

Medway Council

**Medway Local Plan Sustainability  
Appraisal**

Appraisal of development scenarios  
and draft policies

REP/259372/ENV001

Final | 26 April 2018

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Medway Council is preparing a new Local Plan that will provide the policy framework to guide growth and development in Medway throughout the plan period of 2012-2035. Arup has been appointed to undertake a sustainability appraisal (SA) of the emerging Medway Local Plan (MLP) and to review the SA work undertaken to date.

This report is an interim SA of the development scenarios and emerging draft policies associated with the MLP and has been carried out in line with the requirements of the European Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC), Statutory Instrument 1633 ‘The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes’ Regulations (2004), the National Plan Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 and Planning Practice Guidance (updated 2014) and section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

## 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal

The purpose of SA is to integrate sustainability into the plan-making process and promote sustainable development<sup>1</sup>. The SA process aids planning authorities to develop and fulfil the objectives for their local area with due regard to relevant local sustainability issues.

SA is an iterative process that identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of a plan. It is a systematic and transparent procedure used to inform decision-making. It achieves this by testing the performance of the plan against a series of environmental, social and economic objectives, which define sustainable development. The process identifies the adverse sustainability issues to be mitigated, alongside the opportunities for enhancing positive effects. The SA subsequently provides the basis for improving the performance of plans, and suggests appropriate monitoring of impacts.

An outline of the SA process is provided in Table 1 alongside a description each stage.

Table 1: Key stages of the SA process.

SEA Stage	Key Components	Description
A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.	This stage is split up into the following 5 sub-stages: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives;</li><li>2. Collect baseline information;</li><li>3. Identify sustainability issues and problems;</li><li>4. Develop the sustainability appraisal framework; and</li><li>5. Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability report.</li></ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Determines the level of detail to which the SA should assess options and policies;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Identifies policy context and baseline situation;</li><li>○ Environmental, economic and social sustainability issues identified;</li><li>○ Guiding questions and SA objectives developed;</li><li>○ General assessment of the current local plan objectives vs sustainability objectives;</li><li>○ Scoping Report published for consultation by statutory consultation bodies and the public for comments.</li></ul></li></ul>
B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects.	This stage is split up into the following 5 sub-stages: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Test the local plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework;</li><li>2. Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives;</li><li>3. Evaluate the likely effects of the local plan and alternatives;</li><li>4. Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects; and</li><li>5. Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the local plan.</li></ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development alternatives:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ identified based on the issues determined at the previous stage;</li><li>○ assessed against the sustainability framework developed at the previous stage; and</li><li>○ compared to each other to determine preferred options</li></ul></li><li>• Iterative stage as sustainability framework responds to changes made after:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Stage A consultation; and</li><li>○ Continual assessment of developing options.</li></ul></li><li>• Enables selection of preferred local plan development options with justification in terms of sustainability;</li><li>• Identifies lasting significant impacts; and</li><li>• Suggests mitigation and indicative monitoring.</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents: ODPM, November 2005

SEA Stage	Key Components	Description
C: Prepare the sustainability appraisal report.	This stage involves the preparation of the SA report, to be published alongside the draft local plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The SA report includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Baseline and context of the region and plan making process;</li><li>○ Methodologies used to undertake the SA;</li><li>○ SA objectives</li><li>○ Local plan options, alternatives and policies;</li><li>○ Sustainability performance against SA objectives; and</li><li>○ Monitoring and mitigation measures to be implemented.</li></ul></li></ul>
D: Seek representations on the sustainability appraisal report from the consultation bodies and the public.	This stage is split into 3 sub-stages <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Consultation on the draft local plan and SA;</li><li>2. Assessment of any significant amendments; and</li><li>3. Responses to the consultation including how consultation influenced the SA.</li></ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allows input on SA Report and Draft Local Plan from public and stakeholders;</li><li>• Responds to opinions and responses making changes as necessary;</li><li>• Re-appraises (if necessary) changes made to Draft Local Plan.</li></ul>
E: Post-adoption reporting and monitoring.	This stage is split into 3 sub-stages: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Prepare and publish post-adoption statement;</li><li>2. Monitor significant effects of implementing the local plan; and</li><li>3. Respond to adverse effects.</li></ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitors any impacts with clear aims and transparent methodologies;</li><li>• Allows effective and timely response to significant adverse effects identified; and</li><li>• After the local plan is adopted, the SA process will ensure that impacts are monitored with clear aims and transparent methodologies in order to respond to any significant adverse effects that have been identified during the SA process.</li></ul>

1.2.1 The SA framework

A framework of sustainability objectives is commonly used to assess an emerging development plan such as the MLP. The SA framework is largely informed by two sources of information: a review of relevant baseline information and the current policy context.

1.2.1.1 Informing the framework (baseline and context)

Information surrounding the environmental baseline in Medway has been collected and analysed to establish the current situation and underlying trends in Medway. The baseline attempts to cover as wide a range of issues as possible, and includes aspects such as (but not limited to): population and demographics, the economy and education etc. Using this information, it is possible to identify how Medway performs compared to other regions or national averages. By identifying these ‘sustainability issues’ within the SA, the development strategies and policies brought forward in the developing Local Plan can be objectively recognised as contributing to improving or worsening the issues.

All relevant policies and legislation are reviewed to provide a policy context which should be considered when developing new policies that will be included in the developing Local Plan. Local Plans should not propose policy which contradicts legislation, and they should seek to fulfil obligations set out in policy which sits above local plans (i.e. national policy guidelines and priorities). The SA framework takes account of this by understanding the current policy context and communicating requirements and recommendations denoted by the legislation and policies which is relevant to the area or activity in question. These are also identified as ‘sustainability issues’ for the purposes of SA, which allows proposed local plan policies to be objectively assessed as contributing either positively or negatively towards satisfying legislative requirements and other policy recommendations.

1.2.1.2 Applying the framework

Environmental baseline and policy context information allows the sustainability issues relevant to Medway to be identified. A site or policy proposed by the developing Local Plan should actively seek to improve the situation while remaining compliant within the policy context. To decide how a proposed local plan policy or site will influence the baseline, the sustainability issues are transposed into the SA framework. This framework comprises of:

- Sustainability objectives, or what the Local Plan will achieve;
- Appraisal questions, which test how the Local Plan meets the sustainability objectives; and
- Indicators and indicative monitoring, which allow post-adoption sustainability effects to be monitored.

Sustainability Appraisal objectives state what local plan policies, or other interventions, should achieve with respect to the sustainability issues identified. This objectives-lead approach uses appraisal questions to guide the assessment. Appraisal questions provide a focus to the objective in terms of how it may be achieved, which helps to determine the nature of the impact that the intervention may have on the objective. This is a qualitative approach which identifies and describes impacts rather than attempting to assign a quantitative value, which would be restrictive and potentially inaccurate at this strategic level. Indicative indicators and monitoring methods are included at this stage to ensure that the progress of the local plan can be assessed in the post adoption stage. This contributes towards the overall sustainability of the local plan and means that interventions can be analysed to measurably understand their performance and impact.



### 1.3 Local Plan

A local plan details the strategic priorities for an area and provides a policy framework to support the delivery of infrastructure and growth to address the specific issues faced by the area.

Medway Council is in the process of preparing a new local plan to guide long-term development in the region until 2035. The new Local Plan will detail the overall vision for the region and set out policies which will help achieve this vision. It will form the statutory planning framework for developing planning applications and will replace the policies from the previous Local Plan (2003).

Paragraph 157 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>2</sup> states that a local plan should seek to “meet the objectives, principles and policies of [the National Planning Policy] Framework,” by positively planning for development within the area at an appropriate timescale. The plan will detail where development is necessary, appropriate, or inappropriate based on the needs of the area and any constraints, while indicating where suitable strategic development may be achieved. It will also “contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built, and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.” Policies have been developed by Medway Council to meet the strategic priorities identified through the Local Plan process.



Figure 1: Map showing Medway encompassed within the red line boundary.

### 1.4 The SA and Local Plan Process

Under Paragraph 152 of the NPPF, a local plan should seek to achieve net gains across the three aspects of economic, environmental and social sustainability. The NPPF advises that significant adverse impacts resulting from the implementation of a local plan should be avoided where possible or mitigated where they are unavoidable, including the potential for provision of compensatory measures if necessary.

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Medway Council is required to undertake an SA of the development of the new local plan to allow the local plan to continually and iteratively be developed and refined to address sustainability issues affecting the region. This interim SA has been prepared to meet the requirements of Paragraph 165 of the NPPF, which states that ‘a sustainability appraisal which meets the requirements of the European Directive on strategic environmental assessment should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the economic, social and environmental factors.’

The development of the local plan should go hand in hand with the SA process. Figure 2 shows how the stages of both the SA and plan making process align.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance> Accessed: 09/04/2018

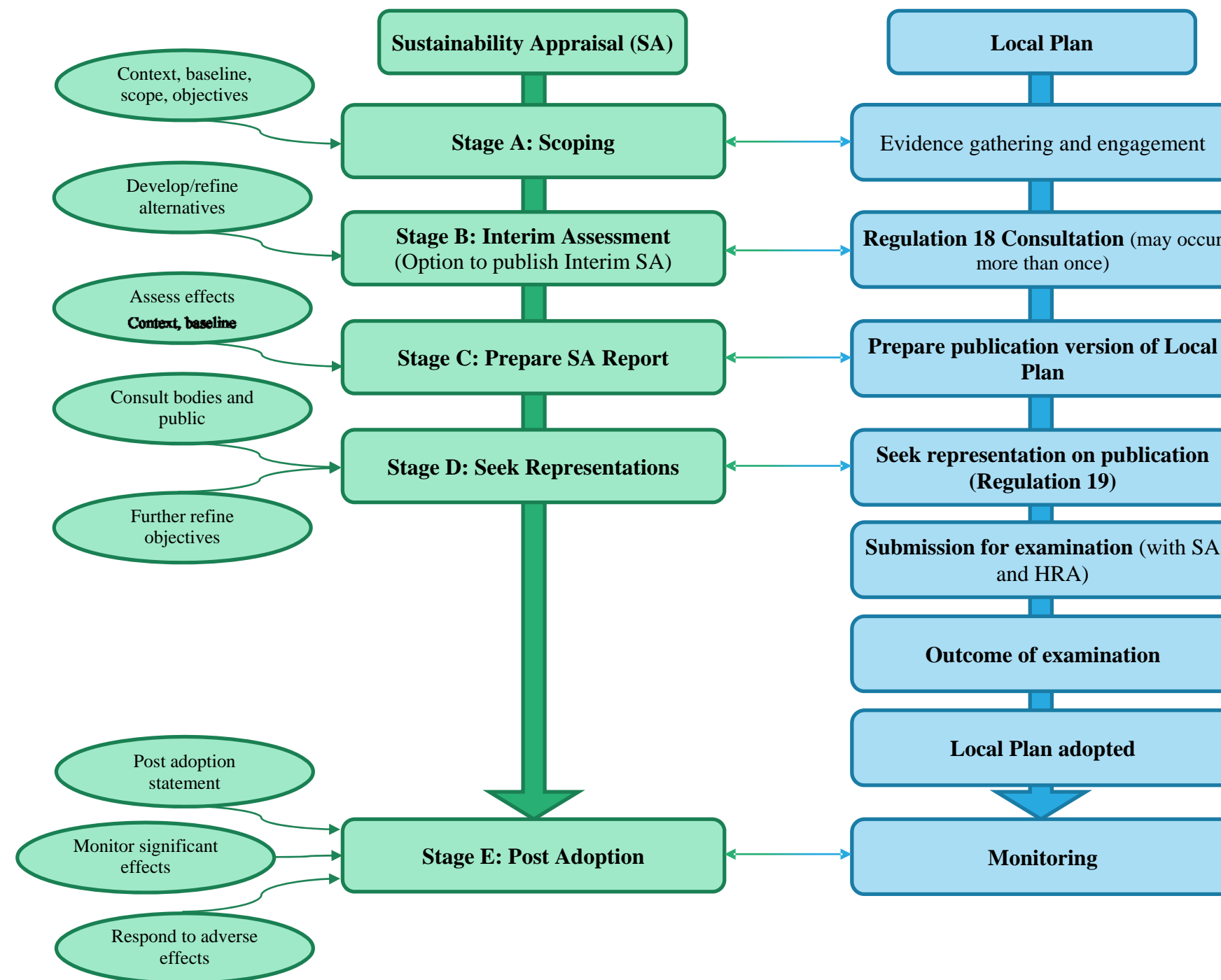


Figure 2: The SA and plan making processes inform each other to improve the overall economic, environmental, and social sustainability of a local plan.



## 1.5 Progress to date

Medway Council has previously undertaken two rounds of Regulation 18 consultation, having published an Issues and Options<sup>3</sup> report in January 2016 and a Development Options<sup>4</sup> report in January 2017. Alongside the Development Options report, a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report, an Interim SA report, and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening report has been published. This progress is outlined in Figure 3.

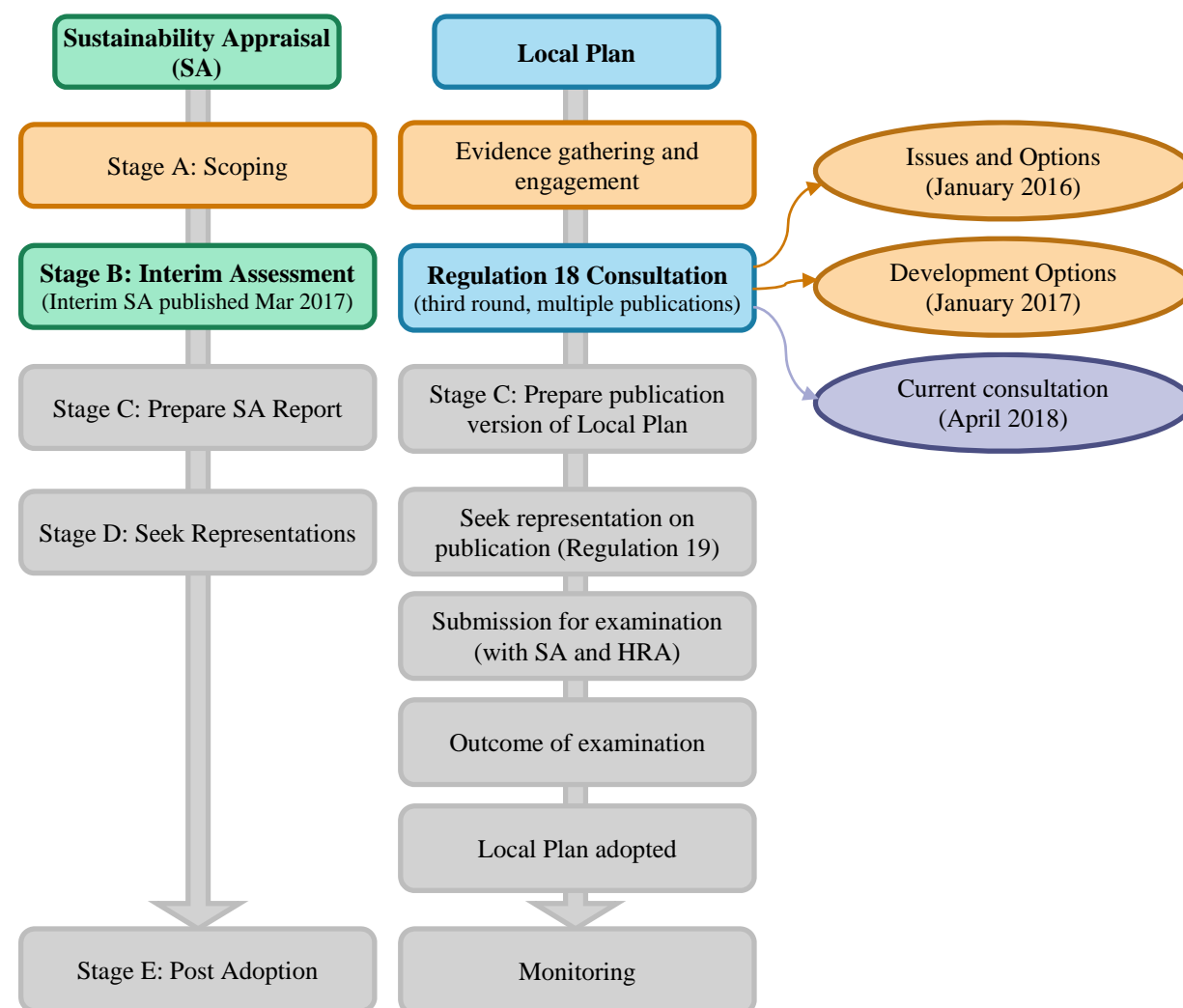


Figure 3: Progress made to date in developing the Medway Local Plan. Completed stages are marked in orange, with the current stage of the SEA, Local Plan and consultation process in green, blue and purple respectively. Stages that have not been started are grey.

Arup have been appointed to produce an interim SA report to support the ongoing work in developing the MLP at the stage of Regulation 18. The SA process assesses the Development Strategy used to guide the development of the MLP to ensure environmental, social and economic sustainability, and also reviews the scope, issues and options, baseline, context, and SA framework methodologies.

The SA process has been undertaken in compliance with the SEA Directive and the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

## 1.6 Purpose of this report

This report provides an update to the interim SA based on material changes that have happened since the publication of the Interim SA Report in March 2017. It accompanies the developing Local Plan document which includes initial policies, development sites and development strategy options, as well as the Habitats Regulations Assessment document which assesses the impacts of policies and options of European sites.

The aim of this report is to show the results of policy, site and development scenario assessments against the SA framework. Where significant positive or negative impacts are identified, the report provides recommendations to either reduce impacts or enhance benefits. This report also suggests methods of monitoring impacts, if required, to enable a timely response to unforeseen or worsening impacts and to otherwise ensure positive outcomes are as anticipated which is crucial to proving the success of policy implementation.

This interim SA is not the final report and comments from stakeholders that relate to all aspects of this report and the SA process are welcomed.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/215/final\\_issues\\_and\\_options\\_public\\_consultation\\_copy](https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/215/final_issues_and_options_public_consultation_copy)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/download/288/local\\_plan\\_development\\_options](https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/download/288/local_plan_development_options)

## 2 The SA Process

### 2.1 Introduction

This section summarises the work that has been undertaken in the SA process (see Table 1) to date. It briefly outlines the work undertaken to date and presents the key findings that have influenced the work so far. This section also states where information has been reviewed and updated, as well as outlining the next stages in the SA process.

### 2.2 Stage A: Scoping

The first stage of the SA process gathered information relevant to Medway. A comprehensive baseline study was undertaken by Medway Council to understand the underlying economic, environmental and social situation surrounding Medway, as well as a full review of all relevant plans, policies and programmes which may impact upon the area. Through this process, the main sustainability issues affecting Medway were identified and sustainability objectives were developed to allow the likely significant effects of the MLP to be assessed.

Assessment questions were also developed to guide the assessment of policies against sustainability objectives to ensure that a consistent approach assessing specific issues was followed. The performance of emerging local plan objectives were tested against the SA framework. This information was submitted for public consultation, with all comments and feedback considered before the publication of the Scoping Report in 2016 by Medway Council.

### 2.3 Stage B: Interim Assessment

Representations made during previous consultations have resulted in changes to the emerging MLP policies and development scenarios, as well as requiring updates to baseline information and the context review (see section 3). As a result of these updates, amendments were also made to the SA framework (see section 4) to ensure that specific issues can be directly addressed as part of the appraisal process, including the introduction of new sustainability objectives and more comprehensive assessment questions. The revisions have made the SA framework more robust and focussed on those sustainability aspects most relevant to Medway. Due to the significance of the changes to both the local plan development strategies and the SA framework, the developing local plan was reassessed with the results included in this report.

The MLP development scenarios were also assessed against the SA framework developed at the previous stage. This process was informed by engagement with statutory stakeholders before a formal period of public consultation under Regulation 18 was undertaken.

### 2.4 The revised framework

The revised framework was developed following the same objectives-led approach used at previous stages. Thirteen objectives were developed through an understanding of the key issues facing Medway. The objectives are broad and may relate to multiple sustainability topics, reflecting the strategic nature of this document and the Local Plan. Guiding questions have been

refined to reflect the findings of the baseline and context review to recognise specific needs of Medway in the SA process. More details on the revised SA framework are presented on page 28.

#### 2.4.1 Assessment criteria

The MLP objectives were tested against the revised framework using the assessment criteria shown in Table 2.

Table 2: The assessment criteria used to assess the local plan against the sustainability objectives.

Significance of effect		Description of effect
++	Significant positive	Likely to benefit a large area of Medway and neighbouring areas, or a large number of people and receptors. The effects are likely to be direct and permanent and the magnitude will be major.
+	Minor positive	The extent of predicted beneficial effects is likely to be limited to small areas within Medway or small groups of people and receptors. The effects can be direct or indirect, temporary or reversible. The magnitude of the predicted effects will be minor.
O	Neutral	Neutral effects are predicted where the option being assessed is unlikely to alter the present or future baseline situation.
-	Minor negative	Minor negative effects are likely to be limited to small areas within Medway, or limited to small groups of people and receptors and or those with low sensitivity to change. The effects can be direct or indirect, temporary or reversible. The importance of the receptor is likely to be minor as is the magnitude of the predicted effect.
--	Significant negative	Likely to affect the whole, or large areas of Medway and neighbouring areas. Also applies to effects on nationally or internationally important assets. The effects are likely to be direct, irreversible and permanent and/or affecting areas or assets with high sensitivity to change. The magnitude of the predicted effects will also be major.
?	Unknown	This significance criterion is applied to effects where there is insufficient information to make a robust assessment. It is also applied to the assessment of options that can have both positive and negative effects and it is not clear whether the positive or negative effects outweigh each other.
N/A	Not applicable	This is applied to objectives that are not affected by the option or policy being assessed.

### 2.5 How the SA is influencing the MLP

Figure 3 demonstrates how the SA and local plan processes are aligned. SA is an iterative process, designed to enhance the sustainability of a local plan by understanding and testing objectives, policies, and strategic development alternatives against sustainability criteria relating to the region.

The SA process has actively influenced the development of the Regulation 18 Local Plan Development Strategy document to ensure the alternatives and policies fully addresses the key social, environmental and economic sustainability issues affecting Medway.

This has been especially relevant following initial Regulation 18 consultation. Significant issues were raised by consultees which resulted in a full review of the SA framework alongside the local plan development strategies and emerging policies. The early engagement of statutory stakeholders and the public have ensured that both public and expert opinion has been used to shape the

development of the new Local Plan. By developing the Local Plan within a robust and proportional framework that is relevant to the local context, the potential for beneficial effects has been optimised, whilst the potential for adverse impacts has been minimised. This has also been ensured through the recommendations given at each policy appraisal.

At this stage both the Local Plan and SA are subject to change based on representations made at each stage of consultation.

## 2.6 Next Steps

This SA Report is open for consultation alongside the emerging Local Plan. Upon completion of the consultation period, the consultation responses will be collated and analysed with the findings to be used in the further stages of preparation of the new Medway Local Plan.

Following the steps outlined in Table 1, the SA process will continue to run alongside the Local Plan process to improve the sustainability of the Local Plan in an iterative manner. The next formal stage of the Local Plan process is Regulation 19 consultation, at which point the draft Local Plan will be put forward alongside supporting documents to seek representations. Following the Regulation 19 consultation and a review of representations made, the draft Local Plan will be amended if necessary. The draft Local Plan will then be submitted for examination. If successful, the draft Local Plan will then be adopted by Medway Council.

A Post Adoption Statement will be produced in accordance with the SEA Regulations and will be published once the Local Plan is approved. This Statement will outline how the SA has influenced the drafting of the Local Plan and will set out how the consultation responses were addressed.

## 3 Context and baseline

### 3.1 Introduction

This section provides a review of the baseline economic, environmental and social situation in Medway, as well as providing a review of the relevant policies, plans and programmes which should be considered when developing the Local Plan.

### 3.2 Scope and purpose of the baseline

This baseline review provides an overview of the baseline situation and allows key sustainability issues to be identified which will be covered by the Local Plan itself. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 Regulation 12(3) sets out the requirement for a discussion of the

“...relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” (Annex 1 (b)). The baseline and identification of key issues must also consider social and economic aspects in addition to the environmental issues specified in the SEA Directive.

The Medway Local Plan and SEA will also be influenced by many different plans, programmes and strategies. This is recognised by the SEA Directive, which requires a review of relevant plans, programmes and strategies to be completed in the preparation of documents such as the Local Plan:

“The plan’s relationship with other relevant plans and programmes... the environmental protection objectives, established at international, (European) Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan...and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation” (Directive 2001/42/EC - SEA Annex 1 (a), (e))

This information will inevitably change over time, as such as it is important that the baseline is monitored and regularly revised. Stakeholder responses from the Interim Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report have also helped to shape this iteration of the baseline and context review.

### 3.3 Population and demographics

#### 3.3.1 Population

The mid-year population estimates identified Medway’s population as 278,542 (Figure 4)<sup>5</sup>. Medway’s population has been growing steadily since 1991 and is expected to continue to grow, as illustrated in Figure 5.

