



# Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

March 2017

*Medway*  
COUNCIL  
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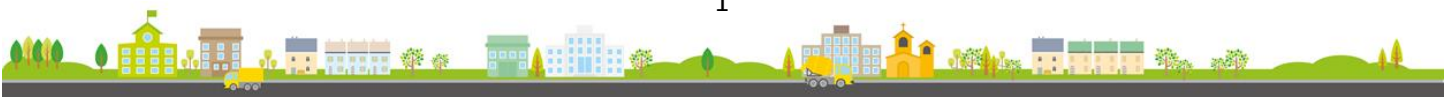
## 1. INTRODUCTION

### What is a scoping report

- 1.1 Medway Council prepared this Scoping report as the first step in the Sustainability Appraisal process in support of the Local Plan preparation. It provides a context and establishes the range and level of detail for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA). Policies in the Local Plan will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal at each stage of preparation to ensure the most sustainable approach has been identified and pursued.
- 1.2 The Scoping stage involves reviewing other relevant plans, policies and programmes, provides information on the baseline characteristics of the Borough, identifies key sustainability issues or problems of relevance to the Borough and sets out the 'SA Framework' – a series of sustainability objectives against which the likely effects of the Local Plan can be assessed.
- 1.3 Consultation on the scope and level of the detail proposed for the SA Report will be undertaken with the statutory environmental consultation bodies: Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. As set out in the SEA Regulations responses should be made within five weeks.

### Sustainable development

- 1.4 Sustainable Development has numerous definitions however the most commonly used definition is described as “development that meets the needs of the present generation, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.
- 1.5 The term was adopted by the Bruntland Report in 1987 and further reaffirmed following the First Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro in 1992. The objective was to work towards ensuring that economic growth need not necessarily conflict with environmental protection. It sought to balance economic development, environmental protection and social well-being.
- 1.6 The concept of Sustainable Development is a key principle in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and local plans should seek to enshrine its principles in their formulation, policy provisions and development trajectories.



## **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) requirements**

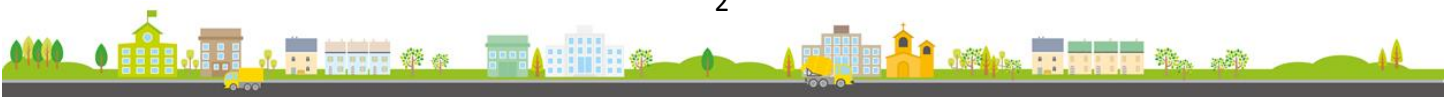
- 1.7 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was introduced through EU Directive 2001/42/EC, transposed into English law via the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 ('the SEA Regulations'). The requirements of the Sustainability Appraisal and the SEA Directive are a method for ensuring that the principle of Sustainable Development is integrated into the plan making process. SEA seeks to assess the environmental effects of implementing plans or programmes.
- 1.8 Sustainability Appraisal was introduced through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004. This process seeks to integrate social and economic as well as environmental considerations into the assessment of plans and programmes. Government Guidance requires that SA and SEA are combined to allow for a single appraisal to be carried out.

## **Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)**

- 1.9 Land use plans, including Local Plans, are subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) - article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive). The HRA would assess the impacts of the proposed land use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. The HRA for Medway Council will be undertaken alongside the preparation of the Local Plan, the findings of which will be incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal.

## **Where we are with the Local Plan preparation**

- 1.10 Having consulted on the Local Plan Issues & Options in January/February this year, the Authority is now preparing the Local Plan Options. Current public consultation will provide the opportunity for comment on the Local Plan 'Development Options', with adoption anticipated in 2018. Once adopted, the Local Plan will form part of Medway's Development Plan. Currently the development plan consists of the saved policies of the Medway Local Plan 2003.
- 1.11 The Local Plan establishes the development trajectory for Medway over the next 20 years. It includes the site allocations and designations and policy direction for the future development of the council area. The local plan will set out policies and proposals that address a range of economic, social and environmental issues, and as per the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 these should contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development. Adverse impacts on each of the constituent



parts of the sustainable Development should be avoided and where possible, alternative options, which reduce, or eliminate such impacts, should be pursued.

### **Structure of the report**

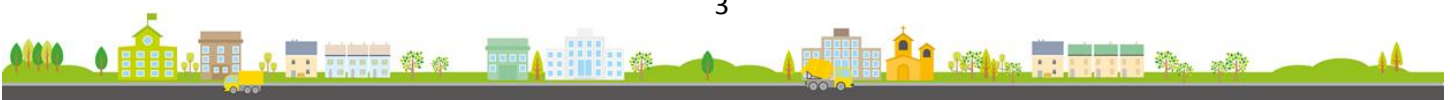
1.12 Having set out the background to Sustainability Appraisals and the Authority's Local Plan, the following chapters will be structured according to the process for preparing the scoping report:

- Chapter 2: sets out the process for preparing a scoping report, which will inform the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan.
- Chapter 3: sets out the Sustainability Appraisal process
- Chapter 4: provides the background to the authority area
- Chapter 4: Delves into the detail of the sustainability issues and objectives, providing a baseline context before identifying the issues, objectives and opportunities. Eleven objectives have been identified.
- Chapter 5: Sustainability Framework
- Chapter 6: Next steps and Consultation

### **Consultation**

1.13 Relevant stakeholders and consultees will have an opportunity to comment on the scoping report to ensure the scope and level of detail is appropriate and fit for purpose. The Duty to Cooperate Scoping report will be consulted upon concurrently.

1.14 The comments received will guide the refinement of both documents in support of the Local Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping framework will form the basis for appraising the Local Plan policy options, which will sit alongside the Local Plan during public consultation. The refined Duty to Cooperate Report will evolve and serve as an audit trail and mechanism to facilitate discussion on strategic cross boundary issues.



## 2. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL PROCESS

- 2.1 The Council is legally required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan to ensure that social, economic and environmental considerations are integrated into the plan making process. The Sustainability Appraisal must be prepared in a manner that meets the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, which was transposed into UK Law via the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 2.2 There are two main outputs of the SA/SEA – a ‘Scoping Report’ and an ‘Environmental Report’. The SA/SEA process comprises a number of stages, with Scoping (the ‘information gathering stage’) being Stage A.
- 2.3 Stages B-E of the SA/SEA of Medway Council’s Local Plan will be undertaken at a later stage, reported on separately and consulted upon alongside the Local Plan at various stages of its preparation.

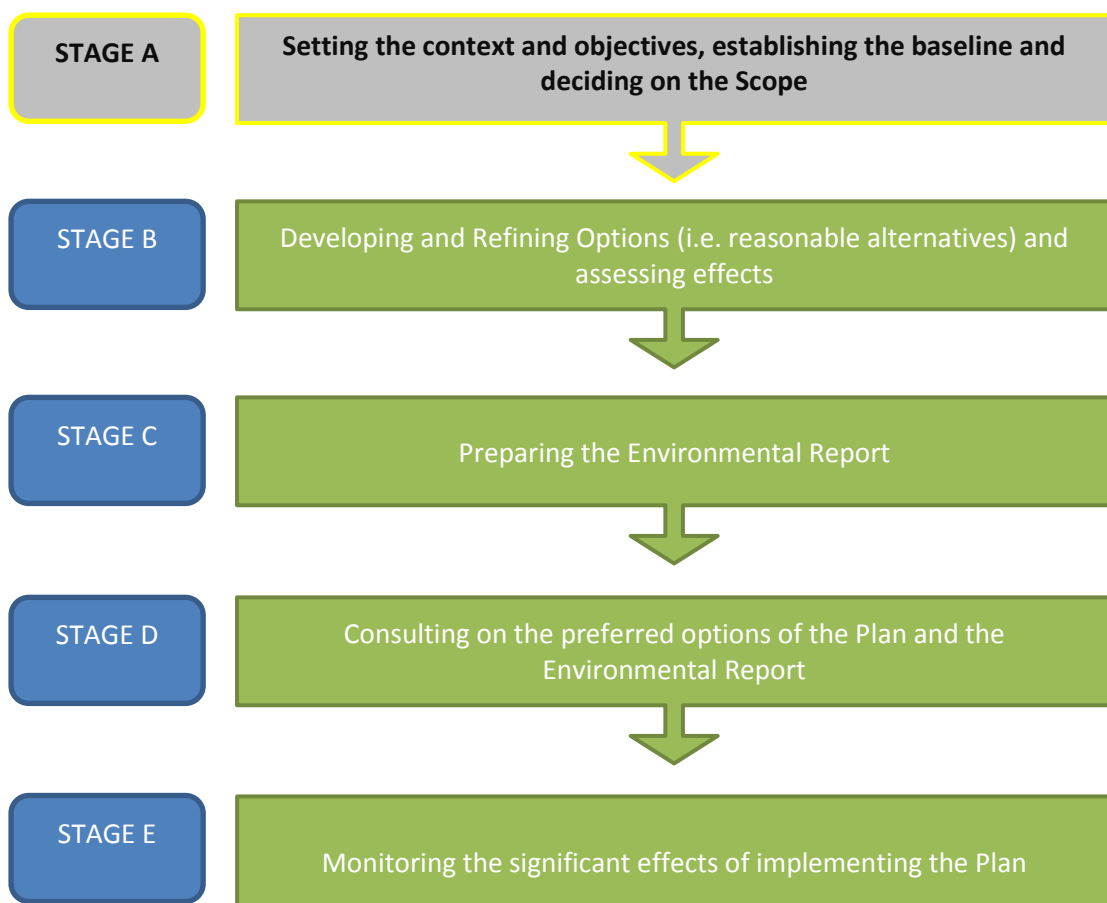


Figure 1: SA/SEA process – Stages A to E



2.4 This report presents the findings of the Scoping stage of the SA/SEA (Stage A), which involves the following key tasks and is elaborated on below:

Stage	Objective
Stage A1	Identify other relevant policies, plans or programmes and sustainability objectives
Stage A2	Collect Baseline Information
Stage A3	Identify Sustainability Issues and Problems
Stage A4	Develop the SA/SEA
Stage A5	Consult the Consultation Bodies on the scope of the SA/SEA

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

2.5 This task is relevant to both the development of the Local Plan itself and the SA/SEA process – the Local Plan should reflect national policy objectives and should also relate to the policy context set by other plans. In addition, the review of other plans, policies and programmes provides the policy context within which the SA/SEA is being undertaken.

2.6 A matrix has been compiled, listing the various plans, policies and programmes that are of relevance to the Local Plan at the international, national, sub-national and local levels. Each plan, policy or programme has been reviewed and its content and key objectives described. Consideration has then been given to the implications of each plan, policy or programme for the emerging Local Plan and the SA/SEA.

2.7 A detailed matrix setting out the list of plans, policies and programmes can be found in Appendix A. It should help to identify any potential conflicts or synergies between the emerging Local Plan and other plans, policies and programmes.

**A2: Collecting Baseline Information**

2.8 This task was undertaken by drawing on a variety of publications and data sources relating to Medway, with the relevant information being compiled to present an up-to-date picture of the Borough. Data sources were reviewed in order to ensure that the information drawn from them is as recent as possible and care has been taken to



only describe those aspects of the baseline that will be of relevance when assessing the effects of the Local Plan. The baseline information for the SA/SEA of the Local Plan is presented in Chapter 4 of this report.

### **A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems**

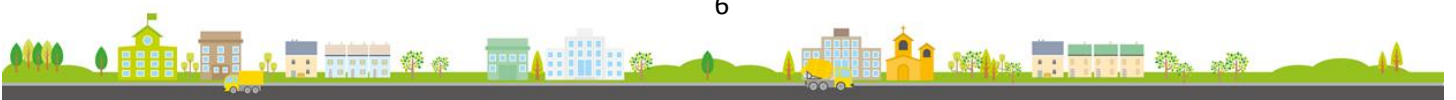
- 2.9 By identifying the key sustainability issues and problems relevant to Medway Council, it is possible to ensure that the Local Plan addresses these as far as possible and that opportunities are taken to bring about sustainability improvements through the implementation of the Local Plan.
- 2.10 The key relevant sustainability issues for Medway Council have been identified through the review of plans, policies and programmes and the collation of baseline information and are presented in Chapter 4 of this report.

### **A4: Developing the SA/SEA Framework**

- 2.11 Although not a requirement of the SEA Directive, the development of an SA/SEA framework provides a recognised way in which the likely sustainability effects of a plan can be assessed and described. The framework consists of a number of SA/SEA objectives, which are drawn from the key sustainability issues facing Medway Council (presented in Chapter 4).
- 2.12 During the later stages of the SA/SEA, the sites and policy options included in the Local Plan will be assessed against each of the SA/SEA objectives so that any likely significant effects of the Local Plan (both positive and negative) can be identified and appropriate mitigation and monitoring measures can be devised.
- 2.13 The SA/SEA framework that will be used in the assessment of the Medway Council Local Plan is set out in Chapter 5, along with an outline of the broad approach that will be taken to the later stages of the SA/SEA.

### **A5: Consulting on the Scope of the SA/SEA**

- 2.14 In line with the requirements of the SEA Directive, this scoping report will be made available to the three statutory consultees (the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) as well as wider stakeholders, for a five week consultation period during the Local Plan Development Options consultation.





## How will the Scoping Report be used?

2.15 This Scoping Report has been produced in order to allow the statutory authorities and other interested parties to make comments on the scope of the SA/SEA. Any significant gaps in the information gathered can be identified and steps taken to remedy these before the Local Plan is developed further. The suitability of the SA/SEA objectives for carrying out the assessment, and their consistency with other plans and programmes, can also be considered by consultees.



### **3 BACKGROUND TO THE AUTHORITY**

- 3.1 Medway is made up of a large urban area built up between the river and the downs in north Kent, and an extensive rural area to the north on the Hoo Peninsula. It is distinctive for its five historic towns, its waterfront regeneration, and its dramatic landscapes, with juxtapositions of the natural environment with modern infrastructure and commercial life.
- 3.2 Medway is in close proximity to London and the wider South East having strong transport links to the capital. This has a strong effect on Medway in terms of migratory flows out of London and inward flows of workers from Medway.
- 3.3 Medway is one of the largest unitary authorities in the South East of England and is predicted to grow by just over a fifth over the next twenty five years, above the national level of growth. Medway's current population of 276,500 is predicted to grow to 330,000 by 2035, primarily as a result of a naturally growing population as well as inward migration. Medway is a relatively young borough but the largest growth will be in the over 65's – with growth in this age group accounting for more than half of the overall population growth in Medway. Future growth is in addition to a significant level of growth between 2001 and 2011 with Medway growing by under 6% over this period. There has been a general upward trend in growth.
- 3.3 There has been rapid expansion of the Universities at Medway, new communities and developments rising up on the waterfront, the introduction of HS1 rail services through the urban area, and successful business growth and development of creative industries. This growth has been taking place within the context of a rich cultural and natural heritage.
- 3.4 The new Local Plan needs to respond to the changes seen in Medway over recent years, and to anticipate new opportunities and growth, so that development is best placed to capitalise on benefits to the area, and those aspects of Medway that are most valued are safeguarded into the future.
- 3.5 Medway sits within the Thames Gateway, which continues to be seen as a focus for regeneration and economic growth. Proposals for further strategic infrastructure and development, such as a new Lower Thames Crossing, the Ebbsfleet Garden City, and the proposed London Paramount resort all have a potential bearing on Medway.
- 3.6 Despite the investment seen in Medway over the last decade, significant areas of disadvantage and inequalities remain across Medway. Much of the deprivation is concentrated in central urban areas around Chatham and Gillingham. Data collated in



the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) indicate a relative worsening of conditions in some areas compared to neighbourhoods nationally, and around particular themes. Some deprivation themes are of specific concern, such as the relatively high crime levels, child poverty, low educational and skills achievement rates and income levels.

## Sustainability Issues and Objectives

3.7 In undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal a number of themes/ topic areas have been identified. The themes are chosen as a basis for identifying key sustainability issues and objectives for the appraisal framework. They have also been chosen to fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive and the Council is satisfied that the chosen themes cover the suggested top areas as identified Schedule 2 of the 2004 Regulations. The themes are not exhausted, however, they have been chosen following a review of the requirements of the SEA Directive and an assessment of the key topical issues that are relevant for the local plan. These are illustrated below:

- Sustainable Development
- Climate Change
- Land, Geology and Soil Resources
- Air Quality and Environmental Pollution
- Education and Skills
- Healthy and Safe Communities
- Social Inclusion and Equality
- Economy, Enterprise, Employment
- Historic Environment, Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- Design Quality
- Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Designated Sites
- Transportation and Accessibility
- Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space
- Water Environment
- Population and Housing
- Material Assets, Minerals and Resources
- Waste Management

## Structure of the rest of the report

3.8 The previous chapters introduced the Sustainability Appraisal process and its various stages, the scoping report being the first step. This chapter sets out in broad terms the background to Medway Council. The rest of the report is broken up into the following:

- **Chapter 4 – Baseline:** sets out the issues, opportunities and sustainability issues in the Authority in more detail. This is set out by introducing the subject, tying it



back to the policy context, identifying the problems by setting out the context, identifying the specific issues and opportunities, the likely situation without the plan and concluding with the sustainability objective.

- **Chapter 5 – Sustainability Appraisal Framework:** Introduces the sustainability objectives cross referenced against the national guidance topic areas. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework is presented with the objectives, decision-aiding questions, indicators and their source. This would be used to appraise the Local Plan policies and allocations. Examples of appraisal templates for the spatial options and policies is also set out.
- **Chapter 6 - Next Steps and Consultation:** sets out the consultation bodies to be consulted and the process of amendments to be undertaken following comment to be received.



## 4. COLLECTING BASELINE INFORMATION

- 4.1 Objective A2 of the Sustainability Appraisal Procedure requires the collection of the relevant social, environmental and economic context within the context of identifying the key characteristics and trends in the Local Plan Area. The baseline information, and issues for the borough are set out in an appendix to this report.
- 4.2 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 Documents “baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them”.
- 4.3 The information does not seek to be exhaustive, however, it reflects a commitment to collect, appraise and assess the key trends within the defined topic areas. This information provides the basis for the prediction and monitoring of environmental and sustainability effects on the local plan.
- 4.4 One of the key requirements is a strong evidence base, which is sound and robust, and which determines the viability of the Local Plan, and if/how should it be altered. Collection of evidence is ongoing and will need to be collected continuously throughout the local plan preparation process, and it is the aim that it is up to date as possible. Therefore the baseline information relates to current information available at the time of writing. However, the baseline information may evolve over the time periods for the Sustainability Appraisal and the Local Plan.
- 4.5 Within this chapter following the appraisal of the baseline information, a number of sustainability issues will be identified as defined under each theme. The identification of sustainability issues and pressures is an integral part of defining some of the key issues for the Local Plan to address. There are many possible sustainability issues, however not all are relevant to the council area, and therefore the local plan.
- 4.6 A number of issues have been identified for the Medway Council Area, which have been identified primarily from the following sources:
- Review of relevant plans, programmes, strategies (see A1)

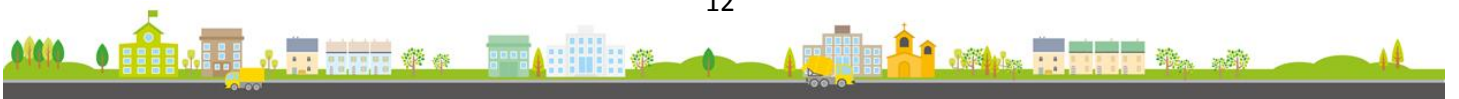


- Analysis of Baseline Information, trends and data
- Consultation with the key statutory agencies
- Consultation with Council Officers and other non-statutory consultees

4.7 Given the nature of the interlink across the three strands of sustainability, a number of issues are highly intertwined and interrelated.

#### **A note on Sustainable Development**

4.8 Sustainable Development is a holistic term, interwoven with commitments to social, economic and environmental wellbeing. It is not a means in itself, but rather the end product of a number of endeavours resulting from the following themes, as identified for the purposes of the Local Plan. As such the theme of sustainable development does not have specific baseline information, nor specific issues or objectives.



## SUMMARY OF BASELINE ISSUES FOR SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES

Sustainability Objectives	Sustainability Issue	Issues
<b>1: To improve skill levels and encourage suitable employment opportunities in accessible locations</b>	The current mismatch of skills to jobs will increase over time creating a wider gap in resident's ability to secure higher earnings to improve their living conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too few jobs in relation to working age population</li> <li>• A lower employment rate than nationally with issues of worklessness</li> <li>• A lower qualification attainment and lower level adult skills in local population'</li> <li>• A dependency on road transport for work journeys combined with HGV use for goods transportation</li> <li>• Road congestion with freight and peak time commuting traffic making a significant contribution</li> <li>• Many pockets of economic/income deprivation, with some suffering severe, multiple deprivation</li> <li>• Lower qualifications/skill levels result in lower earnings</li> <li>• An inequality of earnings with a significant proportion of households living on low incomes.</li> </ul>
<b>2: To have a successful economic base able to sustain economic growth and competitiveness</b>	The local economy needs to respond to the changing market to become robust, competitive, and relevant and to be able to support the growing population at the levels anticipated by 2035.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower productivity (GVA) levels, amongst lowest in South East</li> <li>• A lower value economic base</li> <li>• Significant outward commuting flow for work</li> <li>• Constrained business locations</li> <li>• There is a need for more commercial land</li> <li>• Medway has expanding specialist sectors</li> </ul>
<b>3: To protect and support the growth, vitality and viability of</b>	The authority's centres need to respond to the ever-changing market to become robust, stable, sustainable and relevant in order to support the growing population at the levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A need for more comparison retail floor space to improve the offer</li> <li>• Competition from local out of centre locations is putting pressure on TCs</li> <li>• Loss of local spend to neighbouring 'competitors'</li> </ul>

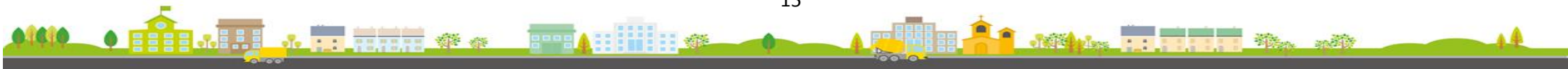


<b>the Boroughs centres</b>	anticipated by 2035.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow retail offer in centres with emphasis on convenience shopping</li> <li>• A flurry of uses which cumulatively has an adverse impact on the vitality and vibrancy of the centre</li> <li>• Heritage assets at risk</li> </ul>
<b>4: Conserve and enhance the existing green network</b>	It is essential that the green infrastructure provision and its accessibility is improved, conserved and enhanced to support the envisaged increase in population and accompanying housing provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are some 'gaps' in the public rights of way network</li> <li>• Balancing access to the countryside with conservation objectives</li> <li>• Balancing the accommodation needs of the population with safeguarding the authority's valued environment.</li> </ul>
<b>5: To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change</b>	An increase in population will result in increased pressure on the road network, infrastructure and service provision. The increased number of vehicles on the road will exacerbate congestion, which is likely to be the major source of emissions/air pollution within the borough adversely impacting on the health of residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest mortality rates in the South East attributable to anthropogenic factors</li> <li>• Air Quality management Areas (AQMAs) in Medway</li> <li>• Adverse impacts of high traffic volumes and culture of dependency on private car</li> <li>• Limited public transport coverage</li> <li>• Reduction in NO2 emissions is required</li> <li>• Manage the noise and light pollution particularly in rural areas</li> <li>• Reduce impacts of pollution on ecology</li> </ul>
<b>6: To adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change</b>	The increasing demand for housing resulting from the projected increase in population will put a strain on the environment and our ability to respond to climate change. Levels of pollution (air, light, noise) and occurrences of flooding will increase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are areas of water stress in the Authority</li> <li>• The quality of design varies greatly across Medway</li> <li>• Medway's environmental designations and countryside (including agricultural land) is at threat of being compromised to meet housing demand.</li> <li>• Medway is a coastal authority and is therefore at risk of flooding.</li> </ul>





<b>7: Promoting, enhancing and respecting our historic/cultural heritage assets</b>	<p>The increasing demand for housing resulting from the projected increase in population will put a strain on the demand for land, which could compromise the function of the Authority's heritage assets and how development is delivered – i.e. little consideration for heritage and more emphasis on delivering the numbers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medway has a rich military and cultural heritage</li> <li>• There are numerous historic buildings that are listed, which provides limited weight to protect</li> <li>• The quality of design varies greatly across Medway</li> <li>• Medway's rich heritage is at threat of being compromised to meet housing demand.</li> </ul>
<b>8: Making the best use of natural assets</b>	<p>The increasing demand for housing resulting from the projected increase in population will put a strain on the demand for land, which could compromise the function of the Authority's natural assets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medway has a large proportion of natural assets including agricultural land and international designations.</li> <li>• There is limited land available for development which places increasing pressure on natural assets</li> <li>• Need to balance access to the countryside with conservation objectives</li> <li>• Need to balance the accommodation needs of the population with safeguarding the authority's valued environment</li> <li>• The River Medway is a valued asset that is underused. However, development and/or use of the river must not compromise the marine life and ecosystems.</li> </ul>
<b>9: To facilitate the improved health and wellbeing of the Boroughs residents</b>	<p>Without further intervention, the health of the authority's residents could deteriorate resulting in earlier death rates and placing a greater strain on the NHS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor lifestyle choices resulting in poor health</li> <li>• High death rates due to disease</li> <li>• Lower physical activity in the Authority compared to national and regional levels</li> <li>• High conception rates compared to national and regional levels</li> <li>• Insufficient access to healthy places</li> </ul>
<b>10: Promote strong and inclusive communities</b>	<p>An increase in population will place a strain on infrastructure and services. The focus on new provision and without further</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A rapidly growing and changing area</li> <li>• An increasingly diverse population with a larger BME population and a growing variety and a concentration of non-British nationals living in Medway</li> </ul>



	<p>intervention could result in identified areas of deprivation being further isolated, creating an increased level of deprivation and wider gaps in accessibility to housing, services and facilities necessary to provide uplift.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A diverse range of communities</li> <li>• A number of severely deprived neighbourhoods suffering multiple deprivation issues</li> <li>• Crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots in some deprived areas and some central areas</li> </ul>
<p><b>11: To provide sufficient and affordable housing suitable to peoples lifestyles and needs</b></p>	<p>The increasing population requires a quick response to housing provision, particularly the provision of housing that is affordable to residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing suitable housing for a growing elderly population</li> <li>• Providing the right type and size of housing</li> <li>• Tenure - A large increase in the rental market and a drop in home ownership in Medway</li> <li>• Lack of affordability for local people</li> <li>• Housing pressure with significant population growth via natural growth and inward migration most notably from London</li> </ul>



## **A. SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVE 1:**

*To improve skill levels and encourage suitable employment opportunities in accessible locations.*

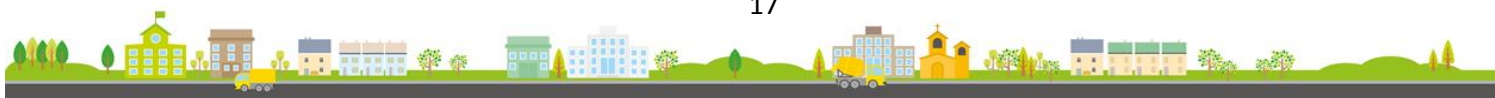
### **Introduction**

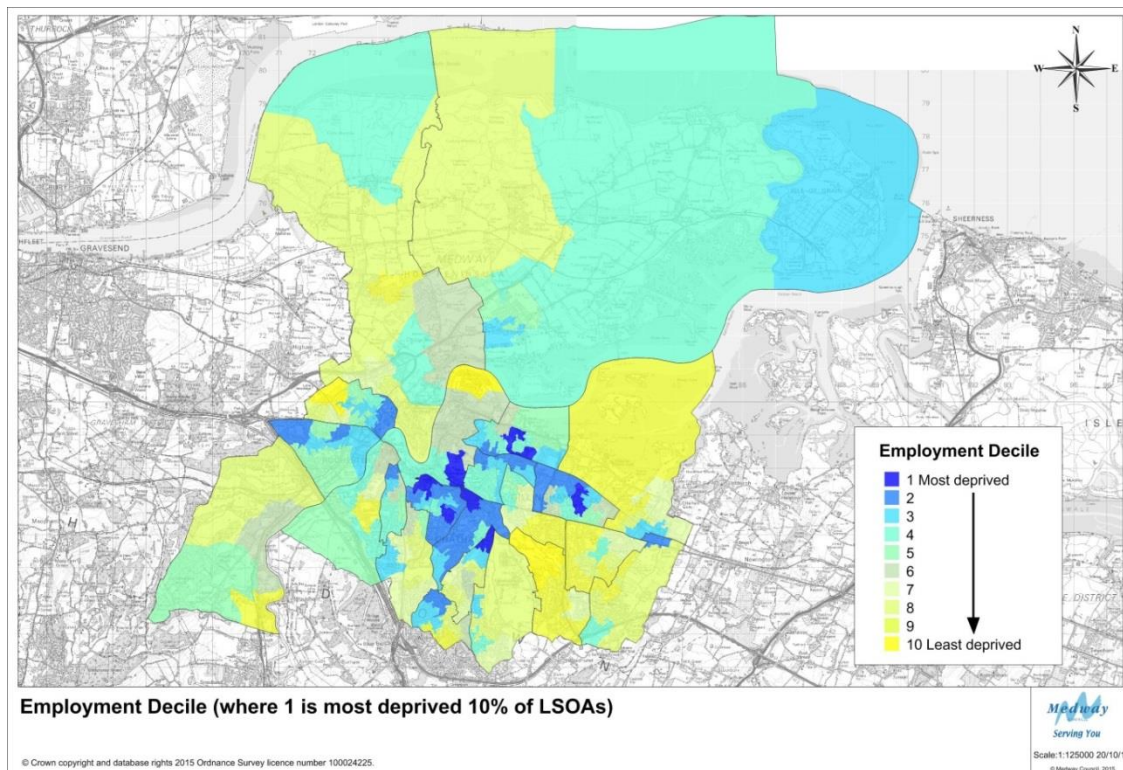
- A.1 The ability to secure a better paying job supports the general well-being and ability of residents to provide for their own and their family's needs. Ensuring these jobs are easily accessible in location and means of access is key in supporting the ability of residents to secure a better quality of life.
- A.2 The following areas are discussed in more detail below to set out the context and enable the identification of issues and opportunities:
- Employment
  - Education and Skills
  - Transport and Accessibility

### **Current situation**

#### **Employment deprivation**

- A.3 With an employment rate below the national level and an unemployment rate above the national level Medway needs the creation of new jobs to provide more opportunities for local people to join the workforce. Encouraging the economy locally to expand – retaining the existing business stock and attracting inward investment - will continue to provide opportunities to workers locally and contribute to raising productivity, e.g. maintaining (and growing) Medway's manufacturing sector.
- A.4 The proportion of manufacturing businesses in Medway remains higher than the South East average and it is a significant contributor to GVA. It is the priority sector for economic growth in Medway.
- A.5 Medway has thirty-two neighbourhoods ranked in the 20% most employment deprived areas nationally and within those nine are ranked in the 10% most deprived. These neighbourhoods are concentrated in centrally located deprived areas in Medway, most notably around Gillingham North, Luton & Wayfield and Chatham Central.

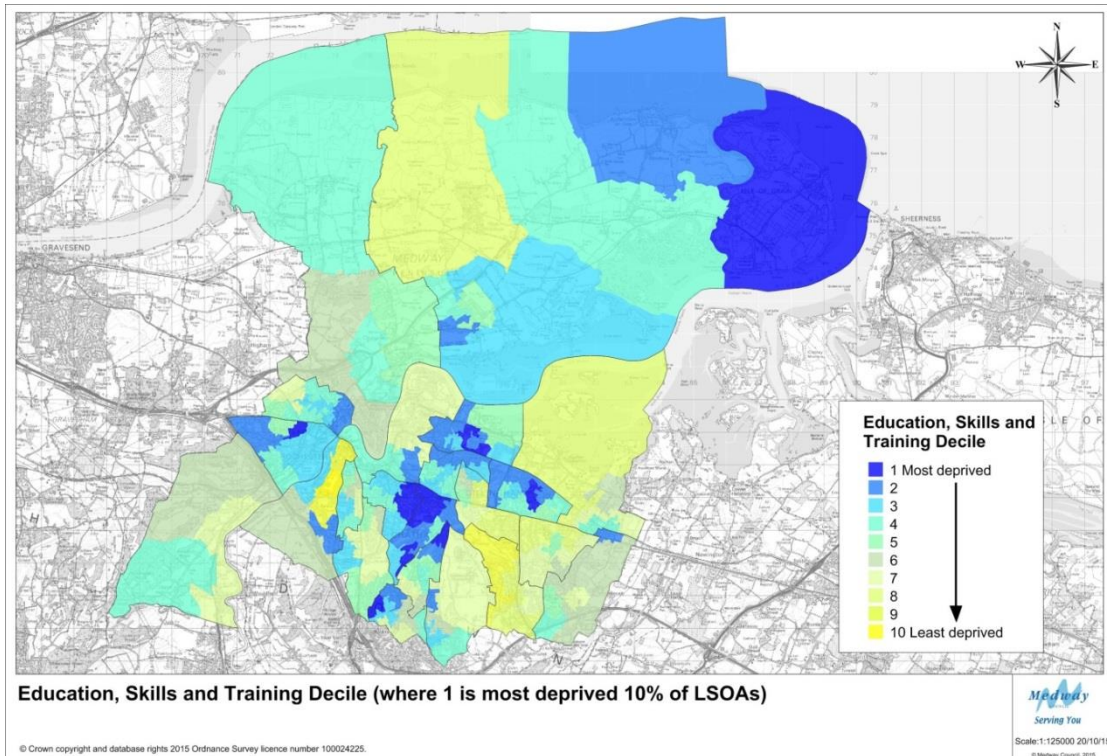




## Education and Skills deprivation

- A.6 The 'Education, Skills and Training' deprivation measure relates to the lack of educational attainment and skills in the local population. The pattern of deprivation on this theme is quite widely scattered with areas across Medway being relatively deprived including areas on the Hoo Peninsula.
- A.7 Medway is ranked in the 27% most deprived local authorities in England for 'Education, skills and training' - this is worse than Medway's overall position for multiple deprivation being in the 37% most deprived local authorities in England.
- A.8 Medway has forty-three neighbourhoods ranked in the 20% most deprived nationally and within those sixteen are ranked in the 10% most deprived. Two fewer neighbourhoods are in the most deprived 20% compared to the 2010 index, but there are extra four areas in the most deprived 10%.
- A.9 Of those sixteen most deprived neighbourhoods, five are located in Luton & Wayfield, four are located in Chatham Central and two are located in Gillingham North.
- A.10 Medway's educationally deprived neighbourhoods are quite widely dispersed, with some central urban areas as well as rural areas suffering severe deprivation, in both pupil educational attainment and adult skills.

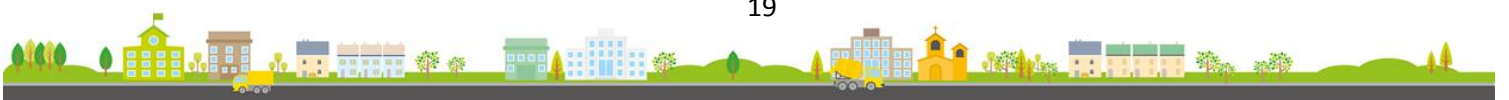


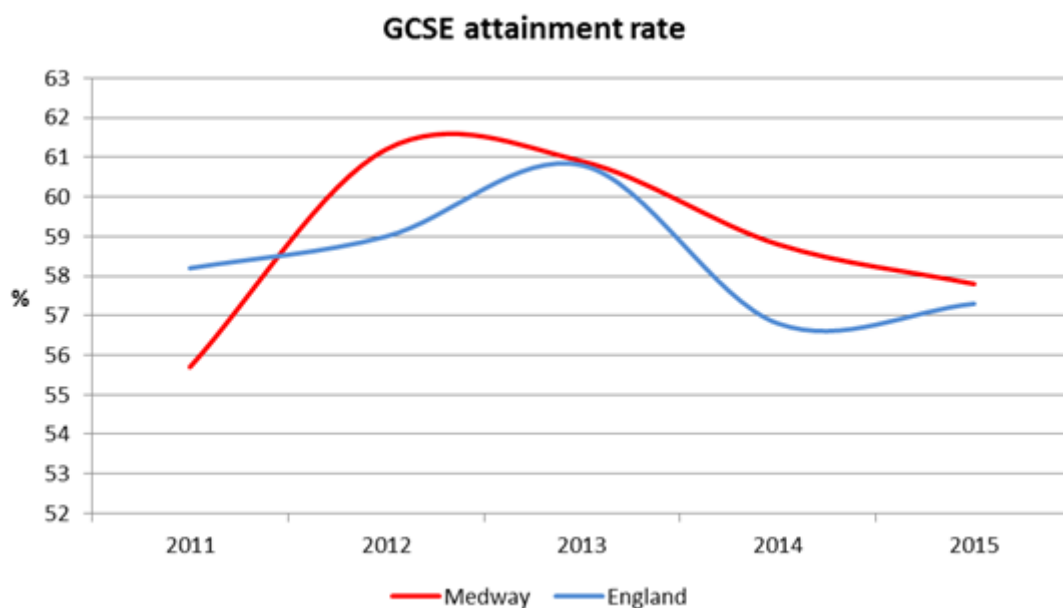


Percent pupils achieving at KS2 5 GCSEs

A.11 Educational attainment in Medway stands below the national level, with a declining pass rate over the past two years. This follows a period around 2012 which had seen much improvement in the pass rate in Medway.

Percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving 5+A*-C (and equivalent) including English and maths GCSEs					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Medway</b>	55.7	61.2	60.9	58.8	57.8
<b>England</b>	58.2	59.0	60.8	56.8	57.3





<b>Qualifications – Working age population - 2015</b>					
	Medway		Kent	South East	Great Britain
	Number	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
NVQ4 and above	45,600	25.9	34.3	39.8	37.1
NVQ3 and above	78,900	44.8	53.8	58.8	55.8
NVQ2 and above	119,600	68.0	73.5	76.8	73.6
NVQ1 and above	150,900	85.8	87.1	88.5	84.9
Other qualifications	10,600	6.0	6.1	5.2	6.5
No qualifications	14,500	8.2	6.9	6.3	8.6

Source: ONS annual population survey

## Transportation and Accessibility

A.12 Transport and accessibility are key factors that need to be considered in the local plan making process, particularly in relation to the implications of sustainable transport nodes and access to services and facilities for communities. Medway is located approximately 30 miles to the south east of London, and is characterised by 5 key towns: Strood, Chatham, Rochester, Gillingham and Rainham. These towns comprise the Medway conurbation. There are a number of smaller villages including Cuxton and



Halling in the Medway Valley and many villages on the Hoo Peninsula present within the council's boundary.

A.13 In terms of rail there are five main rail stations, one per each major urban area i.e. Strood, Rochester, Chatham, Rainham and Gillingham. The key services include the Dover/Ramsgate – Victoria Service, Charing Cross/Canon Street – Gillingham Service and the Faversham – St. Pancras High Speed Service. There are also rail connections down the Medway Valley to Maidstone and Tonbridge. The main road network comprises the M2, which forms the southern boundary of Medway. This connects to the M20 via the A229 and A228. The A289 connects to the Hoo Peninsula and continues further towards Rainham and Sittingbourne. The River Medway is also an important transport link, with major ports and wharves, such as Chatham Docks, Thamesport and Cliffe . Berthing is available up river along the Frindsbury Peninsula and along the urban and rural riverside.

A.14 A number of cycle routes traverse the council area including National Cycle Route 1, 17, 179, as well as more internal urban routes. Medway has more than 70 miles of on road, off road and green cycle routes. Equally there exist a comprehensive number of public trails and rights of access across the borough, which link to the wider rights of way networks across Kent.

#### Method and Travel to Work in Medway

A.15 The following table breaks down transport data relative to modes of transport to work in Medway from the latest census results.

#### **Medway Local Authority Travel to Work**

	2001	2011
Work mainly at or from home (%)	7.62	7.83
Underground, metro, light rail, tram (%)	0.16	0.21
Train (%)	7.86	8.66
Bus, minibus or coach (%)	5.47	4.59
Taxi (%)	0.35	0.33
Motorcycle, scooter or moped (%)	1.32	1.09
Driving a car or van (%)	58.76	60.56



	2001	2011
Passenger in a car or van (%)	7.14	6.01
Vehicle Occupancy Rate	1.12	1.1
Bicycle (%)	1.36	1.12
On foot (%)	9.54	9.19
Other method of travel to work (%)	0.43	0.41

Source: Census 2011

It is clear from the Census in 2011, that the main form of transport is the private car/van. This accounts for approximately 60.6%, an increase in almost 2 percentage points since the 2001 census. Train travel accounts for 8.66%, an increase of 1 per cent, while the numbers of people travelling by bus has fallen to under 5 percent. Passenger travel has fallen and those travelling by bicycle has fallen to 1.12 per cent (a drop of 17 per cent).

A.16 The following table illustrates levels of car ownership within Medway, comparing the 2001 census level to the 2011.

	2001	2011
No cars or vans in household (%)	23	21.9
1 car or van in household (%)	43.7	42.5
2 cars or vans in household (%)	26.5	27.1
3 cars or vans in household (%)	5.2	6.2
4 or more cars or vans in household (%)	1.6	2.3

Source: Census

In this case, there is an unequivocal trend towards increased car ownership, and the amount of cars owned. No car households have fallen to 21.9% while there have been increases in 2 cars, three, cars, and 4 car households.





## Evidence gaps

A.17 None

## Specific issues and opportunities

### Issues

#### 'Too few jobs in relation to working age population'

A.18 Medway has a consistent trend of having too few jobs in relation to its working-age resident population. However with a growing population and job numbers that have not grown at the same rate, in Medway the gap has progressively widened. A significant proportion of workers commute to neighbouring centres offering attractive employment opportunities, while those seeking 'lower grade' positions are unlikely to be able to travel further out of Medway, being limited to what is on offer closer to home.

#### 'A lower employment rate than nationally with issues of worklessness'

A.19 Medway has had a lower employment rate than comparator areas, for some time, which can be linked to the job supply side, as well as resident based employability issues with a long –term trend of a lower economic activity rate with issues of worklessness amongst some local communities. Work related benefit claimant rates tend to be higher in Medway.

#### 'A tendency towards lower qualification attainment and lower level adult skills in local population'

A.20 Medway residents tend to have lower skill levels as indicated by NVQ qualification levels, with concentrations toward the lower level skills (NVQ 1 and 2), compared to local and national standards. Amongst school leavers in Medway the GCSE attainment rate tends to fall below the national level.

A.21 These issues are supported by the evidence from the most recent deprivation index, with many communities having 'young person's education deprivation' as well as 'adult skills deprivation' ranking in the lower fifth of areas nationally. This is despite having such a high share of students in the area, suggesting that when students graduate they are leaving the area.

A.22 This combined with a lower skills base among the local working age population put Medway in a less competitive position with local businesses citing lack of suitable skills



in the local population as being one of many detrimental factors contributing to Medway not being seen as a favourable business option.

'A dependency on road transport for work journeys combined with HGV use for goods transportation'

A.23 Being one of the largest urban areas in the South East, surrounded by major transport connections results in heavy road usage in Medway, leading to much congestion, particularly at peak times. Medway has seen a reasonably large increase in traffic volume over the last four years, increasing at a higher rate than that seen nationally.

A.24 Car vehicle journeys have increased at a higher rate than vehicles overall, with level of growth of all types of vehicle exceeding the national growth trend. Over this period bus usage appears to have fallen in Medway, in contrast to the regional and national trend.

A.25 Frequent cycling – a pattern which might fit with daily commuting – for utility purposes rather than recreational use is higher in Medway than nationally. However it would appear that walking levels are lower in Medway than nationally.

Road congestion with freight and peak time commuting traffic making a significant contribution

A.26 More employment sites need to come forward in locations with sustainable transport systems to enable improved traffic flows and increase average journey times.

Many pockets of economic/income deprivation, with some suffering severe, multiple deprivation

A.27 There are many areas in Medway which suffer economic deprivation; many are central neighbourhoods, typically around Chatham and Gillingham, as well as some outlying rural areas. The trend shows a relative worsening over the past five years with more neighbourhoods now ranking in the most deprived fifth of areas nationally. This indicates that many households are living on extremely low incomes, with many depending on income related welfare benefits.

Lower qualifications/skill levels result in lower earnings

A.28 Median earnings in Medway are consistently below the national level as a result of a significant proportion of the population being unskilled and having issues accessing employment.



*An inequality of earnings with a significant proportion of households living on low incomes*

A.29 Workplace median earnings in Medway stand below the national and regional level. Median earnings (£26,800) hide full extent of the inequality of earnings, with one fifth of the local workers living on an income below £18,100.

**Sustainability issue:**

**The current mismatch of skills to jobs will increase over time creating a wider gap in residents' ability to secure higher earnings to improve their living conditions.**

**Opportunities:**

- Continue to support work experience opportunities, apprenticeships and adult education to facilitate the achievement of high value skills.
- Tie in policies that would require employment of residents, example in the construction industry.
- Plan for appropriate mixture of uses in locations for growth to facilitate job creation that is easily accessible.
- Designate appropriate areas for employment floorspace in accessible locations (outside of the areas identified for residential growth).
- Seek employment provision with higher GVA per head of population in the South East.
- With the right sites coming forward presented with the right facilities in the location with flexible business accommodation, Medway could become a more attractive option for new business, as an affordable location with great connectivity to the wider South East and Europe. The Local Plan can identify the appropriate sites.

**Likely situation without the plan**

A.30 Without a long term strategic plan for growth it is unlikely employment opportunities will be created in line with predicted levels of demographic growth. Jobs need to be created in the most sustainable locations, linked to the areas highlighted as suitable for further growth, in order to marry up new residential growth attracting the workforce to workplace locations to minimise the need to travel.

**Key sustainability objective**

**Sustainability objective 1:**

**To improve skill levels and encourage suitable employment opportunities in accessible locations.**



## **B. Sustainability objective 2:**

***To have a successful economic base able to sustain economic growth and competitiveness***

### **Introduction**

B.1 The following section addresses the local economy and how it can be improved to contribute toward a more prosperous Medway with better quality employment opportunities. Medway currently has the following contributing toward the local economy:

- Rural economy
- Tourism
- Employment areas – manufacturing, warehousing, storage, etc.
- Retail (town centres, local centres, etc.)

B.2 The productivity of Medway’s local economy is low and has a low representation of high value businesses. To secure a more competitive and robust local economy, efforts should focus on increasing the level and quality of activity. This will raise Medway’s standing in the region.

B.3 The following areas are discussed in more detail below to set out the context and enable the identification of issues and opportunities:

- Economy , enterprise and employment
- Employment Land Review and Needs

### **Current situation**

#### **Economy, Enterprise, Employment**

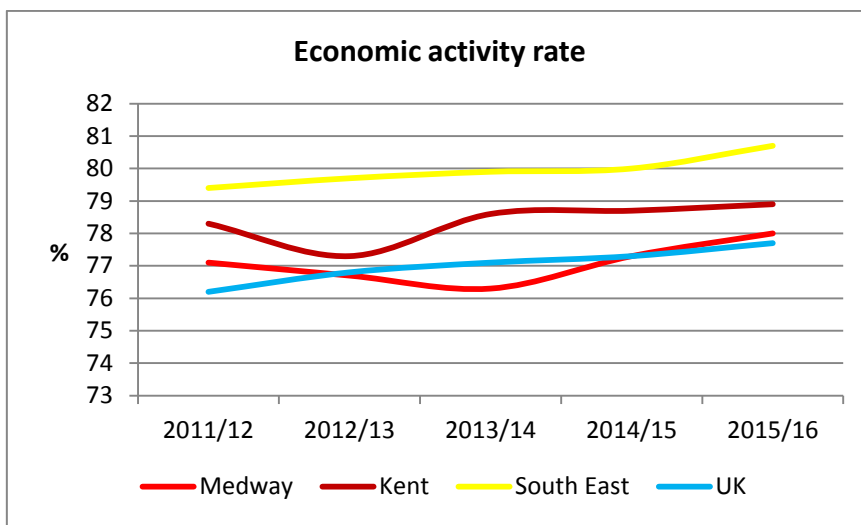
##### **Economic activity/inactivity**

B.4 The employment rate in Medway stands below the national level. In 2014/15 the employment rate increased significantly in Medway narrowing the gap between Medway and the national rate. Encouraging the economy locally to expand – retaining the existing business stock and attracting inward investment - will continue to provide opportunities to workers locally and contribute to raising productivity.

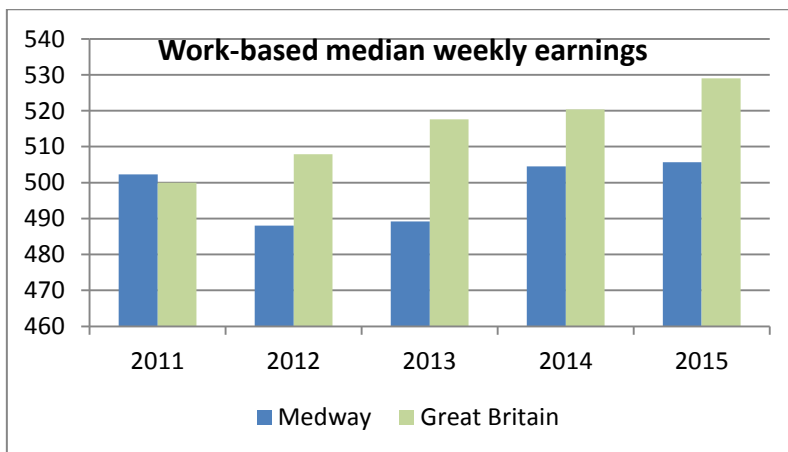
B.5 The economic activity rate in Medway has increased for the second year running and now stands above the national rate. While this is a positive trend, the proportion of the economically inactive who want a job has decreased – though a higher proportion want a job than nationally.



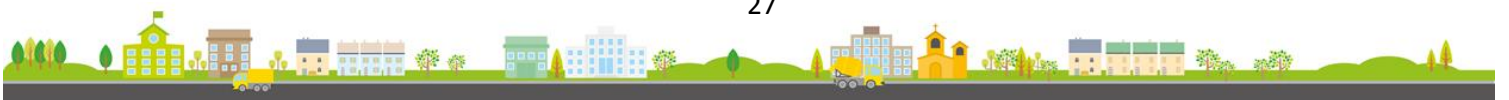
Economic activity rate					
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<b>Medway</b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>76.7</b>	<b>76.3</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>78.0</b>
Kent	78.3	77.3	78.6	78.7	78.9
South East	79.4	79.4	79.9	80.0	80.7
UK	76.2	76.8	77.1	77.3	77.7

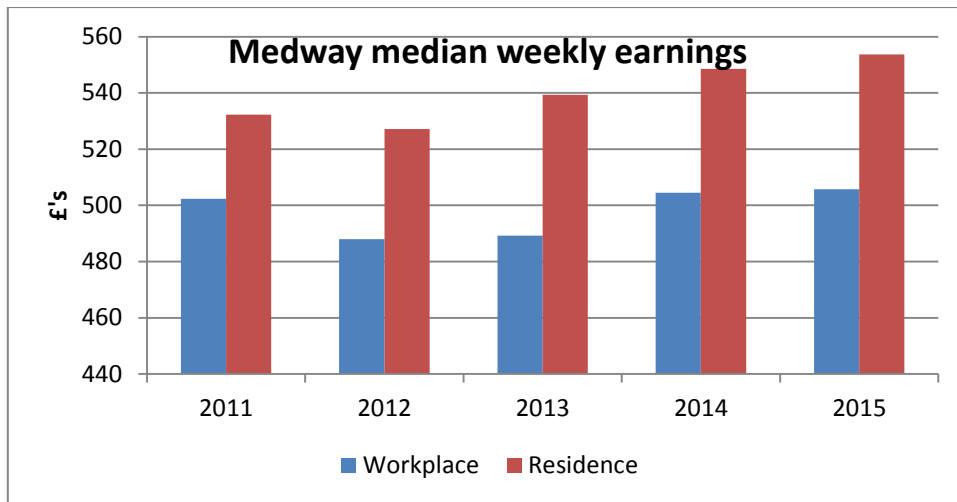


**Average earnings**



B.6 Medway (work-place based) earnings stand below the national level with the gap widening in 2015. Resident earnings are higher than work-place earnings in Medway, an indication of significant out-commuting, as residents travel outside Medway for higher paid jobs.





## Employment Land Needs Assessment

B.7 In support of the Local Plan, Medway Council commissioned an Employment Land Needs Assessment in 2015. The study focussed on:

- identifying the future growth needs across the authority
- setting out a strategic level spatial strategy to guide future site allocations and
- ensure the appropriate capacity is available in the most appropriate locations

B.8 The Assessment identified that existing economic assets of Medway were likely to drive future economic opportunity. The clusters of creative, digital and advanced manufacturing businesses in particular will be key components of the future economy as these sectors are driven by wider economic trends and increasing agglomeration opportunities. Growth in these high added value sectors will also link to key physical assets and opportunities including the Universities at Medway Engineering School and plans for Rochester Airfield. The creative and digital sector is a high value sector that has increased in importance, supported by the presence of the University for Creative Arts (UCA), and the proximity to markets in London, more accessible since investments in the rail network offer opportunities to grow businesses in the creative sector. In seeking the retention of graduates from UCA, there will be a requirement for studio style premises in urban areas, such as the lower High Street and potentially at Chatham Waters.

B.9 Economic growth could also be driven by new opportunities created by major investment in new infrastructure. The delivery of a new Thames Crossing alongside existing strategic road connections and accessibility to key markets in London and the South East could enable Medway to play a much enhanced role in the strategic distribution market which has, traditionally, been focussed in other parts of North Kent. A range of sectors could also be boosted by the delivery of the proposed London



Paramount entertainment resort, largely through increased demand from supply chain activities.

B.10 The Assessment projects a growth of c.17,000 jobs in Medway over the plan period and considers the land needed to support this level of growth. The findings indicate that although there is a potential surplus of employment land available in Medway, due to the large strategic sites on the Hoo Peninsula, the land supply does not align well to business needs. The report identified a need for 90ha of employment floorspace for the plan period.

### Employment Land Needs

Employment (sqm land requirement) 2012-2035	Office	49,943
	Industrial	155,748
	Warehousing	164,263

B.11 This need could be met through consolidation and intensification of existing employment sites to provide the right offer. Opportunities to provide employment floorspace on the edge of centres should also be explored. Mixed use schemes in these locations can deliver well serviced, flexible office spaces close to town centres and with good quality ICT connections. This would align well with the council's regeneration ambitions, and would be critical to securing greater 'knowledge economy' activity. The council recognises particular opportunities around Chatham and Strood. There will also be a need to ensure high quality 'hybrid' industrial space can come forward to support advanced manufacturing activity, which may need to extend beyond the space planned for the Enterprise Zone at Rochester Airfield. In considering broad locations as development options for Medway's growth over the plan period, the council will seek to include employment land as a key component of sustainable development.

### Tourism

B.12 Tourism is central to the council's ambitions for the area, promoting a positive image for Medway, supporting jobs and a vibrant cultural life. Much of the activity is focused around the area's rich heritage, notably Rochester and the Historic Dockyard at Chatham, and an extensive offer of festivals, events and concerts. The castles, forts and defences around Medway are distinctive landmarks of its military heritage. There are strong cultural associations with Charles Dickens, extending from historic Rochester to the atmospheric marshes of the Hoo Peninsula.



B.13 Tourism research commissioned by the council has confirmed that tourism makes a significant contribution to Medway's economy. With just over 4 million day visitor trips and around 528,000 visitor stays per annum, the tourism sector in Medway directly accounts for approximately 4,500 jobs (FTE) and has an estimated value of around £313 million per annum. (source: The Economic Impact of Tourism - Medway 2015, Destination Research Ltd, 2015). Much of the activity is concentrated on a day trip market, but river based tourism is also an important strand of the market in Medway, estimated to be worth approximately £2m.

## Evidence gaps

B.14 Sufficient information gathered.

## Specific issues and opportunities

### Issues

#### Lower productivity (GVA) levels, amongst lowest in South East

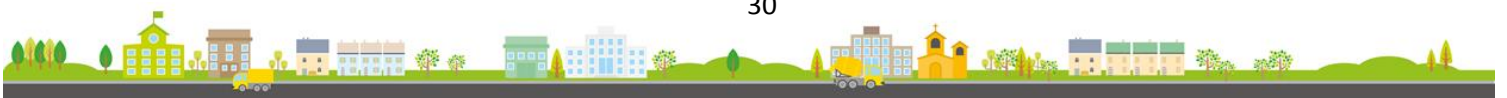
B.15 Medway has the lowest Gross Value Added (GVA) per head in the South East. Factors such as 'out-commuting' and less high value business activity contribute to Medway's relatively lower GVA level. Despite having a business growth rate above the national level over the last four years, productivity growth has remained below the national level, indicating a tendency towards lower value business activities in the local economy. Medway's economy is generally underperforming. There is a need to re-balance the local economy with businesses and jobs that can generate high-level output and provide opportunities for local residents, particularly students with the necessary qualifications, to remain in the area.

#### A lower value economic base

B.16 Medway's economic base continues to be focussed on lower value, less knowledge-intensive activity. This is in spite of accommodating four universities, world leading R&D facilities notably at the University of Greenwich in Medway, and a new state-of-the-art Further Education College. Medway is producing skilled employees that largely go elsewhere because the economic makeup of the local area is not able to support these skilled people into employment.

#### Significant outward commuting flow for work

B.17 The significant difference between work place earnings and resident based earnings is an indication that those living in Medway but working elsewhere earn significantly





more - on average 10% more - than those who live and work in Medway. Around 42% of residents in employment travel out of Medway everyday – this represents a movement of almost 51,000 workers, with a smaller inward flow (23,000 approx.) to Medway from other areas. This is a significant loss of potential productivity and while Medway cannot compete with the big draw the capital offers, strategic job creation may be able to reduce this imbalance to offer commuters and future workers good employment opportunities closer to home which will ultimately contribute to economic growth.

### Constrained business locations

B.18 Industrial areas in Medway’s urban locations are limited and largely operating at capacity.

### The need for more commercial land

B.19 There is a need to close these gaps and reduce the relative level of economic deprivation so evident in the area. One of the key mechanisms to help achieve that is by making commercial land available that will support higher value businesses and employment, similar in part to the types of industry, research and development (R&D) sites found along the M4 corridor to the west of London.

### Expanding specialist sectors

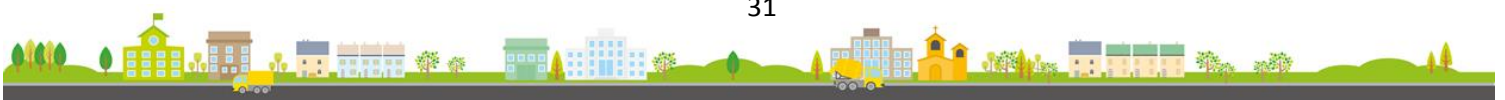
B.20 Medway is already home to a number of best in class high technology companies and has leading companies in specialist fields. The presence of leading companies, their investment in R&D and local supply chain networks provide strong foundations for further growth and clustering of related sector specialisms.

#### **Sustainability issue:**

**The local economy needs to respond to the changing market to become robust, competitive, and relevant and to be able to support the growing population at the levels anticipated by 2035.**

#### **Opportunities:**

- Seek to attract higher value businesses through the demonstration of GVA in the planning application process
- The Local Plan can identify appropriate locations to accommodate the higher value businesses



- Support tourism by encouraging increased dwell times in the centres through other leisure uses and provision of appropriate accommodation and sustainable modes of travel
- Support the rural economy by protecting agricultural use in identified areas and through diversification of rural activity including leisure in the form of bed and breakfast, etc.

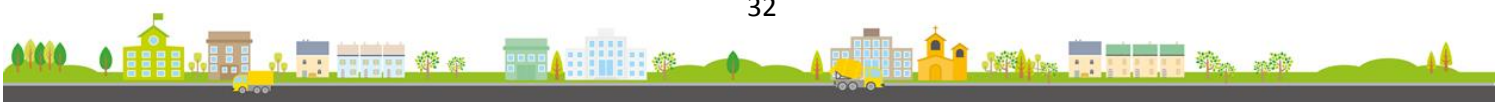
### Likely situation without the plan

B.21 Without a long term strategic plan for growth, unplanned market led expansion is unlikely to lead to efficient and effective use of local economic resources for the benefit of the whole population.

### Key sustainability objectives

#### **Sustainability objective 2:**

**To have a successful economic base able to sustain economic growth and competitiveness**



## C. Sustainability objective 3:

*To protect and support the growth, vitality and viability of the Borough's centres*

### Introduction

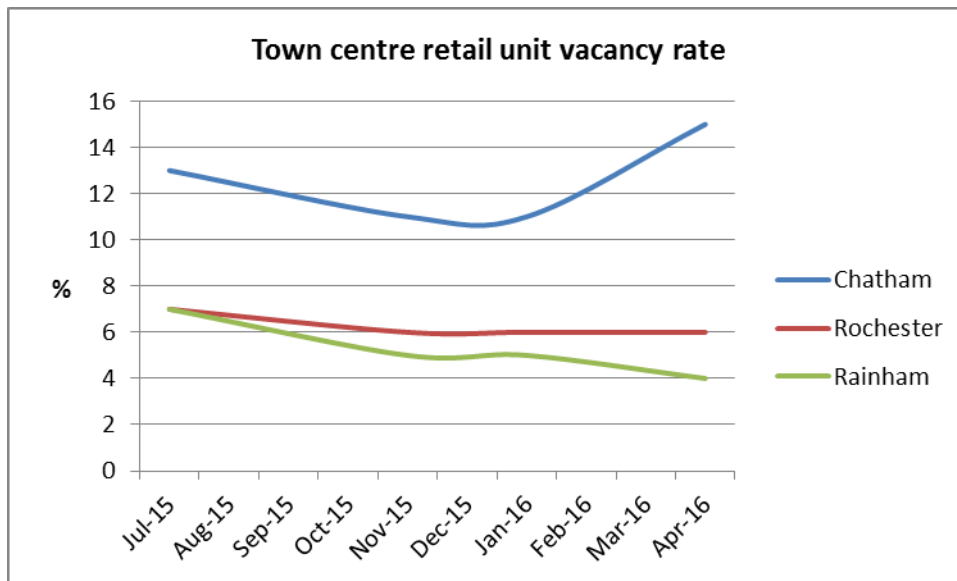
- C.1 This section sets out the issues around the health of the Authority's centres and their ability to become sustainable in future in order to support the population in Medway. Each centre has its own strengths and weaknesses, however coupled with the changing economy and the frequently changing national retail trends, we find the ability for centres to flourish being constrained by the attractiveness of our of centre locations, retail parks in particular.
- C.2 Recent trends demonstrate the importance of leisure in retaining some vibrancy in centres and capitalising on the heritage role and community function to redefine the role of centres and remain relevant going forward.
- C.3 The following areas are discussed in more detail below to set out the context and enable the identification of issues and opportunities:

### Current situation (context followed by identifying problems)

#### Town centre vacancy rates

Town centre vacancy rate (percentage of units)				
	Jan-16	Apr-16	July-16	October-16
Chatham	12	15	10	11
Rochester	6	6	5	5
Rainham	2	4	3	2
Gillingham	-	3	3	4
Strood	8	9	8	9





### Local spend (Findings of the Retail & leisure Needs Assessment report)

C.4 Medway has a complex geography with five towns, and many neighbourhood, local and village centres at a smaller scale. There is also a district centre at Hempstead Valley, which has a good presence of major retailers. Medway Council commissioned a North Kent Retail Study in collaboration with Gravesham Council. The study identifies that there is approximately £1,569.1m available comparison spend in the market area with 38% of that spend being drawn by Medway's centres and 13% by Gravesham centres, which leaves 47% spend leakage away from the market area to other centres.

C.5 The findings for Medway reveal the following:

- A need for 46,100m<sup>2</sup> comparison floorspace by 2031 and 70,500m<sup>2</sup> by 2037
- A need for 12,300m<sup>2</sup> of convenience retail floorspace by 2031 and 13,200m<sup>2</sup> by 2037
- There is anticipated to be a growing spend in leisure (£237million), predominantly commercial leisure (restaurants and cafes) over the plan period. Medway's centres should focus on developing their evening economy to capture some of this spend.

### Health of centres (Findings of the Retail & leisure Needs Assessment report)

C.6 The North Kent Retail Study presented some initial findings on the health of Medway's centres. Having undertaken a health check the study concluded Chatham is underperforming and Rainham, Strood and Gillingham have some vulnerabilities. Hempstead Valley and Rochester, by contrast, are performing well at present. This can be attributed to these centres being destinations based on a unique offer. Hempstead



Valley is the preferred location within Medway of national retailers, which is of benefit to its continued investment and health. It provides an attractive tree covered area of free parking and recent years have seen expansion of its leisure offer including cafes and restaurants, responding directly to the changing market's interests in shopping as a leisure activity. Rochester's unique offer reflects its historic setting. The offer in the centre has evolved to support the historic attractions through the provision of commercial leisure (restaurants and cafes), reinforcing its attractiveness for day and evening activities.

C.7 In terms of specific advice for each of the centres, the North Kent Study advised that Chatham remains at the top of the hierarchy and should be the main location for additional comparison retail growth. No further comparison retail was recommended for any of the other centres. In order to improve Chatham it is recommended that:

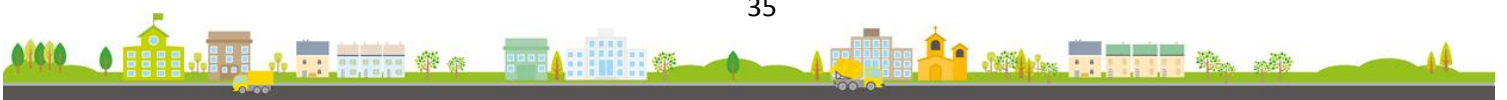
- public realm works be undertaken to improve its appearance,
- sites are actively brought forward,
- further opportunities for convenience retail are explored,
- improve and plan for a stronger evening economy through commercial leisure provision
- resist out-of-centre proposals

C.8 More specifically, the following recommendations were made for the remaining centres on the back of retaining the hierarchy of centres with Chatham at the top:

- Hempstead Valley: modernise and support day-to-day uses
- Rochester: consolidate rather than expand. Protect the primary shopping area (PSA) and provide a small foodstore if a site becomes available. Consider a cap on the provision of restaurants and cafes in order to protect the retail core.
- Strood: improve integration between the retail park and District Centre, and improve the public realm. No further expansion is recommended.
- Gillingham: Consider redevelopment of the Budgens store.
- Rainham: Focus on refurbishing and/or redevelopment. Consider an additional foodstore if a site should become available.

## Heritage

C.9 Medway benefits from some of the region's most recognisable historic assets, including the castle and cathedral in Rochester, Chatham Historic Dockyard and Upnor Castle. Many of the heritage assets in Medway are protected under statute, in the form of over 600 Listed Buildings, 70 Scheduled Monuments, 2 historic parks and gardens, and 24 Conservation Areas. However, the historic environment is much

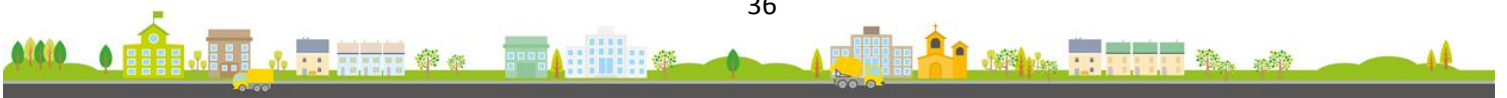


broader than this and includes undesignated assets such as historic landscapes, historic development patterns, important views and vistas, and areas of archaeology.

- C.10 Some centres have heritage assets, which form the basis for tourism. In the central urban areas, the waterfront provides an opportunity to link the area's most notable heritage assets, and provide a focus for cultural activities.
- C.11 Much of the tourist activity is focused around the area's rich heritage and an extensive offer of festivals, events and concerts. The castles, forts and defences around Medway are distinctive landmarks of its military heritage. There are strong cultural associations with Charles Dickens, extending from historic Rochester to the atmospheric marshes of the Hoo Peninsula.

### **Visitor accommodation, hotel demand and supply**

- C.12 Evidence supports the expansion of the supply of visitor accommodation in Medway, across a range of markets, including budget and high quality hotel rooms, self-catering, camping and caravanning, and berths and marinas.
- C.13 There are 14 hotels in Medway, with a total of 894 letting bedrooms. The Medway hotel supply is predominantly a mix of 3 star and budget hotels, together with one 4star hotel, two small 2 star hotels and two small non-inspected hotels. Limited service (budget) hotels account for just over one half of Medway's hotel supply.
- C.14 There has been a significant growth in hotel accommodation in Medway over the past 5 years. Studies of the hotel market in Medway show high levels of demand for visitor accommodation, much of which is in the budget market. There is scope for continued growth. Medway is well placed to benefit from strategic developments, such as the proposed London Paramount entertainment park on the Swanscombe Peninsula, both from potential visitors to the attraction and workers during the construction period. In addition to growing demand from corporate and contractor markets, the development of creative industries in Medway could create a demand for a high quality, boutique hotel offer.
- C.15 Other forms of visitor accommodation are available in bed and breakfast, guest houses, hostels, a youth hostel, self-catering properties, camping and caravan sites. The latter are largely located in the rural areas of the Hoo Peninsula. Bourne Leisure operates a major leisure park at Allhallows, providing visitor accommodation in static caravans. An estimated 28,000 tourist trips to Medway are made through static caravan, touring vans and camping holidays. These represent an estimated 151,000 night stays bringing in approximately £3.9m for Medway's economy per annum. This



mainly relates to static caravan sites as there are currently very few touring camping and caravanning sites.

## Evidence gaps

C.16 None

## Specific issues and opportunities

### Issues

#### *A need for more comparison retail floor space to improve the offer*

C.17 A significant expansion is required in the supply of comparison retail floor space in order to improve Medway's retail offer to cater not only for consumers day-to-day requirements, but offer all types of larger purchases.

#### *Competition from local out of centre locations is putting pressure on TCs*

C.18 Medway has a number of competing centres in the region with Maidstone and Bluewater as significant modern retail centres.

#### *Loss of local spend to neighbouring 'competitors'*

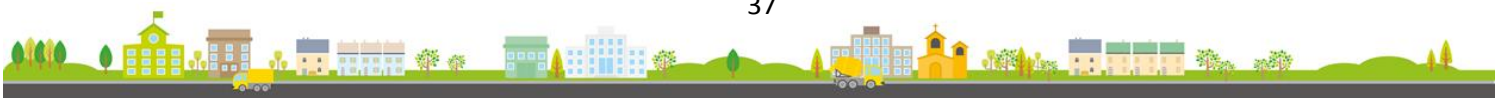
C.19 Medway loses retail spending to nearby centres as detailed above and needs improved, refurbished primary centres that offer a better range of goods and services.

#### *A lower value retail offer in centres with emphasis on convenient shopping*

C.20 While Medway's main town centres are on the whole busy and have generally lower unit vacancy rates than national levels, the retail offer tends to be predominantly lower value, convenience and comparison goods. Other than Rochester centre and Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre the retail offer does not represent a significant draw for people living out of, or even on the periphery of Medway. Larger centres in Maidstone, London and Bluewater represent significant competition, at a time when online shopping is ever growing and putting pressure on some struggling centres.

#### *A flurry of uses which cumulatively has an adverse impact on the vitality and vibrancy of the centre*

C.21 Recent trends show an increase in take-aways and beauty salons emerging on the high street. The cumulative impact of units next to one another or in large proportions can



adversely affect the vitality and vibrancy of the high street and therefore needs careful management. Appropriate management of uses to encourage vibrancy and vitality

### Heritage assets at risk

C.22 A number of historic assets in Medway are considered to be 'at risk' through neglect, decay or other threat.

#### **Sustainability issue:**

**The authority's centres need to respond to the ever-changing market to become robust, stable, sustainable and relevant in order to support the growing population at the levels anticipated by 2035.**

#### **Opportunities:**

- encourage and support the flexible management of uses to respond to a changing market.
- Review the role of centres and support the provision of an evening economy.
- Support and capitalise on the heritage assets and tourism in the authority.

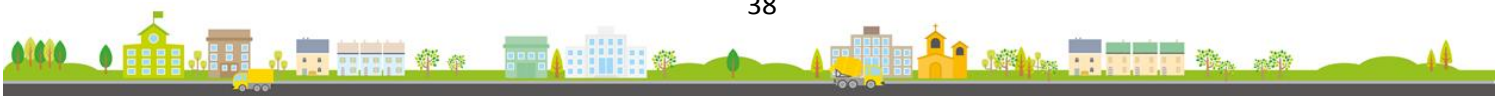
### **Likely situation without the plan**

C.23 Without a coordinated, planned approach, the viability and sustainability of Medway's centres remains in the hands of pure market influences. This could result in sporadic retail and leisure growth in out of centre locations resulting in the dilution of the offer in centres and the erosion of a centres role. Opportunities for growth will be missed due to operator interest limiting the locations of preference, so once established in out of centre locations, there may not be further scope for additional stores in in-centre locations.

### **Key sustainability objectives**

#### **Sustainability objective 3:**

**To protect and support the growth, vitality and viability of the Borough's centres**





## **D. Sustainability objective 4:**

### ***Conserve and enhance the existing green network***

#### **Introduction**

- D.1 Medway has a large proportion of its area apportioned to environmental designations. The authority is also constrained by flood risk and valued agricultural land, leaving a minor proportion of land available for development. A good proportion of the environmental designations are of international status.
- D.2 Green infrastructure plays a vital role in balancing the urban growth but also makes a significant contribution in mitigating the impact of climate change and supporting healthier lifestyles. It encourages habitats and ecosystems to flourish, can contribute toward improved air quality, can facilitate a natural flood storage or attenuation function (SUDs) and help with the urban temperature extremes.
- D.3 The following areas are discussed in more detail below to set out the context and enable the identification of issues and opportunities:
- Landscape, natural heritage and open space
  - Biodiversity, ecosystems and designated sites

#### **Current situation (context followed by identifying problems)**

##### **Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space**

- D.4 Medway's urban areas sit within a striking landscape of the wooded slopes of the Kent Downs to the south and the expansive estuaries and marshes of the Medway and Thames to the north. The river Medway runs through the urban area, linking the towns and providing an economic, cultural and landscape focus. Medway's countryside is much more than a backdrop to its towns, but is also of international importance for its wildlife and landscape quality, and provides productive agricultural land and a resource for people to explore and engage with nature.
- D.5 The position of Medway on the North Kent Coast and the natural and farmed landscapes on the Hoo Peninsula mean that it has a wide variety of habitats and a rich diversity of species. Many of these have been recognised nationally and internationally. Around 28% of the area, largely the mudflats, saltmarsh, and freshwater and grazing marshes bordering the Medway and Thames estuaries are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites due to their international importance for wintering birds. The estuaries have also been included in the first round of designations of Marine Conservation Zones. Sites of Special Scientific Interest make up

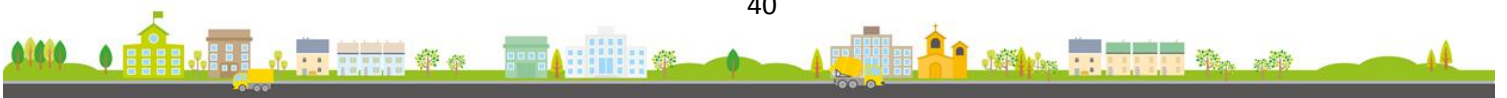


nearly 30% of Medway's area, with some parts of the Hoo Peninsula being covered by multiple designations, and there are eight nature reserves (national and local).

