



Medway Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2008



Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Medway Council is undertaking production of its Local Development Framework (LDF), which is a series of Local Development Documents (LDDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). These will guide the development of the area until 2026, through a Core Strategy, an Area Action Plan for Chattenden, a Land Allocations and Development Control DPD and a variety of SPDs covering different areas and topics.
- 1.2 Under the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Planning Policy Statement 12, the Local Planning Authority is required to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal of its LDF to fulfil the aim of contributing towards the achievement of sustainable development through preparation of its plans.
- 1.3 European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment' defines plans and programmes which require environmental assessment (article 3). It is clear from this definition that, given the scope of the proposed Local Development Documents (LDD's), an environmental assessment is required.
- 1.4 The government's approach is that these appraisals should also incorporate the requirements of and be in accordance with EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the 'assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment' (the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' or SEA Directive). However, SA extends the concept of SEA to fully encompass all social and economic concerns as well.
- 1.5 There are many definitions of sustainable development, however the most commonly used and widely accepted is that within the Brundtland Report of 1987:

'Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

- 1.6 The aim of sustainable development is to fully integrate social, economic and environmental factors, so that we do not take resources that may be needed for future generations to survive. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy 'Securing a Better Future' (2005) and its accompanying strategic framework breaks down the definition into four key objectives, to be integrated and delivered simultaneously to achieve sustainable development:

- Social Progress which recognised the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- Prudent use of natural resources; and
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

This integration will ensure that future development meets the needs of people living and working in an area, whilst at the same time ensuring that it is sited in such a way as to protect the environment.

- 1.7 In addition, to be in accordance with the Habitats (92/43/EC) Directive, an Appropriate Assessment is required for any plan not related to management, that could affect, either on its own or in combination with any other plans or programmes, a European site. This will be considered in greater detail later during the assessment of options proposed for the Core Strategy.
- 1.8 The Scoping Report is a consultation document, the purpose of which is to describe the scope and timetable for the sustainability appraisal of the Medway Development Plan Documents.
- 1.9 The work on each appraisal runs simultaneously to the development of the LDD so it becomes integrated into the plan-making process as a way of improving the document as it develops and producing sustainable policies on the ground. By involving stakeholders and experts along the way, a robust and fully integrated appraisal should develop.
- 1.10 Consultation at this stage helps to ensure that the sustainability appraisal will be comprehensive and robust enough to support the Development Plan Documents during the later stages of full public consultation and examination. This allows stakeholders to verify that all the relevant plans have been reviewed, that the baseline information is the most up to date and that all the sustainability issues have been identified.
- 1.11 The SEA Directive and Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations set out a statutory process that must be followed. To show compliance with this, checklists are used. Table 1 shows which sections of this document cover the relevant requirements of the legislation, or where this is likely to be covered during the process.

Table 1: SEA Requirement Checklist

<i>Environmental Report Requirement</i>	<i>Section of Report</i>
<i>(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes</i>	Section 1 & 2 and Appendix 1.
<i>(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme</i>	Section 4
<i>(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be affected</i>	Section 4
<i>(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</i>	Section 2 & 4 and in the Appropriate Assessment to be carried out during appraisal of the options. ¹
<i>(e) the environmental 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</i>	Appendix 1 and through the appraisal and refinement of options during the process.

¹ This will be continually reviewed throughout the process and updated as necessary.

<i>(f) the likely significant effects² on the environment, including issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors</i>	Section 4 and throughout the appraisal and refinement of options through the process to be reported in future documents.
<i>(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</i>	To be considered during the process and reported in future documents.
<i>(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</i>	Section 2 and in future documents.
<i>(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10</i>	Suggested within Section 8 and to be developed and refined during the process.
<i>(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings</i>	Within future documents.

1.12 The report has been prepared for consultation, pursuant to:

- Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) 2004 Regulations, and
- Regulation 12 (5) of the Environmental assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

² These effects should be secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

2. Links to other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

- 2.1 The Directive states that the environmental statement should take account of the environmental objectives of other plans by considering:

‘the plan’s ‘relationship with other plans and programmes’ and ‘the environmental protection objectives, established at international, [European] Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan.., and the ways those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.’
(Annex 1(a), (e))

- 2.2 All Local Development Documents and the SA / SEA Scoping Report should be framed in the context of: national, regional and local objectives. Therefore a comprehensive review of all relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes (PPPs) was carried out as part of the SA / SEA process.
- 2.3 This ensures that the sustainability objectives in the Scoping Report are not in conflict with those in other PPPs and also highlights other areas of potential conflict which may need to be addressed, for example meeting development needs whilst achieving other objectives such as for biodiversity and heritage. The compatibility of the SA framework objectives are laid out within Table 9 in section 5, later in this report.
- 2.4 Table 2 below outlines the main plans and programmes of importance to the LDF. This has been expanded within Appendix 1 to show the main aims of the plans and their relevance to the SA. The identification of these plans was done through an internal process.
- 2.5 Initially this focused on higher level policies because all Development Plan Documents are bound by tests of soundness and one of these tests is to ensure general conformity and compliance with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). This has also included as many local plans as possible to ensure that the framework is targeted towards and covers the main local issues.

Table 2: Relevant Plans and Programmes

International Legislation
EEC Landfill Directive
EU Waste Framework Directive
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)
EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC)
RAMSAR Convention
National Legislation
Securing the Future: delivering UK sustainable development strategy
Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future
Urban White Paper: our Towns & Cities: the Future
Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: the Future.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP)
Bringing Britain together: A national strategy for neighbourhood renewal
A new commitment to neighbourhood renewal — national strategy action

plan
Heritage White Paper: Heritage Protection for the 21 st Century (Consultation)
UK Waste Strategy
Future Water
PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development
PPG2: Green Belts
PPS3: Housing
PPG4: Industrial & Commercial Development & small firms
Draft PPS4
PPS6: Planning for Town Centres
PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
PPG8: Telecommunications
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
PPS12: Local Spatial Planning
PPG13: Transport
PPG15: Planning and the Historic Environment
PPG16: Archeology and Planning
PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation
PPG20: Coastal Planning
PPS22: Renewable Energy
PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control
PPG24: Planning and Noise
PPS25: Development and Flood Risk
Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (replaced PPG21)
Minerals Planning Statement (MPS) 1
Our Coasts and Seas – making space for people, industry <i>and</i> wildlife
Marine Programme Plan 08-09 (Defra)
Draft Climate Change Bill
UK Renewable Energy Strategy (Consultation)
Regional Legislation
RPG9a: Regional Planning Guidance for Thames Gateway
RPG9: Regional Planning Guidance for the South East
Draft South East Plan
The South East Regional Sustainability Framework
Creating Sustainable Communities: Greening the Gateway
Regional Economic Strategy
Regional Housing Strategy
Regional Transport Strategy
“The Cultural Conerstone” A strategy for the development of cultural activity and its benefits in the South East.
South East Region Social Inclusion Statement
A partnership framework for tourism in Kent & Medway:2005-2015
“Destination South East” Regional Spatial Planning Strategy for Tourism (Proposed Alterations to Regional Planning Guidance – Tourism and Related Sport and Recreation)

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Implementation Plan for Draft South East Plan
Kent Biodiversity Action Plan
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) in Southern Region: Medway CAMS
Medway and Swale Shoreline Management Plan
Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
Kent Design Guide
Local Documents
“More to Medway” Medway’s Community Plan 2007-2010
Kent and Medway Structure Plan 2006
Medway Local Plan 2003
Local Transport Plan 2 (2005-2010)
Medway Regeneration Framework 2006-2016
Medway Wildlife, Countryside and Open Space Strategy 2008-2016
Medway Rural Action Plan
Medway Housing Strategy 2008-2011
Kent Minerals Local Plan
Kent Waste Local Plan
Medway Council’s Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005-2020
Medway Economic Development Statement 2006
Medway and Medway NHS: 2008 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
Opportunity in the Third Age: Improving Life for Older People in Medway 2008-2011
Medway Children and Young People’s Plan 2006-2009
Medway Council’s Sports Development Strategy 2005-2010
Medway’s Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-2011
Kent BAP
Kent AONB Management Plan SPD (& associated SA and AA)

3. Methodology

3.1 This Scoping Report documents Stage A of the SA process, as set out within 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' published by the ODPM in 2005. Stage A consists of a number of tasks, which include:

- Task A1: Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives;
- Task A2: Collecting baseline information;
- Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues;
- Task A4: Developing the SA framework; and
- Task A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.

3.2 The other relevant plans and programmes that relate to the Development Plan and need to be considered through the SA process have been outlined within the previous section of this report.

3.3 The baseline situation and identified sustainability issues are covered within the following sections that have been separated into the topic areas below. This is to make the consultation process easier and to ensure that the process is fully integrated into the production of the plan.

- Community (population, crime, deprivation, health)
- Economy and employment
- Cultural Heritage and Material Assets
- Housing
- Biodiversity and open space
- Air quality
- Water and Soil
- Waste
- Transport and accessibility
- Climate adaptation and mitigation

3.4 Section 4 lays out the baseline information in relation to the identified topic areas and highlights the sustainability issues that arise from these.

3.5 The framework objectives and indicators are then laid out within Section 5 along with modifications that were made to ensure they were of most relevance to the Medway area.

3.6 Section 6 then outlines the next steps in the consultation process, up until production of the final report to be submitted alongside the Core Strategy and the final section outlines issues in respect to a suggested regime for monitoring, as this needs to be considered throughout the plan production process.

4. Baseline Information and sustainability issues

- 4.1 The SEA Directive requires that *"the relevant aspects of the state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme"* and *"the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected"* be included into the Environmental Report.

Furthermore, as stated within the government guidance on Sustainability Appraisals of Local Development Documents³ *"baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them"*.

- 4.2 Collection of baseline information forms an essential part of the SA process. It is vital to obtain sufficient baseline information on the current and likely future state of the area in order to enable the LDF's effects to be adequately predicted and evaluated. This chapter provides a summary of the current situation in the Medway Area in relation to the sustainability topics listed in 3.3.
- 4.3 For each indicator, quantified baseline data was collected which was applicable to the issues to be assessed by the SEA/SA and at a relevant geographical scale. The main sources used were official websites on the Internet, Medway Council reports and data, Kent County Council Reports and the Census. These formed a number of detailed papers titled 'State of Medway Reports', which are to be published at the beginning of the regulation 25 stage of the Core Strategy production.
- 4.4 From this baseline data a number of sustainability issues arose which are detailed at the end of each section. As stated within the government guidance on Sustainability Appraisals of Local Development Documents *"the identification of sustainability problems is an opportunity to define key issues for the DPD and develop sustainable plan alternatives and options..."*
- 4.5 It should be noted that many of the issues are cross-cutting and could have been placed under a number of headings. However, for ease of discussion, and to link in with the sustainability objectives, they have been placed under one section only. This is by no means a full list of all the issues but it attempts to acknowledge those, which are priorities for Medway.

4.6 Community (population, health, crime and deprivation)

Population

- 4.6.1 Medway has the largest population of a unitary authority in the South East at 249,488 in 2001 and at this point 88% of the population lived within the urban area and 12% in the rural area. The mid-year estimates from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) for 2007 estimate the population of Medway at 252,200, which reflects a very slow upward trend. It is expected that the population will be 268,800 by 2021 and 275,000 by 2026.
- 4.6.2 Medway is considered a 'young' borough compared to the UK due to the large number of younger people, with the 25-44 age range being the highest

³ Sustainability Appraisals of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (2005), ODPM

across all wards. The average age in Medway has been calculated by the ONS as 36.5, which is the 7th youngest in the region and below the national average. The largest numbers of older people live within the areas of Chatham and Rainham.

- 4.6.3 The ethnic breakdown within Medway is predominantly white Christian (96.4%), with only 2% Asian, 1.1% from a mixed race background and 0.7% considering themselves black, Chinese or other. In addition to the white Christian group, Sikhs and Muslims form the two other largest religions in the area. The % of the population from the ethnic minority groups has steadily increased and this has mainly been based within the Asian sub-group.

