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Shepway District Council

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Places and Policies Local Plan

Prepared by LUC

April 2014

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1 Introduction

Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this Scoping Report is to set out the proposed scope and level of detail of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive of the emerging Shepway District Council Places and Policies Local Plan Document (hereafter referred to as the Places and Policies Local Plan). It sets out a methodology for undertaking the later stages of the SA/SEA, including the 'SA framework' of sustainability objectives against which the likely effects of the policies in the emerging Places and Policies Local Plan can be assessed.
- 1.2 An SA Scoping Report was published for consultation in 2007¹. This new Scoping Report has been produced by LUC on behalf of Shepway District Council and it replaces the earlier publication, drawing on the earlier SA work where relevant but updating and amending it to take account of:
- Changes in other relevant plans, programmes and policies with which the Places and Policies Local Plan has a relationship, for example revocation of the South East Plan Regional Spatial Strategy.
 - Changes in international or national environmental protection objectives, for example those contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.
 - Changes in the current state of the environment and its likely evolution without the Plan.
 - Implications of these changes for the framework of SA objectives against which the Places and Policies Local Plan will be assessed
- 1.3 This Scoping Report is being made available for consultation in line with requirements of the SEA Regulations.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.4 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC), and the SEA Regulations which transpose the SEA Directive into English law². Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Places and Policies Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA.
- 1.5 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process. Government guidance³ provides information to assist users in complying with the requirements of the SEA Directive and Regulations through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken for the Places and Policies Local Plan. In addition, the guidance widens the approach of SEA to include social and economic as well as environmental issues. From here on, the term 'SA' should therefore be taken to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive and SEA Regulations'.

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

² The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633)

³ Contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance website (<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>) and A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ODPM September 2005.

1.6 The SA process typically comprises a number of stages as follows:

Main stages of SA

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

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the Local Plan and SA report

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive

1.7 This Scoping Report includes some of the required elements of the final 'Environmental Report' (the output required by the SEA Directive). **Table 1.1** signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Directive requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA). This table will be included in the SA Report at each stage of the SA process to show how the SEA Directive requirements have been met.

Table 1.1: Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Directive

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<p>Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex I):</p>	<p>The SA Reports produced to accompany consultation on the Draft, Final Draft and Proposed Submission Places and Policies Local Plan versions will also form part of the 'environmental report'.</p>
<p>a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;</p>	<p>Chapters 2.</p>
<p>b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;</p>	<p>Chapters 3.</p>
<p>c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;</p>	<p>Chapter 3.</p>
<p>d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.;</p>	<p>Chapter 3.</p>
<p>e) The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;</p>	<p>Chapters 2 and 3 and Appendix 2.</p>
<p>f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;</p>	<p>Partial explanation at Chapter 4. Requirement will be met fully at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2)</p>	<p>This Scoping Report and the Environmental Reports will adhere to this requirement.</p>
<p>Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4) 	<p>Consultation with the relevant statutory environmental bodies on this Scoping Report will be undertaken during Spring 2014.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2) 	<p>Public consultation on the Shepway Places and Policies Draft Local Plan and accompanying SA is currently proposed for autumn 2014. Further consultation will be undertaken for the Final Draft and Proposed Submission versions of the Plan.</p>

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7). 	Unlikely to be relevant to the Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan.
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8)	
<p>Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art.7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the plan or programme as adopted a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and the measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9) 	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
<p>Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)</p>	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.8 Under Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) land-use plans, including Local Plans, are also subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. The HRA process for the Places and Policies Local Plan will be undertaken by Shepway District Council during the production of the Plan and the findings will be taken into account in the SA where relevant.

Role and structure of SA Scoping Report

- 1.9 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:
- Chapter 2** outlines the Places and Policies Local Plan, its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes and the environmental protection objectives of relevance to the SA objectives and the Local Plan, drawing on a detailed policy review set out in **Appendix 2**.
 - Chapter 3** provides a sustainability profile of the Shepway to inform the proposed SA framework and meet SEA Directive reporting requirements.
 - Chapter 4** sets out the proposed methodology for the remainder of the SA process, including the framework of SA objectives, appraisal questions and associated assumptions that will be used to appraise the Places and Policies Local Plan; detailed assumptions for the SA of site allocations are set out in **Appendix 1**. Chapter 4 also describes the proposed structure of the SA Report.

Consultation and next steps

- 1.10 To meet the requirements of the SEA Directive, the views of the three statutory consultees (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency) will be sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be covered by the SA of the Places and Policies Local Plan. This

requirement is being met by publishing this SA Scoping Report for consultation with the three statutory bodies for a five week period.

Consultees are asked to consider the following questions in particular:

- Are any significant sustainability issues or opportunities missing or misrepresented in the sustainability profile for the area covered by or potentially affected by the Places and Policies Local Plan? If so, please provide evidence to support suggested additional issues. (**Chapter 3**)
- Do the SA objectives provide a reasonable framework with which to address the likely **significant** sustainability effects of the Places and Policies Local Plan? (**Chapter 4**)

1.11 Comments should be sent to:

Planning Policy Team
Shepway District Council
Civic Centre
Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone CT20 2QY

planning.policy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

- 1.12 Responses from the consultees will be addressed in the subsequent stages of the SA. The next formal output of the SA process will be at the Draft Plan stage, during which reasonable alternative site allocations and development management policies will be assessed. The results of this assessment will inform the Shepway planning team in their preparation of subsequent iterations of the Places and Policies Local Plan. The SA of the Draft Plan will be reported in an SA Report which will be published for public consultation alongside the Draft Plan (currently scheduled for consultation in autumn 2014).

2 Relevant policy context

Outline of the Places and Policies Local Plan and its relationship to other plans and programmes

The Environment Report should include:

"an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes"

(SEA Regulations Schedule 2(1))

- 2.1 Shepway District Council, as the Local Planning Authority (LPA), is preparing a Local Plan in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004. The key relationship of the Places and Policies Local Plan is with other components of the Local Plan as follows.

Shepway District Council Core Strategy Local Plan

- 2.2 The highest tier document of the Local Plan, the **Core Strategy Local Plan**, was adopted in September 2013. It is a strategic planning policy document and interprets national planning policy from The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in the context of the district of Shepway.
- 2.3 Shepway's Core Strategy Local Plan was adopted on 18th September 2013 and is the long term plan for the District up to 2031. It brings together the objectives and actions of the Government, the Council, residents, businesses and voluntary groups for managing land use and development.
- 2.4 Taking into account the economic, social and environmental issues relevant to Shepway, the Core Strategy sets out three over-arching strategic objectives:
- To improve employment, educational attainment and economic performance in Shepway.
 - To enhance the rich natural and historic assets in Shepway.
 - To improve the quality of life and sense of place, vibrancy, and social mix in neighbourhoods, particularly where this reduces existing socio-economic disparities in Shepway.
- 2.5 The Core Strategy seeks to deliver these strategic objectives through a series of strategic policies and strategic allocations to guide development and land use.
- 2.6 Supplementing the Core Strategy is the Shepway District Local Plan Review (2006, policies saved in 2009) which includes policies to manage development applications. However, due to the age of the document, some of these policies are out of date, insufficient or non-compliant with the NPPF which was adopted in March 2012. These policies will be reviewed in preparing the Places and Policies Local plan to ensure that they are current, fit for purpose and compliant with the NPPF.

Shepway District Council Places and Policies Local Plan

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

Other Local Plan documents

- 2.8 The Council is also aiming to publish a first draft of the Shepway **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule** for public consultation in 2014. This will facilitate charges on

new development to provide funding for associated infrastructure requirements, alongside other sources.

- 2.9 New Neighbourhood Planning measures that came into force in April 2012 allow communities to shape new development by coming together to prepare **Neighbourhood Plans**. These Plans, which must be in general conformity with higher tier plans in the Local Plan, are currently being prepared for Hythe, Lympne, New Romney and St Mary in the Marsh.

Relationships with non-Local Plan documents

- 2.10 The relationships between the Places and Policies Local Plan and relevant plans and programmes other than the Local Plan are set out in **Appendix 2**.

Environmental, social and economic policy objectives

The Environment Report should include:

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

(SEA Regulations Schedule 2(5))

- 2.11 A review of relevant International and National plans, policies and programmes has been undertaken, as set out in **Appendix 2**. Although not a requirement of the SEA Directive / Regulations, the review also covers key sub-national and local plans. Through this process it has been possible to establish:
- Social, economic and environmental objectives that should be reflected in the framework of SA objectives against which the sustainability of the Places and Policies Local Plan will be appraised.
 - Sustainability issues that can be addressed by the Places and Policies Local Plan.
 - Whether policies in other plans and programmes could lead to cumulative effects in combination with Places and Policies Local Plan options.
- 2.12 In carrying out this policy review we have had regard to the following:
- The review is not exhaustive. It seeks to identify the main policies, plans and programmes of relevance to the SA and the Places and Policies Local Plan.
 - The policy review is dynamic. New or revised relevant policies, plans or programmes emerge on a regular basis, for example the replacing of the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) with the NPPF. The review considers the policies, plans and programmes extant at the time of writing.
 - Policies, plans and programmes generally exist within a hierarchy descending from an International/ European to a local level, with the implications for the SA becoming more specific to the Local Plan at lower levels in the hierarchy.
 - The enforceability of policies, plans and programmes also differs at each level of the hierarchy. International Agreements, European Conventions/ Directives represent legislation to support the achievement of certain policies, plans or programmes. The UK Government has, by signing them or enacting them, agreed to continually deliver their objectives or achieve their targets by a specific time. They are, or will eventually be, accompanied by complementary UK legislation which the Government, its authorities/ agencies, private companies or individuals must adhere to. National legislation, policies and strategies are enforceable by the Government, and influence policy approaches at lower levels. At lower levels in the hierarchy the policies, plans, and programmes are more likely to take the form of guidance which will have less legal enforcement but may be related to the achievement of specific targets/ aspirations set out at higher tiers.

- It is seldom possible to achieve absolute consistency with the objectives of other plans. This review seeks to clearly identify compatibility and inconsistency and how they will be addressed in the SA Report.

2.13 Relevant objectives identified by the review of national plans and policy documents (including the NPPF) are set out in **Appendix 2** and summarised in **Chapter 4** (second column of **Table 4.1**) where they have been used to inform the proposed SA objectives.

3 Baseline information

Introduction

- 3.1 The collection of information on the current state of the environment is a key component of the SA process and a requirement of the SEA Directive. It provides a baseline from which to predict and subsequently monitor the sustainability effects of the Plan's policies and proposals.

The 'Environmental Report' should include:

- *"The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme"*
- *"the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected"*
- *"any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, including in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as any areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive."*

SEA Regulations Schedule 2 (2, 3 and 4)

- 3.2 Sufficient baseline information to meet these requirements has been collected and is organised below by SA theme.
- 3.3 It should not be assumed that all baseline data are currently available, or, that it will be possible to collect missing data in the future. SEA Guidance recognises that data gaps will exist, but suggests that where baseline information is unavailable or unsatisfactory, authorities should consider how it will affect their assessments and determine how to improve it for use in the assessment of future plans. Where there are data gaps in the baseline and forthcoming reports, these are highlighted in the text. The collection and analysis of baseline data is regarded as a continual and evolving process, given that information can change or be updated on a regular basis.
- 3.4 Relevant baseline information will be updated during the SA process as and when new data is published. For example, the following Local Plan technical reports which have not yet been completed are expected to form part of the Places and Policies Local Plan evidence base:
- *Call for Sites Consultation*, including allocations for residential, employment and open space/community sites and gypsies and travellers. Consultation completed February 2014 but report not yet reviewed.
 - *Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)*: the council reviews its housing land supply and updates its 5 year supply annually. A review of the SHLAA is currently underway.
 - *Town Centre Study*: based upon quantitative and qualitative need and focussing on sites in Folkestone, Hythe and New Romney town centres, but also covering other centres.
 - *Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)* update was commissioned a year ago but is on hold pending EA's re-modelling of flood risk on Romney Marsh.
 - *Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)* will be produced later in the Local Plan timetable.
 - *Heritage Study*: Shepway District Council are discussing scope and nature of required evidence base with English Heritage.
 - *Transport Modelling*: Modelling has recently been completed by URS to update the analysis in the 2011 Transport Strategy of road junctions requiring improvement. A map depicting results for the key junctions will be available shortly.

- *Local Retail Centres Study*: Evidence has been gathered to support policy protection of local parades of shops.
- *CIL and Local Plan Viability Study*: To analyse what level of requirements the Local Plan can place on developers (e.g. for sustainable building design) without threatening financial viability.
- *Socio-Economic Study*: For Romney Marsh area to examine the socio-economic implications of the closure of Dungeness 'B' Power Station.
- *Sustainable Access Strategy (possible SPD)*: Surveys of Dungeness and Romney Marsh have been confirmed.
- *East Kent Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment*: Needs assessment being carried out by Salford University and expected to be published later in 2014.

Baseline information, sustainability issues and their likely evolution without the Local Plan

- 3.5 The baseline information included within this Report supersedes the baseline profile published in the 2007 SA Scoping Report and is largely based upon information collected for the SA of the Core Strategy⁴, updated and extended where relevant. It provides a snapshot of the current social, economic and environmental situation in the District including the key sustainability issues of relevance to each SA theme, their relevance to the Shepway Local Plan, and their likely future evolution in the absence of the Local Plan.

Climatic factors

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

Climate change mitigation

- 3.7 The Government publishes data on the CO₂ emissions per capita in each Local Authority that are deemed to be within the influence of Local Authorities. The latest available data⁵ show that CO₂ emissions per capita in Shepway fell by 32% over 2005-2011 although this masks widely different falls in the three broad sectors measures: Industry & Commerce -47%; Domestic -21%; and Road Transport -13%.
- 3.8 Dungeness 'B' nuclear power station is a significant generator of low carbon energy for the UK Grid. It is currently due to be decommissioned in 2018⁶, although the operator EDF has applied to extend this to 2028. In any event, planning for nuclear power generation is carried out at the national level and is not a direct current concern for the Shepway Local Plan.
- 3.9 The Local Plan is concerned, however, with ways in which renewable energy generation can be achieved at the macro and the micro scales. Twenty six wind turbines have been constructed at Little Cheyne Court, East Guldeford near Brookland which was granted planning permission on appeal. The wind farm has the capacity to generate approximately 52-78 MW, which is enough to power around 33,000 homes. The site raised considerable controversy, not least because of the potential for risk to wildlife and the sensitive landscape more generally. More recently, one on-shore 15 m high 5.5 m diameter freestanding horizontal axis wind turbine was granted planning permission at Beech Tree Farm, Elmsted and two solar farms have been granted permission: 204

⁴ SA of the Shepway Core Strategy, URS for Shepway District Council, October 2012.

⁵ DECC (2013) CO₂ emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities (previously called National Indicator 186: Per capita CO₂ emissions in the LA area)

⁶ <http://www.edfenergy.com/about-us/energy-generation/nuclear-generation/nuclear-power-stations/dungeness-b.shtml>

free standing ground solar panels at Lydd Camp and Solar farm at Sycamore Farm, Old Romney. Planning applications for further large scale wind turbine sites elsewhere in Shepway have been submitted. They are currently undetermined.⁷

- 3.10 The energy efficiency of new dwellings is measured in Shepway using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP). The SAP is the Government system for rating energy efficiency of dwellings. Targets to improve the SAP rating across the District have been set by Shepway District Council.
- 3.11 A CIL and Plan Viability Study to analyse what level of requirements the Local Plan can place on developers (e.g. for sustainable building design) without threatening financial viability has been commissioned by the Council. Its conclusions will be incorporated into the baseline of the SA once the study has been published.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

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

Climate change adaptation

- 3.12 Changes to the climate will bring new challenges to the District's built and natural environments. Hotter drier summers may have adverse health impacts and may exacerbate the adverse environmental effects of air and water pollution. A changing climate may place pressure on some native species and create conditions suitable for new species, including invasive non-native species. Adaptation to changes in flood risk that may result from climate change is dealt with in the separate section on flood risk below.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Hotter, drier summers expected under climate change have the potential for adverse effects on human health. The Local Plan could take these into account in the design of new buildings and green infrastructure.

Flood risk

- 3.13 Risk of flooding is a major concern in Shepway with 55% of the District at or below sea level. Virtually all of the Romney Marsh area is within a flood zone due to its topography. However, the degree of risk varies significantly within the area, being dependent on factors such as topography, hydrological features and position in relation to flood defences.⁸
- 3.14 In terms of climate change adaptation, flood defence works have been undertaken at sites across the District. These include a £30 million defence scheme at Dymchurch, covering 2.2.km of coastline. This is one of six projects in the "Folkestone to Cliff End Strategy", which is envisaged to protect 14,000 dwellings across Romney Marsh.⁹
- 3.15 A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) update has been commissioned, the conclusions of which will be incorporated in the SA once they become available.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

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

⁷ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

⁸ Shepway District Council (2011) Annual Monitoring Report

⁹ Shepway District Council (2010) Annual Monitoring Report

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

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.17 National renewable energy and carbon reduction targets and the NPPF require local authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and actively support energy efficiency and renewable energy. Additionally, the Building Regulations are setting ever-tighter energy efficiency and carbon reduction requirements for new buildings¹⁰. The Local Plan can contribute to climate change mitigation through policies which require higher energy efficiency standards (e.g. for larger allocations) and provide a positive policy approach to the consideration renewable energy applications. The Local Plan also has a role to play in implementing climate change adaptation, for example through appropriate building design and the identification of less vulnerable locations for development. It can also help to ensure that less environmentally sensitive locations are chosen, thereby reducing development pressure on wildlife which may already be under pressure from climate change.
- 3.18 The severity and likelihood of flooding is likely to increase with current trends of climate change. Without a Local Plan it will be more difficult to manage the effects of developments on flood risk, although all developments would need to take account of national policy on flood risk, including the NPPF requirement that *"inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere"* (paragraph 100).
- 3.19 Climate change and a rising local population are in combination and at certain times of the year, likely to exacerbate water and air pollution independently of any Local Plan. However, without a planned approach to development through the Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach that would help to manage health and environmental risks.

