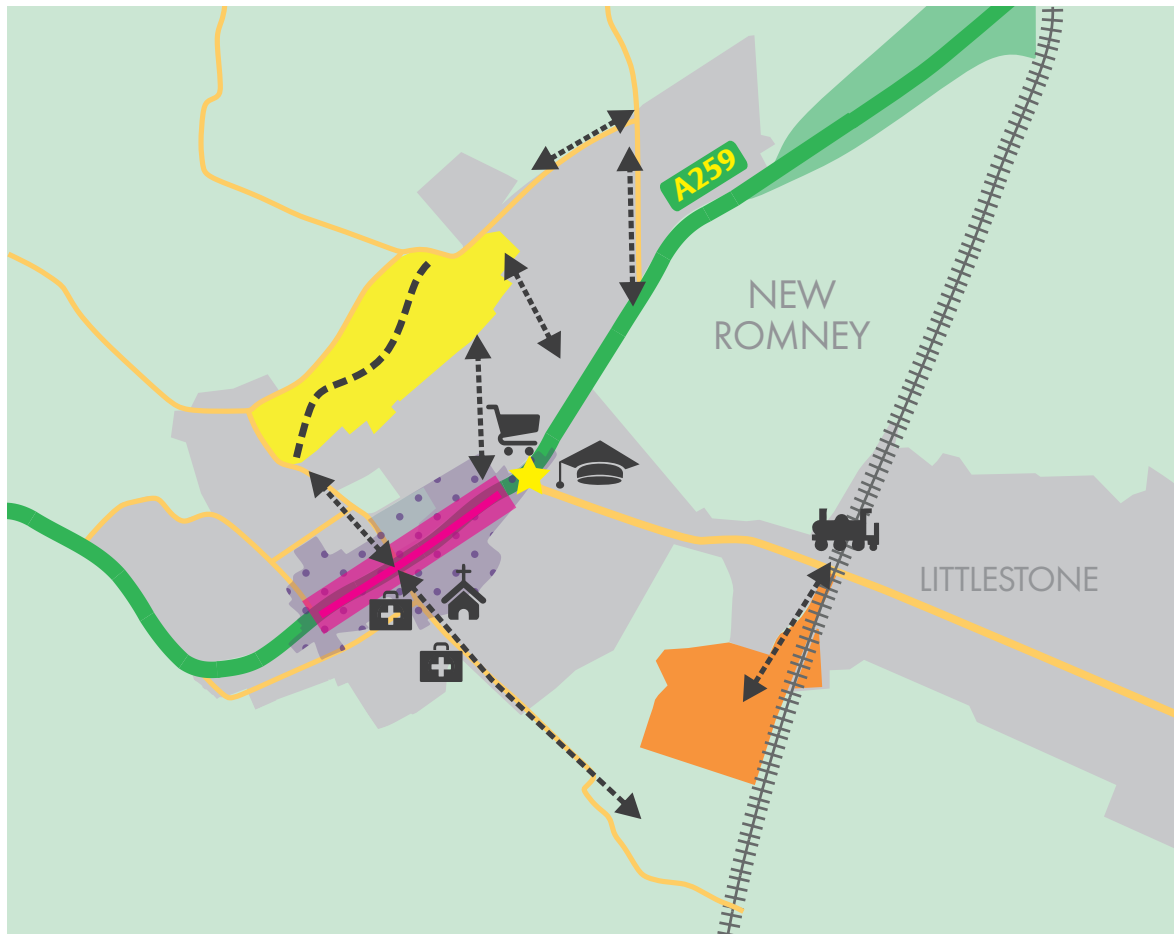
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**5.123** Lydd and the Dungeness peninsula offer distinct rural and coastal attractions in the south of the district. Lydd is a traditional, small, country town with the potential to increase its appeal as a community and destination with a strong sense of place and heritage. Rural deprivation is particularly found in and around the historic town (and Lydd-on-Sea). This will be tackled through supporting existing industrial sectors and tourist facilities (including small local firms and services, and continued minerals extraction) and an expansion of defence employment, expenditure and training in the area. The spatial strategy supports enhanced connections and growth through small and medium-scale residential-led developments and a choice of employment sites (policies SS3 and SS4). The delivery of sympathetic developments will help maintain Lydd as a town and base for the wider area and its special coastal landscapes. In line with policies SS5, CSD4 and CSD5, developments should be phased in line with utility network improvements to protect the area's green infrastructure and water environment.

• **New Romney**

**5.124** As the primary strategic centre for Romney Marsh, New Romney town should develop a critical mass of businesses and services, underpinned by expanded tourism facilities and new homes. Change needs to respect the town's strong historic character, reflected in its built environment, and lead to an integrated form, particularly with more appealing pedestrian routes along and towards the High Street.

**5.125** Specific infrastructure projects include the critical improvements at the A259/B2071 junction. The long-term future of community service facilities, such as the library, healthcare and premises for voluntary activities, should be secured through growth.



**New Romney Strategy**

A Roads	New Development Site	Existing Built up Areas
Minor Roads	Conservation Areas	SSSI
Railway Track	Employment	The Marsh Academy
Royal Military Canal	Primary Shopping Area	New Spine Road/Cycle Way Footpath Corridor (to be integrated in development)
RH&D Railway Station	Retail	GP Surgeries
Primary Junction for Improvement	Movement Corridors with Potential for Upgrade	
Supermarket	Saint Nicholas Church	

Figure 5.6 New Romney Strategy

**5.126** Land north/northwest of the town centre, highlighted in Figure 5.6, is identified as a broad location for residential-led development given the town's regeneration needs and limited development opportunities within Romney Marsh. It offers a location close to the town centre and relatively free from tidal flood risks. Development should be comprehensive to maximise benefits, and should be high-quality and sustainable in its design. The development must be planned and designed as a whole to ensure that New Romney's sense of place is maintained and enhanced in line with policy SS3.

**5.127** There are different land interests within the broad location and the council encourages co-operation to deliver an attractive and comprehensive scheme that will enhance housing design and job opportunities in the area, providing a sustainable community and green infrastructure in line with CSD4.

## Policy CSD8

### **New Romney Strategy**

New Romney should develop as the residential, business, service, retail and tourist centre for the Romney Marsh in line with the vision in paragraph 3.20. New development should respect the historic character of the town and the established grain of the settlement in line with the place-shaping principles set out in policy SS3.

The future development of the town should support the retention of existing businesses and the attraction of new employment opportunities through the provision of an adequate supply of employment land to meet future need and through the provision of a sufficient level of new residential development to maintain an adequate labour supply.

The strategy for New Romney therefore supports the following:

- The enhancement of New Romney as a key market town and service centre for Romney Marsh, providing a range of services and attractions for local residents and tourists.
- The provision of further employment at an expanded Mountfield Road Industrial Estate, with better vehicular and pedestrian linkages to the town centre.
- A broad location for residential development to the north of the town centre.

Development of the broad location should meet the following criteria:

- a. The development as a whole should provide around 300 dwellings (Class C3) and a range and size of residential accommodation, including 30% affordable housing, subject to viability.
- b. Pedestrian/cyclist linkages southwards to the town centre should be improved and prioritised from the central area of the development, in preference to linkages around the periphery of the site.
- c. Land proposed for residential development must have a sufficient level of internal connection through providing a new movement link through the site, appropriately designed to 20mph, and/or through a cycleway/footpath to provide a secure and attractive green corridor.
- d. Proposals should incorporate as necessary a minimum of 0.7ha of land for the upgrade of St Nicholas' Primary School playing facilities on a consolidated area.
- e. Archaeological constraints need to be examined and associated mitigation will be required to be provided at an early stage, in order to inform the masterplan, development strategy and quantum of development.
- f. Flooding and surface water attenuation for the overall site should be concentrated in the lowest areas of the site, recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) must be followed, and measures should also provide visual and nature conservation enhancement for the benefit of the site and local community.
- g. Appropriate off-site mitigation measures must be identified, including to ameliorate highway impacts and manage drainage demands.



The layout and design of any proposals for the remaining undeveloped two parcels of land under the broad location must take into account the potential development of the adjoining land parcel and the existing development. In particular the internal road layout of the two parcels allocated to the south-east of Cockreed Lane shall not prejudice the future delivery of a 'link' road (criterion C above) to provide a vehicular connection between the two parcels and the developed part of the broad location to the north-east.

Development of the broad location must aim to integrate with the physical environment, including addressing the natural boundary which is currently defined by Cockreed Lane, as well as neighbouring previously developed land to the north east of Cockreed Lane. In addition, if the objectives of this policy cannot be met within the scope of this area, consideration may be given to land to the southwest of Ashford Road, subject to further discussions and any environmental or other constraints being addressed.

Development at the town should consolidate and improve the market town/service centre function of New Romney through contributing as relevant to the public realm and other priorities for investment in the High Street in line with SS5 including:

- Providing additional crossing points in the High Street to increase the ability of shoppers and visitors to circulate along the retail frontage.
- Improving the setting of historic buildings and minimising the environmental impact of through traffic within the High Street.
- Contributing towards community facilities required to serve the needs of the town.