Health

- 4.6.4 Overall, health in Medway is worse than the average for the South East. Life expectancy is lower for both sexes, although the gap with the regional average has narrowed over the last 5 years, particularly for males.
- 4.6.5 Birth and fertility rates for Medway were above both the regional and national averages and the teenage pregnancy rate has remained stubbornly high. The mortality rate was also above the national average.
- 4.6.6 Healthy eating and physical activity rates in children and adults are worse than the national average. Medway has the sixth highest percentage of people who are obese and the third lowest percentage of people who consume 5 or more fruit or vegetables per day.
- 4.6.7 Over the last 10 years the number of deaths from all causes has lowered but still remained above the national average. There has been a reduction in deaths from stroke and heart disease but this has not been as dramatic as the national fall. The highest number of deaths comes from smoking, with 400 deaths per year related to this.
- 4.6.8 Therefore the main sustainability issue in respect to health is improving the overall life expectancy.

Sustainability Issue – Objective 8

Health in Medway is average, following trends for increasing life expectancy, though this is not as dramatic as nationally. The biggest killer in Medway is smoking, it has the sixth highest percentage of obesity and is the third lowest of those consuming 5 fruit and vegetables a day. There are also high levels of teenage pregnancy.

(Medway's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; Medway's Children and Young People's Plan; Medway Sports Development Plan)

Deprivation

- 4.6.9 Medway is included within the 43% most deprived areas in the country. However this masks the fact that there are areas of extreme deprivation sited close by areas that are considered to be 'well-off'. In particular income deprivation affects 37,000 people and employment deprivation affects 13,000 people.

4.6.10 There are 5 Super Output Areas that are within the 10% most deprived areas in the country and the River ward falls within the 4% of the most deprived areas. 16% of the population live in the 20% most deprived areas, with 22% of children and 17% of older people living in low-income households.

Sustainability Issue – Objective 9 & 16

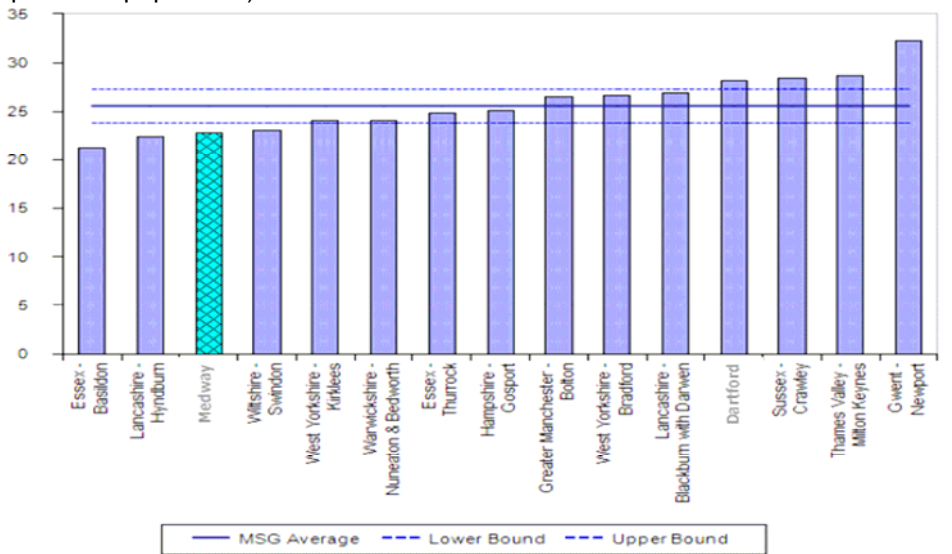
Though the area is not generally deprived, this masks areas of moderate and extreme deprivation. Deprivation occurs both in terms of income and employment. These have consequent impacts on other areas such as health.

(Medway Economic Development Statement; Medway Community Plan; SE Social Inclusion Plan; PPS1)

Crime

4.6.11 Medway has an average of 22.9 crimes per 1,000 people, which is below that for authorities with similar characteristics (e.g. population size) and is third lowest of similar authorities, as shown in the chart below.

Chart 1: Bar graph showing similar crime and disorder reduction partnerships (Crimes per 1000 population) 1 Jan - 31 Mar 2008



4.6.12 The Community Safety Plan has identified 4 key priorities in relation to crime. These are to reduce violence in the night-time economy, youth-related violence, incidents of serious violence and increasing feelings of safety within the Community.

Sustainability Issue – Objective 10

There are issues in relation to serious crimes and those related to youth-crime and the nighttime economy. These can be linked to a number of other areas within this and other sections.

(Medway Community Safety Plan; Medway Children and Young People's Plan)

4.7 Economy and Employment

- 4.7.1 Medway's working age population is 157,500 with 126,200 in employment.
- 4.7.2 A higher proportion of the population is of working age than the national average.
- 4.7.3 In general employment has risen by 25% over the past 10yrs along with an increase in the number of business units, although the area has a lower growth rate than the South East or nationally.
- 4.7.4 There have also been a number of changes in the characteristics of the workforce with a decrease in the number of male workers and an increase in the number of female workers.
- 4.7.5 The levels in employment when broken down into the broad classifications of industry give the following proportions:
- 1.9% in the primary sector;
 - 23.3% in the construction and manufacturing sector; and
 - 74.8% in the service sector.
- 4.7.6 Though the number within the service sector is high, with 30% of people working in public services, administration education and health, this is still lower than the national and regional averages. However, a characteristic of the Medway labour market is the high proportion of unskilled and lower skilled workers.
- 4.7.7 Average earnings within the Medway area are higher than the national average but lower than that of the South East.
- 4.7.8 Within the South East, Medway has the 6th highest level of unemployed and the 9th highest level of long-term unemployed. 21,000 people are claiming key benefits, which equates to 13% of the working age population. This is higher than the national and regional averages. 15% of those claiming unemployment benefits are under 20.
- 4.7.9 There are 92 schools within Medway, comprising of 69 primary schools, 19 secondary schools and 4 special needs schools reflecting the young age of the population.
- 4.7.10 The level of passes in GCSE English recently exceeded the national rate and continues an upward trend. Maths GCSE passes have also improved but are still below the national average. The number of children passing 5 GCSEs or more has improved and exceeded the target for 2007-08. In addition, the level of truancy fell below the national and regional levels in 2006/07.
- 4.7.11 Just 12% of the working age population in Medway has a degree or higher-level qualification, which is much lower than the national average of 19.8%. Just under 30% of the workforce have no qualifications or qualifications concentrated at NVQ2+ (equivalent of GCSEs), which is higher than the national average.
- 4.7.12 There are however a higher proportion of young adults in full-time education within Medway than in the rest of Kent, although there are still fewer places available locally to accommodate these.

- 4.7.13 Medway does however have a growing presence of Universities with an alliance between Christ Church University, Canterbury; the University of Greenwich and the University of Kent plus Mid-Kent College on the Pembroke site. These are growing their own academic specialisms including Pharmacology and Sport, as well as student societies and art groups. In addition the University College for the Creative Arts has recently been awarded a university charter.
- 4.7.14 These universities have the potential to add £10 million pounds to the economy with 600 jobs and also increasing the potential for adult learners and retraining to occur locally.

Sustainability Issue – objective 15, 16 & 9

Medway has suffered economically since closure of the Dockyard and although it has followed the national trend with the largest employment sector being in services and administration, this still remains below other areas in the region. Furthermore there are a large number of jobs within lower paid sectors. There is a large working age population but also high levels of out-commuting to London and moderately high unemployment.

There is a need for skills to be improved and to increase the level and value of jobs in the area.

(Medway Economic Development Statement; Regional Economic Strategy; PPS6; PPG4 & Draft PPS4)

4.8 Cultural Heritage and Material Assets

- 4.8.1 Due to its location along the River and its estuary, Medway has a rich maritime and military history that has resulted in an extensive number of material assets, many of which have important cultural and historical ties. The most prominent, well known and large scale of these is Rochester Castle and Rochester Cathedral, dating from Roman times and the Rochester Bridge that was built later. Associated with the castle are the main castle grounds that are important as a large area of open space for recreation and also for the staging of various cultural and music events throughout the year.
- 4.8.2 Also sited within Rochester, is the private King's School, which is an important part of the cultural heritage of the town, with connections to the neighbouring Cathedral. The school itself provides a mix of public and private open space to the inhabitants of the town, that connect with an important area of open space at The Vines Park and to St Margaret's Street that links to a path by the river and the eastern rising valley of the Medway.
- 4.8.3 In addition, there are other remaining castles at both Cooling and Upnor that were originally built as part of a network of forts for defence of the towns, as well as the large area and structures that make up the Historic Dockyard. These are crucially important to the cultural heritage and subsequent development of the towns. The buildings of the Dockyard are in the process of being reused and where necessary restored back to their former state, as a 'Living Museum', for use by members of the public.
- 4.8.4 There are also a number of other buildings that are linked to the naval presence within the towns or their historic development, such as The Brook,

which is the old town hall and associated gardens. Overall there are 954 Listed Structures, of which 55 are classed as Grade I, 154 Grade II* and 744 Grade II.

- 4.8.5 There are also 77 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) within the area, including the fortifications at Fort Amherst, Chatham Lines and the field of fire at the Great Lines. There are also 26 Conservation Areas. In addition, the area covering the Great Lines and others connected with the development of the dockyard are being put forward for consideration as a UNESCO world heritage site, which it is hoped will allow for greater management of these assets.
- 4.8.6 As well as the most prominent physical features mentioned above, Medway is known for buildings and features that had connections to Charles Dickens or influenced his writing. These links are celebrated each year in a 4 day festival based around Rochester.
- 4.8.7 Other important material assets include 3 hospitals and 81 GP practices including health centres; 92 schools; 24 community halls; 8 sport and leisure centres; 3 theatres; 16 libraries and 5 council contact points sited in the town centres or in close proximity.

Sustainability Issues – Objectives 11 & 12

Medway has a rich maritime and military history that has provided a number of assets (listed buildings and larger parks and open spaces) of cultural significance.

There are also a wide range of assets for the community that in general are well-positioned, though there are some smaller rural areas which are not served as well.

There may be the potential for conservation of historic and culturally important buildings and sites to conflict with other objectives, such as housing or energy.

(PPS1; PPG15; PPG16; Heritage White Paper Consultation; SEA Directive)

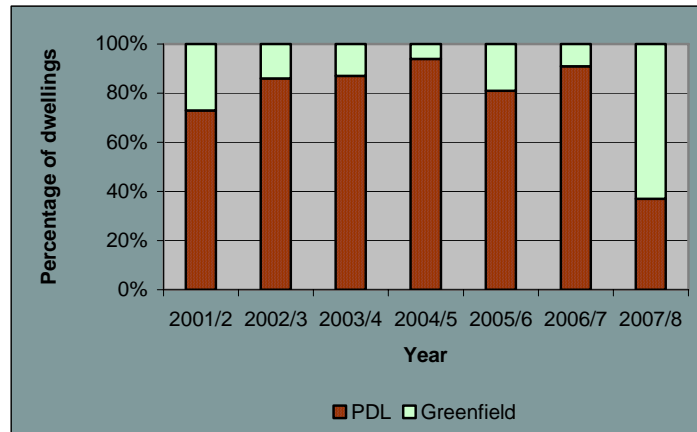
4.9 Housing

- 4.9.1 Medway along with the other North Kent authorities has a relatively self-contained local market, exhibiting limited connectivity to its surrounding districts. Nevertheless there is in-migration, particularly from Gravesham to the west and the highest levels of out-migration are to Swale, showing a clear movement from west to east. There are also movements from Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling, although little reverse movement. This is likely to be down to the a higher level of affordable housing in Medway compared to areas to the south of the A2.
- 4.9.2 Medway's 2006 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix states that at April 2006, there were an estimated 106,394 dwellings in Medway, of which 3161 were in Council ownership. Of the overall stock, 76% are owner-occupied and the greatest proportion (42%) are terraced properties, which is higher than either the regional or national averages.
- 4.9.3 A third of households privately rent and there are also a high number of households in caravans or temporary accommodation. The age of the building stock is younger in Rainham and the rural areas and the oldest is in the Gillingham area, which has an impact on housing conditions with older

buildings generally being connected to worst conditions. The overall household size is 2.48, which is larger than the national average.

- 4.9.4 Within the 2008 survey year, there were 45.7% of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land (gross). This is shown against previous years completions in the bar graph below. This was due to a higher number of Greenfield developments occurring and the commencement of larger regeneration schemes on previously developed land, not having started. This is expected to be a short term trend.