Population and human health

Demographics

- 3.20 According to 2011 Census data, the population of Shepway stood at 108,000 people (a change of 12.2% between 2001 and 2011).¹¹ ONS population projections for Shepway, based on a continuation of recent trends in birth, death and migration rates, indicate a population increase of 13.5% in Shepway over the period 2010-2035.¹² However, past trends may be disrupted by changes in policies relating to future housing and economic growth and for this reason Kent County Council produces population forecasts which take account of future house building plans in each of the Kent districts' Core Strategies. The Shepway Core Strategy aim of delivering 8,000 dwellings between 2006 and 2026 (which would result in a rate of house building in line with trends of recent decades) would result in lesser population growth of 7.3% for 2011-2031¹³. The Core Strategy states that this is expected to lead to a more manageable change in the social balance and labour supply and only limited decrease in the size of the labour force.
- 3.21 A small majority of residents in Shepway live in urban areas (60.2%), with the remaining 39.8% to be found living in rural areas.¹⁴ Approximately 1 in 10 people in Shepway (9%) live in isolated dwellings, hamlets or small villages (below 1,000 people). Romney Marsh ward is the largest and the most sparsely populated area in the District.
- 3.22 The rate of household formation in Shepway for the period 2001-2011 was 15.6%, very high relative to the England and Wales average of 7.5%; this is the 11th highest in England and Wales (the next highest increase in Kent is Dartford at 14.6% and ranked 18th).¹⁵ Average household

¹⁰ For example, April 2014 will see the implementation of Part L 2013 which will introduce a 6% uplift over Part L 2010 across the build mix.

¹¹ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

¹² KCC (2012) 2010-based Sub National Population Projections for Kent Profile

¹³ Interactive Population Forecast Toolkit available from

http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/kent_facts_and_figures/population_and_census/population_forecasts.aspx

¹⁴ KCC (2011) 2010 Ward level population estimates

¹⁵ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

size in Shepway is projected to decrease notably during 2006-206 under all housing growth scenarios, although slightly less so under higher growth scenarios.¹⁶

- 3.23 The average age in Shepway (mid 2012) was 42.7 years (43.9 for females, 41.4 for males). In 2011, births in the district (1,185) narrowly exceeded deaths (1,135). A high proportion of Shepway's population is aged 65 or above, with the District ranking in the top 20% of authorities in England in terms of this indicator. Around 34 % of all households include people over the state retirement age.¹⁷ Shepway is forecast to continue to have a large proportion of older people in its population compared to the Kent County average over the period 2010-2035. This will be in conjunction with a decline in the number of residents who are of working age (16-64).

Crime

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

Health

- 3.25 Compared to other English authorities, Shepway has a high proportion of people with limiting long term illness. A high percentage of the population claim disability related benefits, with the District ranked amongst the top 20% of authorities in England for this indicator. Life expectancy at the age of 65 for females in Shepway stands at 21.4 years, which is 3.1 years higher than males in the District. This figure is above the Kent County Council (KCC) average of 20.8 and the average for England (20.6). For males in Shepway, life expectancy at age 65 is 18.3 years. This is below the County average (18.5) years, but above the national average of 18 years¹⁸.

Deprivation

- 3.26 Based on death rates over the period 2006-2010, the difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived members of the population is 9.4 years in males and 6.9 years in females.
- 3.27 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (2010) dataset identifies relative deprivation for "Super Output Areas" (SOAs), which are geographical areas of a similar size to electoral wards. An examination of the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation data reveals that:
- Shepway is ranked 90th in the IMD out of 326 local authorities nationally, placing it within the bottom 20-40% of all districts by this measure. It is the 8th most deprived local authority in the South East region.
 - All of the 20% most deprived SOAs in the District are to be found in or around the urban area of Folkestone. Four of these SOAs face particularly severe levels of deprivation, with the most deprived of these having been ranked 581st out of 32,482 SOAs nationally.
 - Whilst much deprivation is concentrated in the urbanised coastal areas of the District, there are also significant areas of high deprivation in the rural south.
 - The majority of least deprived SOAs in Shepway are located in the north of the District, in the vicinity of the M20 motorway, the Kent Downs and on the outskirts of Folkestone/Hythe. In 2007 the least deprived SOA in Shepway ranked 30,824th nationally, whilst in 2010 the least deprived SOA ranked 28,308th nationally.

Access to services

- 3.28 Folkestone has the largest concentration of shops and services in the District. However, due to accessibility factors, residents in the west of the District at New Romney may choose to visit Ashford, whilst those to the north around Elham and Stelling Minnis may look to Canterbury.
- 3.29 Within the rest of the District's town centres, Hythe and New Romney continue to maintain a mixture of essential services and goods provision. Other centres, such as Sandgate and Lydd,

¹⁶ Shepway LDF Core Strategy Cabinet Report April 2011 Appendix 1: Strategic Requirement

¹⁷ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016

¹⁸ KCC (2012) Shepway Equality & Diversity Profile

have retained convenience goods and local service provision in their small retail units. There is limited future retail need for additional convenience floorspace in the District.¹⁹

3.30 In terms of access to healthcare services for example, the proportion of households within walking distance in rural areas is approximately half that of urban areas. This relative isolation from health services is coupled with a generally older population.²⁰ Around 52% of rural dwellings are within 0.5 mile of a post office service and nearly 50% of rural dwellings are within 500 metres of a primary school.

3.31 Forthcoming evidence of relevance to this topic which will be reviewed once available includes:

- The results of the recently completed 'Call for Sites' consultation: reasonable suggestions for open space sites will be appraised alongside other reasonable alternatives as part of the SA for the Places and Policies Local Plan.
- A Town Centre Study based upon quantitative and qualitative need and focussing on sites in Folkestone, Hythe and New Romney town centres, but also covering other centres.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

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

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

3.32 The issues described above are likely to continue without appropriate policy responses. For example, responding to the housing needs of an ageing population may be less co-ordinated in the absence of the Local Plan.

3.33 The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the District is likely to continue without a local policy response e.g. providing opportunities to access jobs, community services and education facilities in areas where these are lacking.

Housing

3.34 The housing stock in the District is relatively old, with almost 80% constructed prior to 1980, 42% prior to 1945 and 32% prior to 1919. The worst housing conditions are focused in the older housing stock. There are currently around 450 long-term empty homes in the District. Homelessness in Shepway is a growing issue. The number of households that have approached the Council for help with housing difficulties has risen from 714 in 2009/10 to 987 households in 2010/11. This represents an increase of approximately 38%. Key challenges to housing delivery include the development restrictions posed by the Kent Downs AONB and a lack of large sites,

¹⁹ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

²⁰ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Rural Services Study

which limits the potential to deliver affordable housing. Shepway has the lowest average household size in Kent and it continues to decline partly driven by the older age profile of the District.²¹

- 3.35 House prices have fallen from a peak in 2007, but remain relatively buoyant. The average price of a home stands at £206,412, which is considerably higher than the national average. Highest values are found in the vicinity of Hythe and in rural areas of the District²². Average house prices in 2011 stood at more than six times the average household income in the District and for newly forming households, closer to 9.5 times the average household income.²³ More households in the District are therefore looking to affordable housing provision to meet their need, with the number of people registered on the Shepway Housing Waiting List having increased by approximately 14% between January 2010 and January 2011.²⁴
- 3.36 The adopted Core Strategy sets out a minimum delivery target of 8,750 dwellings by 2031 under policy SS2. This equates to a minimum delivery of 350 dwellings per annum from 2006/7 to 2030/31 inclusive.²⁵
- 3.37 From dwellings already completed, and identified potential housing locations in the Core Strategy, it is expected that:
- At least 7,500 dwellings will be on previously developed land.
 - The requirements of Policy CSD1 will provide approximately 2,000–2,500 affordable housing units.
 - Approximately 6,500–7,000 dwellings will be in the Urban Area (Folkestone/Hythe).²⁶
- 3.38 Reasonable suggestions for residential and mixed-use sites from the Call for Sites Consultation will be appraised alongside other reasonable alternatives as part of the SA for the Places and Policies Local Plan. Furthermore, the Council's review of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) is currently underway.

Gypsies and travellers

- 3.39 There is relatively limited local need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. A 2007 assessment of the needs of Gypsies and Travellers identified a possible need for three accommodation pitches between 2007 and 2017.²⁷ An updated needs assessment ('East Kent Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment') has been commissioned from Salford University and is expected to be published later in 2014.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

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

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

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

²¹ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016

²² Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016

²³ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016

²⁴ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016

²⁵ Shepway Adopted Core Strategy (2013)

²⁶ Shepway Adopted Core Strategy (2013)

²⁷ Leicester Business School for Kent Councils (2007) East Kent Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment cited in Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016

Economy and labour market

- 3.41 The District has an ample quantity of employment land allocated.²⁸ The recent economic performance of Shepway has been characterised by high unemployment and long-term contraction of established local industries. There has been relatively strong growth in certain areas, such as business financial and other services; however, this has been insufficient to offset the losses to the Shepway's manufacturing base, and distribution and catering sectors. Shepway's future growth is likely to be characterised by continuing rationalisation of traditional manufacturing activities and shift into the service sector, including some movement into higher value activities.²⁹
- 3.42 If recent demographic trends of an ageing population and shrinking average household sizes continue there is the potential for Shepway's working age population to fall, with resulting labour supply issues having a negative effect on economic performance. The amounts and type of development proposed by the Core Strategy are designed to address this and are expected to almost maintain the labour supply to 2026.³⁰
- 3.43 Unemployment in Shepway has dropped significantly from 4.3% (September 2012) to 3.3% (September 2013) based on people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). The figure of 3.3% is higher than the regional and national average, as well as the majority of the districts in Kent (only Thanet has a higher JSA rate which is 5.5%) although Gravesham and Medway also have a rate of 3.3%. Youth unemployment during 2012/13 stood at 6.0%, just under double the rate than amongst those aged 25-49 (3.5%). Levels of youth unemployment are higher than South East (3.6%) and National levels (5.8%).³¹
- 3.44 A large proportion of the employment available within the District is relatively low paid. Employment within higher skilled managerial and professional occupations is comparably low in relation to overall Kent and South East England levels.³² Employment in the knowledge economy has seen a decline from its peak of 15% in 2007, in contrast to Kent as a whole which has seen a steady overall rise over the period 2003-2010.³³
- 3.45 Shepway has a number of economic strengths, including its good transport links (M20 motorway, High Speed rail links to London, and proximity to the Channel Tunnel), low wage levels and land/building costs relative to the wider South East region, a high quality natural environment. Economic weaknesses include its relative remoteness, relatively low rates of entrepreneurship and few residents with higher skills.³⁴ There is a need to increase the take up rate of further education courses and diversify the skills base of the local labour market, to ensure local business sectors are able to improve the long term prosperity of residents.
- 3.46 Due its high quality natural environment and its visitor attractions (such as Port Lympne Wild Animal Park; Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway; Medieval castles and Roman remains; the Battle of Britain Memorial and Museum) the tourism, leisure and hospitality sector represent a significant proportion of the local economy. Research conducted in 2009 estimated that this sector contributes £219.3 million to the local economy and supports around 4,000 jobs. This equates to approximately 11-12% of total jobs in the District.³⁵
- 3.47 Folkestone is the District's main centre, with the largest concentration of shops and services in Shepway and is a key focus for economic activity. It has suffered a decline over recent years but continues as a tourist destination. It also features insurance and financial services companies, and developing cultural and creative activities. Figures for June 2011 reveal that 74 retail units were vacant in Folkestone Town Centre; the Council reports that high vacancy rates are a particular issue in several areas of the 'secondary frontage'. This represents a vacancy rate of 18.2% against a national average of 12.9%. In recent years the district has seen a considerable amount of regeneration activity, most notably through socio-economic programmes such as the

²⁸ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

²⁹ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Employment Land Review

³⁰ Shepway District Council (2011) Development Requirements Report

³¹ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

³² Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016

³³ Shepway District Council (2012) Shepway Economic Development Strategy 2012-2017

³⁴ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016

³⁵ Shepway District Council (2012) Shepway Economic Development Strategy 2012-2017

Single Regeneration Budget in Folkestone and the Romney Marsh. Recent positive changes include the fact that Folkestone has begun carve out an identity as an up-and-coming coastal destination; the arrival of High Speed One; the considerable investment in the Old Town to create a Creative Quarter; and plans for the regeneration of Folkestone Seafront.³⁶

- 3.48 Outside of Folkestone, the main centres of economic activity and employment are industrial estates within the larger towns. On Romney Marsh it is Lydd Airport and Dungeness Power Station that provide much of the employment.³⁷ Having been an element of the Romney Marsh economy for around 50 years, Dungeness 'A' nuclear power station is currently being decommissioned, with this work to be mostly completed by 2015.³⁸ A Romney Marsh Socio-Economic Plan jointly produced by the Council and partner organisations is being used to co-ordinate regeneration projects and as a basis for attracting funding for projects designed to offset the loss of employment associated with the loss of Dungeness 'A'. These projects seek to broaden the employment base and develop education and skills in the local population; associated project locations include Mountfied Road Industrial Estate in New Romney, Kitewell Lane Industrial Estate in Lydd, Lydd Airport and areas around the periphery of Romney Marsh (given the constraints on development within the Marsh posed by flood risk and nature conservation designations).
- 3.49 Dungeness 'B' nuclear power station is still operational; decommissioning is currently set to commence in 2018 but EDF has applied to extend this to 2028.³⁹ At present the Government has not included Dungeness as a site for new generation power stations due to concerns over potential damage to the Dungeness Special Area of Conservation. A Socio-Economic Study for the Romney Marsh area has been commissioned by Shepway District Council to examine the socio-economic implications of the closure of Dungeness 'B' Power Station. The conclusions of the study will be incorporated into the SA baseline once they have been published. If the decommissioning of Dungeness 'B' follows the pattern set by Dungeness 'A' then the years immediately following cessation of power generation are likely to see an increase in employment over several years associated with the de-commissioning process, before an eventual decline.
- 3.50 Reasonable suggestions for employment and mixed-use sites from the Call for Sites consultation will be appraised alongside other reasonable alternatives as part of the SA for the Places and Policies Local Plan.
- 3.51 A Town Centre Study based upon quantitative and qualitative need and focussing on sites in Folkestone, Hythe and New Romney town centres, but also covering other centres has been commissioned by the Council. Its conclusions will be incorporated in to the baseline of the SA once they become available.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Shepway's economic growth is relatively poor. It has suffered from a decline in manufacturing and dependence on relatively low paid and seasonal tourism jobs and on nuclear power generation at Dungeness.
- Unemployment in general and youth unemployment in particular are high in Shepway and many of the jobs available are relatively low paid.
- Shepway has relatively low levels of educational attainment and skills which could hinder economic growth in the District. The Local Plan should seek to support access to education.
- Parts of Folkestone, notably several areas of the 'secondary frontage', suffer from high vacancy rates of retail premises. The Local Plan should support town centre regeneration.
- There is a need for the Local Plan to:
 - Regenerate the District's principal urban centre, Folkestone.

³⁶ Shepway District Council (2012) Shepway Economic Development Strategy 2012-2017

³⁷ Shepway District Council (2012) Shepway Economic Development Strategy 2012-2017

³⁸ Shepway District Council (2012) Shepway Economic Development Strategy 2012-2017

³⁹ <http://www.edfenergy.com/about-us/energy-generation/nuclear-generation/nuclear-power-stations/dungeness-b.shtml>

- Provide employment land suitable for the likely continuation in a shift from manufacturing to service industries and encourage higher skill, higher paid sectors through provision of high quality employment sites.
- Protect and promote appropriate access to its high quality natural environment.
- Support expansion or upgrading of key visitor attractions.
- Plan for the consequences of the de-commissioning of Dungeness 'B' nuclear power station.

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

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

Historic environment

- 3.53 There is a wealth of notable heritage in the District – Iron Age and Roman settlements, medieval churches, Tudor castles and Napoleonic fortifications and other defensive sites⁴⁰. The District contains over a thousand Listed Buildings, with over a hundred of these listed as Grade I or Grade II*⁴¹, and 59 Scheduled Monuments. Listed buildings are not evenly distributed through-out the District but concentrated in the Folkestone area, which is home to 200, and in Hythe and Elham, which feature 100 each.
- 3.54 Shepway District Council has designated 21 Conservation Areas, which make up 1% of the District's land area.⁴²
- 3.55 The English Heritage at Risk Register 2014⁴³ lists several buildings in Shepway deemed at risk: Martello Towers Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9; Dymchurch Redoubt; The Parish Church of St Mary and St Eanswythe, Folkestone. Overall, two (Martello Towers nos. 4 and 9) are deemed to be in 'very bad' condition with the rest rated as Poor or Fair.⁴⁴
- 3.56 The Register also identifies monuments deemed to be at risk. In Shepway there are four: Romano-British building south of Burch's Rough, Lympne; Motte and Bailey Castle 200m north west of Stowting Church; Bowl barrow 150m north east of Red House Farm, Swingfield; and Bowl barrow at Minnis Beeches, Swingfield. Three of these are described as having 'extensive significant problems' whilst one (Motte and Bailey) is deemed to be 'generally unsatisfactory'.⁴⁵
- 3.57 Shepway District Council is discussing the scope and nature of a planned Heritage Impact Study with English Heritage. The conclusions of the study will be incorporated into the SA baseline once they are published.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

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

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

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

Landscape

- 3.59 Shepway is a coastal District with over 20 miles of coastline, a section of which is designated as Heritage Coast. Over 33% of the District falls within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural

⁴⁰ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

⁴¹ Shepway District Council (2011) Annual Monitoring Report

⁴² Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

⁴³ English Heritage Risk Register (2013)

⁴⁴ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

⁴⁵ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

Beauty (AONB). The District has a number of locally designated 'Local Landscape Areas' concentrated around Romney Marsh and also parts of the Sandgate Escarpment and Seabrook Valley, Eaton Lands, Coolinge Lane, Enbrook Valley and Mill Lease Valley.⁴⁶

3.60 Shepway features a variety of landscape types, from chalk downland and wooded valleys to areas of marshland. The District of Shepway spans three National Character Areas.

- The southern half of Shepway is within the Romney Marsh NCA:
 - A flat, open and agricultural landscape, with distinctive drainage dykes, marshes and open skies. Dungeness is the largest shingle foreland in Europe, with a real sense of isolation and remoteness especially along the coast. 20th century development is evident in the towns along the coastal strip. Much of this area is dominated by the imposing power station and associated transmission lines. Past gravel extraction pits, now flooded, military uses and expanding holiday resorts add to the general clutter along the coast.
- The Wealden Greensand NCA runs in a narrow band west from Folkestone:
 - Belt of Greensand typified by woodlands, scattered settlements and scarp / dip-slope topography. The East Kent section has a gentler, more open aspect and can be described as less intimate and less distinctive than other areas. It is also more marked by development, with the presence of major towns and communication corridors.
- The northern quarter of the District lies within the North Downs NCA:
 - Distinctive chalk downland with a steep scarp, and broad dip slope incised by valleys or "coombes". Unimproved, species rich grassland and ancient woodland are found on some less fertile soils, although much of the lower dip slope in Kent is fertile and is used for intensive arable agriculture. Rural with scattered and distinctive farmsteads and large houses.⁴⁷

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- The District contains a number of distinct rural landscapes as well as those more influenced by human development which could be harmed by inappropriate development.