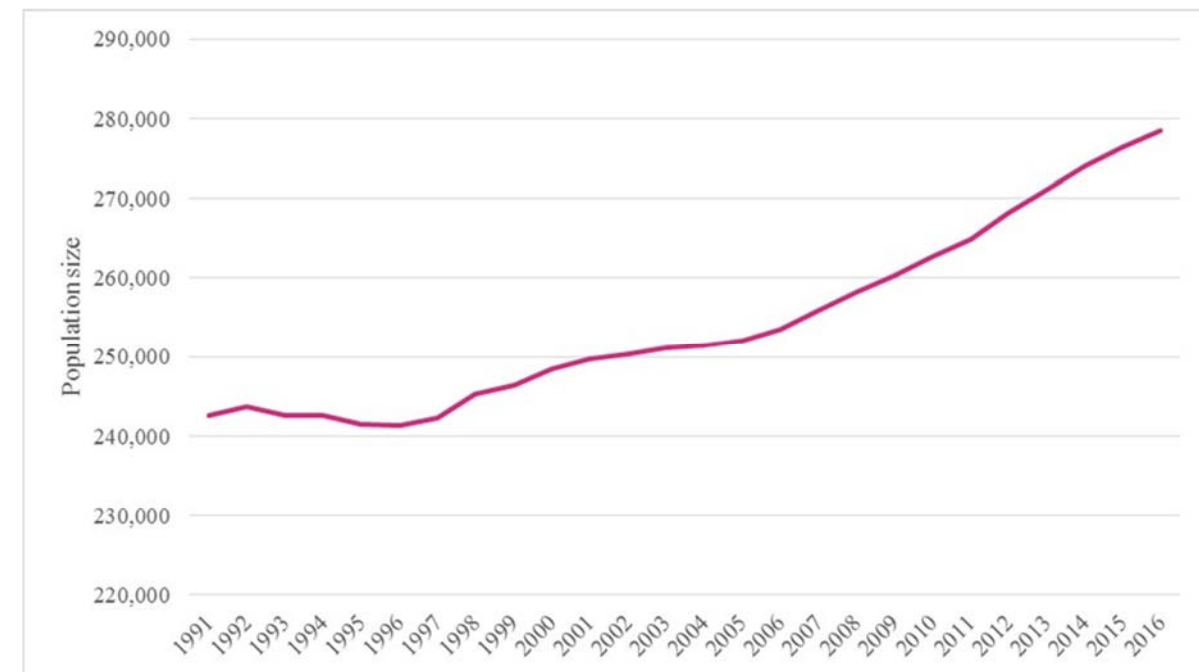


Figure 4: Medway population

<sup>5</sup> Nomisweb.co.uk Population estimates

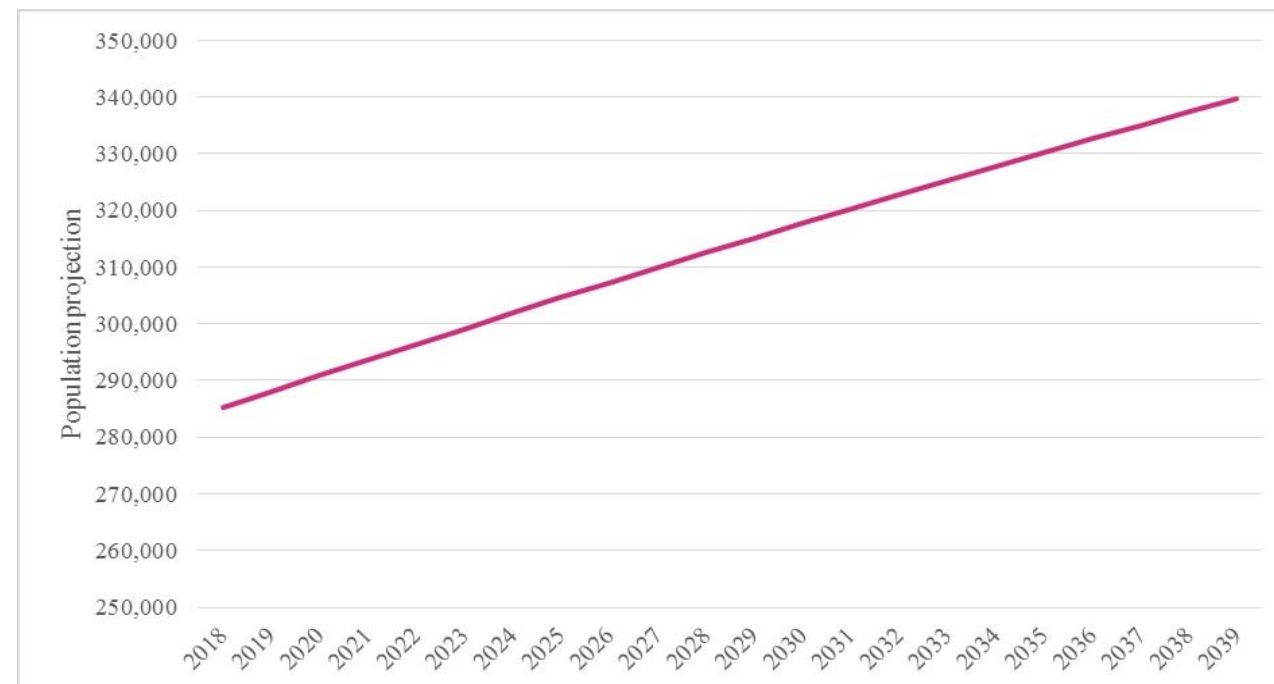


Figure 5: Medway population projection

### 3.3.2 Diversity

The primary ethnicity of Medway's population is white at just under 90% compared to a national average of approximately 85%. While this proportion is higher than the national average, it is lower than the average for Kent, indicating that Medway is more diverse than other regions within the local area. This is reflected in Figure 6, which shows the borough's high proportion of Asian, Black, Mixed, and other ethnicities compared with Kent.

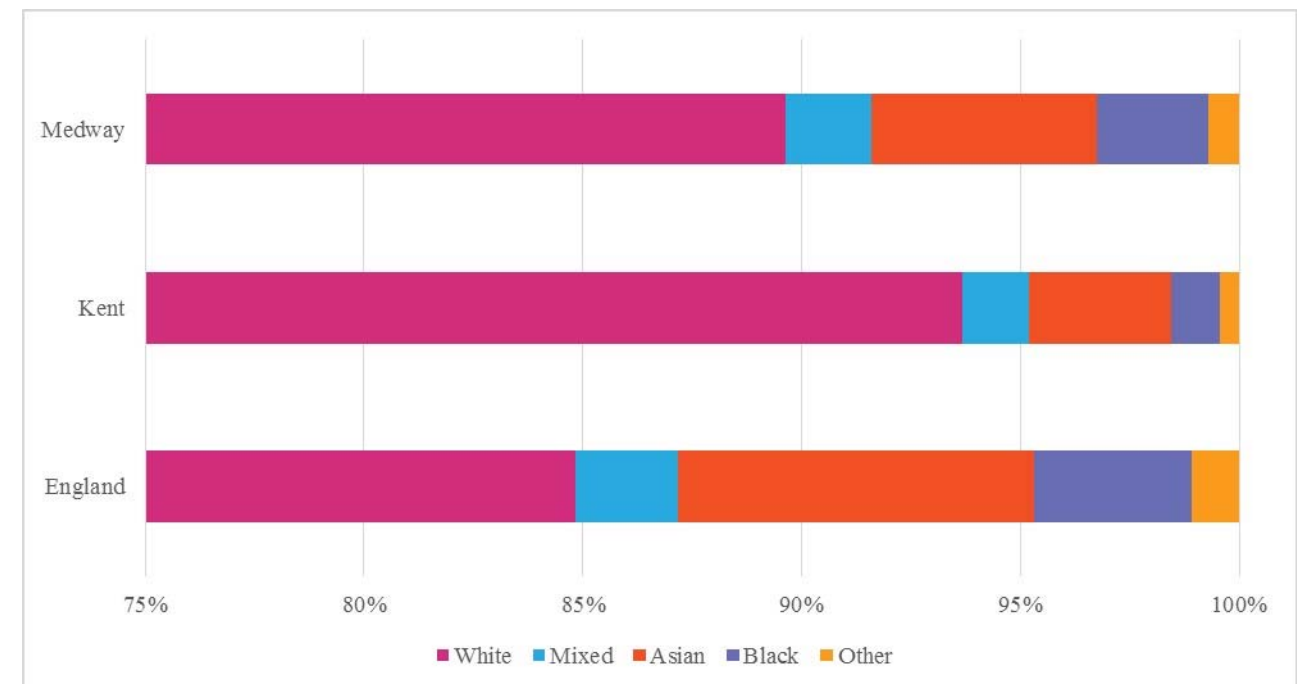


Figure 6: Diversity in Medway

### 3.3.3 Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in England<sup>6</sup>. Medway is ranked as the 118th most deprived Local Authority of 326 in England. The most deprived communities in Medway are concentrated in the central urban areas, particularly the communities of Chatham Central, Gillingham North and Luton and & Wayfield. Medway has 12 neighbourhoods ranked among the 10% most deprived in England.

### 3.3.4 Population and demographics issues and opportunities

Table 3 summarises the key demographic issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues.

<sup>6</sup> The English Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015 Guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>



Table 3: Medway demographic issues and opportunities

Key Issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
Rapidly growing and changing area. Increasingly diverse population. A number of severely deprived neighbourhoods suffering multiple deprivation issues.	Appropriate management of the implications of population growth on housing and services.  The benefits of growth and new development should be fairly distributed.	To promote the resilience of communities by improving deprivation and promoting inclusive communities.

3.4 Housing

3.4.1 Housing deprivation

The IMD ‘Barriers to housing and services’ domain measures household overcrowding, homelessness and housing affordability. No areas of Medway are within the 10% most deprived, but 16 centrally located areas are ranked in the 20% most deprived areas nationally, including Gillingham North, Chatham Central, Luton and Wayfield (

Figure 7). In Gillingham North, over half of the neighbourhoods are within the 20% most deprived for this domain.

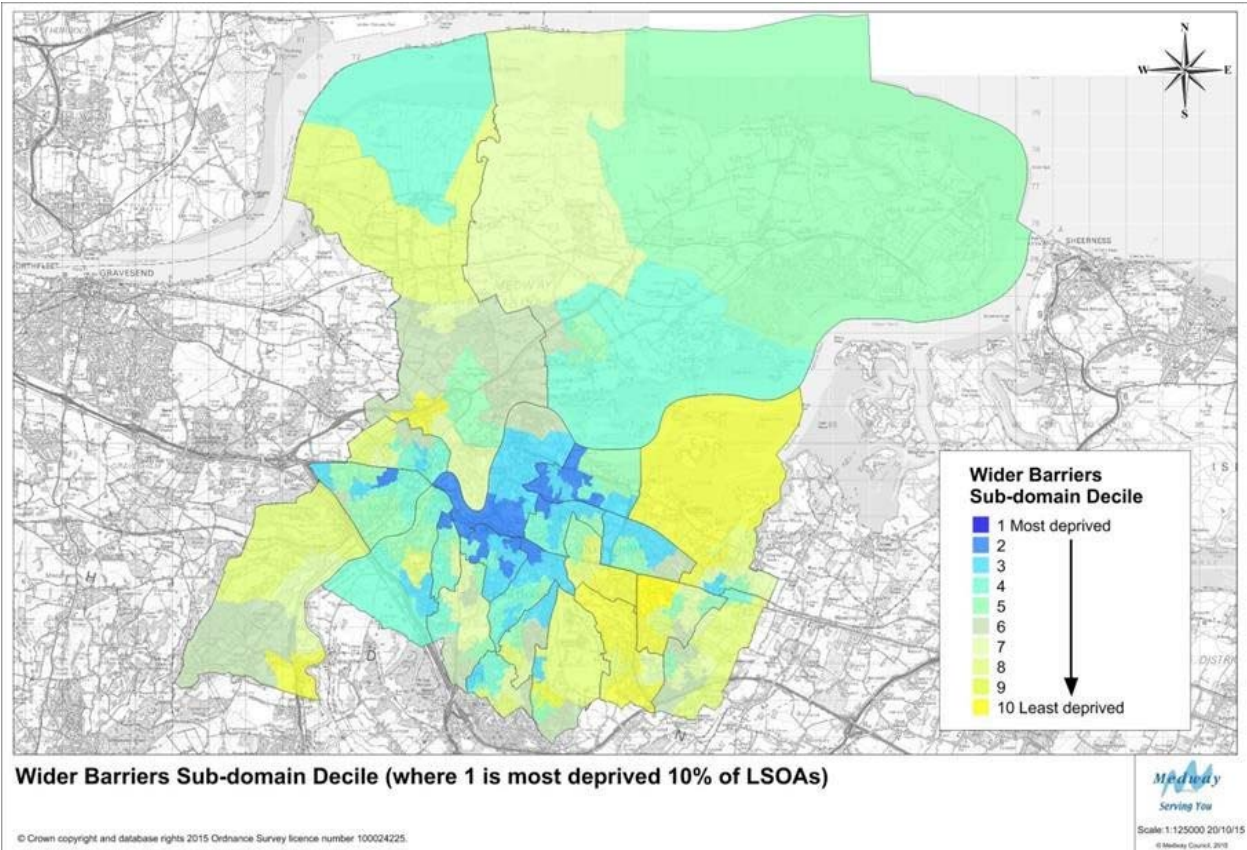


Figure 7: Housing deprivation in Medway<sup>7</sup>

3.4.2 Housing need

The Living Working Countryside: The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing (DCLG, 2008)<sup>8</sup> outlines the need for appropriate levels of affordable housing. The Local Plan should consider overall housing need with specific reference to affordable housing.

The North Kent Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (SHENA) identified that the Medway Local Plan needs to provide 29,463 new homes between 2015 and 2035<sup>9</sup>. The assessment identified a high level of demand for affordable housing, with 17,112 affordable homes required between 2012 and 2035. The scale of the projected housing need requires consideration of locations that could accommodate large scale development.

The 2017 Authority Monitoring Report<sup>10</sup> provides information on phasing from 2012 to 2031 (Table 4). 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.

<sup>7</sup> English Indices of deprivation 2015, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
<sup>8</sup> <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120920013105/http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/taylorcallevidence.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> North Kent SHENA, Medway Integrated Growth Needs Assessment- Technical note.  
<http://www.medway.gov.uk/PDF/App%20%20-%20Medway%20IGNA%20Technical%20Paper.pdf>  
<sup>10</sup> [https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/212/authority\\_monitoring\\_report\\_volume\\_1\\_2017](https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/212/authority_monitoring_report_volume_1_2017)



Table 4: Housing trajectory 2012-2032

Housing trajectory 2012/13-2031/32															
From: 2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
To: 2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Complete	Projected completions														
2822	915	1204	1467	1559	1863	1101	1030	662	581	525	321	200	200	225	132
Required	Annual housing requirement														
5000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

There is a responsibility for new homes to be sustainable, energy efficient and of a high standard, following guidance from the Housing Standards Review 2006. The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 outlines the need to invest in infrastructure, support regeneration and deliver new social and affordable housing, demonstrating that the Local Plan needs to meet housing need, but also support wider regeneration.

3.4.3 Housing tenure

Home ownership in Medway is above the national average (Table 5)<sup>11</sup>. Rented accommodation falls below the national average and socially-rented housing is also comparatively low.

Table 5: Housing tenure in Medway

	Owned (%)	Shared ownership (%)	Social rented (%)	Private rented (%)	Living rent free (%)
Medway	67.7	1.0	13.2	17.1	1.0
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

3.4.4 Housing density

New dwelling densities in Medway average around 43 units per hectare (Table 6)

Table 6: Average density of new dwellings in Medway

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
42	72	44	45	42 <sup>12</sup>

3.4.5 Vacant properties

Just under 3,000 properties, around 2.6% of housing stock, are vacant in Medway. Long-term empty homes are those dwellings that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for over six months.

3.4.6 Student accommodation

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 (Figure 8)

11 Nomisweb.co.uk Tenure

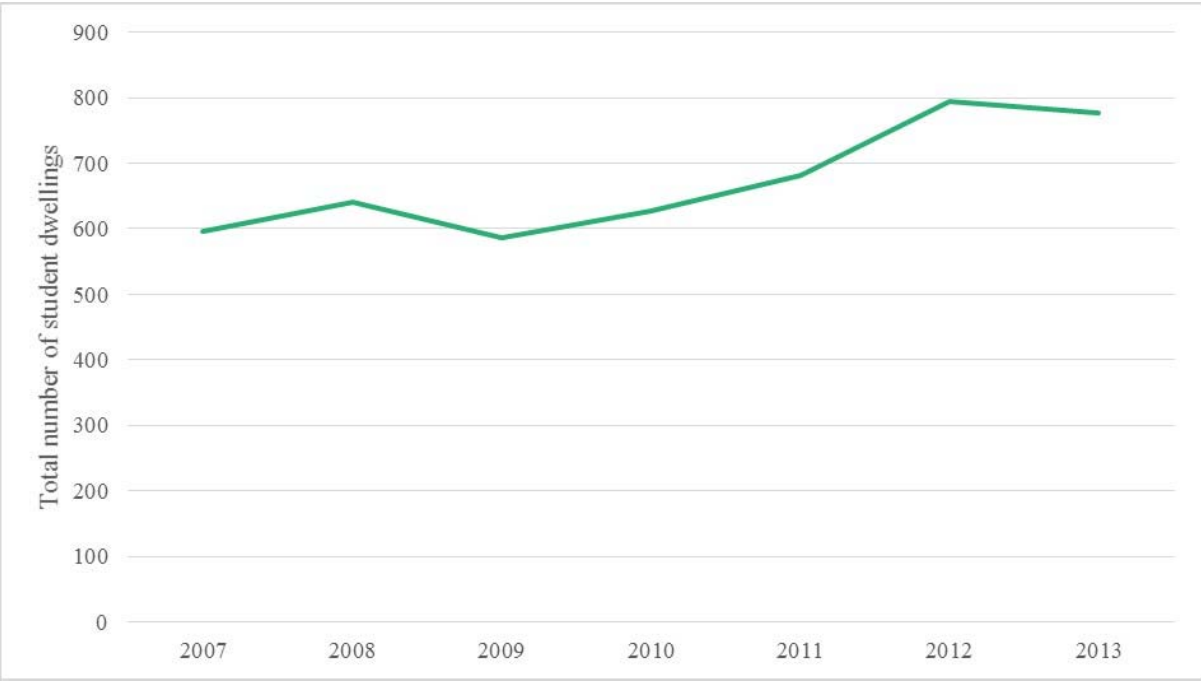


Figure 8: Student dwellings in Medway

3.4.7 Homelessness

The Homelessness Act (2002) gives a greater protection to those with a priority need for housing, such as families, young people and those fleeing violence. Local Plans have a duty to secure accommodation that is, or will become, available for homeless individuals.

The number of households in Medway classed as homeless and in priority need increased between 2011/2012 and 2014/2015, but began to drop in 2015/2016 (Table 7). The number of households classed as homeless and in priority need in Medway is consistently above the national average.

Table 7: Homeless households

		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

Temporary accommodation includes those in bed and breakfast, hostels, council and housing association stock and private sector accommodation. The number of households in temporary accommodation in Medway has been increasing, but remained consistently below the national average between 2011 and 2016 (Table 8).

Table 8: Number of individuals 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

3.4.8 Housing and community issues and opportunities

Table 9 summarises the key demographic issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues.

Table 9: Medway housing and community issues and opportunities

Key Issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
Providing the correct type and size of housing to meet local population need. Managing a large increase in rental properties and a drop in home ownership. A lack of affordability for local people. Housing pressure and population growth from both natural growth and inward migration, most notably from London.	Delivery of a diverse range of housing to meet local demand, such as older people housing, build to rent and student accommodation. Contributing to housing need across Kent and the South East. Delivery of homes of a high standard which encourage sustainable living. Delivery of mixed-used developments which meet economic, social and housing needs.	To provide a sustainable supply of housing to meet the housing requirements of the borough.

3.5 Health

3.5.1 Health deprivation

The health deprivation and disability domain identifies areas with relatively high rates of people who die prematurely, or whose quality of life is impaired by poor health or who are disabled. Medway has four neighbourhoods ranked in the 10% most deprived nationally (Figure 9).

The HM Government (2010) White Paper: Healthy Lives, Healthy People<sup>13</sup> aims to protect the population from serious health threats, help people to live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives, and improve the health of the poorest individuals. Medway has a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the most recent of which covered 2012 to 2017<sup>14</sup>. This strategy seeks to improve health and wellbeing across Medway by improving both public health and social care. The Local Plan should therefore consider how it can influence health outcomes to reduce health deprivation across Medway.

<sup>13</sup> Health Lives, Health People. 2010. Department of Health and Social Care  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-lives-healthy-people-our-strategy-for-public-health-in-england>

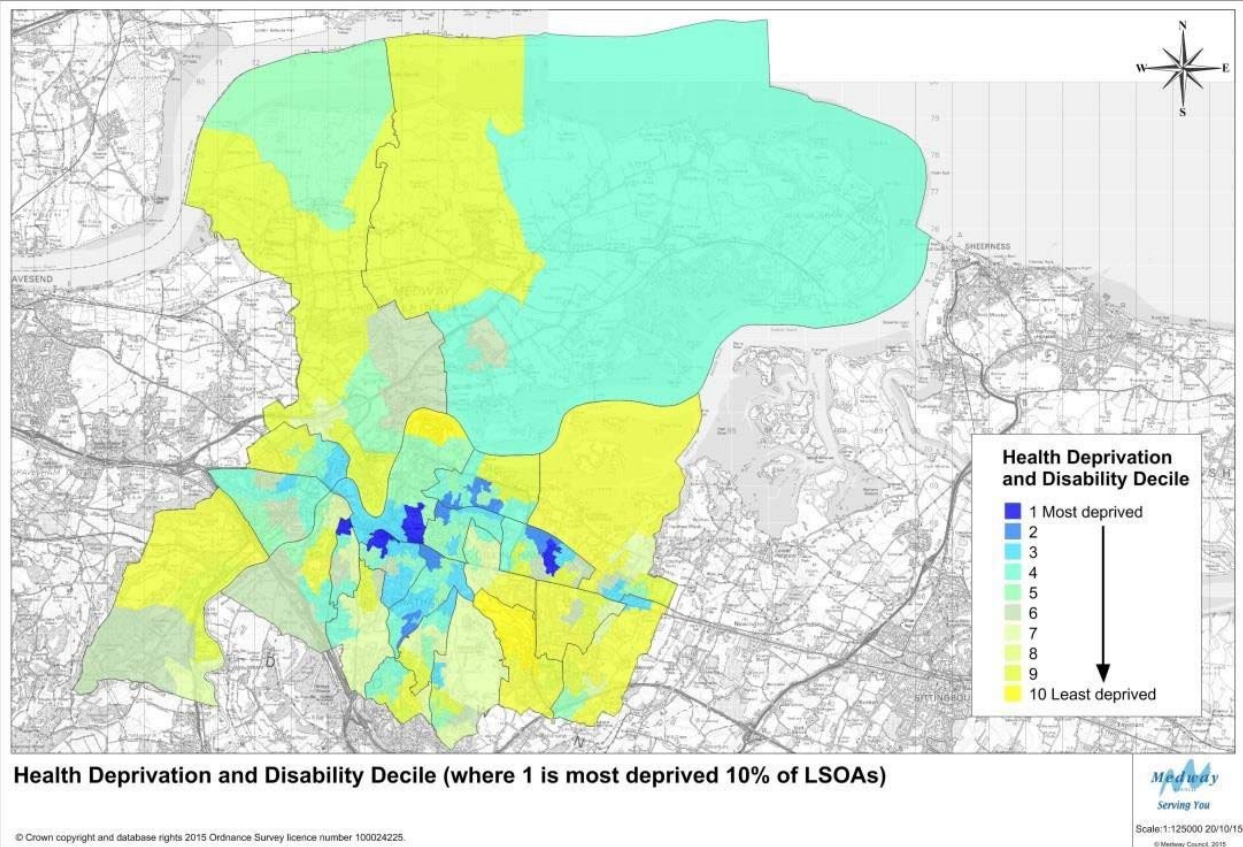


Figure 9: Health deprivation in Medway

3.5.2 Life expectancy

Life expectancy in Medway is below the national average, but has seen a general upward trend between 2008 and 2015 (Table 10)<sup>15</sup>

Table 10: Life expectancy for males and females

	2008-10	2009-2011	2010-12	2011-13	2012-14	2013-15
Male	77.7	78.2	78.5	78.7	78.7	78.4
Female	81.6	81.9	82.1	82.4	82.1	82.0

<sup>14</sup> Medway joint health and wellbeing strategy: <http://medwayjsna.info/ua/008.html>

<sup>15</sup> Public Health England (PHE) Local Health Profile: Medway

3.5.3 Physical activity

Compared to the national and regional levels, Medway has a lower rate of physical activity in adults (Table 11). This measure relates to the percentage of adults achieving at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week<sup>15</sup>. Guidance such as the Sport England Active design guide informs how sport and active lifestyles can be promoted through planning to improve healthier lifestyles.