Chart 2: Bar graph showing proportion of completions on previously developed land



- 4.9.5 During the 2008 survey period, 230 affordable homes were completed. This equates to just over a quarter of gross completions (892) being affordable units.
- 4.9.6 The Annual Monitoring Report, 2007, found that while house prices in the Medway Towns have doubled since 1999, resident earnings have increased by less than 50%. The consequence has been that overall affordability as measured by the ratio of average resident earnings to house prices has fallen by 50%. Table 3 below shows the average house prices by type using 2008 prices. This trend is however less pronounced than in other parts of the region.

Table 3: Average house price by type, March 2008

	Medway	Kent	South East	Eng & Wales
Flats/Maisonettes	113,175	120,144	140,935	172,282
Terraced	135,317	159,171	177,983	144,589
Semi-detached	190,157	205,977	225,720	172,713
Detached	317,646	353,371	397,009	278,168

- 4.9.7 Access to the housing market is restricted by price. 42.6% of all new forming households can afford to pay no more than £300 pcm rent. Access rents are £353 pcm. The ability of concealed households to access the market is very limited. Only 29.8% of concealed households have incomes above £27,500; only 15.9% have incomes above £40,000. The cheapest 2 bed terraced property in the District require an income threshold of £28,000
- 4.9.8 The latest figures for empty properties in Medway, recorded in April 2007, for the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix show that the percentage of empty

properties in the private sector in Medway is currently 1.6%. This percentage is lower than the national overall position of around 3.0%.

- 4.9.9 The conclusion of the Stock Condition Survey regarding empty homes was that it did not identify a serious problem with vacant dwellings in Medway but did recognise that it is an issue that the Council may wish to address, due to clusters in some areas.

Sustainability Issues – objective 6 & 7

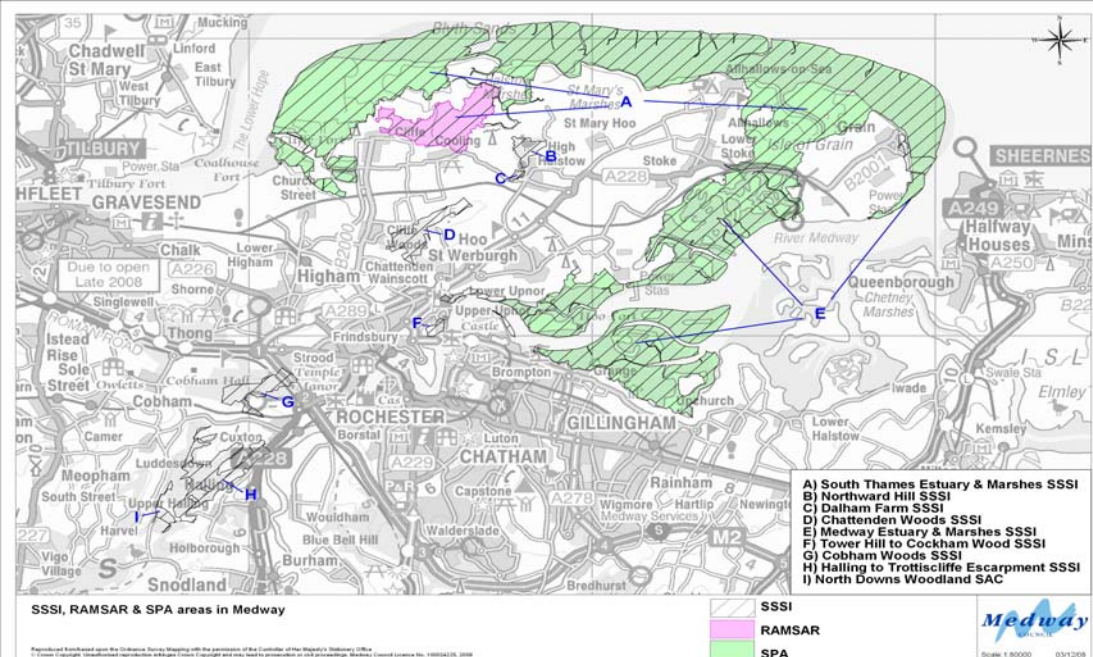
The majority of properties are owner-occupied and household sizes are above the national average. This and the gap between house price increases and wage increases means that more affordable housing provision will be required. Furthermore the Draft SE Plan requires 16,300 houses to be accommodated in the area during the Plan period. This should be accommodated as far as possible within existing or previously developed sites to minimise possible conflicts with other objectives, such as biodiversity.

(Medway Community Plan; Medway Housing Strategy; Regional Housing Plan; PPS1; PPS3; PPS7; Sustainable Communities; Urban and Rural White Papers)

4.10 Biodiversity and Open Space

- 4.10.1 The position of Medway on the North Kent Coast and the large open areas on the Peninsula, mean that it has a wide variety of habitats and a rich diversity of species. Many of these have been recognized nationally and internationally, mainly through being designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Habitats Directive (79/409/EEC). In coincidence with this, through membership of the European Union, Britain is also a signatory of the RAMSAR Convention that is a voluntary agreement to protect areas that are particularly important for migrating wildfowl. Together these areas are collectively known as ‘Natura 2000’ sites and form part of an overall network across Europe of areas important for their conservation importance. Map 1 shows the different designations within the Medway area.

Map 1: Showing the different designated areas within Medway.



- 4.10.2 As shown on the map there are a number of areas where Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are overlaid by Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) designations.
- 4.10.3 There is one Special Area of Conservation (SAC) near Upper Halling, which is a small part of the North Downs SAC that is important for its beech and yew forest, as it is one of the best in the country. In close proximity to this there are a number of semi-natural dry grasslands, other woodlands and scrubland.
- 4.10.4 There are also 8 SSSIs in the area. Table 4 below outlines the reasons for their designations and their current condition. DEFRA within it's Public Service Agreement has set a target for all SSSIs to achieve 95% by area to be in a favourable or recovering condition by 2010.

Table 4: Description and Condition of SSSIs

Name of SSSI	Description	Condition	Required Action
South Thames Estuary and Marshes	<p>Wetlands of international importance comprising intertidal habitats, saltmarsh, coastal grazing marshes, and saline lagoons and lagoon type habitats, providing wintering and breeding habitats for important groups of wetland bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders as well as supporting migratory birds in passage.</p> <p>Each regularly support over 20,000 waterfowl birds respectively, including over 30 different species of national or international importance.</p>	<p>96% favourable or recovering.</p> <p>3% unfavourable because of inappropriate weed control, effects of undergrazing, agricultural practices, inappropriate ditch management, scrubland control and coastal squeeze.</p>	<p>Agricultural operations before mid-June should be avoided.</p> <p>Careful management of existing ditches and drains should be introduced and maintained. This should include periodic removal of sediment and vegetation, and should be done on a rotational basis, including the creation of shelving margins rather than steep sides.</p>
Medway Estuary and Marshes	<p>Wetlands of international importance comprising intertidal habitats, saltmarsh, coastal grazing marshes, and saline lagoons and lagoon type habitats, providing wintering and breeding habitats for important groups of wetland bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders as well as supporting migratory birds in passage.</p> <p>Each regularly support over 20,000 waterfowl birds respectively, including over 30 different species of national or international importance.</p>	<p>Over 99% is in a favourable or recovering condition.</p> <p>Remaining small area is unfavourable due to inappropriate ditch management and cutting or moving and undergrazing.</p>	<p>Careful management of existing ditches and drains should be introduced and maintained. This should include periodic removal of sediment and vegetation, and should be done on a rotational basis, including the creation of shelving margins rather than steep sides.</p>
Cobham Woods	<p>Woodland and old parkland representative of woods in North Kent that occur in part on acidic Thanet Sands and in part on chalk soils.</p> <p>One nationally rare plant species occurs in the arable land close to the woods and an outstanding assemblage of plants is present. The site is also important for its breeding birds.</p>	<p>Only 67% favourable or recovering.</p> <p>Remaining 33% unfavourable/no change is due to lack of appropriate forestry and woodland management.</p>	<p>Felling, thinning or coppicing can help to create or maintain variation and at the same time non-native trees and shrubs be removed. This should be spread throughout the woodland and done at beginning of Aug or end Feb.</p>
Northward Hill	<p>This contains a heronry with over 200 pairs and is the largest in Britain. There is a diverse breeding bird community and the insect fauna is of interest, particularly moths and butterflies. The site consists of mixed</p>	<p>100% favourable or recovering.</p>	

	<p>deciduous woodland and scrub with some areas of open grassland and bracken. A number of small ponds are present and a few open ditches.</p> <p>Overall, the wood has a diverse flora with over 200 plants recorded, including the trees and shrubs.</p> <p>The site has been a National Nature Reserve since 1951 and is managed by the RSPB.</p>		
Dalham Farm	<p>One of the very few undisturbed areas which show mass movement on low-angled, inland slopes of London Clay. The effects of landslipping are visible as a series of ridges and small scarps crossing the slope. The site illustrates what is possibly the lowest angled slope failure in Great Britain and is important in demonstrating slope degradation in the absence of coastal erosion and removal of material from the base.</p>	<p>100% unfavourable or no change due to inappropriate scrub control.</p>	
Chattenden Woods	<p>Woodland is representative of coppice with standards woodland on the London Clay, which is a scarce habitat in Kent away from the Blean Woods. The site is also of importance for its breeding birds. Rough Shaw, which is an area of neutral grassland with scattered scrub forms a valuable addition to the woodland and contains several uncommon plant species which are not found in more improved grassland.</p>	<p>100% favourable or recovering.</p>	
Towerhill to Cockham Wood	<p>Contains woodland representative of that on Tertiary deposits in Kent and supports a rich insect fauna. About a third of all British species of bees and wasps are found here, including seven nationally rare species. In addition, Upnor Quarry exposes a complete tertiary stratigraphic sequence and is a vital site to be viewed in comparison with other Palaeogene localities in the eastern London Basin.</p>	<p>100% favourable or recovering.</p>	
Halling to Trottscliffe Escarpment	<p>Consists of an extensive area of the North Downs west of the Medway Gap. It is representative of chalk grassland in west Kent and beech woodlands on the chalk. Outstanding assemblages of plant and invertebrates are present. It is the only location in Britain for one type of moth and several other very scarce moths, beetles and grasshoppers also occur. The site supports a wide variety of birds, particularly woodland birds.</p>	<p>80% favourable or recovering.</p> <p>Rest unfavourable due to undergrazing, inappropriate scrub control, game management, inappropriate woodland and forestry management and some limited overgrazing.</p>	<p>The best way of managing scrub is through rotational cutting, as well as cutting in small patches.</p>

4.10.5 In addition to these designated sites there are also a number of other important features in respect to biodiversity and open space in Medway. The first of these are Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS). These are selected in accordance with the following criteria:

- The value of the site for educational purposes in life long learning.