3.61 The Local Plan should ensure that designated landscapes are protected as appropriate and that development outside these designations takes account of the variation in landscape character across the District.

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

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

Biodiversity

3.63 Shepway District contains a wide range of habitats including species-rich chalk grassland, ancient woodland, low lying marsh, shingle, and dune areas. Two areas (Dungeness and the Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment) have been designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), which means that are regarded as being of international importance under the EU Habitats Directive⁴⁸. Dungeness is also a National Nature Reserve.

3.64 There are 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in Shepway District of varying condition. Eight of these are considered to be broadly in "favourable" condition and three broadly in

⁴⁶ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

⁴⁷ Natural England, National Character Areas Profiles (2013) [online] available at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/>

⁴⁸ Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora

"unfavourable recovering" condition. One site is classified as "unfavourable no change" and another "unfavourable declining".⁴⁹

- 3.65 There is a significant amount of Ancient Woodland in Shepway, concentrated to the west, northwest and north of Folkestone. 26 of the 40 Ancient Woodlands are considered to be in positive management.⁵⁰ The distribution of this woodland is patchy leading to limited ecological connectivity between the areas, although there are some less fragmented areas in the Northwest of the District.
- 3.66 The District contains 40 Local Wildlife Sites. Located mainly to the west and north of Shepway these sites are mainly woodland and species-rich grassland sites, in contrast to the District's SSSIs, which are primarily coastal or wetland habitats.
- 3.67 In support of a "Living Landscapes" approach, Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) in Kent have been mapped to indicate where the delivery of Kent Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets should be focused to secure the maximum biodiversity benefits and the best opportunities for establishing large habitat areas and/or networks. It is not intended that nature conservation becomes the primary land-use within the BOAs, so long as the targets and objectives for each area can be met, and development of any kind is not precluded. However, consideration may in some cases need to be given to ensuring that development within a BOA does not significantly increase the fragmentation of wildlife habitats within target areas or preclude significant opportunities for habitat restoration or recreation. Four BOAs have been identified in Shepway:
- Dover and Folkestone Cliffs and Downs (KT08).
 - Low Weald Woodlands (KT14).
 - Romney Marsh and Rye Bay (KT15).
 - East Kent Woodlands and Downs (KT07).^{51,52}
- 3.68 Some brownfield sites in Kent support nationally and internationally important invertebrate communities.⁵³
- 3.69 Shepway District Council intends to commission a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Places and Policies Local Plan, the results of which will be reflected in the SA as relevant, later in the SA process.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Shepway contains a significant resource of designated biodiversity sites, a number of which are in unfavourable condition. It also contains a significant but fragmented resource of Ancient Woodland. Shepway's landscape outside of designated sites contains important habitats, including a number which have the potential to contribute to large scale ecological networks. All of these biodiversity assets could be harmed by inappropriate development.
- 3.70 The Local Plan should ensure that designated wildlife sites are conserved and enhanced and also seek to maintain and enhance the four large scale ecological networks identified in the District.
- #### *Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan*
- 3.71 With the population of the District increasing, pressure on recreation and wildlife areas is likely to be exacerbated.
- 3.72 Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs and local designations in the District. The Habitats and Birds Directives provide protection to the internationally designated biodiversity sites in proximity to the District. Adopting a strategic, local approach to

⁴⁹ Natural England (2014) Condition of SSSI units [online] available at: <http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/special/ssi/report.cfm?category=R,RF>

⁵⁰ Shepway District Council (2011) Annual Monitoring Report

⁵¹ The Wildlife Trust, A Living Landscape for the South East available online at:

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

⁵² <http://www.kentbap.org.uk/kent-boas/>

⁵³ <http://www.kentbap.org.uk/habitats-and-species/priority-habitat/built-up-areas-and-gardens/>

the allocation of development will ensure that the impacts of development (both singularly and in combination) on all nature conservation interest can be better managed.

- 3.73 Without the Local Plan there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated approach to the development of green networks for wildlife and natural green spaces designed to steer recreational pressure away from sensitive wildlife sites. Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will need to provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the District's biodiversity assets and ecological networks.
- 3.74 The severity and likelihood of adverse impacts on local ecosystems is also likely to increase with predicted climate change. Without an up to date Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to managing the effects of this change through careful site allocations and targeted wildlife conservation and enhancement initiatives.

Air pollution

- 3.75 Shepway District currently has no Air Quality Management Areas⁵⁴. In 2011, all prescribed air quality objectives were met. The highest levels of air pollution are found at busy roadside sites in Folkestone town.⁵⁵

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

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

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

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.77 The need to travel by unsustainable modes and associated emissions of air pollutants are likely to increase without action from the Local Plan to direct development to sustainable locations and increase provision of sustainable transport infrastructure. Nevertheless, the ability of the Local Plan to influence air pollution in the District is limited by the fact that much of the traffic passing through it is on the strategic road network and driven by regional and national factors. Kent's Local Transport Plan⁵⁶ has a lead role to play in managing transport related issues and its objectives include reducing emissions, encouraging a shift to sustainable transport and tackling congestion, all of which should help to manage transport-related air quality issues, even in the absence of the Local Plan.

Soil

- 3.78 The 2002 Agricultural Land Classification Survey defined approximately 60% of the District's land area as "Excellent" or "Very Good" for agricultural purposes.⁵⁷ Romney Marsh ward is the most productive area, containing virtually all of the 'Grade I' agricultural land in the District and a significant proportion of the County's. .
- 3.79 There are a range of potentially contaminated sites within the District of which the Council is aware. Contamination can be the result of historic land uses and current uses such as the handling and storage of fuels and the transportation and storage of waste.
- 3.80 Construction aggregates - sand, gravel and crushed rock - are the most significant (in quantity terms) worked and imported into Kent. Within Shepway, sharp sand and gravel deposits have historically been exploited in the southern part of Romney Marsh although these reserves are to some extent becoming worked out.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ Defra, Air Quality Management Areas [online] available at: <http://aqma.defra.gov.uk/aqma/home.html>

⁵⁵ AEA (2012) Kent and Medway Air Quality Monitoring Network - Annual Report 2011

⁵⁶ Kent County Council (2011) Local Transport Plan for Kent 2011-2016

⁵⁷ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Rural Services Study

⁵⁸ Kent County Council (2014) Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30: Pre-submission Consultation Draft

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Shepway contains some of the most productive agricultural land in the South East but this could be lost to development.
- Shepway contains areas of historically contaminated land which could pose a risk to human health and the natural environment or which could be remediated and brought into appropriate use.
- Shepway contains valuable sand and gravel reserves which could be sterilised by development.

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

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

3.82 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to take into account the benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be used in preference to those of a higher quality. The NPPF also requires local planning authorities to encourage the effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value. In relation to minerals, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to avoid needlessly sterilising known locations of minerals resources of local and national importance are by non-mineral development. The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan⁵⁹ seeks to deliver a sustainable, efficient supply of land-won minerals and to safeguard economic mineral resources for future generations and provides a mechanism by which to implement these requirements via its land allocations for minerals extraction.

Water quality and water resources

3.83 Kent has one of the lowest levels of rainfall in the country and is extremely dependent on groundwater for drinking water supplies. The condition of aquifers under Shepway in terms of both water quality and quantity is a matter of concern. It is important for security of drinking water supplies and the health of sensitive surface water habitats that new development does not adversely affect the quality or place unsustainable demands on the quantity of these water resources. The Stour Catchment is of particular importance as it contains the District's principal aquifers. A number of Source Protection Zones have been established, mainly in the north of the District, to protect groundwater quality in sensitive areas.⁶⁰ The Core Strategy states that Source Protection Zones must be protected and that effective pollution prevention measures are required, as appropriate.

3.84 The majority of surface water bodies in Shepway have been classified as having a "moderate" Water Framework Directive (WFD) status. Some areas to the north of the District are classified as being "poor", but none receive the lowest category of "bad". The Seabrook Stream / eastern end of the Royal Military Canal is the only current example of a water course in "good" condition. Given the WFD requirement for all surface waters to achieve "good" status by 2015 it is important, as a precursor to improvements, that the Local Plan prevents any further deterioration in the quality of surface water and where possible supports improvement of water quality.⁶¹

3.85 The quality of Shepway's coastal waters is important, particularly to the District's tourism economy. These are ultimately the 'sink' for urban runoff and whilst the volume of marine water

⁵⁹ Kent County Council (2014) Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30: Pre-submission Consultation Draft

⁶⁰ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

⁶¹ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

available to dilute pollutants is significant, the Council acknowledges the importance of protecting its generally "excellent" bathing water quality.⁶²

- 3.86 The settlements of Shepway have a good level of coverage from waste water treatment works (WWTWs). Most of them have a current or planned capacity sufficient to meet planned growth although there is potentially insufficient capacity in the strategic wastewater connection between the Westenhanger and Lympe area and the Sellindge WwTW, an issue which the Water Cycle Study recommends is addressed via developer contributions to support strategic development in this area.⁶³ The Core Strategy (Policy CSD5) requires that "new buildings and dwellings must be delivered in line with wastewater capacity" and that "the quality of water passed on to watercourses and the sea must be maintained or improved". Supporting text specifies that if there is insufficient capacity in the sewerage system to accommodate the increased volumes of flow arising from a new development, the development will need to connect off-site to the nearest point of adequate capacity.
- 3.87 Many parts of Shepway are served by combined sewers, creating the risk that extreme rainfall events (which are increasingly likely under climate change) could lead to combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and associated risks of flooding and adverse effects on water quality. The Water Cycle Study recommends a positive but selective approach to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to reduce the amount of water discharged to combined sewers and WWTWs, where technically feasible.⁶⁴
- 3.88 As Shepway falls within a designated Water Scarcity Status Area, water efficiency measures are appropriate in new development and supported by the Environment Agency.⁶⁵ The Water Resources Management Plan⁶⁶ concludes that demand for water is unlikely to outstrip supply over the Shepway Core Strategy plan period. The Shepway Water Cycle Report⁶⁷ has considered the implications of the Core Strategy on the Water Resources Management Plan and found that the two are consistent but that it is appropriate for local planning policy to directly support efforts to significantly reduce average domestic consumption. The Core Strategy requires all residential developments to achieve a maximum water usage of 105 litres/person/day (as required by Code for Sustainable Homes 'level 3 and level 4') with a more stringent standard of 90 litres/person/day applied to strategic residential allocations at Folkestone Seaford (Policy SS6) and Shornclyffe Garrison, Folkestone (Policy SS7).⁶⁸

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

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

⁶² Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

⁶³ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

⁶⁴ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

⁶⁵ Shepway District Council (2013) Shepway Core Strategy, Policy SS6

⁶⁶ Veolia Water Southeast (2009) Final Water Resources Management Plan Main Report

⁶⁷ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

⁶⁸ Shepway District Council (2012) Shepway Core Strategy, Policy SS6

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

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

Material assets⁶⁹

Open Space

- 3.91 Shepway features a number of significant open spaces. These include four with greater than local importance for their facilities or natural features: the Coastal Park in Folkestone; Brockhill Country Park in Hythe; Dungeness National Nature Reserve and The Warren, Folkestone. The majority of parks and major open spaces of Shepway are within urban areas, predominantly Folkestone. The Lower Leas Coastal Park, Brockhill Country Park and the Royal Military Canal have Green Flag status in recognition of their value to local people as a recreational resource.⁷⁰
- 3.92 Shepway's latest Annual Monitoring Report records the loss of a number of open spaces to residential development but no gains in the extent of open space were noted.⁷¹ The Council's 2011 Open Spaces study⁷² and discussion with the Council reveal that whilst the quantity of open space provision in the District is generally adequate that are some issues with the quality of open spaces, particularly parks.
- 3.93 Core Strategy Policy CSD4 states that "*Green infrastructure will be protected and enhanced and the loss of GI uses will not be allowed, other than where demonstrated to be in full accordance with national policy, or a significant quantitative or qualitative net GI benefit is realised or it is clearly demonstrated that the aims of this strategy are furthered and outweigh its impact on GI.*"
- 3.94 A Call for Sites Consultation was completed in February 2014; reasonable suggestions for open space will be appraised alongside other reasonable alternatives as part of the SA for the Places and Policies Local Plan.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- There is a need for the quality of some open spaces, particularly parks, to be improved. Recent development has resulted in some open spaces in the District being lost with no net gains. Future development could lead to further losses and greater demand.
- 3.95 The Local Plan should seek to ensure that existing open spaces are protected, and where necessary, enhanced. Open space quality improvements should be sought, where relevant.

Transport

- 3.96 Whilst the District is primarily of a rural nature there have been significant improvements in transport connections in and out of Shepway over recent decades. Rail connections have been improved by the High Speed 1 domestic rail service which began to operate in December 2009, reducing the journey time from Folkestone to London to under an hour. According to the operators of the Southeastern rail franchise, High Speed 1 has been steadily drawing additional users from around Kent who wish to take advantage of the reduced journey times it offers to and from central London. All of the four railway stations in Shepway provide direct connections to Dover to the east and Ashford to the northwest, as well as direct rail access into London, at London Bridge, via Ashford and Tonbridge. Of the four stations, it is noted that Folkestone Central is the most intensely used, reflecting its mainline and high speed rail services and its location in Folkestone town centre.⁷³

⁶⁹ The term 'material assets' in the SEA Directive is not defined and has been interpreted in a variety of ways; in this SA Report it is taken to mean 'infrastructure' in the District including 'green' infrastructure such as open spaces.

⁷⁰ Green Flag Award website [online] accessed at: <http://greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org/award-winning-sites/south-east/>

⁷¹ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

⁷² Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Open Spaces: Sports & Recreation Report.

⁷³ Shepway District Council (2011) Annual Monitoring Report

- 3.97 2001 Census information⁷⁴ indicated that approximately 59% of the Shepway working population travelled to work by car, which is a slightly higher than the average for England. Of those who drive to work, approximately 65% travel to work by car within the District itself. More recent data show that although there is a heavy dependency on the use of private transport to access employment, relatively few people commute out of Shepway (73% of Shepway's working residents worked in Shepway and 77% of its workforce was resident in the District in 2011⁷⁵). This creates a good starting point for efforts to promote decreased car dependency.
- 3.98 The percentage of non-car owners in Shepway is slightly higher than for Kent overall, especially in and surrounding Folkestone, which may well be related to the large elderly population. There is a lower than average modal share of bus use, with 4% travelling to work by this means in comparison to 8% across England.⁷⁶ In March 2011 the Shepway Joint Transport Board adopted the 2011 Shepway Cycling Plan which was endorsed as Council policy in 2013.⁷⁷ The document sets out a five year plan promoting cycling across the District. The plan recognises the scope for people to switch to using the bicycle to make local trips, particularly across Romney Marsh, and in parts of Hythe and Folkestone where there is a flat terrain.⁷⁸
- 3.99 An update of the Shepway Transport Model was commissioned in October 2013 and this is currently being undertaken by URS. The update will reflect the adopted Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and will incorporate any recent traffic surveys which have been undertaken as part of major development proposals. Whilst updated maps showing results for key junctions were not yet available at the time of writing, the Council has confirmed that the new modelling work has not revealed any additional junctions which are predicted to be over-capacity based on the latest assumptions. Additionally, surveys of Dungeness and Romney Marsh have been confirmed for the preparation of a Sustainable Access Strategy/SPD. The details of both documents will be incorporated in the baseline of the SA once they have been published.

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- A significant number of people in Shepway do not have access to a car. Where this combines with poorer public transport provision, such as in rural areas with a dispersed population, it leads to difficulty in accessing services and facilities. Inappropriately located development could exacerbate this.
 - There is a heavy dependency on the private car to access employment. If this pattern continues, planned housing and employment growth could lead to problems of traffic congestion and increasing emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants.
- 3.100 The Local Plan could address these issues by promoting sustainable locations for development, provision of sustainable transport infrastructure and support for the Shepway Cycling Plan.

Waste

- 3.101 In 2004/2005, 44,700 tonnes of household waste was collected. Approximately 70% went to landfill sites, 15% was recycled and 9% composted.⁷⁹ In 2011/2012, 38,000 tonnes of household waste was collected, a reduction of approximately 15%. In 2011/2012, approximately 27% of this waste was recycled and 17% composted (44.2% in total), which constitutes a significant rise and 2% higher than the national average. The annual weight of waste generated per Shepway resident is 376kg, 20kg less than the national average.⁸⁰

Sustainability issues and relevance to Shepway Local Plan

- Shepway performs relatively well in terms of recycling and composting of household waste in comparison to other local authorities in the UK. Whilst poorly planned new development could reduce recycling rates and increase waste generation from construction and demolition, achievement of waste and recycling objectives is mainly dependent on factors outside the

⁷⁴ 2011 Census data not available for this measure

⁷⁵ Commuting Patterns from the Annual Population Survey, Great Britain, 2010 and 2011, ONS, 2013

⁷⁶ URS/Scott Wilson (2011) Shepway District Council Transport Strategy

⁷⁷ Shepway District Council (2013) Annual Monitoring Report

⁷⁸ Kent County Council (2011) Shepway Cycling Plan

⁷⁹ Kent County Council (2007) Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, Kent Municipal Solid Waste Baseline Data Annex 1

⁸⁰ UK Governments annual Local Authority Collected and Household Waste Statistics 2011/12 [online] accessed at: https://www.gov.uk/government/.../2011-12_ANNUAL

scope of the Places and Policies Local Plan, as described under 'Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan' below. The Places and Policies Local Plan is not judged to be capable of having significant effects on this topic and therefore no corresponding sustainability objective has been included in the SA framework.

Likely evolution of the issues without Shepway Local Plan

- 3.102 With the rising population of the District, pressures on the quality and availability of open space are likely to continue without a planned approach to development. Without the Local Plan there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of open green spaces/green networks for recreation, walking and cycling networks, and wildlife.
- 3.103 The need to travel and is likely to increase and car dependence is likely to continue without action from the Local Plan to direct development to sustainable locations and increase provision of sustainable transport infrastructure.
- 3.104 Achievement of the waste reduction and recycling objectives will mainly depend on the success of policies in Kent County Council's Minerals and Waste Plan, the County Council being the Waste Planning Authority for Shepway. The increasingly stringent national sustainability requirements of the building regulations will also have a positive contribution.

4 Proposed SA methodology

- 4.1 As described in **Chapter 1**, the SA work will incorporate the requirements of the SEA Regulations. The approach to carrying out the SA for the Places and Policies Local Plan will be based on current best practice and the following guidance:
- A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (September 2005), Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
 - SA guidance within National Planning Practice Guidance (<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>).
- 4.2 The SA will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Shepway District Council officers responsible for drafting the Local Plan in order to fully integrate the SA process with the production of the Plan.
- 4.3 The SEA Regulations set out consultation requirements at the SA Scoping stage.

Part 3 of the SEA Regulations 12(5) states that:

"when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies."