Table 11: Percentage of physically active adults in Medway

	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

3.5.4 Child health

The proportion of children in year six classified as obese in 2016/17 was 21%, marginally above the national average of 20% but much higher than the wider South-East region of 16.9%<sup>15</sup>. The Play Strategy for England (2008) sets out aims to increase access to play space, sports and open spaces, particularly for children and young people. The Local Plan should work to promote sport and physical activity and support healthier lifestyles to help reduce issues such as child obesity.

Under 18 conceptions were high in Medway, with 28.1 in every 1000 births compared to 20.8 births nationally.

3.5.5 Environmental factors

Environmental factors can have a significant detrimental effect on health. Medway has a number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). With increased temperatures predicted as a result of climate change, heat waves are likely to present an increased threat to the health of young and old people in future years.

The percentage of deaths (in those aged 30+) attributed to anthropogenic particulate air pollution in Medway are consistently above the regional and national averages<sup>16</sup> (Table 12).

Table 12: Fraction of all-cause adult mortality attributed to anthropogenic particulate (PM2.5) air pollution (% of annual deaths in those aged 30+)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Medway	6.1	5.8	5.5	5.8	5.8
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

<sup>16</sup> Public Health England

3.5.6 Health issues and opportunities

Table 13 summarises the health issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues.

Table 13: Medway health issues and opportunities

Key issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
High death rates due to disease. Lower physical activity in the Authority compared to national and regional levels. High conception rates compared to national levels. Insufficient access to healthy places.	New developments should meet the needs of a wide range of people and ensure the appropriate provision of different services which meet the needs of an aging population. Developments should consider their impact on health and wellbeing and how planning can be used to encourage healthier lifestyles.	To improve the health and wellbeing of the residents in Medway and reduce health inequalities across the borough.

3.6 Crime

3.6.1 Crime deprivation

The Crime IMD domain measures the rate of recorded crime for four major crime types: burglary, theft, criminal damage and violence.

Crime is Medway’s weakest IMD domain, with 30 neighbourhoods ranked among the 10% most deprived nationally. These neighbourhoods are located in Gillingham North, Gillingham South, Luton and Wayfield and Chatham Central.



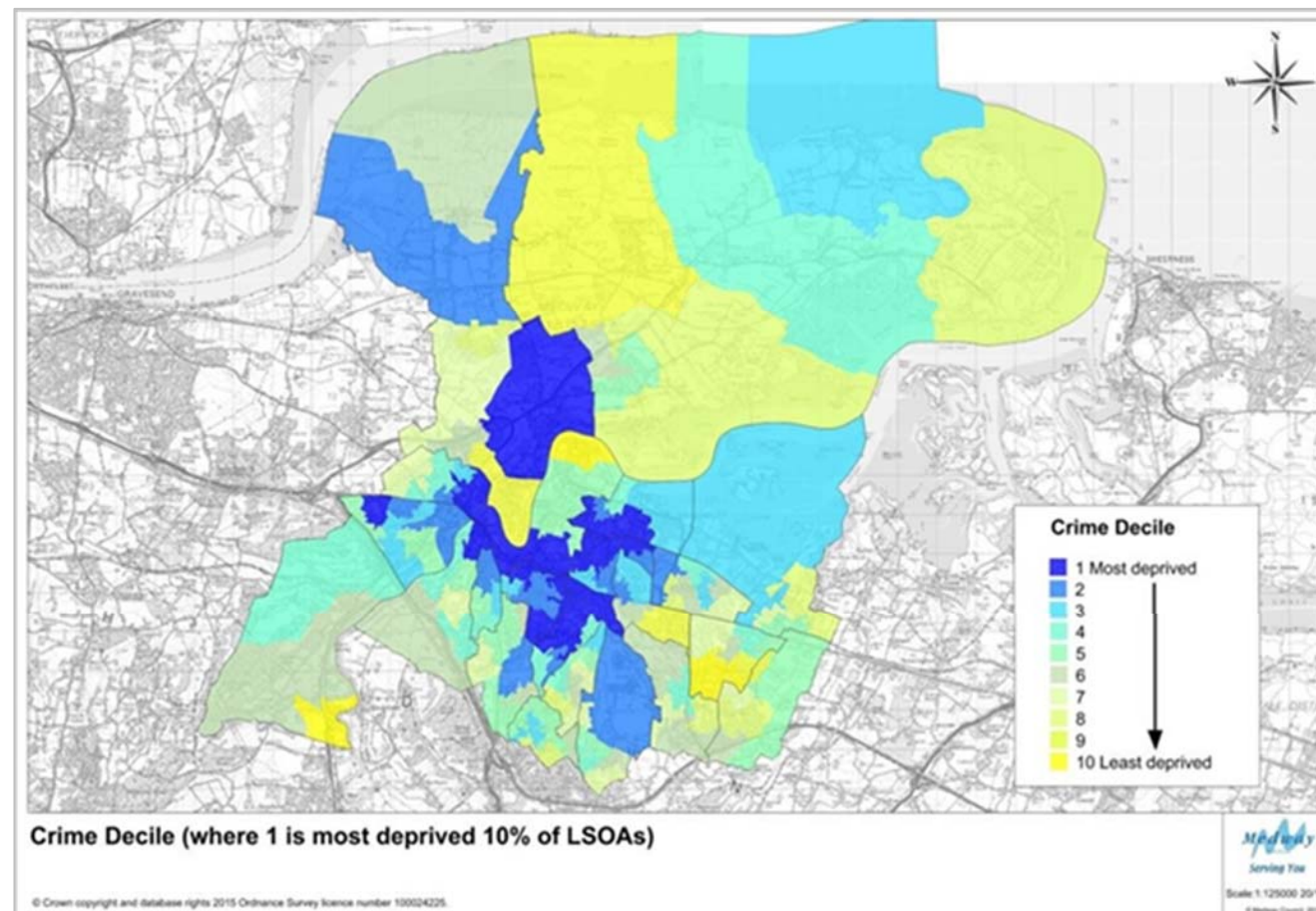


Figure 10: Crime deprivation in Medway

### 3.6.2 Crime statistics

Figure 11 shows that anti-social behaviour and violence and sexual offences are the most common types of crime that occur in the main Medway policy areas. Criminal damage and arson and shoplifting are also relatively common<sup>17</sup>.

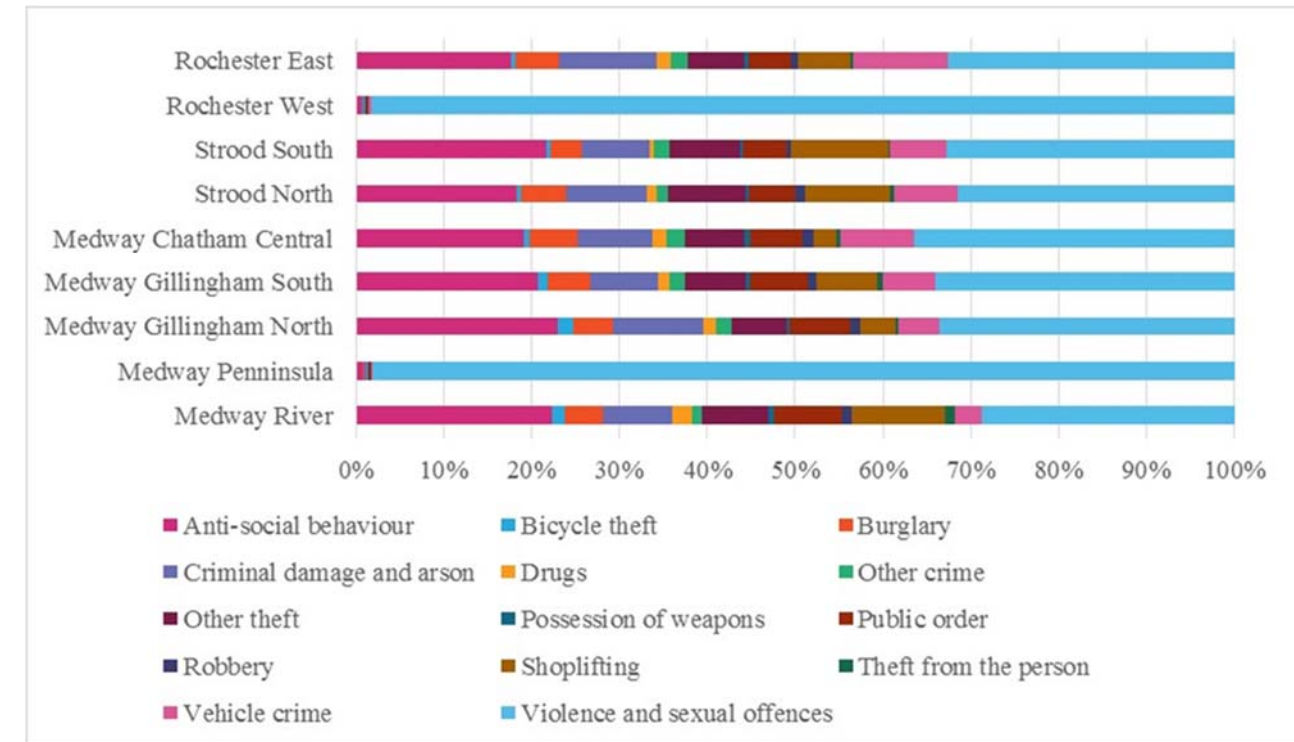


Figure 11: Crime statistics in Medway

## 3.7 Education and Skills

### 3.7.1 Education facilities in Medway

There are approximately 87 primary schools, 18 secondary and grammar schools, five special or alternative schools and a number of independent schools. MidKent College also provides further education and both the University of Kent and University of Greenwich have campuses in Medway.

### 3.7.2 Education and Skills deprivation

The Education, skills and training IMD domain measures deprivation in educational attainment, skills and training using a range of Key Stage results, measures of qualifications and the number of school absences.

Medway is ranked among the 27% most deprived local authorities in England for this domain. Medway has 16 neighbourhoods ranked among the 10% most deprived areas for education nationally. Five of these are located in Luton and Wayfield, four in Chatham Central and two in Gillingham North. Educationally-deprived areas are widely dispersed (Figure 12).

<sup>17</sup>Nomisweb.co.uk

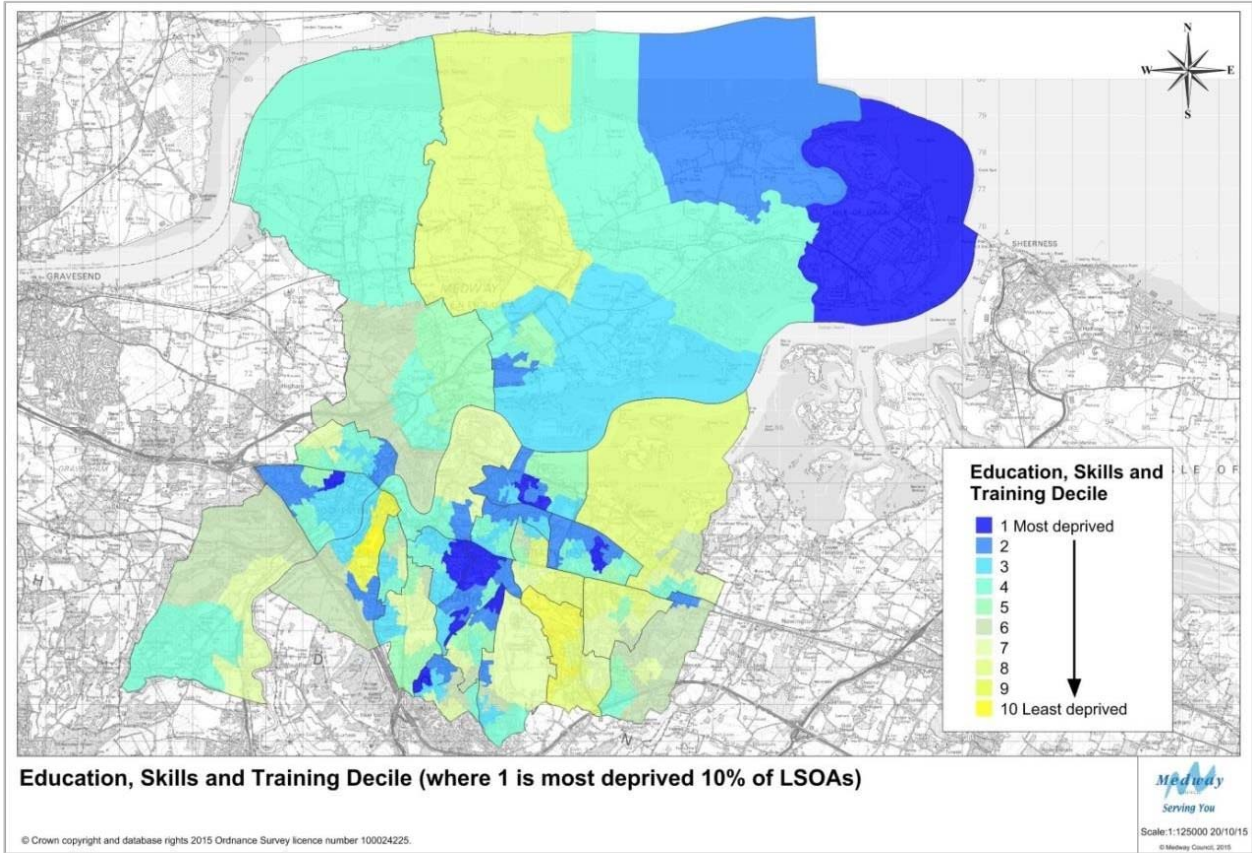


Figure 12: Education deprivation in Medway

3.7.3 Educational attainment

Education forms part of the Government’s Plan for Growth (2011) which encourages a more educated workforce to increase economic competitiveness. Educational attainment in Medway is similar to the national average (Table 14), however pass rates have declined since a peak in 2012.

Table 14: GCSE attainment

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
Medway	55.7	61.2	60.9	58.8	57.8
England	58.2	59.0	60.8	56.8	57.3

3.7.4 Education issues and opportunities

Table 15 summarises the key education issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues

Table 15: Medway education issues and opportunities

Key Issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
Lower qualification attainment and lower adult skills in the local population. Lower qualifications/skill level resulting in lower earnings. Pockets of deprivation in educational attainment.	Use a more targeted approach to education to improve access in more deprived areas. Promote educational excellence in learning and research.	Will it help improve learning and the attainment of skills to improve future employment opportunities?

3.8 Economy and employment

3.8.1 Employment deprivation

The employment deprivation IMD domain measures involuntary exclusion of the working-age population from work and is based on a number of measures of those receiving benefits.

Medway ranks among the 33% most deprived local authorities in England for the employment domain. Medway has nine neighbourhoods ranked in the 10% most deprived, two of which are in Gillingham North, two in Luton and Wayfield and two in Chatham Central (Figure 13).



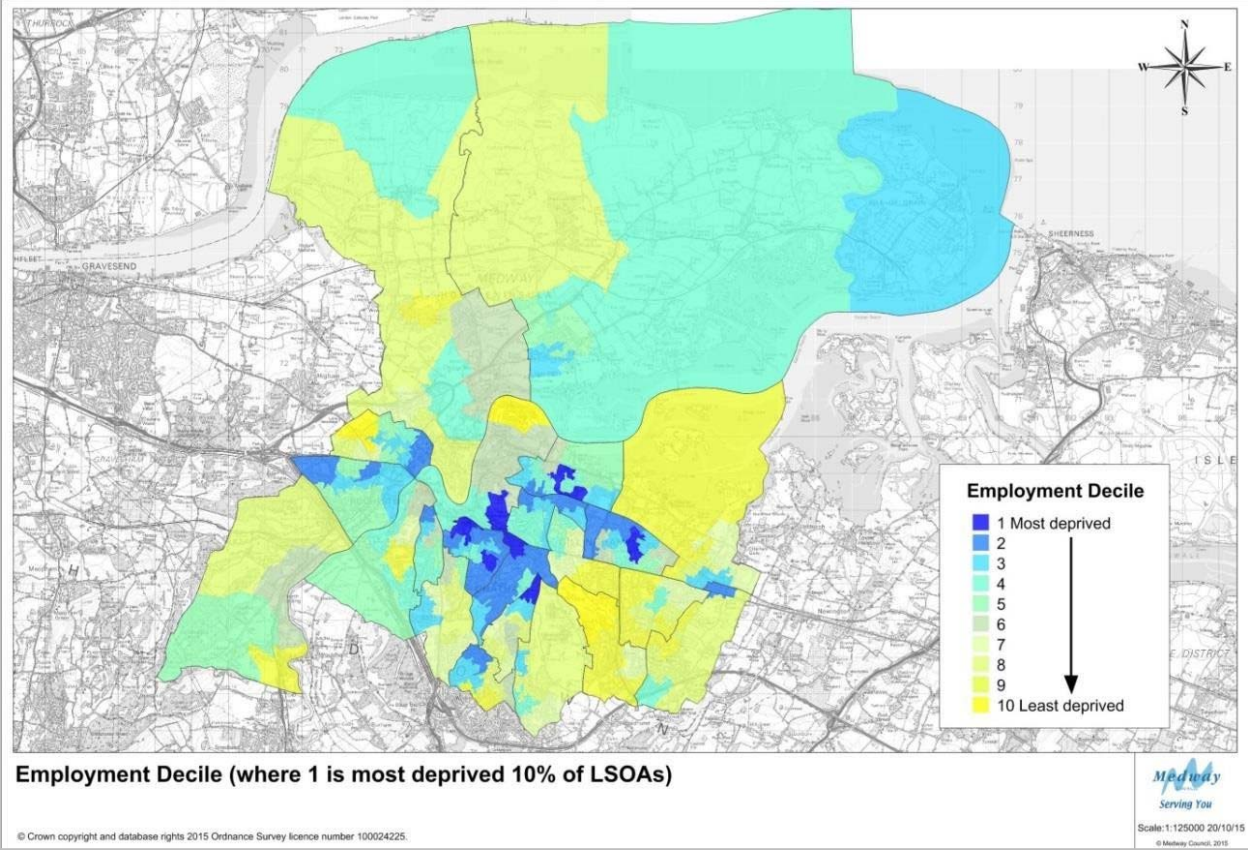


Figure 13: Employment deprivation in Medway

3.8.2 Income deprivation

The income deprivation IMD domain measures the proportion of the population experiencing income deprivation and is built using a range of measures of income related benefits.

Medway ranks among the 32% most deprived local authorities in England for income. Medway has 10 neighbourhoods ranked among the 10% most deprived, three of which are in Gillingham North and three in Luton and Wayfield (Figure 14).

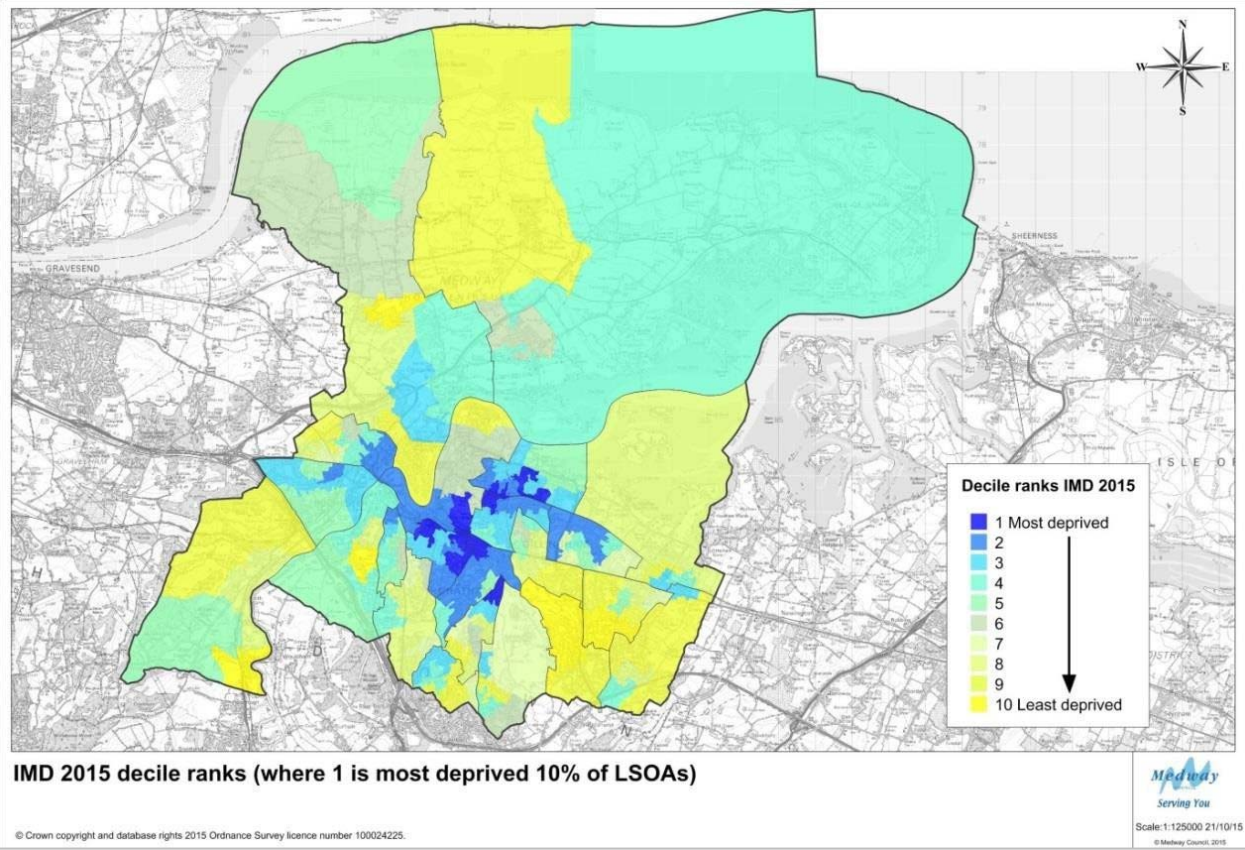


Figure 14: Income deprivation in Medway

3.8.3 Employment and unemployment

Table 16 shows the percentage of economically active people (16-64-year olds) who were in employment or unemployed in 2016-2017<sup>18</sup>. Unemployment is above the national average, and much higher than the South-East average.

Table 16: October 2016-September 2017 employment and unemployment population

	Medway	South East	Great Britain
In employment	75.3%	78.4%	74.5%
Unemployed	4.8%	3.4%	4.5%

The South East LEP Strategic Economic Plan 2014<sup>19</sup> sets out a number of economic aims throughout the South East, including generating 200,000 private sector jobs. This plan is currently under review. Alongside this, the Kent and Medway Unlock the Potential 2013 also sets targets for 40,000 jobs and new development. The Local Plan and SEA should consider how Medway can contribute to job generation, to meet the needs of these plans and reduce unemployment in the borough.

<sup>18</sup> ONS Official Labour Market Statistics

<sup>19</sup> South East LEP Strategic Economic Plan. Available at: <http://www.southeastlep.com/strategic-economic-plan>



3.8.4 Average earnings

Medway earnings are above the national average for full-time workers, with residents earning a weekly average of £558.40, compared to £552.70 nationally<sup>20</sup>. However, this is lower than the rest of the South East which earn on average £596.80 a week. Previous studies have also found that resident earning is higher than work-place earnings in Medway, indicating significant out-commuting, as residents travel outside Medway for higher paid jobs (Figure 15).