Development will need where appropriate to detail the delivery of measures, or contribute to improvements, in skills/training in the Romney Marsh area.

**5.128** The broad location identified is the most suitable to meet the long-term needs of the area. Any development should meet all of the other policy requirements of this Core Strategy Review.

**5.129** A comprehensive masterplan can deliver: new and attractive housing; a new spine road or cycleway/footpath corridor; consistent frontage to Cockreed Lane's south side; and a mix of housing character areas<sup>(17)</sup>.

**5.130** Family housing is required in the main but the masterplan needs to deliver tenure and market choice through a range of detached, semi-detached and terraced housing. The council considers that these could predominantly involve a mix of two- and three-storey dwellings, located with reference to surrounding uses and land characteristics. The integration of the town's extension with the rural landscape of the Romney Marshes is important, particularly at its north-west boundary, and should be informed by a landscape assessment.

**5.131** This approach to development will ensure that the site and its housing complements the existing urban area and the rural scene beyond. The new spine road or cycleway/footpath corridor, and the need for drainage and landscaping, offer opportunities for different design approaches to create a distinct character.

**5.132** The development should support new and/or improved facilities in New Romney, particularly through enhancing connections south of the development. Contributions to enhancements of the High Street/Ashford Road or town centre community facilities are likely to be warranted, and should be considered as part of the masterplan process, which must also investigate solutions to junction improvements with Littlestone Road (A259/B2071).

**5.133** Kent County Council has indicated a need to retain 0.7 hectares of its landholding as open space and supporting facilities for the primary school. New small-scale toilet facilities and storage, plus natural surveillance from new housing, could be included to improve operation of the playing field.

17 URS/Scott Wilson (2011) Land at New Romney LDF Core Strategy Policy Advice

**5.134** Romney Marsh has a sensitive hydrology. It is appropriate for the development to set high standards for water conservation (meeting or surpassing policy CSD5). The design will need to meet the requirements of a Flood Risk Assessment and explore options for an appropriate layout, design, ground levels and construction techniques to minimise flood risk, with land reserved for surface water attenuation (and potentially contributing to local ecology).

## The North Downs Area

Primary area aims: *B4, B6, B8, C7, C9, D2, D4, D5, D8* (see Chapter 3 including Future Vision).

Main local evidence base studies: Rural Services Study, SHLAA Update, Employment Land Review and Sellindge Masterplan Final Report, High Level Growth Options, Growth Options Level Two Report.

**5.135** The spatial strategy in the North Downs Area seeks development of a sustainable new town based on garden settlement principles, in accordance with policies SS6-SS9 and strategic growth in Sellindge (policy CSD9).

**5.136** The spatial strategy also seeks to create a hierarchy of sustainable, integrated and well-served villages that will meet housing, employment and social needs; and to secure sustainable management of the environment, recognising opportunities and the context of infrastructure and nearby towns.

**5.137** The North Downs Area accounted for 19,800 of the district's population in the 2011 census. The North Downs also contains several Priority Centres of Activity (e.g. Local Centres and potential Major Employment Sites) and tourist facilities with significant growth potential in line with SS4 and CSD3.

**5.138** Much of the North Downs is recognised as an area of high landscape value through its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). National planning policy directs large scale-development away from such areas, which include the villages of Lyminge and Elham and smaller settlements.

**5.139** Many North Downs villages have evidence of high 'social capital' with active parish councils and strong local communities, and the council will support positive sustainable development initiatives that arise with widespread neighbourhood support. Opportunities will be present at a local level to address demographic changes, housing affordability and other matters challenging rural communities.

**5.140** In accordance with the strategic aims of the Core Strategy Review, development should enhance the identity and profile of settlements and environments in this rural area through expanded local public open space and village services, additional employment, and contribute to the district's housing growth.

**5.141** Most major development in this area over the last two decades has been directed to previously developed 'brownfield' land at Hawkinge (within the AONB). The southwest of the North Downs, outside the AONB and flood zone 3, offers significant opportunity to create a new garden settlement, and enable the further growth of Sellindge. Sellindge, Lympne and Stanford are all located close to significant high quality highway and rail infrastructure, and there are opportunities for these communities to benefit from additional facilities, especially those that help foster community spirit and reduce the need to travel further afield to access services.

**5.142** In line with CSD3, key tourist attractions and visitor facilities will be supported and can potentially be intensified subject to impact. Allied to this, additional jobs at Lympne (and Hawkinge) should be secured under policy SS4, to provide accessible premises for distribution, manufacturing and other industry, while significant employment opportunities will be created within the garden town, serving the wider community.

**5.143** The accessibility of the area and lack of major flooding and immediate landscape constraints offer opportunities for strategic-scale development. The cumulative impact on communities and existing infrastructure has been considered in developing proposals for this area (as part of Policies SS6-SS9 and CSD9).

**5.144** In contrast, the AONB landscape and villages such as Elham and Stelling Minnis bring in and serve visitors in their own right, in addition to major attractions such as Port Lympne in the southwest. Saltwood is another attractive neighbourhood within the North Downs area (although its built-up area now merges with Hythe).

**5.145** The settlement of Hawkinge has seen considerable growth, through allocations within the Kent Structure Plan at the end of the twentieth century. Through the Places and Policies Local Plan, three sites have been identified for residential development to meet local need. The strategic priority is – in accordance with the vision and its Service Centre status – to consolidate the settlement through improving local services and community facilities, allied with expanding employment opportunities and travel choices. Pedestrian movement should be enhanced, especially in moving between these locations. It is not proposed to further extend the settlement into the designated countryside of the Kent Downs AONB.

**5.146** Lympne in the AONB is the largest settlement after Hawkinge in the North Downs and offers a good range of local services. It is a designated Rural Centre and important to the future strategy for the wider area.

**5.147** Any development within the area's villages should be designed sensitively to protect the landscape and improve the village's sense of place. Some smaller hamlets are not featured in policy SS3 to protect them from inappropriate scale development. Several significant green infrastructure opportunities exist in the North Downs, with a fringe zone in the south and east where there is a close juxtaposition between urban environments and the AONB (and other landscapes), and the Folkestone to Etchinghill escarpment (designated as a habitat of international status).

**5.148** Lympne is identified as a Primary Village and is mainly centred around the Roman road of Stone Street. The AONB overlooking Romney Marsh is found immediately to the south. To the west of the village - near Port Lympne, a major visitor attraction - lies the Lympne Industrial Estate, and Link Park (awaiting full implementation as a serviced employment site).

**5.149** Limitations in existing infrastructure, including strategic transport and waste water connections, and community facilities are recognised. Change in the village should therefore be phased so that jobs, housing, necessary physical infrastructure and community facilities are delivered together. Policy proposals for the new garden town seek to ensure the local distinctiveness of Lympne is retained as a self-contained village, while delivering improved facilities and services nearby that village residents can access.

- **Sellindge**

**5.150** The village of Sellindge is a Rural Centre in the west of the district. It has a wide range of facilities and services, serving Sellindge and the wider rural area. These include a GP surgery, primary school, village shop with integrated Post Office, village hall, residents' association, sports and social club, farm shop and a public house.

**5.151** Sellindge is dispersed in character, consisting of a series of neighbourhoods located along, or just off, the busy Ashford road (A20). Historically there has been no central core or main cluster of facilities.

**5.152** The lack of a central core was investigated by independent consultants, appointed under national Rural Masterplanning Funding, working in collaboration with the local community.

**5.153** The results of this were reflected in the Sellindge Strategy in the 2013 Core Strategy. The strategy set out a policy to create a new village green with 250 additional homes. A planning application has since been granted.

**5.154** For the Review of the Core Strategy, the Growth Options Study has shown that there are still opportunities in the settlement to meet the growth required in the district until 2037. The Phase 2 study, together with further work undertaken, has indicated that, due to landscape and heritage constraints, additional development should be located to the east and south west of the settlement.<sup>(18)</sup>

**5.155** The study and further work have indicated that development of up to 600 dwellings in Sellindge (including the 250 previously identified) could be accommodated but this would need to be supported by expanded and new facilities and infrastructure.

**5.156** As of early 2017, there is no spare capacity for further development at either the doctor's surgery or school, and land with potential for the future expansion of the school is in separate ownership. The existing permission granted for 250 homes includes a requirement for land and funding to increase the primary school from 0.5 to 1 form of entry, however further capacity will be required to accommodate the additional growth proposed. Given this, any proposals will have to provide land and funding for the expansion of the primary school to 2 forms of entry (2FE). Additionally, new or expanded health care will be required; however it may be that this can be delivered as part of a new facility within the nearby garden town.

**5.157** With regard to infrastructure, the Growth Options Study highlights that there will be impacts on the B2068 and A20 and these should be considered as part of development proposals and the policy formation process. Furthermore, there are no cycleways in this area, especially to Westenhanger Station to the east of Sellindge, with opportunity for footpath upgrades to be delivered to allow safe access to rail services from the village.