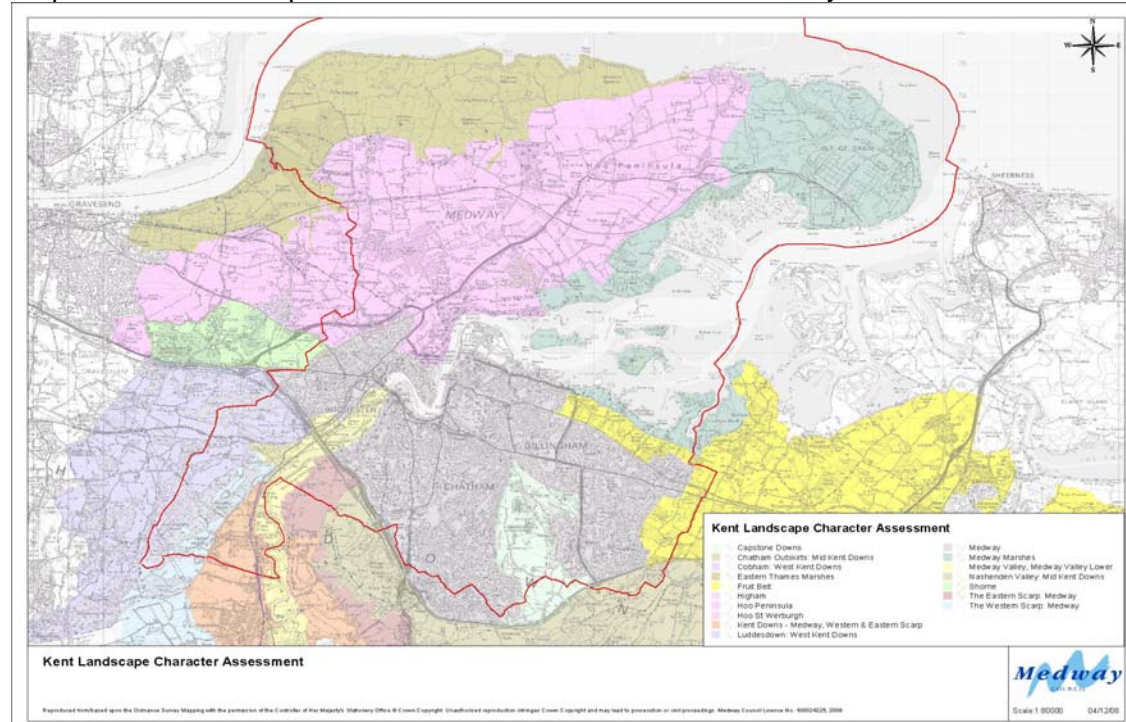
- The value of a site for study by both amateur and professional earth scientists.
- The historical value of a site from an earth science perspective.
- The aesthetic value of a site from an earth science perspective.

Although these sites do not have the same official protection as those mentioned before, they are recognised in PPS9, which states that tests should be fulfilled to ensure that policies or development will not affect them.

- 4.10.6 There are also 8 Local Nature Reserves that help contribute towards conserving and increasing the levels of biodiversity in Medway. These, similarly to RIGS, should have an element of educational, teaching or learning associated with them. Alongside these there are also a number of voluntary organisations, such as the RSPB who own and run reserves, as well as two Country Parks.
- 4.10.7 In addition to the above, sites may be designated as Local Wildlife Sites outside the network of those statutorily protected. The purpose of these sites is to help secure the protection of nationally and locally threatened habitats and species, identify sites of substantive nature conservation value which should be protected from damaging development, provide a framework for the targeting of management work, advice, grant aid and other activities; and provide a clearer understanding of the nature and importance of Kent's wildlife habitats. These sites are generally recognised by local authorities and given protection through policies in local development plans.
- 4.10.8 As well as the designated habitats forming part of the Natura 2000 Network and local wildlife sites, there are a number of important landscape areas in Medway and the surrounding areas that are important for both wildlife and as an important resource for helping to improve human health.
- 4.10.9 The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty lies mainly in the South West corner of the Medway area, although there is also a small area in the extreme southeastern corner, just below junction 4 of the M2. Additionally, Kent County Council commissioned a landscape character assessment⁴ in 2004 that identified nine character areas in Medway, some of which have been sub-divided, as shown in Map 2 below.

⁴ [http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/resources/landscape-assessment/Landscape Assessment of Kent October 2004.pdf](http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/resources/landscape-assessment/Landscape%20Assessment%20of%20Kent%20October%202004.pdf)

Map 2: Kent Landscape Character Assessments within Medway



4.10.10 Within this study are descriptions of the landscapes and a landscape strategy reflecting the condition and sensitivity of each. The key characteristics of these landscape areas are outlined within Table 5 below. Finally, there are a large number of protected open spaces that are spread throughout the urban areas.

Table 5: Condition and Key characteristics of Kent Landscape Characters within Medway

Site name	Condition and Key characteristics
<i>Eastern Thames Marshes</i>	<p>The area forms part of the wider North Kent Marshes area of international importance for nature conservation which is designated as a Special Protection Area and RAMSAR site. Part of the area is also an Environmentally Sensitive Area.</p> <p>The area is considered to be in moderate condition. The ditches are of varying condition and there are many visual detractors ranging from small structures such as tipping, post and wire fences and bird hides, to urban and industrial developments.</p>
<i>Medway Marshes</i>	<p>This area is typically low lying and flat with huge open skies and extensive views. To the north of the river, the massive industrial complexes of Grain and Kingsnorth dominate the marshes. The southern marshes are much smaller and fragmented and have a much less coherent character. The majority of the marshland is reclaimed and protected from tidal inundation by coastal walls, although fragments of saltmarsh persist within the estuary and as islands. The traditional land cover is coastal grazing marsh and low lying pasture with a characteristic patterning of creeks and dykes still remaining to the west of the Isle of Grain.</p> <p>The condition of the area is considered to be poor. The industrial complexes cause fragmentation and there are many visual detractors, including industrial lighting and residential development. The potential for semi-natural habitats is reduced in areas of arable cultivation and the ecological integrity is therefore thought to be moderate.</p>
<i>Hoo Peninsula</i>	<p>The most important features of nature conservation importance are the areas of broadleaved woodlands, which include four SSSIs at Chattenden, Northward Hill, Beacon Hill and Tower Hill.</p>

	<p>Overall the condition of the area is considered to be poor. There is very little consistent landscape pattern, and visual detractors occur on both a large and detailed scale. Isolated patches of woodland provide clusters of semi-natural habitat but there is very little opportunity for ecological interest within the open arable fields.</p>
<i>Fruit Belt</i>	<p>Woodlands are the main ecological resource. Yaugher Woods and Fox Burrow Woods are listed in the Ancient Woodlands Inventory. Other elements of potential ecological and wildlife value are the shelterbelts that provide a more consistent framework of wildlife corridors than the patchy hedgerow cover.</p>
	<p>Overall, the condition of the area is very poor. There is an incoherent landscape pattern which has many detracting suburban and industrial influences and transport corridors. There are isolated shelterbelts and remnants of old orchards. Woodland cover is limited and the ecological integrity of the area is considered to be weak.</p>
<i>Mid Kent Downs – A: Outskirts of Chatham</i>	<p>Overall the condition of the area is poor. There are many detracting features, which are associated with unsympathetic land uses. The areas of intense arable farming reduce the ecological interest of the area. There is a strong influence from the urban area, built form has a negative impact on views and the condition of heritage features is poor.</p>
<i>Mid Kent Downs – B: Nashenden Valley</i>	<p>This area lies within the wider character area of the Mid Kent Downs. the lack of hedges or shaws to provide screening, makes it vulnerable to the visual impact of development.</p>
	<p>The overall condition is considered to be good, although wooded edges to arable areas are felt to be vulnerable.</p>
<i>Capstone Valley</i>	<p>The majority of the existing woodland is listed in the Ancient Woodlands Inventory and has considerable ecological value. Darland Banks is a local nature reserve and a local wildlife site (LWS). South Wood is a candidate for LNR designation and is also a LWS, as are Ambley, Hook and Holt Woods. The remnant chalk grasslands are also of ecological value.</p>
	<p>The condition of the landscape is considered to be very poor due to visual detractors such as urban and industrial development and busy traffic routes. Only fragments of hedged field boundaries are occasionally visible in the areas of intense arable cultivation and semi-natural habitats are limited to woodland areas, often close to the urban edges. The ecological integrity is therefore considered to be weak.</p>
<i>West Kent Downs</i>	<p>Large areas of mixed woodland dominate the skyline and form thick walls around fields, giving them a strong definition. Extensive hedgerow removal, for arable cultivation, has increased the importance of these woodlands, giving structure to the landscape.</p>
<i>Kent Downs Medway</i>	<p>The condition of the area is considered to be good. There are very few visual detractors, and the woodlands provide a strong and extensive ecological base. The eastern scarp is considered to be in very poor condition. Field boundaries have declined, there are many visual detractors and longer views are interrupted by industrial development in the lower valley. The ecological interest is very weak and built development has a negative impact. The western scarp, which is more extensive within the Medway administrative area, is considered to be of moderate condition although visual detractors include tipping, quarries and views of the motorway and industry beyond. Intensive arable cultivation and the few and variable field boundaries limit the ecological integrity of the area.</p>
<i>Medway Valley</i>	<p>On the lower slopes, the condition is considered to be very poor due to visual detractors, a weak network of semi-natural habitats, intensive arable coverage, fragmented hedgerows and limited tree cover. Characteristic historic settlements on the river are mostly overwhelmed by 19th and 20th century development.</p>
	<p>Within Medway the river forms part of a Site of Nature Conservation Interest, which extends into the Wouldham Marshes, which lie within Tonbridge and Malling. At the river's margins areas of reeds, other common emergents, mudflats and wading birds at low tide, contrast strongly with the more industrialised areas to the south.</p>

The overall condition of the area is considered to be poor due to fragmentation of the landscape and ecological interest by industrial works, floodplain management structures, new riverside residential developments and valley side quarries.

Sustainability Issue – Objective 1

Overall, Medway has a rich and diverse range of habitats and species, which are important to biodiversity and connections between habitats. The majority of SSSIs are favourable although some sites need better management. All sites and connections between them need to be conserved.

It is important for indirect pressures on biodiversity and habitats to be considered, such as fragmentation of habitats, impacts of recreational use and water usage and loss of non-designated wildlife and landscape areas.

(Medway Wildlife, Open Space and Countryside Plan 2008-16; Kent BAP; Kent Environment Strategy; Kent Landscape Character Assessment, Draft SE Plan; PPS1; PPS7; PPS9; PPG20; SEA Directive; Habitats Directive)

4.11 Air Quality

4.11.1 The Environment Act 1995 placed a statutory duty on Local Authorities to undertake periodic reviews and assessments of air quality within their boundaries. This should give consideration to the current and future air quality against health based objectives set out in the Government's Air Quality Strategy. Where objectives are not likely to be met by the relevant date Local Authorities must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and develop an action plan.

4.11.2 Medway has declared six AQMAs, originally in 2002 and then updated in 2004. These are:

- Chatham Centre;
- Cuxton Road;
- Frindsbury Road;
- Maidstone Road (between Greenway and the Asda store traffic lights);
- Rochester Centre; and
- Strood Centre

These have been specifically identified in relation to missing the NO₂ objectives.

4.11.3 Within tables 6 & 7 below there are monitoring results for 2007 and the beginning half of 2008 for comparison.

Table 6: Monitoring results from NO₂ diffusion tubes for 2007-08

Site Location	AQMA	2007	Jan to Aug 2008
	Air Quality Objective	40	40
High Street, Strood (Southern Heating)	Strood Centre	53	60
Star Hill No 18	Rochester Centre Star Hill	59	57
Corporation Street	Rochester Centre Corporation St	36	36
Cuxton road No 92	Cuxton Road, Strood	45	45
Railway Street	Chatham Centre	49	50
Highview Road No 2	Maidstone Road, Chatham	28	26
Frindsbury Road No 28	Frindsbury Road, Strood	45	45

Table 7: Additional monitoring NO2 diffusion tube results

Site Location	AQMA	2007	Jan to Aug 2008
	Air Quality Objective	40	40
High Street, Rainham K	Rainham Centre NEW	53	49
High Street, Strood (Tanning Shop)	Strood Centre (extension)	50	48
Luton Road (Funeral Directors)	Luton Road NEW	43	44
Luton High Street No 27	Luton Road NEW	40	37
Gibraltar Hill	Chatham Centre (extension)	45	42
Chatham High Street (Orbit Housing)	Chatham High Street NEW	47	49
Pier Road	Pier Road NEW	48	49

All monitoring results are bias corrected

As can be seen from these results some areas are a long way from the target and others are only just over the required levels. These results also reflect changes proposed for next year, such as the removal of the Maidstone Road AQMA and the extension of other areas such as Chatham Centre.

- 4.11.4 Revisions are expected early next year following a more detailed study for the inclusion of 4 new testing areas and some adjustments to existing areas. Although, the NO2 targets have been missed, those for sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and PM10 have not been exceeded.