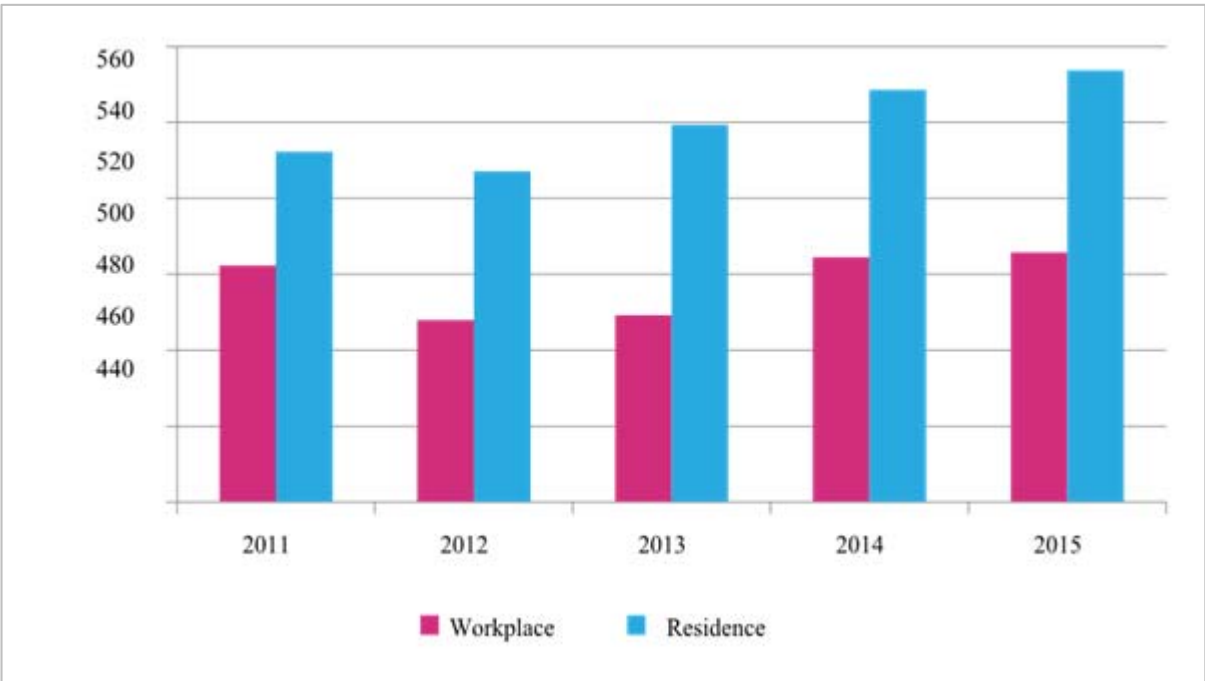


Figure 15: Average earnings in Medway

3.8.5 Employment land need

The Medway Council Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (2015) outlines future growth needs across the authority, sets out a strategic level spatial strategy to guide future site allocations, and ensures appropriate locations.

The Assessment highlighted that existing economic assets of Medway were likely to drive future economic opportunity. The clusters of creative, digital and advanced manufacturing businesses will be key components of the future economy. 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 Government has set out a number of policies, including the 2011 Plan for Growth<sup>21</sup>, the 2013 Achieving Strong and Sustainable Economic Growth<sup>22</sup> and the 2017 UK Industrial Strategy<sup>23</sup>, which also support a sustainable and competitive economy that the Local Plan should consider and support.

<sup>20</sup>ONS Medway report

<sup>21</sup> 2011 Plan for Growth. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plan-for-growth--5>

<sup>22</sup> 2013 Achieving Strong and Sustainable Economic Growth. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2010-to-2015-government-policy-uk-economic-growth/2010-to-2015-government-policy-uk-economic-growth>

Economic growth in Medway could also be driven by new opportunities created by major investment in new infrastructure. The delivery of a new Thames Crossing, strategic road connections, and accessibility to key markets in London and the South East could all help to enable Medway to increase its role in the strategic distribution market which has been traditionally focussed in other parts of North Kent. A range of sectors could also be improved by the delivery of the proposed London Entertainment Resort, largely through increased demand from supply chain activities.

The Assessment projects a growth of approximately 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 Table 17 shows the employment land required from 2012 to 2035.

Table 17: Employment land requirements 2012-2035

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

The report suggests the consolidation and intensification of existing employment sites could help to meet employment land needs. Opportunities to provide employment floorspace on the edge of centres could also be explored.

3.8.6 Tourism

Tourism is central to the council’s ambitions for the area, promoting a positive image for Medway, supporting jobs and a vibrant cultural life. Tourism predominantly centres on the area’s rich heritage, notably Rochester and the Historic Dockyard at Chatham. 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.

The tourism sector in Medway directly accounts for approximately 4,500 full time jobs and has an estimated value of £313 million per annum<sup>24</sup>. It was estimated that there are just over 4 million day visitor trips and 528,000 visitor stays per annum. 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.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/the-uks-industrial-strategy>

<sup>24</sup> Economic Impact of Tourism- Medway, 2015. Destination Research Ltd.

3.8.7 Visitor accommodation

There are 14 hotels in Medway, with 894 letting bedrooms. The Medway hotel supply is predominantly a mix of three star and budget hotels. Limited service (budget) hotels account for just over half of Medway’s hotel supply.

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.

Other forms of visitor accommodation are available in bed and breakfast, guest houses, hostels, a youth hostel, self-catering properties, camping and caravan sites. Camping and caravan sites 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 static caravan, touring van and camping holidays are made to Medway every year. These represent an estimated 151,000 night stays and contribute approximately £3.9m to Medway’s economy per annum.

3.8.8 Town centres

The Government’s Local Growth: Realising Every Place’s Potential (2010)<sup>25</sup> white paper sets out a goal to promote strong, sustainable and balanced growth. It focuses on the approach to local growth, proposing measures to shift power away from central government to local communities and citizens. Town centres will play a vital role in this and the Local Plan should ensure growth is balanced and sustainable.

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 findings for Medway revealed the following:

- A need for 46,100m<sup>2</sup> floorspace by 2031, and 70,500m<sup>2</sup> by 2037;
- A need for 12,300m<sup>2</sup> of retail floorspace by 2031, and 13,200m<sup>2</sup> by 2037; and
- There is anticipated to be a growing spend in leisure (£237million). Medway’s centres should therefore focus on developing their evening economy to capture some of this spend.

Table 18 outlines the 2016 town centre vacancy rate, as a percentage of total units, showing Chatham and Strood have higher vacancy rates, and across the five towns the rate has stayed relatively constant.

Table 18: Town centre vacancy rate 2016

	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

<sup>25</sup> Government’s Local Growth: realising every place’s potential, 2010. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-growth-realising-every-places-potential-hc-7961>

Strood	8	9	8	9
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The North Kent Retail Study presented initial findings on the health of Medway’s centres. The study concluded Chatham was underperforming and Rainham, Strood and Gillingham had some vulnerabilities. Hempstead Valley and Rochester were performing, which was attributed to Hempstead Valley being the preferred location for a number of national retailers.

The Study made a number of recommendations for key centres, including:

- Hempstead Valley: modernise and support day-to-day uses;
- Rochester: consolidate rather than expand and protect the primary shopping area (PSA) and provide a small foodstore if a site becomes available. It also suggests considering 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; and
- Rainham: Focus on refurbishing and/or redevelopment. Consider an additional foodstore if a site should become available.

All these town centres have independent masterplans, development briefs or frameworks which identify the key issues and strategic objectives for the centres. The Local Plan should take the issues identified into consideration and support the aims of these plans to promote growth in town centres.

3.8.9 Gross value added (GVA)

In 2015, Medway’s economy was worth just under £4.8 billion<sup>26</sup>. This was an increase from 2014 of 5%. This works out at £17,338 per head which is among the lowest in the south East. 2015 was the fifth year in a row that Medway experienced above average (national and regional) productivity growth.

3.8.10 Economy and employment issues and opportunities

Table 19 summarises the key economic and employment issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues.

<sup>26</sup> Medway GVA. <https://www.medway.gov.uk/pdf/GVA%202015.pdf>

Table 19: Medway employment issues and opportunities

Key Issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
Too few jobs in relation to the working age population. A lower employment rate than the national average. Pockets of economic and income deprivation. Lower levels of qualifications, resulting in less job opportunities and/or lower earnings. An inequality of earnings with a significant proportion of households living on low incomes. Lower productivity (GVA) levels compared with the rest of the South East. Significant outward commuting flow for work. Constrained business locations and the need for more commercial land. Competition from local out-of-centre locations putting pressure on town centres. Loss of local spending to neighbouring competitors.  A narrow retail offering in town centres.	Provide suitable and diverse workspace to suit the needs of different industries.  Promote innovation and increase competitiveness  Support more diverse and different businesses.	To improve skill levels and encourage suitable employment opportunities in accessible locations.  To have a successful economic base able to sustain economic growth and competitiveness.  To protect and support the growth, vitality and viability of the Boroughs centres.

3.9 Material assets, minerals and resource

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.

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.

The existing Local Plan allocation for mineral extraction was advanced through the draft Medway Core Strategy, at 0.18 million tonnes per annum.

Medway has three 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 import 90% of the crushed rock and 50% of the marine dredged aggregates to the region.

Medway also has several sites that have the potential to supply secondary and recycled aggregates to the market. However, exact figures for this sector are hard to attain.

Any land that is used for extraction or restored for development, should follow national guidance relating to environmental protection, extraction and contamination including the Environmental Act 1995, Environmental Protection Act 1990, Contaminated Land Regulations 2006 and Coal Industry Act 1994.

3.9.1 Material assets, mineral and resources issues and opportunities

Table 20 summarises the material and natural asset issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues

Table 20: Medway resources issues and opportunities

Key issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
Need to balance access to the countryside with conservation objectives. Need to balance the accommodation needs of the population with safeguarding the authority’s valued environment designations. There is limited land available for development which places increasing pressure on natural assets.	Effective planning can result in short term and long term uses for sites associated with material assets.	Making the best use of material assets.

3.10 Water and flood risk

3.10.1 Water sources and quality

The Water Act 2014 addresses issues such as water quality improvements, natural hazard protection, regulation of the water environment and climate change and population growth pressures. The Local Plan should therefore seek to protect and enhance the quality of water within Medway, in line with this legislation.

Medway has two major water sources within its boundaries, the Thames Estuary and the River Medway and Estuary. The Thames Estuary defines 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).

The River Medway flows 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, and large industrial employment sites (Medway City Estate, Kingsnorth and Grain Power Stations).

The River Medway is a key asset, providing a strong sense of place for the area and an important viewpoint. Historically the river has played a functional role in the transportation of goods to wharves, reflecting the area’s manufacturing and industrial heritage.



The 2015 Thames river basin district river basin management plan outlines that the priority issues for the Medway catchment are physical modifications to the river, water quality, water flow and availability.

As a coastal location, Medway must also consider regulation and guidance including the UK Marine Policy Statement 2011<sup>27</sup>, which emphasises the importance of protecting and enhancing the marine environment and using marine resources sustainably. The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England 2011<sup>28</sup> also seeks to reduce flood risk among coastal areas and the Local Plan should therefore work with other bodies to ensure this risk is managed appropriately.

### 3.11 Flood risk

The primary source of flooding within Medway is the River Medway and its tributaries. Flood zones 2 and 3 are 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.

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 urban areas. This is the result of a mixture of steep topography and impermeable surfaces in these areas.

The Flood Risk Regulations 2009, Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Water Resources Strategies, Regional Plan for Southern Region 2009 set out requirements for local authorities to manage flood risk, including flood defences, and also protect against possible droughts. Development should therefore be undertaken in a sustainable way to ensure local risks are at least not exacerbated, and at best improved.

There are a number of flood management plans which the Medway Local Plan must take into consideration to ensure the actions and objectives set out in these plans are not undermined. These plans include: North Kent Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan 2009, Medway Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, Medway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Medway Estuary and Swale SMP, River Medway Catchment Flood Management Plan 2009 and the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board Policy Statement on Flood Protection.

#### 3.11.1 Waterfront characteristics

The waterfront areas are characterised by economic infrastructure, such as aggregate importation, marine engineering, boat repair businesses and marine leisure activities. The river also represents an important transport corridor for commercial and leisure traffic. Many waterfront areas have seen the reduction in manufacturing use over time, resulting in unoccupied land along the waterways.

<sup>27</sup> UK Marine policy statement, 2011. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-marine-policy-statement>

#### 3.11.2 Water and flood risk issues and opportunities

Table 21 summarises the water and flood risk issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues

Table 21: Medway water and flood risk issues and opportunities

Key issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
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. There are areas of water stress in the Authority. Risk of flooding to property.	Restricting development in flood-risk prone areas.	To adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change  To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change

### 3.12 Climate change

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is key to mitigating against the most severe effects of climate change. The 2015 UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) acknowledged that a global rise in average temperature levels should not exceed 2°C if significant impacts of climate change are to be avoided.

The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 provides a framework to adopt proactive strategies that mitigate and adapt to climate change. These include climate change adaptation, moving towards a low carbon economy, conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, minimising vulnerability (e.g. flood risk) and for all plans to be in line with the objectives of the Climate Change Act 2008. Therefore, the Local Plan and the SEA must take into consideration climate change adaptation and mitigation to ensure Medway can manage risks such as coastal change, water stress, flood risk and drought.

Other key guidance and legislation includes the Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future, which outlines how the UK will achieve de-carbonisation, and the Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK 2012 which aims to realise wider energy efficiency in the UK.

Planning can help to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Mitigation methods seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and include methods such as increasing renewable and low-carbon energy production, reducing energy demand, improving energy efficiency, distributing new development to reduce the need to travel and use new technologies to reduce emissions. Adaptation methods seek to use more sustainable design to reduce emissions, such as energy efficient buildings or incorporating green space and trees into new developments.

<sup>28</sup> National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy-for-england>

3.12.1 Climate change issues and opportunities

Table 22 summarises the climate change issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues

Table 22: Medway climate change issues and opportunities

Key issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
Increased energy use and demand from growing population and economy. Risks such as flood, drought or water stress. Increasing energy efficiency in Medway.	Increasing the generation of renewable, on-site or local energy. Restricting development in at-risk areas, such as on flood zones.	To adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change  To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change

3.13 Transport

3.13.1 Transport routes

There are five main rail stations, located in Strood, Rochester, Chatham, Rainham and Gillingham. The key services include:

- Dover/Ramsgate – Victoria Service;
- Charing Cross/Canon Street – Gillingham Service; and
- Faversham – St. Pancras High Speed Service.

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.

There are a number of cycle routes including National Cycle Route 1, 17, 179, and other urban routes. Medway has more than 70 miles of on-road, off-road and green cycle routes. There is also a comprehensive network of public trails and rights of access across the borough.

The Medway Local Transport Plan 2011<sup>29</sup> sets out priorities for the development of transport for Medway until 2026. It seeks to improve the local transport network to support Medway’s regeneration, economic competitiveness and growth. The Local Plan should understand and support the key priority areas in this document to contribute to improvements to the wider transport network.

<sup>29</sup> Medway Local Transport Plan 2011-2026. Available at:  
[https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/1995/local\\_transport\\_plan\\_2011-2026](https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/1995/local_transport_plan_2011-2026)

3.13.2 Vehicle use

Table 23 shows the preferred method of transport used by individuals to travel to work in Medway. There is a high reliance on the use of private motorised transport, with over 66% of individuals either driving or being a passenger in a car or van<sup>30</sup>. Around 10% of individuals prefer active transport (cycling or walking), while over 13% of individuals rely on public transportation.

Table 23: Main mode of transport used to travel to work

Method of transport	2011
Work mainly at or from home (%)	7.83
Underground, metro, light rail, tram (%)	0.21
Train (%)	8.66
Bus, minibus or coach (%)	4.59
Taxi (%)	0.33
Motorcycle, scooter or moped (%)	1.09
Driving a car or van (%)	60.56
Passenger in a car or van (%)	6.01
Vehicle Occupancy Rate	1.1
Bicycle (%)	1.12
On foot (%)	9.19
Other method of travel to work (%)	0.41

Table 24 illustrates the level of car ownership in Medway, showing that vehicle ownership of at least one car or van is nearly 80%<sup>31</sup>.

Table 24: Car ownership

	2011
No cars or vans in household (%)	21.9
1 car or van in household (%)	42.5
2 cars or vans in household (%)	27.1
3 cars or vans in household (%)	6.2
4 or more cars or vans in household (%)	2.3

<sup>30</sup> Nomisweb.co.uk

<sup>31</sup> Nomisweb.co.uk

Between 2012 and 2015 Medway experienced a growth in vehicle usage, above the national average (Table 25). Car usage has been growing in Medway between 2012 and 2015 (Table 26). Car traffic makes up a high proportion of all vehicle miles in Medway, accounting for approximately 80% of total vehicle miles (compared with 78% nationally).

Table 25: Vehicle usage

	2012 (million miles)	2013 (million miles)	2014 (million miles)	2015 (million miles)	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

Table 26: Car usage

	2012 (million miles)	2013 (million miles)	2014 (million miles)	2015 (million miles)	Percent change	
					2014-15	2012-15
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

8.9 million bus passenger journeys were made in 2014/15 in Medway, but Table 27 shows that bus journeys are in decline.

Table 27: Bus journeys

	2012/13 (million miles)	2013/14 (million miles)	2014/15 (million miles)	Percent change
Medway	9.0	8.9	8.9	-1.4
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

<sup>32</sup>Medway Wildlife Countryside and Open Space Strategy 2008-2016. Available at: [https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/311/medway\\_wildlife\\_countryside\\_and\\_open\\_space\\_strategy\\_2008-16](https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/311/medway_wildlife_countryside_and_open_space_strategy_2008-16)

3.13.3 Traffic and transport issues and opportunities

Table 28 summarises the traffic and transport issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues.

Table 28: Medway traffic and transport issues and opportunities

Key issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
Adverse impacts of high traffic volumes and culture of dependency on private car. Limited public transport coverage. Reduction in NO2 emissions is required. Manage the noise and light pollution particularly in rural areas.	Improve connectivity across Medway and the wider South East. Encourage more sustainable forms of transport, such as walking or cycling. Distributing new development to reduce travel time.	To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change  To promote the resilience of communities by improving deprivation and promoting inclusive communities.

3.14 Landscape, natural heritage and open space

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. A number of key legislation and guidance supports the protection and enhancement of these natural assets and encourages community participation and public access. This includes the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement 2013, the Trees and Woodlands Nature’s Health Service 2005, the Commons Act 2006, the Strategy for England’s Trees and the Woods and Forests 2008.

A local standard of 3.25ha per 1000 population is currently used as a basis for assessing the level of provision. This is comparatively small when considering neighbouring districts, including 6.14ha per 1,000 people in Tonbridge and Malling, 10.1ha in Gravesham and 7.39ha in Swale.

Medway has existing shortfalls in levels of provision for allotments (-40%), outdoor sport (-25 junior pitches) and play (-38ha) with some types of open space experiencing quality issues. Shortfalls in open space provision vary spatially across Medway, with shortfalls more pronounced in some areas.

The Medway Wildlife Countryside and Open Space Strategy (2008-16)<sup>32</sup>, sets a vision towards celebrated open spaces and countryside. Significant progress has been made towards this vision, with a £5.1 million investment in playgrounds, allotments, parks and outdoor sports provision. 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.

3.14.1 Landscape, natural heritage and open space issues and opportunities

Table 29 summarises the landscape and heritage issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues.



Table 29: Medway landscape, natural heritage and open space issues and opportunities

Key issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
Medway’s countryside and open space is under threat from new development.  There are some ‘gaps’ in the public rights of way network  Balancing access to the countryside with conservation objectives  Balancing the accommodation needs of the population with safeguarding the authority’s valued environment.	-	To adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change  Conserve and enhance the existing green network

3.15 Air Quality

The Environment Act 1995 sets out a requirement for local authorities to review air quality within its area and the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 outlines the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved There are currently four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Medway: Pier Road (Gillingham) (

Figure 16), Four Elms Hill (Chattenden) (Figure 17), High Street (Rainham) (Figure 18) and Central Medway (Figure 19).



Figure 16: Pier Road AQMA

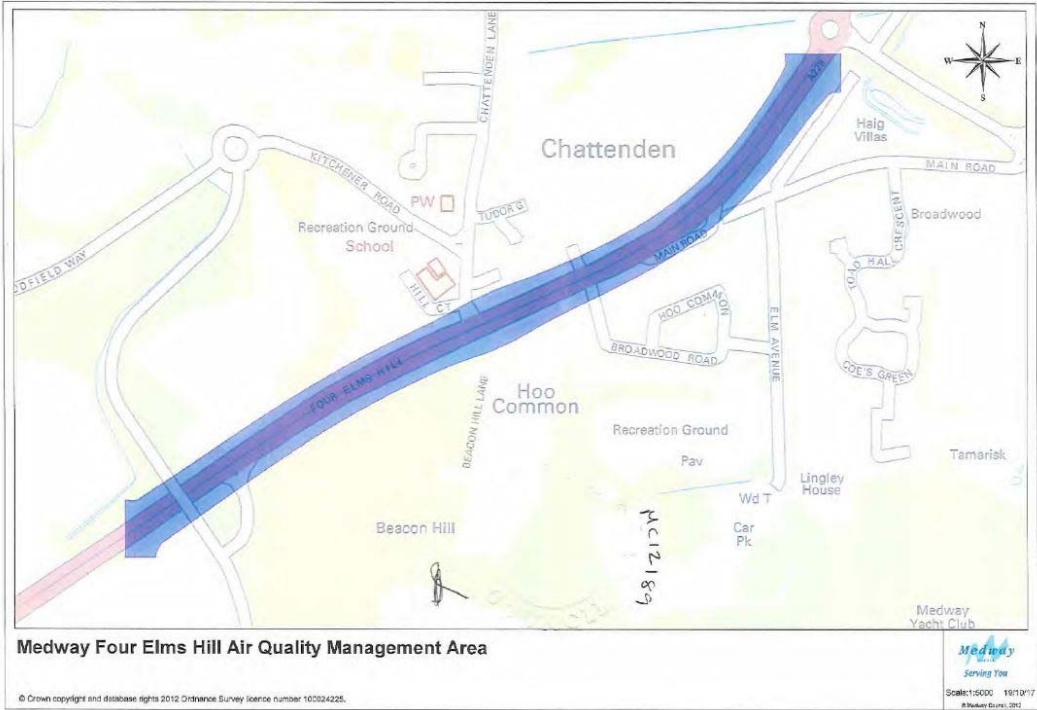


Figure 17: Four Elms Hill AQMA

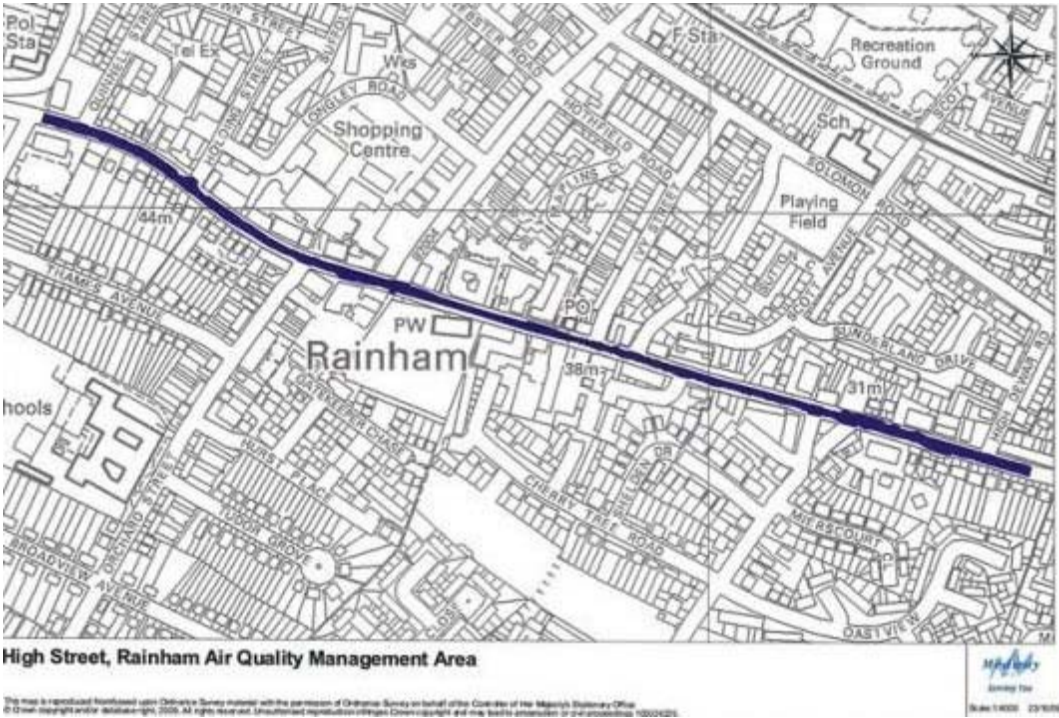


Figure 18: High Street Rainham AQMA





Figure 19: Central Medway AQMA

Transport is a significant contributor to poor air quality and its associated health problems in Medway as evidenced by the three AQMAs along road networks. The main source of air pollution 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).

As a gateway to the continent, Kent & Medway’s extensive transport network also carries a disproportionate number of diesel-fuelled HGVs. Diesel fuel emissions have been associated with high emissions of NOx and carcinogenic compounds. Easterly winds can also bring pollution, from continental sources and winds from the opposite westerly direction can disperse London’s urban pollution across western Kent.

The Air Quality Annual Status Report 2017<sup>33</sup> confirmed that nitrogen dioxide concentrations within Medway continued to exceed annual mean air quality objectives. In 2016, the exceedances mostly occurred within Central Medway and Rainham AQMA. An AQMA will also soon be declared along Four Elms Hill but the Pier Road AQMA has recorded concentrations of nitrogen dioxide below air quality objectives and could therefore have its AQMA status revoked in future years. However, this is uncertain due to major development planned for the area.

<sup>33</sup> Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR), Medway Council June 2017

3.15.1 Air quality issues and opportunities

Table 30 summarises the health issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues.