**5.158** Sellindge does not fall within the AONB, but it is within its setting. Any new development, particularly at the scale proposed in policy CSD9, may give rise to some adverse landscape and visual impacts for which mitigation will be required. Through the use of landscaping on the rural edge, and through the siting, type and design of new buildings, development should be able to be assimilated into the landscape and any detrimental effects on the setting of the AONB minimised. Proposals within the Kent Downs AONB should follow the guidance and principles set out in the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and its associated Design Guidance.

**5.159** There are a number of listed buildings within Sellindge such as Rhodes House and Little Rhodes and buildings of local interest such as Grove House and Potten Farm, the setting of which will need to be considered in any proposals. The retention of mature trees will also be sought where possible, to soften the built environment and to mitigate the impact on the wider views from the Kent Downs AONB.

**5.160** Landscaping will also be important to the east of Sellindge, due to the open character of the farm land. The boundary should be heavily landscaped in this location, with planting provided to avoid amenity impacts on new residents in this part of Sellindge and the coalescence of Sellindge and Stanford. Gibbins Brook forms another clear spatial boundary on the eastern edge of this land, but as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), impacts on the brook should be minimised and funding provided for its enhancement and protection.

**5.161** The Growth Options Study has indicated that small-scale employment uses could be provided, however, these should be located on the eastern side of Sellindge, given its proximity to junction 11 of the M20, Westenhanger railway station and Folkestone service station. Employment provision should contribute positively to the village's character and could provide a variety of small-scale units, for support services and offices, that avoid the need for large delivery vehicles to access the development.

**5.162** There is the potential for the allocation to embrace new technologies to achieve a low carbon, low waste and low water environment, with an aspiration for carbon, water and waste neutrality to be explored.

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18 Section 4.6: Strategic Allocations outlines the aim and methodology of the Growth Options Study.

## Policy CSD9

### Sellindge Strategy

Land to the south and north east of Ashford Road in Sellindge forms a broad location for development to create an improved village centre with a mix of uses, a village green/common, pedestrian and cycle enhancements to Ashford Road and other community facilities together with new residential development of up to 600 dwellings.

1. The **first phase** (land located in the centre of Sellindge) of any major residential-led development in Sellindge parish should meet all the following criteria:

- a. Proposals must be properly masterplanned (following extensive community engagement) and the full area included in a single outline application;
  - b. Development must ensure the delivery of a core area (bulk of identified land south of the A20) in parallel with/advance of any development to the west, north or east of it;
  - c. Total residential development will not exceed approximately 250 dwellings (Class C3), with around 30% affordable housing subject to viability.
  - d. Development should provide timely delivery of a village green/common south of the A20 that:
    - i. Is of at least 1.5–2ha in size, or greater;
    - ii. Provides a range of facilities (including allotments) and type of landscaping identified through consultation with local residents and complementing the existing facilities located at the sports club;
    - iii. Is of the highest quality and incorporates robust and durable lighting and furniture; and
    - iv. Provides new habitats for priority nature conservation species;
  - e. Proposals must include satisfactory arrangements for the timely delivery of necessary local community facilities including:
    - i. A primary school extension to 1 form of entry (1FE);
    - ii. The expansion of the Doctor's surgery; and
    - iii. Administrative accommodation for the Parish Council.
- 

2 The **second phase** (Site A land to the west of phase 1 and Site B land east of phase 1) for any residential-led development should meet all the following criteria:

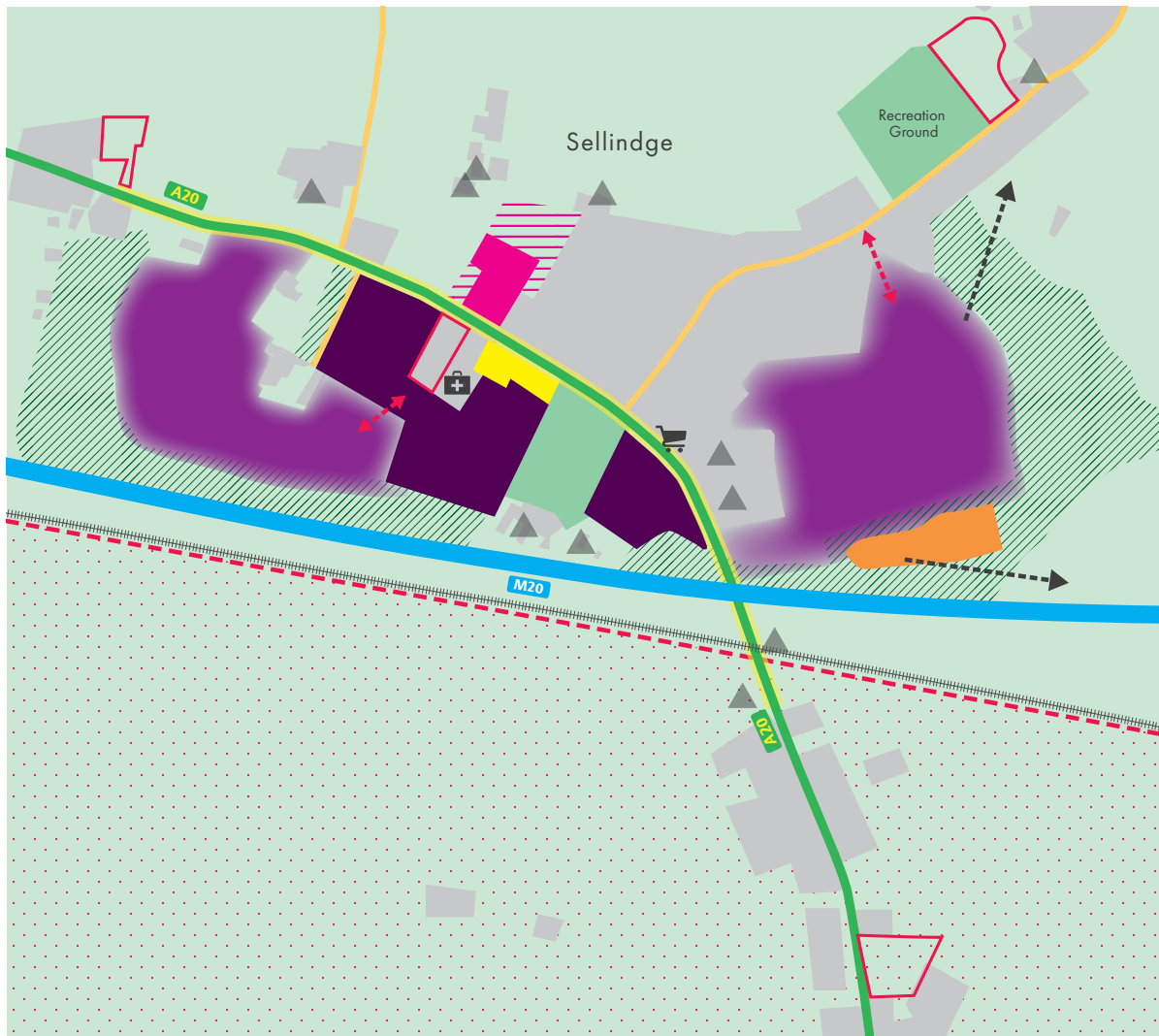
- a. The residential development element shall not commence until the school, doctors surgery and Parish Council administrative accommodation to be provided by phase 1 are under construction with a programmed completion date;
- b. Total residential development within phase 2 of approximately 350 dwellings (Classes C2 and C3) with 22 per cent affordable housing subject to viability and a minimum of 10 per cent of dwellings designed to meet the needs of the ageing population;

- c. A minimum of 10 per cent of dwellings to be self-build or custom-build;
- d. Development shall be designed to minimise water usage, as required by the Water Cycle Study. Total water use per dwelling shall not exceed 90 litres per person per day of potable water (including external water use);
- e. Energy efficiency standards are agreed with the local planning authority that meet or exceed prevailing best practice;
- f. Proposals must include satisfactory arrangements for the timely delivery of necessary local community facilities including:
  - i. Provision of land and funding to upgrade Sellindge Primary school to 2 forms of entry (2FE);
  - ii. Provision of new or upgraded sports grounds, open and play space or upgraded facilities in the village;
  - iii. Provision of new nursery facilities;
  - iv. Provision of a replacement village hall, to a specification to meet local need;
  - v. Provision of new allotment facilities; and
  - vi. Contributions to the upgrading of local medical facilities to meet the needs of the development;
- g. Appropriate landscaping, including woodland planting, shall be provided on the rural edge of the development, particularly around the western boundary of Site A, to retain the rural character and on the eastern boundary of Site B, due to the possible visual impact on the setting of the AONB. All landscaping shall be planted at an early stage of the development and provide new habitats for priority nature conservation species;
- h. The eastern development area will provide improved pedestrian and cycle access along the northern boundary (Public Right of Way HE273);
- i. Approximately 1,000sqm of business (B1 Class) floorspace shall be provided, achieving BREEAM 'outstanding' rating;
- j. Site A land to the west of Sellindge in Phase 2 must be masterplanned and the full area included in a single outline application. The masterplan must include consideration for the setting of non-designated built and natural heritage assets such as Grove House and Potten Farm; and
- k. Any archaeological remains should be evaluated and potential impact mitigated in accordance with Places and Policies Local Plan Policy HE2.