- D.6 The Kent Downs to the south of Medway are part of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) that runs across the county from Dover to Downe, and include a Special Area of Conservation in the woodlands near Halling. The AONB is an exceptional landscape, and there are well established policy requirements to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.
- D.7 Medway's distinctive sense of place is closely linked to its landscape setting and the close proximity of a major urban area to undeveloped landscapes. There is a wide range of different landscape types: coastal marshes; chalk downland; orchards and shelterbelts; large scale arable farmland; and extensive tracks of woodland. Many local areas are highly valued by residents for their character and accessibility, providing settings for towns and villages, and for important heritage and environmental assets.
- D.8 The Medway Landscape Character Assessment (2011) document has analysed the distinct landscape areas across the borough and provides planning guidance for the countryside and urban fringe. The assessment of the condition and sensitivity of the landscape provides evidence to support planning decisions on where and what forms of development are appropriate to protect, enhance and strengthen the key features of the area.
- D.9 The Metropolitan Green Belt has part of its eastern boundary in Medway, to the west of Strood and around the villages of Halling and Cuxton. In addition to its function in preventing the outward sprawl of London, it provides openness in the narrow area between Medway and Gravesend, managing against the coalescence of the north Kent towns and larger villages.
- D.10 Medway's network of public rights of way extends to nearly 313km (190 miles), offering opportunities to explore coast and countryside, and connecting routes through the towns and suburbs, and including the Saxon Shore Way and North Downs Way long distance paths. The rollout of the English coastal path around the Medway and Thames estuaries in coming years will further promote opportunities to explore this area.

#### Coverage of environmental designations in the Authority area

- D.11 Medway has a total area of 26,885.80ha, 5,529.85ha of which is urban area, 7,312.12ha is marine conservation zone and 12,793.36ha are environmental



constraints due to environmental designations, agricultural land or flood risk. The amount of land that is developable is therefore quite constrained.

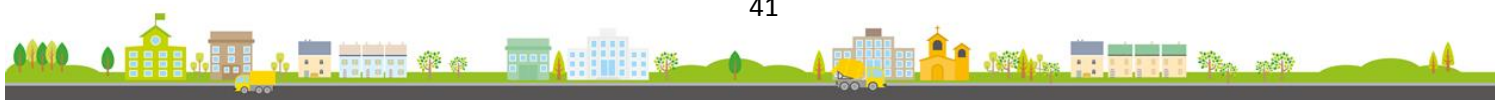
ENVIRONMENTAL COVERAGE		
	Designation	Area (ha)
1.	AONB	1427.48ha
2.	Ramsar	6928.25ha
3.	SPA	6570.24ha
4.	SSSI	7840.54ha
5.	NNR	52.51ha
6.	LNR	454.18ha
7.	Green belt	454.18ha
8.	SAC	454.18ha
9.	Ancient Woodland	597.99ha

It is important to note that the figures totalled in the table above will not provide the total area of all environmental designations in Medway. This is due to there being a degree of overlap with some designations covering the same area.

D.12 In terms of open space in the Authority, 7 sites have retained their Green Flag status in 2015/16. The Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey, provides trend data on how people use the natural environment in England. This includes visiting the countryside, enjoying green spaces in towns and cities, watching wildlife and volunteering to help protect the natural environment. The proportion of residents visiting the natural environment for health or exercise purposes has increased since the previous year.

### **Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Designated Sites**

D.13 There are sixteen wildlife sites within Medway monitored under this measure – of these sixteen; twelve were assessed as having positive management in 2015/16. These sites are designated locally for their substantive nature conservation importance, either for wildlife or geology. Sites in positive conservation management are defined as those sites that are being managed in order to conserve their nature conservation interest in the last five years. Refer to the AMR for further detail on monitoring.



## Evidence gaps

D.14 At present the information available to monitor the condition and value of green spaces, biodiversity and habitat creation is limited and not comprehensive. The information available is captured in our annual Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), parts of which are captured above. Medway Council will seek other means to gather information.

## Specific issues and opportunities

### Issues

#### *There are some 'gaps' in the public rights of way network*

D.15 The River Medway is a central feature in the Authority and provides the best vantage point for scenic views. Greater access to the river would not only take advantage of Medway's central feature, but could encourage more journeys to be made on foot or bicycle, and promote tourism and community uses around the river. Opportunities exist to join up the river walk through urban Medway, linking its historic towns and waterfront regeneration areas with the wider countryside. Outside of the urban areas, the river and estuary offer potential for improved access, such as a riverside cycle route between Medway and Maidstone. However care is needed to ensure that the special and distinct qualities of the riverside and coastal landscapes are not lost.

#### *Balancing access to the countryside with conservation objectives*

D.16 There can be tensions between opening up access to the countryside and the needs of wildlife. Research has shown that the internationally important birdlife of the SPAs can be damaged by the impact of people visiting the estuary. Dogs exercising off the lead, cycling and watersports are among the activities shown to cause disturbance to birds. These impacts could be a contributing factor to the decline of birdlife in the estuary. Action is therefore needed to address this potential damage, through avoiding inappropriate development, and land management, wardening and education interventions.

#### *Balancing the accommodation needs of the population with safeguarding the authority's valued environment*

D.17 Planning policy and legislation provide strong protection against inappropriate development of the most important designated sites. However non-designated sites can also provide valuable functions for biodiversity, landscape, and access, as the ecosystems services approach demonstrates. Such sites are often closer to where people live, and therefore much valued locally. Securing an effective green infrastructure network through new development will be critical to planning a sustainable future for Medway.



**Sustainability issue:**

**It is essential that the green infrastructure provision and its accessibility is improved, conserved and enhanced to support the envisaged increase in population and accompanying housing provision.**

***Opportunities:***

- plan for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment
- include green infrastructure considerations in the plan making process for the delivery of sustainable locations for growth.
- Plan for a green infrastructure network alongside the strategic objectives for growth to provide desirable places to live
- Improve and increase the Public Rights of Way to improve connectivity and support sustainable travel and healthier lifestyles without compromising the value and role of designations or the biodiversity and habitats contained therein.

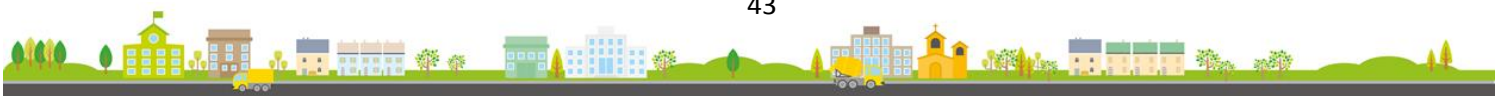
**Likely situation without the plan**

D.18 Without a balanced approach set out in the Local Plan it is likely that speculative proposals could cumulatively erode the role and value of environmental designations and the opportunity to create a green network to balance the urban growth. Development proposals could come forward in an incoherent way that would compromise the potential for the creation of a green grid across the authority, thereby compromising the environmental objectives including supporting sustainable modes of transport.

**Key sustainability objectives**

**Sustainability objective 4:**

**Conserve and enhance the existing green network**



## **E. Sustainability objective 5:**

### **To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change**

#### **Introduction**

- E.1 The Government acknowledges that “climate change is one of the most serious threats facing the world today. It is not just a threat to the environment, but also to our national and global security, to poverty eradication and economic prosperity.” All sectors of Government and business will have a role to play in limiting and addressing its impacts. Planning can play a key role in helping local communities, businesses and the natural environment meet this challenge either through mitigation or adaptation.
- E.2 Medway is a coastal authority and is characterised by marshlands and other areas at risk of flooding. It also has a contrasting urban and rural area, the latter of which is accessed by a road network that is at capacity. With an increase in growth envisaged, the high degree of car ownership and the sustainable form of development sought, it is likely that there would be an increasing amount of pressure placed on Medway’s road network, which would increase the pollution levels with consequential impacts on the health of residents should mitigation measures not be put in place.
- E.3 In addition, Medway currently has an agreement with service providers for the management of waste removal and recycling. An increase of population will inevitably require additional capacity to manage the waste production and disposal.
- E.4 The following areas are discussed in more detail below to set out the context and enable the identification of issues and opportunities:
- Climate change
  - Air quality and environmental pollution
  - Waste management

#### **Current situation**

##### **Climate Change (Mitigation)**

- E.5 The key means of mitigating against the most severe climate change is by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. A 2<sup>o</sup> rise in global average temperature is generally considered to be the limit above which the impacts will become much more significant and difficult for societies to cope with.
- E.6 Ways that planning can help to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions include:



- Increased renewable and low-carbon energy generation
- Reduced energy demand & improved energy efficiency, both in new buildings and retro-fitting to existing buildings
- Distributing new development in a pattern that reduces the need for travel and maximises the potential of more sustainable methods of travel, to reduce emissions from private transport use
- Where new technologies can reduce the emissions from a business or home, supporting planning applications to enable this

E.7 The Government has set national standards for energy efficiency in new dwellings, enforced through the Building Regulations, and Local Authorities are discouraged from setting higher local targets.

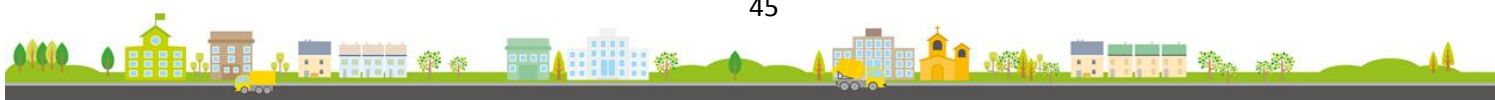
### **Air Quality and Environmental Pollution**

E.8 In 2015 the Council consulted on an Air Quality Action Plan for Medway. Regular assessments of air quality identified that the pollutant of most significance is nitrogen dioxide. The identified objective is 40ug.m<sup>3</sup> however in parts of Medway this is exceeded. In Medway it is considered that the key source of nitrogen dioxide is from high volumes of slow moving traffic.

E.9 In August 2010 Medway Council declared three new Air Quality Management Areas in light of the predicted nitrogen dioxide excess. The existing AQMAs were consolidated along with newly identified areas of Luton Road, Chatham, High Street, Chatham and Chatham Hill, Chatham into a larger, single area designated as Central Medway AQMA. Two new, smaller AQMAs were also declared.

### **Air Quality**

E.10 Air pollution is recognised as having significant impacts on human health, including premature mortality, allergic reactions, and cardiovascular/respiratory diseases. The key pollutants which affect human health and are of most relevance to the SEA of the emerging Local Plan are NO<sub>2</sub> (Nitrogen Dioxide) and PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Particulate Matter). According to data published by Public Health England, Medway has consistently posted the highest percentage of deaths (in those aged 30+) attributed to anthropogenic particulate air pollution above both regional and national level since 2010. (see Table below).



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fraction of all-cause adult mortality attributable to anthropogenic particulate (PM2.5) air pollution</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(2010 – 2014)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>% of annual deaths in those aged 30+</b></p>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Medway</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Kent	5.6	5.4	5.0	5.4	5.2
South East	5.5	5.5	5.1	5.2	4.9
England	5.6	5.4	5.1	5.3	5.1

Source: DEFRA/Public Health England<sup>1</sup>

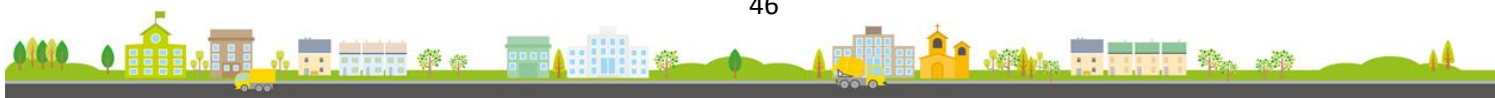
E.11 Transport is a significant contributor to poor air quality and its associated health problems in Medway as evidenced by Medway’s 3 declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). The main source of air pollution in the district is road traffic emissions from major roads, notably the M2 Motorway and the A2 trunk road, together with a network of subsidiary routes (A228, A230, A231, A278 and A289).

E.12 As a gateway to the continent, Kent & Medway’s extensive transport network also carries a disproportionate number of HGVs, with their associate carcinogenic diesel emissions<sup>2</sup>. Easterly winds can also bring pollution, from continental sources, which affect the whole of Kent and Medway raising levels of particulate and/or ozone; whilst winds from the opposite westerly direction can bring London’s urban pollution plume drifting across western Kent.

E.13 Medway has seen a rapid rate of growth in vehicle usage in the last four years that is higher than both the regional and national level (see, Table below). Consequently, this has resulted in significant congestion on the existing road network, particularly in the town centres.

<sup>1</sup> Background annual average PM2.5 concentrations for the year of interest are modelled on a 1km x 1km grid using an air dispersion model, and calibrated using measured concentrations taken from background sites in Defra’s Automatic Urban and Rural Network (<http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/interactivemap> ) . Data on primary emissions from different sources not included in the emission inventory (including re-suspension of dusts) are used to estimate the anthropogenic (human-made) component of these concentrations. By approximating LA boundaries to the 1km by 1km grid, and using census population data, population under contract to Defra, as small extension of its obligations under the Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC). Concentrations of anthropogenic, rather than total, PM2.5 are used as the basis for this indicator, as burden estimates based on total might give a misleading impression of the scale of the potential influence of policy interventions (COMEAP, 2012).

<sup>2</sup> WHO August 2012 <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/90/7/12-010712/en/>





Motor vehicle traffic (Million Miles)					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	Percentile Change
					2012-2015
<b>Medway</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>+5.6%</b>
Kent	8,890	853	8,996	9,254	+4.1%
South East	51,561	51,476	52,792	54,082	+4.9%
England	259,144	259.891	266,660	271,092	+4.6%

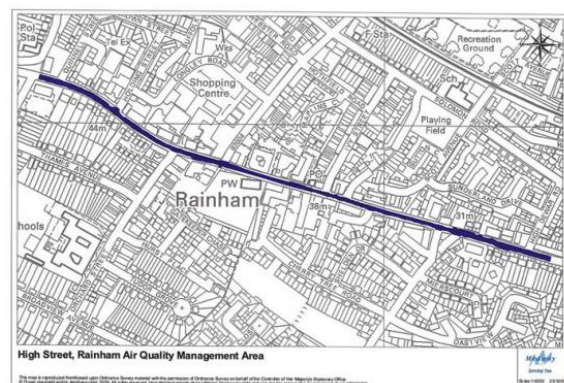
Source: DfT Transport Statistics, 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-traffic-statistics#publications-2016>

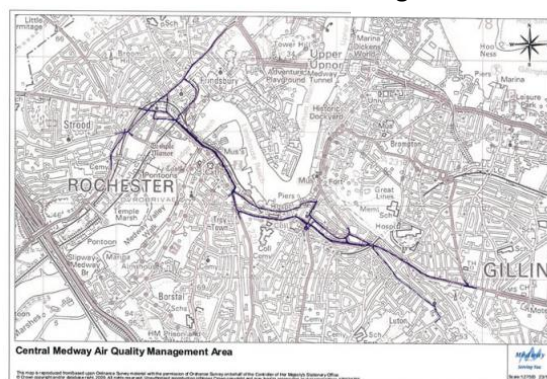
E.14 The 3 declared AQMAs are located in central Medway, Rainham and Gillingham. These urban areas suffer from significant traffic congestion and high levels of traffic, heavy goods vehicles and buses. Medway Council recently approved a new Air Quality Action Plan<sup>3</sup> (AQAP, 2015), which includes a list of measures to improve air quality within Medway.



Pier Road, Gillingham AQMA



High Street Rainham AQMA



Central Medway AQMA

<sup>3</sup> Air Quality Action Plan 2015, Medway Council

<http://www.medway.gov.uk/pdf/Medway%20AQAP%20Final%20%20Draft%20for%20external%20consultation%20Jan2015.pdf>



- E.15 The Annual Status Report 2016<sup>4</sup> confirms that nitrogen dioxide concentrations within Medway continue to exceed the annual mean air quality objective. In 2015, the exceedances mostly occurred within the Central Medway and Rainham Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) and therefore, it is judged that these AQMAS shall remain.
- E.16 An exceedance was also measured outside the AQMAS, along Four Elms Hill. Medway Council will therefore carry out a detailed assessment for this area to determine the extent of the exceedances. Concentrations of all other pollutants continue to meet the air quality objectives.

### Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)

- E.17 Measured concentrations at the automatic monitoring sites are below the annual mean air quality objective in 2015. Concentrations are also below the objective at 19 diffusion tube monitoring sites. At six of these diffusion tube monitoring sites concentrations were previously above the objective in 2014. Air quality conditions at these monitoring sites have improved in 2015.
- E.18 Concentrations are, however, above the annual mean air quality objective at eight diffusion tube monitoring sites in 2015. Six of these sites are located within AQMAS (Central Medway and Rainham) where concentrations have previously been measured above the objective. Two of these monitoring sites are located outside the AQMAS.
- E.19 Measured annual mean concentrations for the past 5 years show there is a slight downwards trend in measured concentrations over this period, indicating that air quality conditions within the borough are improving.

### Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

- E.20 There is a downward trend in measured concentrations over this period, indicating that PM<sub>2.5</sub> conditions within the area are improving. The measured concentrations are below the annual mean air quality objective at both automatic monitoring sites in 2015. The concentrations are also below the PM<sub>2.5</sub> UK objective for 2020 (25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> as an annual mean).

## **Noise Pollution**

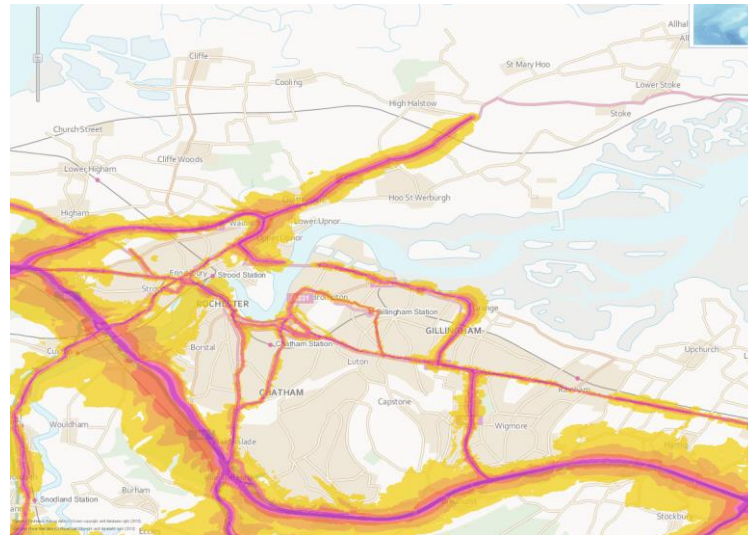
- E.21 Noise pollution can be generated from a number of sources. This includes domestic noise, vehicle movements including alarms, commercial noise including industrial activity, air conditioning and air handling units as well as noise from construction sites.

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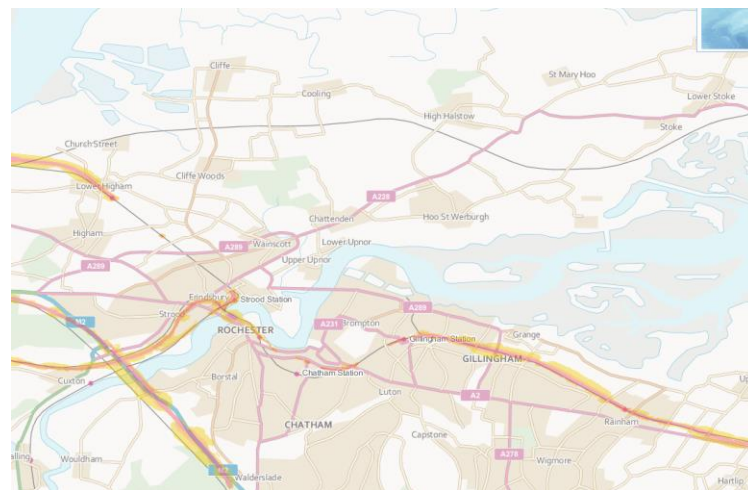
<sup>4</sup> LAQM Annual Status Report 2016.



E.22 The following map extracts detail the average noise levels in the Medway Council Area. Naturally the key noise sources include road and rail noise, while figure illustrates defines within agglomerations for noise action important areas.



**Lden indicates a 24 hour annual average noise level with separate weightings for the evening and night periods for Road Noise**

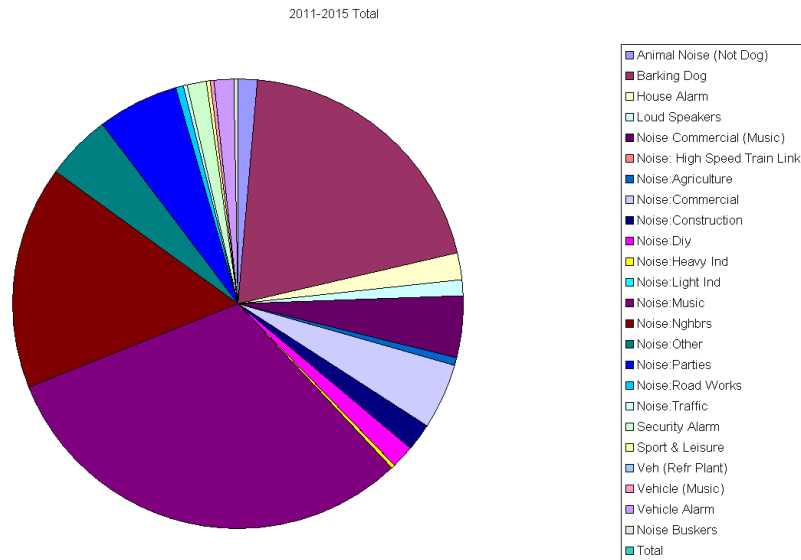


**Lden: indicates a 24 hour annual average noise level with separate weightings for the evening and night periods for Rail Noise**

E.23 Naturally, the key noise sources for road and rail following the major road networks, in this case the M2 to the south and the A228. Noise generated from the train line, particularly the high-speed rail link to the south of Council area is also a significant noise source.



E.24 In terms of noise complaints and associated sources, the council's Environmental Health service has identified key sources of noise-generated complaints to the Council. The chart below illustrates this fully, showing the differential between the types of noise over the past 5-year period.

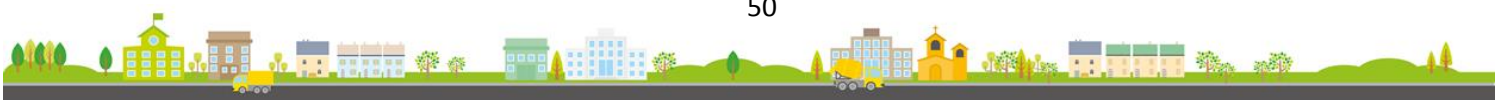


E.25 It is clear that the most common noise source for complaints relate to noise from neighbours (16.1%), barking dogs (19.9%) and music (31%). Commercial based music accounts for 4.4 per cent. Other notable sources of noise include general commercial noise.

### Light Pollution

E.26 Light Pollution was identified as part of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in 2007 as a significant factor impacting on local environmental quality in urban areas. The subsequent 2009 RCEP special report on artificial light in the environment highlighted a range of known and potential impacts of artificial light on human health and on wildlife.

E.27 Light pollution, may originate from both diffuse and point sources and include glare, trespass, clutter, profligacy, sky glow and an absence of darkness. Light pollution, naturally, is more prominent in urban areas, however a gradually increase the size of urban areas induce a larger span of light diffusion impact into the countryside. In planning terms streetlight, advertisements, blanket floodlighting and the type of light scheme can result in considerable amounts of light pollution.

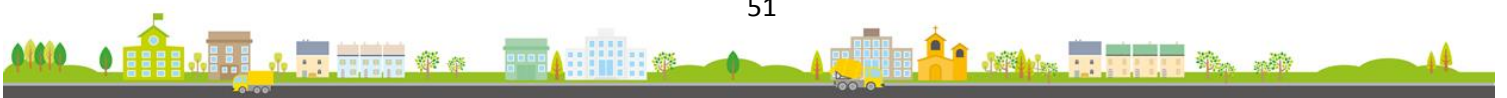


## Waste Management

- E.28 The state of Medway report published in 2012 outlined that there are five different waste streams. These include: municipal solid waste (MSW), commercial and industrial waste (C&I), construction, demolition and excavation wastes (C, D & E), hazardous waste and agricultural waste.
- E.29 As a unitary authority Medway is responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of the municipal solid waste stream and for the sustainable spatial planning of the necessary capacity for this and all the other waste streams represented in the area.
- E.30 In Medway 3 kerbside collections are undertaken. These include: municipal solid waste, dry recycling material (includes plastics, cans and foils, mixed glass and paper/cardboard) and 'wet' recycling material (green and food waste)
- E.31 Electrical, metal, battery and other waste streams are collected at the three Council owned civic amenity sites are covered by a number of smaller contracts of varying lengths with most material being shipped out of the area to specialist recycling facilities.
- E.32 General waste that cannot be recycled is collected weekly and taken to the South East London Combined Heat and Power Plant (SELCHP) for incineration. Residues from that plant are landfilled at a facility at Ockenden. The contract period is 25 years. Bulk transfer facilities are located on a site in the Medway City Estate, alongside depot facilities.
- E.33 The latest recorded levels of waste in Medway are for 2011/12. At this point the annual level was 114,959 tonnes per annum. This followed a trend since 2006/07 of a fall in the total waste arising for Medway.

## Evidence gaps

- E.34 Issues and data relevant to light pollution including the level of the problem, and complaints are sparse. However, satellite data does show some useful information in this regard. Medway is a relatively large urban conurbation in the south east of England and by associated and by association artificial light is prominent in these locations.



## Specific issues and opportunities

### Issues

#### Highest mortality rates in the South East attributable to anthropogenic

E.35 Medway has the highest percentage of mortality rates attributable to anthropogenic particulate air pollution in the South East and which also exceeds the national average.

#### 3 Air Quality management Areas (AQMAs)

E.36 There are currently 3 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the borough, with a potential for a fourth at Four Elms Hill.

#### Adverse impacts of high traffic volumes and culture of dependency on private car

E.37 Adverse economic, social and environmental impacts of high traffic volumes and a culture of dependence on private car use including recurrent traffic congestion on certain parts of the network at certain times of day, road collisions, community severance, obesity, noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, high demand for parking, and amenity of local neighbourhoods.

#### Limited public transport coverage

E.38 For those without a car and a lack of public transport coverage, access to a range of facilities in rural areas is difficult.

#### Reduction in NO<sub>2</sub> emissions is required

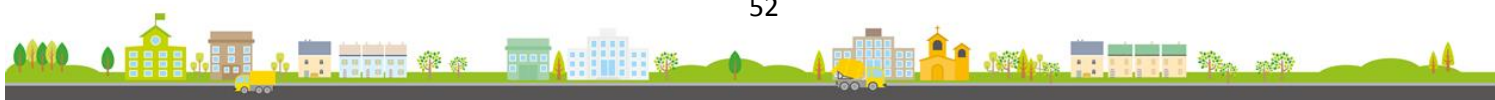
E.39 Road transport is the key source and therefore requires more monitoring and appropriate interventions

#### Manage the noise and light pollution particularly in rural areas

E.40 Noise and light pollution should be managed appropriately in order to provide a good quality of life for residents.

#### Reduce impacts of pollution on ecology

E.41 An increase in development will exacerbate and increase the levels of pollution, which have consequences on our natural environment. Careful design and appropriate policies should be put in place to protect the natural environment and ecology from pollution.



Access, capacity and location of waste transfer stations and recycling centres need review

E.42 Access to recycling centres need more careful consideration as it is problematic at present. Some existing waste transfer stations are located on the Temple waterfront area, where extensive regeneration programme is planned. An alternative location will be required in time.

The existing Household Waste and Recycling Centres will come under increased pressure with the growing population pressure envisaged. Consideration of approaches to address this could include upgrades of existing facilities or relocation of facilities to more accessible and appropriate locations, particularly when the existing waste disposal contract concludes in 2035.

**Sustainability issue:**

**An increase in population will result in increased pressure on the road network, infrastructure and service provision. The increased number of vehicles on the road will exacerbate congestion, which is likely to be the major source of emissions/air pollution within the borough adversely impacting on the health of residents.**

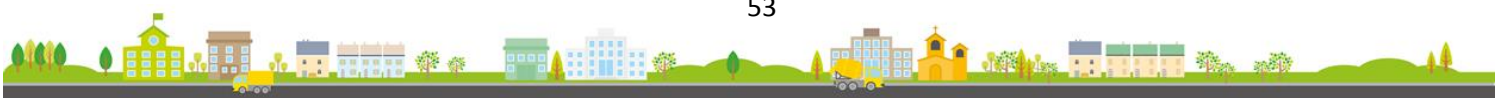
**Opportunities:**

- To encourage the use and choice of more sustainable modes of transport.
- Support the provision of services and facilities in accessible and sustainable locations. Identify sustainable locations for growth.
- The Local Plan can support development which is well-located to services and facilities and reduces reliance on the private car.
- The Local Plan can require development to contribute to public transport improvements and to promote mitigation measures through the use Medway Council Air Quality Supplementary Guidance, where necessary.
- Development which is likely to contribute adversely to air quality should not be supported.

**Likely situation without the plan**

E.43 Air Quality within the borough is mainly associated with road traffic and therefore, any increase in population, and associated travel has the potential to adversely affect air quality in the future.

The downward trend in measured concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> are likely to be reversed. The effect of this would two-fold in that it would continue to add significant



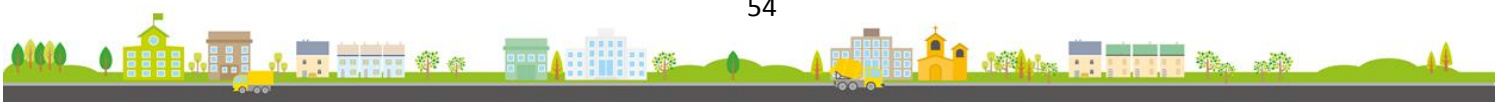
pressure on local health services, placing more lives at risk and may result in the Council breaching obligations with the Air Quality Directive.

Policies in the NPPF will provide limited protection and existing legislation will seek to manage existing air quality to within accepted thresholds.

### Key sustainability objectives

#### Sustainability objective 5:

**To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change**





## **F. Sustainability objective 6:**

### **To adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change**

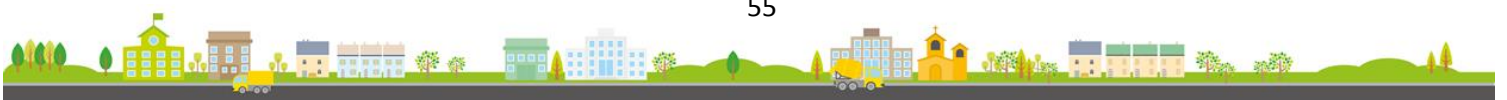
#### **Introduction**

- F.1 The context and emphasis on climate change is set out in the preceding chapter. This chapter concentrates on the impacts that would largely be felt by changes in weather conditions and exceeding the extraction and use of natural fuels.
- F.2 The following areas are discussed in more detail below to set out the context and enable the identification of issues and opportunities:
- Climate change
  - Biodiversity, ecosystems and designated sites
  - Design Quality
  - Water environment

#### **Current situation**

##### **Climate Change (Adaptation)**

- F.3 In addition to mitigation measures, adaptation can also be undertaken through design and use of more sustainable alternatives where fuel generation is concerned. Some degree of climate change is inevitable, given emissions that have already and are still occurring. The UK will experience rising temperatures, rising sea levels, more frequent extreme weather events and their consequent impacts. Studies of climate change impact nationally and internationally often have to make best estimates of what these might be, and how they might be addressed, because there is not always sufficient evidence to be certain. This complicates our ability to plan for climate change adaptation in order to reduce the future costs of these impacts, but the potential scale of risk is significant and doing nothing is not an option.
- F.4 Adaptation measures can be taken for both individual buildings and development sites, such as incorporating green space and trees to reduce the urban heat island effect (large urban areas retaining heat, potentially increasing health risks during hot summer months). Consideration will also need to be given as to how existing development can adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly where space for these kinds of measures is limited. Impacts of climate change in other countries may also have knock-on effects for the UK, so, for example, including space for food in new and existing development could help to increase food security.



### Water Environment

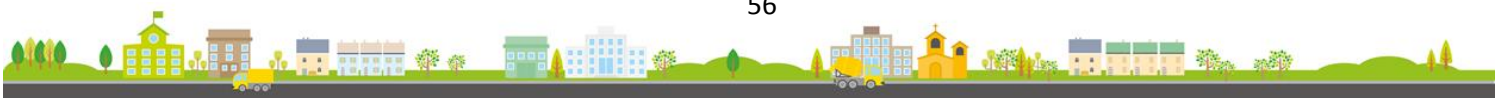
- F.5 Medway has two major water features within its boundaries; the Thames Estuary and the River Medway and the Medway Estuary. The Thames Estuary denotes the northern boundary of the borough and extends from Grain in the east to Cliffe in the west. This area is predominantly undeveloped; except the settlement of Allhallows-on-Sea. The remaining coastline is designated environmentally protected land (SSSI, Ramsar and SPA).
- F.6 The River Medway flows through the borough from Halling in the south to the Thames Estuary and North Sea in the north. It passes by open farmland, dense urban areas of Strood, Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham, nationally and internationally protected habitats (Medway Estuary & Marshes SSSI and Medway Estuary & Marches Ramsar/SPA respectfully) and large industrial employment sites (Medway City Estate, Kingsnorth and Grain Power Stations).

### Water Quality

- F.7 The latest water quality measurements for Rivers in Medway are found in the 2009 Thames River Basin Management Plan. This indicated that for the rivers within Medway catchment area had a moderate water quality. This was based upon measurements of the ecological, biological and chemical contents of the rivers. It was noted though that the water quality is affected by discharge from industry as it passes through the Medway towns.

### Flood Risk

- F8 The primary source of flooding within Medway is the River Medway and its tributaries. The Environment Agency Flood Zones mapping illustrates this by showing that the areas of flood zones 2 & 3 are mainly located in the centre and periphery of the borough surrounding the River Medway and the coastline. There are isolated areas liable to flooding in Luton and north east of Wainscott. These are though tributaries of the Medway.
- F.9 Medway is also susceptible to surface flood risk. The Environment Agency surface water flood map indicates high risks of surface flood risk within the valleys running down towards the River Medway from the urban areas. This is the result of a mixture of steep topography and impermeable surfaces in these areas.



## Design Quality

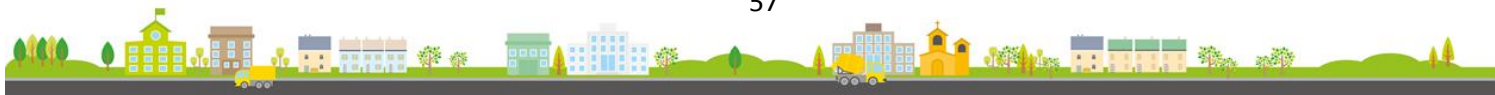
- F.10 The existing settlement pattern in Medway centres on the 5 main urban centres of Rainham, Gillingham, Chatham, Rochester and Strood, with smaller villages dispersed across the surrounding area.
- F.11 Traditional design details and materials vary across Medway due the different eras of development and the influences (Roman, Royal Navy, Industrial Revolution and the resulting manufacturing industry), tastes and fashions of the time and having a rich military background and cultural heritage. Unique design qualities are preserved in some parts through the adoption of Conservation Areas that aim to protect and enhance the character.
- F.12 The Design South East design review panel, along with in-house support from Design and Conservation officers undertakes design appraisals for all major developments across Medway. Horsted Park in Chatham was awarded the 'Best Major Residential project' at the 2014 Kent Design and Development Awards, an award in the 'Completed Scheme' category of the Housing Design Award 2014 and 'Housing Project of the Year' at the Building Awards 2013.

## Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Designated Sites

- F.13 Medway has an abundance of biodiverse areas, habitats and ecosystems across its environmental designations (refer to preceding chapters and the Annual Monitoring Report - AMR) for further information. Cumulatively, these green designations, of international relevance and otherwise, offer the ability to balance the adverse impacts of development. Green spaces play a critical role in filtering air pollution, providing a buffer for noise, providing a means of attenuating flooding, reducing the heat island effect etc.
- F.14 The pressing need to deliver housing will compromise the environmental value of land, where overriding objectives to deliver housing will be favoured against the value of green space. Green space should be provided in sufficient quantity and quality to be able to address the impacts of inevitable climate change appropriately.

## Evidence gaps

- F.15 At present the information available to monitor the condition and value of green spaces, biodiversity and habitat creation is limited and not comprehensive. The information available is captured in our annual Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), parts of which are captured above. Medway Council will seek other means to gather information.



## Specific issues and opportunities

### Issues

#### Areas of water stress

F.16 A particular issue for the South East of England is water supply. With hotter, dryer summers likely to become a feature of the UK climate, this could have significant implications for an area which is already seriously water stressed, according to the Environment Agency's 2013 classification.