Table 30: Air quality issues and opportunities

Key issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
High levels of NO <sub>2</sub> emissions, particularly along major roads. Balancing air quality improvements with increased development in Medway.	Technological developments and innovation, e.g. through the provision of electric car points or the integration of green infrastructure.	To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change

3.16 Biodiversity and green spaces

3.16.1 Natural heritage and open space

Medway’s urban area is located within the Kent Downs to the south and the 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.

There are a wide range of different landscape types: coastal marshes, chalk downland, orchards and shelterbelts, large scale arable farmland and extensive tracks of woodland.

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.

Medway’s open space land totals 1900 hectares and includes 48 country sites, three country parks, 33 allotments, 125 play areas, 52 outdoor sports sites and 25 formal parks and gardens. In 2015/16 seven open spaces in Medway also retained their Green Flag status.

A local standard of 3.25ha per 1000 population is currently used as a basis for assessing open space provision. However, this is relatively low compared with neighbouring areas including 6.14ha per 1000 people in Tonbridge and Malling, 10.1ha in Gravesham and 7.39ha in Swale.

3.16.2 Environmental designations

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 implements EU legislation related to the management of natural habitats (Bern Convention) and wild birds (Birds Directive) in addition to measures on the protection of SSSIs. Defra have also set out guidance and strategies relating to biodiversity management including Making Space for Nature 2010 and Biodiversity 2020: a Strategy for England’s Wildlife and Ecosystem Services 2011. Medway has a number of protected areas which the Local Plan must ensure are appropriately managed and protected in line with Government regulation and guidance (Table 31, Figure 20).



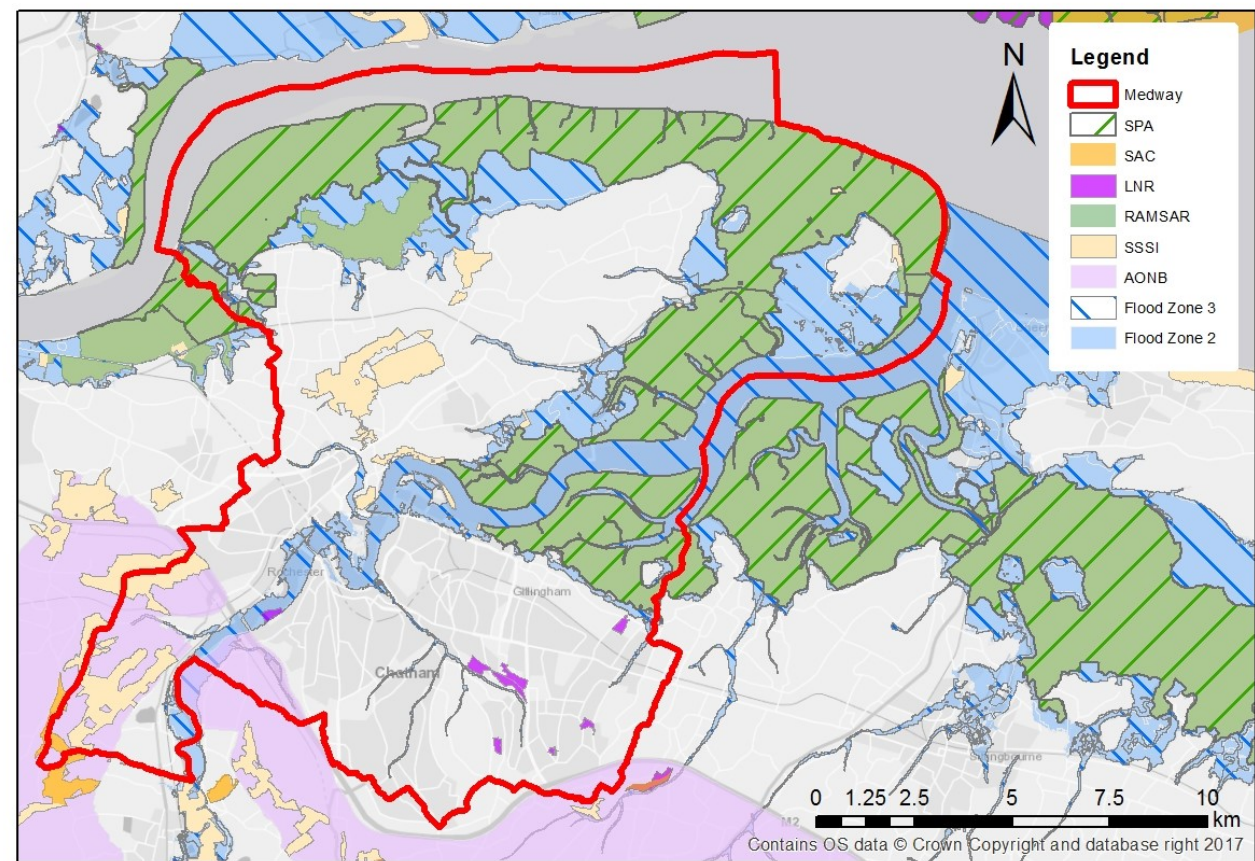


Figure 20: Environmental designations in Medway. Not shown at AQMAs, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and MCZs

Table 31: Medway environmental designations

	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

The South-East Biodiversity Strategy 2009<sup>34</sup> provides a framework for delivering biodiversity targets that support all those who have an impact on biodiversity in the region. This will help support the Local Plan in its protection of these designated areas. The Kent Biodiversity Action

<sup>34</sup> South East Biodiversity Strategy 2009. Available at: [www.kentbap.org.uk/images/uploads/SEEBF+SEBS.pdf](http://www.kentbap.org.uk/images/uploads/SEEBF+SEBS.pdf)  
<sup>35</sup> The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature. Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/228842/8082.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228842/8082.pdf)

Plan (BAP) should also be considered for the conservation, enhancement and restoration of UK BAP priority habitats in Medway.

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 previous years. This integration of the natural environment with economic and social growth is also supported in guidance such as Natural Environment White Paper: The Natural Choice- Securing the Value of Nature 2011<sup>35</sup> and the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-19<sup>36</sup>.

3.16.3 Biodiversity and green space issues and opportunities

Table 32 summarises the biodiversity issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues.

Table 32: Biodiversity and green space issues and opportunities

Key issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
The need to balance population growth and the increased need for housing with environmental protection.	Integrating biodiversity and green space into new development and growth.	Conserve and enhance the borough's biodiversity, habitats, and species.
The need to balance access to the countryside with conservation objectives.	Enhancing, not just protecting, biodiversity offering.	Conserve and enhance the existing green and open space network
The limited land available for development due to environmental designations.		

3.17 Archaeology and cultural heritage

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1979 both protect historical buildings and assets for conservation. 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.

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

<sup>36</sup> Kent Downs AONB Management Plan. Available at: <http://www.kentdowns.org.uk/guidance-management-and-advice/management-plan>

There are currently 16 Listed Buildings on the Heritage at Risk register, including three Conservation Areas. Further efforts are required to manage the appropriate enhancement of these assets in order to remove them from the ‘at risk register’.

3.17.1 Archaeology and cultural heritage issues and opportunities

Table 33 summarises the biodiversity issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues.

Table 33: Archaeology and cultural heritage issues and opportunities

Key issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
Medway has numerous historic buildings which require protection. Medway’s rich heritage as at threat of being compromised to meet housing demand.	Innovative use of historic buildings and cultural assets to ensure their protection whilst encouraging change. Promotion of community involvement in the protection and management of historical assets.	Promoting, enhancing and respecting our historic/cultural heritage assets

3.18 Waste Management

The State of Medway report 2012<sup>37</sup> 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.

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.

In Medway, three kerbside collections are undertaken: municipal solid waste, dry recycling material (includes plastics, cans and foils, mixed glass and paper/cardboard) and ‘wet’ recycling material (green and food waste)

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.

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 this plant are landfilled at a facility at Ockenden. Bulk transfer facilities are located on a site in the Medway City Estate, alongside depot facilities.

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 from Medway.

<sup>37</sup> State of Medway Report 2012, Waste. Available at:  
[https://www.medway.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/359/som\\_waste.pdf](https://www.medway.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/359/som_waste.pdf)

3.18.1 Waste management issues and opportunities

Table 34 summarises the waste issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues.

Table 34: Medway waste management issues

Key issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
Ensuring waste management and infrastructure can cope with population growth and new development. Increasing disposal costs. Climate change impact from waste. Likely increase in waste arisings from population growth.	Increasing recycling performance to lower waste management costs and environmental impacts. Promotion of innovation and new technologies, following circular economy practices.	To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change

3.19 Noise

The main noise sources include road and rail noise, with the M2, A228 and high-speed train being major sources.

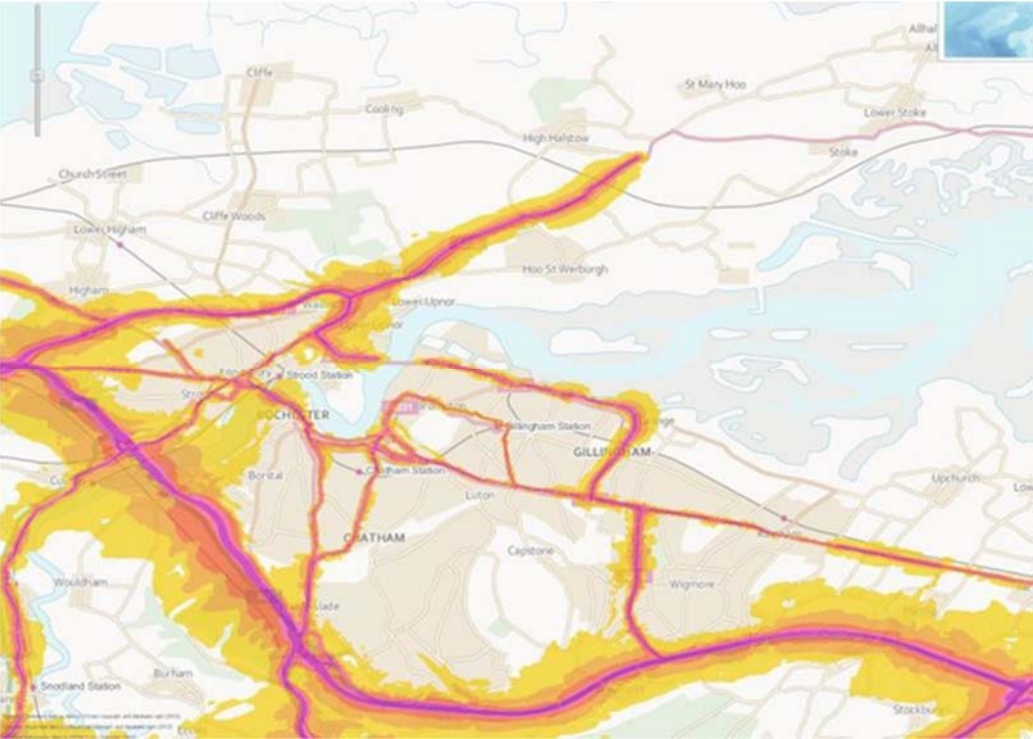


Figure 21: Average noise levels in the Medway Council Area



The Council’s Environmental Health service has identified key sources of noise-generated complaints to the Council (Figure 22). The most common complaints in 2011-2015 were noise from neighbours, barking dogs and music.

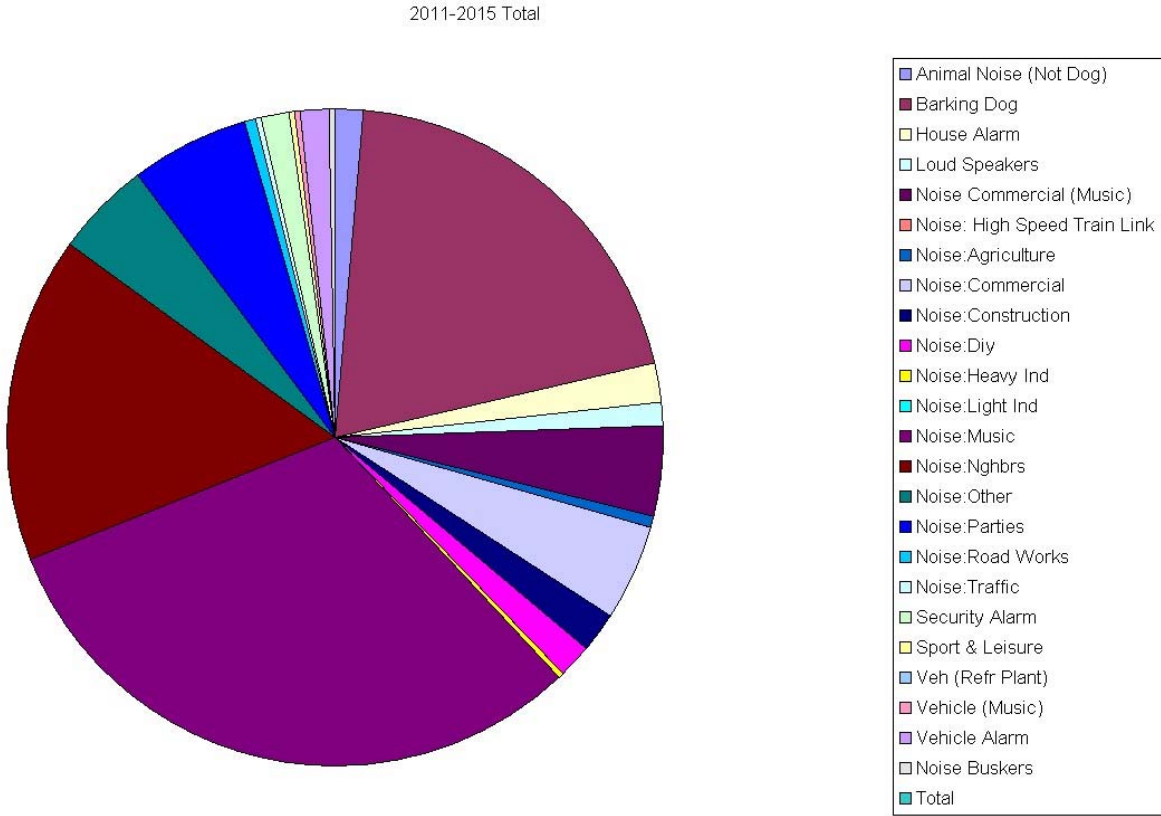


Figure 22: Noise complaints

3.19.1 Noise issues and opportunities

Table 35 summarises the biodiversity issues in Medway and outlines the opportunities for the Local Plan to address these issues.

Table 35: Medway noise issues and opportunities

Key issues	Opportunities	Sustainability objective(s)
Increased noise levels, particularly along busy roads, as a result of population growth and increase road users.	Encourage more sustainable forms of transport, such as walking or cycling.	To reduce our contribution to the impacts of climate change

4 The SA Framework

4.1 Introduction

This section will present the SA framework used to test the sustainability of the policies and development strategy scenarios that make up the emerging MLP.

4.2 SA Framework

The SA framework has been revised and updated from that which was used during previous iterations of the assessment in response to consultation responses and updated baseline and context information. The revised framework is reported in Table 36.

Table 36: The revised SA framework

Category	Topic	No.	Objective	Guiding Questions	Indicator	Source
Economic	Education and Skills, Transportation and Accessibility, Economy, Enterprise and Employment	1	To ensure equal access to education and skills at all levels to increase opportunities for individuals and improve Medway's future labour market.	1. Will it help improve learning and the attainment of skills to improve future employment opportunities? 2. Will it ensure the provision of sufficient school places to manage the growing population? 3. Will it support education at all levels? 4. Will it help to improve inequality in education across Medway?	1. Education facilities in Medway 2. Education and skills deprivation 3. Education attainment	1. Medway council 2. IMD 3. 2011 Census
	Education and Skills, Transportation and Accessibility, Economy, Enterprise and Employment	2	To encourage suitable employment opportunities in accessible locations.	1. Will it meet the employment needs of local people? 2. Will it improve the provision of jobs and business to reduce unemployment and poverty? 3. Will it reduce barriers to employment (e.g. through the appropriate location of employment sites?) 4. Will it retain skills developed through education in Medway, and/or attract skills from beyond the borough?	1. Employment rate 2. Unemployment rate 3. Average earnings 4. Employment land requirements 5. Tourist industry value 6. Visitor accommodation statistics 7. Town centre requirements 8. Town centre vacancy rate 9. Gross value added 10. Income deprivation 11. Employment deprivation	1. ONS Medway report 2. ONS Medway report 3. ONS Official Labour Market Statistics 4. Medway Council Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (2015) 5. Medway Council 6. Medway Council 7. North Kent Retail Study 8. North Kent Retail Study 9. Medway Council GVA 10. IMD 11. IMD
	Economy, Enterprise and Employment, Transportation and Accessibility	3	To establish Medway with a strong economic foundation which enables sustainable growth and competitiveness within the wider region.	1. Will it increase productivity and deliver economic benefits across Medway? 2. Will it enhance the attractiveness of Medway and raise its profile? 3. Will it increase the number and/or variety of businesses in Medway? 4. Will it encourage or enable inward investment and promote future growth? 5. Will it reduce overall unemployment?	1. Employment rate 2. Unemployment rate 3. Average earnings 4. Employment land requirements 5. Tourist industry value 6. Visitor accommodation statistics 7. Town centre requirements 8. Town centre vacancy rate 9. Gross value added 10. Income deprivation 11. Employment deprivation	1. ONS Medway report 2. ONS Medway report 3. ONS Official Labour Market Statistics 4. Medway Council Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (2015) 5. Medway Council 6. Medway Council 7. North Kent Retail Study 8. North Kent Retail Study 9. Medway Council GVA 10. IMD 11. IMD



Category	Topic	No.	Objective	Guiding Questions	Indicator	Source
	Economy, Enterprise and Employment, Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space	4	To protect and support growth and prosperity in the town centres.	1. Will it increase growth and productivity in Medway's town centres? 2. Will it create a strong retail circuit across the Medway towns? 3. Will it maintain Medway town centres' role in providing vital services which serve the needs of the community? 4. Will it support small or independent businesses in town centres?	1. Town centre requirements 2. Town centre vacancy rate 3. Income deprivation 4. Employment deprivation 5. Tourist industry value 6. Visitor accommodation statistics	1. North Kent retail Study 2. North Kent Retail Study 3. IMD 4. IMD 5. Medway Council 6. Medway Council
Environmental	Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space, Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Designated sites	5	To conserve and enhance the existing green and open space network.	1. Will it protect, conserve or enhance the green infrastructure network? 2. Will it contribute positively to the green infrastructure network, the Authority's established high-quality landscapes and biodiverse habitats? 3. Will it result in the enhancement of more open space including allotments, parks, gardens, multifunctional spaces including play spaces etc.? 4. Will it create opportunities to link to and create a green infrastructure network?	1. Environmental designations- name, location, size 2. Visitors to open/natural spaces 3. Total size of open and green spaces in Medway	1. Data.gov 2. Monitor of Engagement with the National Environment (MENE) 3. Medway Council
	Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space, Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Designated sites	6	To protect and enhance biodiversity features.	1. Will it protect and enhance international, national and locally designated wildlife sites including Natura 2000 sites and SSSIs, including avoiding indirect impacts? 2. Will it encourage the protection and provision of green corridors including river corridors? 3. Will it avoid habitat fragmentation and safeguard and enhance biological connectivity? 4. Will it maintain the extent of ancient woodland sites? 5. Will it ensure all new developments protect and enhance local biodiversity and achieve the NE targets for accessible Green Space? 6. Will it aid in the delivery of a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure within new developments, where appropriate? 7. Will it avoid the effects of development on populations of protected or notable species? 8. Will it result in greater community engagement with biodiversity? 9. Will it protect and enhance areas where people can encounter and appreciate wildlife and wild places?	1. Environmental designations- name, location, size 2. Visitors to open/natural spaces 3. Total size of open and green spaces in Medway	1. Data.gov 2. Monitor of Engagement with the National Environment (MENE) 3. Medway Council
	Climate Change, Air Quality and Environmental Pollution, Waste Management, Climate Change	7	To reduce our contribution to the impacts of global climate change and localised pollution.	1. Will it promote sustainable waste management such as circular economy principles? 2. Will it reduce waste production and increase recycling? 3. Will it minimise air pollution and the impacts associated with air quality and health? 4. Will it minimise noise pollution? 5. Will it minimise pollution or contamination? 6. Will it encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport? 7. Will it reduce the need to travel by car and/or encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport (i.e. walking or cycling)?	1. Waste generation in Medway 2. Waste practices in Medway 3. AQMA locations 4. Nitrogen dioxide levels 5. Medway mineral production 6. Flood risk zones 7. Vehicle use 8. Car use 9. Car ownership 10. Method of transport to work 11. Bus journeys 12. Noise complaints 13. Noise generation	1. Medway Council 2. Medway Council 3. DEFRA 4. Air Quality Annual Status Report 2017 5. Medway Council 6. DEFRA 7. 2011 Census 8. 2011 Census 9. 2011 Census 10. 2011 Census 11. Medway Council 12. Medway Council 13. Medway Council
	Climate Change, Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Designated Sites, Design Quality, Water Environment	8	To adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change.	1. Will it reduce water stress in the area? 2. Will it improve the water quality in the area? 3. Will it encourage high quality design of buildings and infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of climate change (i.e. energy resources, SUDS etc...)? 4. Will it protect and enhance biodiversity and open spaces? 5. Will it policy minimise the risk of flooding?	1. Flood risk zones 2. Environmental designations- name, location, size	1. DEFRA 2. Data.gov

Category	Topic	No.	Objective	Guiding Questions	Indicator	Source
	Historic Environment and Archaeology, Design Quality	9	Promoting enhancing and respecting our historic/cultural heritage assets.	1. Will it encourage tourism, community engagement and leisure offerings in Medway? 2. Will it protect and enhance Medway's conservation areas, listed buildings, cultural and heritage assets. 3. Will it support the creative and cultural industries?	1. Tourist industry value 2. Visitor accommodation statistics 3. Heritage at Risk 4. Scheduled monuments and historic buildings	1. Medway Council 2. Medway Council 3. Historic England 4. Historic England
	Material Assets, Minerals and Resources, Water Environment, Natural Heritage and Open Space	10	Making the best use of material assets.	1. Will it enable previously contaminated land to be recovered to a useable and safe state? 2. Will it protect and/or improve the quality of agricultural land? 3. Will it protect and/or improve the quality of the landscape? 4. Will it make the best use of previously developed land, provided that it is not of high environmental value? 5. Will it affect the ability to extract minerals? 6. Will it facilitate the use of natural assets for wider benefit?	1. Medway mineral production	1. Medway council
Social	Healthy and Safe Communities, Landscape, Natural Heritage and Open Space	11	To improve the health and wellbeing of the residents in Medway and reduce health inequalities across the borough.	1. Will it enable Medway residents to enjoy a better quality of life? 2. Will it improve access to services and facilities? 3. Will it encourage a healthier lifestyle, and thereby improve the health of Medway residents? 4. Will it reduce social inequalities? 5. Will it improve green spaces and local air quality for the benefit of public health?	1. Population estimates 2. Diversity 3. Deprivation 4. Health deprivation 5. Life expectancy 6. Physically fit adults 7. Obesity in children 8. Under 18 conceptions	1. 2011 Census 2. 2011 Census 3. IMD 4. IMD 5. PHE Local health profile 6. PHE Local health profile 7. PHE Local health profile 8. PHE Local health profile
	Social Inclusion and Equality, Healthy and Safe Communities, Transportation and Accessibility	12	To promote the resilience of communities by improving deprivation and promoting inclusive communities.	1. Will it provide residents with opportunities to become actively involved in their local community leading to more socially connected neighbourhoods? 2. Will it result in harmonious and mixed communities? 3. Will it promote a sense of place which results in high levels of satisfaction for those who live in Medway? 4. Will it facilitate design which improves accessibility to services and opportunities across Medway?	1. Population estimates 2. Diversity 3. Deprivation 5. Life expectancy	1. 2011 Census 2. 2011 Census 3. IMD 4. PHE Local health profile
	Social Inclusion and Equality, Healthy and Safe Communities, Transportation and Accessibility	13	To reduce the levels, perception and fear of crime across Medway.	1. Will it create an environment that feels safe for all users? 2. Will it reduce levels of crime? 3. Will it reduce the fear of crime to help alleviate barriers and social isolation?	1. Crime deprivation 2. Number of recorded offences	1. IMD 2. Police.uk
	Population and Housing	14	To provide a sustainable supply of housing to meet the housing requirements of the borough.	1. Will it support the delivery of the quantum of houses required to meet the needs of Medway? 2. Will it provide a sufficient supply of affordable units to meet the growing housing need? 3. Will it provide a variety of housing types to address housing need? 4. Will it provide flexible accommodation and promote the development of 'Lifetime neighbourhoods'? 5. Will it facilitate the delivery of supporting infrastructure? 6. Will it promote good design principles (i.e. sustainability initiatives, energy efficiency, etc...)?	1. Housing need 2. Housing trajectory 3. Housing deprivation 4. Housing tenure 5. Housing density 6. Vacant properties 7. Student accommodation 8. Homeless households 9. Number of individuals in temporary accommodation	1. North Kent Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment 2. North Kent Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment 3. IMD 4. Census 2011 5. Medway Council 6. Medway Council 7. Medway Council 8. North Kent Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment 9. North Kent Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment

5 Assessment of Development Scenarios and policies

5.1 Development Scenarios

5.1.1 SCEN1 – Meeting Objectively Assessed Need

5.1.1.1 Description

This Scenario seeks to meet the Objectively Assessed Need for housing rather than the government’s Standard Method. The Scenario directs growth to brownfield urban sites, to complement urban regeneration with the development of a rural town and suburban expansion. It avoids all development on green belt land and land with environmental designations. This Scenario would provide 29,725 houses against compared to the required 29,463 houses resulting from the Strategic Housing and Employment Needs Assessment.