3. **Both phases** of the development shall:

- a. Provide wherever possible internal links within the site itself and external links to neighbouring sites to ensure there is ease of access by a range of transport modes to new and existing development/facilities within the village;
- b. Deliver pedestrian and cycle enhancements to the A20 through (as a minimum) informal traffic-calming features at key locations, and perceived narrowing of the carriageway outside Sellindge primary school and associated highways improvement. Phase 2 shall extend the highways improvement area to be delivered by phase 1;
- c. Contribute to the provision of a safe, lit, surfaced cycle and pedestrian access to Westenhanger Station from Sellindge through the upgrade of existing bridleways and public rights of way (HE271A and HE274);
- d. Provide noise and air pollution mitigation measures such as distance buffers between the M20/High Speed 1 transport corridor and the development, as well as landscaping within the buffers designed to integrate with other planting and habitat creation delivered through the comprehensive masterplan;
- e. Contribute to improvements in the local wastewater infrastructure and other utilities as required to meet the needs of the development;
- f. Ensure occupation of the development is phased to align with the delivery of sewage infrastructure, in liaison with the service provider;
- g. Plan layout to ensure future access to existing sewage infrastructure for maintenance and upsizing purposes; and
- h. Provide a high standard of design, siting and layout of development to reflect the sites' proximity to the Kent Downs AONB.

**5.163** An indicative strategy for Sellindge is set out below to show how residential development can meet needs for central facilities in a location near the junction with Swan Lane. Figure 5.7 is indicative only; proposals should be developed collectively by landowners with further community input to accord with the criteria of CSD9.



**Policy CSD9 - Sellindge Strategy**

A Roads	Employment (B1)	Existing Primary School	Improved Connectivity	Heritage Assets
Road Improvements	New Community Facilities	Expansion of Primary School	New Cycle/Pedestrian links to Station	Railway
Motorway	Phase 1 Housing	PPLP Allocations	Landscaping	Policy SS6
Minor Roads	Phase 2 Housing	Existing Built Areas	Village Green	Convenience Store
				Existing GP Surgery & Village Hall

**Figure 5.7 Sellindge Strategy**

**5.164** In the context of strong development pressures, the identification of a broad location with two phases will allow the objectives of the Rural Masterplanning<sup>(19)</sup> project (and also specific Aim C7 and others of this plan) to be met and infrastructure upgrades delivered. A comprehensive and deliverable proposal is needed that fully satisfies the key outcomes of the Rural Masterplanning Fund project, providing:

- A sense of place through the village green/common south of the Ashford Road (A20);



- A suitable residential mix including affordable housing; and
- Significant improvements to the A20 so that pedestrian/cycle movements are encouraged and vehicular drivers discern they are travelling through the heart of Sellindge.

**5.165** Should these objectives not be met, development will not be supported, as this opportunity is centred on addressing local community needs (speculative proposals in other locations associated with a piecemeal pattern of development can be resisted under policy SS1).

**5.166** This positive policy, along with the policies of countryside protection, will co-ordinate change in central Sellindge and ensure that inappropriate proposals that harm the village, or fail to deliver community infrastructure, can be resisted.

## 5.3 Implementation

**5.167** Folkestone & Hythe District Council will work with partner organisations in a variety of innovative ways to ensure that the Core Strategy Review's vision is achieved, as many of the strategic proposals cut across several areas of responsibility and interest. The council has a number of key partners. For example, the Environment Agency assists in the environmental stewardship of the district through involvement in flood risk assessment and other matters. In addition, landowners and developers are important partners in the regeneration of the district, for example in the Creative Quarter. Much of the land identified through the allocations in this Review is held by various private landowners, and their commitment and active involvement is required to implement this strategy. Similarly, the Ministry of Defence is a key partner at Shorncliffe, Lydd and elsewhere in the district.

**5.168** The council will also consider, when appropriate alternatives have been exhausted and necessary to this Core Strategy Review, the option of using its compulsory purchase powers to implement proposals and enable land to be developed, redeveloped or improved to help deliver regeneration. The council will usually try to negotiate with the owner, but if the owner refuses to sell, the council can start the process that will allow it to buy the land or property. Later in the process, the council offers pre-application advice for all developments.

### Plan Implementation

**5.169** A less positive framework for regeneration or commitment to deliver the vision would offer fewer risks. In the context of the strategic change identified in this plan, intensified competition between places and past performance, consideration of future risks and contingencies is warranted. There are risks to the delivery of any plan, but these can be limited by early consideration of the nature of risk, and by responding with a combination of:

- Reducing risk within core plan formulation (where controllable and consistent with plan aims), and
- Setting a framework to enable the monitoring of the impact of risks – through examination of plan delivery performance, then identifying fall-back actions (contingencies).

**5.170** The reduction of risks in the Core Strategy Review has been approached by addressing sources of risk in drafting the document. Central to this is the identification of structural drivers facing this (and any such) plan. The structural drivers facing the district (and many other coastal areas in southern England) can be reconciled with the strategic needs to provide a local delivery context.

**5.171** There are risks directly associated with putting forward specific major change proposals, and key future possible events are considered against the risk events with a 'high' seriousness or likelihood.

**5.172** Monitoring as a whole is a critical part of risk management. This will be based around regular examination of indicators through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) and other means. These indicators can be supplemented by periodic examination of plan performance as a whole, using a framework derived from the milestones set out in the plan.

### Strategy for Housing Implementation

**5.173** A housing implementation strategy is required. The spatial strategy builds in flexibility by providing a framework with options to ensure a suitable long-term supply of housing. Specific sites are available in excess of the period required in national policy (15 years) by identifying growth options to 2036/37. The primary housing land policy (SS2) is expressed at an average level of **738 new dwellings a year** - and provisions are made to ensure delivery is not unnecessarily delayed (policies SS5–SS11).

**5.174** Further provisions include the allocation of small- and medium-sized sites in the Places and Policies Local Plan in line with policies SS1, SS2 and SS3. As set out in the spatial strategy, development on sustainable sites elsewhere within or adjoining settlements will be considered where well-related in scale and location to

the role of settlement set out in hierarchy; where appropriate social, community and physical infrastructure exists or is provided; development contributes to sustainable transport objectives; and where adverse impacts are minimised.

**5.175** Although specific land has been identified through the Core Strategy Review and Places and Policies Local Plan, it is possible as a contingency that other provisions will need to be made to maintain a healthy supply of housing land to 2036/37.

**5.176** There is an element of reasonable allowance for contingency within the policy, but further potential actions are identified to ensure successful housing implementation:

- In line with national policy, a local housing land shortfall identified in the five-year supply or housing delivery test will be material to the determination of planning applications. This could bring forward new sources of housing if required;
- Non-planning interventions, for example other public sector housing or regeneration initiatives; and
- Alternatively, other sources of supply may emerge (including through Neighbourhood Plans). These are outside the direct control of the local planning authority but should be considered in the context of monitoring and plan review of housing completions.

**5.177** 'Windfall' sites (not previously identified) have historically provided a proportion of the district's housing land supply, and a cautious estimate of **95** dwellings a year has been included in the housing land supply (see Table 4.3); sites of **nine or fewer** new dwellings **net** have provided an average of **97** dwellings a year over the period **2012/13 to 2018/19**.

**5.178** A positive and active strategy, supported by the monitoring and implementation framework, should allow housing supply needs to be addressed, alongside the introduction of the requirements of policies for better-quality developments and places (including SS3 and CSD1).

**5.179** Monitoring through the AMR will be complemented by periodic review of overall delivery milestones as a key part of housing implementation strategy.

### **Strategy for Infrastructure and Economic Development Implementation**

**5.180** The period to 2036/37 is likely to extend beyond a single economic cycle and provides sufficient forward planning for most organisations. Policy SS2 accepts commercial development needs will be subject to monitoring and sites reviewed consistent with the need to meet the aims of this Core Strategy Review.

**5.181** Regular monitoring of employment land should continue given its significance to strategy, dependence on the national economy and potential for losses to other uses. Monitoring should consider the delivery of new industrial/office facilities (including qualitative improvements) at major employment sites as part of the new garden settlement and in the Urban Area and rural locations, illustrating take-up of a range of key opportunities. Given the need to ensure that the new garden settlement is a truly sustainable community, monitoring will be particularly important to ensure that population and employment floorspace are fully aligned.

**5.182** Employment land provisions will be reviewed (as a minimum, in AMRs throughout the plan period and in future updates to the Employment Land Review). Potential interventions include greater public sector intervention to support delivery.