Sustainability Issue – Objective 2

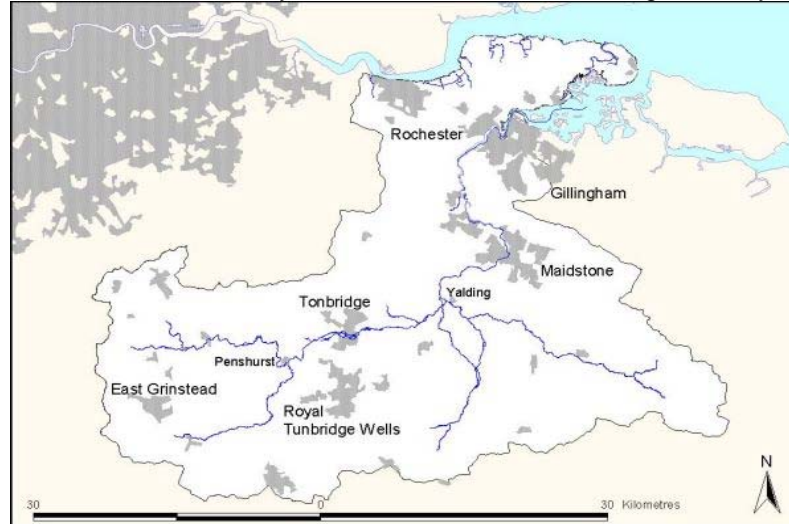
Although there is not a significant risk to human health, 6 AQMAs have been declared due to the impact of NO2 levels and 4 more are going to be included. NO2 is generally associated with transport, therefore journey times need to be reduced, through traffic needs to be moved away from the town centres and there needs to be greater incorporation of other forms of transport. However, improving accessibility of services is likely to create an increase in road traffic.

(Medway Air Quality Action Plan; LTP2; UK Air Quality Strategy; SEA Directive)

4.12 Water and Soil

- 4.12.1 There has always been a close link between the River, water quality and the towns in Medway. In general Medway has always had a supply of water, however during the recent drought periods of 2005/6, some water restrictions were applied and the water companies applied for drought orders, although due to improvements on the supply side these were not required.
- 4.12.2 Medway, along with the South East, is classed as an area where there is an over abstraction of water; meaning abstraction is causing unacceptable damage to the environment at low flows. The map below shows the rivers contained within the Medway Catchment Abstraction Management System, which provides strategic direction as to the amount of water that should be taken across the catchment, outlining where greater or lesser abstraction would be possible to maintain existing stocks.

Map 3: Rivers within the Medway Catchment Abstraction Management System



4.12.3 Water quality within the South East has been improving since 1990, mainly due to better control of potentially polluting activities and also significant investment by the water companies in treatment. This rate of improvement has however slowed in recent years.

4.12.4 The Environment Agency classifies river quality into 5 groups ranging from A (very good) to F (bad). None of the streams within the Medway area are tested so no direct comparisons can be made on water quality. However, testing in the River Medway at the Allington Lock in 2007 gave the following results.

Table 8: Water quality recorded on River Medway at Allington Lock

River: R. Medway				
Chemistry: C	Biology: C	Nitrates: 4	Phosphates: 5	Year: 2007
Chemistry: C	Biology: C	Nitrates: 4	Phosphates: 5	Year: 2007
Chemistry: B	Biology: C	Nitrates: 4	Phosphates: 5	Year: 2007
Chemistry: B	Biology: C	Nitrates: 4	Phosphates: 5	Year: 2007
Chemistry: B	Biology: C	Nitrates: 4	Phosphates: 5	Year: 2007
Chemistry: C	Biology: A	Nitrates: 4	Phosphates: 6	Year: 2007
Chemistry: C	Biology: A	Nitrates: 3	Phosphates: 5	Year: 2007

4.12.5 As can be seen from these results the general water quality is good, although there is some room for improvement across both the chemical and biological results, as well as higher levels of both nitrates and phosphates present within the water content.

4.12.6 Groundwater quality needs to be protected from pollution and the Environment Agency set Groundwater Source Protection Zones, containing both Inner and Outer Zones. The impact on water quality needs to be considered and addressed through both the SA process and production of the LDF. Diffuse and point source pollution are possible in Medway with a number of commercial businesses located along or in close proximity to the river.

- 4.12.7 The soil quality throughout the Medway area varies widely, with pollution on old industrial sites that are no longer in use and also areas of Grade I agricultural land. However, the Council are generally aware of those polluted sites and where there has been containment.
- 4.12.8 In addition, it is also recognised that water abstraction and water quality can affect designated sites, through potentially decreasing water levels and flows and affecting soil quality.

Sustainability Issue – objective 3 & 7

Medway is largely supplied from local groundwater or surface water from outside the area, therefore protection of groundwater is essential. In general water quality is reasonable although there is room for improvement of both biological and chemical indicators, as well as a need to reduce levels of pollutants. Furthermore water flows can be important for designated sites and soil quality. Water usage and efficiency need to be considered and incorporated, to ensure development is sited so as not to affect or strain supplies.

(Southern Water, Water Resource Management Plan; Draft SE Plan; PPS1; PPS9; SEA Directive; Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive)

4.13 Waste

- 4.13.1 Medway has a variety of waste streams that need to be treated, from traditional household Municipal Solid Waste through to Hazardous and Agricultural waste. Organic, or putrescible wastes, are the largest fraction at some 40%, paper at 28% and plastics are some 10% of the total according to a Medway analysis carried out in 2000. At Civic Amenity sites, the volumes are significantly smaller at only 22% putrescibles, 6% paper, 2-3% plastics and combustibles of mixed origins being largest at 40%.
- 4.13.2 In 1999 MEL Research Ltd carried out an audit of Medway's waste streams and found that 117,300 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste was being produced per year. At this point the majority was in kerbside collections, some through civic amenity sites, with the residual left over from recycling activity amounting to 23,000 tonnes.
- 4.13.3 The total municipal waste arisings, including all sectors of collection and treatment, in Medway for 2007/8 were 138,364 tonnes and 41,587 tonnes of this were recycled, equating to 30%. In England as a whole the aim is to achieve a combined recycling and composting rate of 33% of household waste by 2010 (Statutory Recycling and Composting Standards). Against this target it can be seen that Medway is doing well and this would be expected to increase with a recent planning approval for an in-vessel composting facility.

Sustainability Issue – objective 5, 13 & 7

Medway currently meets the target for recycling, with 30% municipal waste being recycled and there have been recent approvals that should increase capacity. There are a number of other waste streams in the area and there is little data for these. However provision needs to be made for increasing all forms of treatment, recovery and reuse of waste materials.

(Medway Municipal Waste Strategy; Kent Waste Plan; Draft SE Plan; PPS10; UK Waste Strategy)

4.14 Transport and Accessibility

- 4.14.1 Medway is only 30 miles from London to the west and 40 miles from Dover to the east, with the five historic towns of Strood, Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham and Rainham forming the urban core. Larger villages in the more rural parts of Medway include Cuxton, Halling and the Isle of Grain. This combined with the young age demographic of the area and the higher number of older people living longer and more independently, mean there are a wide variety of needs to be catered for.
- 4.14.2 The area has excellent transport links to the national motorway and rail networks, as well as those throughout Kent. Access to the Channel Tunnel Rail Link is also in close proximity and faster services will be introduced serving Rochester from 2009 onwards.
- 4.14.3 The main issues for the road system around Medway are related to congestion and a resultant perception of inaccessibility. Though there are good links to the main road network, there are particular problems on the M25 around the A2 junction, junctions 3-5 of the M20 and its knock-on effects on the A228 and junction 5 of the M2. There is currently little distinction between the role of town centres and the crossroad functions of the main towns of Chatham and Strood.
- 4.14.4 It should not be forgotten that the River Medway is also an important transport link for the area. However, there is a need to ensure adequate landside capacity for onward movement of freight from deepwater ports and local berths. The exact amount of expansion and increase in transport here will depend on the impacts of other regional ports, such as Shell Haven and where proposals can be linked to tourism and urban renewal strategies. Environmental impacts on the river system also need to be considered.

Sustainability Issue – objective 14, 11 & 16

There are severe congestion issues in the town centres making them unwelcoming to both road users and pedestrians, as well as impacting on air quality. Transport routes need to be moved away from the town centres to help reduce congestion and help improve air quality. However transport will be necessary for improving economic performance and ensuring services are accessible.

(Medway Community Plan; LTP2; SE Plan; PPS1; PPG13; Sustainable Communities)

4.15 Climate adaptation and mitigation

- 4.15.1 Although there is uncertainty in climate change predictions, some climatic changes where there is greater agreement of predicted effects in the South East include:
- An increase in annual average daily temperature of 4.5 degrees;
 - A 30-40% decrease in summer precipitation;
 - A 15-20% increase in winter precipitation; and
 - Sea level rise of 36cm.
- 4.15.2 This means that the South East is likely to experience, in the future, a warmer climate, with drier summers and wetter winters, which means that extreme

events such as floods and droughts are likely to become less predictable and possibly more frequent. In addition, there is concern about sea-level changes leading to inundation of low-lying coastal areas.

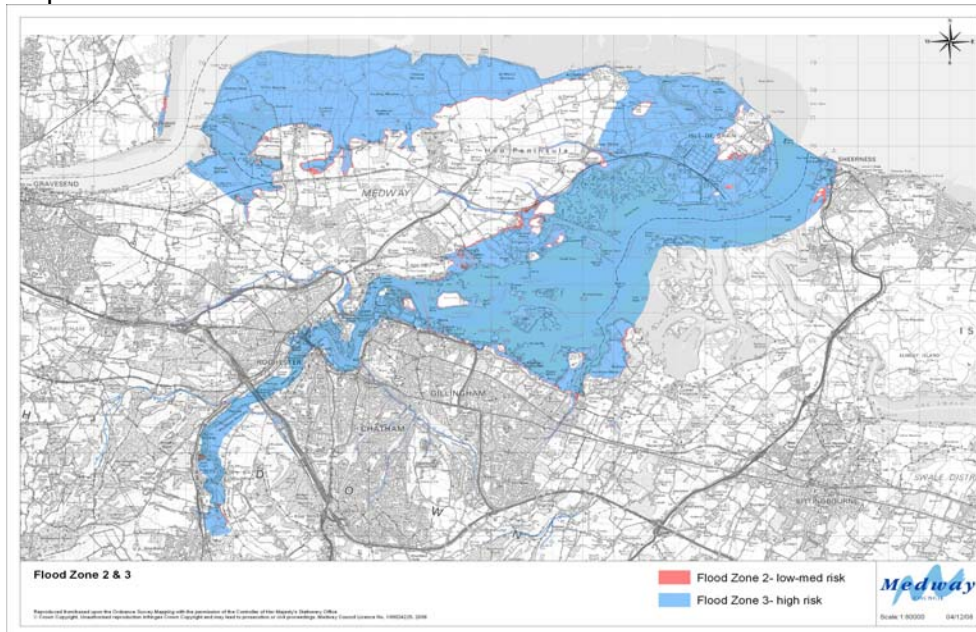
Water Resources

- 4.15.3 The South East is the driest region in the country. The combination of low rainfall and growing demand has resulted in high demand for water resources. There are very few reservoirs and 76% of water comes from local groundwater sources and 24% from surface water sources outside the area.
- 4.15.4 In the South East metered and un-metered household per capita consumption of water increased on average by 9% between the early 1990s to 2003/04. But there are signs that average consumption is now decreasing. The average annual demand within Medway is 119.5MI/d, rising to a maximum of 151.8MI/d during dry periods. Taking the higher amount this is slightly above the national average of 148 litres per person per day in 2006. There is no underlying trend of increasing water usage, so it should be expected that this will remain about the same and then reduce over time as efficiency measures take effect.
- 4.15.5 Good quality data is available for the domestic use of water in Medway but only a very limited amount is available for non-domestic use. However, both industry and agriculture can demand large quantities of water and both can have an impact on the quality of the water supply due to the potential for pollution.
- 4.15.6 Commercial development (offices etc.) and leisure facilities (particularly swimming pools) can be substantial water users. There are various technologies available to improve water efficiency but significant benefits will only be achieved if these are retrofitted in existing developments on a large scale, in addition to efficiency measures in new buildings.