5.1.1.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Scenario supports the development of a rural town, which would result in significant investment into community infrastructure and mixed-use developments, including accessible schools (Objective 1) and employment sites (Objective 2). The support for regeneration of urban sites will increase investment into urban areas, including town centres and co-locate people and economic activity. This will have indirect benefits to Objectives 3 and 4, with benefits increasing over time.

There is a focus on regeneration of brownfield sites and the Scenario commits to safeguarding the green belt and environmentally designated sites from development. However, the Scenario will allow high quality agricultural land and green and open space to be used in the development of the rural town and potentially for suburban expansion. The Scenario supports new developments to link into a green infrastructure network, but does not mention mitigation for ecological impacts from the use of greenfield land. The overall impact against Objectives 5 and 6 is therefore neutral. New developments and regeneration provide opportunities for adapting to the effects of climate change. The Scenario supports waterfront regeneration, which is important in reducing water stress and flood risk, however the commitment to a new rural town will contribute to urbanisation and a net increase in energy, water and private transport use (Objectives 7 and 8). The protection and enhancement of Medway’s heritage assets will be impacted by regeneration; however, the extent and direction of the impact will depend on the individual planning application (Objective 9). Regarding the best use of material assets (Objective 10), the Scenario will have a neutral overall impact. This is due to a combination of support for development on both brown and greenfield sites and the corresponding positive impact on enabling best use of land and the negative impact on the landscape quality and use of agricultural land.

The Scenario supports regeneration of urban areas and the development of a new town alongside new community infrastructure. Newly designed developments and regeneration projects can improve the health and wellbeing of residents through improved access to services and facilities and by encouraging a healthier lifestyle by design (Objective 11). Facilitating good design can also promote a sense of place and associated community infrastructure will provide opportunities for

residents to become actively involved in the community (Objective 12). This could impact on crime and improve overall feelings of safety (Objective 13). Finally, the Scenario directly governs the development of housing to meet the quantum of houses required for the Objectively Assessed Need of Medway for the Plan period, providing a variety of different housing in appropriate and accessible locations to meet need and provide supporting infrastructure (Objective 14).

Recommendations

The Scenario could state that, where green and open space is lost, sufficient and appropriate green infrastructure, open spaces and habitats which seek to achieve net biodiversity gain are prioritised through design. Design and policy should seek to address net energy, water and private transport use increases rather than relying on increased efficiency.

5.1.1.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

5.1.1.4 Summary

Table 37: Summary of Meeting Objectively Assessed Need

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	O	O	+	+	O	O	-	-	?	O	+	+	+	+
Medium Term	+	+	+	+	O	O	-	-	?	O	+	+	+	+
Long Term	+	+	++	++	O	O	-	-	?	O	+	+	+	++
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	D	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	?	D	D	D	I	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	?	P	P	P	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	L	L	L	L	L	L	SE	L	?	L	L	L	L	L



5.1.2 SCEN2 – Investment in infrastructure to unlock growth

5.1.2.1 Description

This Scenario seeks to meet the Objectively Assessed Need for housing in Medway developing the Hoo Peninsula alongside the Grain freight rail line. The Scenario shares every aspect for development as SCEN1, with additional considerations given for the implications of a new passenger rail service and well-connected transport hub on the Hoo Peninsula. The Scenario proposes significant investment into the transport network to allow higher density development in Hoo and to provide a buffer to make meeting Objectively Assessed Need more achievable. The Scenario would alleviate pressure from development in suburban areas and remove land in Capstone Valley and north of Rainham from proposed development allocations. This Scenario would provide 30,808 houses compared to the required 29,463 houses resulting from the Strategic Housing and Employment Needs Assessment.

5.1.2.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Scenario focuses heavily on transport to unlock potential for development and growth in the borough. It is actively seeking inward investment to realise this growth potential, which would increase the attractiveness of Medway for businesses and investment (Objective 3), contribute to accessible employment opportunities and provide opportunities for jobs (Objective 2). The supporting infrastructure required includes provision for primary and secondary schools, thereby providing benefits against Objective 1. The Scenario would result in the creation of a new rural town and while this would enhance the existing offering of Hoo, it may increase competitiveness for other established town centres.

In this Scenario, high quality agricultural land and green and open space will be used in the development of the rural town and potentially for suburban expansion. It is assumed, given the links between SCEN1 and SCEN2, that this Scenario will also avoid green belt and environmentally designated land, but this is not explicitly referenced. The Scenario supports new developments which could link into a green infrastructure network, but does not detail strategies for ecological gain or mitigation against ecological loss through better management of greenfield land, or through the expansion of the rail network and associated infrastructure. Therefore, there is insufficient information to facilitate an assessment of this Scenario against objectives concerning the conservation and enhancement of the existing green and open space network (objective 5) and biodiversity features (Objective 6). The overall impact against Objectives 5 and 6 is therefore unknown and would depend on the implementation strategy. The Scenario supports higher density development in a rural town, which contributes to urbanisation and impacts poorly on water resilience and flood risk, which has a negative impact upon Objective 8. This could be mitigated through good quality design. The Scenario focuses on investment in the transport network, to encourage rail use and cycling as low carbon transport alternatives and encourage bus use as more sustainable travel before resorting to private car usage. The proposed sustainable travel infrastructure on the Hoo peninsula will have a positive contribution to addressing air quality concerns, with particular benefits expected to be achieved for the A228 Four Elms Hill AQMA. The placement of higher density housing reduces transport pressure from other areas which are also affected by existing AQMAs. In addition, the policy will aid in the reduction of carbon emissions (Objective 7). The protection and enhancement of Medway’s heritage assets will be

impacted by regeneration; however, the extent and direction of the impact will depend on the individual planning application (Objective 9). The Scenario will negatively impact upon Objective 10 as it encourages use of agricultural land and would also impact on the landscape.

The Scenario supports regeneration of urban areas and the development of a new town alongside new community infrastructure. Newly designed developments and regeneration projects can improve the health and wellbeing of residents through improved access to services and facilities and by encouraging a healthier lifestyle by design (Objective 11). The promotion of walking and cycling, alongside green infrastructure corridors, also leads to health benefits. Facilitating good design can also promote a sense of place and associated community infrastructure will provide opportunities for residents to become actively involved in the community (Objective 12). This could impact on crime and improve overall feelings of safety (Objective 13). Finally, the Scenario directly governs the development of housing to meet the quantum of houses required for the Objectively Assessed Need of Medway for the Plan period, providing a variety of different housing in appropriate and accessible locations to meet need and provide supporting infrastructure (Objective 14).

Recommendations

The scenario should aim to explicitly protect the greenbelt and land with environmental designations. Environmental considerations should be addressed through the masterplanning and design process attached to the introduction of a new passenger rail service. It should seek to actively encourage good quality design for community and environmental benefits, including reference to policy or further information which supports environmental sustainability against Objectives 5 and 6.

5.1.2.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

5.1.2.4 Summary

Table 38: Summary of Investment in infrastructure to unlock growth

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	+	+	+	-	?	?	+	-	?	-	+	+	+	++
Medium Term	+	+	+	-	?	?	+	-	?	-	+	+	+	++
Long Term	+	+	++	-	?	?	+	-	?	-	+	+	+	++
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	D	I	I	D	?	?	I	I	?	D	D	D	I	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	P	P	P	?	?	P	P	?	P	P	P	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	L	L	L	K	?	?	SE	L	?	L	L	L	L	L



5.1.3 SCEN3 – Meeting government’s proposed calculation of local housing need

5.1.3.1 Description

This Scenario seeks to meet the government’s Standard Method for determining housing requirement. This would occur through the reallocation of employment sites to housing developments, bringing in additional greenfield sites, and greater reliance on opportunity regeneration sites, resulting in a shortfall of 1407 houses against the required 37,143.

5.1.3.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Scenario does not plan for implementation of supporting strategic infrastructure despite proposing a large number of houses to be developed over the Plan period, however it is assumed that the allocated education sites are not reallocated for housing. More information is required to make an objective assessment against Objective 1. The reallocation of employment sites for housing will have significant adverse impacts on Objectives 2 and 3 which will increase over time. A higher ratio of housing to employment sites will make local employment opportunities less accessible, will increase rates of out commuting and will remove growth and competitiveness from the Medway economy. An increase in the number of residents in Medway may have positive impacts on town centres due to increased footfall, however the full effect of this is unknown.

It is anticipated that a mix of brownfield and greenfield land will be used to accommodate the increased supply of housing sites. The Scenario does not explicitly safeguard green belt or land with environmental designations, which may put such sites at risk of development. In addition, the Scenario does not reference information or policy which would safeguard or enhance the green and open space network or biodiversity features. While careful management of development and integration of ecological and green infrastructure principles could result in benefits against Objectives 5 and 6, the scale of development and lack of supporting information means that the assessment against these objectives is unknown. The potential for new development could promote good design to mitigate against the effects of climate change, however the provision of housing will lead to urbanisation which increases water stress and without appropriate intervention would result in net water, energy and private transport use which contributes to poor air quality and climate change (Objectives 7 and 8). There is no information in the Scenario about safeguarding heritage assets and conservation areas, which puts these areas as risk of impacts relating to construction and increased access and use (Objective 9). The Scenario would require a mix of brownfield and greenfield sites at high densities, which would be positive for efficient use of assets in brownfield sites but negative for such use of greenfield sites. Balancing these aspects against the impacts on agricultural land and the landscape, the overall impact on Objective 10 is negative.

Newly designed developments and regeneration projects can improve the health and wellbeing of residents through improved access to services and facilities and by encouraging a healthier lifestyle by design (Objective 11), however this is not explicitly promoted in the Scenario. There is a risk that inappropriate weighting towards housing and away from employment sites would increase inequalities. Through regeneration and good design of new homes, a sense of place could be promoted. However, there is also a risk that increased levels of out commuting would reduce this effect and impact negatively upon communities (Objective 12). Overall feelings of safety could be

improved by design, but inclusive communities would be more effective in ensuring this (Objective 13). Finally, the Scenario directly governs the development of housing to meet the quantum of houses required for the government’s Standard Method of housing provision, providing a variety of different housing in appropriate and accessible locations to meet need and provide supporting infrastructure (Objective 14). The Scenario aims to reach this requirement, but falls short by over 1400 houses.

Recommendations

The Scenario does not meet the Standard Method for housing requirements proposed by the government. It also does not consider measures to protect the environment through good design or appropriate allocation of housing developments. There is little indication that the Scenario will benefit the economy of Medway, particularly as a result of the provision for housing on employment site allocations. The Scenario could provide further clarification as to how the quantum of housing will support additional infrastructure, such as community facilities and schools. It should also reference policy or supporting information regarding the protection and enhancement of green and open spaces and biodiversity. Overall, the Scenario results in a high level of uncertainty which should be addressed.

5.1.3.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

5.1.3.4 Summary

Table 39: Summary of Meeting government’s proposed calculation of local housing need

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	?	-	-	?	?	?	-	-	?	-	+	?	O	+
Medium Term	?	-	-	?	?	?	-	-	?	-	+	?	O	+
Long Term	?	--	--	?	?	?	-	-	?	-	+	?	O	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	?	D	D	?	?	?	I	I	?	D	I	?	I	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	?	P	P	?	?	?	P	P	?	P	P	?	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	?	L	K	?	?	?	SE	SE	?	L	L	?	L	L

## 5.1.5 SCEN4 – Consideration of development within Lodge Hill

### 5.1.5.1 Description

This Scenario contains the same elements as SCEN1, with the exception that some land at Lodge Hill SSSI would be used to fulfil the Objectively Assessed Need for housing derived from the Strategic Housing and Employment Needs Assessment. The Scenario proposes expansion of the existing Chattenden village and a new village to be built at Lodge Hill Camp. It advocates for a development approach which secures the environmental interests of the site, addresses safety concerns resulting from unexploded ordnance and supports sustainable growth to meet house building targets.

### 5.1.5.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

#### Social, economic and environmental effects

The Scenario supports the development of a rural town with development around Lodge Hill and Chattenden village. This would result in significant investment into community infrastructure and mixed-use developments, including accessible schools (Objective 1) and employment sites (Objective 2). Investment into education opportunities, such as apprenticeships and in transport infrastructure would improve the performance of the Scenario. Regeneration of urban sites will increase investment into urban areas and town centres and co-locate people with economic activity. This will have indirect benefits which increase over time to Objectives 3 and 4. However, the scale of the proposed rural town with Lodge Hill and Chattenden Village may increase competition between town centres and decrease footfall from Chatham, which is a prioritised town centre for growth. Long-term effects against Objective 4 are therefore unknown.

Alongside the regeneration of brownfield sites, the Scenario commits to safeguarding the green belt and environmentally designated sites from development except for Lodge Hill SSSI. The Scenario suggests designating an area not currently managed for nature conservation purposes to mitigate impacts on green space. The development would also unlock an area currently inaccessible as public open space. However, the Scenario would result in the direct loss of high-quality biodiverse habitat, which is designated as a SSSI, as well as high-quality agricultural land. The overall impact on Objective 5 is therefore neutral.

The Scenario protects ancient woodland from development pressure and direct impacts, however there may be indirect impacts from construction and increased access in the short-term and from increased access in the future. The scenario promotes development on rural, greenfield land as well as at Lodge Hill SSSI, which will contribute to habitat fragmentation and will directly impact upon notable and protected species. These species will experience significant adverse impacts. The Scenario would seek to enhance areas where people can appreciate wildlife and wild spaces, however improved access to sensitive areas could increase disturbance and lead to negative impacts on biodiversity. The Scenario advocates for mitigation and compensation of impacts both on and off-site, which seeks to protect vulnerable habitats and species but there is still a risk that mitigation will be unsuccessful. Considering this reasoning in full, the assessment of this Scenario against Objective 6 is negative. This could be improved through an approach which commits to a comprehensive monitoring strategy that would identify adverse impacts in a timely manner, to allow further remediation or mitigation to take place.

Development and regeneration provides opportunity to adapt to effects of climate change by design. This could increase efficiency and reduce water stress and flood risk, however this still contributes to urbanisation and a net increase in energy, water and private transport use (Objectives 7 and 8). Medway's heritage assets may be impacted by regeneration; however, the extent and direction of the impact will depend on the individual proposal. There is an opportunity to enhance heritage features to establish a sense of place for the community by design, especially at Lodge Hill and the rural town. The assessment of this Scenario against Objective 9 is therefore unknown.

The Scenario supports use of brownfield and greenfield land, which contributes positively and negatively against Objective 10. While Lodge Hill is partly brownfield land, development impacts a site of high environmental value. However, there is risk of both unexploded ordnance and contaminated land on the site, which would be addressed and improved because of development. The assessment for this Scenario against Objective 10 is therefore neutral.

New developments and regeneration projects can improve the health and wellbeing of residents by improving access to services and facilities and encouraging a healthier lifestyle by design (Objective 11). This can also promote a sense of place and associated community infrastructure will provide opportunities for residents to become actively involved in the community (Objective 12). This could impact on crime and improve overall feelings of safety. The Scenario would make the Lodge Hill site safer for the public, however current site access is controlled and therefore development presents no significant increase to feelings of safety compared to the status quo (Objective 13). The Scenario provides sufficient housing at a range of locations to meet the housing demand and provide associated community infrastructure and open space. The inclusion of Lodge Hill ensures that the OAN housing targets can be exceeded, with an appropriate buffer for long term significant impacts. The additional supporting infrastructure, good design principles and masterplanning process also contributes to significant benefits against Objective 14.

### Recommendations

In addition to the recommendations presented for SCEN1, the Scenario could provide training opportunities such as apprentices to residents to enhance impacts against Objective 1. Provision should be made for ensuring the developments are accessible to strategic employment zones in Medway (Objective 2). To improve performance against Objective 6, the Scenario should refer to policy which ensures that development on Lodge Hill is accompanied with comprehensive mitigation at site-level and that sufficient monitoring is in place. This should be implemented as part of the application process. Monitoring will ensure that both positive and negative impacts can be measured and where negative impacts are recognised these can be improved through further mitigation or remediation. Inclusion of this wording is likely to enhance the assessment of this scenario.

### 5.1.5.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA

### 5.1.5.4 Summary

A summary of the Scenario performance is shown on the next page.

Table 40: Summary of Consideration of development within Lodge Hill

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	O	O	+	+	O	-	-	-	?	O	+	+	+	++
Medium Term	+	+	+	+	O	-	-	-	?	O	+	+	+	++
Long Term	+	+	+	?	O	-	-	-	?	O	+	+	++	++
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	D	I	I	D	D	D	I	I	?	D	D	D	I	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	?	P	P	P	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	L	L	L	L	L	SE	SE	L	?	L	L	L	L	L

5.1.6 HRA implications of Development Scenarios<sup>38</sup>

The key considerations in the comparison of the four scenarios are constraints associated with site allocations that may provide supporting habitat to the north Kent marshes European sites and significant effects associated with the deposition of nitrogen within Medway and Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA/Ramsar sites and North Downs Woodlands SAC.

Appropriate mitigation has been identified in this document to avoid significant effects on the north Kent marshes European sites associated with the allocation of sites within the North Kent Marshes Functional Land IRZs. Further survey work and assessment is required to fully assess the constraints in light of the requirements of the Habitats Regulations, particularly in combination with other plans and projects. The majority of the site allocations within the North Kent Marshes Functional Land IRZs are part of all four scenarios, with the exception of the following:

- Land West of Lower Stoke (Ref. SO8) – only Scenarios 1, 2 and 3;
- Middle Street Farm, Grain Road, Middle Stoke (Ref. 0794) – only Scenarios 1, 2 and 3;
- Bennetts Orchard, Lower Rainham (Ref. 0849) – only Scenarios 1, 3 and 4;
- Land west of Lower Station Road, Rainham (Ref. 0800) - only Scenarios 1, 3 and 4;
- Rear of Lower Rainham Road/Station Road, Rainham (Ref. UB4g) - only Scenarios 1, 3 and 4; and
- Wooleys Orchard, land south of Lower Rainham (Ref. 0749) - only Scenarios 1, 3 and 4.

A review of aerial mapping confirms that these sites support areas of open space that have potential to provide supporting habitat. The exclusion of some of these site allocations from Scenarios 2 and 4 indicates that these scenarios are preferable when considering the implications of supporting habitat. However, this is a high-level assessment; constraints would need to be verified through survey work and assessment.

Scenario 3 presents the worst-case scenario in terms of predicted increases in traffic flows and therefore the greatest increase in NOx concentrations at Medway and Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA/Ramsar and North Downs Woodlands SAC. Scenario 3 relates to meeting the Government’s Standard Method calculating housing need, which is considered to be challenging to deliver. There

are also significant effects on North Downs Woodlands SAC (Wouldham to Detling Escarpment SSSI) relating to Scenario 1.

At this interim stage, prior to the completion of strategic air quality modelling, Scenario 3 is the least preferable option, followed by Scenario 1. Scenarios 2 and 4 provide the best options both in terms of potential impacts on supporting habitats and significant effects associated with increased nitrogen deposition.

<sup>38</sup>Arup (2018) Medway Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment

5.2 Development scenario policies

5.2.1 DS1 – Sustainable Development

5.2.1.1 Description

This Policy seeks to affirm Medway’s commitment to sustainable development through adherence to the Medway Local Plan and the NPPF. Where development is proposed that is not governed by either of these two policy documents, the Policy permits development where impacts are significantly and demonstrably outweighed by benefits when assessed against the NPPF and where there are no restrictions on the development which will take place.

5.2.1.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy supports sustainable development in Medway through application of the principles, policies and objectives contained within the Medway Local Plan and the NPPF. The Policy is therefore deemed inherently sustainable in terms of assessment against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives.

Cumulative

This Policy governs the implementation of all Policies within the Local Plan and sets guidelines for consideration of developments outside the scope of the Local Plan.

Recommendations

The Policy could base the approval of developments which fall outside the scope of the Plan Policies or Scenarios on an assessment of the development against the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal objectives.

5.2.1.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

5.2.1.4 Summary

Table 41: Summary of Sustainable Development

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



5.2.2 DS2 – Spatial Development Strategy

5.2.2.1 Description

This Policy commits to sustainable development with a focus on meeting housing need, ensuring appropriate employment land and supporting infrastructure land availability and respecting the need to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment. The spatial development strategy has a hierarchy; firstly prioritising regeneration of Medway’s urban centres, focussed around Chatham followed by development of a rural town around Hoo and finally development in smaller centres or suburban locations where sustainable development can be ensured. The Policy also seeks to provide strategic green infrastructure to benefit residents and provide a buffer against expanding settlements.

5.2.2.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy performs well against all economic objectives, owing to a commitment to ensure appropriate colocation of employment (Objective 2), education (Objective 1) and housing land. This will make employment more accessible (Objective 2) and improve the skills of those within Medway, while redevelopment aims to enhance the urban offering to improve the attractiveness of the borough and increase competitiveness overall and within town centres (Objectives 3 and 4).

The Policy commits to enhancing and conserving green infrastructure, which would be of high value if managed appropriately compared to today’s current uses. The Policy will also create open space, parks and associated similar community infrastructure. The prioritisation of brownfield sites is positive against Objectives 6 and 9, but the Policy still advocates for development on greenfield land which could result in habitat fragmentation and put vulnerable species at risk, as well as impacting on the landscape and removing agricultural land. This Policy advocates for a natural capital approach to and strategic green infrastructure development, which could balance against negative impacts on Objective 6, but more information is required to assess this. The benefits and impacts of brownfield and greenfield development balance to produce a neutral effect against Objective 10. The Policy provides opportunities to mitigate against the effects of climate change but will still result in a net increase in urbanisation, water, energy and private transport use which will negatively impact upon Objectives 7 and 8. A natural capital approach may realise carbon sequestration benefits to reduce the significance of this effect, however more detail is required to confirm this. There is insufficient information to assess this Policy against Objective 9.

The Policy supports regeneration of urban areas and the development of a new town alongside new community infrastructure. Newly designed developments and regeneration projects can improve the health and wellbeing of residents through improved access to services and facilities and by encouraging a healthier lifestyle by design (Objective 11). The promotion of green infrastructure and open space also leads to health benefits. Facilitating good design can also promote a sense of place and associated community infrastructure will provide opportunities for residents to become actively involved in the community (Objective 12). This could impact on crime and improve overall feelings of safety (Objective 13). Finally, the Policy directly governs the overall development and growth of Medway, setting up a priority for site allocations, including housing and supporting infrastructure, to be developed (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This Policy relates to all other aspects and policies of the plan.

Recommendations

The policy should actively state that the green infrastructure network will be managed in such a way that will lead to net biodiversity gain compared to current levels. The policy should reference how historic and cultural heritage assets will be considered in light of proposed developments.

This policy should be amended to ensure the protection of European sites, given that the spatial development strategy encourages development in close proximity to Medway and Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA/Ramsar sites. The policy should also incorporate appropriate wording clarifying that a riverside walk would need to be carefully designed to protect European sites from recreational disturbance. Although not necessary to state in policy, development proposals that promote access to European sites for recreation would need to be subject to an HRA to ensure that there are no adverse impacts to integrity.

5.2.2.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

5.2.2.4 Summary

Table 42: Summary of Spatial development strategy

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	+	+	+	+	+	?	-	-	?	O	+	+	+	+
Medium Term	+	+	+	+	+	?	-	-	?	O	+	+	+	+
Long Term	+	+	+	+	+	?	-	-	?	O	+	+	+	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	I	D	I	D	D	?	I	I	?	I	D	D	I	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	P	P	P	P	?	P	P	?	P	P	P	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	K	L	L	L	L	?	L	L	?	L	L	L	L	L

## 6 Assessment of Draft Policies

### 6.1 Housing

#### 6.1.1 H1 – Housing delivery

##### 6.1.1.1 Description

This Policy outlines Medway’s approach to housing delivery, including allocating sites and broad locations for development, supporting sustainable communities and ensuring adequate service and infrastructure provision.

##### 6.1.1.2 Appraisal and recommendations

##### Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy performs positively against the aims of Objective 14. It supports the delivery of housing across Medway to meet housing need and ensures the supply of supporting infrastructure and service provision. It supports the delivery of a range of housing that meets different needs, including affordable homes. The delivery of housing is also important for the local economy by attracting individuals to live and work in Medway thus providing a local workforce, supporting Objective 3.