**5.183** Monitoring of retail provision should be guided by national policy and focus on available indicators on the health of designated centres, plus highlighting the delivery of any major new retail developments. This will include frontage mix and vacancy monitoring in AMRs, supported by regular checks of wider vitality. Monitoring of town centre developments in the new garden settlement will be crucial to ensure that provision keeps pace with population growth and does not harm nearby centres in Folkestone, Hythe, New Romney, Dover and Ashford.

**5.184** Infrastructure provision should be coordinated using the Core Strategy Review to inform investment decisions, and through management of development in line with policy SS5 (SS6– SS11 as applicable) to ensure sufficient capacity and timely servicing of development. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has its own regime of assessment and annual reporting.

## Appendices

## 6 Appendices

### 6.1 Appendix 1: Monitoring and Risk

**6.1** This appendix sets out how the Core Strategy Review will be evaluated as part of an ongoing process of planning, monitoring and reviewing to cover risks and deliver sustainable development. It firstly sets out specific indicators to inform plan implementation, then considers factors influencing delivery.

**6.2** To enable the council to know whether the Core Strategy Review policies and programmes for infrastructure are achieving their objectives and targets, policies and delivery of development needs to be monitored.

**6.3** There are particular national provisions for annual monitoring of housing land supply (five-year developable sites) under national policy. This will be detailed in the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).

**6.4** The AMR will be the primary means of monitoring. Every year, it will address the indicators below (subject to data availability). Where key policies and targets are not being met or implementation is delayed or is having unintended effects, reasons will be provided in the AMRs along with any appropriate actions to redress the matter.

Aim	Measurement(s)	Target
A1. Increase prosperity across the local population	- GVA per head; Office of National Statistics	In 2016, GVA per head in the district was £18,923. GVA per head to increase year on year in plan period
A2. Improve accessibility and transport infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public transport; new routes / increased frequency</li> <li>- Completion of walking and cycling routes</li> <li>- Annual highway improvement schemes</li> </ul>	
A3. Enhance the viability/vitality and appeal of Town Centres, with Folkestone as a major commercial, cultural and tourism centre featuring upgraded connections and public realm	- Town Centre Vacancy Rates (F&HDC annual survey)	Vacancy rates by frontage not to exceed 10 per cent  Shopfront survey incorporating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in occupancy;</li> <li>• Mix of uses; and</li> <li>• Proportion of multiple stores.</li> </ul>
A4. Achieve real terms increases in gross incomes	- Earnings by residence (real terms)	In 2017/18 average gross weekly pay of the district's residents was £524.80, whilst South East average was £596.80. The district's gross weekly pay to increase by £3.60 pa over and above any South East growth to close that gap in plan period
A5. Grow the proportion of residents with higher-level qualifications, helping to create an 'innovative district' to provide a distinct employment offer that reflects changing patterns of work	- NVQ4+ qualifications	In 2017/18, 32 per cent of people in the district and 41.5 per cent of people in the South East have NVQ level 4 or higher. The district's proportion to grow by 0.5 per cent pa over and above any South East growth to close that gap in plan period
A6. Deliver a flexible supply of 'super connected' employment space in terms of location, size and type; particularly space that allows business to start up and scale-up their operation	- Commercial Information Audit	Average 1ha pa increase in B-class developments, and review progress at Shearway (Folkestone), Link Park (Lympne), and Mountfield Road (New Romney)
A7. Expand the range of jobs and skills in the workforce	- Nomis; Labour Market Profile	In 2016, Labour density was 0.72.
A8. Maximise the efficient use of infrastructure and secure further improvements unlocking the development of priority sites,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commercial Information Audit</li> <li>-Industrial Land Survey</li> </ul>	Review progress towards appropriate milestones in Table 4.2

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Measurement(s)</b>	<b>Target</b>
communities and areas to develop business clusters and centres of excellence		
A9. Provide housing of a quality and type suited to long-term economic development needs	- Housing Flows Reconciliation Form	Affordable Housing cumulative provision in excess of 139 dwellings per year over plan period
A10. Regenerate deprived neighbourhoods, including Central and Northern Folkestone and in pockets within Romney Marsh	- Index of Multiple Deprivation	Improve relative position of relevant IMD neighbourhoods in Folkestone East, Foord, Harbour & Harvey Central, Lydd ward and the westernmost part of Romney Marsh ward
A11. Expand cultural and creative activity in the district, with refurbished premises and spaces in Folkestone's old town forming a vibrant Creative Quarter visitor attraction	- Creative Quarter refurbishment	Refurbished properties (permissions including external alterations) in Seafront/Creative Arc (policy CSD6) to average at least one a year

**Table 6.1 Aims arising from Strategic Need A**

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Target</b>
B1. Expand green infrastructure and enhance its connectivity, making a positive contribution to managing the impacts of climate change through adaptation and mitigation	- Designated wildlife sites	To achieve continuous positive gains in designated wildlife sites: number and total area (additional ha.)
B2. Minimise local carbon emissions, monitor and manage air quality, control pollutants and promote sustainable waste management	- Dept. of Energy and Climate Change carbon emission figures - Roadside NO <sub>x</sub> along the A20 corridor - New sustainable waste handling facilities	Continuous relative improvements in the district's emissions performance  The council will monitor roadside NO <sub>x</sub> at regular intervals over the plan period in order to identify any improving or deteriorating trends. Any deterioration may trigger the need for local mitigation measures and could lead to a review of the plan  Development of new low-carbon waste handling centres
B3. Protect and enhance habitats and species to sustain biodiversity, particularly where of international and national significance including a focus on Dungeness and Folkestone Warren	- Status of SSSI land - Status of Dungeness/ Folkestone Warren	No net increase and progress towards nil land units in 'unfavourable/declining' condition  Improve status of units at Dungeness/ Folkestone Warren



<b>Aim</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Target</b>
B4. Manage sensitive landscapes shaping the character of the district, especially on the edge of settlements or within the Kent Downs AONB and its setting	- Kent AONB Unit (2004) Kent Downs AONB Management Plan actions	On track for full implementation of district applicable Management Plan actions by end of plan period (proportion completed)
B5. Increase the efficiency of water management to maintain local water resources and to improve the quality of watercourses and the sea	- Environment Agency water quality data; ground, surface and sea	Performance guidelines set by Water Framework and Bathing Directives
B6. Maintain the sense of openness and tranquillity of the countryside and undeveloped coast	- Development outside of settlement boundaries	No planning permissions for new build residential development other than in line with specific Core Strategy Review provisions e.g. Rural exceptions (CSD1)
B7. Manage the district's coast to ensure resilience to climate change processes, reducing the risk to life and property from flood hazards, and actively managing coastal environments for green infrastructure and sustainable recreational purposes	- Implementation of the Folkestone to Cliff End Flood and Erosion Management Strategy	Review progress in implementation of flood defence actions
B8. Enhance the character and function of the district's historic towns and villages, and the management of historic assets/visitor attractions	- Conservation Area Appraisals	Adoption of reviews to all conservation area boundaries
B9. Promote choice in means of transport through opportunities for walking and cycling and improved public transport networks and information	- Expand bus routes	Increase in number of routes with a 7-day a week service

**Table 6.2 Aims arising from Strategic Need B**

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Target</b>
C1. Create distinctive places and cohesive neighbourhoods and encourage increased voluntary activity, the provision of new community buildings and retention of existing viable local community buildings and civic interest in community development	- Community buildings - Adoption of community plans including Neighbourhood Development Plans - Assets of Community Value designated	No net loss of community buildings.
C2. Ensure choice of high-quality residential accommodation is maximised within individual	- Housing Flows Reconciliation Form	50 per cent of completions over the period of the plan to consist of 3 (or more) bedroom dwellings

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Target</b>
neighbourhoods and villages, with a mix of housing size, type and tenure, including opportunities for self- and custom-build homes		
C3. Assist in meeting the essential needs of vulnerable local social groups and provide more properties that allow people to remain living independently		New built schemes over 10 dwellings to include a minimum of 20 per cent of market dwellings meeting Building Regulations M4(2) Category 2 (Accessible and Adaptable Dwellings)
C4. Improve sports, recreational space, health care and other facilities and reduce relative disparities in the health of communities	- Improvements to district sports facilities	Delivery of improvements to existing sports grounds and development of major new sports facilities in the urban area
C5. Increase access to services that are appropriate to the needs of the local population and improve and maintain essential rural services and infrastructure	- Additional school and GP premises	No net loss of school and GP premises per year
C6. Improve the urban environment, including the usage and sense of security of key public spaces including major parks, town centres and public transport stations	- Where possible opportunities to co-ordinated major physical improvement programmes to parks, railway stations or public realm	
C7. Reintegrate physically divided or highly linear villages and neighbourhoods through central social infrastructure or community development	- New locally-led public open space, community buildings, pedestrian/ cycle upgrades, or public services	
C8. Improve Town Centre environments, facilities and communications for businesses and visitors in the Romney Marsh area	- Interventions to address market failure in fast broadband for isolated communities  - Major town centre physical improvement programme	Average of at least one major new facility completed every third year over plan period in Romney Marsh
C9. Consolidate communities that are hosting significant new developments	- Community facility, public services or new build retail/employment premises to develop in parallel with residential development	Average of at least one new community/commercial planning permission per 'major' residential permission over the plan period