- 4.4 The 'scope' includes the range of SA objectives that will be used to assess the effects of the Local Plan and the approach to that will be taken to the appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' (see below). The 'detail' includes the assumptions that will be made in assessing the Plan against each of the SA objectives. All of this information is contained within the SA Scoping Report which will be subject to consultation with the statutory environmental bodies.

Approach to the assessment

- 4.5 Our SA work on the Local Plan will be mindful of the sustainability issues facing the District, such as those set out in **Chapter 3**, and of the need to weigh up potentially opposing sustainability effects that are often associated with development. For example, whilst there may be environmental disadvantages associated with some aspects of proposed housing and economic development, it is important to strike a balance with the likely social and economic advantages of, for example, addressing deprivation. Another area where such tensions often need to be considered is in weighing up the need to seek support from developers for infrastructure and affordable housing against the need to ensure that delivery of housing is not threatened by the level of obligations placed on developers.

Reasonable alternatives

- 4.6 In relation to the overarching approach to the assessment, the SEA Regulations require the following.

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

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

(a) Implementing the plan or programme; and

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

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

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

- 4.7 Therefore, the SA must appraise not only the policies or site allocations preferred by the Places and Policies Local Plan but “reasonable alternatives” to those policies and allocations. This implies that alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. There is no requirement in the SEA Regulations for all possible reasonable alternatives to be subject to appraisal. Part (b) of Regulation 12(2) above notes that reasonable alternatives will take into account the objectives of the plan, as well as its geographical scope. Therefore, alternatives that do not meet the objectives of the Places and Policies Local Plan, the Shepway Core Strategy or national policy, or are outside the Plan area are unlikely to be reasonable.
- 4.8 The objectives, policies and site allocations of the Places and Policies Local Plan and reasonable alternatives are still being defined. The Council’s reasons for selecting the alternatives to be included in the Draft Plan and for preferring particular alternatives for inclusion in the Proposed Submission Plan will be reported at a later stage in the SA process.
- 4.9 Housing site options for inclusion in the Places and Policies Local Plan will be identified by the Council using both the Call for Sites / Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) process and from the Council’s own analysis of planning records, maps and so on. The Council will subject candidate housing sites to a sieving process whereby they are assessed for their:
- **Suitability** – site offers a suitable location for development, taking into account policy restrictions such as designations; physical problems or limitations such as access or flood risk; potential impacts such as on landscape or biodiversity; and the environmental conditions which would be experienced by prospective residents.
 - **Availability** – there are no legal or ownership problems.
 - **Achievability** – there is a reasonable prospect that housing will be developed on the site at a particular point in time, in light of the economic viability of the site and the capacity of the developer to complete and sell the housing over a certain period.
- 4.10 Housing sites assessed by the Council as being suitable, available and achievable will be included as alternatives at the Draft Plan stage of the Places and Policies Local Plan and will be regarded as reasonable alternatives for the purposes of the SA.
- 4.11 A similar sieving process will be carried out in order to identify open space sites for inclusion in the Local Plan and a Local Green Space assessment against NPPF criteria is currently underway. At the time of writing the Council had not yet finalised the process for identifying alternative employment sites.

Types of effect

- 4.12 For those alternatives deemed reasonable, the SA will set out their sustainability effects in comparative terms, and will describe the reasons for selecting the preferred options, and why other reasonable alternatives have been discounted.

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

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

SA framework

- 4.13 The development of a set of SA objectives is a recognised framework within which the likely environmental and other sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared. The SA will therefore take an ‘objectives-led’ approach to the assessment i.e. the policies and allocations within the Places and Policies Local Plan will be assessed in relation to a set of sustainability objectives. The proposed SA objectives set out later in this chapter took those developed for SA of the Shepway Core Strategy as a starting point and amended them to reflect

an up to date assessment of sustainability issues facing the District as well as the different scope of the Places and Policies Local Plan (i.e. containing site allocations and development management policies rather than strategic policies). As demonstrated by **Table 4.1**, the proposed set of SA objectives will:

- Address the sustainability issues identified in **Chapter 3**.
- Take into account the environmental protection objectives set out at the international and national level (a requirement of the SEA Directive and Regulations) insofar as they are relevant to the Places and Policies Local Plan (see **Appendix 2**).
- Ensure that all of the SEA Directive topics ((a) to (l) in the box above) are covered.

4.14 Note that some SA objectives proposed in **Table 4.1** address multiple issues and are therefore repeated in several rows of the table. The sequential numbering of these objectives is defined by **Table 4.2**.

Table 4.1: Proposed SA objectives and links to key sustainability issues, policy objectives and SEA Directive topics

Key sustainability issues (Chapter 3)	Key policy objectives (Appendix 2)	SEA Directive topics	Proposed SA objectives
<p>Flood risk</p> <p>Risk of flooding is a major concern in Shepway with 55% of the District at or below sea level.</p> <p>The expected magnitude and probability of significant fluvial, tidal, ground and surface water flooding is increasing in the District due to climate change.</p> <p>Coastal erosion and the associated flood risks are a considerable spatial constraint on new development in the District.</p>	<p>National</p> <p>Plan for the effects of climate change in terms of flood risk.</p> <p>Improve effectiveness of surface water drainage.</p>	<p>Climatic factors; human health; material assets; biodiversity</p>	<p>SA1: Reduce the risk of flooding, taking into account the effects of climate change.</p>
<p>Climatic factors and energy</p> <p>The need to meet national carbon reduction targets (such as all new residential development being zero carbon by 2016).</p> <p>The sensitivity of the natural environment in Shepway may limit the number of acceptable locations for further large scale renewable energy developments.</p> <p>Hotter, drier summers expected under climate change have the potential for adverse effects on human health.</p>	<p>International</p> <p>Recognise and respond to the challenges posed by climate change.</p> <p>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 34% by 2020 of 1990 levels.</p> <p>Mitigate the effects of increased extreme weather events.</p> <p>Promote generation and use of renewable energy, alongside energy efficiency.</p> <p>Improve energy efficiency of buildings.</p> <p>Share of renewables to be 15% of final energy demand by 2020.</p> <p>Minimum target of 10% bio-fuels in transport by 2020.</p> <p>National</p> <p>Improve the energy efficiency of buildings and reduce their carbon emissions.</p> <p>Reduce CO₂ emissions by 34% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050 below 1990 levels.</p> <p>Ensure that all new homes are carbon neutral by 2016.</p> <p>Conform to the Code for Sustainable Homes / building regulations (or corresponding sustainability requirements in the Building Regulations).</p> <p>Promote renewable energy generation both at national and</p>	<p>Climatic factors; human health; landscape</p>	<p>SA2: Increase energy efficiency in the built environment, the proportion of energy use from renewable sources and resilience to a changing climate and extreme weather.</p>

Key sustainability issues (Chapter 3)	Key policy objectives (Appendix 2)	SEA Directive topics	Proposed SA objectives
	<p>local levels.</p> <p>Generate 20% of energy from renewable energy sources by 2020.</p> <p>Reduce the number of households living in fuel poverty.</p> <p>Buildings and infrastructure are resilient to a changing climate and extreme weather.</p> <p>Health services, social care system and communities are resilient and adapted to a changing climate and severe weather events.</p> <p>Agriculture and forestry take opportunities from climate change, are resilient to its threats and contribute to the resilience of the natural environment by helping to maintain ecosystem services.</p> <p>The natural Environment is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides.</p> <p>Businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change.</p> <p>Local government plays a central in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risk and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate.</p> <p>Local</p> <p>Promote domestic energy efficiency.</p>		
<p>Population and human health</p> <p>Shepway as a whole suffers from considerable deprivation relative to the national average and there is also significant inequality within the District with deprivation concentrated in the urbanised coastal areas and the rural South. Rural areas have poorer access to services and facilities.</p> <p>Shepway suffers from high levels of disability / long term illness, reflecting, in part, the relatively high proportion of older people living in the District.</p>	<p>International</p> <p>Eradicate poverty.</p> <p>Fight disease and reduce threats to public health.</p> <p>Achieve gender and racial equality.</p> <p>Secure adequate housing.</p> <p>Increase employment opportunities.</p> <p>National</p> <p>Plan for the effects of climate change in terms of flood risk, agricultural output and public health.</p>	<p>Population; human health</p>	<p>SA3. Promote community vibrancy, provide opportunities to access services, facilities and environmental assets for all and avoid creating inequalities of opportunity for access.</p> <p>SA4. Reduce crime and the fear of crime.</p>

Key sustainability issues (Chapter 3)	Key policy objectives (Appendix 2)	SEA Directive topics	Proposed SA objectives
<p>Population growth, household growth and demographic change will place additional and changing demands on key services and facilities such as housing, health, education and social care.</p> <p>There are some areas of Shepway where crime is likely to have a significant effect on the health and well-being of individuals and communities, as well as the potential for economic growth and diversification.</p>	<p>Provide a high quality of life for all by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing health inequalities and improving health services. • Pursuing social improvements. • Valuing open spaces, sport and recreation facilities for, amongst other things, their contribution to healthy lifestyles. • Improving skills and educational attainment levels and standards. • Improving community safety and reducing crime rates. <p>Ensure that communities are serviced with necessary utilities and communications networks.</p> <p>Sustain, enhance and revitalise villages.</p> <p>Ensure development supports existing communities.</p> <p>Improve the quality of the public realm through good design.</p> <p>Recognise that a network of green infrastructure makes a contribution to quality of life.</p> <p>Ensure communities are secure and protected from hazardous development such as high pressure pipe lines and gas compounds.</p> <p>Local</p> <p>Achieve an overall improvement in Quality of Life for all residents.</p> <p>Create a District which is and feels safe.</p> <p>Improve access to health and social care services.</p> <p>Enhance the health of people living in the District.</p> <p>Provide quality education and training opportunities to all.</p> <p>Secure a fairer and cohesive society, regardless of ethnicity, racial, or national origin.</p> <p>Promote the development of, improve access to and increase the enjoyment of social, community, leisure and cultural facilities.</p>		

Key sustainability issues (Chapter 3)	Key policy objectives (Appendix 2)	SEA Directive topics	Proposed SA objectives
<p>Housing</p> <p>Lack of affordability of housing is a growing issue in the District.</p>	<p>National</p> <p>Provide better quality housing.</p> <p>Increase the number of homes built.</p> <p>Significantly increase affordable housing provision.</p> <p>Conform to the Code for Sustainable Homes.</p> <p>Local</p> <p>Improve the quality of the District's housing</p> <p>Improve the provision of homes, including affordable housing, having regard to housing needs and homelessness</p>	<p>Population; material assets; human health</p>	<p>SA5. Improve the provision of homes, including affordable housing, having regard to the needs of all sections of society, including the elderly.</p>
<p>Economy and labour market</p> <p>Shepway's economic growth is relatively poor. It has suffered from a decline in manufacturing, a dependence on relatively low paid and seasonal tourism jobs and on nuclear power generation at Dungeness.</p> <p>Unemployment in general and youth unemployment in particular are high in Shepway and many of the jobs available are relatively low paid.</p> <p>Shepway has relatively low levels of educational attainment and skills which could hinder economic growth in the District.</p> <p>Parts of Folkestone, notably several areas of the 'secondary frontage' suffer from high vacancy rates of retail premises.</p>	<p>National</p> <p>Increase and widen employment opportunities to meet the needs of all.</p> <p>Regenerate town centres by making them the focus for mixed-use development in order to ensure they are vibrant places to live, work and visit.</p> <p>Improve access to jobs.</p> <p>Provide a supply of land suitable for the needs of different businesses.</p> <p>Local</p> <p>Provide quality education and training opportunities to all.</p> <p>Enhance the vitality and vibrancy of the District's town centres through regeneration.</p> <p>Improve the economic stability of the District and diversify the employment base and skills development opportunities.</p> <p>Deliver major social, physical and economic regeneration projects.</p>	<p>Population; material assets; human health</p>	<p>SA3. Promote community vibrancy, provide opportunities to access services, facilities and environmental assets for all and avoid creating inequalities of opportunity for access.</p> <p>6. Support the creation of high quality and diverse employment opportunities.</p> <p>7. Conserve and enhance the fabric and setting of historic assets.</p> <p>8. Conserve, and where relevant enhance, the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape.</p> <p>9. Conserve and enhance biodiversity.</p>
<p>Historic environment</p> <p>There are many sites, features and areas of historical and cultural interest in the District, a number of which are at risk, and which could be adversely affected by poorly planned</p>	<p>International</p> <p>Conserve and enhance cultural heritage.</p> <p>National</p> <p>Provide effective protection to all aspects of the historic</p>	<p>Cultural heritage</p>	<p>7. Conserve and enhance the fabric and setting of historic assets.</p>

Key sustainability issues (Chapter 3)	Key policy objectives (Appendix 2)	SEA Directive topics	Proposed SA objectives
development.	environment.		
<p>Landscape and townscape</p> <p>The District contains a number of distinct rural landscapes as well as those more influenced by human development which could be harmed by inappropriate development.</p>	<p>International</p> <p>Conserve and enhance landscape diversity.</p> <p>Protect, manage and enhance landscapes.</p> <p>National</p> <p>Protect and enhance the quality and character of urban and rural settlements with distinctive qualities.</p> <p>Protect and enhance rural and urban landscapes of particular value.</p>	Landscape; material assets	8. Conserve, and where relevant enhance, the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape.
<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Shepway contains a significant resource of designated biodiversity sites, a number of which are in unfavourable condition. It also contains a significant but fragmented resource of Ancient Woodland. Shepway's landscape outside of designated sites contains important habitats, including a number which have the potential to contribute to large scale ecological networks. All of these biodiversity assets could be harmed by inappropriate development.</p>	<p>International</p> <p>Protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment, particularly in respect of habitats/species of International and European importance.</p> <p>National</p> <p>Protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity, including habitats that support it, of International, European, national and local importance.</p> <p>Protect, conserve and enhance geodiversity of European, national and local importance.</p> <p>Target action on Priority Species and Habitats.</p> <p>Ensure value of ecosystem services are fully reflected in decision-making.</p> <p>Local</p> <p>Protect and enhance the quality of the local environment and biodiversity.</p>	Fauna, flora	9. Conserve and enhance biodiversity.
<p>Air pollution</p> <p>Air quality is not currently judged to be a significant issue in the District. However, locations targeted for large scale development could experience significant increases in road traffic from residents and/or employees,</p>	<p>International</p> <p>Control and reduce air / noise pollution.</p> <p>National</p> <p>Reduce, control and mitigate air and noise pollution.</p>	Air	10. Reduce the need to travel; increase opportunities to choose sustainable transport modes and avoid development that will result in significant traffic congestion.

Key sustainability issues (Chapter 3)	Key policy objectives (Appendix 2)	SEA Directive topics	Proposed SA objectives
<p>resulting in localised adverse effects, in urban areas such as Folkestone and along major roads such as the A20.</p>	<p>Reduce and manage exposure to air and noise pollution.</p> <p>Local</p> <p>Reduce, limit and mitigate air pollution.</p>		
<p>Soil</p> <p>Shepway contains some of the most productive agricultural land in the South East but this could be lost to development.</p> <p>Shepway contains areas of historically contaminated land which could pose a risk to human health or which could be remediated and brought into appropriate use.</p>	<p>International</p> <p>Prevent pollution of, and improve the quality of the soil.</p> <p>National</p> <p>Take into account the benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land and, where developed, use areas of poorer quality.</p> <p>Minimise and mitigate the contamination of soil.</p> <p>Improve land, soil and water quality.</p> <p>Use natural resources, particularly land, prudently.</p> <p>Encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value.</p> <p>Local</p> <p>Minimise and mitigate the contamination of land.</p>	Soil	11. Use land efficiently and safeguard soils, geology and economic mineral reserves.
<p>Water quality</p> <p>Surface water and groundwater quality are a significant issue in the District. There is the potential for direct impacts from development on water quality and from increased discharges of treated wastewater.</p>	<p>International</p> <p>Prevent pollution of, and improve the quality of water resources.</p> <p>National</p> <p>Minimise and mitigate the pollution of water courses.</p> <p>Improve land, soil and water quality.</p>	Water	12. Maintain and improve the quality of groundwater, surface waters and coastal waters .
<p>Water resources</p> <p>Drinking water is a scarce resource in the District and population and household growth will place further pressure on this resource.</p>	<p>International</p> <p>Ensure water is used in a sustainable way.</p> <p>National</p> <p>Reduce water usage to 120-130 litres, per person, per day, by 2030.</p> <p>Improve water efficiency in new buildings.</p>	Water	13. Use water resources efficiently.

Key sustainability issues (Chapter 3)	Key policy objectives (Appendix 2)	SEA Directive topics	Proposed SA objectives
	Ensure appropriate resources are available to deliver the development-related infrastructure needed to create sustainable communities.		
<p>Open space</p> <p>There is demand for more conveniently located parks and greenspace in a number of existing communities, including in the rural areas. Recent development has resulted in some open spaces in the District being lost with no net gains. Future development could lead to further losses and greater demand.</p>	<p>National</p> <p>Protect and enhance open space and ensure that recreational facilities meet the needs of the community.</p> <p>Recognise that a network of green infrastructure makes a contribution to quality of life.</p>	Material assets, flora, fauna, climatic factors, biodiversity, human health	14. Protect and enhance open space and ensure that it meets local needs.
<p>Transport</p> <p>A significant number of people in Shepway do not have access to a car. Where this combines with poorer public transport provision, such as in rural areas with a dispersed population, it leads to difficulty in accessing services and facilities. Inappropriately located development could exacerbate this.</p> <p>There is a heavy dependency on the private car to access employment. If this pattern continues, planned housing and employment growth could lead to problems of traffic congestion and increasing emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants.</p>	<p>International</p> <p>Promote sustainable transport modes.</p> <p>National</p> <p>Direct development to sustainable locations.</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel.</p> <p>Promote more sustainable modes of transport, reduce the reliance on motor cars, and improve public transport.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate resources are available to deliver the development-related infrastructure needed to create sustainable communities.</p> <p>Local</p> <p>Improve public transport facilities and accessibility to them.</p>	Material assets, climatic factors, population, human health	10. Reduce the need to travel; increase opportunities to choose sustainable transport modes and avoid development that will result in significant traffic congestion.

- 4.15 **Table 4.2** summarises the proposed SA objectives developed in **Table 4.1** and provides indicative appraisal questions to illustrate the types of consideration that will be relevant when assessing Plan policies and allocations against them.
- 4.16 Each policy and site allocation option in the Places and Policies Local Plan will be assessed against each SA objective, and a judgement will be made as to the likely effect of the option on the SA objective. These judgements will differentiate between significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of colour coded symbols, as shown in the key below. Mixed effects will be recorded for an SA objective where there is potential for positive effects in relation to one aspect of the objective/one appraisal question but potential for negative effects in relation to another. Temporary effects will be denoted by the letter 'T' in brackets after the score.