The allocation of sites across Medway could put green and open spaces at risk, threatening biodiversity and habitats. Objectives 5 and 6 seek to protect biodiversity and green areas but prioritising housing delivery could have negative impacts on these factors, though this would depend on the location of the site. Large scale developments could also impact local communities by generating an influx of a large population into established communities (Objective 12). Therefore, housing delivery should support the integration of communities by methods such as delivering community infrastructure and considering local character in the design of new homes.

##### Cumulative

This Policy supports others delivering social and housing infrastructure across Medway. It also indirectly supports economic policies by increasing the size of the local workforce.

##### SA recommendations

The Policy would benefit from a greater understanding of the aspects that should be considered in masterplans for major residential schemes, in order to facilitate. This will help to achieve a number of sustainability Objectives.

##### 6.1.1.3 HRA Implications

The Policy should incorporate appropriate wording ensuring the protection of European sites, as delivering the Objectively assessed need for housing will put significant pressure on these habitats.

The Policy should state that an HRA needs to support development proposals that could impact European sites, to maintain the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. The Policy should also highlight the requirement for residential development within 6km of the north Kent marshes European sites to make a financial contribution towards the protection of these sites through a SAMMS, referring to policy NE1.

##### 6.1.1.4 Summary

Table 43: Summary of Housing delivery

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	?	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	?	N/A	++
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	?	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	?	N/A	++
Long Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	?	N/A	++
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	I	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	N/A	L

6.1.2H2 – Housing mix

6.1.2.1Description

This Policy ensures new housing developments in Medway provide a wide range of housing including affordable homes, different size homes and homes for vulnerable, elderly or disabled groups.

6.1.2.2Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy supports the delivery of a range of housing (Objective 14) to meet housing need in Medway. It promotes affordable homes and homes that meet the needs of vulnerable groups. The Policy also indirectly supports economic growth in Medway by increasing the available workforce across the borough through the provision of additional residential homes (Objective 3).

Appropriate, good quality housing is an important consideration in the health of a population, particularly for vulnerable groups who may require additional adaptations to meet their needs. Therefore, this Policy supports Objective 11 as appropriate housing can help individuals to feel more independent and reduce feelings of isolation. By developing a mix of housing, this Policy could also help to encourage more diverse and mixed communities as different housing type, size, suitability and cost will attract a wide range of people.

Cumulative

This Policy would help support other economic development and community-focused policies.

SA recommendations

There are no specific recommendations for this Policy at this stage.

6.1.2.3HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.1.2.4Summary

Table 44: Summary of Housing mix

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	++
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	++
Long Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	++
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	L

6.1.3 H3 – Affordable housing

6.1.3.1 Description

This Policy outlines Medway’s approach to the delivery of affordable homes. In developments of 15 or more dwellings, it sets out a target for 30% affordable in rural Medway and 25% in urban Medway.

6.1.3.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy supports Objective 14. It ensures the delivery of a range of housing to meet housing need, focusing on affordable units, but also ensuring new homes vary in type, size and tenure. Indirectly, this Policy also supports economic growth across Medway by increasing the local workforce and providing direct employment through development (Objective 3).

Housing affordability and quality is also an important determinant of health. Therefore this Policy can help to bring improvements to health and wellbeing for residents of Medway by supporting individuals financially and delivering safe and accessible homes.

This Policy supports the provision of a mix of tenure, size and type and affordable homes within wider developments. This variety will attract people from different backgrounds, of varying ages and both families and individuals. This can help to contribute to a more diverse community, supporting the aim of Objective 12 to generate mixed communities. However, appraisal against Objective 12 is considered to be unknown at this stage, as the threshold of 15 units may result in a number of urban, particularly town centre sites coming forward that do not require to provide any affordable units. This would potentially prevent those requiring affordable units from being able to access and become integrated within certain communities.

Cumulative

This Policy supports other economic development and community-focused policies.

SA recommendations

It is suggested that the threshold at which affordable units are required is further considered, with the implications of a lower threshold evaluated.

6.1.3.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.1.3.4 Summary

Table 45: Summary of Affordable housing

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	?	N/A	++
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	?	N/A	++
Long Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	?	N/A	++
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	L



6.1.4 H4 - Supported housing, nursing homes and older persons accommodation

6.1.4.1 Description

This Policy outlines Medway’s commitment to providing specialist housing to meet the needs of more vulnerable individuals. This includes care homes and residential homes. It supports well designed homes which meet particular requirements of residents and ensures homes are accessible to local transport, facilities and services.

6.1.4.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy supports Objective 14 by supporting the delivery of a variety of homes across Medway. It promotes some of the concepts of Lifetime Neighbourhoods by ensuring communities have good access to transport, facilities and services.

Housing is an important determinant of health. Poor quality housing is directly linked to physical health, but housing affordability and access is also important for mental health and wellbeing. Poorly designed homes which do not suit the needs of residents can lead to people becoming ‘trapped in their own homes’, increasing isolation and loneliness. Similarly, if individuals do not have good access to local services or transport they can become increasingly isolated. Residential and nursing homes provide direct healthcare services and also support vulnerable individuals in everyday activities. Therefore, this Policy also performs very well against Objective 11 by supporting health and wellbeing indirectly and directly.

Accessible homes with good connectivity would also support Objective 12, which includes aims to develop mixed communities and increase a sense of place in Medway. Different types of housing will attract a variety of individuals from different backgrounds, helping to diversify the community. As discussed above, poor quality and disconnected homes can lead to people feeling trapped and isolated. Increasing accessibility could therefore help to improve individual engagement within the community and help people to feel more settled in a home and neighbourhood that suits their needs.

Cumulative

This Policy closely supports those relating to health and community by ensuring homes and neighbourhoods are accessible to meet the needs of more vulnerable groups in Medway.

SA recommendations

This Policy could make specific reference to the support for Lifetime Neighbourhoods<sup>39</sup> and Homes. This concept supports neighbourhoods and homes which have good access to goods and services, a variety of homes and inclusive design to meet the needs of all groups, regardless of age, disability or other vulnerabilities.

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lifetime-neighbourhoods--2>

6.1.4.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.1.4.4 Summary

Table 46: Summary of Supported housing, nursing homes and older persons accommodation

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	+	N/A	++
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	+	N/A	++
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	+	N/A	++
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	I	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	K	K	N/A	L

6.1.5 H5 - Student accommodation

6.1.5.1 Description

This Policy demonstrates Medway’s support for the provision of student accommodation in appropriate and vibrant areas. Student accommodation is important for supporting the growing higher education provision in Medway. This Policy supports development in town centre locations to avoid over concentration in less-appropriate, family-orientated areas.

6.1.5.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy indirectly supports the aims of Objective 1. It provides important supporting infrastructure for higher education in Medway by ensuring accommodation is available for students. In addition, education is important for the economy by helping to develop a skilled and educated future workforce. Students can support the local economy, particularly entertainment and social businesses and may also act as a seasonal workforce.

The provision of student accommodation is important for Objective 14 by increasing the provision of different types of housing across Medway. The aims of Objective 12, including creating a sense of place and mixed communities, is also supported by increasing housing variety. This Policy also understands that student accommodation should be appropriately located to ensure students’ needs are met and an over-concentration does not occur in areas far from educational facilities and support services.

Cumulative

This Policy closely aligns with educational policies as it ensures the provision of appropriate supporting infrastructure for higher education in Medway.

SA recommendations

It is unclear what the “negative impact on the core functions of the town centres” is. Students can be important for the economy, supporting many different local businesses and providing local employment during certain times of the year. This should be further defined.

6.1.5.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.1.5.4 Summary

Table 47: Summary of Student accommodation

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	+	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+
Medium Term	+	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+
Long Term	+	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	I	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	T	N/A	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	T	N/A	T
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	SE	N/A	SE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE	N/A	SE

6.1.6 H6 - Mobile home parks

6.1.6.1 Description

This Policy sets out Medway’s support for the protection of existing mobile home parks. It aims to restrict intensification beyond density guidelines and will support opportunities to enhance the design and visual amenity of these sites.

6.1.6.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy supports Objective 14 by ensuring the protection of a specific type of housing, contributing to housing need and ensuring Medway provides a mix of different housing types. The Policy acknowledges that these homes are particularly attractive for specific markets, such as people over 50 years and will therefore help to encourage integration of an ageing population. The Policy acknowledges the need to enhance the visual amenity of these sites and reduce the impact on the local landscape, supporting Objective 10.

Cumulative

This Policy supports other housing policies by contributing to the variable housing mix Medway has to offer.

SA recommendations

There are no specific recommendations for this Policy at this stage.

6.1.6.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.1.6.4 Summary

Table 48: Summary of Mobile home parks

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	N/A	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	L



6.1.7H7 - Houseboats

6.1.7.1Description

This Policy outlines how houseboats will be protected and the potential for further growth in appropriate locations. The Policy aims to reduce the environmental impact houseboats can have on the estuaries and rivers.

6.1.7.2Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy supporting text acknowledges the environmental impact houseboats can have on habitats within the river and estuaries particularly with poor waste facilities. It suggests that upgrades and improvements will be supported to ensure there will be no adverse environmental impacts, helping to benefit local biodiversity, supporting Objectives 5 and 6. However, this would depend on how development is implemented at the local level, thus effects are unknown at this stage.

This Policy also broadly supports Objective 14 by developing the housing mix to ensure Medway provides a variety of housing to meet different needs and preferences for residents.

Cumulative

This Policy supports other housing policies by contributing to the variable housing mix Medway provides. However, there may be incompatibilities with environmental protection policies relating to water resources and green corridors. This inter-relationship will depend upon implementation.

SA recommendations

The supporting text outlines the impact houseboats can have on habitats and how opportunities for upgrading and improving will be supported. The actual Policy text however has very little reference to improving and upgrading facilities to reduce the existing environmental problems. Further detail of how the promotion of houseboats would contribute environmentally and ecologically within the environs of water courses would help establish the likely direction of effects against Objectives 5 and 6.

6.1.7.3HRA Implications

Further detail is required concerning the criteria under which any further growth of houseboats will be allowed, specifying that this will include avoidance of adverse impacts on the integrity of European sites. The growth of houseboats should be closely controlled given that some are located within European sites with potential for impacts on water quality from waste water disposal.

6.1.7.4Summary

Table 49: Summary of Houseboats

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	?	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	?	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	?	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	T	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE	SE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L

6.1.8 H8 - Houses of multiple occupation

6.1.8.1 Description

This Policy outlines how Medway will seek to avoid over concentrations of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) to reduce adverse effects on the character of the local area and supply of family housing.

6.1.8.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy supports the provision of HMOs, but would restrict over-concentration due to the negative impacts it can have on local amenity. The Policy suggests HMOs can negatively impact community cohesion due to the high turnover of residents and poorer standards of accommodation. Reducing larger concentrations could therefore improve community integration and a sense of place, meeting the aims of Objective 12 by reducing the number of individuals who may not be as committed to the local area. However, HMO residents are not necessarily negative for the local area and residents can contribute to a more mixed and diverse community.

This Policy does not discourage building HMOs and therefore still meets the aims of Objective 14 by providing a mix of different housing types and tenure in Medway. However, if there is demand for HMOs then the Policy should ensure there is adequate supply. This Policy could also support Objective 3 by increasing the local workforce in Medway, but high demand may also indicate Medway residents having difficulty affording their own homes.

The supporting text does acknowledge the HMO standards can vary and potentially present unhealthy conditions for residents but does not suggest how standards could be put in place to facilitate improvements.

Cumulative

This Policy could be closely aligned with Student Accommodation as HMOs are likely to attract students in higher education. It is also associated with economic growth as high demand for HMO would indicate that individuals cannot afford to own their own homes, or rent a home individually.

SA recommendations

The supporting text outlines how the demand for HMOs is increasing but the Policy aims to restrict concentrations of HMOs, which may result in demand not being met.

The supporting text outlines how standards of HMOs can be very poor but does not suggest any way to manage this. This can be very detrimental for health and wellbeing, therefore the Policy could further consider the standards of existing HMOs, in addition to the provision of new HMO. This could include policy criteria that, whilst not overly restrictive, set a benchmark for acceptable property standards prior to approval.

6.1.8.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.1.8.4 Summary

Table 50: Summary of Houses of multiple occupation

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	?	+	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	?	+	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	?	+	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	L

6.1.9 H9 - Self-build and custom house building

6.1.9.1 Description

This Policy supports the construction of self-build homes across Medway and encourages developers to allocate parcels of land for custom housing.

6.1.9.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy supports Objective 14, supporting the delivery of self-build homes which contribute to the housing need and variety in Medway. Self-build homes can also help improve local amenity if appropriately managed, by increasing the diversity of homes and reducing large-scale, identical developments which can have little individual character. These homes could also help individuals who have specific needs and may require tailored homes which have been adapted to support them.

Smaller developments can also have positive benefits to the local economy as it provides opportunities for small developers, construction companies and tradesmen, which large scale developments may not support (Objectives 2 and 3).

Cumulative

This Policy is closely aligned with other housing policies by contributing to the housing need and mix across Medway. It could also support health policies by allowing homes to be built which meet specific needs for individuals. It also supports SMEs and other local economy policies.

SA recommendations

There are no specific recommendations for this Policy at this stage.

6.1.9.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.1.9.4 Summary

Table 51: Summary of Self-build and custom house building

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	N/A	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	T	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	L



6.1.10 H10 - Gypsy, traveller and travelling showpersons

6.1.10.1 Description

This Policy outlines Medway’s commitment to providing appropriate gypsy, traveller and travelling showperson accommodation. It will protect sites and proposes new sites where there is need. The Policy ensures the protection of designated land (heritage and environmental) and ensures sites are not built in flood zones. It also outlines the need for sites to be of an appropriate scale and to have good access.

6.1.10.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy supports Objective 14, ensuring that Medway provides appropriate accommodation for all individuals of any background. The Policy provides areas for groups to live securely, contributing to a more mixed community and improving the livelihoods of groups who can continue to follow their traditions.

The Policy protects existing sites unless a similar or better site in an appropriate location is provided, or the site size is surplus to requirements. The Policy supports the provision of new sites, but also ensures that they are built in appropriate locations, as it safeguards designated areas, heritage assets, flood zones, open spaces and agricultural land from allocation, supporting many of the Objectives (5, 6, 9 and 10).

Cumulative

This Policy supports other housing policies by contributing to the variable housing mix Medway provides.

SA recommendations

There are no specific recommendations for this Policy at this stage, other than those referred to in 6.1.10.3.

6.1.10.3 HRA Implications

Given that this Policy does not specify locations for new sites, additional wording should be incorporated to avoid indirect impacts on the integrity of European sites, including the loss of supporting habitats and disturbance.

6.1.10.4 Summary

Table 52: Summary of Gypsy, traveller and travelling showpersons.

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	O	N/A	N/A	O	O	+	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	O	N/A	N/A	O	O	O	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	+	O	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	N/A	N/A	I	I	I	N/A	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	L

6.2 Employment

6.2.1 E1 - Economic development

6.2.1.1 Description

Policy E1 encourages economic growth and job creation in Medway. It strongly supports upskilling workers, promoting student retention and collaboration with appropriate parties to invest in high value industries to provide high value jobs. It supports strategic employment sites and employment in town centres to provide a diverse range of jobs and apprenticeships. It promotes the use of water and rail for freight and high speed broadband services.

6.2.1.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy strongly supports student retention and university-industry partnerships. It focuses on higher education within the Learning Quarter and strategic placement of industrial employment land to upskill workers and provide apprenticeships (Objective 1). The Policy could support investment in earlier stages of education, for example by encouraging work placements for younger people. Investment in business/innovation parks and town centres and provision for attractive and accessible locations has a direct benefit to Objective 2. These factors combine with investment in ‘growth sectors’ from digital to advanced manufacturing and the arts to provide Medway with a strong economic foundation, sustainable growth and increased competitiveness (Objective 3). Whilst the Policy strongly supports upskilling the workforce to provide high value jobs, it does not state specific measures to reduce unemployment for those of all abilities. Direct support of town centres will protect and grow these areas economically and higher value jobs could result in local economic benefits.

Regeneration is supported through this Policy , as is the appropriate location of sites within urban centres and areas with existing land uses. However, support is also given to development that could result in green and open space being lost, directly contributing to habitat loss and fragmentation (Objectives 5 and 6). There will also be short term local construction impacts, which will affect the environment and contribute to negative impacts on climate change Objectives. Good design could alleviate issues relating to climate change Objectives (7 and 8), as well as requirements for businesses to operate sustainably, by incorporating circular economy principles. Urbanisation, particularly in rural areas, can result in elevated flood risk and increased water stress. The Policy supports measures that will increase tourism and support the creative industries through regeneration and provision of appropriate employment space (Objective 9). The Policy has significant potential to make the best use of material assets by using brownfield locations. It promotes the use of green corridors and sustainable transport for freight, however also supports new development on undeveloped land which may impact upon the quality of the landscape (Objective 10).

There are significant health benefits associated with income security and reduced deprivation, which this Policy will realise (Objective 12), however short-term construction impacts may result in short term health impacts. The encouragement of sustainable transport will also contribute to positive health benefits and appropriate location of sites will ensure accessibility.

Cumulative

This Policy is central to the growth of Medway and will influence a significant number of other policies, including those relating to retail and town centres, natural environment and Green Belt, built environment, infrastructure and transport.

SA recommendations

The Policy could support investment in education at an earlier age and promote more accessible locations or the provision of infrastructure to ensure employment is more accessible. In promoting construction of new buildings and infrastructure, the Policy should encourage the good design of structures to link to the green infrastructure network, provide and enhance habitats, improve accessibility and reduce and mitigate against the effects of climate change. There should also be reference to the importance of small/independent businesses in the local community and economy and seek to encourage this where possible. The Policy notes the potential of mixed use schemes to appropriately locate employment sites. It is recommended that, where there are large or mixed-use schemes, the Policy requires careful planning or master planning of the development to ensure that sustainability principles are upheld.

6.2.1.3 HRA Implications

The Policy should incorporate appropriate wording ensuring the protection of European sites, as delivering the employment land identified in the Employment Land Needs Assessment in the locations proposed could impact Medway and Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA/Ramsar sites. This Policy should also prioritise or ideally ensure development within the existing site allocation boundaries at Kingsnorth, to avoid the potential loss of supporting habitat to Medway Estuary and Marshes SPA/Ramsar site. Any planning application for development that could impact European sites, particularly those relating to development outside the existing boundary, would need to be supported by an HRA to ensure that any adverse impacts on integrity are avoided.

6.2.1.4 Summary

Table 53: Summary of Economic development

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	+	++	+	+	O	-	O	-	+	O	+	O	+	N/A
Medium Term	+	++	+	+	O	-	O	-	+	O	+	+	+	N/A
Long Term	++	++	+	+	O	-	O	-	+	O	+	+	+	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	I	D	D	I	I	D	I	I	D	I	I	I	I	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	K	SE	K	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	N/A

6.2.2 E2 - Rural Economy

6.2.2.1 Description

This Policy seeks to manage the rural environment by limited land release for development and diversifying the rural economy. It seeks to promote well designed development in appropriate locations, which can support sustainable economic activities which conserve and enhance the environment, retain key rural services.

6.2.2.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy seeks to diversify the rural economy and retain key rural services, safeguarding existing jobs and potentially creating new jobs and supporting small businesses. It also recognises the importance of the horticulture industry as a highly productive part of the rural economy. This could have the resulting benefit by providing a range of employment opportunities, seasonal and permanent, within Medway. The Policy’s support of the release of high quality agricultural land may reduce the productivity of the rural economy in Medway, but this will be mitigated for by diversifying and consolidating agricultural activity which could have benefits throughout the borough. This could also encourage significant inward investment and reduce overall unemployment. The impact of this Policy on Objective 2 is therefore neutral, while the impact on Objective 3 is positive.

Good design principles are strongly supported by this Policy to encourage sustainable design of infrastructure that respect the character of the landscape. However, the release of previously undeveloped land will directly contribute to habitat loss and fragmentation, biodiversity loss, increased habitat fragmentation and removal of open and green space which negatively impact Objectives 5 and 6. The resulting urbanisation would result in increased water stress and flood risk, which could be mitigated for by good design. With regards to Objective 6, the resulting urbanisation from the Policy will result in increased water stress and increase flood risk and contributes to the loss of biodiversity and open spaces. Overall, the Policy performs well against climate change Objective 7 by supporting crop growth for energy and the provision for renewable energy generation, as well as supporting more efficient use of water resources. The Policy states that activities such as tourism, leisure and cultural will be supported where appropriate within their rural setting, which will have a positive impact on Objective 9. The direct removal and development on agricultural land will have a negative influence on Objective 10, while these effects are mitigated against by ensuring that development is respectful to the character of the landscape. It will facilitate the use of natural assets for wider benefit, but also removes some of these natural assets for development and could provide further detail regarding mitigation.

The Policy supports sustainable growth and diversification of the rural economy, which could provide employment opportunities in addition to those created through conversion of agricultural land to employment allocations. The health benefits which are associated with high quality housing and improved employment opportunities, which are prioritised over provision of agricultural land, are balanced against the negative impacts of productivity loss in the agricultural sector and the loss of green space (Objective 11). The Policy will provide and remove opportunities in the rural economy, but this could result in overall employment increasing and therefore reduced levels of deprivation. The provision for mixed use development could provide opportunities for community

infrastructure and promote inclusive and diverse communities (Objectives 12 and 14). The Policy supports the release of land in order to develop housing to help meet the housing needs of Medway (Objective 14). The large amount of rural land that could be used for development is sufficient to provide for significant supporting community infrastructure.

Cumulative

This Policy seeks to resolve conflict between this Policy and others, particularly for the development options and development strategy policies. It also links to transport, housing, natural environment and Green Belt and health and communities. Technological developments that are essential to combatting climate change, ensuring food security and the resilience of the agricultural industry in Medway will be encouraged by the investment in collaboration between education and industry.

SA recommendations

The Policy could support management of conservation areas for tourism and leisure. The Policy could also support good design to increase biodiversity, protect species, improve linkages with the green infrastructure network and provide more accessible green space where residents can appreciate nature. Wording could be included to refer to sustainable transport in rural locations and to support sustainable practices such as discouraging the use of private transport. This Policy could support the best use of natural assets by prioritising agricultural land over other policies in the Local Plan. The Policy could recognise the role of the rural economy in the rural community and propose measures to improve social cohesion and improve service provision in these areas.

6.2.2.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.2.2.4 Summary

Table 54: Summary of Rural Economy

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	O	+	N/A	-	-	++	-	+	--	+	O	N/A	++
Medium Term	N/A	O	+	N/A	-	-	++	-	+	--	+	-	N/A	++
Long Term	N/A	O	+	N/A	-	-	++	-	+	--	+	--	N/A	++
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	N/A	D	D	I	I	D	D	I	I	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	N/A	L	L	K	K	L	L	L	L	N/A	L



6.2.3 E3 - Tourism

6.2.3.1 Description

This Policy recognises the significant value of tourism to the UK economy and actively seeks to promote tourism in Medway. It seeks to extend the cultural offering and encourage waterfront and town centre regeneration, to make use of the river and encourage tourism in rural areas. The Policy aims to achieve this through sustainable management which strengthens the cultural offering and enhancing the natural environment to maximise economic benefits.

6.2.3.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

By encouraging tourism, the Policy will support sustainable growth of the economy in Medway and also supports a diverse range of businesses and services for increased employment opportunities. Therefore, the Policy supports Objectives 2 and 3. This Policy will directly enhance the attractiveness of Medway by supporting regeneration, which in turn could encourage further inward investment. Provision is made for arts and culture venues, as well as visitor facilities, which supports growth and prosperity in town centres which also encourages small and independent businesses.

The Policy seeks to achieve a balance between growth of the tourism sector and conservation of biodiversity and the green infrastructure network by avoiding negative environmental impacts. This has significant potential to conserve and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and ensure managed protection of natural assets (Objective 5). It seeks to protect green corridors and protected or notable species and will enhance areas where people can encounter and appreciate wildlife resulting in a greater community engagement with biodiversity (Objective 6). The Policy commits to sustainable transport, but increased tourism could result in increased noise, waste and pollution of the environment including a net increase in modes of travel that contribute to climate change (Objective 7). Sensitive design principles are applied to developments through this Policy to protect and enhance biodiversity and open spaces and adapt to climate change (Objective 8). The Policy directly supports tourism, protecting and enhancing the conservation areas, listed buildings and heritage assets (Objective 9). The Policy could result in an improved quality of landscape and facilitates the use of natural assets for wider benefit (Objective 10).

The Policy supports regeneration, sustainable transport and enhancing the natural assets of Medway which can result in increased health and wellbeing for residents. There are also health benefits associated with prosperity and employment in the area. It is believed that these benefits are greater than the potential negative health impacts associated with noise, increased numbers of people and potential waste issues that can be associated with increased levels of tourism (Objective 11). These benefits of tourism can also promote community engagement and promote a sense of place, thereby improving deprivation and improving the resilience of communities (Objective 12). Regeneration and as well as careful management of access to spaces can facilitate increased feelings of safety, reducing fear of crime. However, increased levels of tourism could potentially result in increased levels of petty crimes and anti-social behaviour, particularly in peak seasons.