Flood Risk

- 4.15.7 Flooding impacts can be both direct and indirect, with the worst effects often coming from surface water flooding flowing into inland streams higher up the catchment and flows into sewers, causing systems to be overwhelmed.
- 4.15.8 There have been a number of flooding incidents in Medway within the last century where water levels rose to a maximum of 4.6m AoD. The most recent event was in December 2005 when a tidal surge caused low level flooding of Strood affecting Cuxton Marina, Janes Creek and Canal Road. The recorded level at Strood pier some 200m downstream of the A2 bridge was 4.22m AoD.
- 4.15.9 Within the Medway area there are 1551 properties at risk from the likelihood of fluvial flooding at some point during 1000 years and 1363 properties at risk of a flooding in a 100 year timescale. Buildings can be made more resilient through their design, positioning and the choice of materials used. A common practice in respect to the external areas is through soft landscaping or choosing a material for driveways that allows percolation. Map 4 below shows that there is a reasonable area of Medway within Flood Zone 3 and a smaller amount within Flood Zone 2.

Maps 4: Areas within Flood Zones 2 & 3



Sustainability Issue – objective 3 & 4

Water quality is not currently an issue, however this needs to be monitored both due to the requirements of the WFD and also to see whether it is affected by climate changes, such as increased incursion of saline water. Flood risk is a pertinent risk to particular areas and a considerable constraint to be considered for some developments. A sequential approach and all design aspects, including indirect impacts as well as mitigation with multiple benefits, should be considered for all proposals.

(Medway & Swale SFRA; Medway Shoreline Management Plan; Draft SE Plan; PPS25; PPS20; PPS1 Supplement; Climate Change Bill; Making Space for Water)

Energy

4.15.10 The release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere through the combustion of fossil fuels from anthropogenic causes, results in an enhanced warming effect. There are a number of indicators related to energy consumption, efficiency and the levels of greenhouse gases being emitted.

4.15.11 Carbon Dioxide emissions for the Medway area have decreased slightly, falling from 1,231kt CO₂ in 2005 to 1,223kt CO₂ in 2006. However, due to rounding of the figures involved and a minimal increase in population, the per capita emissions have stayed the same at 4.9t CO₂.

4.15.12 Interestingly Medway's highest sector for emissions is from the domestic market, with the Industrial and Commercial sector contributing a large amount and the lowest emissions coming from the road transport sector. This reflects the larger proportion of older buildings within the housing stock.

4.15.13 Currently Medway creates a significant amount of energy for the National Grid through the Kingsnorth Power Station and some other smaller installations located nearby and at the Isle of Grain. It is expected that there will be a coal-fired carbon capture and storage (CCS) plant to be sited near to

the existing E.ON station and Medway Council raised no objection to a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station to be sited not far from the existing gas power station. Both these technologies would fall within the definition of renewable resources, defined by the government⁵. Due to the area of land on the Peninsula there may be scope for a low carbon research and development hub to be created.

4.15.14 However, greater emphasis is being placed on how and where renewable technologies can be achieved both at the macro and micro scale. The 2006 and 2007 Annual Monitoring Reports, report that permission has been granted for the developments described above and also for six wind developments of varying scales; a couple of smaller scale CHP schemes; and four smaller scale photovoltaic schemes. The provision of a stand alone settlement to be sited at Chattenden allows for the potential of including sustainability principles and renewable technologies on a larger scale.

4.15.15 Medway's Stock Condition Survey in 2007 highlighted that the average SAP rating for Medway (56) was higher than the national average of 51.8 (taken from the English House Condition Survey update report 2004). The energy efficiency of a property is an important factor in both home energy conservation and fuel poverty.

4.15.16 12,343 of the properties in Medway have a SAP rating of less than 40 and the lower the rating the less energy efficient a property is. Energy inefficient properties are more expensive to heat adequately therefore household income is also an important factor to consider in determining what impact fuel poverty is having on the residents of Medway. The average fuel bill in Medway is £804 per annum and 8% of households have no central heating.

Sustainability Issue – objective 13, 5, & 2

There is a pertinent need for energy efficiency in the existing building stock to be increased as well as all new developments needing to include low carbon solutions. Medway is in a reasonable position in respect to energy generation from renewable or low carbon technologies, due to recently raising no objection to 2 new power stations including carbon capture processes. However, it must be recognised that renewable technologies can be intermittent and supplies must be ensured to ensure people come out of fuel poverty. Due to binding targets set by government and the acknowledged impacts on supply and climate of current generation, there is an ever growing need for renewable technologies.

(Sustainable Communities; PPS1 Supplement; PPS22; Energy Paper; UK Renewable Energy Strategy Consultation)

⁵ UK Renewable Energy Strategy: Consultation, BERR, June 2008.

5. Framework, objectives and indicators

- 5.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. The starting point for determining the objectives for the sustainability framework came from those within the Regional Sustainability Framework for the South East, adopted in June 2008. This was established to help ensure plans are in conformity with the higher level Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).
- 5.2 To make the process more manageable the aim was to limit the number of objectives to no more than 18. These were identified by reviewing relevant policy documents at international, national, regional, county and local level and those put forward in the SEA Guidance and from the baseline information. The draft objectives have been refined through subsequent consultation with internal officers. The achievement of these objectives should be measurable using identified indicators.
- 5.3 The indicators were identified through a scoping of indicators already collected by officers in the Local Authority. As this scoping was very broad, the objectives were used to focus and refine the range of indicators. The following framework consists of draft indicators for comment and will need to be developed into a well-defined and cost effective monitoring programme in the next stage of the SEA.
- 5.4 The objectives and indicators are sometimes considered to cover more than one SEA topic. As such the list of objectives and indicators set out in Table 10, beginning on page 32, also shows these against the aims of the Sustainable Development Strategy.
- 5.5 The Medway Council objectives were tested for internal compatibility. This is a subjective exercise and the outcomes are shown in Table 9. These highlight where there may be the potential for conflicts with what they aim to achieve. For example, the objectives associated with providing housing and those aiming to conserve biodiversity and the natural and cultural environment may not be compatible. There is also potential conflict between ensuring high and stable economic growth and the issues associated with traffic, specifically air quality, health and climate change.
- 5.6 The objectives should not be removed because of this potential conflict but highlighting this at an early stage allows the framework to be aware of and therefore balance these issues. Simply because the objectives are compatible or incompatible, does not mean that the outcomes also have to be. This exercise has therefore identified the areas where the objectives need to be carefully balanced to ensure the outcomes are consistent and where possible achieve a win-win situation.

Table 10: Sustainability framework – objectives and indicators

Sustainable Development Principle	Directive Topic	Number	Objective	Suggested Indicators
Protection of the Environment	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	1	Conserve and enhance the diversity and abundance of habitats and species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent and condition of key habitats. • Condition of SSSI's • Reported levels of damage to designated sites. • Achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets. • Number/area of Local Nature Reserves • Population of wild birds
Protection of the Environment	Air	2	Reduce air pollution and improve air quality, including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of Emission Limit Values. • Population living in Air Quality Management Area • Number of days of air pollution. • Emissions of greenhouse gases from energy consumption, transport and land and sea waste management.
Protection of the environment; and Prudent use of Natural Resources	Water and Soil	3	Maintain and improve quality of ground and surface waters and security of supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality (biology and chemistry) of rivers, canals and freshwater bodies. • Quality and quantity of groundwater. • Rivers of good or fair chemical and biological water quality. • Compliance with EC Bathing Waters Directive. • Water use (by sector, including leakage) and availability. • Per capita consumption of water. • Incidents of major and significant water pollution • Water availability of water-dependent habitats, especially designated wetlands

Sustainable Development Principle	Directive Topic	Number	Objective	Suggested Indicators
Protection of the environment; and Social Progress	Climatic Factors	4	Reduce risk of flooding and ensure flood resilience of buildings and minimise the effect on public services and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk. • Properties at risk from flooding • Number of additional houses where flood risk has been reduced • New development with sustainable drainage installed
Protection of the environment; Prudent use of Natural Resources and Social Progress	Climatic Factors	5	Reduce ecological footprint through prudent use of natural resources, reduction in waste management and sustainable waste management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste disposal in landfill. • Percentage of the total tonnage of all types of waste that has been recycled; composted; used to recover heat, power and other energy solutions; and landfilled • Number of new buildings reaching Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 or above
Prudent use of natural resources; and Social Progress		6	Provide opportunity for everyone to live in a decent, sustainably constructed, affordable home suitable to their needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new and retrofit homes reaching Sustainable Homes Level 3 or above • Housing completions compared with regional guidance. • Affordable homes within the total housing stock. • Homelessness. • Number of unfit homes per 1,000 dwellings.
Prudent use of natural resources		7	Maximise land use efficiency through appropriate use of previously developed land and existing buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing density • Percentage of development on previously developed land

Sustainable Development Principle	Directive Topic	Number	Objective	Suggested Indicators
Social progress	Human Health	8	Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years of healthy life expectancy • Mortality by cause • Death rates from circulatory disease, cancer, and accidents, and suicide. • Infant mortality rates. • Conceptions among girls under 18. • Life expectancy. • Obesity
Social Progress	Population	9	Reduce inequalities in poverty and social exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of children under 16 who live in low income households. • Percentage of population of working age who are claiming key benefits. • Number of households in fuel poverty • Proportion of population who live in wards that rank within the most deprived 10% and/or 25% of wards in the country. • Access to services for disabled people
Social Progress	Population	10	Reduce crime and the perception of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorded crimes per 1,000 population • Fear of crime surveys • Number of transport accidents • Level of domestic burglaries, violent offences and vehicle crimes per 1,000 population
Social Progress	Material Assets	11	Improve accessibility to key services and facilities (inc. countryside, leisure/recreation and historic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of development within X minutes walk of a frequent bus route/rail service. • Access to services for disabled people

Sustainable Development Principle	Directive Topic	Number	Objective	Suggested Indicators
			environment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance to nearest leisure or cultural facility Percentage of land designated for particular quality or amenity value, including publicly accessible land and greenways. Proportion of population within 200m of parks and open space Participation in sports, outdoor and volunteer activities
Protection of the environment	Cultural Heritage & Landscape	12	Conserve and enhance historic buildings, archaeological sites and culturally important features and increase engagement by all sections of community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of Listed Buildings and archaeological sites 'at risk.' Buildings of Grade I and Grade II* at risk of decay. Additional listed building or conservation area designations per annum Participation in Cultural activities
Prudent use of Natural Resources; and Protection of the Environment	Material Assets & Climatic	13	Increase energy efficiency; the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and the diversity and security of energy supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity generated from renewable energy sources and CHP located in the area. Energy consumption per building and per occupant. CO² emissions. Number of households in fuel poverty
Protection of the environment; and Social Progress		14	Reduce traffic and congestion by reducing need to travel and improving travel choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distances travelled per person per year by mode of transport. Traffic volumes. Growth in road traffic.

Sustainable Development Principle	Directive Topic	Number	Objective	Suggested Indicators
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average vehicle speeds. • Proportion of travel by car. • Investment in public transport, walking and cycling
Economic growth and employment		15	Raise educational achievements through developing opportunities to acquire skills, to develop and maintain workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications (% GCSEs A*-C or NVQ equivalent) • Percentage of population of working age qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent. • Proportion of adults with above or below average literacy and numeracy skills.
Economic growth and employment		16	Support and improve employment and economic competitiveness in town centres and deprived areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business start-ups net of closures. • Inward investment. • Social and community enterprises. • GVA per capita • Labour productivity performance of the South East against other high performing regions in Europe and the world.

6. Next Steps/Consultation

- 6.1 This is considered to be stage A5 following the government guidance⁶, which involves the consultation on the scope of the SA. This first statutory consultation period runs for 5 weeks until the 23rd JANUARY 2009.
- 6.2 This report has been sent to the 3 statutory stakeholders (the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England), as well as being published on the Council's website and sent separately to the following stakeholders:
- Neighbouring Authorities – Kent County Council, Gravesham, Swale, Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils
 - Regional Assembly – SEERA
 - Government Office for the South East (GOSE)
- 6.3 In addition, to the above consultations there will also be a presentation to the Local Strategic Partnership in December 2008.
- 6.4 At this Scoping Stage the broad options for the Core Strategy are not yet available, so these will be produced in tandem with the Initial Sustainability Report (Stage B of the SA process). Therefore at Stage B the SA framework will help identify appropriate options by assessing then highlighting the sustainability implications of each and suggesting recommendations for improvement.
- 6.5 The relative merits of the objectives, policies and proposals put forward will be considered against the SEA/SA objectives and associated baseline information at each appropriate stage, where there are significant changes.
- 6.6 In accordance with the Directive, in assessing the alternatives, the likely significant effects on the environment should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.
- 6.7 It is the Council's intention that following this report, an Initial Sustainability Appraisal will be published alongside an Issues and Options paper in April 2009 and then subsequent documents at each appropriate stage, most likely to be called an Interim Sustainability Appraisal and Final Sustainability Appraisal.
- 6.8 If you wish to discuss this report call 01634 334321 or make representation please use the details below. All responses should make reference to the section/paragraph number to which the representation is being made.