Key to symbols and colour coding to be used in the SA of the Local Plan

++	Significant positive effect likely
+	Minor positive effect likely
0	Negligible effect likely
-	Minor negative effect likely
--	Significant negative effect likely
+/-	Mixed effect likely
?	Likely effect uncertain
(T)	Temporary effect

- 4.17 The dividing line between sustainability scores is often quite small. Where we distinguish significant effects from more minor effects this is because, in our judgement, the effect of the allocation or policy on the SA objective will be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect compared with other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective.

Table 4.2: Proposed SA objectives and appraisal questions

Ref	Proposed SA objectives	Appraisal questions: will the Plan/option lead to...?
SA1	Reduce the risk of flooding, taking into account the effects of climate change.	<p>Development which supports and corresponds with the Water Framework Directive, the NPPF, Technical Guidance to the NPPF and the flood risk management policies of the EA?</p> <p>Development which has regard to the Shepway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment?</p> <p>Development which incorporates SuDS (including their long-term maintenance) to reduce the rate of run-off and reduce the risk of surface water flooding and combined sewer overflows?</p>
SA2	Increase energy efficiency in the built environment, the proportion of energy use from renewable sources and resilience to a changing climate and extreme weather.	<p>Developments that are energy efficient in their design and construction and which provide opportunities for combined heat and power?</p> <p>Greater consideration of climate change adaptation within planning and design?</p> <p>An increase in the number of large scale renewable energy schemes</p> <p>An increase in the local/on-site renewable energy generating capacity?</p> <p>A decrease in oil consumption?</p> <p>Opportunities for modal shift away from private motor</p>

Ref	Proposed SA objectives	Appraisal questions: will the Plan/option lead to...?
		vehicles?
SA3	Promote community vibrancy, provide opportunities to access services, facilities and environmental assets for all and avoid creating inequalities of opportunity for access.	<p>Well-designed, compact communities which are of a sufficient critical mass or density to support local services and public transport provision?</p> <p>Opportunities to improve educational attainment, qualification levels and participation in education and training through access to existing or the provision of new educational infrastructure in relation to new residential developments?</p> <p>Provision of new or enhancement of existing leisure facilities for young people at the neighbourhood level, where thresholds/standards require these?</p> <p>Opportunities to lead healthier lifestyles, including development that enhances existing and /or makes provision for and maintenance towards sports and recreational facilities e.g. publicly available pitches, allotments, swimming pools, courts, etc.?</p> <p>Adequate provision of health services to support new communities through the enhancement of existing facilities or through the creation of new?</p> <p>Developments, especially in deprived communities, which reduce car dependence by ensuring employment opportunities, health services, educational facilities, shops and recreational opportunities are accessible by foot, cycle or public transport?</p> <p>Improvements to local public transport infrastructure, especially in deprived communities?</p> <p>Reintegration of physically divided or highly linear villages or neighbourhoods through, for example, provision of central social infrastructure?</p>
SA4	Reduce crime and the fear of crime.	Reduced levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime through design i.e. improvements to the environment, street layout, public space provision, passive surveillance, lighting etc.?
SA5	Improve the provision of homes, including affordable housing, having regard to the needs of all sections of society, including the elderly.	<p>Sufficient amounts of housing to meet the needs of the community and local economy?</p> <p>Development which delivers an appropriate mix of housing, including affordable housing and dwellings for older people?</p>
SA6	Support the creation of high quality and diverse employment opportunities.	<p>An adequate supply of land, skills and infrastructure (such as ICT) to meet the requirements of sectors targeted for economic growth and diversification, including those set out in the Shepway Economic Strategy?</p> <p>Improved access to jobs for local people from all sectors of the community?</p> <p>Enhanced vitality and vibrancy of town centres?</p> <p>Expansion or upgrading of key visitor attractions?</p> <p>Employment opportunities which address the economic consequences of the de-commissioning of Dungeness nuclear power station?⁸¹</p> <p>Provision of high quality employment sites and associated infrastructure suitable for the likely continuation in a shift from manufacturing to higher skill, service industries.</p>
SA7	Conserve and enhance the fabric and setting of historic assets.	Development that avoids negative effects on listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled ancient monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, and

⁸¹ Power generation at Dungeness 'A' finished in 2006; that at Dungeness 'B' is currently scheduled for 2018 but EDF has applied to extend this to 2028; employment levels at the site are typically maintained for several years after operation ceases to carry out de-commissioning.

Ref	Proposed SA objectives	Appraisal questions: will the Plan/option lead to...?
		<p>registered battlefields and their settings)?</p> <p>Development that is well related to the natural environment and characteristic scale, form materials and detailing of the settlement and contributes to a sense of place?</p> <p>Promotes the enhancement of the archaeological resource and other aspects of heritage, such as, parks and open spaces, and areas with a particular historical or cultural association?</p> <p>Opportunities for the enhancement of historic assets, townscapes and landscapes?</p>
SA8	Conserve, and where relevant enhance, the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape.	<p>Areas of the highest landscape sensitivity being provided with the highest level of policy protection?</p> <p>Development which considers the existing character, form and pattern of the landscape, buildings and settlements?</p> <p>The protection and enhancement of local distinctiveness and contribution to a sense of place?</p> <p>The provision of and maintenance towards green infrastructure assets and networks (including green open space and river/canal corridors) and ensure that this is linked into new and existing developments, to improve the connectivity of green spaces and green networks?</p>
SA9	Conserve and enhance biodiversity.	<p>Avoidance of net loss, damage to, or fragmentation of designated and non-designated wildlife sites and habitats?</p> <p>Opportunities to enhance habitats for protected species and priority species identified in the Kent BAP?</p> <p>Opportunities for people to come into contact with robust wildlife places whilst encouraging respect for and raising awareness of the sensitivity of these sites?</p> <p>Development which includes the integration of ecological conditions and contributes to improvement in ecological connectivity in rural and urban areas?</p> <p>The maintenance and enhancement of the four large scale ecological networks in the District?</p>
SA10	Reduce the need to travel; increase opportunities to choose sustainable transport modes and avoid development that will result in significant traffic congestion.	<p>A complementary mix of land uses within compact communities that minimises the length of journeys to services and employment, increases the proportion of journeys made on foot or by cycle, and are of a sufficient density to support local services and public transport provision?</p> <p>Development in locations well served by public transport, cycle paths and walking routes?</p> <p>Support for the objectives of the Shepway Cycling Plan?</p>
SA11	Use land efficiently and safeguard soils, geology and economic mineral reserves.	<p>Development that avoids high quality agricultural land?</p> <p>The remediation of contaminated sites?</p> <p>Development on brownfield sites?</p> <p>Development that protects soil processes and functions?</p> <p>Development that protects sites valued for their geological characteristics?</p> <p>Development that avoids sterilising economic mineral reserves?</p>
SA12	Maintain and improve the quality of groundwater, surface waters and coastal waters.	<p>Development that will not lead to the deterioration of the quality of groundwater, surface waters or coastal waters or deterioration of Water Framework Directive status?</p> <p>Development where adequate foul drainage, sewage treatment facilities and surface water drainage are</p>

Ref	Proposed SA objectives	Appraisal questions: will the Plan/option lead to...?
		<p>available?</p> <p>Development which incorporates SuDS (including their long-term maintenance) to reduce and the risk of combined sewer overflows and to trap and break down pollutants?</p>
SA13	Use water resources efficiently.	<p>Development where adequate water supply is available?</p> <p>Water efficient design and reduction in water consumption (e.g. rainwater recycling/grey water reuse and BREEAM/EcoHomes Excellent Standard)?</p>
SA14	Protect and enhance open space and ensure that it meets local needs.	<p>The provision of and maintenance towards green infrastructure assets and networks (including green open space and river/canal corridors) and ensure that this is linked into new and existing developments, to improve the connectivity of green spaces and green networks?</p>

General assumptions

4.18 It is assumed that, in line with the Government’s zero carbon target for all new dwellings, that all residential developments constructed after 2016 will be required to generate a percentage of renewable or low carbon energy on site, although it is recognised that the Government is currently considering proposals to allow developers to use off-site solutions to meet zero-carbon homes targets. It is further assumed that all new residential development will be required to be of a high quality such that it will have a neutral or positive effect on health and wellbeing. In addition, water efficiency is covered by the Building Regulations. As explained below, such non-locational factors have only been included in the SA of development management policies not in the SA of site allocations.

4.19 Reference is made to ‘easy walking distance’ in the appraisal assumptions. There are a number of pieces of research that give a variety of recommended guidance distances for walking. For example, the Institute of Highways and Transportation found that the average length of a walk journey is one kilometre. The Institute of Highways and Transportation categorises distances depending upon location and purpose of the trip, and ‘desirable’, ‘acceptable’, and ‘preferred maximum’:

	Town centres (m)	Commuting/School/Sight-seeing (m)	Elsewhere (m)
Desirable	200	500	400
Acceptable	400	1,000	800
Preferred maximum	800	2,000	1,200

4.20 For the purposes of the appraisal, a standard convenient ‘walking distance’ of 800 m will be assumed, taking into account that distances in the appraisal will be measured as the straight line distance from the edge of the site option to existing services and facilities, and therefore actual walking distances are likely to be greater (depending on the house location within a larger site and the availability of a direct route). Professional judgement will be used when determining appropriate walking distances to the range of services and facilities considered by the detailed appraisal assumptions in **Appendix 2**, for example the standard distance of 800 m has been used for rail stations but a shorter distance of 400 m has been used for bus stops, reflecting the fact that individuals are likely to be prepared to walk greater distances to larger scale facilities. Increasing cycling is also an important sustainability objective for the District and positive sustainability scores relating to development allocations being within convenient walking distance of services and facilities also reflect the fact that such allocations are also likely to increase the proportion of trips made by bike.

4.21 The SA assumptions include analysis of the proximity of residential areas to areas of employment. Major employment opportunities will be located throughout the District, not only in the areas allocated for employment, but also in the Town Centres, retail parks, hospitals, and in small scale premises around the towns as well as large scale businesses concentrated at the employment areas. Although there is no guarantee that people will find jobs at the employment areas closest to them, it is considered that provision of homes close to major sources of employment would support people in making shorter journeys to work.

Assumptions for SA of site allocations

4.22 The SA of development management policies is qualitative and will be carried out by reference to the previously described SA framework and supporting appraisal questions. The SA will make more detailed assumptions in relation to the performance of site allocations against individual SA

objectives because the assessment of these will be based heavily on spatial analysis within a GIS system.

- 4.23 **Appendix 1** sets out the detailed assumptions that will be made in assessing the significance of the effect of the reasonable alternative site options for housing and for employment / retail developments. Further assumptions may be developed during the SA process in relation to other land uses once the inclusion of these within the Places and Policies Local Plan is known with certainty. The assumptions draw on relevant baseline data and reference documents where available.
- 4.24 We have assumed that most of the land area of each allocated site is likely to be developed, giving limited scope to avoid constraints. Accordingly, we have assumed that where 25% (typically) or more of an allocated site overlies a constraint, a significant effect is deemed likely to occur.
- 4.25 The assessments of site allocations only consider the direct sustainability effects of those allocations i.e. factors which vary according to the size and location of the allocated site. Effects of development which have already been assessed at a higher level in the hierarchy of Local Plan documents are not re-assessed here. For example, although all housing development is likely to give rise to positive effects on SA objective 5 in relation to meeting housing need, the scale of housing provision has already been fixed by the Shepway Core Strategy and is not the subject of the Places and Policies Local Plan. The SA of site allocations does not, therefore, set out the effects of providing housing per se. Instead, it restricts itself to assessing the sustainability implications of allocating housing at a particular location and particular size of site. The type and tenure of housing to be provided, including housing to meet the needs of the elderly, will be considered in the SA of development management policies. Similarly, the positive effects of employment provision across the Plan area as a whole on SA objective 6 are not dependent on the locations of the particular sites chosen and are therefore more appropriately assessed within the SA of the Core Strategy whose policies determine the scale of employment development; they do not form part of the SA of the Site Allocations.

Proposed structure of the SA Reports

- 4.26 Shepway District Council intends to make the Places and Policies Local Plan available for formal representations at three stages:
- 'Draft Plan' stage: intended to set out the scope of the Places and Policies Local Plan and emerging options for site allocations and development management policies (currently scheduled for consultation in autumn 2014). This stage is intended to meet the consultation requirements of Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
 - 'Final Draft Plan' stage: intended to contain the final set of alternatives being considered and to indicate the Council's preferred options.
 - 'Proposed Submission' stage: intended to be a Plan which, in the Council's view, is complete, sound and meets all legal requirements. This stage is intended to meet the consultation requirements of Regulation 19 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 4.27 An SA Report for each consultation stage of the Places and Policies Local Plan will be produced as a key output of the appraisal process. The SA Reports will contain information on the effects of the proposed plan options, policies or site allocations (depending on the stage) and will be published for formal public consultation. They will include an updated version of **Table 1.1** 'signposting' where each of the requirements of the SEA Directive has been met.
- 4.28 The SA reports will, as far as possible, be written in a user-friendly way in order to ensure that they will be understood by as wide an audience as possible. The SA Report accompanying the Proposed Submission stage will also include a non-technical summary. The SA Reports are likely to be structured as follows:

Summary and outcomes

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

Background

- Purpose of the SA and the SA Report.
- Local Plan objectives and an outline of its contents.
- Compliance with the SEA Directive.

Appraisal methodology

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

Sustainability objectives, baseline and context

- Links to other strategies, plans and policies and sustainability objectives and how these have been taken into account.
- Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline.
- Difficulties in data collection and its limitations.
- The SA Framework, including objectives, targets and indicators.
- Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified and the likely evolution of those issues without implementation of the Local Plan.

Local Plan alternatives

- Main options considered and how they were identified, including consideration of reasonable alternatives.
- Comparison of their social, environmental and economic effects.
- How social, environmental and economic impacts were considered in choosing the preferred option.
- Other options considered and why these were rejected.
- Any proposed mitigation measures.

Local Plan policies and sites

- Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the policies and potential site allocations.
- How social, environmental and economic problems were considered in developing the policies and site proposals.
- Proposed mitigation measures.
- Uncertainties and risks.

Implementation

- Links to other tiers of plans and guidance and the project level (e.g. design guidance).
- Proposals for monitoring.

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

Appendix 1

Detailed assumptions for SA of site allocations

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
<p>1: Reduce the risk of flooding, taking into account the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>Development which supports and corresponds with the Water Framework Directive, the NPPF, Technical Guidance to the NPPF and the flood risk management policies of the EA?</p> <p>Development which has regard to the Shepway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment?</p> <p>Development which incorporates SuDS (including their long-term maintenance) to reduce the rate of run-off and reduce the risk of surface water flooding and combined sewer overflows?</p>	<p>Development on sites that are within areas of high flood risk may have negative effects on this SA objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites having a significant proportion of land (>=25%) within flood zones 3a or 3b, have an 'extreme' flood hazard rating in the SFRA, and/or include flood storage areas are assumed to have a significant negative (--) effect. • Sites having as significant proportion of land (>=25%) within flood zone 2 or that are 5-25% within flood zone 3 are assumed to have a minor negative (-) effect. Sites that include a very small part of a flood storage area would also have a minor negative effect. • Sites with less than 5% of their land within flood zone 3, less than 25% of their land within flood zone 2 and do not include flood storage areas are assumed to have a negligible (0) effect. <p>The opportunity to incorporate SuDS to mitigate the risks of surface water flooding and surface water contamination is a design issue and does not form part of the SA of Site Allocations.</p> <p>(Sources required: EA flood zones; SFRA; flood storage areas)</p>	<p>As for housing sites.</p>
<p>2. Increase energy efficiency in the built environment, the proportion of energy use from renewable sources and resilience to a changing climate and extreme weather.</p>	<p>Developments that are energy efficient in their design and construction and which provide opportunities for combined heat and power?</p> <p>Greater consideration of climate change adaptation within planning and design?</p> <p>An increase in the number of large scale renewable energy schemes</p> <p>An increase in the local/on-site renewable energy generating</p>	<p>While any additional development is likely to increase <u>total</u> energy consumption in the District, it is likely to be built to a higher energy efficiency standard than existing housing stock as a result of increasingly stringent Building Regulations requirements and the Government's 2016 zero carbon target for new dwellings, thereby helping to improve energy efficiency. It may also offer opportunities for incorporating local renewable energy generation. However, these issues will not be determined by the location of the development and will, instead, be determined through the detailed proposals for each site. Therefore, this aspect of the SA objective is not assessed in the SA of the Site Allocations.</p> <p>Sites within convenient walking distance of a rail</p>	<p>As for housing sites.</p>

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
	<p>capacity?</p> <p>A decrease in fossil fuel consumption?</p> <p>Opportunities for modal shift away from private motor vehicles?</p>	<p>station (800 m) or a bus stop on a route providing a seven day a week service (400 m) are likely to have a minor positive effect on reducing dependence on car use and related greenhouse gas emissions but this will be uncertain (+?) as the frequency and reliability of bus services and suitability of routes for the housing site's residents will not be known and existing services may change in response to new demand from the development. Other housing sites will be assessed as having a negligible (0) effect on this objective.</p> <p>(Sources required: GIS mapping of train stations and of bus stops on routes providing a seven day a week service)</p>	
<p>3. Promote community vibrancy, provide opportunities to access services, facilities and environmental assets for all and avoid creating inequalities of opportunity for access.</p>	<p>Well-designed, compact communities which are of a sufficient critical mass or density to support local services and public transport provision?</p> <p>Opportunities to improve educational attainment, qualification levels and participation in education and training through access to existing or the provision of new educational infrastructure in relation to new residential developments?</p> <p>Provision of new or enhancement of existing leisure facilities for young people at the neighbourhood level, where thresholds/standards require these?</p> <p>Opportunities to lead healthier lifestyles, including development that enhances existing and /or makes provision for and maintenance towards sports and recreational facilities e.g. publicly available pitches, allotments, swimming pools, courts, etc.?</p>	<p>Sites that are within convenient walking distance (800 m) of three or more different types of the following service/facility/asset:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a GP surgery or a hospital; • a sports/recreation facility or an area of open space; • a convenience store or post office; • a primary or secondary school; • a Major Employment Site or Town Centre <p>...are assumed to have a minor positive (+) effect on this aspect of the SA objective because of the potential to use these facilities. Allocations which are also located in an area within one of the 20% most deprived areas within the District ('access to services' domain of English Indices of Deprivation) are assessed as having a significant positive (++) effect on this aspect of the objective. Other allocations are assessed as having a negligible (0) effect.</p> <p>(Sources required: GIS mapping of GP surgeries, hospitals, sports/recreation facilities, open spaces, post offices, convenience stores, primary schools, secondary schools, Major Employment Sites, Town Centres; English Indices of Deprivation)</p>	<p>Employment site allocations are not relevant to this SA objective which has therefore been screened out of the SA of employment sites.</p> <p>(Sources required: none)</p>