#### The quality of design varies greatly across Medway

F.17 The varied quality of design could adversely impact on the ability of structures to withstand the impacts of climate change. There are a number of pressures on new developments, including:

- Climate Change and flood risk
- Accessibility and transport
- Provision of affordable housing
- Landscape and ecology

#### Medway's environmental designations and countryside (including agricultural land) is at threat of being compromised to meet housing demand.

F.18 The Authority has a vast amount of countryside with international environmental designations or falling within agricultural use.

F.19 Being a coastal authority also means that large amounts of land are effectively marshland and at risk of flooding. In contrast, there is limited land availability for development. Development pressures and the desirability of the countryside place an increased pressure to release land in the countryside, thereby compromising its function, value and role in addressing climate change.

#### **Sustainability issue:**

**The increasing demand for housing resulting from the projected increase in population will put a strain on the environment and our ability to respond to climate change. Levels of pollution (air, light, noise) and occurrences of flooding will increase.**

#### **Opportunities:**

- Identify sustainable locations for growth and incorporate design that will respond to climate change – choice of sustainable modes of transport, improved accessibility,



tree planting, provision of green space, incorporation of renewable energy solutions, development that supports biodiversity and habitat creation, provision of allotments, etc.

- To promote high quality distinctive design that maximises the use of sustainable transport, land use and built development - design that is sympathetic and considers local influences whilst minimising the impact on the landscape and environment.
- Because of the relative uncertainty about potential impacts and solutions, it may be appropriate to focus on measures which are easy and lower-cost to implement, or which bring additional benefits. For example:
  - space for food growing can have positive health benefits to local communities;
  - urban trees can increase biodiversity and living in “greener” areas has been shown to improve mental wellbeing
  - orienting buildings to take advantage of natural cooling as an adaptation for anticipated hotter summers reduces energy demand and therefore greenhouse gas emissions, acting as a mitigation measure as well as adaptation

### Likely situation without the plan

F.19 The significant levels of growth expected for Medway will further increase demand on water resources. The Government has set out optional Building Regulations for improved water efficiency in new dwellings, which can be imposed where local evidence justifies this. Without appropriate management, water stress could be exacerbated.

F.20 There is the potential for the quality of design to be overlooked where the pressures for the increased supply of housing take precedence. In much the same way, the trend of overlooking the value and role of green space (countryside and other) in addressing climate change could lead to further erosion of the authority’s green grid, placing increasing pressure on other means to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

### Key sustainability objectives

#### Sustainability objective 6:

**To adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change.**



## **G. Sustainability objective 7:**

### **Promoting, enhancing and respecting our historic/cultural heritage assets**

#### **Introduction**

- G.1 Medway has a rich military and cultural heritage with numerous attractions that contribute toward the local economy. With the role of centres changing, capitalising on our heritage assets and building on our leisure offer is key in capturing more local spend and build on our tourism offer.
- G.2 Currently, Medway has a number of assets that are risk and require careful management and protection. Other heritage assets could increasingly be included on the 'at risk' register if development pressures are prioritised. Protecting and conserving our heritage assets is therefore quite important to support this ambition.
- G.3 The following areas are discussed in more detail below to set out the context and enable the identification of issues and opportunities:
- Historic Environment and Archaeology
  - Design Quality

#### **Current situation**

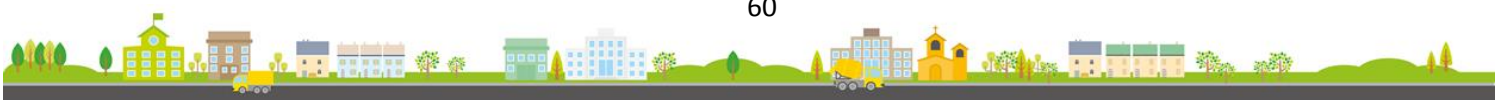
##### **Historic Environment**

###### *Built Environment*

- G.4 In Medway there are currently 714 Listed Buildings, including the Grade 1 Listed Rochester Castle, Eastgate House, Upnor Castle and the Former Commissioners House in Chatham Dockyard.
- G.5 There are also 74 Scheduled Monuments, 2 Historic Parks and Gardens, and 24 Conservation Areas (10 of which have an Article 4 direction applied to all, or part). Medway Council has published Conservation Area Appraisals for 7 Conservation Areas, along with the Chatham Dockyard and its Defences Planning Policy Document. These assets play a significant role in tourism and could enhance the local economy with careful management, planning and marketing.

###### *Archaeology*

- G.6 In the region of 195 Areas of Archaeological Potential have been identified across Medway and are locations of interest.



## Heritage at Risk

G.7 There are currently 14 Listed Buildings on the Heritage at Risk register, including 3 Conservation Areas. Further efforts are required to manage the appropriate enhancement of these assets in order to remove them from the 'at risk register'.

## **Design Quality**

G.8 The existing settlement pattern in Medway centres on the 5 main urban centres of Rainham, Gillingham, Chatham, Rochester and Strood, with smaller villages dispersed across the surrounding area.

G.9 Traditional design details and materials vary across Medway due the different eras of development and the influences (Roman, Royal Navy, Industrial Revolution and the resulting manufacturing industry), tastes and fashions of the time and having a rich military background and cultural heritage. Unique design qualities are preserved in some parts through the adoption of Conservation Areas that aim to protect and enhance the character.

G.10 The Design South East panel, along with in-house support from the design and Conservation officers undertakes design appraisals for all major developments across Medway. Horsted Park in Chatham was awarded the 'Best Major Residential project' at the 2014 Kent Design and Development Awards, an award in the 'Completed Scheme' category of the Housing Design Award 2014 and 'Housing Project of the Year' at the Building Awards 2013.

## **Evidence gaps**

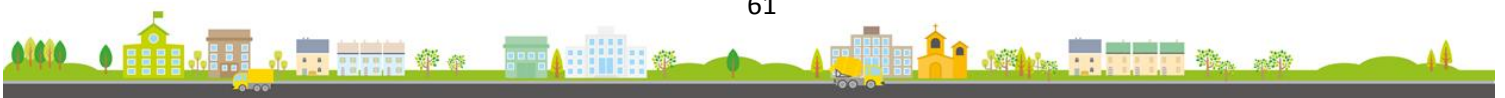
G.11 The Authority will be preparing a Heritage Asset Review and look to review the conservation areas. Information will be included as and when these pieces of work are concluded.

## **Specific issues and opportunities**

### ***Issues:***

#### ***Medway has a rich heritage***

G.12 The Authority's rich heritage characterises the area and is a key asset to build upon tourism and the local economy.



The quality of design varies greatly across Medway

G.13 The varied quality of design

Medway's rich heritage is at threat of being compromised to meet housing demand.

G.14 The Authority has a vast amount of countryside with international environmental designations or falling within agricultural use. Being a coastal authority also means that large amounts of land are effectively marshland and at risk of flooding. In contrast, there is limited land availability for development. Development pressures and the desirability of protecting the countryside must be carefully balanced considerations.

**Sustainability issue:**

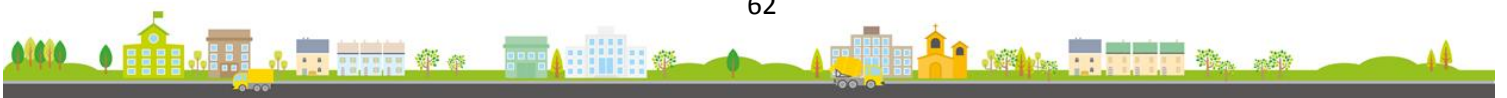
**The increasing demand for housing resulting from the projected increase in population will put a strain on the demand for land, which could compromise the function of the Authority's heritage assets and how development is delivered – i.e. limited consideration for heritage and more emphasis on delivering the numbers quickly.**

**Opportunities:**

- Protect, conserve and make Medway's assets accessible with appropriately worded policies. Tie the need to protect these assets into a broader objective to support tourism.
- Decrease of the number of assets on the Heritage at Risk register.
- To promote high quality distinctive design that maximises the use of sustainable transport, land use and built development - design that is sympathetic and considers local influences whilst minimising the impact on the landscape and environment.
- To promote high quality distinctive design that maximises the use of sustainable transport, land use and built development. Design that is sympathetic and considers local influences whilst minimising the impact on the landscape and environment.

**Likely situation without the plan**

G.15 Without the strategic direction and appropriate policies in place, it is likely that the value of heritage assets will be lost and the ability of the authority to improve the economy through tourism will be limited. An element which plays a key role in characterising the Authority could be eroded over time, leaving the Authority with limited character and attractions. This could have a detrimental impact on the local economy, which would have further knock-on impacts.





**Key sustainability objectives**

**Sustainability objective 7:  
Promoting, enhancing and respecting our historic/cultural heritage assets.**



## H. Sustainability objective 8: *Making the best use of natural assets*

### Introduction

- H.1 Medway has a large proportion of its area apportioned to environmental designations. The authority is also constrained by flood risk and valued agricultural land and has a manufacturing history leaving contaminated land vacant and less attractive. The result is a limited proportion of land available for development.
- H.2 Green infrastructure plays a vital role in balancing the urban growth but also makes a significant contribution in mitigating the impact of climate change and supporting healthier lifestyles. It encourages habitats and ecosystems to flourish, can contribute toward improved air quality, can facilitate a natural flood storage or attenuation function (SUDs) and help with the urban temperature extremes.
- H.3 The authority has a rich history of farming and contains some of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Such valuable land is of interest for potential development and has therefore come under pressure. Agricultural activity contributes toward the local economy and plays a role in retaining the natural countryside.
- H.4 Medway also has a regional role in delivering mineral assets to the South East, having quarries and equipped wharves to perform these functions. It has reserves of sand and gravel on the Hoo Peninsula.
- H.5 National policy supports the development of previously developed land prior to the consideration of Greenfield. Given the assets in Medway and the significance of their roles in retaining the character and contributing to the local economy, it is important that the best use is made of the authority's natural assets.
- H.6 The River Medway is a significant feature and key asset characterising the Authority. It reflects the authority's military and manufacturing history and is home to ecosystems and habitats that would be sensitive to significant disturbance. With the introduction of leisure uses and the provision of footpaths, the riverside can become accessible to the general public where it had not been in the past. This would facilitate inclusivity and healthier and happier residents.
- H.7 The following areas are discussed in more detail below to set out the context and enable the identification of issues and opportunities:
- Material assets, minerals and resources
  - Water Environment
  - Landscape, natural heritage and open space



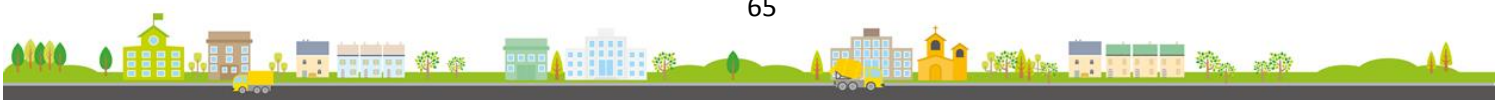
## Current situation

### Material Assets, Minerals and Resource

- H.8 Aggregate supply in Medway is from four main sources: land won aggregates, marine dredged aggregates, imported resources and secondary and recycled aggregates. Land won mineral extraction in Medway is restricted. Large areas of the borough are either urbanised or under environmental designations. A total of 33% of Medway's area falls within environmental designations, ranging from international to local protections.
- H.9 The geology in Medway includes deposits of chalk, clay, sand and gravel, much of which is located on the Hoo Peninsula. The borough's extractable geology (sand and gravel) restricts land won mineral extraction. At present there are two quarries with the potential to provide land won sand and gravel with a combined total permitted reserve of 1,315,000 tonnes.
- H.10 Provision for mineral extraction will be set out in the new Medway Local Plan, which is currently in the early stages of preparation, but there is no revised policy figure at present. The former policy allocation being advanced through the draft Medway Core Strategy for 0.18 million tonnes per annum in line with the sub-regional apportionment figures, is now used as a reference point until a new policy allocation is produced.
- H.11 Medway has 3 active wharves that supply marine dredged aggregates (sand and gravel) and the importation of crushed rock. Both of these resources make up a significant proportion of the aggregates supplied in the district and the southeast region. Kent and Medway combined import 90% of the crushed rock and 50% of the marine dredged aggregates to the region.
- H.12 Medway also has several sites that have the potential to supply secondary and recycled aggregates to the market. However reliable data for this sector is hard to attain and as the robustness of it is questionable therefore no firm figures can be released for Medway.

### Water Environment

- H.13 The River Medway is a key asset, providing a strong sense of place for the area. It is highly visible from some areas, particularly from public areas of the waterfront and areas of higher ground. However, in some areas it is less accessible due to historic military and industrial uses. Historically the river has played a functional role in the transportation of goods to wharves, reflecting the area's manufacturing and industrial heritage. Some of this activity continues today, such as on the Medway City Industrial



Estate. The waterfront areas are characterised by the infrastructure associated with a range of economic activities, from aggregates importation to marine engineering and boat repair businesses, along with marine leisure activities. The river represents an important transport corridor for commercial and leisure traffic.

H.14 Many waterfront areas have over time seen the reduction in manufacturing use resulting in unoccupied land along the waterways, which can be a valuable asset. The waterways can provide opportunities for recreational, tourism, leisure and commercial activities to the benefit of the local economy and residents. This could be to the benefit of centres like Chatham, where a direct linkage in support of the high street can be encouraged. There are also opportunities to enhance the river frontages and improve access.

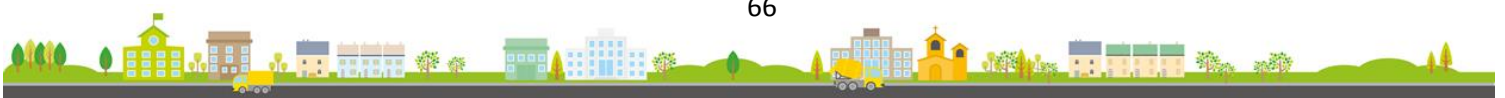
H.15 There are important considerations regarding the potential environmental impact including on marine life and flood risk, and the protection of the flood plain. Medway is also rich in its military heritage, much of which has a strong relationship with the river.

### **Landscape, Natural Heritage, and Open Space**

H.16 Medway's urban areas sit within a striking landscape of the wooded slopes of the Kent Downs to the south and the expansive estuaries and marshes of the Medway and Thames to the north. The river Medway runs through the urban area, linking the towns and providing an economic, cultural and landscape focus. Medway's countryside is much more than a backdrop to its towns, but is also of international importance for its wildlife and landscape quality, and provides productive agricultural land and a resource for people to explore and engage with nature.

H.17 The position of Medway on the North Kent Coast and the natural and farmed landscapes on the Hoo Peninsula mean that it has a wide variety of habitats and a rich diversity of species. Many of these have been recognised nationally and internationally. Around 28% of the area, largely the mudflats, saltmarsh, and freshwater and grazing marshes bordering the Medway and Thames estuaries are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites due to their international importance for wintering birds. The estuaries have also been included in the first round of designations of Marine Conservation Zones. Sites of Special Scientific Interest make up nearly 30% of Medway's area, with some parts of the Hoo Peninsula being covered by multiple designations, and there are eight nature reserves (national and local).

H.18 The Kent Downs to the south of Medway are part of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) that runs across the county from Dover to Downe, and include a



Special Area of Conservation in the woodlands near Halling. The AONB is an exceptional landscape, and there are well established policy requirements to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.

H.19 Medway's distinctive sense of place is closely linked to its landscape setting and the close proximity of a major urban area to undeveloped landscapes. There is a wide range of different landscape types: coastal marshes; chalk downland; orchards and shelterbelts; large scale arable farmland; and extensive tracks of woodland. Many local areas are highly valued by residents for their character and accessibility, providing settings for towns and villages, and for important heritage and environmental assets.

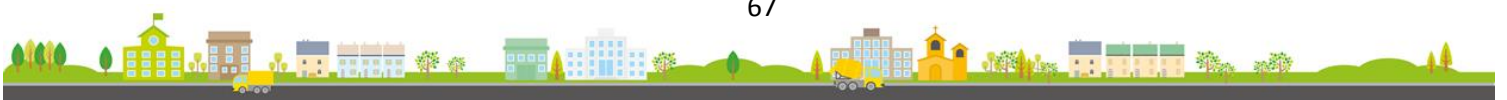
H.20 The Medway Landscape Character Assessment (2011) document has analysed the distinct landscape areas across the borough and provides planning guidance for the countryside and urban fringe. The assessment of the condition and sensitivity of the landscape provides evidence to support planning decisions on where and what forms of development are appropriate to protect, enhance and strengthen the key features of the area.

H.21 The Metropolitan Green Belt has part of its eastern boundary in Medway, to the west of Strood and around the villages of Halling and Cuxton. In addition to its function in preventing the outward sprawl of London, it provides openness in the narrow area between Medway and Gravesend, managing against the coalescence of the north Kent towns and larger villages.

H.22 Medway's network of public rights of way extends to nearly 313km (190 miles), offering opportunities to explore coast and countryside, and connecting routes through the towns and suburbs, and including the Saxon Shore Way and North Downs Way long distance paths. The rollout of the English coastal path around the Medway and Thames estuaries in coming years will further promote opportunities to explore this area.

#### Coverage of environmental designations in the Authority area

H.23 Medway has a total area of 26,885.80ha, 5,529.85ha of which is urban area, 7,312.12ha is marine conservation zone and 12,793.36ha are environmental constraints due to environmental designations, agricultural land or flood risk. The amount of land that is developable is therefore quite constrained.



ENVIRONMENTAL COVERAGE		
	Designation	Area (ha)
1.	AONB	1427.48ha
2.	Ramsar	6928.25ha
3.	SPA	6570.24ha
4.	SSSI	7840.54ha
5.	NNR	52.51ha
6.	LNR	454.18ha
7.	Green belt	454.18ha
8.	SAC	454.18ha
9.	Ancient Woodland	597.99ha

It is important to note that the figures totalled from the table above will not provide the total area of all environmental designations in Medway. This is due to there being a degree of overlap with some designations covering the same area.

H.24 In terms of open space in the Authority, 7 sites have retained their Green Flag status in 2015/16. The Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey, provides trend data on how people use the natural environment in England. This includes visiting the countryside, enjoying green spaces in towns and cities, watching wildlife and volunteering to help protect the natural environment. The proportion of residents visiting the natural environment for health or exercise purposes has increased since the previous year.

### Evidence gaps

H.25 At present the information available to monitor the condition and value of green spaces, biodiversity and habitat creation is limited and not comprehensive. The information available is captured in our annual Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), parts of which are captured above. Medway Council will seek other means to gather information.



## Specific issues and opportunities

### Issues

#### *Making better use of the River Medway without compromising the marine life and ecosystems*

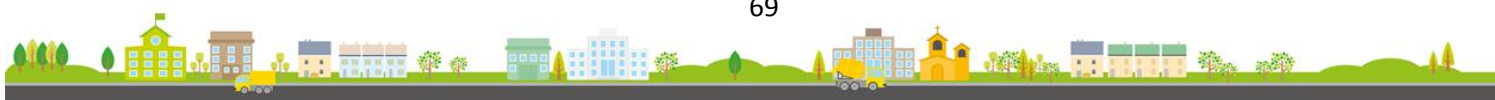
H.26 The River Medway is a central feature in the Authority and provides the best vantage point for scenic views. Greater access to the river would not only take advantage of Medway's central feature, but could encourage more journeys to be made on foot or bicycle, and promote tourism and community uses around the river. Opportunities exist to join up the river walk through urban Medway, linking its historic towns and waterfront regeneration areas with the wider countryside. Outside of the urban areas, the river and estuary offer potential for improved access, such as a riverside cycle route between Medway and Maidstone. However care is needed to ensure that the special and distinct qualities of the riverside and coastal landscapes are not lost.

#### *Balancing access to the countryside with conservation objectives*

H.27 There can be tensions between opening up access to the countryside and the needs of wildlife. Research has shown that the internationally important birdlife of the SPAs can be damaged by the impact of people visiting the estuary. Dogs exercising off the lead, cycling and watersports are among the activities shown to cause disturbance to birds. These impacts could be a contributing factor to the decline of birdlife in the estuary. Action is therefore needed to address this potential damage, through avoiding inappropriate development, and land management, gardening and education interventions. A Strategic Access Management and Monitoring scheme has been set up.

#### *Balancing the accommodation needs of the population with safeguarding the authority's valued environment*

H.28 Planning policy and legislation provide strong protection against inappropriate development of the most important designated sites. However non-designated sites can also provide valuable functions for biodiversity, landscape, and access, as the ecosystems services approach demonstrates. Such sites are often closer to where people live, and therefore much valued locally. Securing an effective green infrastructure network through new development will be critical to planning a sustainable future for Medway, protecting wildlife, habitats, biodiversity and ecosystems.



**Sustainability issue:**

**The increasing demand for housing resulting from the projected increase in population will put a strain on the demand for land, which could compromise the function of the Authority's natural assets.**

**Opportunities:**

- plan for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment
- include green infrastructure considerations in the plan making process for the delivery of sustainable locations for growth.
- Plan for a green infrastructure network alongside the strategic objectives for growth to provide desirable, accessible places to live
- Improve and increase the Public rights of way to improve connectivity and support sustainable travel and healthier lifestyles without compromising the value and role of designations or the biodiversity and habitats contained therein.
- Capitalise on the opportunity of the River Medway and the additional value it can add to the quality of life of residents
- Capitalise on brownfield land options before identifying other opportunity areas.
- Conserve and protect agricultural land and valuable landscapes and designations in order to support the creation and perseverance of wildlife, habitats and biodiversity.

**Likely situation without the plan**

H.29 Without a Local Plan in place, it is likely that development opportunities would come forward in an uncoordinated way, not making the most of the natural assets in the Authority. Opportunities could be missed and not recoverable and detrimental and irreversible impacts on the natural environment could result. A coordinated approach will ensure that a few objectives are targeted and achieved, reaching maximum targeted audience and making a bigger impact.

**Key sustainability objectives**

**Sustainability objective 8:**

**Making the best use of natural assets**





## **I. Sustainability objective 9:**

***To facilitate the improved health and wellbeing of the Boroughs residents***

### **Introduction**

- I.1 Medway's population faces some health challenges. The average male expectancy is below the national average, and there are pockets of marked health issues in some neighbourhoods, with reduced life expectancy and health impairments. Lifestyle issues including smoking, obesity and alcohol are key contributors in high mortality rates of the major killers in Medway, particularly circulatory disease, cancer and respiratory disease.
- I.2 Safe and convenient access to a range of services, open space and the ability to participate in community life are intrinsic to supporting an individual's health and wellbeing.
- I.3 The following areas are discussed in more detail below to set out the context and enable the identification of issues and opportunities:
- Healthy and safe communities
  - Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space

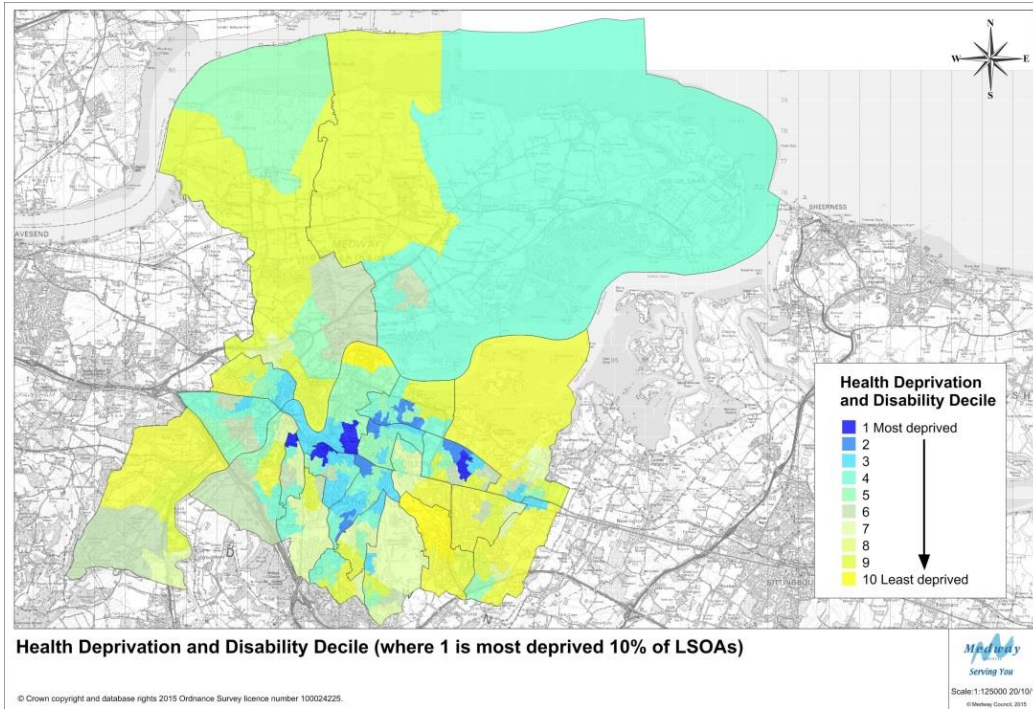
### **Current situation**

#### **Healthy and Safe Communities**

##### *Health deprivation*

- I.4 Health deprivation measure relates to 'the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health'.
- I.5 Medway has twelve neighbourhoods ranked in the 20% most health deprived areas nationally, within those four are ranked in the 10% most deprived. Three less neighbourhoods are in the most deprived 20% compared to the 2010 index, but one extra is in the 10% most deprived. Health is Medway's least deprived theme.

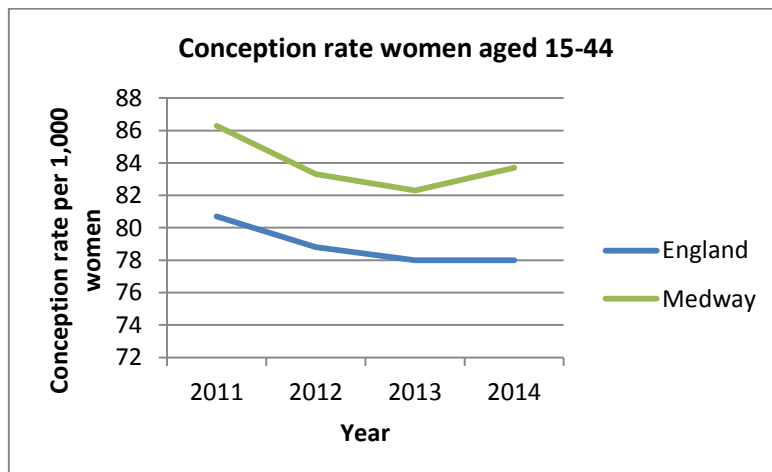




Conception Rate

I.6 Medway has a higher conception rate than nationally. The conception rate has dropped since 2011 with a slight increase in 2014.

Conception rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Medway	86.3	83.3	82.3	83.7
England	80.7	78.8	78.0	78.0



### Life Expectancy

- 1.7 While life expectancy decreased slightly in 2012-14 in Medway there is a general upward trend, however life expectancy in Medway consistently stands below the national level.

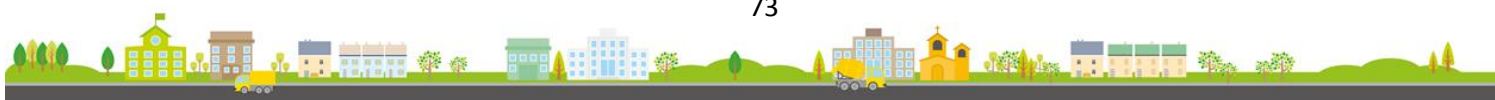
Medway life expectancy					
Years					
	2008-10	2009-2011	2010-12	2011-13	2012-14
Male	77.6	78.2	78.5	78.8	78.7
Female	81.7	82.1	82.2	83.1	82.2

England authority average life expectancy					
Years					
	2008-10	2009-2011	2010-12	2011-13	2012-14
Male	78.5	78.9	79.2	79.4	79.5
Female	82.5	82.9	83.0	83.1	83.2

### Physically active (inactive) adults

- 1.8 Medway has fewer physically active adults with a lower rate than nationally and regionally. The level has fluctuated over the last year peaking in 2014 at 54.2%, in 2015 it dropped slightly. This measure relates to the percentage of adults achieving at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week.

Percentage of physically active adults				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Medway	53.4	48.5	54.2	53.3
South East	58.7	58.4	59.0	60.2
England	56.0	56.0	57.0	57.0



### Recreational walking and cycling

- I.9 Medway has seen an increase in cycling and walking in this survey over the past three years in contrast to the comparator areas. This measure reflects those reporting walking for at least 10 minutes and/or cycling any distance.

Proportion of sample completing any walking or cycling in the last 4 weeks				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Change
Medway	83.4	83.5	84.6	1.1
Kent	87.4	85.8	87.1	-0.3
South East	88.5	88.1	88.2	-0.2
England	87.1	87.1	87.1	-0.1

### **Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space**

- I.10 Open space offers multiple benefits for health, tourism, wildlife and place making. The open space network also brings a range of environmental, social and economic services such as capturing carbon, storing rain runoff, cooling urban streets and homes, providing a home for wildlife, preserving historically and culturally rich urban landscapes, creating local identity and sense of place.
- I.11 Medway Council's open space portfolio totals 1900 hectares, and includes 48 country sites; 3 country parks; 33 allotments; 125 play areas; 52 outdoor sports sites; and 25 formal parks & gardens.
- I.12 A local standard of 3.25ha per 1000 population is currently used as a basis for assessing the level of provision, including that which should be made in new developments. This compares to standards of 6.14ha per 1,000 people in Tonbridge and Malling, 10.1ha in Gravesham and 7.39ha in Swale.
- I.13 Medway has existing shortfalls in levels of provision for allotments (-40%), outdoor sport (-25 junior pitches) and play (-38ha). Some types of open space also have quality issues. There is significant spatial variation across Medway, with shortfalls more pronounced in some areas than others.
- I.14 The Medway Wildlife Countryside and Open Space Strategy (2008 – 16), sets a vision of celebrated open spaces and countryside. Significant progress has been made



towards this vision, with investment of £5.1M in playgrounds, allotments, parks and outdoor sports provision, but there is still work to do to fully realise it. Successes include the creation of seven Green Flag sites, and the establishment of 18 “Friends of...” Groups, taking local responsibility for raising the quality of their open spaces.

## Evidence gaps

I.15 None

## Specific issues and opportunities

### Issues:

#### Poor lifestyle choices resulting in poor health

I.16 Diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory disease and stroke account for more than half of all deaths in Medway each year. These diseases have common risk factors: tobacco use, alcohol misuse, poor diet and physical inactivity.

#### High death rates due to disease

I.17 The need to encourage lifestyle change among Medway residents to prevent the majority of deaths due to the diseases listed above.

#### Lower physical activity

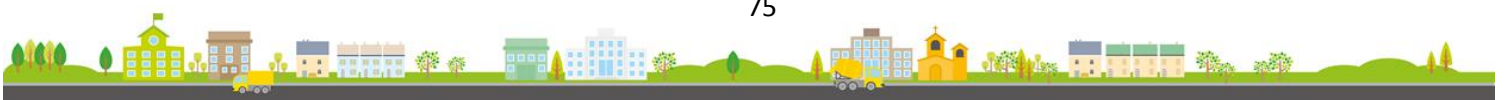
I.18 The Authority has fewer physically active adults compared to national and regional levels demonstrating the severity of the problem.

#### High conception rates

I.19 Medway has the highest conception rates compared to national figures, which will result in an increasing population size to manage.

#### Insufficient access to healthy places

I.20 In a climate of pressured resources, there is an increasing challenge to secure a positive and sustainable future for Medway’s open spaces and the communities that depend on them. Improving access to green and open spaces including the provision of play areas and sports facilities will assist in realising this aim.



**Sustainability issue:**

**Without further intervention, the health of the authority's residents could deteriorate resulting in earlier death rates and placing a greater strain on the NHS.**

**Opportunities:**

- support the provision of services and facilities that would encourage a healthy lifestyle (walking, sports, better eating habits, sufficient health facilities and medical treatment services). This would include the provision of more play areas, sports facilities and open space for recreation purposes etc.
- provide stronger policies on hot food takeaways
- Provide services and facilities in accessible locations that would encourage walking and cycling.
- Provide further sustainable choices of travel including the provision of cycle and walking networks.
- Seek to provide coordinated services to ensure effective prevention, identifying and recognising wider social determinants and delivering early intervention.

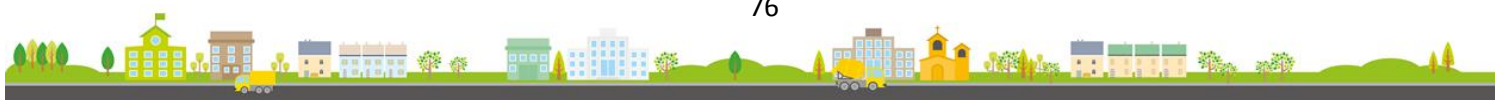
**Likely situation without the plan**

I.21 The Local Plan will plan for the anticipated future growth of Medway and the changing demographics appropriately and in locations where needed. An increase in population will place an increasing demand for services and health facilities. The Local Plan will provide a strategic overview of the areas in need and will put the necessary policies in place to facilitate the delivery of health choices to encourage healthier lifestyles.

**Key sustainability objectives**

**Sustainability objective 9:**

**To facilitate the improved health and wellbeing of the Boroughs residents.**



## **J. Sustainability objective 10: Promote strong and inclusive communities**

### **Introduction**

- J.1 Medway has pockets of deprivation, i.e. there are a number of neighbourhoods that are extremely deprived when compared against the national average. Education and skills deprivation and a poor living environment stand out as being an issue in deprived neighbourhoods in Medway. Those most deprived communities experience multiple challenges with lack of employment and low incomes being the most significant issue in these areas.
- J.2 While the economic activity rate in Medway has generally improved against the national picture - amongst the economically inactive the long-term sick remain quite high in Medway against national levels. While unemployment remains a little higher than the national level it is notable that the long-term unemployed in Medway are not significantly higher than nationally. The benefit claimant group that does stand out are those on disability benefits – which is also supported by a relatively high carers benefit rate.
- J.3 Providing access to a better quality of life – housing, services and facilities, jobs, health services etc. is important in creating a strong and inclusive community.
- J.4 The following areas are discussed in more detail below to set out the context and enable the identification of issues and opportunities:
- Social inclusion and equality
  - Healthy and safe communities (as set out in previous objective)
  - Transportation and Accessibility

### **Current situation**

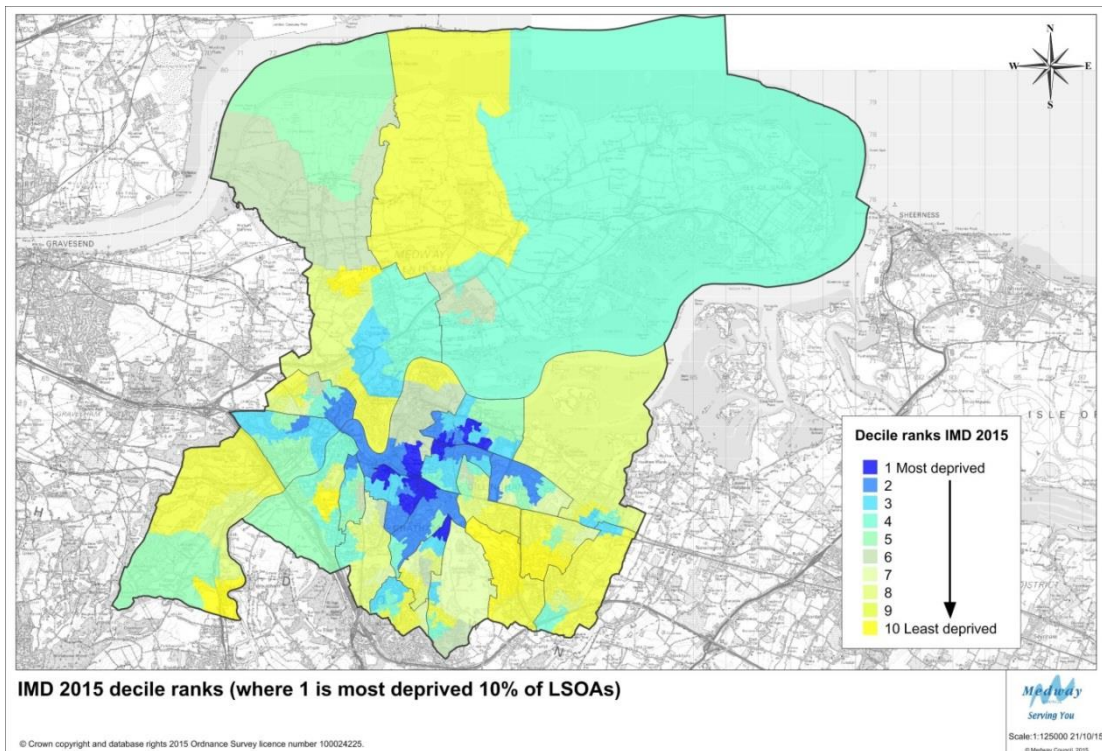
#### **Social Inclusion and Equality**

##### **Multiple deprivation (including Employment and income)**

- J.5 In the 2015 index of Deprivation, Medway is ranked 118th most deprived Local Authority of 326 in England. In the overall measure of deprivation, the most 'relatively' deprived communities are concentrated in central urban areas in Medway – most notably in Chatham Central, Gillingham North and Luton & Wayfield. Medway has thirty two neighbourhoods ranked in the 20% most deprived nationally and 12 ranked in the 10% most deprived.