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Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham, Kent
ME4 4TR
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⁶ A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005), ODPM

Appendix 1: List of the relevant plans and programmes,
expanded to show their main aims and relationship to the SA
framework

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
International		
European directives, including the Birds, Habitats and the RAMSAR Convention	<p>The Birds Directive requires Member States to take measures to preserve a sufficient diversity of habitats for all species of wild birds and that special measures are taken to conserve the habitat of certain particularly rare species and of migratory birds.</p> <p>The Habitats Directive requires Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status.</p> <p>RAMSAR requires the conservation of wetlands.</p>	SA should aim to protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of species and to monitor the condition and any loss or gain of habitats.
EU Water Framework Directive	The WFD requires member states to protect aquatic ecology, unique and valuable habitats, quality of drinking water and bathing waters	SA should aim to protect aquatic ecology and habitats, drinking water quality and if applicable, bathing water quality, then monitor there is no deterioration
EEC Waste Framework Directive	This laid out the principle of moving from the traditional disposal to landfill towards increased resource use and recovery.	<p>The SA objectives should refer to waste minimisation and management and several promote this e.g. to minimise pollution levels and to maximise land use efficiency.</p> <p>This should be monitored to ensure that the levels of waste going to landfill are reduced and there is an increase in reuse and recovery.</p>
EC Landfill Directive	<p>This sets out the following targets for amounts of waste to be diverted from landfill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% by 2010 • 45% by 2015 and • 50% by 2020. 	The SA objectives should refer to waste minimisation and practice.

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
National		
<p>Securing the Future: delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy</p>	<p>This sets out 4 principles of sustainable development to be used as a basis for integrating sustainable development into plans and strategies. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Progress which recognised the needs of everyone; • Effective protection of the environment; • Prudent use of natural resources; and • Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment 	<p>Policies aimed at sustainable development should meet all of the SA objectives.</p>
<p>Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure all social tenants have a decent home by 2010. • To improve conditions for vulnerable people in private accommodation. • To ensure all tenants get an excellent service from their landlord. • To ensure all communities have a clean, safe and attractive environment. • To bring back into use, homes which have been abandoned. • To recreate sustainable communities and ensure high quality design. • To tackle the housing shortage. • To create a better balance in the housing market. • To promote development, whilst protecting and enhancing the countryside. • To ensure economic competitiveness. 	<p>A key objective for the SA must be to provide the opportunity for people to meet their housing needs. The SA should aim to maintain and enhance the character of the townscape and landscape.</p>

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
Draft Climate Change Bill	<p>Commits the UK to cutting CO2 emissions by 60% from 1990 levels by 2050, with significant change to be achieved by 2010. This is accompanied by the Climate Change Programme setting out a timetable as to how to achieve this.</p> <p>This 60% target is likely to be revised up to 'at least 80%' to include commercial shipping and aviation, which are currently excluded.</p>	<p>An SA objective should be included that considers the effects of climate change and the environment is a key theme of the SA.</p>
UK Renewable Energy Strategy (Consultation)	<p>This lays out a suggested framework of how and where renewable energy technologies could help to provide energy in the future. This sets an overall target of 15% of total energy demand to come from renewable sources by 2020, with a suggested breakdown of 10% being in the transport sector; 14% in the heat sector and 32% in terms of electricity generation.</p>	<p>An SA objective is required in relation to renewable energy and renewable energy covers all SA themes.</p>
Urban White Paper: our Towns & Cities: The Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People shaping the future of their community. • People living in attractive, well-kept towns and cities. • Good design and planning which makes it practical to live in more environmentally sustainable way. • Towns and cities able to create and share prosperity. • Good quality services. 	<p>Policies aimed at sustainable development should meet all of the SA objectives.</p>

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: the Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate the development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside, tackling poverty in rural areas. • To maintain and stimulate communities, and secure access to services which is equitable in all circumstances, for those who live or work in the countryside. • To conserve and enhance rural landscapes and the diversity and abundance of wildlife. • To increase opportunities for people to get enjoyment from the countryside. • To promote government responsiveness to rural communities through better working together between departments. 	Policies aimed at sustainable development should meet all of the SA objectives.
Bringing Britain Together: A national strategy for neighbourhood renewal	<p>This strategy is to be built on the concepts of: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investing in people, not just buildings; • involving communities, not parachuting in solutions; • developing integrated approaches with clear leadership; • ensuring mainstream policies really work for the poorest neighbourhoods; • making a long-term commitment with sustained political priority. 	Policies aimed at sustainable development should meet all of the SA objectives.
A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal — national strategy action plan	<p>The vision is reflected in two long-term goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In all the poorest neighbourhoods, to have common goals of lower worklessness and crime, and better health, skills, housing and physical environment; • To narrow the gap on these measures between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country. 	Accessibility and equality are key themes of the SA and policies aimed at sustainable development should meet all SA objectives.

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
Heritage White Paper: Heritage Protection for the 21st Century (Consultation)	Sets out intentions to include Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and their management and protection within the planning system, as well as Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites.	SA should have an objective in relation to the historic environment and accessibility is a key theme of the SA.
UK Waste Strategy	<p>Promotes best practicable environmental option (BPEO), the waste hierarchy and the proximity principle. Sets the following targets for amounts of the waste stream to be composted and recycled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% by 2010 • 45% by 2015 and • 50% by 2020 <p>and for the following proportions to be recovered from the remaining waste stream:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 53% by 2010 • 67% by 2015 • 75% by 2020 	The SA objectives should refer to waste minimisation and practice.
Future Water	Sets out a vision for how the water sector should look by 2030. Rivers, canals, lakes and seas are improved for people and wildlife and where excellent quality drinking water is provided. A sector where water resources are valued and protected, water is delivered to customers through fair, affordable and cost-reflective charges, flood risk is addressed with greater understanding and good surface water management and the water industry has cut its greenhouse gas emissions.	The SA should include objectives covering water resources and both water resources and impacts from climate change are key themes in the SA

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
PPS1: Creating Sustainable Communities	<p>Promote sustainable patterns of urban and rural development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making suitable land available for development to improve the quality of life. • Contributing to sustainable economic growth. • Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment and the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities. • Ensuring high quality development through good design. • Ensuring development supports existing communities. 	Policies aimed at sustainable development should meet all of the SA objectives.
Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to PPS1	<p>Sets out how planning should minimise impacts on climate change through increased resource and energy efficiency, sustainable transportation and maximises resilience to the effects of climate change. This document is currently in draft form. Key objective is trying to ensure all new house building moves towards the highest level of sustainability.</p>	Policies aimed at sustainable development should meet all of the SA objectives.
PPG2: Green Belts	<p>Aim to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment and to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.</p>	SA objectives need to incorporate natural environment and landscape protection and protection of the environment is a key aim of sustainability.

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
PPS3: Housing	Local planning authorities should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the housing needs of the whole community; • Provide a wider choice of housing and seek to create mixed communities; • Prioritise previously-developed land for development, bringing empty homes back into use and convert existing buildings, over development of greenfield sites; • Sustainable patterns of development; • Efficient use of land; • Reduce car dependence; • Promote good design. • Where appropriate, include a policy seeking affordable housing in suitable locations. 	The requirement to meet the housing needs of the entire community should be reflected in an SA objective, as housing will be a key focus of the SA.
PPG4: Industrial & Commercial Development & small firms	Encourage continued economic development in a way that is compatible with its stated environmental objectives.	SA/SEA objectives should include measures to encourage economic competitiveness, to promote the vitality of urban centres, to reduce health inequalities and reduce the need to travel by private car.
Draft PPS4	Anticipated that a greater use of market, economic, environmental and social information will be required to support planning applications.	SA/SEA objectives should include measures to encourage economic competitiveness, to promote the vitality of urban centres, to reduce health inequalities and reduce the need to travel by private car.
PPS6: Planning for Town Centres	Promote vital and viable city, town and other centres.	SA should take account of the sequential approach.

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas. • To promote more sustainable patterns of development. • Promoting the development of the English regions by improving their economic performance so that all are able to reach their full potential. • To promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agricultural centres. 	SA objectives should reflect the need to protect and enhance rural areas.
PPG8: Telecommunications	To facilitate growth of new and exciting telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum and protecting public health.	Encouraging telecommunication can be met through the SA objective to improve accessibility to services. However conflict may arise from SA objectives relating to health and conserving biodiversity and protecting the quality of the landscape unless clear restrictions are included.
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	Promote sustainable development by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving and enhancing biodiversity as an integral part of economic, social and environmental development; • Improving the quality and extent of natural habitats and geological sites; • Contributing to urban renaissance by enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and on urban development sites; and • Contributing to rural renewal by taking account of biodiversity in supporting economic development and contributing to a high quality environment. 	SA includes an objective to conserve and enhance biodiversity and habitats in Medway. This is a key theme for the SA/SEA.

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
<p>PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering of sustainable development through driving waste up the hierarchy with final disposal as the last option. • Enable a timely provision of waste management facilities to meet the needs of the community. • Help implement the national waste strategy to be consistent with the European legislation namely the Landfill Directive. • Respect the proximity principle for waste management without endangering human health or the wider environment. • Reflect the concerns and interests of local communities and the needs of waste collection, waste disposal authorities and business and encourage competitiveness. • While there is a need to protect green belt designation land there will need to be recognition of the particular locational needs of certain types of waste management systems. • Layout and design of new development supports sustainable waste management 	<p>Several SA objectives promote this e.g. to minimise pollution levels and to maximise land use efficiency.</p>
<p>PPG13: Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote more sustainable transport choices. • Promote accessibility. • Reduce the need to travel, especially by car. <p>Provides an opportunity for managing social inclusion by ensuring services and accessible by public transport.</p>	<p>Reducing the need to travel by private car will promote social inclusion and help achieve sustainability objectives.</p>
<p>PPG15: Planning & the Historic Environment</p>	<p>Effective protection for all aspects of the historic environment. To reconcile the need for economic growth with the need to protect the natural and historic environment and ensure the conservation of the natural beauty and amenity of the land.</p>	<p>An SA/SEA objective should aim to protect or enhance the historic environment.</p>

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
PPG16: Archaeology & Planning	The protection, enhancement and preservation of sites or archaeological interest and of their settings.	The SA/SEA objectives should aim to protect or enhance the historic environment.
PPG17: Planning for Open Space, sport & recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support urban renaissance; • Support rural renewal; • Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion; • Promote health and well-being; • Promote sustainable development. 	SA objectives could include conserve and enhance biodiversity, to improve health and well being, to improve accessibility to services and to maintain or enhance the character of the landscape.
PPG20: Coastal Planning	Protect, conserve and, where appropriate, improve the landscape, environmental quality, wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities of the coast.	Objectives relating to flooding and biodiversity will be applicable.
PPS22: Renewable Energy	Increase development of renewable energy and contribute to sustainable development.	SA objectives should reflect the need for energy efficiency.
PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control	Guidance on determining the location of development that may result in pollution, and ensure that other developments are not affected by major or existing sources of pollution.	SA objectives should reflect the need to minimise pollution, and maintain and enhance air and water quality.
PPS25: Development & Flood Risk.	Ensure that new development is safe and not exposed unnecessarily to flooding. Where possible reduce and certainly not increase flood risk and ensure that flood plains are used for their natural purposes, continue to function effectively and are protected from inappropriate development.	SA objectives may include reference to reducing the flooding risk.