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
	<p>Adequate provision of health services to support new communities through the enhancement of existing facilities or through the creation of new?</p> <p>Developments, especially in deprived communities, which reduce car dependence by ensuring employment opportunities, health services, educational facilities, shops and recreational opportunities are accessible by foot, cycle or public transport?</p> <p>Improvements to local public transport infrastructure, especially in deprived communities?</p> <p>Reintegration of physically divided or highly linear villages or neighbourhoods through, for example, provision of central social infrastructure?</p>		
4. Reduce crime and the fear of crime.	Reduced levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime through design i.e. improvements to the environment, street layout, public space provision, passive surveillance, lighting etc.?	<p>The effects of new development on safety, crime and fear of crime will depend on design proposals for the allocated sites and factors such as the inclusion of open spaces that are overlooked by buildings to improve safety and security and sufficient lighting. Generally, these issues will not be influenced by the location of development and will instead be determined through the detailed proposals for each site. This SA objective does not, therefore, form part of the SA of Site Allocations.</p> <p>(Sources required: none)</p>	Screen out SA objective as for housing sites.
5. Improve the provision of homes, including affordable housing, having regard to the needs of all sections of society, including the elderly.	<p>Sufficient amounts of housing to meet the needs of the community and local economy?</p> <p>Development which delivers an appropriate mix of housing, including affordable housing and dwellings for older people?</p>	<p>Affordable housing</p> <p>Core Strategy policy CSD1 requires that, subject to viability, development proposing 15 or more dwellings or land with an area of 0.5 ha or more should provide 30% affordable dwellings. Sites of this size are assessed as having a significant positive (++) effect on this aspect of the SA objective. Sites capable of accommodating 5-14 dwellings are required by CSD1</p>	<p>Employment site allocations are not relevant to this SA objective which has therefore been screened out of the SA of employment sites.</p> <p>(Sources required: none)</p>

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
		<p>to provide 1-2 affordable dwellings. Assuming a development density of 30 dwellings per hectare (dph) as above, this equates to sites of 0.167-0.5 ha so allocated sites in this range will be assessed as having a minor positive (+) effect. Smaller sites will be assessed as having a negligible (0) effect.</p> <p>Dwellings for older people</p> <p>Core Strategy policy CSD2 requires that, subject to viability and design restrictions, development proposing 10 or more dwellings should include 20% of market dwellings meeting Lifetime Homes standards. Assuming a development density of 30 dwellings per hectare (dph) as above, this equates to sites of >=0.33 ha so allocated sites of this size will therefore be assessed as having a significant positive (++) effect on this aspect of the SA objective. Smaller sites will be assessed as having a negligible (0) effect.</p> <p>(Sources required: none)</p>	
<p>6. Support the creation of high quality and diverse employment opportunities.</p>	<p>An adequate supply of land, skills and infrastructure (such as ICT) to meet the requirements of sectors targeted for economic growth and diversification, including those set out in the Shepway Economic Strategy?</p> <p>Improved access to jobs for local people from all sectors of the community?</p> <p>Enhanced vitality and vibrancy of town centres?</p> <p>Expansion or upgrading of key visitor attractions?</p> <p>Employment opportunities which address the economic consequences of the decommissioning of Dungeness nuclear power station?</p> <p>Provision of high quality employment sites and associated infrastructure suitable for the</p>	<p>Sites allocated for both housing and employment use or housing-only sites within convenient walking distance (800 m) of a Major Employment Site or Town Centre are assumed to have a significant positive (++) effect on this SA objective by minimising travel distances and enabling easier access to employment opportunities. Where an allocation is within 800 m of a District Centre a minor positive (+) effect is assumed. Where a site is within walking distance of a site or centre but there are potential barriers to access for all ages and abilities (e.g. topography, major road), the score is downgraded to the next lowest score (e.g. ++ score becomes + or + becomes 0). Other allocations are assessed as having a negligible effect.</p> <p>It is recognised that broadband access could have an influence on people's ability to work flexibly and from home. However, this is not something that can be assessed at this stage on the basis of the location of housing allocations. Information about current levels of broadband provision at the different towns is not readily available, and access will also depend heavily on the incorporation of broadband infrastructure into the new developments. Therefore, broadband access</p>	<p>Access to jobs for all</p> <p>Employment allocations within convenient walking distance (800 m) of a Sub-Regional Town or Strategic Town are assumed to have a significant positive (++) effect on this SA objective by minimising travel distances and enabling easier access to employment opportunities. Where an allocation is within 800 m of a Service Centre a minor positive (+) effect is assumed. Where a site is within walking distance of a settlement but there are potential barriers to access for all ages and abilities (e.g. topography, major road), the score is downgraded to the next lowest score (e.g. ++ score becomes + or + becomes 0). Other allocations are assessed as having a negligible effect.</p> <p>Allocations beyond walking distance of the settlement types above but within convenient walking distance of a rail station (800 m) or bus stop on a route providing a seven day a week service (400 m) are assumed to have a minor positive effect on improving access to employment opportunities but this will be uncertain (+?) as the frequency and reliability of bus services and suitability of routes for the employment site's</p>

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
	likely continuation in a shift from manufacturing to higher skill, service industries.	has not been taken into account in the SA. (Sources required: GIS mapping of Major Employment Sites, Town Centres and District Centres)	<p>employees will not be known and existing services may change in response to the development provided for.</p> <p>Reducing inequality in access to jobs</p> <p>Allocations which are within convenient walking distance (800 m) of one of the 20% most deprived areas within the District ('employment' domain of English Indices of Deprivation) are assessed as having a significant positive (++) effect on this aspect of the objective. Other allocations are assessed as having a negligible (0) effect.</p> <p>Economic consequences of closure of Dungeness nuclear power station</p> <p>Allocations which are within Romney Marsh are assessed as having a significant positive (++) effect on this aspect of the objective. Other allocations are assessed as having a minor positive (+) effect.</p> <p>(Sources required: GIS mapping of settlement boundaries; train stations; and bus stops on routes providing a seven day a week service; English Indices of Deprivation employment domain)</p>
7. Conserve and enhance the fabric and setting of historic assets.	<p>Development that avoids negative effects on listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, and registered battlefields and their settings?</p> <p>Development that is well related to the natural environment and characteristic scale, form materials and detailing of the settlement and contributes to a sense of place?</p> <p>Promotes the enhancement of historic assets and other aspects of heritage, such as, parks and open spaces, and areas with a</p>	<p>English Heritage bases its definition of the setting of a heritage asset on the previous national Planning Policy Statement 5, as "<i>the surroundings in which [the asset] is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance, or may be neutral</i>"⁸².</p> <p>Therefore, it is not possible to precisely determine effects on the setting of heritage assets during a desk-based strategic SA exercise such as this.</p> <p>As an indication of potential effects on heritage assets from housing development, the following is assumed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A significant negative effect (--?) may occur where the development location is adjacent to or includes a designated heritage asset (e.g. listed building, Scheduled Monument, 	As for housing sites.

⁸² English Heritage. The Setting of Heritage Assets REVISION NOTE June 2012.

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
	particular historical or cultural association?	<p>Registered Park and Garden or Conservation Area).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where development is between 250 m and 1 km from heritage assets, a minor negative (-?) effect may occur. Where sites are more than 1 km from any heritage designations, a negligible (0) effect on this objective is assumed. <p>All potential negative effects are assumed to be uncertain as the actual effects on historic assets will depend on the exact scale, design and layout of the new development and opportunities may exist to enhance the setting of heritage features (e.g. where sympathetic development replaces a derelict brownfield site which is currently having an adverse effect). Scores may therefore need to be moderated depending on local circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development locations that will bring 'at risk' heritage assets (e.g. listed buildings) back into productive use will be assumed to have a significant positive effect (++?) on the basis that the fabric of the asset will therefore be restored and maintained but with uncertainty relating to whether the restoration/maintenance will be sympathetic to the asset's historic significance. <p>(Sources required: GIS mapping of listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and Conservation Areas, 'at risk' heritage assets to be brought back into use)</p>	
8. Conserve, and where relevant enhance, the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape.	<p>Areas of the highest landscape sensitivity being provided with the highest level of policy protection?</p> <p>Development which considers the existing character, form and pattern of the landscape, buildings and settlements?</p> <p>The protection and enhancement of local distinctiveness and</p>	<p>Landscape</p> <p>It is not possible to precisely determine effects on the landscape during a desk-based strategic SA exercise such as this in the absence of a District-wide landscape sensitivity and capacity study. An indication of potential effects on landscape features and character will be based on the following assumptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within the Kent Downs AONB will be assessed as having a potential significant negative (--?) effect on landscape 	As for housing sites.

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
	<p>contribution to a sense of place?</p> <p>The provision of and maintenance towards green infrastructure assets and networks (including green open space and river/canal corridors) and ensure that this is linked into new and existing developments, to improve the connectivity of green spaces and green networks?</p>	<p>character and features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are outside, but within the setting of the Kent Downs AONB, assumed to be within 1 km of the AONB boundary, will be assessed as having a potential minor negative (-?) effect on landscape character and features. All other sites will be assessed as having an uncertain (?) effect on landscape character and features. <p>In all cases, potential effects will be uncertain as the exact impacts on the landscape will depend on factors relating to the specific design and layout of the new development.</p> <p>Settlement character: coalescence</p> <p>In addition to the above, sites that are judged to significantly add to the risk of future coalescence of neighbouring settlements are assumed to have a minor negative (-) effect on settlement character. Other sites are assumed to have a negligible (0) effect on settlement character.</p> <p>Townscape: regeneration</p> <p>In addition to the above, if the Council's internal site assessment process (SHLAA site assessment criterion L10) identifies the site as previously developed land or that its redevelopment would be consistent with regeneration objectives (e.g. due to poor current condition) a significant positive effect on townscape (++?) will be assumed but with uncertainty relating to the appropriateness of the design of the development. This aspect will not be assessed if this information is not recorded on the Council's site assessments.</p> <p>Other townscape, design and green infrastructure aspects of this SA objective are not relevant to SA of the location of housing site allocations.</p> <p>(Sources required: AONB boundary; settlement boundaries; SHLAA site assessment criterion L10)</p>	
9. Conserve and enhance biodiversity.	Avoidance of net loss, damage to, or fragmentation of designated and non-designated wildlife sites	Similar to heritage assets, there is not a fixed distance at which biodiversity sites may be affected by new development, as the habitats and species for which	As for housing sites.

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
	<p>and habitats?</p> <p>Opportunities to enhance habitats for protected species and priority species identified in the Kent BAP?</p> <p>Opportunities for people to come into contact with robust wildlife places whilst encouraging respect for and raising awareness of the sensitivity of these sites?</p> <p>Development which includes the integration of ecological conditions and contributes to improvement in ecological connectivity in rural and urban areas?</p> <p>The maintenance and enhancement of the four large scale ecological networks in the District?</p>	<p>biodiversity sites are designated are different, and different types of effects can be transmitted across different distances (e.g. air or water pollution may travel much further than noise or disturbance from physical presence of humans or dogs). Therefore, it is not possible to determine actual effects on the structure and function of habitats and populations of species during a desk-based strategic SA exercise such as this.</p> <p>As an indication of potential effects on biodiversity assets from housing site allocations, the following assumptions are made:</p> <p>Where allocated sites have a significant proportion of land ($\geq 25\%$) within an internationally (SAC, SPA, Ramsar), nationally (SSSI, NNR) or locally (Local Wildlife Site, Local Nature Reserve) designated wildlife site or area of Ancient Woodland, significant adverse (-) effects are assumed. Where a smaller part ($< 25\%$) of an allocated site is within one of these designations the effect on the SA objective is assessed as significant negative (-?) but with uncertainty relating to whether layout within the site boundary and detailed design will allow adverse effects to be avoided.</p> <p>Where allocated sites have a significant proportion of land ($\geq 25\%$) within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one of the four Biodiversity Opportunity Areas identified in Shepway, and/or • an undesignated brownfield site known to have biodiversity interest <p>...a potential minor negative (-?) effect is assumed with uncertainty relating to whether the development can be accommodated without adverse effects on the biodiversity interest.</p> <p>Where allocated sites have a significant proportion of undesignated greenfield land ($\geq 25\%$) an uncertain(?) effect is assumed due to the potential for impacts on undesignated biodiversity interest.</p> <p>Where sites are within the remainder of the Plan area, the effect on this SA objective is assessed as negligible (0).</p>	

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
<p>10. Reduce the need to travel; increase opportunities to choose sustainable transport modes and avoid development that will result in significant traffic congestion.</p>	<p>A complementary mix of land uses within compact communities that minimises the length of journeys to services and employment, increases the proportion of journeys made on foot or by cycle, and are of a sufficient density to support local services and public transport provision?</p> <p>Development in locations well served by public transport, cycle paths and walking routes?</p> <p>Support for the objectives of the Shepway Cycling Plan?</p>	<p>(Sources required: boundaries of designated wildlife sites and large scale ecological networks identified in 'A Living Landscape for the South East')</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel</p> <p>The need to travel is dependent on a wide variety of factors which are not readily assessed by a desk-based strategic SA exercise such as this. As an indication of effects on this aspect of the SA objective, the following is assumed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where an allocation is within convenient walking distance (800 m) of a Major Employment Site or Town Centre there is a significant positive (++) effect on this aspect of the SA objective due to minimising travel distances and enabling easier access to employment opportunities. • Where an allocation is within 800 m of a District Centre a minor positive (+) effect is assumed. • Where a site is within walking distance of a site or centre but there are potential barriers to access for all ages and abilities (e.g. topography, major road), the score is downgraded to the next lowest score (e.g. ++ score becomes + or + becomes 0). • Other allocations are assessed as having a negligible effect. <p>Increase opportunities to choose sustainable transport modes</p> <p>Sites within walking distance of a rail station (800 m) or bus stop on a route providing a seven day a week service (400 m) are assumed to have a significant positive (++) effect on this aspect of the SA objective. Other housing sites will be assessed as having a negligible (0) effect on this aspect.</p> <p>Increasing cycling is an important sustainability objective for Shepway and positive sustainability scores relating to development allocations being within convenient walking distance of services and facilities also reflect the fact that such allocations are also likely</p>	<p>Reduce the need to travel</p> <p>Employment allocations within convenient walking distance (800 m) of a Sub-Regional Town or Strategic Town are assumed to have a significant positive (++) effect on this aspect of the SA objective by minimising commuting distances. Where an allocation is within 800 m of a Service Centre a minor positive (+) effect is assumed. Where a site is within walking distance of a settlement but there are potential barriers to access for all ages and abilities (e.g. topography, major road), the score is downgraded to the next lowest score (e.g. ++ score becomes + or + becomes 0). Other allocations are assessed as having a negligible effect.</p> <p>Increase opportunities to choose sustainable transport modes</p> <p>Allocations beyond walking distance of the settlement types above but within walking distance of a rail station (800 m) or bus stop on a route providing a seven day a week service (400 m) are assumed to have a minor positive effect on this aspect of the SA objective but this will be uncertain (+?) as the frequency and reliability of bus services and suitability of routes for the employment site's employees will not be known and existing services may change in response to new demand from the development.</p> <p>Increasing cycling is an important sustainability objective for Shepway and positive sustainability scores relating to development allocations being within convenient walking distance of services and facilities also reflect the fact that such allocations are also likely to increase the proportion of trips made by bike.</p> <p>(Sources required: GIS mapping of settlement boundaries; train stations; and bus stops on routes providing a seven day a week service)</p>

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
		<p>to increase the proportion of trips made by bike.</p> <p>(Sources required: GIS mapping of Major Employment Sites, Town Centres and District Centres; train stations; bus stops on routes providing a seven day a week service)</p>	
<p>11. Use land efficiently and safeguard soils, geology and economic mineral reserves.</p>	<p>Development that avoids high quality agricultural land?</p> <p>The remediation of contaminated sites?</p> <p>Development on brownfield sites?</p> <p>Development that protects soil processes and functions?</p> <p>Development that protects sites valued for their geological characteristics?</p> <p>Development that avoids sterilising economic mineral reserves?</p>	<p>Soil quality and quantity</p> <p>Where allocated sites are on high quality (grade 1, 2 or 3) agricultural land there is assumed to be a negative effect on preserving soil quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites with a significant proportion ($\geq 25\%$) of grade 1 or 2 agricultural land are assumed to have a significant negative (--) effect. • Sites with a significant proportion ($\geq 25\%$) of grade 3 agricultural land are assumed to have a minor negative (-) effect. • Sites that are $< 25\%$ on grade 1, 2 or 3 agricultural land are assumed to have a negligible (0) effect. <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites with a significant proportion ($\geq 25\%$) of brownfield land are assumed to have a minor positive effect (+). • Sites with a significant proportion ($\geq 25\%$) of greenfield land are assumed to have a minor negative (-) effect. <p>...resulting in overall mixed effects when taken together with effects on agricultural land.</p> <p>Land contamination</p> <p>If the site is known to be contaminated and remediation would be a condition of housing development then assess as having a significant positive effects on this aspect of the objective (++); if contamination status is unknown assess effect as uncertain (?); if site is not thought to be contaminated assess effect as negligible (0).</p> <p>Geological quality and quantity</p> <p>Local Geological Sites are selected for their educational,</p>	<p>As for housing sites.</p>

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
		<p>historical and/or aesthetic value. The Council has confirmed that no such sites exist within the District.</p> <p>Minerals safeguarding</p> <p>Some areas of Kent have been delineated as potential Minerals Safeguarding Areas by the County Council in topic papers to inform the production of the new Kent Minerals and Waste Plan 2013-2030⁸³. These are locations of specific minerals resources that may need to be safeguarded from sterilisation by non-mineral development. This does not mean that development could not occur in these locations, but that the County Council would need to be consulted to determine whether prior extraction of the mineral resource was required before development. Since the outcome of this consultation will be unknown at the time the site is allocated, an uncertain effect is identified on this SA objective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that overlap a Minerals Safeguarding Area are assumed to have an uncertain effect (?). <p>(Sources required: GIS mapping of agricultural land classifications, Minerals Safeguarding Areas, and brownfield land)</p>	
<p>12. Maintain and improve the quality of groundwater, surface waters and coastal waters.</p>	<p>Development that will not lead to the deterioration of the quality of groundwater, surface waters or coastal waters or deterioration of Water Framework Directive status?</p> <p>Development where adequate foul drainage, sewage treatment facilities and surface water drainage are available?</p> <p>Development which incorporates SuDS (including their long-term maintenance) to reduce and the</p>	<p>The location of housing allocations may affect water quality due to spatial variations in the capacity of existing WWTWs and the foul and combined sewer network to accommodate additional demand from new development as well as variations in the sensitivity of groundwater and surface water receptors.</p> <p>In relation to wastewater treatment capacity, the Water Cycle Study⁸⁴ did not identify significant constraints to planned development.</p> <p>In relation to the capacity of the foul and combined sewer network to accommodate additional development, the Water Cycle Study identifies a potential capacity issue in the strategic wastewater link</p>	<p>As for housing allocations except that the potential risk to groundwater from employment premises is judged to be higher than that from dwellings. Employment allocations within Source Protection Zones are assessed as having a potential significant adverse effect on the SA objective, with uncertainty (-?) relating to the nature of operations carried out and the effectiveness of mitigation.</p>