Table 6.3 Aims arising from Strategic Need C

<b>Aims</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Target</b>
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D1. Ensure adequate land is identified to meet housing need over the plan period, with an aim to provide sufficient capacity beyond the plan period or headroom, should housing need increase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual Housing Completions (total homes built per annum)</li> <li>- Housing Delivery Test</li> </ul>	Set out in Policy SS2
D2. Include a balanced mix of land uses, housing tenures, community facilities and strategic open spaces with long term stewardship and management arrangements established at an early stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual Housing Completions (Types, sizes and tenures)</li> <li>- Commercial Information Audit</li> <li>- Open Space Study</li> </ul>	<p>Set out in Policies SS2 and CSD2</p> <p>Open Space Study Standards</p>
D3. Promote innovative and distinctive architecture whilst protecting and enhancing unique landscapes and heritage assets. Building construction should be characterised by longevity, smart energy solutions and environmentally adapted materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building for Life 12</li> <li>- Locally Listed Buildings List</li> <li>- Heritage at Risk Register</li> </ul>	Adherence to local plan policies
D4. Healthier living to be encouraged by the generous provision of sports pitches, recreational facilities and land for locally grown produce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standards set out in Open Space, Play Space and Sports Studies</li> </ul>	Adherence to local plan policies and study standards
D5. Areas and facilities within new development must be accessible to all. This is facilitated by physical linkages such as public transport, walkways and cycle paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building for Life 12</li> <li>- Kent Design</li> <li>- Number of users of cycle paths</li> <li>- Bus patronage levels</li> </ul>	Adherence to local plan policies
D6. Housing options that meet the different and changing needs of young people, growing families and the elderly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building for Life 12</li> <li>- Kent Design</li> <li>- Building Control space standards</li> </ul>	Adherence to local plan policies
D7. Public transport planning must be an integral aspect of strategic new development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bus patronage levels</li> </ul>	Adherence to local plan policies
D8. Green corridors within and connecting built-up areas should be emphasised in urban design, particularly to balance and enhance the built environment in high density areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendations set out in the Green Infrastructure Study update</li> </ul>	Adherence to local plan policies

<p>D9. Requiring a reduction in waste from new homes and businesses and achieving an increase in recycling rates significantly higher than is achieved in established towns in Kent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Volume of waste generated per head of population</li> <li>- Proportion of household waste recycled</li> <li>- Proportion of commercial waste recycled</li> <li>- Proportion of waste sent to landfill</li> </ul>	<p>KCC Minerals and Waste Plan targets (CSW4 Strategy for Waste Management Capacity)</p>
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**Table 6.4 Aims arising from Strategic Need D**

6.5 In relation to addressing future challenges, external and internal sources of risk and change have been examined against each other in the table below.

Structural Drivers	Summary of risk implications by Strategic Need
1. Economic and political pressures and fluctuations	<b>Strategic Need A - Structural risk summary:</b> <i>The depth and breadth of associated challenges is readily apparent when looking across structural drivers for this issue, as avenues for addressing local weaknesses are restricted on a range of fronts in terms of delivery resources. This highlights the importance of recognising the impact of communication links on places and the need for active place-shaping: providing a uniquely district-specific response to this challenge and new economic practices.</i>
2. Finite natural resources and growing environmental risks	<b>Strategic Need B - Structural risk summary:</b> <i>This expresses the directness of the relationship between this local challenge to global context. The implications of wide social and economic/policy changes in this sphere are not yet clear. Evaluation does indicate again the opportunity arising from a greater premium on a sense of place, in particular environmental features that are valued for their broad contribution towards what people regard as attractive places. This may be contingent on robust management arrangements.</i>
3. Social trends and changing household structures	<b>Strategic Need C - Structural risk summary:</b> <i>This shows that whilst the constraints of uncertainty and withheld public/private resources may not necessarily be overcome, and support services may be challenged, new/softer opportunities may remain applicable. In particular, whilst organising local actions may be discouraged if change is more rapid, the end prospect of an increased resource and social capital from empowerment of neighbourhoods may result in individuals, such as retired people, working together to bring forward non-material resources of their own which may be captured positively.</i>
4. Technological innovations and shifting relationships between people and place	

**Table 6.5 External and internal risk perspectives**

6.6 Looking at structural drivers across needs, it is apparent that economic and environmental context may be strongly applicable to risks locally and must be closely monitored across the district, whereas the local scope of social and technological aspects may be more positive (if identified potential can be realised).

6.7 This can inform evaluation of more specific or immediate risks. The following table uses this theme to identify possible specific risk events to overall delivery. The likelihood and sustainable development 'criticality' (rating seriousness) is considered in order to focus on the most prominent risks, so that they can be related back to key elements of the spatial strategy.

Event applicable to plan delivery	Relative likelihood of event	Relative seriousness to local aims
The national economy seriously under-performs over the majority of the plan period (no net GDP rise)	Low	Medium
Confidence in the local housing market decreases and house sales remain limited in volume over an extended period	Low	High
Development of premises for local office/industrial purposes remains highly constrained over the whole plan period	High	Medium
A serious emergency incident occurs with major local environmental implications	Low	High

<b>Event applicable to plan delivery</b>	<b>Relative likelihood of event</b>	<b>Relative seriousness to local aims</b>
Developments in Folkestone fail to deliver resources to reach a critical mass necessary to provide transformative public realm upgrades	Medium	Medium
Place-competition to capitalise on High Speed 1 proves unexpectedly intense (substantial decline in interest in moving to live/work in the district from outside of the sub-region)	Low	High
Place-competition for creative industries intensifies substantially (significant decline in demand to live/work in the district for these purposes)	High	Medium

**Table 6.6 Identifying 'high' risks**

## 6.2 Appendix 2: Glossary of Terms

**Adoption** - The formal decision to approve the final version of the document, at the end of all the preparation stages, bringing it into effect.

**Affordable housing** - Housing for sale or rent for those whose needs are not met by the market. The National Planning Policy Framework categorises affordable housing as housing complying with one or more of the following definitions:

- Affordable housing for rent;
- Starter homes;
- Discounted market sales housing; and
- Other affordable routes to home ownership (including shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low cost homes for sale and rent-to-buy).

**Amenity** - A general term used to describe the tangible and intangible benefits or features associated with a property or location, that contribute to its character, comfort, convenience or attractiveness.

**Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)** - A document produced by the local planning authority providing an analysis over a period (a year or shorter time period) of the performance of planning policies and reporting on progress made in producing up-to-date planning policy.

**Ancient woodland** - An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites.

**AONB** - Area of Outstanding National Beauty, a national designation applying in Folkestone & Hythe in the Kent Downs AONB.

**Appropriate Assessment** - See *Habitats Regulations Assessment*

**Biodiversity** - The variety of plants and animals and other living things in a particular area or region. It encompasses habitat diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity.

**BOA** - Biodiversity Opportunity Area.

**Building for Life** - The national standard for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods. A Building for Life assessment scores the design quality of planned or completed housing developments against 20 criteria.

**Broad location** - General locations for growth formally indicated on the Key Diagram; includes sites for major development where technical or infrastructure information does not currently allow the exact extent of land to be confirmed. Does not constitute a formal (Strategic) Allocation; planning permission is still required to deliver development.

**Brownfield land (also known as previously developed land)** - Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. There are a number of excluded categories, including residential gardens, allotments and land where the remains of the structure have blended into the landscape.

**Climate change adaption** - Adjustments made to natural or human systems in response to the actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to reduce harm or make use of beneficial opportunities.

**Climate change mitigation** - Action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Community Infrastructure** - Facilities available for use by all the community, such as church or village halls, doctor's surgeries and hospitals. Community facilities could also include children's playgrounds and sports facilities.

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** - A fixed charge set by local authorities on development in their area, based on floorspace (£/sqm). The specific levy amount is set in the authority's CIL Charging Schedule. Folkestone & Hythe's CIL charge came into effect on 1 August 2016.

**Conservation Area** - An area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance, formally designated.

**Core Strategy** - The plan setting out the long-term vision for the district's development, the spatial objectives and strategic policies to deliver that vision. The current Core Strategy was adopted in September 2013 and looks to the period 2030/31. It will be replaced by the Core Strategy Review, when that plan is adopted.

**Core Strategy Review** - The plan setting out the long-term vision for the district's development, the spatial objectives and strategic policies to deliver that vision (this document). It looks to the period to 2036/37.

**Custom build** - See Self-build.

**Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)** - See Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

**Development Management** - The process of assessing and making decisions on planning applications submitted to the local planning authority. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission should be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Decisions on applications should be made as quickly as possible within statutory timescales, unless a longer period has been agreed by the applicant.