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
Regional		
<p>Creating Sustainable Communities: Greening the Gateway</p>	<p>Key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning in advance • Developing an environmental evidence base • Encouraging inclusiveness and integration • Protecting local character and distinctiveness • Protecting designated sites • Habitat restoration and creation • A dynamic landscape • Community involvement 	<p>The synergies between the two strategies should be incorporated in the SA objectives.</p>
<p>South East Regional Spatial Strategy (draft)</p>	<p>This sets out the Regional Policy framework in relation to the economy, tourism, housing, transport, communications and natural resources.</p>	<p>The level of housing, economic growth and resource use, such as water will be key issue for the SA.</p>
<p>Regional Transport Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate urban renaissance and foster social inclusion. • Reduce the wider environment, health and community impact associated with the transport system. • To improve strategic road and rail links. • To take forward transport infrastructure proposals required to support development in the growth areas. • To develop road and rail links that improve inter and intra-regional connectivity. • To improve and develop more sustainable transport connections to the region's key ports, airports and international rail stations. 	<p>SA objectives could include reference to reducing need to travel, sustainable transport and improved accessibility.</p> <p>Could also help to tackle air quality</p>

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
Regional Housing Strategy 2008-2011	<p>This sets out the framework for how housing will be provided and funded across the South East until 2011. Development, except in extreme cases, should include 35% affordable properties to rent or part rent/part buy.</p> <p>There should be greater choice, more sustainable patterns of development and more efficient use of land, focusing on existing towns and cities, ensuring that all housing is well-designed to improved quality of life and promoting urban revival and prosperity.</p> <p>Ensure affordable homes come in a range of sizes to suit families, couples and singles and meet high levels of energy efficiency and building standards in new and existing stock</p>	The objective that there should be a mix of housing with good efficiencies and design, which meet the need of communities and are affordable should be reflected in the SA.
Regional Economic Strategy 2006-2016	<p>Set out the framework for achieving sustainable economic growth across the South East until 2016.</p> <p>This emphasises principles of smart growth and increasing enterprise, innovation and skills to achieve higher productivity and bring more of the resident population into economic activity.</p>	Economic objectives form a core of the SA framework and the importance of combating economic issues should be a key theme.
South East Region Social Inclusion Statement	A region in which we achieve social progress which recognises the need of everyone with strong communities free from high levels of crime and discrimination; with ready access to jobs, education, homes, services and amenities; diverse opportunities for everyone to live fulfilled and health lives and to realise their full potential.	Social objectives form a core of the SA and the importance of combating social exclusion should be a key theme.

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
<p>"The Cultural Cornerstone" A strategy for the development of cultural activity and its benefits in the South East</p>	<p>Despite its substantial achievements much of the region's cultural potential goes untapped. This report seeks to point the way towards unlocking some of those unrealised possibilities, in the interests of greater health, happiness and prosperity for all.</p>	<p>An SA objective should be the improvement of accessibility of key services and facilities to local communities.</p>
<p>"Destination South East" Regional Spatial Planning Strategy for Tourism (Proposed Alterations to Regional Planning Guidance - Tourism and Related Sport and Recreation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a high quality and rewarding experience for all visitors. • Provide a greater variety of jobs over a wide range of skills levels. • Provide stronger support for urban renaissance and regeneration, especially in the priority sub-regions. • Help to diversify and develop further the rural economy. • Underpin and promote environmental quality and local distinctiveness in town and country. • Generate community benefits to enhance quality of life. 	<p>The promotion of tourism should inform the appraisal.</p>
<p>Kent Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)</p>	<p>To maintain and where practicable, to enhance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall populations and natural ranges of native species and the quality and range of wildlife habitats and ecosystems; • Internationally and nationally important species, habitats and ecosystems; • Species, habitats and natural and managed ecosystems that are characteristic of Kent; • The biodiversity of natural and semi-natural habitats, where this has diminished over recent decades. • To increase public awareness of, and involvement in, conserving biodiversity. • To identify priorities for habitat and species conservation in Kent and set realistic targets and time-scales for these. 	<p>The SA/SEA should include objectives relating to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and habitats with a range of species indicators.</p>

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) in Southern Region: Medway CAMS	The CAMS gives more information on the current status of water resource availability in the catchment and proposes a management/licensing policy to improve the sustainability of water for the future.	The SA should include objectives covering water resources and both water resources and impacts from climate change are key themes in the SA
Medway and Swale Shoreline Management Plan	This lays out the overall strategic defence of the coastline to ensure movement towards sustainable development	The SA should include objectives covering water resources and both water resources and impacts from climate change are key themes in the SA
Kent Downs AONB Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, enhance and managed the diversity of landscape character to the highest standards; • Priority habitats and sites of biodiversity will be managed in favourable condition and target species will flourish; • Conserve and enhance the network of ancient and new woodland; • Maintain and enhance the historic and cultural fabric in favourable conditions to reflect local character; • Manage the natural resources of the environment; • Promotion of sustainable development and transport; • To promote access for all. 	SA objectives should include the protection of habitats, biodiversity and the landscape. Potential us of AONB as an indicator.
Kent Design Guide	Promote sustainable and good design to encourage development which safeguards what is of value whilst enriching the environment for future generations.	The SA objectives should reflect the aims of the Kent Design Guide.

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
Local		
Medway Local Plan 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development should follow sustainable development principles. • Urban renaissance. • Upgrade the environmental quality and image of the area. • Enhance the economic base. • Widen transport choices and accessibility. • Develop Chatham as the 'city centre'. • Invest in the River Medway. • Protection of the greenbelt. • Identifying the built heritage as an important asset. • Reduce social deficiencies. 	
Kent & Medway Structure Plan 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong cohesive communities. • Excellence in learning opportunities and in skills development. • Centre of excellence for high quality leisure and tourism. • High standards of health and social care. • Helping people to become more independent. • Safe environment where people live free from the fear of crime. • Business growth builds on existing strengths and grasps new opportunities. 	The SA should take in consideration the regeneration of the waterfront sites, housing development and the expansion of the higher and Further Education sectors.
Kent Minerals Local Plan	<p>This sets the framework for future mineral extractions in Kent. The main sections relating to Medway are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Aggregates • Chalk & Clay/Oil & Gas 	SA objectives relating to minerals can include transport, protection of landscape, job creation and sustainable development.

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
Kent Waste Local Plan	This details policies in respect of development, which involves disposal of refuse, or waste and its treatment. It identified specific sites for waste management and disposal facilities.	The SA objectives should refer to waste minimisation and management.
Medway Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005-2020	This sets out a framework for the management of Medway's municipal waste over the next 15 years, through an integrated action plan focusing on minimisation, recycling and composting.	The SA objectives should refer to waste minimisation and management.
Local Transport Plan 2	<p>This sets out an overview of policies with the following aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To tackle congestion; • To deliver improved accessibility; • To make our roads safer; • To improve air quality; • To deliver sustainable regeneration; • To contribute to improving the health of Medway's residents. 	SA objective required that relates to travel and the need to reduce need to travel and traffic and congestion

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
<p>Medway Regeneration Framework 2006-2016</p>	<p>This lays out the framework for developing Medway into a city of learning, culture, tourism and enterprise. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quality, accessible service of learning and skills provision for all sectors of community, to allow local people and the economy to flourish • Provision of outstanding cultural facilities alongside celebrating existing heritage and identity • Exciting and varied choice of destinations and facilities, focusing on assets such as the castles, cathedral and historic dockyard and area of outstanding natural beauty • Growth and success of specialist manufacturing sectors, the knowledge economy based around Higher and further education, environmental technologies, creative industries, and innovation and growth within existing businesses. Allowing local people to secure better-paid jobs locally and unemployed people getting back into the workforce 	<p>The synergies between the two strategies should be incorporated in the SA objectives.</p>

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
<p>"More to Medway": Medway's Community Plan 2007-2010</p>	<p>This sets out the Local Strategic Partnerships key priorities for the area incorporating sustainability issues throughout. These wish to ensure the safety of children, reduce the fear of crime through reducing anti-social behaviour, increase and improve employment opportunities for local people through vocational training for all ages and realising Medway's cultural ambitions. It wishes to do this through delivery of accessible and integrated transport system supporting regeneration, enabling people to remain healthy and independent (particularly the old and vulnerable groups), cherishing and enhancing Medway's urban and rural heritage and it's important resources. It is intended that this will be done by improving the quality of life for existing and new communities by ensuring development and regeneration are matched to the natural resources and infrastructure available and empowering local people to have greater participation and influence.</p>	<p>The synergies between the two strategies should be fostered and promoted in the SA objectives.</p>
<p>Medway Community Safety Plan</p>	<p>To reduce crime, improve the quality of life of communities and help young people, in particular, who may have drifted into a life of crime and involvement with the criminal justice system, lead useful and satisfying lives.</p>	<p>An SA objective is needed in terms of crime and social objectives are key to the SA.</p>

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
Medway Economic Development Statement	This gives an overview of the strategic direction of Medway's economy, setting out key aims and objectives. This includes a target growth rate of twice the national average and aims to create 40,000 jobs by 2026, planning for long-term growth and opportunities, such as the 2012 Olympics with flexibility and targeted actions. Also a short-term aim of 26,710 jobs by 2016. These will be achieved through firmly establishing Chatham as a city centre of cultural and leisure activities, work with partners to develop up-skilling, re-skilling and preparing a flexible workforce, to create suitable new employment space bringing forward brownfield sites and establishing a programme of development and support activity.	The SA should have objectives reflecting the need for improving skills and economics are a key theme of the SA.
Medway Housing Strategy 2008-2011	This is intended to maximise the supply of suitable and affordable housing to meet housing need, enable vulnerable people to live independent lives, improve the quality and energy efficiency of housing, develop sustainable communities and promote neighbourhood renewal and promote better and fairer access to housing services.	An SA objective is needed relating to good access to decent quality housing and is a theme of the SA.
Medway and Medway NHS: 2008 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	This highlights the key priorities to improving health and wellbeing within Medway and reducing inequalities. This is intended to be followed by an implementation plan.	An SA objective is needed in relation to health and reducing health inequalities.
Medway Rural Action Plan	People should be able to look forward with confidence to a positive and sustainable future for rural Medway. Our villages should have vibrant communities that feel safe and supported and who are pleased with the quality and choice of services and facilities available to them. Medway's countryside should be more widely valued and enjoyed as an important natural asset to build positive relationships between rural and urban Medway.	SA objective needed in respect to landscape and accessibility is key theme of the SA.

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
Medway Wildlife, Countryside and Open Space Strategy 2008-2016	<p>Aims to improve year on year the residents opinion poll ratings, address the findings of the open space quality and quantity audits, celebrate the strengths of the countryside and open space resources and secure internal and external funding, through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing more high quality facilities; • Improved monitoring and management; • Prioritised investments; • Improved protection and conservation; • More open spaces contributing directly to regeneration; and • Greater celebration and engagement. 	<p>An SA objective is needed in relation to landscape areas and accessibility is a key theme of the SA.</p>
Opportunities in the Third Age: Improving the Life of Older People in Medway	<p>This focuses on the steps needed to enhance and maintain the contribution of older people to the community, with the main aim being to assist older people to live independently and be active and healthy.</p>	
“Making Life Better for Children in Medway” Medway’s Children and Young People’s Plan 2006-2009	<p>Main aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard children and young people who are vulnerable or at risk • Raise achievement of children in schools • Improve services for children with disabilities • Improve services for vulnerable children and their families • Reduce rate of childhood obesity and • Improve employability of young people. 	

Plan	Key aims and objectives	Implications for SA
<p>Medway's Sports Development Strategy 2005-2010</p>	<p>This is intended to guide sports development over the next 5 years. Medway will be a place where all young people get a good start in sport and recreation, people of all ages will have the opportunity to stay involved in sports and recreation throughout their lives, people will be encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle through active living and enable socially disadvantaged to feel included and all participants have the opportunity to improve and achieve their own personal sports goals.</p>	

Glossary

SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
EA	Environment Agency
LDF	Local Development Framework
LDD	Local Development Documents
DPD	Development Plan Document
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
PPP	Policies, Plans & Programmes
SPA	Special Protection Area
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
RAMSAR	Wetland site covered by the Ramsar Convention
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monuments
UNESCO	United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation
AQMA	Air Quality Management Areas
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage
CCGT	Combined Cycle Gas Turbine
CHP	Combined Heat & Power
RSPB	Royal Society for Protection of Birds
ONS	Office for National Statistics
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
MI/d	Million litres per day
AoD	Above Ordnance Datum
LTP2	Local Transport Plan 2
WFD	Water Framework Directive