⁸³ http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning_in_kent/minerals_and_waste/evidence_base/mineral_safeguarding.aspx

⁸⁴ Shepway District Council (2011) Shepway Water Cycle Study

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
	<p>risk of combined sewer overflows and to trap and break down pollutants?</p>	<p>between the Westenhanger and Lympe area and Sellindge WwTW. Development in this area could therefore increase the risk of wastewater overflows, with adverse effects on water quality but the risk is judged minor due to the regulatory requirement for the water undertaker to provide a connection to wastewater treatment facilities at some point. It is therefore assumed that residential allocations in the parishes of Lympe, Stanford or Hooks Norton have the potential for minor adverse effects on this SA objective (-?) with uncertainty relating to whether the development is of sufficient size to require a new link to Sellindge WwTW or whether such a link will be secured, e.g. via developer contributions.</p> <p>Shepway contains groundwater Source Protection Zones within which there is a risk of contamination of groundwater resources from certain activities. Housing construction within these zones is assessed as having a minor adverse effect on the SA objective but with uncertainty (-?) relating to the construction activities (e.g. dewatering) and mitigation that would be employed.</p> <p>Pollution risks to surface waters from construction of housing are assumed to be fully addressed by compliance with Environment Agency pollution prevention guidance and do not form part of the SA of Site Allocations.</p> <p>The potential benefits to water quality of incorporating SuDS are dealt with in the SA of DM policies and do not form part of the SA of site allocations.</p> <p>(Sources required: parish boundaries; groundwater Source Protection Zones)</p>	
<p>13. Use water resources efficiently.</p>	<p>Development where adequate water supply is available?</p> <p>Water efficient design and reduction in water consumption (e.g. rainwater recycling/grey water reuse and BREEAM/ EcoHomes Excellent Standard)?</p>	<p>Development standards in relation to water efficiency are not related to site location therefore the SA of site allocations does not assess this; potential effects of water efficient design are instead dealt with in the SA of DM policies.</p> <p>(Sources required: EA none)</p>	<p>As for housing sites.</p>
<p>14. Protect and enhance open space and ensure</p>	<p>The provision of and maintenance towards green infrastructure</p>	<p>Where a significant proportion (>=25%) of an allocated site is within an existing area of open space a</p>	<p>As for housing sites.</p>

SA Objective	Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?	Assumptions for SA of housing site options	Assumptions for SA of employment and retail site options
that it meets local needs.	assets and networks (including green open space and river/canal corridors) and ensure that this is linked into new and existing developments, to improve the connectivity of green spaces and green networks?	<p>significant adverse (--) effect is assumed. Where a smaller part (5-25%) of an allocated site is within an existing open space a minor negative (-) effect is assumed. In both cases uncertainty relates to the extent to which the development will contribute to alternative provision of open space that is lost to development. Site that are <5% open space are assumed to have a negligible (0) effect.</p> <p>(Sources required: open space boundaries)</p>	

Appendix 2

Review of other policies, plans and programmes

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
INTERNATIONAL		
European		
SEA Directive 2001 Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. The Directive must be applied to plans or programmes whose formal preparation begins after 21 July 2004 and to those already in preparation by that date.	Requirements of the Directive must be met in Sustainability Appraisals.
The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010 Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	This Directive lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole. The Directive sets emission limit values for substances that are harmful to air or water.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include SA objective for reducing pollution.
Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU	The Directive aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units. It requests that member states adopt either national or regional methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include SA objective relating to the energy performance/efficiency of existing and proposed buildings.
The Birds Directive 2009 Directive 2009/147/EC is a codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended	The preservation, maintenance, and re-establishment of biotopes and habitats shall include the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of protected areas. • Upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones. • Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes. 	Local Plan documents should make sure that the upkeep of recognised habitats is maintained and not damaged from development. Avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats or any other disturbances effecting birds.

Plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Shepway District Council Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of biotopes. 	<p>Include SA objectives for the protection of birds.</p>
<p>The Waste Framework Directive 2008 Directive 2008/98/EC on waste</p>	<p>Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.</p> <p>Development of clean technology to process waste and promote recycling.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives that minimise waste production as well as promote recycling.</p>
<p>The Floods Directive 2007 Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risk</p>	<p>Establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risk, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments to be completed by December 2011. Flood Hazard Maps and Flood Risk Maps to be completed by December 2013. Flood Risk Management Plans to be completed by December 2015.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives that relate to flood management and reduction of risk.</p>
<p>The Water Framework Directive 2000 Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy</p>	<p>Protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and minimise the impact on water quality.</p>
<p>The Environmental Noise Directive 2002 Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise</p>	<p>Defines a common approach to avoid, prevent and reduce the adverse effects due to the exposure to environmental noise.</p> <p>It also provides a basis for developing European wide measures to deal with noise emitted by road and rail vehicles, infrastructure, aircraft and outdoor, industrial and mobile machinery.</p> <p>Principles of the directive include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the environmental problems. • Informing and consulting the public. • Addressing local noise issues • Developing a long-term EU strategy. 	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to manage and reduce the impacts of noise.</p>

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The Landfill Directive 1999 Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	<p>Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.</p> <p>Reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill to 75% of the 1995 level by 2010. Reduce this to 50% in 2013 and 35% by 2020.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste.</p>
The Drinking Water Directive 1998 Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	<p>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</p> <p>Member States must set values for water intended for human consumption.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and enhance water quality.</p>
The Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management	<p>Avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient air pollution on human health and the environment.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to maintain and enhance air quality.</p>
Air Quality Directive 2008 Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	<p>This directive sets legally binding limits for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead • Nitrogen dioxide • Sulphur dioxide • Benzene • Carbon Monoxide • Arsenic • Cadmium • Nickel • Benzo(a)pyrene • Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons • ozone • Particulate matter 	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to maintain and enhance air quality.</p>

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<p>The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 1994 Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste</p>	<p>Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.</p> <p>By June 2001 at least 50% by weight of packaging waste should have been recovered, at least 25% by weight of the totality of packaging materials contained in packaging waste to be recycled with a minimum of 15% by weight for each packaging material.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to minimise the environmental impact of waste and promote recycling.</p>
<p>The Habitats Directive 1992 Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</p>	<p>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. Conservation of natural habitats and maintain landscape features of importance to wildlife and fauna.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and maintain the natural environment and important landscape features.</p>
<p>The Nitrates Directive 1991 Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.</p>	<p>Reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and prevent further such pollution. Identification of vulnerable areas.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to reduce water pollution.</p>
<p>The Urban Waste Water Directive 1991 Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment</p>	<p>Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.</p>	<p>Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives to reduce water pollution.</p>
<p>European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)</p>	<p>Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to conserve natural resources and cultural heritage.</p>

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European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2002)	The convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Convention. Include SA objectives to protect the urban and rural landscape and identify opportunities for enhancement.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992) Revision of the 1985 Granada Convention	Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	Local Plan documents should take account of the Convention. Include SA objectives to protect the archaeological heritage.
Other International		
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all. • Renewable energy and energy efficiency. • Accelerate shift towards sustainable consumption and production. • Greater resource efficiency. • New technology for renewable energy. • Increase energy efficiency. 	Local Plan documents should take account of the Declaration. Include SA objectives to enhance the natural environment, promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources.
Aarhus Convention (1998)	Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right of everyone to receive environmental information • The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making • The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general. 	Local Plan documents should take account of the Convention. Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production.
NATIONAL		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG, 2012)	Presumption in favour of sustainable development. Delivering sustainable development by:	Local Plan documents must be in conformity with the NPPF. SA should be an integral part of the plan

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		preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors.
	Building a strong, competitive economy.	Set out clear economic visions for that particular area. Include a sustainability objective relating to strengthening the economy.
	Ensuring vitality of town centres.	Recognise town centres as the heart of their communities. Include a sustainability objective relating to the vitality of town centres.
	Promoting sustainable transport	To implement sustainable transport modes depending on nature/location of the site, to reduce the need for major road transport infrastructure. Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable transport.
	Supporting high quality communications infrastructure.	Enhance the provision of local community facilities and services by supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks. Consider the sustainability implications of any new communications infrastructure.
	Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes.	Identify size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations. Include a sustainability objective relating to housing availability and quality.

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	Requiring good design.	<p>Establish a strong sense of place to live, work and visit.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to good design.</p>
	Promoting healthy communities.	<p>Promote safe and accessible environments with a high quality of life and community cohesion.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to health and well-being.</p>
	Protecting Green Belt Land.	<p>To prevent the coalescence of neighbouring towns.</p> <p>Consider the sustainability implications of any policies which may result in coalescence.</p>
	Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding, and coastal change.	<p>Use opportunities offered by new development to reduce causes/impacts of flooding.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to climate change mitigation and adaption, to include minimising the risk of flooding.</p>
	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.	<p>Recognise the wider benefits of biodiversity.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.</p>
	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	<p>Sustain and enhance heritage assets and put them to viable uses consistent with their conservation.</p> <p>A plan may be considered unsound if there has been no proper assessment of the significance of heritage assets in the area, and the plan does not contain a positive strategy for the conservation, enhancement</p>

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		<p>and enjoyment of the historic environment.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.</p>
	Facilitating the use of sustainable materials.	<p>Include policies which identify and safeguard mineral resources and associated infrastructure and promote the use of recycled/secondary materials prior to the extraction of primary materials.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable use of materials.</p>
<p>Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2012)</p>	<p>This document sets out the Government’s planning policy for traveller sites, replacing ODPM Circular 01/2006: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and Circular 04/2007: Planning for Travelling Showpeople. It sets out the Government’s aims in respect of Traveller’s sites, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites. • To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale. • That plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development. • For local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies. • To increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply. • To reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan making and planning decisions. • To enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure. • For local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment. 	<p>The Core Strategy and Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policies will need to be in conformity with this document which sets out national policy for planning for Traveller sites.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relative to supply of housing available to all.</p>

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White Papers		
<p>Natural Environment White Paper, 2011 The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (HM Government, 2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and improving our natural environment. • Growing a green economy. • Reconnecting people and nature. 	<p>Local Plan documents should protect the intrinsic value of nature and recognise the multiple benefits it could have for communities.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the enhancement of the natural environment and consider the multiple benefits that the natural environment can provide (e.g. health benefits).</p>
<p>Electricity Market Reform White Paper 2011, Planning our Electric Future: A White Paper for Secure, Affordable and Low-Carbon Electricity (DECC, 2011)</p>	<p>This White Paper sets out the Government’s commitment to transform the UK’s electricity system to ensure that our future electricity supply is secure, low-carbon and affordable.</p> <p>15 per cent renewable energy target by 2020 and 80 per cent carbon reduction target by 2050.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should support renewable energy generation and encourage greater energy efficiency.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives to reduce carbon emissions and increase proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.</p>
<p>The Future of Transport White Paper 2004: A network for 2030 (DfT, 2004)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure we can benefit from mobility and access while minimising the impact on other people and the environment, now and in the future. • Get the best out of our transport system without damaging our overall quality of life. • Develop strategies that recognise that demand for travel will increase in the future. • Work towards a transport network that can meet the challenges of a growing economy and the increasing demand for travel but can also achieve the government’s environmental objectives. • Provides targets for emission reductions, now superseded by later agreements. Transport is currently responsible for about a quarter of total emissions. 	<p>Local Plan documents should provide for an increase in demand for travel whilst minimising impact on the environment. Policies also needed to promote public transport use rather than increasing reliance on the car.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives to reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of sustainable transport modes.</p>
<p>Urban White Paper 2000, Our Towns and Cities: The Future – delivering an urban renaissance (ODPM, 2000)</p>	<p>Provide for new sustainable homes that are attractive, safe and practical. Retain people in urban areas by, for example, making them more desirable places to live. Improve quality of life, opportunity and economic success through tailored solutions in towns and cities.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should seek to deliver better towns and cities taking into account the key aims of the White Paper.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives to ensure that the</p>

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	3.8 million more homes needed by 2021. Local strategies needed to meet the needs of local people developed through partnerships. Sets targets for development on brownfield sites and through conversion of existing buildings now superseded by the NPPF.	majority of new development is built on brownfield sites and aim to improve the quality of life of residents in towns and cities.
Rural White Paper 2000, Our Countryside: The Future – a fair deal for rural England (ODPM, 2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside. Maintain and stimulate communities and secure access to services for those who live and work in the countryside. Conserve and enhance rural landscapes. Increase opportunities for people to get enjoyment from the countryside. 	<p>Local Plan documents should help increase employment and services in the rural parts of the District whilst conserving the landscape.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives that aim to improve the economies of rural areas with minimal impact to the environment.</p>
Policies and Strategies		
Door to Door: A Strategy for Improving Sustainable Transport Integration (DfT, 2013)	<p>The strategy focuses on four core areas which need to be addressed so that people can be confident in choosing greener modes of transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate, accessible and reliable information about different transport options Convenient and affordable tickets Regular and straightforward connections at all stages of the journey and between different modes of transport Safe and comfortable transport facilities <p>The strategy also includes details on how the Government is using behaviour change methods to reduce or remove barriers to the use of sustainable transport, and working closely with stakeholders to deliver a better-connected transport system.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take into account their role in addressing the four core areas outlined in the Strategy.</p> <p>Include SA objectives relating to high quality, efficient sustainable transport systems.</p>
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (DEFRA, 2011)	<p>The aim of the Strategy is to guide conservation efforts in England up to 2020. Moving further on from 2020, the ambition is to move from a net biodiversity loss to gain.</p> <p>The strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Forestry Planning and Development 	<p>Local Plan documents should take into account their role in seeking to prevent the degradation of biodiversity and ecosystem services within Shepway. Local Plan documents should also recognise their contribution to securing a net gain in biodiversity.</p> <p>Include SA objective relating to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Management • Marine Management • Fisheries • Air Pollution • Invasive Non-Native Species 	
Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2009)	<p>The vision is “by 2030, all England’s soils will be managed sustainability and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England’s soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations”.</p> <p>The Strategy highlights the areas for priority including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better protection for agricultural soils. • Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon. • Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate. • Preventing soil pollution. • Effective soil protection during construction and development. • Dealing with our legacy of contaminated land. 	<p>Local Plan documents should help protect and enhance the quality of soils and seek to sustainably manage their quality for future generations.</p> <p>Include SA objective which seeks to safeguard and enhance the quality of soil.</p>
The Code for Sustainable Homes: Setting the standard in sustainability for new homes (DCLG, 2008)	<p>The Code is a standard designed to improve the sustainability of new homes. This sets out the assessment process and performance standards required for the Code for Sustainable Homes.</p> <p>In January 2014 the Government responded to the Environmental Audit Committee's report on the Housing Standards Review consultation, stating that necessary standards would, as far as possible, be consolidated into Building Regulations.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should take into account their roles in promoting the implementation of the Code (or corresponding sustainability requirements in the Building Regulations) for all residential development.</p> <p>Include SA objectives which promote sustainable development and seek to achieve higher levels of efficiency (e.g. in energy, water etc.) where appropriate.</p>
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (DCLG, 2011)	Aims to provide support to deliver new homes and improve social mobility.	<p>Local Plan documents should encourage development of residential properties.</p> <p>Include SA objectives that assesses whether housing need is being met.</p>

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<p>Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA, 2005)</p>	<p>Enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life for future generations. There are 4 shared priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable consumption and production; • climate change and energy; • natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and • sustainable communities. <p>Sets out indicators to give an overview of sustainable development and priority areas in the UK. They include 20 of the UK Framework indicators and a further 48 indicators related to the priority areas.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should meet the aims of the Sustainable Development Strategy.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to cover the shared priorities.</p>
<p>Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (DCLG, 2007)</p>	<p>This Statement confirms the government's intention to achieve 25% more energy efficient homes by 2010, 44% more efficient homes by 2013 and zero carbon (net carbon emissions should be zero per annum) homes by 2016.</p>	<p>Local Plan documents should ensure residential development is zero carbon by 2016.</p> <p>Include SA objectives which seek to improve the energy efficiency of proposed developments and encourage uptake of renewable energy.</p>
<p>The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (DECC, 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase our use of renewable electricity, heat and transport, and help tackle climate change. • Build the UK low-carbon economy, promote energy security and take action against climate change. • 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020. • Reducing UK CO₂ emissions by 750 million tonnes by 2030. 	<p>Local Plan documents should encourage developments that would support renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.</p> <p>Include SA objectives relating to increasing energy provided from renewable sources.</p>
<p>The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (DECC, 2012)</p>	<p>This is an Energy Efficiency Strategy aiming to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy.</p> <p>The Strategy identifies four barriers to energy efficiency which need to be overcome which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embryonic markets. • Information. • Misaligned financial incentives. • Undervaluing energy efficiency. 	<p>Local Plan documents should seek to address the barriers identified within the Strategy and improve the existing building stock through appropriate adaptation measures.</p> <p>Include SA objectives relating to energy efficiency and adaptation of the existing building stock.</p>

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	<p>The Strategy draws attention to maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.</p>	
<p>The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013)</p>	<p>The report sets out visions for the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built Environment – “buildings and places and the people who live and work in them are resilient to a changing climate and extreme weather and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and take the opportunities from climate change”. • Infrastructure – “an infrastructure network that is resilient to today’s natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate”. • Healthy and resilient communities – “a health service, a public health and social care system which are resilient and adapted to a changing climate. Communities and individuals, including the most vulnerable, are better prepared to cope with severe weather events and other impacts of climate change. Emergency services and local resilience capability take account of and are resilient to, a changing climate”. • Agriculture and Forestry – “profitable and productive agriculture and forestry sectors that take the opportunities from climate change, are resilient to its threats and contribute to the resilience of the natural environment by helping maintain ecosystem services and protect and enhance biodiversity”. • Natural Environment – “the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides”. • Business – “UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change”. • Local Government – “Local government plays a central in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risk and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate”. 	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the visions set out in the Programme.</p> <p>Include SA objectives which seek to promote the implementation of adaptation measures to make Shepway more resilient to a changing climate.</p>
<p>Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our Strategy for public health in England (Department of Health, 2010)</p>	<p>Protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives; and improving the health of the poorest, fastest. Prioritise public health funding from within the overall NHS budget.</p>	<p>Policies within the Local Plan documents should reflect the objectives of the strategy where relevant.</p> <p>Include SA objectives relating to health and well-being.</p>

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The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA, 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality in public spaces, which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life. • Render polluting emissions harmless. • Sets air quality standards for 13 air pollutants. 	<p>Local Plan documents should take account of the likely impact on air quality from development.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and improve air quality.</p>
Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008)	<p>Sets out how the Government want the water sector to look by 2030 and an outline of the steps which need to be taken to get there.</p> <p>The vision for 2030 is one where we, as a country have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "improved the quality of our water environment and the ecology it supports, and continue to maintain high standards of drinking water quality from taps; • Sustainably managed risks from flooding and coastal erosion, with greater understanding and more effective management of surface water; • Ensure a sustainable use of water resources, and implement fair, affordable and cost-reflective water charges; • Cut greenhouse gas emissions; and • Embed continuous adaptation to climate change and other pressures across the water industry and water users". 	<p>Local Plan documents should aim to contribute to the vision set out in this Strategy.</p> <p>Include SA objectives which seek to protect, manage and enhance the water environment.</p>
Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (Environment Agency, 2009)	<p>The Strategy vision for water resource "is for there to be enough water for people and the environment, meeting legitimate needs".</p> <p>Its aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To manage water resource and protect the water environment from climate change. • Restore, protect, improve and value species and habitats that depend on water. • To contribute to sustainable development through good water management. • People to understand how water and the water environment contribute to their quality of life. 	<p>Policies within the Local Plan should reflect the aims of the strategy where relevant.</p> <p>Include SA objective which seeks to promote water management and efficiency.</p>
The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England	This Strategy sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management	Local Plan documents should seek to reduce and manage the risk of all type of flooding.