**Development Plan** - Statutory documents drawn up by local planning authorities following public consultation and independent examination, containing planning policies for the development of identified sites or general development management policies with criteria, used to decide planning applications.

**Environment Agency (EA)** - Government agency concerned mainly with rivers, flooding and pollution.

**Examination in Public (EiP)** - a form of independent public inquiry into the soundness of a submitted Local Plan document which is chaired by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. After the examination has ended the Inspector produces a report with recommendations as to how the plan may need to be amended to be considered 'sound'.

**Facilities** - Public or private premises that are used for, or help to provide, services and infrastructure for visiting members or the public.

**Folkestone & Hythe District Council** - The local planning authority for the district (from 1 April 2018), formerly known as Shepway District Council.

**Greenfield Land** - Land which has not been developed before, and is not defined as previously developed 'brownfield' land.

**Green Infrastructure** - A network of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces, waterways and greenway linkages (including parks, sports grounds, cemeteries, school grounds, allotments, commons, historic parks and gardens and woodland). It offers opportunities for a number of functions, including recreation and wildlife as well as landscape enhancement.

**Gypsy and Traveller** - Defined by government (in 'Planning policy for traveller sites', DCLG, 2015) as: "Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such."



**Gypsy and Traveller Sites** - Sites either for settled occupation, temporary stopping places or transit sites for people of nomadic habit of life, such as Gypsies and Travellers.

**Habitats Regulations Assessment (including Appropriate Assessment)** - A legal requirement examining the potential impacts of policies and proposals on the nature conservation integrity of Natura 2000 Series sites.

**Index of Multiple Deprivation** - Combines a number of indicators chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England.

**Infrastructure** - A collective term which relates to all forms of essential services like electricity, water and road and rail provision, including social/community facilities.

**Internationally designated habitats** - See *Natura 2000 Series Sites*.

**Kent County Council (KCC)** - Countywide local authority responsible for a range of strategic functions and services such as highways (non-trunk routes), minerals and waste planning, and education and social care.

**Key Diagram** - A diagram to show the general location of key elements of the Core Strategy Review. This includes for example, the broad locations for development in the district.

**Lifetime Homes** - Homes which are built to an agreed set of national standards that make housing more functional for everyone including families, disabled people and older people. They also include future-proofing features that enable cheaper, simpler adaptations to be made when needed.

**Local Housing Market Area (LHMA)** - geographical areas within East Kent defined in the SHMA by economic household demand and preferences. Housing markets do not respect administrative boundaries and may comprise smaller, more local sub markets and neighbourhoods.

**Local Plan** - A plan for the future development of a local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. It is the statutory development plan for the area, containing the policies that make up the legal starting point for deciding planning applications.

**Low Carbon Development** - a development which achieves an annual reduction in net carbon emissions of 50% or more from energy use on site e.g. by reducing energy demand through passive design and energy efficient technology and supplying energy from renewable sources.

**Main town centre uses** - The term for a range of land uses that should be directed to town centres. The definition includes:

- Retail development (including warehouse clubs and factory outlet centres);
- Leisure, entertainment and more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurants, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, nightclubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres and bingo halls);
- Offices; and
- Arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities).

**Major Employment Sites** - A Core Strategy term indicating general places where land is/will be allocated for industrial, warehousing or office uses.

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)** - The central government department responsible for policy on local government, housing, planning and regeneration. Formerly the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

**Mixed-use development** - Development for a variety of uses on a single site. Uses may be mixed horizontally (in different areas of a site) or vertically (in different floors of a building).

**National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** - A document which sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides the framework within which local plans should be prepared and decisions on planning applications should be made. It was first published in March 2012. A revised version, which replaces the 2012 NPPF, was published in July 2018. It is supported by more detailed Planning Practice Guidance.

**Natura 2000 series sites** - Internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance (including current and, in effect, proposed Special Areas of Conservation / Special Protection Areas) subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment.

**Natural England (NE)** - Government agency concerned with the natural environment, including biodiversity and the countryside.

**Neighbourhood plan** - A plan prepared by a parish council or neighbourhood forum for a designated neighbourhood area (such as a parish or town neighbourhood). Neighbourhood plans are part of the statutory development plan for the area and have the same status as the local plan.

**North Downs** (District Character Area) - A part of Folkestone & Hythe used for descriptive purposes constituting the district's wards of North Downs East, North Downs West, Tolsford, Lympe & Stanford, and Elham & Stelling Minnis.

**(Open) Countryside** - Rural and coastal areas defined as land lying outside the settlement boundaries shown on the Policies Map.

**Place-shaping** - The ways in which local government and its partners can create safe, attractive, vibrant communities where people want to live and work.

**Planning Inspectorate (PINS)** - An agency of central government which provides independent adjudication on planning issues.

**Planning Practice Guidance** - More detailed guidance supplementing the National Planning Policy Framework provided by the government to guide developers and local planning authorities. It is published online and periodically updated. (See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>)

**Policies Map** - A statutory map of a local planning authority accompanying its *Local Plans*, and defining the spatial extent of relevant policies in it. Formerly known as the Proposals Map.

**Previously Developed Land** - see *Brownfield Land*.

**Priority Centres of Activity (PCAs)** - A term used in the Core Strategy Review for locations central to people, place or prosperity incorporating town, district and local (village/neighbourhood) centres and Major Employment Sites.

**Public Realm** - The space between and within buildings that is publicly accessible including streets, squares, forecourts, parks and open spaces.

**Ramsar site** - A wetland of international importance, designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention.

**Registered Social Landlord (RSL)** - Government-funded, not-for-profit organisations that provide affordable housing. They including housing associations, trusts and co-operatives.

**Renewable Energy** - Energy derived from a source that is continually replenished such as wind, wave, solar, hydroelectric and energy from plant material, but not fossil fuels or nuclear energy.

**Romney Marsh** (District Character Area) - A part of Folkestone & Hythe district used for descriptive purposes constituting the district's wards of Romney Marsh, Dymchurch & St Mary's, New Romney Town, New Romney Coast and Lydd.

**Self-build** - The practice of aspiring homeowners creating their own homes. Self-builders' inputs may vary from undertaking the building work themselves to contracting out some or all of the work to an architect or building package company. Consequently the term 'custom house-building' is also commonly used. Self-building may be approached in a number of different ways:

- Individual custom build - where an individual buys a plot of land and builds a home. The self-builder may do some or all of the build themselves, or employ a builder to oversee the build;
- Group custom build - where a group of people come together to create a housing development which they then live in. They may build the homes themselves or do this with help from a developer; and
- Developer-led custom build - where a developer provides a design-and-build service to purchasers which give people a chance to create a house design that suits their own preferences and needs.

**Sequential Approach** - An approach to planning decisions which may require certain sites or locations to be fully considered for development before the consideration moves on to other sites or locations. The approach could apply to issues such as retail development, or the use of land at risk from flooding.

**Settlement Hierarchy** - settlements are categorised into a hierarchy based on the range of facilities, services and employment opportunities available, plus the ability to access other higher-ranking settlements by public transport. See policy SS3.

**Shepway District Council (SDC)** - Local planning authority preparing the Core Strategy Review. From 1 April 2018 the local planning authority changed its name to Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

**Shepway District Local Plan Review (2006)** - Adopted by the council on 16 March 2006. As set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the council made a request to central government to continue to use (most) specific policies. These policies 'saved' in 2009 and not deleted by the Core Strategy remain part of the Development Plan and will remain saved until they are replaced by specific policies in a new adopted Local Plan document.

**Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI)** - A conservation designation for the protection of an area because of the value of its flora and fauna or its geological interest.

**Social Capital** - Defined by advocate Robert Putnam (1993) as the networks, norms and trust among people who share similar objectives; classified as a geographical concept whereby the relationships of people are shaped by the areas in which they live.

**South East Plan** (the former Regional Spatial Strategy applicable to Shepway). Published by the DCLG in 2009, providing statutory planning policies for a region. Previously part of the Statutory Development Plan alongside local Development Plan Documents. It was partially revoked in 2013.

**Spatial Planning** - this concept brings together policies for the development and use of land with other policies and strategies which too have ramifications for the nature of places and how they operate.

**Special Area of Conservation (SAC)** - Areas given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive, which was transposed into UK law by the Habitats and Conservation of Species Regulations 2010.

**Special Protection Area (SPA)** - Area identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds. They are European designated sites, classified under the Birds Directive.

**Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)** - Assessment required under national policy and providing an analysis of the main sources of flood risk to the district, together with a detailed means of appraising development allocations against the risks posed by existing and forecast coastal and river flooding.

**Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)** - A study that provides an assessment of the scale of potential housing land opportunities over a 15 (or more) year period. It cannot allocate or grant planning permissions but does lead to a pool of possible housing sites to inform future Local Plans through further public consultation and additional evidence gathering.

**Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)** - An assessment that provides an understanding of how housing markets operate within a given area, showing housing need and demand. The SHMA for Folkestone & Hythe was undertaken in partnership with Dover District Council.

**Strategic (Site) Allocation** - A site central to achievement of the strategy, where the principle and main features of development are established through a formal designation (allocation) of a specific parcel(s) of land in a development plan. Planning permission is still required to deliver development.

**Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** - sets out the council's approach to how and when it will consult with the community in the preparation of planning documents and making decisions on planning applications.

**Submission stage** - The stage at which a planning policy document is sent to the Secretary of State as a prelude to its examination, having previously been published for public inspection and formal representations. In practice the process is managed by the Planning Inspectorate (or PINS).

**Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)** - Provide further explanation or elaboration of policies contained in Local Plans. May take the form of design guides, area or site development briefs, masterplan or issue-based documents.

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA)** - A legal requirement examining the social, economic and environmental impacts of policies and proposals.

**Sustainable Development** - Usually referred to as "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland, 1987).

**Sustainable Transport** - Management of transport for sustainable development purposes. Can be travel management measures or any form of transport, including all alternatives to the private car, especially low-carbon travel modes. Often relates to travel by bus or train but also includes walking and cycling.

**Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)** - Sequence of water management practices and facilities designed to drain surface water in a manner that will provide a more sustainable approach than the conventional practice of routing run-off through a pipe to a watercourse.

**The Urban Area** (District Character Area) - A part of Folkestone & Hythe district used for descriptive purposes constituting all Folkestone and Hythe wards.

**Viability** - A viable development is one where there is no financial reason for it not to proceed, where there is the correct relationship between gross development value (GDV - the amount a developer receives on completion or sale of a scheme) and development costs (e.g. build costs). An unviable scheme is one where a poor relationship exists between GDV and development costs so that profitability and land value are not enough for a development to proceed.

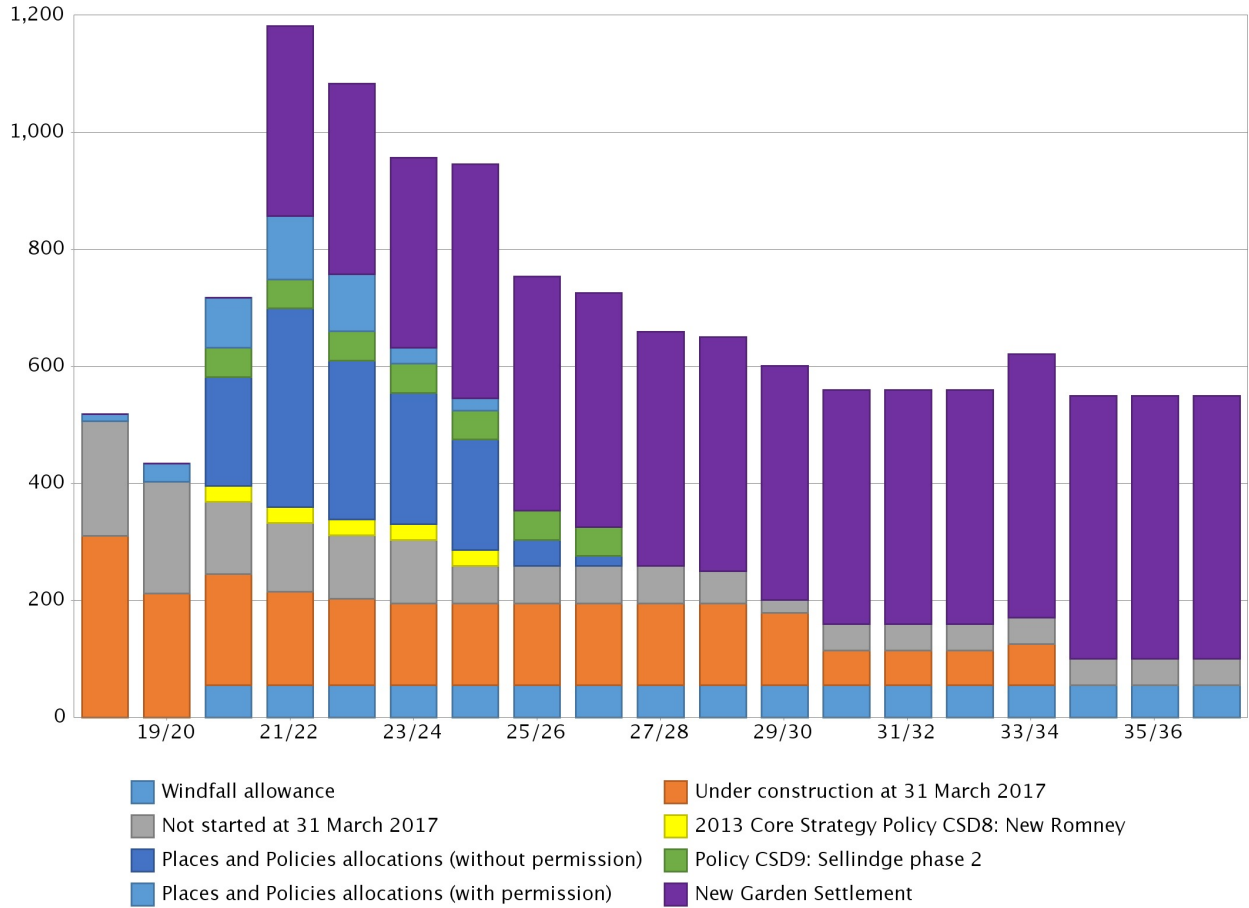
**Water Framework Directive** - More formally the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 23 October 2000, which established a policy framework for action on water quality.

**Windfall Site** - A previously developed site which has not been specifically identified as available through the development plan process, but which unexpectedly becomes available for development. A windfall dwelling is a dwelling which is delivered from such a site.

**Zero Carbon Development** - A development that after taking account of emissions from space heating, ventilation, hot water and fixed lighting, expected energy use from appliances, and exports and imports of energy from the development to and from centralised energy networks, will have net zero carbon emissions over the course of a year.

### 6.3 Appendix 3: Indicative Housing Trajectory

The diagram below shows an indicative housing delivery trajectory for the Core Strategy Review plan period, from 2018/19 to 2036/37. This will be kept under regular review and updated as developments progress and new information becomes available.



**Figure 6.1 Indicative housing trajectory for the Core Strategy plan period**

## 6.4 Appendix 4: Schedule of Policies

The table below lists the policies in the Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and the policies in this Review that will replace them. (Other policies are being developed in the Places and Policies Local Plan, and a schedule of those policies, and the previous local plan policies they will replace, is given in Appendix 2 of the Local Plan.)

Policy Title	Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 Policy Reference	Core Strategy Local Plan 2018 Policy Reference	Brief Description of Changes
Delivering Sustainable Development	DSD	---	Policy deleted. Sustainable development is set out in section 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF states that national policy should not be repeated in local plans.
District Spatial Strategy	SS1	SS1	Amended to reflect new garden settlement.
Housing and the Economy Growth Strategy	SS2	SS2	Amended to reflect new growth requirements.
Place-Shaping and Sustainable Settlements Strategy	SS3	SS3	Amendments made to the text.
Priority Centres of Activity Strategy	SS4	SS4	Amendments made to the text.
District Infrastructure Planning	SS5	SS5	Amendments to update.
New Garden Settlement - Development Requirements	---	SS6	New policy for the new garden settlement proposal.
New Garden Settlement - Place Shaping Principles	---	SS7	New policy for the new garden settlement proposal.
New Garden Settlement - Sustainability and Healthy New Town Principles	---	SS8	New policy for the new garden settlement proposal.
New Garden Settlement - Infrastructure, Delivery and Management	---	SS9	New policy for the new garden settlement proposal.
Spatial Strategy for Folkestone Seafont	SS6	SS10	Minor updates to original policy.

Policy Title	Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 Policy Reference	Core Strategy Local Plan 2018 Policy Reference	Brief Description of Changes
Spatial Strategy for Shorncliffe Garrison, Folkestone	SS7	SS11	Minor updates to original policy.
Balanced Neighbourhoods	CSD1	CSD1	Amendments to update
District Residential Needs	CSD2	CSD2	Amendments made to reflect new development requirements
Rural and Tourism Development	CSD3	CSD3	No amendments made to original policy
Green Infrastructure of Natural Networks, Open Spaces and Recreation	CSD4	CSD4	Minor amendments made to the text.
Water and Coastal Environmental Management	CSD5	CSD5	Updated to reflect new Government standards and introduction of BREEAM
Central Folkestone Strategy	CSD6	CSD6	Minor amendments made to introduce town centre enterprise zone.
Hythe Strategy	CSD7	CSD7	Minor change to update paragraph reference.
New Romney Strategy	CSD8	CSD8	New paragraph added to update.
Sellindge Strategy	CSD9	CSD9	Revisions to reflect additional allocated land and to update.

**Table 6.7 Schedule of 2013 Core Strategy policies to be replaced**