J.6 While Medway has many areas which fair relatively poorly on income and employment deprivation - the two major themes in the multiple index - crime stands out as a particular weakness, with Medway ranking 53rd most deprived Local Authority in England for crime. After that, 'education, skills and training' has a ranking of just 86th most deprived.



### Income deprivation

J.7 Medway is ranked in the 32% most deprived local authorities in England for income. Medway has twenty-nine neighbourhoods ranked in the 20% most deprived nationally and within those ten are ranked in the 10% most deprived. Of those ten most income deprived neighbourhoods, three are in Gillingham North and three are in Luton & Wayfield.

### Employment deprivation

J.8 The employment deprivation measure relates to the proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, which includes people who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.

J.9 Medway is ranked in the 33% most deprived local authorities in England for employment - this is worse than Medway's overall position for multiple deprivation, being in the 37% most deprived local authorities in England. Employment - along with



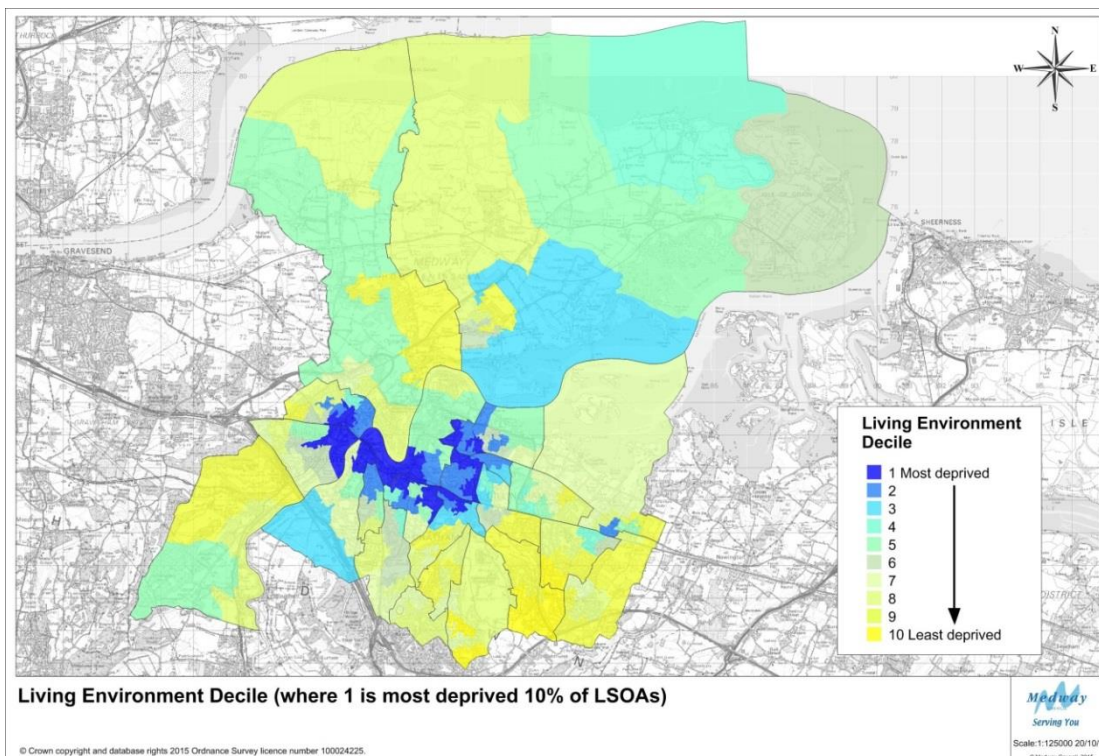


income - are the two main deprivation domains making up 45% of the overall index between them. Employment is slightly better than income in Medway with an employment ranking of 107 of 326 Local Authorities in England against an income ranking of 102.

J.10 Medway has thirty-two neighbourhoods ranked in the 20% most employment deprived areas nationally and within those nine are ranked in the 10% most deprived. Of those nine most employment deprived neighbourhoods, two are in Gillingham North, two are in Luton & Wayfield and two are in Chatham Central.

### Deprivation – Living environment

J.11 The ‘Living Environment’ deprivation measure relates to the quality of the local environment. Medway is ranked in the 39% most deprived Local Authorities in England for ‘Living Environment’ - this is better than Medway’s overall position for multiple deprivation, being in the 37% most deprived Local Authorities in England.



J.12 Medway has thirty-six neighbourhoods ranked in the 20% most deprived nationally and within those seventeen are ranked in the 10% most deprived - concentrated in a central cluster. This deprivation theme falls into two sub-themes: The ‘indoors living environment’ measures the quality of housing, while the ‘outdoors living environment’ contains measures of air quality and road traffic accidents. Medway appears to fair worse on the indoor environment.

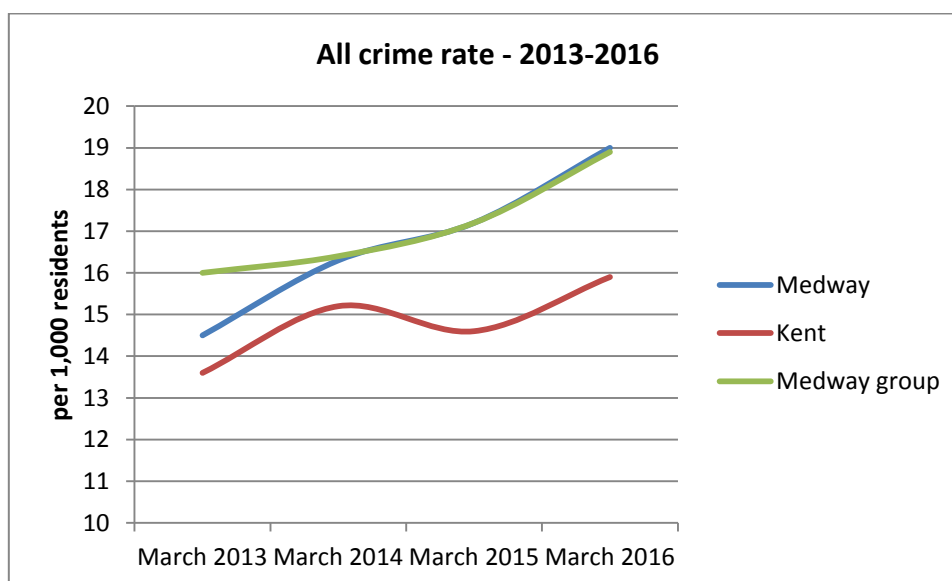


### Crime – All crimes rate

J.13 The crime rate in Medway is significantly higher than the Kent level, but is in line with the group average. The overall crime rate in Medway has increased by 4.5 percentage points between 2013 and 2016.

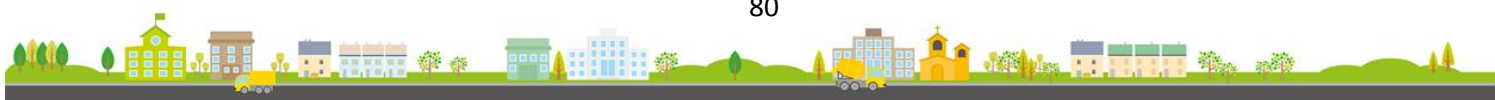
Crimes per thousand residents				
	March 2013	March 2014	March 2015	March 2016
<b>Medway</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>19.0</b>
Kent	13.6	15.2	14.6	15.9
Medway group*	16.0	16.4	17.2	18.9

\*Areas assessed as similar to Medway are :Basildon, Bolton, Broxbourne, Bury, Crawley, Dartford & Gravesham, Gosport, Harlow, Havering, Kirklees, Peterborough, Stevenage, Thurrock, Torbay.

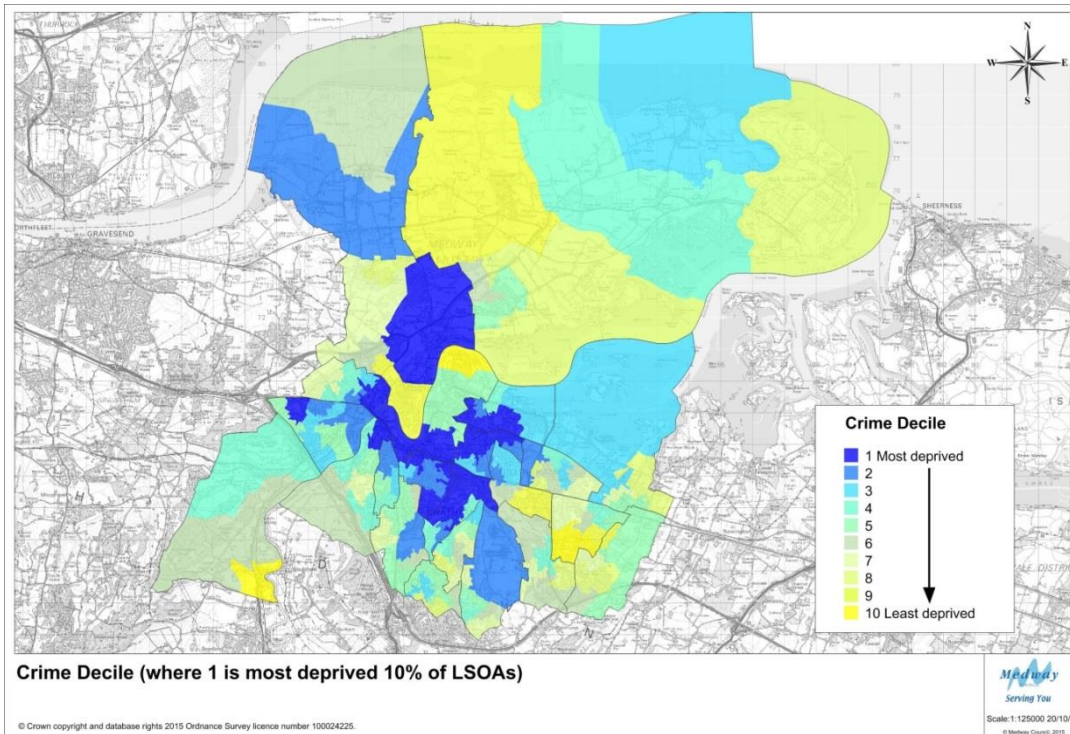


### Crime – deprivation

J.14 The crime deprivation theme measures the risk of personal and material victimisation. Medway is ranked in the 17% most deprived local authorities in England for crime. This is below (worse than) Medway's overall position for multiple deprivation, being in the 37% most deprived local authorities in England.



J.15 Crime is Medway’s weakest deprivation theme, with fifty-one neighbourhoods ranked in the most deprived 20% nationally and of those thirty are in the 10% most deprived. Of those areas in the 10% most deprived, Gillingham North, Gillingham South and Luton & Wayfield each account for six neighbourhoods, with four in Chatham Central. Gillingham South has the two lowest ranking neighbourhoods for crime, ranking at 99 and 100 (of 32,844 nationally).



## Healthy and Safe Communities

J.16 To avoid repetition please see background as set out above with regard to objective 9.

## Transportation and Accessibility

J.17 The transport and accessibility context is set out in the section regarding objective 1 and is therefore not repeated here. The focus in this section is instead on the levels of car ownership, car usage and the mode of travel to work.

### Car ownership – percent of households owning one or more car/van

J.18 Car ownership is higher in Medway than nationally with fewer households having no vehicles than nationally and more households having more than one vehicle.



Percent of households owning one or more car/van			
	No cars or vans in household	1 car or van in household	More than 1 car
Medway	21.9	42.5	35.6
Kent	20.0	42.7	37.3
South East	18.6	41.7	39.7
England	25.6	42.2	32.1

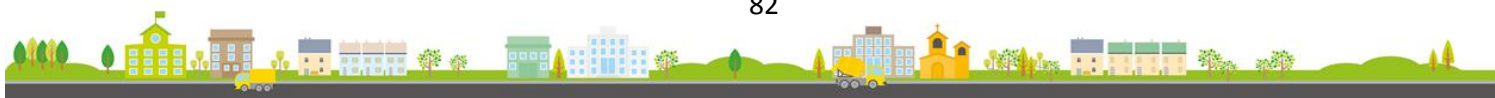
Estimated traffic flows for cars and all vehicle types

J.19 Medway has seen a rate of growth in vehicle usage over the past four years higher than the national level. In the last year the level of growth has been lower than the national level.

Motor vehicle Traffic –million miles						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	Percent change	
					2014-15	2012-15
Medway	835	853	874	882	0.9	5.6
Kent	8,890	8,806	8,996	9,254	2.9	4.1
South East	51,561	51,476	52,792	54,082	2.4	4.9
England	259,144	259,891	266,660	271,092	1.7	4.6

J.20 Medway has seen a lower rate of growth in car usage over vehicle usage, with a lower level of growth in the last year than over the past four years. Car traffic accounts for a slightly higher proportion of all vehicle miles in Medway with car miles accounting for around eighty percent of vehicle miles (against 78% nationally).

Car Traffic –million miles						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	Percent change	
					2014-15	2012-15
Medway	835	853	874	882	0.9	5.6
Kent	8,890	8,806	8,996	9,254	2.9	4.1
South East	51,561	51,476	52,792	54,082	2.4	4.9
England	259,144	259,891	266,660	271,092	1.7	4.6



Medway	674	690	703	705	0.3	4.6
Kent	6,942	6,850	6,946	7,097	2.2	2.2
South East	41,650	41,399	42,198	43,025	2.0	3.3
England	205,994	205,599	209,815	212,197	1.1	3.0

### Passenger journeys on local bus services

J.21 8.9 million bus passenger journeys were made in 2014/15 in Medway. Medway has seen a slight drop in bus usage over the past three years in a period in which regionally and nationally there was growth.

Passenger journeys on local bus services - millions				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Percent change
<b>Medway</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>-1.4</b>
Kent	60.5	62.3	57.9	-4.1
South East	346.0	355.8	356.1	2.9
England	4,590.0	4,674.1	4,647.4	1.3

### Method and Travel to Work in Medway

J.22 The following table breaks down transport data relative to modes of transport to work in Medway from the latest census results.

#### **Medway Local Authority Travel to Work**

	2001	2011
Work mainly at or from home (%)	7.62	7.83
Underground, metro, light rail, tram (%)	0.16	0.21
Train (%)	7.86	8.66
Bus, minibus or coach (%)	5.47	4.59
Taxi (%)	0.35	0.33



	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
Motorcycle, scooter or moped (%)	1.32	1.09
Driving a car or van (%)	58.76	60.56
Passenger in a car or van (%)	7.14	6.01
Vehicle Occupancy Rate	1.12	1.1
Bicycle (%)	1.36	1.12
On foot (%)	9.54	9.19
Other method of travel to work (%)	0.43	0.41

Source: Census 2011

It is clear from the Census in 2011 that the main form of transport is via the private car/van. This accounts for approximately 60.56 per cent, an increase in almost 2 percentage points since the 2001 census. Train travel accounts for 8.66%, an increase of 1 per cent, while the numbers of people travelling by bus has fallen to under 5 percent. Passenger travel has fallen and those travelling by bicycle has fallen to 1.12 per cent (a drop of 17 per cent).

J.23 The following table illustrates levels of car ownership within Medway, comparing the 2001 census level to the 2011.

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
No cars or vans in household (%)	23	21.9
1 car or van in household (%)	43.7	42.5
2 cars or vans in household (%)	26.5	27.1
3 cars or vans in household (%)	5.2	6.2
4 or more cars or vans in household (%)	1.6	2.3

Source: Census



In this case, there is an unequivocal trend towards increased car ownership, and the amount of cars owned. No car households have fallen to 21.9% while there have been increases in 2 cars, three, cars, and 4 car households.

## Evidence gaps

J.24 None

## Specific issues and opportunities

### Issues:

#### Worklessness

J.25 This section of the community are further from the job market than the unemployed and are likely to have multiple barriers of entry to work. This issue will need to be address in order to assist more people in joining the job market and to drive up overall productivity in Medway.

#### A rapidly growing and changing area

J.26 Medway has seen significant demographic growth in recent years and has been changing with many regeneration projects.

#### An increasingly diverse population with a larger BME population and a growing variety and a concentration of non British nationals living in Medway

J.27 Between 2001 and 2011 the BME population more than doubled in Medway, representing 10.5% of the population in 2011. Medway residents born in other parts of Europe more than doubled over this period.

#### A number of severely deprived neighbourhoods suffering multiple deprivation issues

J.28 With thirty-two neighbourhoods ranked in the most deprived areas in the country, crime and education stand out as being particular issues after employment/income deprivation.

#### Crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots in some deprived areas and some central areas

J.29 Across deprivation themes crime stands out as a particular issue in Medway, with some central neighbourhood areas most notably in Chatham Central and Gillingham being amongst the worst in the country.



**Sustainability issue:**

**An increase and diversity in population will place a strain on infrastructure and services. The focus on new provision and without further intervention could result in identified areas of deprivation being further isolated, creating an increased level of deprivation and wider gaps in accessibility to housing, services and facilities necessary to provide uplift.**

***Opportunities:***

- Seek to address current issues of deprivation/accessibility in identifying new areas for growth.
- Creation of opportunities to support self-sufficient population – provision of allotments, etc.
- The Local Plan can identify appropriate employment locations that are easily accessible
- The local Plan can inform the delivery of more sustainable modes of transport
- The Local Plan can deliver housing and make it accessible by requiring a certain percentage of housing as affordable
- Service provision and access to facilities can be planned in more accessible locations to the deprived
- The local plan can also address issues of deprivation by ensuring development and improvements are targeted in areas of deprivation through regeneration projects and other

**Likely situation without the plan**

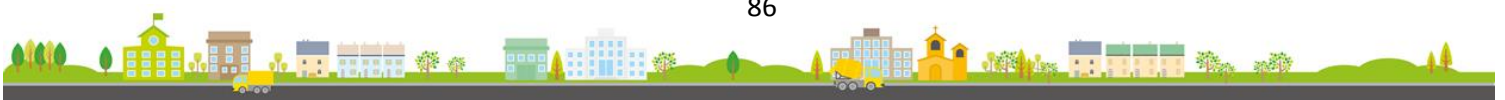
J.30 Without the Local Plan in place, it is likely that development would come forward in an uncoordinated manner, resulting in areas of need being overlooked. This would result in exacerbated conditions in deprived areas and continued growth in inequalities.

J.31 As Medway grows, opportunities need to address the requirements of the whole population to enable everyone to access to appropriate services and facilities to lead a productive, happy life. The Local Plan will provide a strategy to coordinate growth for all to benefit and to support the economy.

**Key sustainability objectives**

**Sustainability objective 10:**

**Promote strong and inclusive communities**





## **K. Sustainability objective 11:**

**To provide sufficient and affordable housing suitable to peoples lifestyles and needs**

### **Introduction – brief overview of the theme**

- K.1 A rapidly growing population in Medway is putting pressure on the existing housing stock, exacerbating the relative shortage of certain types of accommodation and pushing housing need ever further. An increasing need for housing from a naturally growing population, combined with relatively high inward migration from London housing pressures, translates to an ever increasing need for new sites to deliver housing. With a complimentary need for retaining employment sites and many environmentally sensitive areas with protection the need for land is great.
- K.2 Medway is a relatively affordable area, compared to neighbouring areas, but property prices are showing a marked level of growth. However with below average earnings in Medway many cannot afford local prices particularly at a time when Medway is seen as an affordable option for those living in pricier areas nearer the capital. Delivering the right type of housing for the existing need and future need is a priority with housing targets indicating the likely level of need. The location of universities in Medway increases the need for student accommodation and puts a strain on the private rental market for small families. There is also a national requirement to provide pitches for the gypsy and travelling show people.
- K.3 The following areas are discussed in more detail below to set out the context and enable the identification of issues and opportunities:
- Population and Housing

### **Current situation**

#### **Population and Housing**

##### Population - growth

- K.4 Medway's population has been growing at a significant rate with relatively large annual increases in the last three years; levels of growth above that seen nationally. This growth is down to a naturally expanding population, i.e. a relatively high birth rate and increasing life expectancy combined with peaks in inward international migration. The population is predicted to grow by just over one fifth by 2035, which is above the expected level of national growth. The largest increase is going to be seen in the over 65's with the growth in this age group accounting for more than half of the overall population growth in Medway.



### Housing need

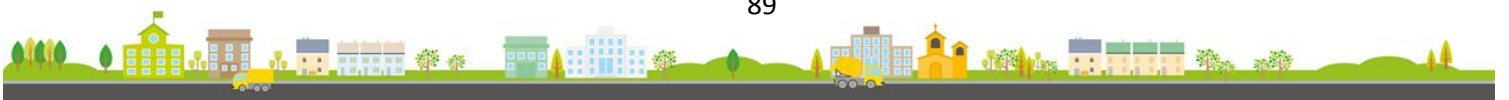
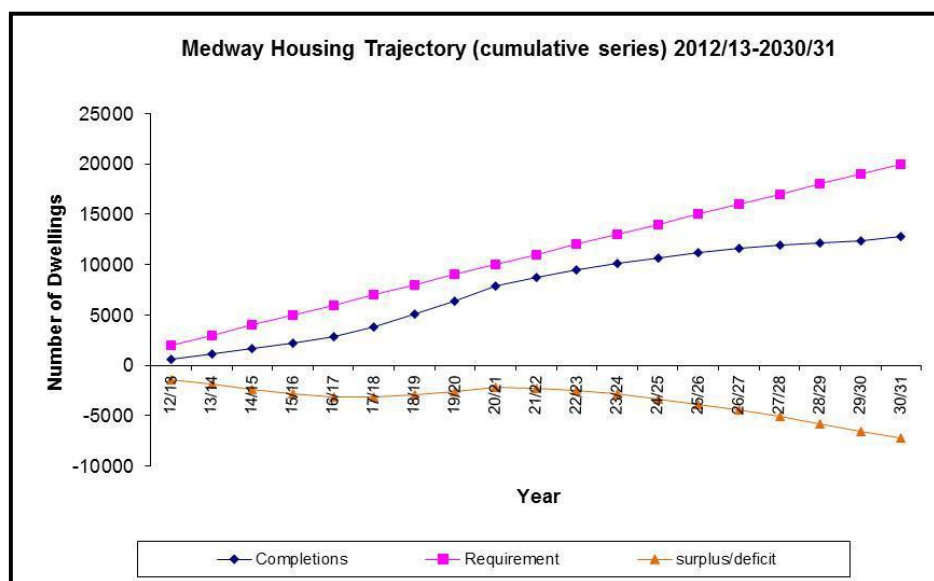
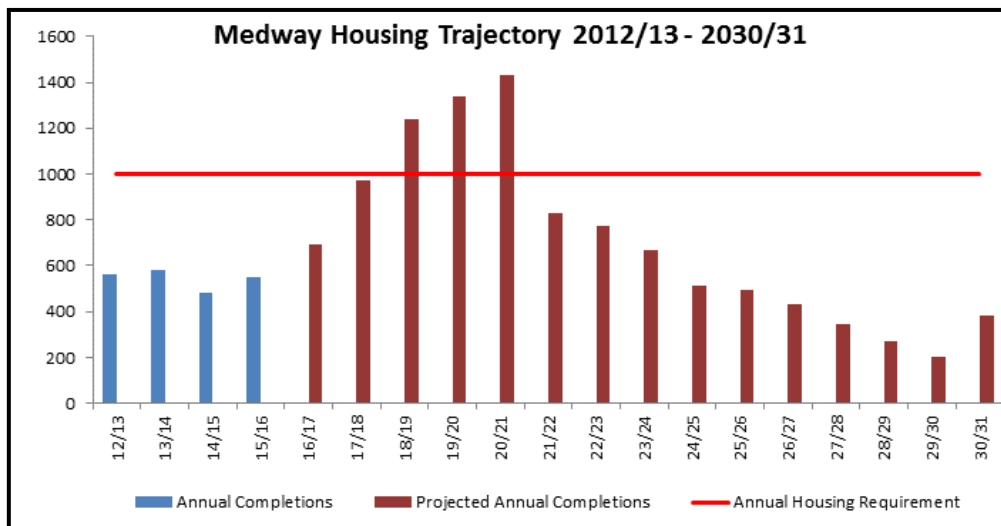
- K.5 The Council commissioned a Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment to provide evidence on the housing needed in Medway over the Local Plan plan period. This was carried out in line with Government requirements to identify the objectively assessed need for housing as a core component of the Local Plan process. Using Government guidance, the assessment analysed demographic, economic and market signal information to determine the quantity and types of housing needs. The technical assessment concluded that the Local Plan needs to provide for 29,463 new homes over the plan period.
- K.6 The Strategic Housing Market Assessment also considered the range, type and mix housing needed in Medway. This included the need for 'affordable housing', the size and mix of homes, and those with particular needs, such as older people, people with disabilities, younger person households, minority ethnic groups, and rural households. The assessment identified a high level of demand for affordable housing at 17,112 over the plan period. The council has identified potential options for development locations to meet the housing needs identified for Medway over the plan period. The scale of projected housing need requires consideration of locations that could accommodate development on a large scale. Planned growth in such locations offers the opportunity to deliver a range and mix of housing types, to provide homes suitable for different groups in society. Infrastructure, services, green spaces, shops and employment areas would also be planned as part of new residential areas to provide balanced growth.

### Housing trajectory/Housing requirement

- K.7 The housing trajectory taken from the 2016 Authority Monitoring Report shows phasing over the period 2012-2031, including contributions from past completions, sites with planning consent, local plan allocations and possible windfalls and sites that are identified in the Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) November 2015.
- K.8 The phasing is based upon planning officers' estimations, using their experience of past site delivery. Although historic performance is considered, current market circumstances are also taken into account. Some sites within the SLAA have been phased based upon information provided and/or discussions with the land promoters.

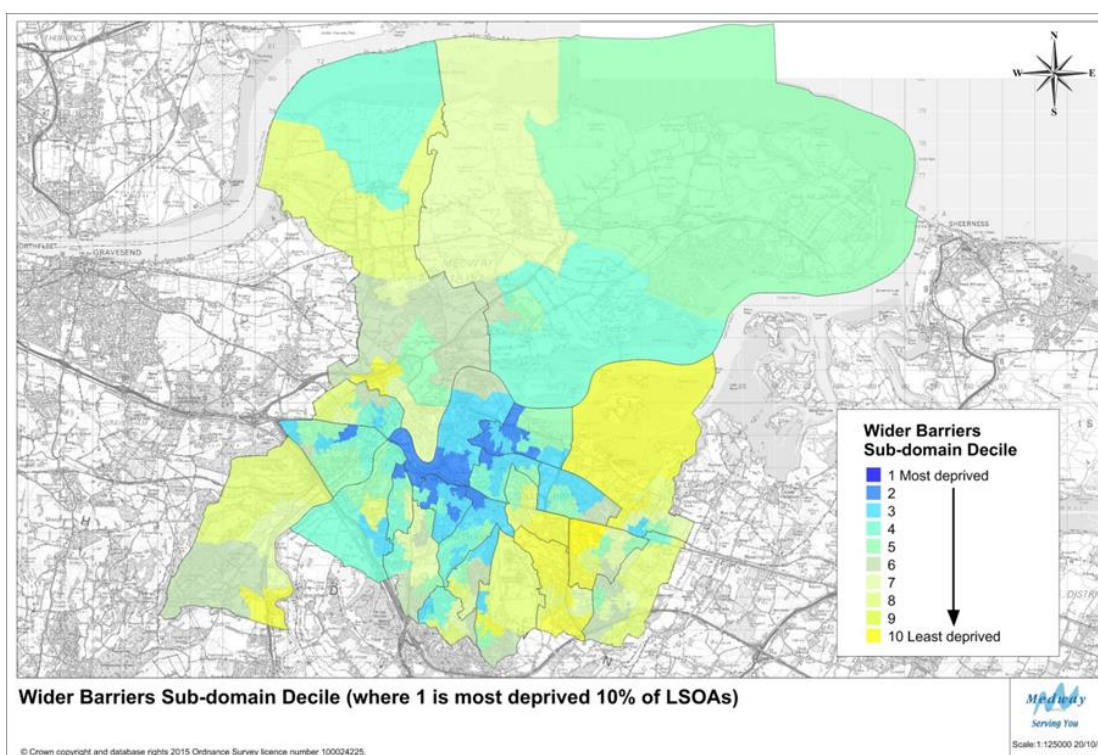


Trajectory															
12/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31
Annual Completions															
2180															
Projected Annual Completions															
	695	974	1,242	1,340	1,432	829	775	668	514	496	432	347	270	204	384
Annual Housing Requirement															
4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000



Deprivation - access to housing

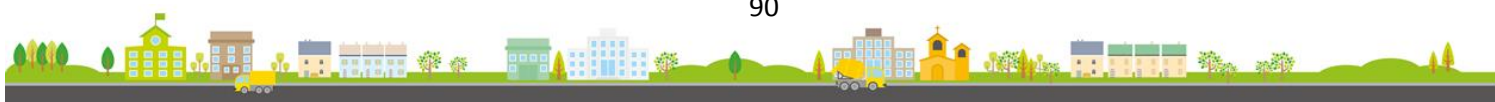
K.9 Wider barriers relate to access to housing, as measured by household overcrowding, homelessness and housing affordability. This theme does not have any neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% nationally. Sixteen centrally located areas are ranked in the most deprived 20% of areas nationally, with Gillingham North, Chatham Central, River and Luton & Wayfield containing areas within the most relatively deprived. Half of the neighbourhood areas in Gillingham North are in the most deprived 20% of areas nationally for access to housing.



Housing tenure

K.10 Home ownership in Medway is above the national level. Overall renting in Medway is below the national level, however social rented is comparatively low and private rented is slightly higher in Medway than nationally.

Tenure – 2011 Census						
		Owned	Shared ownership	Social rented	Private rented	Living rent free
Medway	Nos.	71,853	1,114	13,996	18,153	1,093



		<b>67.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Kent	%	67.3	1.0	13.9	16.6	1.3
South East		67.6	1.1	13.7	16.3	1.3
England & Wales		63.5	0.8	17.6	16.7	1.4

### Density of new dwellings

K.11 New dwelling densities in Medway average around 43 units per hectare.

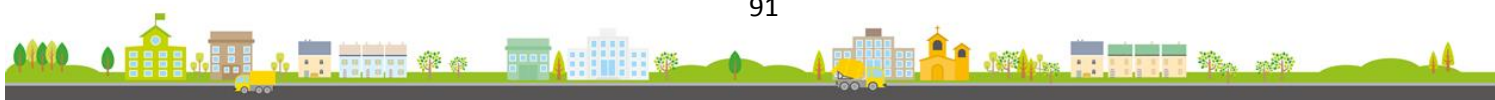
<b>Average density of new dwellings – Medway (large and windfalls only)</b>				
<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
42	72	44	45	42

### Vacant properties

K.12 Just fewer than 3,000 properties are vacant in Medway this equates to approximately 2.6% of housing stock. Long-term empty homes are those dwellings that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for over six months.

<b>All vacant properties</b>							
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Medway	Number	3,710	3,478	3,375	2,991	2,910	
	% change						-21.6
UA total							-14.4
England							-16.6

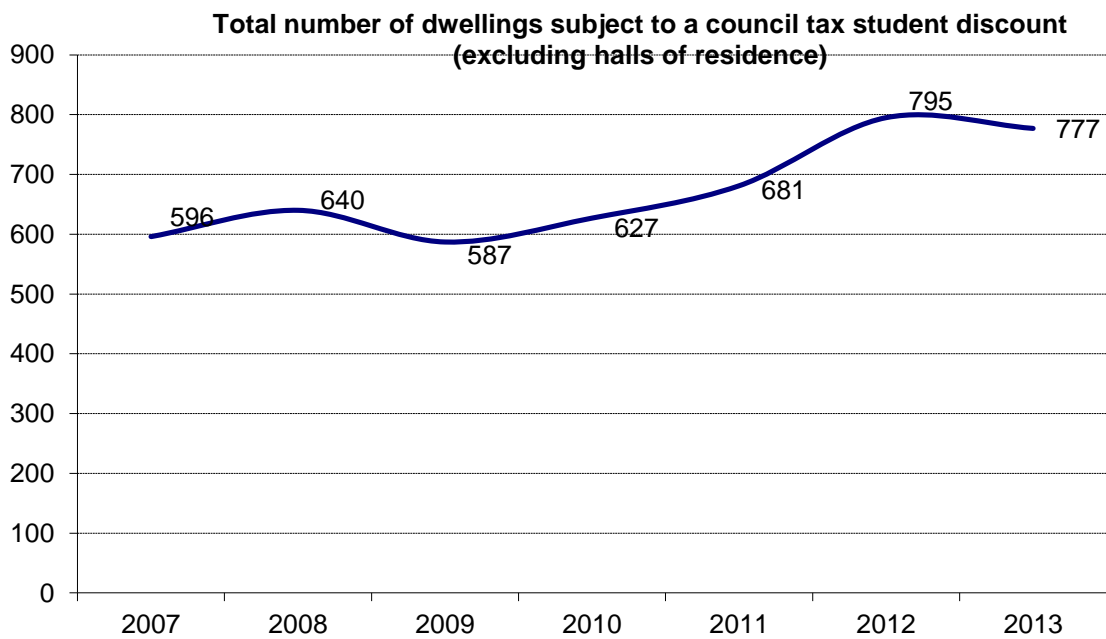
<b>Long-term vacant properties</b>						
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Medway	Number	1,455	1,417	938	1004	879
	% change					



UA total		-20.4
England		-26.6

Student accommodation

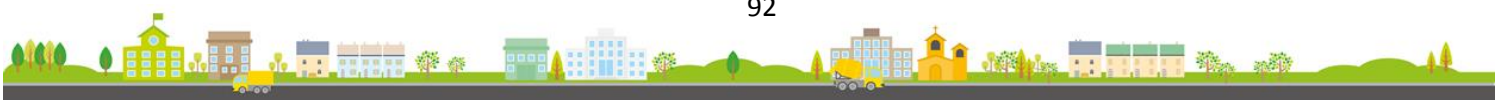
K.13 Between 2007 and 2013 the number of private properties occupied by students rose by just under a third. Student households represent 0.7% of all households in Medway.



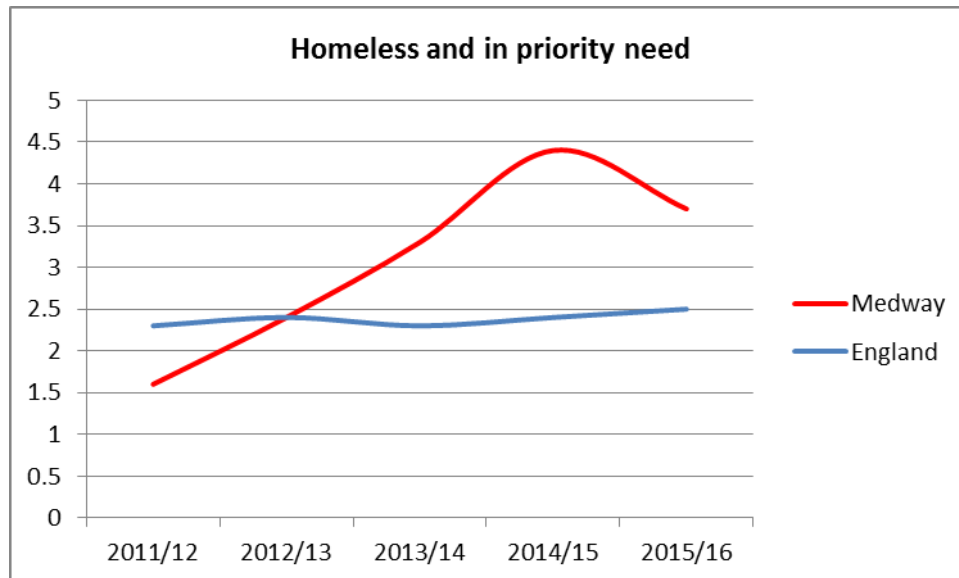
Homelessness

K.14 The number of households in Medway classes as homeless & in priority need has increased over the last five years, peaking in 2014/15 then dropping slightly in 2015/16. Households classed a homeless and in priority need in Medway consistently stands above the national level.

Homeless & in priority need						
		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Medway	Number	168	257	357	491	418
	Per 000 households	1.6	2.4	3.3	4.4	3.7
England		2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5



These figures related to the statutorily homeless, i.e. those which meet specific criteria of priority need, which includes households with dependent children, pregnant women and people who are vulnerable in some way for example because of mental or physical illness.

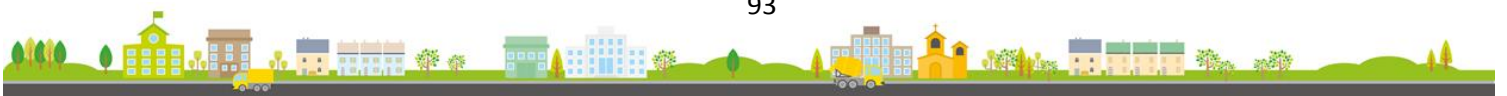


Households in temporary accommodation						
		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Medway	Number	109	120	148	260	259
	Per 000 households	1.1	1.1	1.4	2.4	2.3
England		2.3	2.5	2.6	2.9	3.1

K.15 Temporary accommodation includes those in bed & breakfast, hostels, Council and Housing Association stock and Private sector accommodation. The number of households in temporary accommodation has followed a similar upward trend to overall homelessness. The number of households in temporary accommodation per thousand households consistently stands below the national level.

### Evidence gaps

K.16 None



## Specific issues and opportunities

### Issues

#### Housing pressure with significant population growth via natural growth and inward migration most notably from London

K.17 Like many areas in the South East, Medway is seeing great pressure on housing with an ever increasing need. Medway has seen significant growth most notably over the past five years with further predicted growth.