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(Environment Agency, 2011)	<p>authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities.</p> <p>The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “manage the risk to people and their property; • Facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level – individual, community or local authority, river catchment, coastal cell or national; • Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development”. 	<p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to reduce the risk and manage flooding sustainably.</p>
Waste Strategy for England 2007 (DEFRA, 2007)	<p>Future of waste management – the government commitment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle the amount of waste produced, by breaking the link between economic growth and waste production. • Put waste which is produced to good use through substantial increases in re-use, recycling, composting, and recovery of energy. 	<p>Local Plan documents should encourage the minimisation of waste production and the maximisation of recycling and re-use of materials.</p> <p>SA objectives should seek to ensure waste is minimised and promote recycling and reuse.</p>
SUB-NATIONAL/REGIONAL		
Kent Minerals and Waste Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set out the vision and strategy for mineral provision and waste management in Kent • Contain a number of development management policies for evaluating minerals and waste planning applications • Consider strategic site provision for all minerals and waste management facilities, and • Plan to the year 2030. 	<p>Local Plan documents should take into the mineral supply and waste hierarchies and ensure mineral supply is not compromised. Take account of mineral safeguarding areas, new primary extraction facilities and safeguarded existing facilities during the selection of land for development.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives which consider the safeguarded sites and areas for future minerals supply.</p>
Local Transport Plan for Kent 2011-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan explains how the County will prioritise planned measures under five Themes based on the previous Government’s five National Transport Goals as set out in the LTP3 Guidance, but made relevant to Kent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Growth Without Gridlock ○ A Safer and Healthier County ○ Supporting Independence ○ Tackling a Changing Climate 	<p>The Shepway Places and polices Local Plan should take into account the five themes of the Plan and ensure they are not compromised.</p> <p>SA objectives/indicators should seek to improve access to sustainable high quality modes of transport, ensure safety on the network is enhanced and reduce congestion.</p>

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<p>East Kent Local Investment Plan 2011-2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enjoying Life in Kent • The Local Investment Plan (LIP) family of publications present the East Kent Local Strategic Partnership's (LSP) proposals to deliver its vision: • By 2030, East Kent will have blended the best of its coastal location, landscape, culture and heritage to build a lasting beacon of success for the benefit of all its communities. 	<p>Local Plan documents should take into account their role in addressing the key themes and priorities identified within the Investment Plan.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters.</p>
<p>Lighting the way to success The EKLSP Sustainable Community Strategy (2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Lighting the Way to Success" is a long-term vision – it looks forward more than 20 years to 2030. By 2030, East Kent will have blended the best of its coastal location, landscape, culture and heritage to build a lasting beacon of success for the benefit of all its communities. 	<p>The Shepway Places and policies Local Plan should take into account its role in achieving the objectives set out in the East Kent Community Strategy.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters.</p>
<p>A Living Landscape for the South East</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision for the South East ecological network. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should take into account its role in promoting the green network across the area.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to maintain and enhance the green network.</p>
<p>East Kent Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Report (2007-2012)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the sub-region from 2007 – 2011; and then from 2012 – 2017. • Report is due to be replaced. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should take into account its role in allocating and safeguarding sites for Gypsy and traveller accommodation.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to preserve the rights of gypsy and travellers and improve their integration into the local community.</p>
<p>Growing the Garden of England: A strategy for environment and economy in Kent (2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2011 strategy has three themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Living well within our environmental limits. ○ Rising to the climate change challenge. ○ Valuing our natural, historic and living environment. • It is one of a suite of strategies, developed in 2010, that supports a 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should take into account its role in protecting, managing and maximising the benefits of the District's Ecosystem Services without compromising the environment.</p>

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	<p>revised Vision for Kent to deliver social, economic and environmental wellbeing for Kent's communities over the next 20 years. The 2011 strategy sets out how we will achieve a high-quality Kent environment, low carbon, resilient to climate change, and that has a thriving 'green economy' at its heart.</p>	<p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to maximising the benefits of the District's Ecosystem Services without compromising the environment.</p>
<p>Kent Biodiversity Action Plan & Securing the value of nature in Kent (2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plans for the 85 UK BAP priority species and 28 BAP habitats 	<p>The Shepway Places and Polices Local Plan should protect the intrinsic value of the identified habitats and seek to improve them where possible.</p> <p>The SA framework should include an objective/indicator which seeks to conserve and enhance the identified habitats and species.</p>
<p>Kent Design Initiative (and Guide)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiative to create a showcase of great buildings, memorable and attractive new places that reinforce Kent's distinctive character. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Polices Local Plan should contain development management policies that are consistent with the content of the Kent Design Guide.</p> <p>The SA framework should include an objective/indicator which seeks to retain the character of the District built environment and promote its qualities in new developments.</p>
<p>Kent Health and Affordable Warmth Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel poverty is linked to general poverty. Strategy aimed at leading to the eradication of fuel poverty in Kent. 	<p>Local Plan documents should take into account their role in providing local communities with more opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing and reduced inequality.</p>
<p>Active Lives: 2007-2016, Kent Adult Social Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A picture of how Kent Adult Social Services will look in 10 years' time. 	<p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social and environmental matters, including health and wellbeing and affordable warmth.</p>
<p>Kent Downs AONB management plan (2009-2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ultimate goal of the Management Plan is to ensure that the natural beauty and special character of the landscape and vitality of the communities are recognised, maintained and strengthened well into the future 	<p>Local Plan should take account of the special qualities of the Kent Downs AONB and ensure that its policies are compatible with those outlined within the management plan.</p> <p>The SA framework should include</p>

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Strategic Housing Market Assessment for the East Kent Sub-region (SHMAA) (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study has identified twenty-one local housing markets, some of which straddle district boundaries, and some of which cross into areas administered by other local authorities. The proximity of East Kent to Kent Thames Gateway (which includes part of Swale), Ashford, and the London housing markets all exert influence on the housing and employment markets in the sub-region. There are different degrees of isolation and interaction with, for example, the Thanet markets being self-contained, while others, such as local markets based within Swale and Canterbury, exhibiting broader horizons. All told, however, compared to the rest of Kent and the rest of the South East, East Kent is relatively isolated and self-contained. 	<p>objectives/indicators which consider landscape and ecological matters.</p> <p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should provide sites for high quality, affordable homes with an appropriate range of tenures, layouts and designs and encourage the refurbishment of empty homes in the District.</p> <p>SA objectives should improve access to good quality and affordable housing.</p>
East Kent Homelessness Strategy (2010-2013) Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major considerations include homelessness prevention, temporary accommodation and long-term housing solutions 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should take into account its role in supplying and safeguarding accommodation for the homeless.</p> <p>SA should consider use of district wide homelessness data as an indicator.</p>
LOCAL		
Shepway Rural Services Study (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study aims to review the current position of rural areas within Shepway by combining existing data sources and officer field studies to aid in the assessment of Local Plan policies and inform the direction of future policy. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should take into account the needs and opportunities of the Districts rural economy.</p> <p>The SA framework should consider the needs and opportunities of the District's rural economy and communities.</p>
Shepway District Local Brownfield Strategy (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key aim of Shepway's Brownfield Land Strategy is to develop an understanding of the brownfield land in the area and to establish how this can be brought back into productive and beneficial use. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should maximise the use of brownfield before allocating land on greenfield sites.</p> <p>The SA framework should consider the need to maximise the efficiency of land use in the District by using brownfield land before greenfield land.</p>
Population Forecasts 2006 - 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forecasts/ projections have been produced for the district as a whole 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should take into account its role in supplying</p>

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	and for individual wards within the district.	accommodation and employment opportunities for its growing population. SA should consider the use of accurate and up-to-date population data as an indicator.
Shepway Employment Land Review (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment land review to inform the preparation of the District's planning policies. 	The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should provide sites for a range of high quality employment sites with an appropriate range of use classes. SA objectives should improve access to good quality, easily accessible employment opportunities.
Retail Need Assessment Study (2010 Update)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study identifies a lower expenditure growth to 2026 compared with the 2007 study, and consequently identifies lower need for retail floor space compared to figures given in the 2008 update. • This reflects the impact of the current recession on retail expenditure growth forecasts for the next ten year period. 	The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should provide sites for a range of retail sites. SA objectives should improve access to good quality and a good range of easily accessible retail services.
Folkestone Town Centre Spatial Strategy (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key objective of the study is to improve the quality and functionality of the public realm through identifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ opportunities to re-model the highway network to reduce its dominance and improve legibility; ○ improvements to accessibility and connectivity for pedestrians, particularly from the station to the town centre and seafront; ○ opportunities to enhance the character and public realm of the town centre. 	The Shepway Places and policies Local Plan should take into account the existing visions for Shepway's town centres and contribute to the regeneration of Folkestone town centre. The SA framework should consider regeneration of key areas within Shepway District.
Windfalls, Housing Supply and Policy Update (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence supporting modifications put forward by Shepway District Council to its Core Strategy Local Plan [G15] in October 2012. 	The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should provide high quality, affordable homes with an appropriate range of tenures, layouts and designs and encourage the refurbishment of empty homes in the District. SA objectives should improve access to good quality and affordable housing.
Economic Viability Assessment (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A district-wide affordable housing viability assessment for housing delivery over the lifetime of the Core Strategy. 	The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should provide high quality, affordable homes and

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		<p>encourage the refurbishment of empty homes in the District.</p> <p>SA objectives should improve access to good quality and affordable housing.</p>
<p>Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (2009-2010) & Update (2011-2012)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shepway SHLAA has produced a very large amount of information. However the conclusions are clear: the identified pool of possible housing sites is more than sufficient to allow a genuine range of strategic options to be considered. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should provide sites for high quality, affordable homes with an appropriate range of tenures, layouts and designs and encourage the refurbishment of empty homes in the District.</p> <p>SA objectives should improve access to good quality and affordable housing.</p>
<p>Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Study (2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this report is to inform the Shepway planning policies for planning, especially the Core Strategy. It does this by bringing together findings of two primary research studies undertaken by Shepway District Council on open space topics; and is complemented by other evidence base studies. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should take into account its role in protecting formal playing pitches from inappropriate development and ensuring the supply of formal playing pitches meets the demand.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the protection, enhancement, increasing provision of, increasing participation in and improving access to the District's sports pitches and facilities.</p>
<p>Shepway Green Infrastructure Report (2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This report comprises the evidence base in respect of Green Infrastructure (GI), which is essentially the network of multi-functional green space which supports natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should take into account its role in promoting the green network across the area.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to maintain and enhance the green network.</p>
<p>Shepway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (2009) – to be updated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study provides an analysis of the main sources of flood risk to the District, together with a detailed means of appraising development allocations and existing planning policies against the risks posed by coastal flooding over this coming century. 	<p>Policies within the Local Plan should reflect the actions identified within the assessment where relevant.</p> <p>Include SA objective which seeks to promote flood risk management.</p>

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Shepway Water Cycle Study (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This report examines the issues relating to water within the context of the district and the physical characteristics of its hydrology. One of the primary reasons for producing this report was to investigate the potential impact of new growth proposed under the Core Strategy. The report provides a simple analysis of the hydrology of the district in the context of the South East of England, a résumé of existing planning legislation and an overview of the Water Framework Directive, the primary piece of legislation that exists to protect the quantity and quality of water in the natural environment. 	<p>Policies within the Local Plan should reflect the actions identified within the study where relevant.</p> <p>Include SA objective which seeks to promote water management and efficiency.</p>
Shepway Transport Strategy (2011) Appendices and Update Highways Impact Report (2012) – to be updated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The remit of the Transport Strategy is to include and consider both transport matters which relate to the existing district area, as well as those relating to the potential Strategic Site allocations which have been made for future development. 	<p>The Shepway Places and policies Local Plan should consider transport matters relating to its strategic site allocations for future domestic, economic and mixed-use developments.</p> <p>SA objectives/indicators should seek to improve access to sustainable high quality modes of transport, ensure safety on the network is enhanced and reduce congestion.</p>
Shepway Economic Development Strategy (2012-2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This strategy provides a framework for the economic development of Shepway over the coming years and followed the Council’s Corporate Plan 2012-2017 which sets out to support the growth and sustainability of the economy to increase prosperity. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should seek to promote economic growth through an appropriate allocation of mixed-use developments and town centre regeneration in line with the vision and priorities set out in the strategy.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters.</p>
Shepway Housing Strategy 2011-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are approximately 48,200 residential dwellings in the Shepway District. Overall the housing market within Shepway is essentially similar to other district housing markets across South East England. Owner-occupation is the dominant form of tenure. The key differences for the Shepway District are the relatively high proportion of private rented accommodation and the relatively low proportion of council and housing association rented accommodation. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should provide high quality, affordable homes and encourage the refurbishment of empty homes in the District.</p> <p>SA objectives should improve access to good quality and affordable housing.</p>
Shepway Core Strategy (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key part of the Local Plan, containing the spatial strategy for the area and strategic planning policies. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should build on the spatial and strategic planning policies</p>

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		<p>outlined in the Shepway Core Strategy.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range spatial and strategic policies covering the spectrum of sustainable development issues.</p>
<p>Shepway Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (2005-2008)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to build safer communities by addressing key causal factors of crime by fostering good partnerships between the voluntary, private and public sectors and the local community. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should ensure measures are secured which enhance community safety and reduce the fear of crime.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective which seeks to make Shepway a safer place.</p>
<p>Shepway Contaminated Land Strategy (2002)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement of Environmental Protection Act 1990. Sets out the approach to identification of contaminated land across Shepway and how certain sites will be designated special sites. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should ensure that contaminated land is taken into account when selecting sites for development and in consideration of appropriate mitigation.</p> <p>The SA framework should include an objective/indicator which considers soils, including the potential for pollution of soils (e.g. from sources of contaminated land).</p> <p>The SA framework should include an objective/indicator which considers the benefits of sport and recreation facilities (particularly open space) in improving the health and wellbeing of the District's residents.</p>
<p>Shepway Sports and Physical Activity Strategy (2004)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage residents to participate in sporting activity, to improve the health and well-being of local residents in line with key national targets/initiatives, to ensure access to sports facilities for all and develop a wide variety of sport in Shepway. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should ensure new developments provide or enhance an appropriate sport and recreation facilities in close proximity.</p>
<p>Shepway Playing Pitch Strategy (2004)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring future provision of pitches is balanced, meets the needs of the community and is protected for future generations. 	<p>The Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan should take into account its role in protecting formal playing pitches from inappropriate development and ensuring the supply of formal playing pitches meets the demand.</p>

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		Include a sustainability objective relating to the protection, enhancement, increasing provision of, increasing participation in and improving access to the District's sports pitches and facilities.
Beachy Head to south Foreland SMP (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal defence management plan for Beachy Head to south Foreland to provide a 'route map' for decision makers to move from the present situation towards a more sustainable future. 	Policies within the Local Plan should reflect the actions identified within the management plan.
Folkestone to Cliff End Flood and Erosion Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Folkestone to Cliff End Flood and Erosion Management Strategy sets out our plan to manage flood and erosion risks along this coastline. 	Include SA objective which seeks to promote flood and erosion risk management.
Commissioned Reports Pending Publication		
Call for Sites Consultation (recently completed but report not yet reviewed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including allocations for residential, employment and open space/community sites and gypsies and travellers. 	To be established post publication.
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to an annual update in line with NPPF requirements. 	To be established post publication.
Town Centre Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To focus on sites in Folkestone, Hythe and New Romney Town Centres, but will also cover other centres. 	To be established post publication.
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On hold pending EA's re-modelling of flood risk on Romney Marsh. 	To be established post publication.
Shepway Energy Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Capacity, renewable and low carbon energy opportunities and constraints, energy efficiency of building stock. 	To be established post publication.
Shepway Heritage Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussing scope and nature of required evidence base with English Heritage. 	To be established post publication.
Shepway Transport Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update almost completed which identifies road junctions requiring improvement, for example Shorncliffe Garrison. 	To be established post publication.
Shepway Air Quality Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality across the district is usually quite good and there is no need to take action in respect of introducing any air quality management areas (AQMAs) although potential air quality issues may arise in proximity to the A20 and M20. 	To be established post publication.
Shepway Employment Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant over-supply of employment land in the District and a need to rationalise this and identify which sites are suitable for mixed use. 	To be established post publication.

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Shepway Local Retail Centres Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence has been gathered to support policy protection of local parades of shops. 	To be established post publication.
Shepway CIL and Local Plan Viability Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyses what level of requirements the Local Plan can place on developers (e.g. for sustainable building design) without threatening financial viability. 	To be established post publication.
Shepway Socio-economic Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Particularly focuses on the Romney Marsh Area and impacts of loss of employment associated with closure of Dungeness Nuclear Power Station 	To be established post publication.
Shepway Sustainable Access Strategy (possible SPD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys of Dungeness and Romney Marsh have been confirmed. 	To be established post publication.