Sustainable locations for future housing development need to be identified with associated needs of land for employment and infrastructure purposes to create proper communities.

#### An affordable local housing market for local residents

K.18 While Medway has a relatively affordable property market, compared to some surrounding areas, for many owning a property is well beyond their financial means, with modest earnings for many in Medway.

While a number of sectors of the population are in acute housing need needing specialist accommodation units – a larger sector are in need of assistance to access suitable housing units for which they afford to live.

With new housing developments coming forward and many planned – a sufficient proportion need to be made available on an ‘affordable’ basis and managed by housing providers.

#### Lack of affordability for local people

K.19 Relatively attractive property prices but with lower than average earnings in Medway and an inequality of earnings with a quarter of working residents not earnings more than £21,000 per annum, owning a property is out of reach of many Medway residents resulting in a high level of housing need.

#### Tenure - A large increase in the rental market and a drop in home ownership in Medway

K.20 National statistics indicate that home ownership has fallen significantly in Medway between the last two censuses with many more residents living in rented accommodation.

#### Providing the right type and size of housing

K.21 These should be in line with household projections which indicate more single person households and family households in Medway.





Providing suitable housing for a growing elderly population

K.22 With the elderly population in Medway increasing by around 60% in 20 years, the right scale and type of accommodation for independent and supported living is essential.

**Sustainability issue:**

**The increasing population requires a timely response to housing provision, particularly the provision of housing that is affordable to residents.**

**Opportunities:**

- identify areas for the provision of housing in sustainable locations
- Provide necessary infrastructure to create sustainable development
- Ensure a requirement for the delivery of affordable housing.
- Enabling a sufficient supply of new housing to accommodate expanding population

**Likely situation without the plan**

K.23 Without a plan that creates opportunities for new growth, housing will be led by market forces. This may or may not lead to meeting housing targets and also presents the opportunity for more growth in locations that may not be as sustainable as a framework set in the Local Plan.

K.24 Without a plan the profits from housebuilding cannot be used to bring benefits to the area with contributions to affordable housing, infrastructure and social amenities.

K.25 Uncoordinated growth may lead to insufficient variety of accommodation types to suit tenure, affordability, household type, life-stage with only the most profitable types of units being provided.

**Key sustainability objectives**

**Sustainability objective 11:**

**To provide sufficient and affordable housing suitable to peoples lifestyles and needs**



## 5. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework provides a method for identifying, assessing, and comparing social, economic and environmental effects of the local plan. It is the key framework process for informing the most viable development trajectory in terms of taking the local plan forward.
- 5.2 Task A4 of the SEA Directive seeks to develop the sustainability framework consisting of sustainability objectives indicators and targets. The framework will be moulded based on the key themes identified in the previous chapters and will be based on the following:
- Sustainability Objectives, based on the review of the key baseline information including the issues identified and the review of the relevant plans and programmes.
  - Key questions based on each objective which act as a prod for testing how, or if, each aspect of the local plan meets to Sustainability Objectives
  - Indicators, that will enable to effects to be monitored by identified thresholds that are measurable in terms how the local plan process meets each objective
- 5.3 There are 11 objectives as part of the framework, which are based on the topics previously established and listed in chapter 1. The framework has been developed in order to establish the most holistic and comprehensive assessment methodology that will provide the most effective means for appraisal under the Sustainability Appraisal process, in a manner that meets the SEA directive.
- 5.4 It is important to note here that the objectives are not differentiated based on the defined topic areas. The interlinking nature of sustainability means that the objectives and by association the questions and indicators, are cross cutting and relevant for other topics. i.e. measures under the inclusive communities objective to tackle deprivation and address issues of accessibility to various services, facilities, jobs and infrastructure will also contribute to improving health and life expectancy, and improve levels of economic activity etc.
- 5.5 Each objective is inherently broad given the wide and spatial nature of local plan making and the overall implications it will have for sustainable development. The questions seek to be neutral in terms of assessing the applicability of each project and shall act as a guide. While the indicators have



been chosen in manner that is consistent with reasonably expected data provision shall be based on the direct and identifiable outcomes, rather than unintended secondary outcomes.

5.6 The table below sets out the objectives against the three core categories for sustainability appraisals and the topic areas recommended in national guidance. Table 2 sets out the Framework that will be used to assess the sustainability of the local plan and its options.

**Table 1: SA objectives consistent with national guidance topics and categories**

Category	Topic	Objectives
Economic	Education and Skills	1: To improve skill levels and encourage suitable employment opportunities in accessible locations.
	Transportation and Accessibility	
	Economy, Enterprise and Employment	
	Economy, Enterprise and Employment	2: To have a successful economic base able to sustain economic growth and competitiveness
	Transportation and Accessibility	
	Economy, Enterprise and Employment	3: To protect and support the growth, vitality and viability of the Boroughs centres
Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space		
Environmental	Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space	4: Conserve and enhance the existing green network
	Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Designated Sites	
	Climate Change	5: To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change
	Air Quality and Environmental Pollution	
	Waste Management	
	Climate Change	6: To adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change
	Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Designated Sites	
	Design Quality	
	Water Environment	
	Historic Environment and Archaeology	7: Promoting, enhancing and respecting our historic/cultural heritage assets
	Design Quality	
	Material Assets, Minerals and Resources	8: Making the best use of natural assets
	Water environment	
	Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space	
Social	Healthy and Safe Communities	9: To facilitate the improved health and wellbeing of the Boroughs residents
	Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space	
	Social Inclusion and Equality	10: Promote strong and inclusive communities
	Healthy and Safe Communities	
	Transportation and Accessibility	11: To provide sufficient and affordable housing suitable to peoples lifestyles and needs
Population and Housing		



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1: To improve skill levels and encourage suitable employment opportunities in accessible locations.	Black	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
2: To have a successful economic base able to sustain economic growth and competitiveness	Green	Black	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
3: To protect and support the growth, vitality and viability of the Boroughs centres	Green	Green	Black	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
4: Conserve and enhance the existing green network	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Black	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
5: To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Black	White	White	White	White	White	White
6: To adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Black	White	White	White	White	White
7: Promoting, enhancing and respecting our historic/cultural heritage assets	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Black	White	White	White	White
8: Making the best use of natural assets	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Black	White	White	White
9: To facilitate the improved health and wellbeing of the Boroughs residents	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Black	White	White
10: Promote strong and inclusive communities	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Black	White
11: To provide sufficient and affordable housing suitable to peoples lifestyles and needs	Green	Red ?	Green	Red ?	Red ?	Green	Red ?	Yellow ?	Green	Green	Black

? – insufficient information on the locations of growth to make a decision about the impact on land available to deliver employment opportunities, conserve the existing green infrastructure and natural assets, contribute toward traffic congestion and associated air pollution, adapt to climate change or conserve and enhance the historic and cultural environment.



**Table 2: Sustainability Framework**

SEA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators	Source
1: To improve skill levels and encourage suitable employment opportunities in accessible locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Will it meet the employment needs of local people?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it improve physical access to jobs through improved location of sites and proximity to transport links?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it reduce poverty and unemployment through provision of jobs and business?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it improve skills?</i></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Job density</li> <li>2. employment rate</li> <li>3. JSA claimant rate</li> <li>4. Adult NVQ level qualifications</li> <li>5. Employment by occupation</li> <li>6. The percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in employment, education or training (Council Plan)</li> <li>7. ONS data on travel to work</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ONS, annual</li> <li>2. ONS, quarterly</li> <li>3. ONS, monthly</li> <li>4. ONS, Labour Force Survey, quarterly</li> <li>5. ONS, annual</li> <li>6. Council Plan/Medway Youth Trust</li> <li>7. ONS, TTW, Census, ten yearly</li> </ol>
2: To have a successful economic base able to sustain economic growth and competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Will it improve efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it enhance the attractiveness of Medway and raise its profile?</i></li> <li>• <i>Increase the number of businesses in the District?</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage or enable inward investment and promote future prosperity</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it promote investment in future prosperity?</i></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of businesses</li> <li>2. employment by sector</li> <li>3. Amount and type of completed employment floor space</li> <li>4. GVA per head</li> <li>5. value of tourism to the economy</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ONS, annual</li> <li>2. ONS, annual</li> <li>3. AMR</li> <li>4. ONS, annual</li> <li>5. Medway Tourism service</li> </ol>
3: To protect and support the growth, vitality and viability of the Boroughs centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Will it enhance the vitality and viability of the town centres?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it create a strong retail circuit across the Medway towns?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it maintain the Medway town centres role in providing the services required by users and serving their needs effectively??</i></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retail completions in Town Centres</li> <li>2. Vacancy rates - discuss with TC managers</li> <li>3. no. of non town centre retail permissions/refusal</li> <li>4. amount of visits to tourist attractions</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AMR/Planning applications report</li> <li>2. Planning applications report and/or Medway Regeneration Department</li> <li>3. Planning applications report</li> <li>4. Medway Tourism service and Council</li> </ol>



SEA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators	Source
		5. Amount of overnight stays	Plan' 5. Medway Tourism service
4: Conserve and enhance the existing green network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Will it protect, conserve or enhance the green infrastructure network?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it protect and enhance the environmental designations?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it contribute positively to the green infrastructure network, the Authority's established high quality landscapes and biodiverse habitats?</i></li> <li>• <i>Does it result in the creation of more open space including allotments, parks, gardens etc.?</i></li> <li>• <i>Does it create opportunities to link to and create a green infrastructure network?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it improve access to green spaces?</i></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Open space managed to green flag award standard</li> <li>2. No of pp that secured S106 agreements for the provision of new and enhanced open space, allotments</li> <li>3. Number of PROW approved PROW improvement plan</li> <li>4. Satisfaction with open space (Council plan)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AMR</li> <li>2. AMR data</li> <li>3. PROW action plan and monitoring</li> <li>4. Council Plan/Covalent</li> </ol>
5: To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Will it encourage reduced waste production and increase recycling?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it minimise air pollution?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it minimise noise pollution?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it minimise pollution/contamination?</i></li> <li>• <i>Does it encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport?</i></li> <li>• <i>Does it reduce the need to travel by car?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it lead to minimal impacts on the strategic road network?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it improve accessibility to services, facilities and conveniences for residents</i></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BV102 NI 177 Local bus and light rail passenger journeys originating in the authority area</li> <li>2. TMRS8 To increase walking bus participants in partnership with KM Walk to school charity</li> <li>3. NI 192 Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting</li> <li>4. NI 191 Residual household waste - kg per household</li> <li>5. NO2 measure – air quality indicators</li> <li>6. Noise pollution indicators</li> <li>7. Provision and use of walking and</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Covalent</li> <li>2. Covalent</li> <li>3. Covalent</li> <li>4. Covalent</li> <li>5. Medway Environmental Health service</li> </ol>



SEA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators	Source
		cycle ways?	
6: To adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Will it reduce water stress in the area?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will the proposed development protect and/or enhance networks of biodiversity?</i></li> <li>• <i>will it create opportunities for the allocation of allotments</i></li> <li>• <i>Would development increase flood risk elsewhere?</i></li> <li>• <i>If located within an area of flood risk, have appropriate flood mitigation measures been provided without creating impacts further downstream,</i></li> <li>• <i>Has the development been designed to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change (energy efficiency, renewable energy, water stress, code for sustainable homes)?</i></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of developments incorporating SUDs</li> <li>2. amount of grazing marshland affected by rising flood levels/flood zones</li> <li>3. amount of open space and allotment provision</li> <li>4. quality of biodiverse areas - designated (for consistent information) and undesignated where information is available to demonstrate an increase in biodiverse areas and quality of these areas.</li> <li>5. number of renewable energy/energy efficient applications - trend. Solar farms</li> <li>6. Areas of water stress</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning applications report – S106 report</li> <li>2. Development monitoring and liaison with EA</li> <li>3. Wildlife, Countryside &amp; Open Spaces Strategy. Medway PPG17 review</li> <li>4. Kent review</li> <li>5. Planning applications report</li> <li>6. Defra and water companies</li> </ol>
7: Promoting, enhancing and respecting our historic/cultural heritage assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>will it encourage tourism and enhance the leisure offer</i></li> <li>• <i>will it protect the Authority's conservation areas, listed buildings,</i></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of visitors to historic assets and cultural events</li> <li>2. heritage assets - number of planning applications designed</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Medway Tourism service</li> <li>2. Planning applications report Heritage asset review/conservation area</li> </ol>



SEA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators	Source
	<p><i>cultural and heritage assets?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>will it protect and enhance the Authority's historic and cultural heritage assets and conservation areas?</i></li> </ul>	<p>around heritage assets?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>number of planning applications refused or approved with design considerations around heritage assets and listed buildings etc.</li> </ol>	<p>management plan?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning applications report</li> </ol>
8: Making the best use of natural assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Does it bring previously contaminated land back into use?</i></li> <li><i>Does it protect and/or improve on the quality of agricultural land?</i></li> <li><i>Does it protect and/or improve on land of good quality landscape value?</i></li> <li><i>Does it make use best use of previously developed land?</i></li> <li><i>Would it affect the ability to extract minerals?</i></li> <li><i>Explores the potential of assets to be used for wider benefit without compromising environmental objectives.</i></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>amount of planning applications and approvals on PDL and non PDL.</li> <li>Number of developments built on remediated land</li> <li>number of applications, approvals and refusals on agricultural land</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMR</li> <li>Medway Environmental Health /Planning applications report</li> <li>Planning applications report</li> </ol>
9: To facilitate the improved health and wellbeing of the Boroughs residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Will it enable residents to enjoy a better quality of life?</i></li> <li><i>Will it improve access to services and facilities?</i></li> <li><i>Will it encourage a healthier lifestyle and thereby improve the health of residents?</i></li> <li><i>Will it contribute toward the reduction in social inequalities?</i></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provision of sports facilities, gyms, open space, cycle paths</li> <li>Early deaths – heart disease &amp; stroke, cancer</li> <li>Standardised Mortality Rate, Medway JNSA, DfH, ONS</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildlife, Countryside &amp; Open Spaces Strategy implementation and Medway Sport and Recreation plans</li> <li>Medway Public Health Department</li> <li>Medway Public Health Department</li> </ol>
10: Promote strong and inclusive communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Will it assist in tackling deprivation?</i></li> <li><i>Will it provide residents with opportunities to become actively involved</i></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population on main out-of-work benefits</li> <li>Economic activity (%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ONS</li> <li>AMR</li> </ol>





SEA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators	Source
	<p><i>in their local community, leading to more socially connected neighbourhoods?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>reduce levels of crime</i></li> <li>• <i>will it ensure high degrees of accessibility reducing the need for car dependency</i></li> <li>• <i>will it increase access to supply of various housing types</i></li> <li>• <i>will it increase levels of economic activity</i></li> <li>• <i>will it contribute toward improving health and life expectancy</i></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Number/% of recorded offences and type of offences</li> <li>4. provision of sports provision, open space, cycle paths</li> <li>5. provision of housing</li> <li>6. Passenger journeys on local bus services</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Ministry of Justice</li> <li>4. PPG17 review</li> <li>5. AMR</li> <li>6. Covalent</li> </ol>
11: To provide sufficient and affordable housing suitable to peoples lifestyles and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Is it able to contribute toward meeting the development needs of the area</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it provide a sufficient supply of affordable units to meet a growing housing need?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it provide a variety of housing types to meet varying accommodation needs?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it provide flexible accommodation for all life stages?</i></li> <li>• <i>Will it support the delivery of housing</i></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delivery of annual net additional dwellings</li> <li>2. Housing by type - affordable housing as percentage of housing delivery</li> <li>3. Property prices</li> <li>4. Housing affordability - Ratio of median house price to median earnings</li> <li>5. Repossessions</li> <li>6. Number of people on the housing register vs no of HHs in temp accommodation..</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AMR</li> <li>2. AMR</li> <li>3. Land registry <a href="http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/uk/hpi/explore">http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/uk/hpi/explore</a></li> <li>4. AMR/DCLG</li> <li>5. Ministry of Justice</li> <li>6. Medway Council housing register</li> </ol>



5.7 Annex 1 of the SEA Directive identifies themes for local authorities in assessing the likely environmental effects of the plans. In this case, the local authority has ensured that each theme is included in the topics identified in Chapter 1 of this scoping report.

### **Assessment of alternatives**

5.8 The Sustainability Objectives will be used to assess the effects of the local plan. In this case, the SEA Directive requires assessment of the likely significant effects of reasonable alternatives. Although no definition of alternatives is given, they have to be realistic and relevant.

5.9 In the initial stages of the local plan making process there is a need to have broad and strategic level alternatives. For the purposes of this Scoping Report, initial scenarios were identified based on likely options, which were identified as broad approaches in the Issues and Options paper. As these were not site specific, the options were not defined for SA review at that stage.

5.10 It is however noted that following the evidence base that further options may be considered which could differ from the original scenarios. This would be based on key findings of SHMA, SLAA, SLAA and responses received to consultation. These reports will form an integral part of the Local Plan's evidence base and will also be used to inform the iterative Sustainability Appraisal.

### **Assessment of Land Allocations**

5.11 The SLAA and other elements form the key evidence based appraisal in terms land allocations in the district. The issues and options paper will be based on the identification of sites through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and Employment Land Assessment.

5.12 Equally, the Sustainability Appraisal of land allocations will be undertaken to inform the site selection process in the Local Plan. Through testing sites against the SA framework, the SA should be able to guide the Local Plan towards the sites with the most positive sustainable outcomes. The SA may also suggest alternative sites or scenarios to be tested, or provide mitigation to improve the quality of the potential allocation.



## Strategic Options and Policies

5.13 Each option or policy that is presented in the Local Plan will be considered against each of the SA objectives. This will be undertaken by the appraisal team and will be informed by the baseline data and evidence gathered as part of the Scoping Report. It will also be informed by expert judgement from various technical specialists including key stakeholders and consultees. These policies will likely form the key development control policy.

## Example Matrix

5.14 The Following matrix details how the SA framework methodology would be used for the determination of likely significant effects in relation to the following aspects of the Local Plan:

- Assessment of Alternatives (Development Options)
- Development Management Policies

## Assessment Framework

5.15 The following framework matrix gives an example of how the local authority will assess the alternatives, development management policies and the land allocations in relation to the SEA Objectives. It is important that the framework can be adjusted or flexible to match the required. For example the site-specific allocations may have different indicators for wide scale policies or alternatives.

5.16 Each option or policy in the local plan will be assessed against each of the SEA objectives. The following scoring matrix indicates the scoring for the assessment

Key	Effect
++	Likely to have significant positive effects
+	Likely to have positive effects
0	Neutral
?	Uncertain/insufficient evidence or information available
-	Likely to have negative effects
--	Likely to have significant negative effects



## Assessment Matrix Example for spatial options

Spatial Option 1:						
SA Objective	Summary of issues (Scoping baseline)	Appraisal score			Appraisal comments	Mitigation
		Short term	Medium Term	Long term		
1: To improve skill levels and encourage suitable employment opportunities in accessible locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too few jobs in relation to working age population</li> <li>• A lower employment rate than nationally with issues of worklessness</li> <li>• A lower qualification attainment and lower level adult skills in local population'</li> <li>• A dependency on road transport for work journeys combined with HGV use for goods transportation</li> <li>• Road congestion with freight and peak time commuting traffic making a significant contribution</li> <li>• Many pockets of economic/income deprivation, with some suffering severe, multiple deprivation</li> <li>• Lower qualifications/skill levels result in lower earnings</li> <li>• An inequality of earnings with a significant proportion of households living on low incomes.</li> </ul>					
2: To have a successful economic base able to sustain economic growth and competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower productivity (GVA) levels, amongst lowest in South East</li> <li>• A lower value economic base</li> <li>• Significant outward commuting flow for work</li> <li>• Constrained business locations</li> <li>• There is a need for more commercial land</li> <li>• Medway has expanding specialist sectors</li> </ul>					



<p>3: To protect and support the growth, vitality and viability of the Boroughs centres</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A need for more comparison retail floor space to improve the offer</li> <li>• Competition from local out of centre locations is putting pressure on TCs</li> <li>• Loss of local spend to neighbouring 'competitors'</li> <li>• A narrow retail offer in centres with emphasis on convenient shopping</li> <li>• A flurry of uses which cumulatively has an adverse impact on the vitality and vibrancy of the centre</li> <li>• Heritage assets at risk</li> </ul>					
<p>4: Conserve and enhance the existing green network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are some 'gaps' in the public rights of way network</li> <li>• Balancing access to the countryside with conservation objectives</li> <li>• Balancing the accommodation needs of the population with safeguarding the authority's valued environment.</li> </ul>					
<p>5: To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest mortality rates in the South East attributable to anthropogenic</li> <li>• Air Quality management Areas (AQMAs)</li> <li>• Adverse impacts of high traffic volumes and culture of dependency on private car</li> <li>• Limited public transport coverage</li> <li>• Reduction in NO2 emissions is required</li> <li>• Manage the noise and light pollution particularly in rural areas</li> <li>• Reduce impacts of pollution on ecology</li> </ul>					



<p>6: To adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are areas of water stress in the Authority</li> <li>• The quality of design varies greatly across Medway</li> <li>• Medway’s environmental designations and countryside (including agricultural land) is at threat of being compromised to meet housing demand.</li> <li>• Medway is a coastal authority and is therefore at risk of flooding.</li> </ul>					
<p>7: Promoting, enhancing and respecting our historic/cultural heritage assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medway has a rich military and cultural heritage</li> <li>• There are numerous buildings that are locally listed, which provides limited weight to protect</li> <li>• The quality of design varies greatly across Medway</li> <li>• Medway’s rich heritage is at threat of being compromised to meet housing demand.</li> </ul>					
<p>8: Making the best use of natural assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medway has a large proportion of natural assets including agricultural land and international designations.</li> <li>• There is limited land available for development which places increasing pressure on natural assets</li> <li>• Need to balance access to the countryside with conservation objectives</li> <li>• Need to balance the accommodation needs of the population with safeguarding the authority’s valued environment</li> <li>• The River Medway is a valued asset that is underused. However, development and/or use of the river must not compromise the marine life and ecosystems.</li> </ul>					



<p>9: To facilitate the improved health and wellbeing of the Boroughs residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor lifestyle choices resulting in poor health</li> <li>• High death rates due to disease</li> <li>• Lower physical activity in the Authority compared to national and regional levels</li> <li>• High conception rates compared to national and regional levels</li> <li>• Insufficient access to healthy places</li> </ul>					
<p>10: Promote strong and inclusive communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A rapidly growing and changing area</li> <li>• An increasingly diverse population with a larger BME population and a growing variety and a concentration of non-British nationals living in Medway</li> <li>• A diverse range of communities</li> <li>• A number of severely deprived neighbourhoods suffering multiple deprivation issues</li> <li>• Crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots in some deprived areas and some central areas</li> </ul>					
<p>11: To provide sufficient and affordable housing suitable to peoples lifestyles and needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing suitable housing for a growing elderly population</li> <li>• Providing the right type and size of housing</li> <li>• Tenure - A large increase in the rental market and a drop in home ownership in Medway</li> <li>• Lack of affordability for local people</li> <li>• Housing pressure with significant population growth via natural growth and inward migration most notably from London</li> </ul>					
<p><b>Summary</b></p>						



## Assessment Matrix Example for policy options

### Policy x:

Objective	Summary of issues (Scoping baseline)	Appraisal score	Appraisal comments	Mitigation
1: To improve skill levels and encourage suitable employment opportunities in accessible locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too few jobs in relation to working age population</li> <li>• A lower employment rate than nationally with issues of worklessness</li> <li>• A lower qualification attainment and lower level adult skills in local population'</li> <li>• A dependency on road transport for work journeys combined with HGV use for goods transportation</li> <li>• Road congestion with freight and peak time commuting traffic making a significant contribution</li> <li>• Many pockets of economic/income deprivation, with some suffering severe, multiple deprivation</li> <li>• Lower qualifications/skill levels result in lower earnings</li> <li>• An inequality of earnings with a significant proportion of households living on low incomes.</li> </ul>			
2: To have a successful economic base able to sustain economic growth and competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower productivity (GVA) levels, amongst lowest in South East</li> <li>• A lower value economic base</li> <li>• Significant outward commuting flow for work</li> <li>• Constrained business locations</li> <li>• There is a need for more commercial land</li> <li>• Medway has expanding specialist sectors</li> </ul>			





Objective	Summary of issues (Scoping baseline)	Appraisal score	Appraisal comments	Mitigation
3: To protect and support the growth, vitality and viability of the Boroughs centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A need for more comparison retail floor space to improve the offer</li> <li>• Competition from local out of centre locations is putting pressure on TCs</li> <li>• Loss of local spend to neighbouring 'competitors'</li> <li>• A narrow retail offer in centres with emphasis on convenient shopping</li> <li>• A flurry of uses which cumulatively has an adverse impact on the vitality and vibrancy of the centre</li> <li>• Heritage assets at risk</li> </ul>			
4: Conserve and enhance the existing green network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are some 'gaps' in the public rights of way network</li> <li>• Balancing access to the countryside with conservation objectives</li> <li>• Balancing the accommodation needs of the population with safeguarding the authority's valued environment.</li> </ul>			
5: To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest mortality rates in the South East attributable to anthropogenic</li> <li>• Air Quality management Areas (AQMAs)</li> <li>• Adverse impacts of high traffic volumes and culture of dependency on private car</li> <li>• Limited public transport coverage</li> <li>• Reduction in NO2 emissions is required</li> <li>• Manage the noise and light pollution particularly in rural areas</li> <li>• Reduce impacts of pollution on ecology</li> </ul>			



Objective	Summary of issues (Scoping baseline)	Appraisal score	Appraisal comments	Mitigation
6: To adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are areas of water stress in the Authority</li> <li>• The quality of design varies greatly across Medway</li> <li>• Medway’s environmental designations and countryside (including agricultural land) is at threat of being compromised to meet housing demand.</li> <li>• Medway is a coastal authority and is therefore at risk of flooding.</li> </ul>			
7: Promoting, enhancing and respecting our historic/cultural heritage assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medway has a rich military and cultural heritage</li> <li>• There are numerous buildings that are locally listed, which provides limited weight to protect</li> <li>• The quality of design varies greatly across Medway</li> <li>• Medway’s rich heritage is at threat of being compromised to meet housing demand.</li> </ul>			
8: Making the best use of natural assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medway has a large proportion of natural assets including agricultural land and international designations.</li> <li>• There is limited land available for development which places increasing pressure on natural assets</li> <li>• Need to balance access to the countryside with conservation objectives</li> <li>• Need to balance the accommodation needs of the population with safeguarding the authority’s valued environment</li> <li>• The River Medway is a valued asset that is underused. However, development and/or use of the river must not compromise the marine life and ecosystems.</li> </ul>			



Objective	Summary of issues (Scoping baseline)	Appraisal score	Appraisal comments	Mitigation
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10: Promote strong and inclusive communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A rapidly growing and changing area</li> <li>• An increasingly diverse population with a larger BME population and a growing variety and a concentration of non-British nationals living in Medway</li> <li>• A diverse range of communities</li> <li>• A number of severely deprived neighbourhoods suffering multiple deprivation issues</li> <li>• Crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots in some deprived areas and some central areas</li> </ul>			
11: To provide sufficient and affordable housing suitable to peoples lifestyles and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing suitable housing for a growing elderly population</li> <li>• Providing the right type and size of housing</li> <li>• Tenure - A large increase in the rental market and a drop in home ownership in Medway</li> <li>• Lack of affordability for local people</li> <li>• Housing pressure with significant population growth via natural growth and inward migration most notably from London</li> </ul>			
<b>Summary</b>				



## 6. NEXT STEPS AND CONSULTATION

### Consultation

- 6.1 Task A6 requires the Local Authority to consult on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal with the relevant statutory bodies, key stakeholders and the public. The Scoping Report is the first stage in the plan making / SA process and it clarifies that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required and provides an opportunity for the consultation bodies to offer comments on the scope and level of detail required for the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 6.2 Regulation 4 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 defines certain organisations with environmental responsibilities as consultation bodies. In England these are:
- Historic England,
  - Natural England and
  - Environment Agency.
- 6.3 When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, there is a need to consult the consultation bodies as per Regulation 12 (5) and 12 (6) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 6.4 In addition, the local authority may wish to consult other agencies or organisations. The Council is keen to ensure the widest possible consultation takes place and to ensure that the SA will be comprehensive and robust enough to support relevant DPD or SPD during public examination. This includes the following bodies:
- Kent County Council
  - Swale Borough Council
  - Gravesham Borough Council
  - Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
  - Maidstone Borough Council
  - Thurrock Borough Council
  - Castle Point Borough Council
  - Southend on Sea Council
  - South East Local Enterprise Partnership
  - North Kent Environmental Planning Group
  - RSPB
  - Kent Wildlife Trust



## Next Steps

- 6.5 The next stages in SA are completed alongside the preparation of the DPDs. Firstly, however, following the receipt of the consultation comments, these will be reviewed and modifications made to the scope of the SA as necessary. These will be taken forward to the SA/Stage B of the SA process comprising the appraisal of the Local Plan. Any refinement of the scope, if required, will be built into later stages of the iterative process of SA throughout the plan preparation process.
- 6.6 The emerging issues and options for the plan will be tested against the SA framework as the plan options proceed. It is expected that the next consultation as part of the Sustainability Appraisal Process will be undertaken alongside the consultation on the Development Options Paper in the form of an Interim Sustainability Appraisal. Further consultation will be undertaken at following this stage to refine and inform policies and development allocations.



## APPENDIX A

### IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER RELEVANT PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

- Stage A1 of the Sustainability Appraisal Process requires the identification of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. This includes relevant international, national and local policy guidance, plans and strategies to identify the key requirements, and assess their relationship to the preparation of local development plan documents, in this case the Medway Local Plan.
- The objective of this is to ensure that the local plan process takes account of the aims of the related guidance and legislation. In doing so the SA process seeks to align the local plan with the key sustainability objectives at local, regional, national and international level. It enables greater consistency between the local plan and other plans and strategies that have particular relevance for sustainable development.
- The Appendix details the review of all documents, strategies, plans considered relevant to the Medway Local Plan. It has established the key objectives of the policies, current status and their linkages/ relationships for the purposes of the Sustainability Appraisal. In doing so, it identifies key considerations and implications for the development of the Local Plan.
- There is no definitive list of plans that must be reviewed. However, it is the Council's objective to review plans that are deemed most relevant in terms of issues and development options of Medway. The following table sets out the most relevant, and the implications of existing plans and strategies for the Medway Local Plan.



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>INTERNATIONAL LEVEL</b>		
<b><u>1. Sustainable Development</u></b>		
<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	The Directive provides for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. It aims to identify and mitigate significant environment effects arising from certain plans and programmes. Emphasis is placed on integrating environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, in pursuit of sustainable development.	The Local Plan and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal will need to incorporate the requirements of SEA directive and relevant legislation as enacted into UK Law in preparing the Sustainability Appraisal.
<b>Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development 2002</b>	A Declaration based on the previous world summits on the environment, which agrees a commitment to building and humane, equitable, and caring global society based on a commitment to sustainable development. It addresses issues relative to poverty reduction, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource based of economic and social development; sustainable development in globalising world, health, amongst other matters.	The Local Plan needs to account of the declaration, which has been reaffirmed by national strategy for sustainable development. The Sustainability Appraisal is a process that will seek to enshrine the principles of sustainable development into the plan making process. The local plan will need to take cognisance of its assessment.
<b>Integrated Sustainable Urban Development: Cohesion Policy 2014-2020</b>	Aims to foster integrated strategies which enhance sustainable urban development in order to strengthen the resilience of cities, and to ensure synergies amongst the investments supported by European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds. Seeks a holistic approach, stronger focus at programming level, priorities to tackle urban challenges	The local plan should develop policies and a direction that accounts for sustainable urban development trajectories in line with the aims of this policy.



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>2. Climate Change</b>		
<b>Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010/31/EU</b>	Aims to promote the energy performance of buildings. It requests that member states adopt either national or regional methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.	
<b>EU The 2020 Climate and Energy Package</b>	<p>The 20-20-20 targets set three key objectives for 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels;</li> <li>• Raising the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%;</li> <li>• A 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency</li> </ul>	The Local Plan should endeavour to ensure that policies reflect the commitments to the 2020 Energy Package.
<b>EU Renewable Energy Directive 2001/77/EC</b>	Directive designed a path towards an increase in the improvement of renewable energy use in the EU power sector.	The SA and Local Plan should identify the requirements of the directive in its scope and seek to align objectives of the directive with the local plan,
<b>Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources</b>	Establishes a common framework for the use of energy from renewable sources in order to limit greenhouse gas emissions and to promote cleaner transport	
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU</b>	This Directive established a common framework of measures for the promotion of energy efficiency within the union in order to ensure the achievement of the EU's 20%	The Local plan should seek to promote policies that encourages more energy





Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	headline target on energy efficiency. It seeks to remove barriers that impeded energy efficiency in the supply and use of energy. The EU countries are required to use energy more efficient in the energy chain from its production to final consumption, based on industry and consumers	efficient trajectories in residential and commercial development that are compatible with the directive.
<b>3. Land, Geology and Soil Resources</b>		
<b>Soil Thematic Strategy 2006</b>	<p>The Strategy sought to identify actions to protect and identify the importance of soil protection, based specifically on the following four pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness Raising</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Integration</li> <li>• Legislation</li> </ul>	The local plan should identify the importance of soil protection in line with the strategy.
<b>4. Air Quality and Environmental Pollution</b>		
<b>Ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe Directive 2008/50/EC</b>	<p>This Directive the following key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The merging of most of existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive) with no change to existing air quality objectives*</li> <li>• New air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives – exposure concentration obligation and exposure reduction target</li> <li>• The possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values</li> </ul>	The Local should considered the directive in relation to future land allocations and development management policies



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The possibility for of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC</b>	<p>This Directive “define a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to the exposure to environmental noise”. It will be achieved by:</p> <p>Monitoring the environmental problem; by requiring competent authorities in Member States to draw up "strategic noise maps" for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators <math>L_{den}</math> (day-evening-night equivalent level) and <math>L_{night}</math> (night equivalent level). These maps will be used to assess the number of people annoyed and sleep-disturbed respectively throughout Europe</p> <p>Informing and consulting the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise, in line with the principles of the Aarhus Convention</p> <p>Addressing local noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good. The directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p> <p>Developing a long-term EU strategy, which includes objectives to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term, and provides a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source. With this respect, the Commission has made <a href="#">a declaration</a> concerning the provisions laid down in article 1.2</p>	<p>The local plan will need to consider key issues identified in the directive, and cater for concerns relative to noise, light pollution etc.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	with regard to the preparation of legislation relating to sources of noise.	
<b>Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC</b>	The Landfill Directive aims to reduce reliance on landfill as a disposal option. It seeks to decrease the environmental impacts of landfills and reduce the risk to human health while imposing a consistent minimum standard for landfills across the EU.	The Local Plan should account for the aims and objectives of the directive
<b>5. Education and Skills</b>		
<b>Strategic Framework Education and Training 2020</b>	<p>The strategic framework for education and training, EU countries have identified four common objectives to address these challenges by 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making lifelong learning and <b>mobility</b> a reality;</li> <li>• Improving quality and efficiency of education and training;</li> <li>• Promoting <b>equity, social cohesion, and active citizenship</b>;</li> <li>• Enhancing creativity and innovation, including <b>entrepreneurship</b>, at all levels of education and training.</li> </ul>	The Local Plan should have due regard for the aims and objectives of the framework
<b>6. Healthy and Safe Communities</b>		
<b>European 2020 Strategy</b>	The Europe 2020 strategy is about delivering growth that is: <b>smart</b> , through more effective investments in education, research and innovation; <b>sustainable</b> , thanks to a decisive move towards a low-carbon economy; and <b>inclusive</b> , with a strong emphasis on job creation and poverty reduction. The strategy is focused on five ambitious goals in the areas of employment, innovation, education, poverty reduction and climate/energy	The Local Plan should consider the priorities of this strategy and seek to integrate as reasonably possible similar considerations in developing the local plan.



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b><u>7. Social Inclusion and Equality</u></b>		
<b>Policy Roadmap for the 2014 Implementation of the Social Investment Package</b>	This package seeks to reach the objectives set in the Europe 2020 strategy to reduce the number of people living in poverty and social exclusion by at least 20 million by 2020. It ranges from issues relative to the social investment approach, utilising EU funds, streamlining governance and reporting	The local plan should seek to consider the aims of the SIP with the 2020 strategy in terms of policies in increase social inclusion.
<b><u>8. Economy, Enterprise and Employment</u></b>		
<b>European Employment Strategy EES 1992</b>	The European employment strategy (EES) was introduced in 1992 by the Treaty of the European Union and since then has been the cornerstone of the EU's employment policy. Its main aim is the creation of more and better jobs throughout the EU. This is reaffirmed by the Europe 2020 Strategy.	The local plan should mirror the aims of this strategy in terms of the creation of more and better jobs for Medway in terms of supporting adequate policymaking and land provision.
<b><u>9. Historic Environment and Archaeology</u></b>		
<b>Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage in Europe</b>	Communication aiming to help Member States and stakeholders to make the most of the significant support for heritage available under EU instruments, progress towards a more integrated approach at national and EU level.	The local plan should take account of the approach to protecting cultural heritage in Europe, and identify any relevant actions that could be utilised in terms of the historic environment in Medway as part of the plan making process.



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<u>10. Design Quality</u>		
<b>Urban Environment Thematic Strategy 2004</b>	<p>To improve the environmental performance and quality of urban areas and to secure a healthy living environment for Europe's urban citizens, reinforcing the environmental contribution to sustainable urban development while taking into account the related economic and social issues. " ... promoting an integrated horizontal approach across Community policies and improving the quality of urban environment, taking into account progress made in implementing the existing co-operation framework, reviewing it where necessary, and addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the promotion of Local Agenda 21;</li> <li>• the reduction of the link between economic growth and passenger transport demand;</li> <li>• the need for an increased share in public transport, rail, inland waterways, walking and cycling modes;</li> <li>• the need to tackle rising volumes of traffic and bring about a significant decoupling of transport growth and GDP growth;</li> <li>• the need to promote the use of low emission vehicles in public transports;</li> <li>• the consideration of urban environment indicators."</li> </ul>	<p>The local plan should seek to account of the aims and ambitions of the strategy in relation to policy making and the local plans approach to urban design and development.</p>
<b>European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities: Strategic</b>	<p>Seeks to significantly accelerate the industrial-scale roll-out of smart city solutions integrating technologies from Energy, Transport and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). This is where there is most untapped innovation potential and most environment and societal benefits to be gained.</p>	



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
Implementation Plan 2013		
<b>11. Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Designated Sites</b>		
<b>EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 2009/147/EC</b>	<p>The key provisions of the Directive includes</p> <p>The maintenance of the populations of all wild bird species across their natural range (Article 2) with the encouragement of various activities to that end (Article 3).</p> <p>The identification and classification of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex I of the Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species, paying particular attention to the protection of wetlands of international importance (Article 4). (Together with Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive, SPAs form a network of European protected areas known as Natura 2000).</p> <p>The establishment of a general scheme of protection for all wild birds (Article 5).</p> <p>Restrictions on the sale and keeping of wild birds (Article 6).</p> <p>Specification of the conditions under which hunting and falconry can be undertaken (Article 7). (Huntable species are listed on Annex II of the Directive).</p> <p>Prohibition of large-scale non-selective means of bird killing (Article 8).</p> <p>Procedures under which Member States may derogate from the provisions of Articles 5-8 (Article 9) — that is, the conditions under which permission may be given for</p>	<p>The Local Plan will need to take account of the requirements of this directive. This includes the protection of key protected areas in conjunction with the Habitats Directive. This should also include protected and vulnerable species and protected ranges of bird species.</p> <p>Equally the compilation of SA objectives for the purposes of the assessment of the local plan should seek an alignment with this Directive.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>otherwise prohibited activities.</p> <p>Encouragement of certain forms of relevant research (Article 10 and Annex V).</p> <p>Requirements to ensure that introduction of non-native birds do not threatened other biodiversity (Article 11).</p>	
<b>EC Directive on Habitats (92/43/EEC)</b>	<p>Aims to ensure biodiversity by conserving natural habitats of wild flora and fauna. It requires Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to be identified, which form a network of protected areas called Natura 2000 along with SPAs. Projects are only permitted on such sites under exceptional circumstances. Also aims to maintain or restore in a favourable condition designated natural habitat types and habitats of designated species listed in Annex I and II of the Directive respectively</p>	<p>The Local Plan will need to take account of the aims of the Habitats Directive, in relation to protection of key habitats within the plan area. Special consideration should be given to land allocations in close proximity to such sites.</p>
<b>12. Transportation and Accessibility</b>		
<b>Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area</b>	<p>A Vision for a vision for a competitive and sustainable transport system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1. Growing transport and supporting mobility while reaching the 60 % emission reduction target</li> <li>2.2. An efficient core network for multimodal intercity travel and transport</li> <li>2.3. A global level playing field for long-distance travel and intercontinental freight</li> <li>2.4. Clean urban transport and commuting</li> <li>2.5. Ten goals for a competitive and resource-efficient transport system: benchmarks for achieving the 60 % GHG emission reduction target</li> </ul>	<p>The local plan should take account of the strategy insofar as replicating any potential useful approaches to sustainable transport.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>13. Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space</b>		
<b>European Landscape Convention</b>	Whilst acknowledging that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere, in urban areas and the countryside, the Convention encourages action from all sectors of society, including public authorities, to fulfil its vision to make sure that all our landscapes are places we will be proud to pass on to future generations.	The key aspects of the Convention should be taken into account in terms of landscape designations and policy considerations as part of the Local Plan process.
<b>14. Water Environment</b>		
<b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b>	<p>Represents the most substantial piece of EU water legislation to date. Central to the framework is an integrated approach through River Basin Management Planning (RBMP), which will consider the cumulative impacts of all activities within a river basin and district and the risk posed to the environment. Environmental objectives will be set for each water body, with due consideration to economic and social costs. Aims to prevent deterioration in status and to achieve “good” ecological status in all surface and ground water bodies by 2015 and limit the quantity of groundwater abstraction to that portion of overall recharge not required by ecology. The basic objectives to be achieved as set out in Article 4(1) can be summarised as follows: prevent deterioration of the status of groundwater bodies;</p> <p>protect, enhance and restore all bodies of groundwater with the aim of achieving good groundwater status by 2015;</p> <p>prevent or limit the input of pollutants to groundwater and reverse any significant and sustained upward trend in the concentration of pollutants in groundwater; comply</p>	The Local Plan through endeavour to ensure that policy and land allocations take account of the requirements of the Directive, particularly in relation to adverse impacts on water quality, as well as the importance of the water environment for species.





Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	with European wide measures against priority and priority hazardous substances; and achieve compliance with any relevant standards and objectives for protected areas	
<b>The Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption</b>	Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption.	
<b>The Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeks to reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and prevent further such pollution.</li> <li>• Identification of vulnerable areas.</li> </ul>	
<b>EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC</b>	This Directive now requires Member States to assess if all water courses and coast lines are at risk from flooding, to map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas and to take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk. With this Directive also reinforces the rights of the public to access this information and to have a say in the planning process.	The local plan associated land allocations should ensure that the requirements of this directive are enshrined in the policy and development options.
<b>15. Population and Housing</b>		
<b>Article 25 (1), Universal Declaration</b>	Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment,	The local plan should consider the human right requirement for the provision of housing and shelter as



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>of Human Rights</b>	sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control	reasonably satisfactory in terms of local plan making.
<b>Taking forward the Strategic Implementation Plan of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing</b>	It sets a target of increasing the healthy lifespan of EU citizens by 2 years by 2020, and aims to pursue a triple win for Europe by improving health and quality of life of older people, improving the sustainability and efficiency of care systems and creating growth and market opportunities for businesses	The local plan process should take account of the plan in terms of policies that seek greater action on the elderly and aging
<b>16. Material Assets, Minerals and Resources</b>		
<b>The Raw Material Initiative 2008</b>	Seeks that raw materials should have priority in decision making. This strategy has three pillars which aim to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair and sustainable supply of raw materials from global markets;</li> <li>• Sustainable supply of raw materials within the EU;</li> <li>• Resource efficiency and supply of "secondary raw materials" through recycling.</li> </ul>	The Local Plan should endeavour to account for the three pillars of this strategy, and seek a development trajectory and increase resource efficiency and recycling.
<b>17. Waste Management</b>		
<b>EU Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC</b>	Objective is to minimise the negative effects of traffic generation and management of waste human health and the environment. It sets a waste management framework a legal framework for the treatment of waste * within the Community. It aims at protecting the environment and human health through the prevention of the harmful effects of waste generation and waste management.	The Local Plan needs to account of the waste framework directive and development policies and allocations based on its objectives.



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>NATIONAL LEVEL</b>		
<b><u>1. Sustainable Development</u></b>		
<b>National Planning Policy Framework 2012</b>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The National Planning Policy Framework must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF 2012 includes the key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Building a strong, competitive economy</li> <li>2. Ensuring the vitality of town centres</li> <li>3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy</li> <li>4. Promoting sustainable transport</li> <li>5. Supporting high quality communications infrastructure</li> <li>6. Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes</li> <li>7. Requiring good design</li> <li>8. Promoting healthy communities</li> <li>9. Protecting Green Belt land</li> <li>10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</li> <li>11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</li> <li>12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</li> <li>13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals</li> </ol>	<p>To Local Plan should seek to achieve the notion of sustainable development, while taking account of the NPPF's key objective policy areas in formulating the local plan.</p> <p>Equally the compilation of SA objectives for the purposes of the assessment of the local plan should seek an alignment with this Framework?</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>National Planning Practice Guidance (DCLG, 2014)</b>	Provides additional guidance to local planning authorities to ensure the effective implementation of the planning policy set out in the NPPF.	
<b>Securing the Future – the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)</b>	<p>The Strategy has 5 guiding principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living within environmental limits</li> <li>• Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society</li> <li>• Achieving a sustainable economy</li> <li>• Promoting good governance</li> <li>• Using sound science responsibly</li> </ul> <p>And 4 strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable consumption and production</li> <li>• Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement</li> <li>• Sustainable communities.</li> </ul> <p>The Strategy contains a new set of indicators to monitor progress towards sustainable development in the UK. Those most relevant at the district level include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• Road freight (CO2 emissions and tonne km, tones and GDP)</li> <li>• Household waste (a) arisings (b) recycled or composted</li> <li>• Local environmental quality</li> </ul>	Consider how the Local Plan can contribute to Sustainable Development Strategy Objectives. Consider using some of the indicators to monitor the effects of the Local Plan and as basis for collecting information for the baseline review.



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>2. Climate Change, Energy and Air Quality</b>		
<b>NPPF</b>	<p>The NPPF provides a framework to adopt proactive strategies that mitigate and adapt to climate change. Key Goals are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change adaptation: Adjustments to natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic factors or their effects, including from changes in rainfall and rising temperatures, which moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunity.</li> <li>• The move towards a low carbon economy. Take proactive measures to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>• Conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.</li> <li>• Minimising vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change. Consider areas of risk flooding in development plans and carry Flood Risk Assessments as well as develop adequate policy to address the issue.</li> <li>• For plans to be in line with the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008</li> <li>• Take into account identified nature improvement areas through Inter-connected networks of wildlife habitats intended to re-establish thriving wildlife populations and help species respond to the challenges of climate change.</li> <li>• Engaging with appropriate partners for achieve all said objectives.</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape. New development should be planned to avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure</p>
<b>The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and</b>	Sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved; introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles; identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits.	



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
Northern Ireland (Defra, 2007)		
<b>The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013)</b>	Sets out a vision for the built environment, infrastructure, health and communities, agriculture and forestry, the natural environment, business and local government sectors to become resilient and adapted to climate change and extreme weather events.	
<b>Climate Change Act 2008</b>	<p>The Act aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve carbon management and help the transition towards a low carbon economy in the UK; and</li> <li>• To demonstrate strong UK leadership internationally, signaling that the UK is committed to taking its share of responsibility for reducing global emissions in the context of developing negotiations on a post-2012 global agreement at Copenhagen next year.</li> <li>• It also sets legally binding targets – GHGs reductions through action in the UK and abroad of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO2 emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.</li> </ul>	Local Plans will have legal duty to contribute to the preparation and reporting of proposals and policies meeting carbon budgets. Reporting authorities will work to contribute to overall UK reduction of GHGs. Local plans will aim to utilise renewable energy resources.
<b>The Future of Air Transport - White Paper and the Civil Aviation Bill (2003)</b>	<p>The White Paper '<i>The Future of Air Transport</i>' sets out a strategic framework for the development of airport capacity in the United Kingdom over the next 30 years, against the wider context of the air transport sector.</p> <p>It does not itself authorise or preclude any particular development, but sets out a policy framework which will inform decisions on future planning applications, and against which the relevant public bodies, airport operators and airlines can plan ahead. It sets out the conclusions of the Government, and of the devolved administrations where</p>	The local Plans will consider potential for airport extensions. `



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>appropriate, on the case for future expansion at airports across the country. In doing so, it takes account of all relevant factors, including views expressed in an extensive consultation exercise that attracted over 500,000 responses.</p> <p>Introduced in the House of Commons on 9 June 2005. The Bill will, amongst other things, implement important Future of Air Transport White Paper commitments to sustainable aviation and protection of passenger interests.</p>	
<p><b>Energy White Paper - Our Energy Future, Creating a Low Carbon Economy (2003)</b></p>	<p>The Energy White Paper sets four Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To put ourselves on a path to cut the UK's carbon dioxide emissions - the main contributor to global warming - by some 60% by about 2050, with real progress by 2020;</li> <li>• To maintain the reliability of energy supplies;</li> <li>• To promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve our productivity; and</li> <li>• To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated. Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of some 60% from current levels by about 2050 with real progress by 2020.</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plan should ensure that policies are in place to encourage the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions whilst promoting sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>SA Objective 7 aims to provide a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
<p><b>Energy White Paper - Meeting the Energy Challenge (2007)</b></p>	<p>Paper sets out the Government's international and domestic Energy Strategy to respond to changing circumstances with respect to tackling climate change and ensuring secure, clean and affordable energy as we become increasingly dependent on imported fuel. Further it addresses the long-term energy challenges faced and delivers four energy policy goals.</p> <p>Paper sets the following key targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To put ourselves on a path to cutting CO2 emissions by some 60% by 2050 with</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plan should ensure that policies are in place to encourage the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions whilst promoting sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>SA Objective 7 aims to provide a reduction in greenhouse</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>real progress by 2020;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain the reliability of energy supplies;</li> <li>• To promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond; and</li> <li>• To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.</li> </ul>	<p>Gas emissions and encourages energy efficiency.</p>
<p><b>The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (DECC, 2012)</b></p>	<p>Aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy, including existing dwellings. It identifies barriers which need to be overcome.</p>	
<p><b>HM Government (2011) Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future</b></p>	<p>This sets out how the UK will achieve de-carbonisation within the framework of energy policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To make the transition to a low carbon economy while maintaining energy security, and minimizing costs to consumers, particularly those in poorer households.</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plan should consider policies in term of access by low-carbon means and also the capacity for sites to use low carbon sources of energy.</p> <p>The SA needs to ensure that the plan is embracing the low carbon agenda and appropriate sustainability objectives are utilised to assess the plan's credentials in terms of a low carbon future and the impact it could have on climate change.</p>
<p><b><u>3. Land, Geology and Soil Resources</u></b></p>		
<p><b>Environmental Protection Act 1990</b></p>	<p>Makes provisions for the system for identifying and remediating statutorily defined contaminated land. The government has published <a href="#">statutory guidance</a> on Part 2A which concentrates on addressing contaminated land that meets the legal definition and cannot be dealt with through any other means, including through planning</p>	<p>Local Plans will need to inspect and identify contaminated land before developing, while minimising tax burdens on taxpayers. Inspections</p>





Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>Among its main duties are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duty of care in respect to waste</li> <li>• Improves rules on waste management and disposal through local or delegated authorities</li> <li>• Integrated pollution control (considering releases to all three environmental compartments air, water and land) and gives local authorities new powers to control air pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>should be in accordance with this Guidance. Inspections should take a strategic approach as under section 78B.</p>
<p><b>Environment Act 1995</b></p>	<p>Section 57 of the Environment Act 1995 ('the Act') introduced a new Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990</p> <p>The act established the Environment Agency, National Parks Authority and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and set standards for environmental management on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of what constitutes 'contaminated land' and abandoned mines</li> <li>• Air quality</li> <li>• Control of pollution</li> <li>• Management of national parks</li> <li>• Protection of important hedgerows</li> <li>• Management of fisheries</li> <li>• Flood defence committees</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plans should work with the Environment Agency towards prioritising the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of national parks. The Act also requires for local authorities to work on flood defence, through flood defence committees.</p>
<p><b>Contaminated Land, Regulations 2006</b></p>	<p>The Regulations consolidate Regulations made in 2000 and 2001. They set out provisions relating to the identification and remediation of land under Part 2A Environmental Protection Act (EPA)</p>	<p>The local plans will need Local authorities to work with the EA to identify areas of contaminated land</p>



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	<p>The Regulations identify “special sites” which are enforced by the Environment Agency, whereas all other types of site are enforced by the Local Authority.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority’s responsibility to identify contaminated land in their areas and keep a public register. The regulator must show that there is a “significant pollutant linkage” and as a result harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused. They can then serve a notice on the appropriate responsible person, which requires them to clean up the land. This is known as a ‘remediation notice’.</p> <p>Appropriate responsible persons are liable for all or part of the cost of remediating the land. In the first instance this will be the person who caused or knowingly permitted the contamination (Class A appropriate persons).</p> <p>Soil screening values are used to assess the risk of harm to ecosystems from the presence of contaminants in the soil.</p>	<p>and keep a public register to enhance planning.</p>
<p><b>The Coal Industry Act 1994</b></p>	<p>Set out environmental duties with regards to planning, particularly paragraphs 53 and 54:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The restoration of any land used in connection to coal mining.</li> <li>• Any coal related areas where the industry was previously established will need to take into account environmental impact.</li> </ul>	<p>Local plans will need to consider the Act in land use and restoration.</p>
<p><b>4. Healthy and Safe Communities</b></p>		
<p><b>HM Government (2010) White Paper: Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Strategy for</b></p>	<p>Aims to create a ‘wellness’ service (Public Health for England) and to strengthen both national and local leadership.</p> <p>Protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives; and improving the health of the poorest, fastest. Prioritise</p>	<p>The Local Plan should support this plan through policy. It should look at healthy issues and the way the site allocations</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>Public Health in England</b>	public health funding from within the overall NHS budget.	will support these.
<b>Play Strategy for England (DCMS, 2008)</b>	<p>Strategy aims that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In every residential area there are a variety of supervised and unsupervised places for play, free of charge;</li> <li>• Local neighbourhoods are, and feel like, safe, interesting places to play;</li> <li>• Routes to children’s play space are safe and accessible for all children and young people;</li> <li>• Parks and open spaces are attractive and welcoming to children and young people, and are well maintained and well used;</li> <li>• Children and young people have a clear stake in public space and their play is accepted by their neighbours;</li> <li>• Children and young people play in a way that respects other people and property;</li> <li>• Children and young people and their families take an active role in the development of local play spaces;</li> <li>• and</li> <li>• Play spaces are attractive, welcoming, engaging and accessible for all local children and young people, including disabled children, and children from minority groups in the community.</li> </ul>	Local plans should work to promote sport and physical activity and promoting healthy lifestyles.
<b>DCMS (2002) Game plan: A strategy for delivering</b>	<p>The government has set two overarching objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A major increase in participation in sport; and</li> </ul>	This plan will be relevant in the development of sport and cycle route type facilities and should be considered



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<p><b>government's sport and physical activity objectives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sustained increase in success at international competition. In addition to this the document makes recommendations in 4 areas:</li> <li>• Grassroots participation;</li> <li>• High performance sport;</li> <li>• Mega sporting events; and</li> <li>• Delivery.</li> </ul> <p>To encourage a mass participation culture (with as much emphasis on physical activity as competitive sport). A benchmark for this could be Finland, which has very high quality and quantity of participation, particularly among older people. Our target is for 70% (currently ~30%) of the population to be reasonably active (for example 30 minutes of moderate exercise five times a week) by 2020. To enhance international success. A benchmark for this could be Australia, which has achieved disproportionate levels of international success. Our target is for British and English teams and individuals to sustain rankings within the top 5 countries, particularly in more popular sports. To adopt a different approach to hosting mega sporting events. They should be seen as an occasional celebration of success rather than as a means to achieving other government objectives.</p>	<p>in the early stage of development (as covered by SA Objective 4 and 13).</p>
<b>5.Social Inclusion and Equality</b>		
<p><b>Rural Strategy (Defra,2004)</b></p>	<p>The Government's three priorities for rural policy are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Economic and Social Regeneration – supporting enterprise across rural England, but targeting greater resources at areas of greatest need.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building on the economic success of the majority of rural areas.</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plan policies should seek to support the overarching themes contained within the Rural Strategy.</p> <p>In particular promoting economic</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tackling the structural economic weaknesses and accompanying poor social conditions.</li> </ul> <p>2. Social Justice for All – tackling rural social exclusion wherever it occurs and providing fair access to services and opportunities for all rural people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social priorities are to ensure fair access to public services and affordable.</li> </ul>	<p>development in rural areas and tackling social exclusion, including the promotion of good access to services and facilities.</p> <p>Policies to maintain and to enhance the quality of the countryside should also be considered.</p> <p>The SA framework should consider policies that encompass the overarching actions of the strategy, in particular the promoting access to services and facilities, protecting the countryside and promoting appropriate economic development. This is incorporated into SA objectives 9, 2 &amp; 1 respectively.</p>
<p><b>The Localism Act (CLG, 2011)</b></p>	<p>The Localism Bill includes five key measures that underpin the Government's approach to de-centralisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community rights;</li> <li>• Neighbourhood planning;</li> <li>• Housing;</li> <li>• General power of competence;</li> <li>• Empowering cities and other local areas.</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plan should take into consideration community involvement as and Enable communities to influence the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life.</p> <p>Incorporated across the SA Objectives.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>6.Economy, Enterprise and Employment</b>		
<b>HM Government (2010) Local Growth: Realising Every Place's Potential</b>	<p>Sets out a goal to promote strong, sustainable and balanced growth. Focuses on the approach to local growth proposing measures to shift power away from central government to local communities, citizens and independent providers. LEPs introduced to provide a vision and leadership for local economic growth.</p> <p>LEPs will be expected to fund their own day to day running costs or submit bids to the Regional Growth Fund, to try and stimulate enterprise by supporting projects with potential to create economic growth and employment.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should have due regard to the need for strong, sustainable and balance growth.</p> <p>The SA framework should consider the nature of growth to ensure that the economy remains balanced and growth is sustainable.</p>
<b>HM Government (2011) Plan for Growth</b>	<p>Programme of structural reforms to remove barriers to growth for businesses and equip the UK to compete in the global race. No formal targets, sets out the government's four ambitions for growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating the most competitive tax system in the G20;</li> <li>• Encouraging investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy;</li> <li>• Making the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business; and</li> <li>• • Creating a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plan should have regard to the need for strong and competitive growing economy</p>
<b>HM Government (2013) Achieving Strong and Sustainable Economic Growth</b>	<p>Sets out how the government is removing barriers to growth allowing the UK to compete in a rapidly changing global economy. No formal targets but the policy contains a number of actions to attract investment within the UK, supporting local growth, investing in infrastructure and creating a more educated and flexible workforce</p>	<p>Develop policies that have due regard to the need for a strong, sustainable and balanced growth</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>Energy Act 2010</b>	An Act to make provision relating to gas importation and storage; to make provision in relation to electricity generated from renewable sources; to make provision relating to electricity transmission; to make provision about payments to small-scale generators of low-carbon electricity; to make provision about the decommissioning of energy installations and wells; to make provision about the management and disposal of waste produced during the operation of nuclear installations; to make provision relating to petroleum licences; to make provision about third party access to oil and gas infrastructure and modifications of pipelines; to make provision about reports relating to energy matters; to make provision about the duties of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority; to make provision about payments in respect of the renewable generation of heat; to make provision relating to gas meters and electricity meters and provision relating to electricity safety; to make provision about the security of equipment, software and information relating to nuclear matters; and for connected purposes.	
<b>Planning and Energy Act 2008</b>	An Act to enable local planning authorities to set requirements for energy use and energy efficiency in local plans.	Local plans should take into account the Act with a view to effectively managing energy. Local plans should comply with energy efficiency standards and with respect to performance or conservation of fuel power.
<b>HM Government (2003) Sustainable Energy Act</b>	The Act aims to promote sustainable energy development and use and report on progress regarding cutting the UK's carbon emissions and reducing the number of people living in fuel poverty. Specific targets are set by the Secretary of State as energy efficiency aims.	The Act requires the encouragement and reporting on the UK's attempts to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy use. This is assessed under SA Objective 7, relating to



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
		climate change and energy use.
<b>7. Historic Environment and Archaeology</b>		
<b>Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</b>	The Act aims to protect special buildings for conservation. In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.	Local plans must take into account of special buildings/sites already listed for conservation.
<b>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</b>	Sets out the rules for scheduled monuments.  The Act tries to consolidate and amend the law relating to ancient monuments; to make provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest and (in connection therewith) for the regulation of operations or activities affecting such matters; to provide for the recovery of grants under section 10 of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act 1972 or under section 4 of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 in certain circumstances; and to provide for grants by the Secretary of State to the Architectural Heritage Fund.	Local plans are required to take archaeological sites into consideration in accordance with the NPPF and the Planning Act 2008.
<b>The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future (DCMS, 2001)</b>	Report sets the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public interest in the historic environment is matched by firm leadership, effective partnerships, and the development of a sound knowledge base from which to develop policies;</li> <li>• The full potential of the historic environment as a learning resource is realised;</li> <li>• The historic environment is accessible to everybody and is seen as something</li> </ul>	Local Plan policies should ensure the historic environments utilised as both a learning resource and an economic asset, whilst ensuring it is sustained for future generations. This is related to the criteria set out in SA Objective 5.





Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>with which the whole of society can identify and engage;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The historic environment is protected and sustained for the benefit of our own and future generations; and</li> <li>• The historic environment's importance as an economic asset is skillfully harnessed.</li> </ul>	
<b>8. Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Designated Sites</b>		
<b>Biodiversity 2010 (Strategy)</b>	<p>The Framework is to set a broad enabling structure for action across the UK between now and 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To set out a shared vision and priorities for UK- scale activities, in a framework jointly owned by the four countries, and to which their own strategies will contribute;</li> <li>• To identify priority work at a UK level which will be needed to help deliver the Aichi targets and the EU Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>• To facilitate the aggregation and collation of information on activity and outcomes across all countries of the UK, where the four countries agree this will bring benefits compared to individual country work; and</li> <li>• To streamline governance arrangements for UK scale activity</li> </ul>	
<b>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</b>	<p>Consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) in Great Britain (NB Council Directive 79/409/EEC has now been replaced by Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on</p>	<p>Local Plans must consider whether development in particular areas, especially those designated SSSIs or ASPs may be permitted.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>the conservation of wild birds (codified version)).</p> <p>The Act also contains measures for the protection and management of SSSIs.</p>	
<p><b>Working with the grain of nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England” (Defra, 2002)</b></p>	<p>Agreement targets have been set to bring 95% of SSSIs into favourable condition by 2010 and to reverse the decline in farmland birds. Headline Indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The population of wild birds;</li> <li>• The condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;</li> <li>• Progress with Biodiversity Action Plans;</li> <li>• Area of land under agri-environment agreement;</li> <li>• Biological quality of rivers;</li> <li>• Fish stocks around the UK fished within safe limits;</li> <li>• Progress with Local Biodiversity Action Plans;</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plan should develop policies that support the vision emphasizing biodiversity.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives and criteria that address the headline indicators.</p> <p>Consider targets that require 95% of SSSIs within region to be of a favourable condition.</p>
<p><b>Natural Environment White Paper: The Natural Choice - Securing the Value of Nature (Defra 2011)</b></p>	<p>Ensures the protection of the natural environment, fully integrated into economic and social growth. . The White Paper sets out four key aims:</p> <p>(i) protecting and improving our natural environment;</p> <p>(ii) growing a green economy;</p> <p>(iii) reconnecting people and nature; and</p> <p>(iv) international and EU leadership, specifically to achieve environmentally and socially sustainable economic growth, together with food, water, climate and energy security and to put the EU on a path towards environmentally sustainable, low-carbon and</p>	<p>The local plan should work to develop policies that support the vision emphasizing Biodiversity.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	resource efficient growth, which is resilient to climate change, provides jobs and supports the well-being of citizens	
<b>Making Space for Nature: A Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network (Defra, 2010)</b>	<p>No formal targets or indicators but a number of recommendations are identified under the followings themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the management and condition of wildlife sites</li> <li>• Improve the protection and management of remaining wildlife habitats</li> <li>• Become better at deriving multiple benefits from the ways society interacts with the environment</li> <li>• Need for society to accept change in nature conservation</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plan should seek to preserve the ecological network</p> <p>The SA framework should consider the ecological network in its objectives/guidance questions</p>
<b>Biodiversity 2020: a Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (Defra, 2011)</b>	<p>The Strategy is designed to help to deliver the objectives set out in the Natural Environment White Paper. The strategy includes the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating 200,000 hectares of new wildlife habitats by 2020.</li> <li>• Securing 50% of SSSIs in favourable condition, while maintaining at least 95% in favourable or recovering condition</li> <li>• Encouraging more people to get involved in conservation by supporting wildlife gardening and outdoor learning programmes</li> <li>• Introducing a new designation for local green spaces to enable communities to protect places that are important to them</li> </ul>	Develop policies that support the vision emphasizing biodiversity.
<b>UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (Defra, 2012)</b>	<p>The Framework is to set a broad enabling structure for action across the UK between now and 2020. The Framework sets out 20 new global 'Aichi targets' under 5 strategic goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plan policies should seek to protect biodiversity</p> <p>The SA framework should ensure that the objectives of biodiversity are taken</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</li> <li>• To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems species and genetic diversity</li> <li>• Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</li> <li>• Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building</li> </ul>	into consideration.
<b>Conservations of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010</b>	<p>This is the UK transposition of EC Directive 92/43/EC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</p> <p>The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.</p>	Incorporated in SA Objective 6.
<b>9. Transportation and Accessibility</b>		
<b>NPPF</b>		
<b>10. Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space, countryside</b>		
<b>Review of Heritage Protection: The Way Forward (2004)</b>	<p>The objective of the review were to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A positive approach to managing the historic environment which would be transparent, inclusive, effective and sustainable and central to social, environmental and economic agendas at a local and community as well as national level; and</li> <li>• A historic environment legislative framework that provided for the management and enabling of change rather than its prevention There are currently a number of short term packages which have been immediately implemented and a number of longer</li> </ul>	<p>Attention should be paid to the changing of legislation in line with the Review of Heritage Protection, and should feed back into the Local Plan documents.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	term packages which require legislative support.	
<b>DCMS (2007) Heritage Protection for the 21st Century - White Paper</b>	<p>The Consultation Paper has three core principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a unified approach to the historic environment;</li> <li>• Maximizing opportunities for inclusion and involvement; and</li> <li>• Supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system. No formal targets, but a number of measures/recommendations.</li> </ul>	White Paper's principles should be taken into account with respect to SA Objective 5.
<b>Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (ETWFs) (DEFRA 2007)</b>	<p>Key aims for government intervention in trees, woods and forests are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To secure trees and woodlands for future generations;</li> <li>• To ensure resilience to climate change;</li> <li>• To protect and enhance natural resources;</li> <li>• To increase the contribution that trees, woods and forests make to our quality of life;</li> <li>• To improve the competitiveness of woodland businesses and products.</li> </ul> <p>These aims will form the basis on which the Delivery plan will be developed by Natural England and the Forestry Commission England (FCE). The strategy provides a national policy direction, which can be incorporated alongside regional priorities within regional forestry frameworks.</p> <p>Strategy aims to create 2,200 hectares of wet woodland in England by 2010.</p>	<p>Plan policies to protect and enhance trees, woods and forests. In turn ensuring resilience to climate change.</p> <p>SA objectives 5, 6 &amp; 7 are to cover the Strategy's aims.</p>
<b>Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement (Defra,</b>	<p>Seeks to protect, improve, expand public and private woodland assets, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting trees woods and forests</li> <li>• Improve valuable woodland assets</li> </ul>	



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
2013)		
<b>Trees and Woodlands Nature's Health Service (Forestry Commission, 2005)</b>	An advisory document which provides detailed examples of how the Woodland Sector (trees, woodlands and green spaces) can significantly contribute to people's health, well being (physical, psychological and social) and quality of life. Increasing levels of physical activity is a particular priority.	SA Objectives 9 & 13 is to provide more equal access to opportunities, services and facilities for recreation.
<b>The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)</b>	<p>The Act:</p> <p>The Act made amendments to the both the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. For example, it extended the CROW biodiversity duty to public bodies and statutory undertakers, and altering enforcement powers in connection with wildlife prosecution.</p> <p>The Act also formally established the Commission for Rural Communities, an independent advocate, watchdog and expert advisor for rural England, charged with ensuring that Government policies make a real difference on the ground in tackling rural disadvantage.</p> <p>In addition to this, the NERC Act contains a number of additional measures designed to help streamline delivery and simplify the legislative framework, such as changes to the remit and constitution of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), reconstitution of the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council, and improving the governance arrangements for the National Parks. The act provides for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bodies concerned with the natural environment and rural communities;</li> </ul>	SA objectives must consider the importance of conserving biodiversity and landscape features as set out in the Act.



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife, sites of special scientific interest, National Parks and the</li> <li>• Broads;</li> <li>• Amends the law relating to rights of way;</li> <li>• Makes provision as to the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council; and</li> <li>• Provides for flexible administrative arrangements in connection with functions relating to the environment and rural affairs and certain other</li> </ul>	
<b>The Commons Act 2006</b>	<p>The Act aims to protect these areas of common land, in a sustainable manner delivering benefits for farming, public access and biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the act enables commons to be managed more sustainably by commoners and landowners working together through commons councils with powers to regulate grazing and other agricultural activities</li> <li>• it provides better protection for common land and greens - this includes reinforcing existing protections against abuse, encroachment and unauthorised development - it recognises that the protection of common land has to be proportionate to the harm caused and that some specified works can be carried out without the need for consent</li> <li>• part 1 of the act requires commons registration authorities to bring their registers up-to-date by recording past changes affecting the registers during a 'transitional period', and to keep the registers up-to-date by recording new changes affecting the registers - commons registration authorities will have new powers to correct many of the mistakes in the registers</li> <li>• the act sets out new, clearer criteria for the registration of town or village greens</li> <li>• the act prohibits the severance of common rights, preventing commoners from selling, leasing or letting their rights away from the property to which rights are</li> </ul>	<p>Local plans will need to take into account sustainable management of land, to contribute to safeguarding the commons for current and future generations.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	attached	
<b>Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)</b>	<p>This Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gives people greater freedom to explore open country on foot;</li> <li>• Creates a duty for Highway Authorities and National Park Authorities to establish Local Access Forums;</li> <li>• Provides a cut-off date of 1 January 2026 for the recording of certain rights of way on definitive maps and the extinguishment of those not so recorded by that date;</li> <li>• Offers greater protection to wildlife and natural features, better protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and more effective enforcement of wildlife legislation; and</li> <li>• Protects Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty with legislation similar to that for National Parks.</li> </ul>	SA objective 5 seeks to protect areas of landscape and wildlife importance.
<b><u>11. Water Environment, flood risk and coastal erosion</u></b>		
<b>Water Act 2014</b>	The Act seeks to implement the ‘Water White Paper’ and ‘water for Life Market Reform Proposals’ which take into account of climate change, population growth and patterns of demand – as well as the challenges posed by natural hazards such as drought and floods. It makes provisions about the water industry; about compensation for modification of licences to abstract water; about main river maps; about records of waterworks; for the regulation of the water environment; about the provision of flood insurance for household premises; about internal drainage boards; about Regional Flood and Coastal Committees; and for connected purposes. This Act aims to makes steps towards reducing regulatory burdens, promoting innovation and investment, giving	The local Plans will need to take into account the act to protect and improve the quality of inland and coastal waters.





Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>choice and better service to customers and enabling more efficient use of scarce water resources.</p> <p>Key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform the water industry to make it more innovative and responsive to customers and to increase the resilience of water supplies to natural hazards such as drought and floods</li> <li>• To bring forward measures to address the availability and affordability of insurance for those households at high flood risk and ensure a smooth transition to the free market over the longer term</li> <li>• The Water Act 2014 aims to make it easier for business to change their water suppliers. It will also open up the water and sewerage market to new companies.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>HM Government (2011) UK Marine Policy Statement</b></p>	<p>The Marine Policy Statement (MPS) sets out the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment, supporting the delivery of the following high level marine objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving a sustainable marine economy;</li> <li>• Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;</li> <li>• Living within environmental limits;</li> <li>• Promoting good governance;</li> <li>• Using sound science responsibly.</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plan should include policies relating to coastal areas.</p>
<p><b>Water White Paper, Water for Life (Defra</b></p>	<p>Water for Life describes a vision for future water management in which the water sector is resilient, in which water companies are more efficient and customer focused and in</p>	<p>Local Plan should take into account the vision of this document as a means of</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>&amp; HM Government, 2011)</b>	which water is valued as the precious and finite resource it is.	protecting existing water resources.
<b>Water Industry Act 1991</b>	The Act consolidates the provision of water and sewerage services.	Local plans will need to maintain effectiveness of sewerage services and water supplies
<b>National Policy Statement for Waste Water</b>	<p>This NPS provides the framework for decision making on development consent applications for the construction of new wastewater infrastructure in England. The Statement outlines a set of alternative modes of waste management and sets forth a list of impacts of the most significant issues which arise most frequently on issues of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs)</li> <li>• Water quality and resources</li> <li>• Odours from waste and water infrastructure</li> <li>• Flood risks</li> <li>• Biodiversity and geological conservation</li> <li>• Fulfils functions as according to the Planning Act 2008.</li> </ul>	The local plans should consider the National Policy statement to inform their wastewater management in a sustainable and effective manner.
<b>National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (EA 2011)</b>	<p>The aim is to reduce and limit the risk of flooding and coastal areas. It sets their effective management while avoiding, or off setting damage to local habitats. The strategy encourages more effective risk management by enabling people, communities, business, infrastructure operators and the public sector to work together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure a clear understanding of the risks of flooding and coastal erosion, nationally and locally, so that investment in risk management can be prioritised more effectively;</li> </ul>	The local plans will work with other risk management bodies and authorities to prioritise set goals, and take into consideration the Flood and water Management Act 2010.



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out clear and consistent plans for risk management so that communities and businesses can make informed decisions about the management of the remaining risk;</li> <li>• Manage flood and coastal erosion risks in an appropriate way, taking account of the needs of communities and the environment;</li> <li>• Ensure that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents are effective and that communities are able to respond effectively to flood forecasts, warnings and advice;</li> <li>• • Help communities to recover more quickly and effectively after incidents</li> </ul>	
<b>Flood and Water Management Act 2010</b>	<p>An Act to make provision about water, including provision about the management of risks in connection with flooding and coastal erosion. It aims to create a simpler and more effective means of managing flood, coastal erosion and protection against possible droughts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To widen the list of uses of water that water companies can control during periods of water shortage, and enable Government to add to and remove uses from the list.</li> <li>• To encourage the uptake of sustainable drainage systems by removing the automatic right to connect to sewers and providing for unitary and county</li> <li>• Councils to adopt SUDS for new developments and redevelopments.</li> <li>• To reduce 'bad debt' in the water industry by amending the Water Industry Act 1991 to provide a named customer and clarify who is responsible for Paying the water bill.</li> <li>• • To make it easier for water and sewerage companies to develop and implement social tariffs where companies consider there is a good cause to do so, and in light of guidance that will be issued by the Secretary of State following</li> </ul>	<p>Local plans will need to take into account sustainable development where there is risk of flood areas.</p> <p>Where LA's become aware of possible risk of flood through investigations or other means, it will notify risk of flood and make sure that appropriate authorities are responding to risk of flood.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	a full public consultation.	
<b>Flood Risk Regulations 2009</b>	Act makes provisions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary flood risk assessments reports (PFRA)</li> <li>• Flood Hazard and flood risk maps</li> <li>• Flood risk management plans</li> </ul>	Local Plans will need to take identify flood risk areas. LAs will need to work with the EA to prepare a preliminary assessment report in relation to flooding in its area
<b>‘Water for life and livelihoods’ EA 2013</b>	This report sets out the priorities, aims and direction for EA’s regulatory work explaining how they help to protect and improve water resources in England through monitoring, permitting and information and advice  It seeks to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and improve waters so they are clean and healthy</li> <li>• Reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion</li> <li>• Make sure there is enough water for people, business, agriculture and the environment.</li> <li>• Support sustainable growth</li> </ul>	Local plans should take into account
<b>12. Population and Housing</b>		
<b>Living Working Countryside: The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing (DCLG, 2008)</b>	This report considered how to boost the economic gain of a rural area through encouraging sustainable economic growth and reviewing the set of planning policy documents to streamline the process. No formal targets however greater support should be given to local authorities in achieving appropriate levels of affordable housing, particularly through increased interaction with housing corporations and registered social landlords.	The Local Plan should consider economic gains that are possible in the rural area, whilst addressing the issues of affordable housing in rural areas.  The SA should aim to ensure that the plan has sustainability objectives for



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
		affordable housing and ensuring that the needs of all aspects of the community are being met.
<b>Housing Standards Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government proposes a ‘Building Regulations only’ approach to the energy performance of new homes with no optional additional local standards in excess of the provisions set out in Part L of the Regulations.</li> <li>• The objective of zero carbon new homes by 2016 is to be achieved through a strengthening of the energy performance requirements in Part L of the Building Regulations (incorporating carbon compliance, energy efficient fabric and services), and the delivery of allowable solutions.</li> </ul>	
<b>HM Government (2004) Housing Act (and revised 2006)</b>	<p>The Housing Act 2004 is a key piece of legislation that aims to protect the most vulnerable in society and help create a fairer and better housing market. It also strengthens the Government's drive to meet its 2010 decent homes target. Under the Housing Act 2004, a new way for Local Housing Authorities to assess housing conditions has been introduced. This replaces the old ‘unfitness’ standard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing health and rating system</li> <li>• Enforcement of housing standards</li> <li>• Empty homes</li> <li>• Housing standards</li> </ul>	Local plans should take into account the objectives of the housing act.
<b>(2011) Laying the Foundations: A housing strategy for</b>	<p>The key measures to note include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new build indemnity scheme for up to 100,000 households</li> </ul>	Local Plans should consider the Governments strategies. In particular the local planning should be



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<p><b>England</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £400m fund to provide development finance for firms with stalled sites</li> <li>• More regulation for housing associations on value for money</li> <li>• Growing the private rented sector and build to rent schemes</li> <li>• £50m extra funding to bring empty homes back into use</li> <li>• A 'new deal for older people's housing'</li> <li>• Creation of a network of neighbourhood designers</li> </ul> <p>Aims to unblock the housing market and get the nation building again. Aims to make it easier to secure mortgages on new homes, improve fairness in social housing and ensure homes that have been empty are now used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Note Housing White Paper subsequently published February 2017, following collation of this report</i></li> </ul>	<p>streamlined and executed collaboratively, ensuring the infrastructure is well coordinated. It should take into account older section of the population with a view to incorporating better housing standards for said group.</p> <p>Local plans should try to proportionately match the increased infrastructure with adequate transport capacity.</p>
<p><b>DCLG (2006) Code for Sustainable Homes - A step-change in sustainable home building practice</b></p>	<p>Sets standards and method for establishing, and rating, the level of sustainability of buildings by how far they exceed the requirements of Building Regulations. Targets such as percentage improvement over Target</p> <p>Emission Rate of 2006 Building Regulations for Carbon emissions and levels of water consumption. The Code for Sustainable Homes has been introduced to drive a step-change in sustainable home building practice. It is a standard for key elements of design and construction, which affect the sustainability of a new home. It will become the single national standard for sustainable homes, used by home designers and builders as a guide to development, and by home-buyers to assist in their choice of home. The design categories included within the Code are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy/CO2</li> </ul>	<p>The code details the need and benefits for sustainable buildings. It details a strategy to improve the sustainability of buildings.</p> <p>The Local Plan should therefore build upon and compliment the code to encourage the adoption of sustainable construction methods. It has direct relevance to a number of SA objectives.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Health and well-being</li> <li>• Materials</li> <li>• Management</li> <li>• Surface water run-off</li> <li>• Ecology</li> </ul>	
<b>Homelessness Act 2002</b>	<p>The act gives greater protection to those with a priority need for housing, such as families, and gives people more choice in the housing they receive. It extends the priority list to include 16 and 17 year olds and 18 to 21 year olds leaving care, as well as those fleeing violence. It also requires all local authorities to carry out a homelessness review, develop a <a href="#">homelessness strategy</a> for their area to prevent homelessness, and provide accommodation and/or support for people who are or may become homeless.</p>	<p>Local Plans have a duty, further to a homelessness review, secure that accommodation is or will be available for those becoming homeless</p>
<b>Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (HCA)</b>	<p>The Bill contains provisions to merge the housing investment and regeneration functions of the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships in a new Homes and Communities Agency. The Agency would, by bringing together land and housing, and shifting from grant funding social housing to investing in infrastructure, support the regeneration and delivery of new social and affordable housing, both social and private, and deliver a strategic approach to regeneration.</p> <p>The Agency would also be enabled to make better use of surplus public sector land and maximise the potential for brownfield development.</p> <p>The Bill also creates a new regulator of social housing, the Office for Tenants and Social Landlords. The task of this new regulator will be to improve the level of service that social tenants receive and ensure that they have more choice and influence in matters</p>	<p>The local plans will need to take into account the objective of the Act. Local plans with work with the HCA to improve infrastructure and development.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>central to their everyday lives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aims to reform social housing and social housing regulation to promote better services for tenants</li> <li>• Supports the delivery of three million new homes by 2020 to meet growing demand and rising aspirations</li> <li>• Provides for the establishment of new settlements like eco-towns, and for simplifying the ways in which the Homes and Communities Agency would facilitate delivery of these projects</li> <li>• Introduces sustainability certificates</li> <li>• Changes the 'Right to Buy' legislation</li> <li>• Implements a European Court of Human Rights ruling on Gypsy and Traveller sites.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2012)</b></p>	<p>Aim to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers while respecting the interests of the wider settled community.</p>	
<p><b><u>13. Waste Management</u></b></p>		
<p><b>National Policy Statement for Waste water 2012</b></p>	<p>This National Policy Statement (NPS) sets out Government policy for the provision of major wastewater infrastructure. It will be used by the decision maker as the primary basis for deciding development consent applications for wastewater developments that fall within the definition of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) as defined in the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>In making decisions on waste water NSIPs, the decision maker must also have regard to any local impact report submitted by a relevant local authority, any relevant matters</p>	<p>Local Plans will take into account guidance on major wastewater infrastructure</p>





Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	prescribed in regulations, any Marine Policy Statement (MPS) and marine plans and any other matters which it considers are both important and relevant to its decision.	
<b>Planning Act 2008</b>	<p>The Act sets out the thresholds for nationally significant infrastructure in the wastewater sector. The Act empowers the examination of applications and subsequent decisions on the following waste water NSIPs in England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of waste water treatment plants which are expected to have a capacity exceeding a population equivalent<sup>7</sup> of 500,000 when constructed; or</li> <li>• Alterations to waste water treatment plants where the effect of the alteration is expected to be to increase by more than a population equivalent of 500,000 the capacity of the plant.</li> </ul>	
<b>PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (DCLG 2011)</b>	The overall objective of the policy is to provide sustainable development by protecting the environment and human health by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible.	<p>Local Plan should consider opportunities to reduce waste and encourage recycling and composting e.g. integration of recycling and composting facilities into new development and use of recycled materials in new buildings.</p> <p>Plans should aim to adequately implement 're-use, recycle and reduce' framework.</p>
<b>REGIONAL LEVEL</b>		
<b><u>11. Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Designated Sites.</u></b>		



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>South East Biodiversity Strategy 2009</b>	<p>A web based resource whose key aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a clear, coherent and inspiring vision for the South East</li> <li>• Provide a framework for the delivery of biodiversity targets that guide and support all those who have an impact on biodiversity in the region</li> <li>• Embed a landscape scale approach to restoring whole ecosystems in the working practices and policies of all partners</li> <li>• Create the space needed for wildlife to respond to climate change</li> <li>• Enable all organisations in the South East to support and improve biodiversity across the region</li> <li>• Be a core element within the strategies and delivery</li> </ul>	<p>The preparation of the local plan should seek to take account of the aims of the SEBS, and integrate its objectives with an alignment of any forthcoming biodiversity policies in the forthcoming plan.</p> <p>Equally the compilation of SA objectives for the purposes of the assessment of the local plan should seek an alignment with this Strategy.</p>
<b>Kent Downs AONB Management Plan (2014-19)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the AONB ensuring they meet the challenges of the future</li> <li>• Support the economic and social well-being of local communities in ways which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty</li> <li>• Value, sustain and promote the benefits that AONBs provide for society including clean air and water, food and carbon storage.</li> </ul>	
<b>Kent Biodiversity Action Plan (updated) – formed of 28 Habitat Action Plans (HAPs)</b>	<p>Conserve, enhance and restore the UK BAP priority habitats in Kent.</p>	
<p><b><u>Water Environment, flood risk and coastal erosion</u></b></p>		
<b>(EA) Medway Abstraction Licensing</b>	<p>This <b>Licensing Strategy</b> sets out how water resources are managed in the Medway area. It provides information about where water is available for further abstraction and an</p>	



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>Strategy (2013)</b>	<p>indication of how reliable a new abstraction licence may be.</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive s main objectives are to protect and enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable use of water resources for economic and social development.</p> <p>Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) set out how we will manage the water resources of a catchment and contribute to implementing the WFD</p>	
<b>River Basin Thames Management Plan, Thames River Basin District 2009</b>	<p>This plan will address the key pressures in the catchment, and those waters in the worst state will be prioritised. 28 per cent of rivers in the Medway will improve for at least one element by 2015. Some key actions for the Medway catchment area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern Water will improve sewage works at five locations to reduce inputs of nutrients including phosphate and improve shellfish waters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote good practice to avoid pollution in construction sites</li> <li>• Raise awareness on water quality</li> <li>• EA will investigate origins of causes</li> <li>• EA will establish a ‘Better Rivers’ Regional Programme</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pollution prevention campaigns around groundwater abstractions to decrease the inputs of nitrates, pesticides, hydrocarbons and solvents.</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plans will take into account key actions by the Environment agency and provide support wherever necessary. LAs will ensure that planning policies and spatial planning documents take into account the objectives of the Thames River Basin Management Plan, including Local Development Documents and Sustainable Community Strategies (local authorities).</p>
<b>Water Resources Strategies, Regional Plan for Southern Region (2009)</b>	<p>The strategy takes a sustainable development approach with ‘enough water for people and the environment’. The strategy sets out a number of actions that are reflected in this regional action plan (RAP). This plan takes the aims and objectives of the strategy and identifies regional actions that will enable:</p>	<p>Local Plans should take into account the objective of the regional plan. Ensure sufficient understanding of water resources pressures are built into regional and local authority thinking</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water to be abstracted, supplied and used efficiently;</li> <li>• The water environment to be restored, protected and improved so that habitats and species can better adapt to climate change;</li> <li>• Supplies to be more resilient to the impact of climate change, including droughts and floods;</li> <li>• Water to be shared more effectively between abstractors;</li> <li>• Improved water efficiency in new and existing buildings;</li> <li>• Water to be valued, and for prices to act as an incentive for efficient use, while safeguarding vulnerable sectors of society;</li> <li>• Additional resources to be developed where and when they are needed in the context of a twin-track approach with demand management;</li> <li>• Sustainable, low carbon solutions to be adopted;</li> <li>• • Stronger integration of water resources management with land, energy, food and waste.</li> </ul>	<p>behind plans at an early stage. Local plans should also support the 'retro-fit trials' (fitting water efficient appliances and devices in existing homes) being carried out by Southern Region's water companies and look for ways of doing this on a large scale.</p>
<p><b>North Kent Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009)</b></p>	<p>A Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) is a policy document for the catchment wide management of flood risk. It looks to a 50-100 year horizon, attempting to identify the measures required for successful and sustainable flood management within that timeframe. The role of CFMPs is to establish flood risk management policies which will deliver sustainable flood risk management for the long term. In addition to the key objective are the following overarching objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To undertake a high-level strategic assessment of current and future flood risk from all relevant sources (i.e. rivers, sewers, groundwater etc.) within the catchment, by understanding the components that constitute the risk (i.e. both probability and</li> <li>• Impact and the effect of current risk reduction measures. The scale of risk</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the objectives of the CFMP.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>should be broadly quantified in economic, social and environmental terms;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify opportunities and constraints within the catchment for reducing flood risk through strategic changes or responses, such as changes in land use, land management practices and/or the flood defence infrastructure;</li> </ul>	
<p><b>The North Kent and Swale Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Final Strategy April 2004</b></p>	<p>The aim of the North Kent &amp; Swale CAMS is to contribute to the sustainable management of water resources. Nationally, the CAMS objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>make information available to the public</li> <li>provide the opportunity for greater public involvement</li> <li>provide a structured national approach</li> <li>provide a framework for time limited licenses</li> <li>facilitate water rights trading</li> </ul> <p>Some of the issues that the North Kent: Swale CAMS will include are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing the availability of water in the aquifers at the present time and taking account of the uncertainties of climate change with any management options.</li> <li>Reviewing the water requirements of the low-lying areas with different management regimes.</li> <li>Developing a greater understanding of the water requirements and water dependency of environments such as the North Kent Marshes.</li> <li>Providing a greater opportunity for public involvement in the process of managing water abstraction.</li> <li>Providing a structure for managing time-limited licences. In the North Kent: Swale catchment, it is proposed that all new or varied licences will have a common end date of 31st March 2017.</li> </ul>	<p>Should consider the Strategy and incorporate water efficiency policies into the Local Plan.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<p><b>South East Water Resources Management Plan (2010-2035)</b></p>	<p>The overall objective is to ensure sufficient water supplies for future generations especially in the face of climate change, housing growth and an increase in individual water use.</p> <p>Water companies in England and Wales are required to produce a Water Resources Management Plan that sets out how they aim to maintain water supplies over a 25-year period.</p> <p>The current Water Resources Management Plan was published in 2010 in agreement with Defra, following a public inquiry. The South East region is classed as an area of serious water stress by the Environment Agency. The South East Water WRMP demonstrates how in the medium to long new resources intend to be developed, leakage tackled and sensible water use promoted through metering and water efficiency campaigns. The long term strategy is to increase the robustness of the water resources network to climate change.</p> <p>The plan is required to be updated every five years. South East Water are currently engaging with customers and stakeholders as we prepare to update their plan for 2015 to 2040. This should be made available in 2014.</p>	<p>Local Plan should consider opportunities to reduce water use and increase water efficiency.</p>
<p><b><u>Transport and Accessibility</u></b></p>		
<p><b>Medway Local Transport Plan 2011</b></p>	<p>Medway's third LTP sets out Medway's transport strategy for the next 15 years, embracing the wider aspirations for the Medway. It key priorities focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Medway's regeneration, economic competitiveness and growth by securing a reliable and efficient local transport network</li> <li>• Supporting a healthier natural environment by contributing to tackling climate change and improving air quality</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plan will need to account for the key priorities and aims of the Local Transport Plan to ensure that future development objectives are aligned with transport objectives in relation to connectivity and accessibility.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring Medway has good quality transport connections to key markets and major conurbations in Kent and London</li> <li>• Supporting equality of opportunity to employment, education, goods and services for all residents in Medway</li> <li>• Supporting a safer, healthier and more secure community in Medway by promoting active lifestyles and by reducing the risk of death, injury or ill health or being the victim of crime</li> </ul>	<p>Equally the compilation of SA objectives for the purposes of the assessment of the local plan should seek an alignment with this Plan.</p>
<p><b>Kent Local Transport Plan (2011-16)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth without gridlock</li> <li>• A safer and healthier County</li> <li>• Supporting independence</li> <li>• Tackling a changing climate</li> <li>• Enjoying life in Kent.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Reg.19) (July 2014)</b></p>	<p>Seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote sustainable modes of transport for moving minerals and waste long distances</li> <li>• Ensure minerals and waste developments contribute towards the minimisation of and adaptation to the effects of climate change</li> <li>• Promote the use of recycled and secondary aggregates in place of land won minerals</li> <li>• Ensure minerals and waste sites are sensitive to their surrounding environment and communities and minimise their impact on them</li> <li>• Enable minerals and waste developments to contribute to the social and economic fabric of their communities through employment opportunities</li> <li>• Deliver adequate and steady supply of minerals</li> <li>• Promote the use of recycled and secondary aggregates in place of land won</li> </ul>	



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	minerals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase amounts of Kent's waste being re-used, recycled or recovered and promote the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy.</li> </ul>	
<b>Economy</b>		
<b>South East LEP: Growth Deal and Strategic Economic Plan (March 2014)</b>	Covering East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock, The aim by 2021 is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generate 200,000 private sector jobs, an average of 20,000 a year or an increase of 11.4% since 2011;</li> <li>• Complete 100,000 new homes, increasing the annual rate of completions by over 50% compared to recent years; and,</li> <li>• Leverage investment totalling £10 billion, to accelerate growth, jobs and homebuilding.</li> </ul>	
<b>Kent and Medway Unlocking the Potential: Going for Growth (2013)</b>	Deliver the housing growth that the economy needs. Aim to increase delivery to meet planned requirements – meaning an additional 3,300 homes per year for seven years above 2012/13 delivery levels (23,100 homes in total) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create sustainable private sector employment. Aim to enable the creation of an additional 40,000 jobs, primarily by making it easier for businesses to secure finance and support</li> <li>• unlocking new development and promoting the county's opportunities</li> <li>• Increase economic value. Aim to increase Kent and Medway's levels of productivity and innovation, leading to an additional 7,500 knowledge economy jobs over seven years.</li> </ul>	
<b>West Kent Investment Strategy and Action Plan (2010-15)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop entrepreneurship and businesses</li> <li>• Develop labour force and skills base</li> <li>• Develop connectivity.</li> </ul>	





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<b>West Kent Priorities for Growth (2014)</b>	A dynamic and well-connected local economy, to ensure that West Kent remains a key location for business success and growth and that the local population has access to quality jobs and skills.	
<b>LOCAL LEVEL</b>		
<b>1. Sustainable Development</b>		
<b>Medway Local Plan 2003</b>	<p>The saved policies of the Medway Local Plan 2003 see to manage development within the district through allocating land for development and outlining policies that seek to manage the location and design of development. The policies of the Development Plan carry significant weight and are vital for planning permission unless the Council does not have a 5 year housing supply and then policies relevant to housing are defunct and planning applications shall be assessed in light of the 3 tests of sustainability outlined in the NPPF.</p> <p>The strategic objectives from the 2003 Local Plan are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) New development should follow sustainable development principles through its relationship to transport infrastructure, the location and mix of uses and the use of natural resources.</li> <li>(ii) The emphasis should be on creating an urban renaissance, through the redevelopment of brownfield sites within the urban area in preference to continued outward suburban expansion. The development of greenfield sites should be restricted to those well related to the structure of the urban area and avoiding visual intrusion into the surrounding countryside, particularly the valuable urban fringe.</li> <li>(iii) The environmental quality and image of the area should be upgraded through the highest urban design and landscape standards being pursued in new development and regeneration.</li> <li>(iv) The economic base of the area should be enhanced by the promotion of</li> </ul>	The new Local Plan should seek to take forward sections of the 2003 Medway Local Plan that are still relevant and build upon areas that need to be maintained as objectives.



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>selective new commercial developments of high environmental quality.</p> <p>(v) The widening of transport choices and accessibility, and a reduction in the reliance on the private car by improvements to facilities for cycling, walking and public transport.</p> <p>(vi) Chatham should be developed as Medway's 'city' centre, creating a major sub-regional centre able to compete effectively with its neighbours, offering a range of facilities for the whole community.</p> <p>(vii) Investing in the River Medway as an opportunity for transport, leisure, nature and tourism.</p> <p>(viii) Firm protection for the Green Belt, the best and most versatile agricultural land, sites of international, national and other strategic importance for nature conservation and landscape.</p> <p>(ix) Identifying the built heritage of Medway as an important historical and cultural resource, especially the defence heritage including Chatham Historic Dockyard, the Napoleonic defences and related buildings and areas.</p> <p>(x) Deficiencies in the provision of local community, recreation, health and education facilities should be remedied.</p>	
<p><b>Building Heights Policy for Medway – Parts 1 and 2 (May 2006)</b></p>	<p>to ensure new high buildings within Medway are of the highest quality, are in the most appropriate locations, and to ensure that the mistakes of the previous eras are not repeated.</p>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>
<p><b>Amherst Hill, Brompton – Design Brief (October 2010)</b></p>	<p>The document was produced to aid the redevelopment of the area for housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>providing information to developers on site capacity and the quality of development expected;</li> </ul>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing guidance on the limits of tolerable encroachment on Fort Amherst;</li> <li>• ensuring the protection and enhancement of Brompton Lines Conservation Area;</li> <li>• conforming to policies in the Great Lines Heritage Park Masterplan (GLHP); and;</li> <li>• serving to underline that the site's context and character is a considerable asset and provides a unique development opportunity for housing of the highest design quality.</li> </ul>	
<b>Chatham Centre and Waterfront Development Brief (August 2008)</b>	The development brief seeks to ensure that development takes place in a balanced and co-ordinated manner by setting out a comprehensive framework to guide the delivery of cultural facilities, retail, housing, employment, leisure and associated community facilities, infrastructure, transport initiatives and environmental protection and enhancement.	The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.
<b>Chatham High Street / Best Street Masterplan (November 2010)</b>	A document to promote the retail regeneration of Chatham high street, so that it can become the commercial heart of the Medway Towns.	The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.
<b>Chatham Dockyard and its Defences Planning Policy Document (2015)</b>	<p>This document provides planning guidance for Chatham Dockyard and its Defences, and its environs, to ensure that the authenticity of the site is not compromised by future development. It has two parts.</p> <p>The first part of this planning policy document provides an outline of existing planning policy guidance, drawing together in one place the various existing policy documents which relate to the site. It also references key management plans for significant</p>	The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>components of the site. These contain detailed advice about how individual heritage assets or groups thereof will be managed. The policy documents, and their advice in relation to Chatham Dockyard and its Defences, are set out in the table overleaf.</p> <p>The second part of the document describes how some of the attributes of the site are represented in key views and how these views should be managed to ensure that international significance is not harmed. The document then sets out the methodology that will be used to assess future development and regeneration proposals to protect the integrity of Chatham’s world class heritage.</p>	
<p><b>Corporation Street Adopted Framework (November 2008)</b></p>	<p>Objectives Driven by development of Rochester Riverside and by interest shown by developers and landowners, the Council is ambitious about the future of the Corporation Street area. The objectives for its development were originally laid down in the Rochester Riverside Development Brief (2004) and are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A form of development that reflects the character of central Rochester</li> <li>• Integration of Rochester High Street and Rochester Riverside; Attractive and high quality publicly accessible open space and public realm;</li> <li>• An active and vibrant environment that complements Rochester High Street and the land uses proposed for Rochester Riverside;</li> <li>• Improved street-level activity along Corporation Street, with a focus at Rochester Station;</li> <li>• Measures to reduce the severance caused by the railway embankment and Corporation Street.</li> </ul> <p>An additional objective covering historical character and archaeological remains is appropriate: preservation and enhancement of the historic character which is of value, including archaeological remains.</p>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>



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<p><b>Gillingham Town Centre Planning Framework (July 2007)</b></p>	<p>The Framework is a comprehensive and integrated tool for regeneration, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review of existing studies to date;</li> <li>• social, economic and environmental analysis;</li> <li>• vision and land use framework;</li> <li>• assessment of development opportunities for key sites;</li> <li>• transport and parking strategy;</li> <li>• public realm improvements.</li> </ul> <p>We have split these elements into three distinct sections - Gillingham Past, Present and Future.</p> <p>This is very much a ‘visioning’ document summarising work to date, producing ideas for key sites and forming the basis for the next phases of work including detailed design and delivery strategy. The Framework will also be used as a tool to generate public and private funding and investment.</p>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>
<p><b>Gillingham Waterfront Development Brief (June 2004)</b></p>	<p>The vision for the area is a significant integrated urban development, with a unique character, capitalising on the riverside location and maximising the use of the site.</p> <p>The development objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To create a high quality environment and inspiring architecture and public realm which contributes to the regeneration of Medway.</li> <li>• To maintain and manage, for the long term, the public facility at the pier</li> <li>• To develop a distinct sense of identity, place and character, and to maximise views of, and enhance the attractiveness of the river.</li> <li>• To design a permeable layout which encourages pedestrian and cycle movements and restricts vehicular speeds to provide a secure environment which will promote natural surveillance and improve quality of life.</li> <li>• To provide a range and choice of dwellings and to promote social integration</li> </ul>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop in a sustainable way - minimising pollution, encouraging energy efficiency and reducing the need to travel by car.</li> <li>• To provide a range of employment opportunities.</li> <li>• To provide on-site community services and other necessary infrastructure.</li> </ul>	
<b>Guide to Developer Contributions 2014</b>	<p>This guide is designed to help you know what the Local Planning Authority is likely to require with new development in Medway.</p> <p>The guide covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable housing</li> <li>• Open space,</li> <li>• outdoor formal sport and Great Lines Heritage Park</li> <li>• Environmental mitigation</li> <li>• Children’s services (schools)</li> <li>• Community facilities and services</li> <li>• Transport and travel</li> <li>• Training and workforce development</li> <li>• Public realm</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Waste and recycling</li> <li>• Sports facilities</li> </ul>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>
<b>Gun Wharf Masterplan SPD (November 2010)</b>	<p>The key objectives of the SPD include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New civic and cultural facilities to support Chatham as a major regional growth centre</li> <li>• New office space to support civic use associated with Council offices</li> <li>• New restaurants and cafes to enliven the waterfront</li> <li>• Build on the historic character and sense of place through better interpretation and presentation of the heritage assets</li> </ul>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contemporary development that is sensitive to the site's heritage and historic development</li> <li>• Enhancement and improvements to public open space to encourage greater use of public spaces</li> <li>• Public realm improvements to enhance waterfront area to improve connectivity and increase footfall</li> <li>• New opportunities for river transport to strategically link the site</li> <li>• Better pedestrian links between Gun Wharf and the Town Centre</li> <li>• Better connections with Great Lines Heritage Park, Fort Amherst and Kitchener Barracks to integrate the site with adjoining sites</li> <li>• Overall visual enhancement of the site to enhance views from around Medway</li> </ul>	
<b>Pentagon Development Brief (September 2005)</b>	<p>The development brief was prepared to outline the potential of the extension and refurbishment of the Pentagon Centre. The main objectives of the document include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set parameters for extending and refurbishing the Pentagon Centre to include a mix of uses;</li> <li>• Enable the Council and its partners to secure a viable, high quality scheme that is closely integrated with the High Street and rest of the Town Centre;</li> <li>• Enable the Council and its partners to make informed decisions about funding sources; and</li> <li>• Ensure a clear fit with the adopted Chatham Centre and Waterfront Development Framework, adopted Medway Local Plan and other relevant studies in Chatham and Medway.</li> </ul>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>
<b>Rochester Airport Masterplan (January</b>	<p>A document that outlines the development of the airport for aviation and employment use.</p>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
2014)		into consideration.
<b>Rochester Riverside Masterplan and Development Brief (September 2014)</b>	<p>The brief does not aim to impose rigid and prescriptive guidelines but establishes a set of strategic parameters and illustrative guidance to steer future development proposals.</p> <p>The principal aims of the brief are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote a popular neighbourhood which complements historic Rochester.</li> <li>• stimulate regeneration of the waterfront through a vibrant mixed use development integrating with the existing character and environmental context of Rochester.</li> <li>• ensure long term benefits for Rochester's existing and future residents and visitors.</li> <li>• create an inspirational approach to urban design, architecture and public realm.</li> <li>• recognise the site's role in securing and enhancing the area's ecological potential.</li> <li>• create a sense of local distinctiveness and enhance Rochester's tourist appeal.</li> <li>• provide clear guidance on delivery mechanisms for the development of the site.</li> </ul> <p>As a Supplementary Planning Document the brief will provide planning and design guidance to developers and will inform development management decisions.</p>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>
<b>Star Hill to Sun Pier Planning and Design Strategy (May 2004)</b>	<p>The area covered lies between Rochester and Chatham and is 13ha in size.</p> <p>The five strategic objectives that will guide development in Star Hill-Sun Pier are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforce the unique identity and historic character: securing the retention and restoration of the inherited abundance of historic buildings and architecture together with the protection and enhancement of urban structure that underpins the area's character. Enabling a high standard of design that sees the improvement of the riverfront and sympathetic development of gap sites.</li> <li>• Produce a vibrant, mixed use place: developing a mixed-use economy,</li> </ul>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>





Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>particularly along the High St, in order to create a vibrant, diverse, successful and safe place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrate the public realm: creating an attractive and safe public realm based on its historic structure making the most of the area's riverside location. Restoration of historic alleys and establishment of a sensitive river frontage and riverside walk to be used by pedestrians and cyclists are key elements as are links to the green areas around Fort Pitt.</li> <li>• Promote the riverfront: attracting people and activity to the riverside as a key asset, protecting and enhancing views of the river and developing a riverside walk as a safe and secure place.</li> <li>• Produce a people-friendly place that is easy to get to, through and around: enhancing existing pedestrian and vehicular routes and creating new ones that are direct, safe and pedestrian focussed.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Strood Riverside Development Brief (September 2006)</b></p>	<p>This document was developed to extend the development of the Medway Waterfront and complement the Rochester Riverside Development on the opposite side of the river.</p> <p>The document has two main objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update the planning policy context for the area; and;</li> <li>2. to develop a coherent set of design and land uses in the area.</li> </ol>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>
<p><b>Strood Town Centre Masterplan (December 2009)</b></p>	<p>The Masterplan is a spatial vision for Strood Town Centre.</p> <p>The objectives of the spatial framework are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The major waterfront developments to relate to and support the town centre</li> <li>• New development in the town centre to contribute significantly towards improving the character and quality of the local environment</li> <li>• New development and public realm improvements to transform the town centre into a place that will attract, support and benefit from housing growth</li> </ul>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
	<p>in the area, whilst also better serving the needs of existing residents, businesses and visitors</p>	
<p><b>The Interface Land SPD (October 2010)</b></p>	<p>The interface land was formally part of the Chatham dockyard areas. It is presently north of the historic dockyard and consists of riverside areas, the mast ponds and part of the covered slips.</p> <p>The objectives of the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protection and enhancement of the significance of the heritage features;</li> <li>• protection of the strategic and local views;</li> <li>• flexibility of use, massing and height parameters;</li> <li>• permeable movement and parking requirements;</li> <li>• public realm treatment; and</li> <li>• drainage and flooding management .</li> </ul>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>
<p><b>Temple Waterfront Development Brief (October 2006)</b></p>	<p>The document has been produced as a guide for developers in order to shape the development of the Temple Waterfront area.</p> <p>The main aims of the Brief are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote the development of an important regeneration opportunity in line with the ambitions of the Strood Waterfront Action Area and Medway Waterfront Renaissance Strategy;</li> <li>• ensure that development helps to integrate Strood Waterfront within the wider urban area;</li> <li>• promote the protection of the site’s ecological and open space functions through enhancement and better long term management;</li> <li>• ensure that urban design, public space and architecture are of the highest quality; and</li> <li>• set out guidance for the implementation of development.</li> </ul>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>



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<b>Wainscott Development Brief (April 2004)</b>	<p>The brief seeks to build on the policies within the 2003 Local Plan for Wainscott by providing more design guidance. It has listed several objectives that developments should accord to that have been taken from the Kent Design Guide:</p> <p>The main aims of the Brief are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote the development of an important regeneration opportunity in line with the ambitions of the Strood Waterfront Action Area and Medway Waterfront Renaissance Strategy;</li> <li>• ensure that development helps to integrate Strood Waterfront within the wider urban area;</li> <li>• promote the protection of the site’s ecological and open space functions through enhancement and better long term management;</li> <li>• ensure that urban design, public space and architecture are of the highest quality; and</li> <li>• set out guidance for the implementation of development.</li> </ul>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>
<b><u>2. Health</u></b>		
<b>Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy for Medway 2012-2017</b>	<p>The strategy aims to improve the health and well-being of the community through improvements in Public Health. The strategy has several aims including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out a vision for improving health and wellbeing across Medway including health, social care and public health.</li> <li>• Identify strategic themes and priority actions for improving health and wellbeing through integrated partnership action in order to achieve significant change in population outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that health and well-being are considered when developing plans for growth.</p>
<b>Medway Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</b>	<p>A report summarising the needs of an area relating to health and well being.</p>	



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>12. Transport and Accessibility</b>		
<b>Medway Local Transport Plan 2011</b>	<p>Medway's third LTP sets out Medway's transport strategy for the next 15 years, embracing the wider aspirations for the Medway. It key priorities focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Medway's regeneration, economic competitiveness and growth by securing a reliable and efficient local transport network</li> <li>• Supporting a healthier natural environment by contributing to tackling climate change and improving air quality</li> <li>• Ensuring Medway has good quality transport connections to key markets and major conurbations in Kent and London</li> <li>• Supporting equality of opportunity to employment, education, goods and services for all residents in Medway</li> <li>• Supporting a safer, healthier and more secure community in Medway by promoting active lifestyles and by reducing the risk of death, injury or ill health or being the victim of crime</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plan will need to account for the key priorities and aims of the Local Transport Plan to ensure that future development objectives are aligned with transport objectives in relation to connectivity and accessibility.</p> <p>Equally the compilation of SA objectives for the purposes of the assessment of the local plan should seek an alignment with this Plan.</p>
<b>Movement in Medway – Medway's Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2017</b>	<p>The Plan outlines the priorities and in the PROW network. The primary aim of the plan is <i>'to ensure that the Rights of Way network is relevant to the people that wish to use it, and that the network meets their current and future needs whilst promoting access for all'</i>.</p>	<p>The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.</p>
<b>Water Environment</b>		
<b>Medway Strategic</b>	This study was required by Planning Policy Guidance 25: Development and Flood Risk	Use as a point of reference when



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>Flood Risk Assessment 2006</b>	which required LPA's to consider their development sites in terms of flood risk (namely coastal/tidal and fluvial). Mott MacDonald undertook some flood modelling as part of this project.	making decisions on new Local Plan allocations.
<b>Medway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Addendum 2011</b>	Due to updated modelling and policy a new assessment was undertaken in 2007.	Use as a point of reference when making decisions on new Local Plan allocations.
<b>Medway Flood Defence Strategy High Level Appraisal</b>	This study included an assessment of the extent, type and condition of flood defences through Medway as well as an economic analysis of the estimated damage costs attributed to different flood cells, and the costs associated with different types/standards of defence.	Use as a point of reference when making decisions on new Local Plan allocations.
<b>Medway Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</b>	This document is a result of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that required Medway Council as Lead Local Flood Authority to produce a strategy outlining how it would manage 'local' flood risk (that associated with surface water, groundwater and streams/ditches).	Use as a point of reference when making decisions on new Local Plan allocations & for use when formulating development management policies to oversee the assessment of development in the district.
<b>Isle of Grain to South Foreland 2008</b>	A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.	The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.
<b>Medway Estuary and Swale SMP 2010 – applicable to the tidal section of the Medway</b>	To perform the same duty as the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP 2008, but to cover the Medway Estuary and Swale areas in more detail. Address the risks associated with coastal evolution to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.	The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document into consideration.
<b>River Medway</b>	To development flood management policies to deliver sustainable flood risk management for the long- term. These are used to influence planning decisions and	The new local Plan should seek to take the issues identified in the document



Policy, Plans & Programmes	Relevant sustainability objectives	Implication/ Link to Medway Local Plan
<b>Catchment Flood Management Plan 2009 – applicable to the fluvial section of the Medway</b>	plan making.	into consideration.
<b>Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board Policy Statement on Flood Protection and Water Level Management (2006)</b>	To reduce the risk to people and the developed and natural environment from flooding and coastal erosion by encouraging the provision of technically, environmentally and economically sound and sustainable defence measures.	