Cumulative

This Policy has links with others included in the Local Plan, such as transport, health and communities, built environment, retail and town centres and natural environment and Green Belt.

SA recommendations

The Policy could seek to encourage the tourism offering to enhance education of the arts, heritage and nature, targeting schools within the wider region. Where tourism offerings are created or enhanced, the Policy should ensure that these are accessible for both visitors and employees, particularly for nature-based offerings. The Policy could commit to enhancing conservation efforts and green infrastructure by funding this through the tourism offering and therefore ensuring the sustainability of tourism within the natural environment. The Policy could ensure that tourism is sustainably managed to reduce waste, noise and habitat destruction and encourage active transport and low-carbon activities. Good design principles should go further to ensure flood risk and water stress is reduced and to adapt to and mitigate against the effects of climate change. Consideration should be given to the safety of residents and tourists alike, given increased levels of tourism can increase acts of petty crime such as theft and anti-social behaviour.

6.2.3.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.2.3.4 Summary

Table 55: Summary of Tourism

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	++	++	++	++	O	+	++	+	+	+	+	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	+	++	++	++	++	O	+	++	+	+	+	+	N/A
Long Term	N/A	+	++	++	++	++	O	+	++	+	+	+	+	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	D	D	D	D	I	D	I	I	D	D	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	SE	SE	L	L	SE	L	L	L	L	N/A

6.2.4 E4 - Visitor accommodation

6.2.4.1 Description

This Policy supports Policy E3 – Tourism and focuses on the delivery of visitor accommodation to support the tourism industry and regeneration in Medway. It supports the development of sustainable visitor accommodation given conditions on sustainability and meeting demand and recognises that visitor accommodation could be provided in conjunction with other mixed developments.

6.2.4.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy supports the development and regeneration of visitor accommodation, which could provide short term design, build and construction employment as well as employment opportunities in the service industry in the long term. This therefore supports employment opportunities and enables sustainable growth of the tourism economy in Medway (Objectives 2 and 3). The Policy supports a mix of visitor accommodation, some of which is in town centres, that is to be sensitive to the character of the landscape. It will attract inward investment, increase growth in Medway and the town centres and increase footfall to support small and independent businesses in town centres.

Development or regeneration in green and open spaces or natural land will be sensitive to the special characteristics of the countryside, which implies that impacts on the natural environment will be limited, with slight pronounced impacts possible during short term construction. Development and urbanisation can contribute to climate change and reduce the resilience of communities to climate change without appropriate design and mitigation. However, given the small scale of the supported development, this is unlikely to have a significant negative impact but could have major beneficial impacts given appropriate planning (Objectives 5, 6, 7 and 8). The Policy directly supports tourism Objectives and will indirectly improve the leisure offering in Medway (Objective 9). More information is required to ensure that the best use of material assets is considered (Objective 10).

Regeneration has the potential to have negative effects on health during short term construction but can deliver wider levels of satisfaction among residents and promote schemes to improve air quality through sustainable travel and green infrastructure by design (Objective 11).

Cumulative

This Policy links to aspects of the emerging local plan including retail and town centres, the natural environment and Green Belt, the built environment and transport.

SA recommendations

The Policy should ensure that visitor accommodation is accessible for tourists and employees, referencing good design. Short term construction impacts should be minimised for environmental and health benefits and policy could also incorporate the good design to encourage green infrastructure into new developments and regeneration. Design should also address climate change Objectives, with reference to construction, sustainable transport, design of structures and holistic

resilience of the areas in which development is taking place. The best use of material assets could be achieved through commitments to design which enhances the natural landscape and development on brownfield sites.

6.2.4.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.2.4.4 Summary

Table 56: Summary of Visitor accommodation

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	++	-	-	O	O	+	?	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	++	O	O	O	O	+	?	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	+	+	++	O	O	O	O	+	?	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	I	D	I	I	I	I	D	?	I	N/A	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	T	T	P	T	P	?	P	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	?	L	N/A	N/A	N/A

### 6.3 Retail and town centres

#### 6.3.1 RTC1 - Retail hierarchy

##### 6.3.1.1 Description

This Policy recognises the value of Medway’s town centres for retail, community, leisure and employment and seeks to support their multi-purpose function through establishing a retail hierarchy. In doing so, the Policy supports proportional and sustainable growth of town centres, supporting the provision of retail, leisure and community facilities where they are required. The Policy also states recommendations for regeneration, modernisation and provision of services for specific areas.

##### 6.3.1.2 Appraisal and recommendations

##### Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy indirectly supports Objective 2 by establishing a retail hierarchy to meet the needs of local people and support sustainable employment provision in accessible locations. By recognising where growth should occur, the Policy helps to increase the number of businesses in Medway and thus diversify the economy (Objective 3). The Policy directly supports town centres by seeking to manage retail parks and increase the retail and service offering in town centres.

By establishing strong vibrant and strong town centres, including community facilities in appropriate and accessible areas, the Policy encourages sustainable transport, which benefits air quality and will help to reduce noise pollution. The Policy seeks to revitalise town centres through modernisation and redevelopment, indirectly benefitting tourism and supporting a range of services including those for cultural and creative industries. The would support development on greenfield and brownfield sites and therefore would be neutral against Objective 10.

Living within and close to vibrant town centres with good transport links, community and leisure facilities can improve health and wellbeing, a healthier lifestyle and reduce inequalities (Objective 11). Supporting town centre prosperity promotes a sense of place and could also provide residents with opportunities to engage with the local community, directly promotes resilient communities (Objective 12). Regeneration schemes afford the opportunity to improve feelings of safety by design (Objective 13). The Policy also indirectly supports housing by improving the image of Medway, providing the opportunity for good design and facilitating the delivery of supporting infrastructure.

##### Cumulative

This Policy directly relates to other policies within this chapter and policies within the employment chapter.

##### SA recommendations

The Policy would be enhanced by referring to sustainability principles for businesses and seek to make it easier for small, independent and local businesses to enter a circular economy model. Regeneration should address issues associated with urbanisation, including resilience to climate

change. The Policy should recognise the value in heritage assets and seek to protect these where possible.

##### 6.3.1.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

##### 6.3.1.4 Summary

Table 57: Summary of Retail hierarchy

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	++	++	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	O	++	++	+	+
Medium Term	N/A	+	++	++	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	O	++	++	+	+
Long Term	N/A	+	++	++	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	O	++	++	+	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	I	D	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	I	D	D	D	I	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	K	N/A	N/A	K	N/A	L	K	L	L	L	K



### 6.3.2 RTC2 - Sequential assessment

#### 6.3.2.1 Description

This Policy encourages town centre facilities and services to remain in town centres and accessible locations. It establishes an order of preference for where town centre facilities and services should be located and requires that new facilities and services provisioned on lower levels of the hierarchy demonstrate that there are no sites available in preferable locations. The order of preference is: Chatham (as the primary retail centre), district centres, Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (as an accessible location), local centres and out of centre. Conditions are imposed on edge and out of centre sites to encourage sustainable transport, negate traffic impacts and increase accessibility.

#### 6.3.2.2 Appraisal and recommendations

##### Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy encourages the provision of potential employment sites in town centres first and encourages the accessible location of sites where this is not possible. It therefore performs well against Objectives 2 and 3, as the Policy will indirectly reduce barriers to employment and increase productivity in economically important areas first. The Policy directly supports growth and productivity in town centres, seeking to maintain the town centres’ role in providing community services.

By directing sites towards town centres, the Policy encourages development away from the countryside and reduces the potential for greenfield site use. This has indirect benefits against Objectives 5, 6 and 10. Good design of sites undergoing redevelopment could provide the opportunity to link to green infrastructure and enhance biodiversity, as well as mitigate against the effects of climate change (Objective 8). The Policy also supports measures which encourages sustainable travel (Objective 9). By developing in town centres, tourism could be encouraged and the creative and cultural industries may also benefit. However, Medway’s town centres have heritage assets which could be directly affected by increased footfall, regeneration and change of use of sites.

Provision for facilities and services in accessible locations and potentially within walking and cycling distance, will improve access to services and facilities and encourage a healthier lifestyle (Objective 10). Improved centre facilities and services provide a focus for the town which provides a sense of place to residents and can promote inclusiveness. (Objective 12). The Policy facilitates the delivery of infrastructure to support housing in the form of facilities and services, however it removes land that could otherwise be used for housing.

##### Cumulative

This Policy directly relates to other policies within this chapter and policies within the employment chapter.

##### SA recommendations

The Policy could include stronger wording to actively discourage the use of private transport and promote public and alternative transport to reduce impacts associated with traffic.

#### 6.3.2.3 HRA Implications

The preference of main centre uses in Chatham and other urban centres is supported, however, these policies need to incorporate appropriate wording ensuring the protection of European sites to provide appropriate mitigation for the development of main centre uses at the edge of or out of town centres. It is also recommended that the further criteria are applied to the out of centre option, to avoid development in close proximity to European sites that could increase recreational pressure.

#### 6.3.2.4 Summary

Table 58: Summary of Sequential assessment

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	++	+	+	O	O	O	+	+	+	N/A	O
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	++	+	+	O	O	O	+	+	+	N/A	O
Long Term	N/A	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	O	+	+	+	N/A	O
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	I	D	I	I	I	I	D	I	I	I	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	N/A	L

6.3.3 RTC3 - Impact assessments

6.3.3.1 Description

This Policy identifies conditions for which ‘town centre uses’ may be expanded to or located in edge or out of centre locations. It states that an impact assessment should be required for some developments smaller than the nationally set threshold of 2,500sqm and further requires that developments do not have significant adverse impact on: strategic development of town centres, vitality and viability of centres, town centre investment, cumulative effects and the local context/vulnerability of the centres.

6.3.3.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy supports the location of employment allocations in accessible locations and actively encourages the competitiveness of Medway’s town centres, therefore encouraging growth and productivity in Medway.

By directing sites towards town centres, the Policy encourages development away from the countryside and reduces the potential for greenfield site use. This has indirect benefits against Objectives 5, 6 and 10. Good design of sites undergoing redevelopment could provide the opportunity to link to green infrastructure and enhance biodiversity, as well as mitigate against the effects of climate change (Objective 8). The Policy also supports measures which encourages sustainable travel (Objective 9). By developing in town centres, tourism could be encouraged and the creative and cultural industries may also benefit. However, Medway’s town centres have heritage assets which could be directly affected by increased footfall, regeneration and change of use of sites.

Provision for retail facilities in accessible locations and potentially within walking and cycling distance, will improve access to services and facilities and encourage a healthier lifestyle (Objective 10). Improved centre facilities and services provide a focus for the town which provides a sense of place to residents and can promote inclusiveness. (Objective 12). The Policy facilitates the delivery of infrastructure to support housing in the form of facilities and services, however it removes land that could otherwise be used for housing.

Cumulative

This Policy directly relates to other policies within this chapter and policies within the employment chapter.

SA recommendations

The Policy could target areas outside the region which are increasing competition for town centre services in Medway and seek to recover lost economic benefit from these locations.

6.3.3.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.3.3.4 Summary

Table 59: Summary of Impact assessments

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	++	+	+	O	O	O	+	+	+	N/A	O
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	++	+	+	O	O	O	+	+	+	N/A	O
Long Term	N/A	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	O	+	+	+	N/A	O
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	D	I	I	I	I	D	I	I	I	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	K	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	N/A	L

6.3.4 RTC4 - Frontages

6.3.4.1 Description

This Policy highlights the importance of shop frontages and encourage the renovation of frontages in line with the character of the surrounding area. It plans to protect and enhance the public realm through well planned and coordinated frontages which provide environmental enhancements and do not harm the public realm.

6.3.4.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy aims to improve the visual attractiveness of Medway’s town centres, to raise its profile and increase growth and productivity (Objectives 3 and 4).

During the redesign of frontages, good design is promoted to improve the public realm and enhance the environment including improved surfacing. This Policy may provide the opportunity to enhance local biodiversity and green infrastructure by incorporating this into the design of new frontages. As attractiveness improves, tourism will be encouraged (Objective 9).

An attractive town centre can promote a sense of place for residents within the area, which can improve wellbeing. In the redesign of frontages which also enhance the surrounding environment, safety features can be introduced by design (Objectives 11, 12 and 13).

Cumulative

This Policy directly relates to other policies within this chapter and policies within the employment chapter.

SA recommendations

The Policy should aim to support small businesses through the cost of ensuring frontages are well presented to avoid harming small businesses during the transition phase. The Policy should actively encourage design of green infrastructure into frontages, to help protect and enhance biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change. It should also consider waste management principles in the disposal of old frontages. The Policy should reference how heritage assets will be protected or enhanced as a result of the Policy.

6.3.4.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.3.4.4 Summary

Table 60: Summary of Frontages

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	+	+	+	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	+	+	N/A
Long Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	+	+	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	I	I	I	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	P	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	L	L	N/A



6.3.5 RTC5 - Role, function and management of uses in centres - frontage

6.3.5.1 Description

This Policy provides detail on the spatial allocation of frontages within the retail core (established in the 2003 Local Plan) of Medway’s town centres. The frontages define areas where certain land uses are preferred over others to avoid overprovision of services and encourage a mixed offering. Primary frontages support A1 allocations and set out conditions whereby non-A1 proposals will be considered. Secondary frontage areas support non-A1 allocations given certain conditions where the allocation will result in the viability and vitality of town centres is enhanced, the allocation results in a balance of uses in the area and supports an evening economy.

6.3.5.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy performs well against Objectives 2 and 3 by encouraging business and growth in Medway’s town centres. The Policy promotes a mixed range of uses which will result in a diverse range of businesses in Medway. The Policy directly supports Objective 4 by prioritising a mix of site allocations in appropriate areas which will enhance the offering of the town centres, create a strong retail circuit and increase growth and prosperity in Medway.

The Policy states that non-A1 uses will be permitted where they are in keeping with the role, character and function of the centre and support an evening economy. This is respective of the surrounding environment, but may result in indirect impacts on heritage assets. This would impact negatively on Objective 9, however the Policy proposes measures to manage the allocation town centre services which, if successful, would encourage tourism, community engagement and leisure offerings in Medway. This Policy therefore has an overall positive effect on Objective 9.

An attractive town centre with varied leisure options and an evening economy can promote a sense of place for residents within the area, which can improve health and wellbeing.

Cumulative

This Policy provides further detail with regards to Policy RTC4.

SA recommendations

The Policy should seek to ensure that heritage designations are protected and enhanced in order that they may be integrated into the economy as an asset. Proposals which encourage community ‘ownership’, or increased respectful use, of heritage assets should be encouraged.

The guidance provided in this Policy could be merged into other policies which provide similar guidance on slightly different aspects of retail and town centres.

6.3.5.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.3.5.4 Summary

Table 61: Summary of Role, function and management of uses in centres

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	++	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	++	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	+	+	++	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	I	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A

6.3.6 RTC6 - Temporary uses

6.3.6.1 Description

This Policy relates to proposals for the temporary use of space. Temporary use will be supported where units are vacant for more than 2 months and the use contributes positively to the vitality and viability of the town centre. These will only be renewed for a shorter length of time, where the use continues to add value to the centre and there were unsuccessful attempts to let the unit. Permanent uses are preferred over temporary uses.

6.3.6.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy has direct benefit to Objectives 2 and 3, providing a policy framework within which to encourage businesses to use otherwise unproductive space in Medway. This generates interest in the ‘pop-up’ features and increases productivity in the short term. The Policy is superseded by other policies where long term use of units is concerned, thereby protecting long term interests for the borough.

Temporary spaces can support the creative and cultural industries by providing ‘pop-up’ space for use by these industries. This generates interest and makes Medway more attractive, both aesthetically and for investment. The Policy also makes best use of material assets by attempting to make town centre spaces accessible and attractive for businesses to establish themselves.

This Policy can improve community engagement with town centres and space for increased short-term leisure facilities. This could raise interest in spaces to promote a sense of place and provide opportunities for locals to become involved in their community.

Cumulative

This Policy should be viewed in conjunction with other policies in this chapter and may also relate to employment policies.

SA recommendations

There are no recommendations for this Policy.

6.3.6.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.3.6.4 Summary

Table 62: Summary of Temporary uses

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	+	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	O	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	+	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	O	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	O	N/A	+	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	I	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	T	T	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	T	T	N/A	T	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	L	N/A	N/A

6.3.7 RTC7 - Supporting sustainable and healthy centres

6.3.7.1 Description

This Policy recognises the issues relating to overconcentration of certain retail uses, particularly where those uses can reduce the health and wellbeing of residents and the attractiveness of the town centres. The Policy seeks views on ways to tackle the issue. It proposes to recognise cumulative effects of individual uses and manage the mix and concentration of uses and proposes a high-level and holistic approach to addressing issues of health and activities which are potentially damaging.

6.3.7.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy seeks to restrict businesses of certain types in Medway, but in doing so frees up space for alternative uses to improve attractiveness, encourage inward investment and support the economy (Objectives 2 and 3), though the effects are unknown at this stage. Overall, the Policy is likely to improve the vitality of town centres in the medium and long term (Objective 4).

There are direct health benefits to the Policy approach in terms of limiting uses in town centres that may be detrimental to people’s health (Objective 11).

Cumulative

This Policy directly relates to other policies relating to employment.

SA recommendations

There are no recommendations suggested for this Policy.

6.3.7.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.3.7.4 Summary

Table 63: Summary of Supporting sustainable and healthy centres

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	?	?	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	?	?	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	?	?	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	?	?	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	?	?	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	?	?	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A

6.3.8 RTC8 - Hempstead Valley district centre

6.3.8.1 Description

This Policy recognises the value of Hempstead Valley district centre and seeks to diversify the offering through expansion into service (non-retail) space, with a focus on commercial leisure. The Policy advocates managed expansion to prevent potential impacts on town centres.

6.3.8.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

Controlled expansion of the Hempstead Valley district centre is promoted by the Policy, which will result in medium to long term benefits to employment and sustainable economic growth (Objectives 2 and 3). The number and variety of businesses will sustainably increase because of the Policy. By ensuring the appropriate expansion of the district centre, the Policy indirectly supports town centres (Objective 4) through the requirement of impact assessments to demonstrate that expansion will not impact upon Chatham and other district centres.

Encouraging expansion of the district centre would result in an increase of leisure offerings in Medway, therefore benefitting Objective 9. It also has the potential to avoid development on previously undeveloped land and reducing pressure on greenfield sites, bringing positive indirect benefits to Objective 10.

There are health benefits associated with having access to a range of appropriate leisure facilities (Objective 11) and improved facilities and services can promote a sense of place (Objective 12). Given the timescale of the Policy and potential expansion of the centre, these benefits are expected to occur over the long term.

Cumulative

This Policy directly relates to other policies within this chapter and policies within the employment chapter.

SA recommendations

There are no recommendations suggested for this Policy .

6.3.8.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.3.8.4 Summary

Table 64: Summary of Hempstead Valley District Centre

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	O	O	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	O	O	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	O	O	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	D	I	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	L	L	N/A	N/A



6.3.9 RTC9 - Medway Valley Leisure Park

6.3.9.1 Description

This Policy addresses the management of Medway Valley Leisure Park as a family leisure destination in Medway, stating that there is limited potential for further development. The Policy supports proposals that may enhance the offering of Medway Valley Leisure Park without requiring expansion, where no preferable sites can be found and where an impact assessment is satisfactorily completed. The Policy therefore promotes increased leisure offerings in town and district centres.

6.3.9.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

In directing commercial leisure offerings to town and district centres, the Policy supports the sustainable growth of employment and the economy in Medway (Objectives 2 and 3) in the medium to long term. The Policy will result in a direct benefit to Objective 4 by encouraging businesses into town centres.

The Policy will encourage leisure offerings in Medway (Objective 9) and may also result in the best use of material assets, however further information on the nature and scale of proposals would be needed to inform an assessment against Objective 6.

There are health benefits associated to having access to a range of appropriate leisure facilities (Objective 11) and improved facilities and services can promote a sense of place (Objective 12). Given the timescales required to bring forward proposals, these benefits are expected to occur in the medium to long term.

Cumulative

This Policy would generally support the principles of other employment policies.

SA recommendations

There are no recommendations suggested for this Policy.

6.3.9.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.3.9.4 Summary

Table 65: Summary of Medway Valley Leisure Park

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	O	O	+	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	O	O	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	+	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	+	+	+	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	I	D	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	I	I	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A

6.3.10    **RTC10 - Healthy sustainable communities**

6.3.10.1   **Description**

This Policy will support communities by supporting the provision of accessible services and facilities. It aims to promote sustainability by considering the use ‘offer’ to provide a range of services and facilities and accessibility in terms of travel mode and distance.

6.3.10.2   **Appraisal and recommendations**

**Social, economic and environmental effects**

This Policy will support the development and sustainable growth of businesses, which provide services and community facilities for residents in Medway. This promotes long term sustainable growth of the economy, will provide accessible employment opportunities (Objectives 2 and 3) and will directly protect and support growth and prosperity in town centres with benefits increasing over time (Objective 4).

The Policy promotes sustainable travel by encouraging the provision of local and accessible facilities and services to reduce dependence on private transport (Objective 7).

The Policy recognises the value of and seeks to encourage, a high quality built environment and sustainable living patterns. In promoting smaller centres, the Policy will help to improve wellbeing, reduce deprivation and improve the resilience of communities (Objectives 11 and 12) which could result in reduced crime (Objective 13). The Policy also supports the delivery of supporting infrastructure to benefit housing Objective 14.

**Cumulative**

This Policy should be viewed in conjunction with other policies in this chapter and may also relate to employment policies.

**SA recommendations**

This Policy could support healthy lifestyles within the promotion of sustainable travel and community living. It could also further promote accessibility by understanding the economic viability of running businesses within the context suggested to support businesses where necessary and the accessibility of the facilities and services for people with any type of disability.

6.3.10.3   **HRA Implications**

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.3.10.4   **Summary**

Table 66: Summary of Healthy sustainable communities

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	O	O	O	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	O	O	O
Medium Term	N/A	O	O	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+
Long Term	N/A	+	+	++	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	I	D	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	I	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	L	L

6.3.11 RTC11 - Local centres and shopping parades

6.3.11.1 Description

This Policy seeks to support local shopping centres by recognising their importance for communities. It defines the appropriate uses that will be supported to ensure the core functions of local community services are maintained. It also states conditions governing the loss of core uses.

6.3.11.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy supports provision for community facilities and local convenience services in local centres. This will support local employment opportunities in accessible locations over the medium to long term (Objective 2).

Through provision of community facilities, the Policy will encourage community engagement, therefore supporting Objective 9 in the medium to long term.

Supporting the provision of local services and facilities will have a positive impact on health and wellbeing (Objective 11) through improved access provision that encourages sustainable transport to essential services. The Policy will indirectly contribute to more inclusive and resilient communities (Objective 12), which can help reduce crime (Objective 13). This Policy also supports provision of infrastructure to support the housing needs of the borough (Objective 14). These benefits will be observed in the medium to long term.

Cumulative

This Policy is likely to complement other employment policies.

SA recommendations

To support a variety of service and community offerings in local centres, the Policy should support uses relating to community leisure facilities of appropriate size and use. This would also support smaller independent businesses.

6.3.11.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.3.11.4 Summary

Table 67: Summary of Local centres and shopping parades

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	O	O	O	O
Medium Term	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	+	+	+
Long Term	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	+	+	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	D	I	I	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	L	L	L

6.3.12 RTC12 - Retail parks

6.3.12.1 Description

This Policy recognises that the role of retail parks has changed since their inception and construction and seeks to limit the impact of retail parks on local district centres. This will be achieved by prioritising retail proposals in town centres and only permitting them for retail parks if specific criteria are met. Criteria relate to the undertaking of an impact assessment where appropriate, access is managed with no impact on the transport network and that there are no sites in town or district centres that would be more suitable for the use. The Policy can also require investment into the public realm if deemed necessary and appropriate.

6.3.12.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

In seeking to manage the impact of retail parks on town centres, the Policy primarily seeks to redirect potential retail allocations from retail parks to town centres. This will establish town centres with a strong economic foundation, a diverse range of businesses and encourage sustainable growth (Objectives 3 and 4). This will also have long term employment benefits for the borough (Objective 2).

The Policy also encourages the best use of material assets by directing uses towards already developed land (Objective 10).

Cumulative

This Policy is likely to complement other employment policies.

SA recommendations

There are no recommendations suggested for this Policy.

6.3.12.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.3.12.4 Summary

Table 68: Summary of Retail parks

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	O	O	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	I	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



## 6.4 Natural environment and Green Belt

### 6.4.1 NE1 - Sites of international importance for nature conservation

#### 6.4.1.1 Description

The Policy promotes the protection, maintenance and enhancement of existing sites of international nature conservation importance. It takes into consideration the current identified issues/ pressures (e.g. recreation, land requirement for housing) upon such sites and seeks to address these and to identify further sustainable development opportunities.

#### 6.4.1.2 Appraisal and recommendations

##### Social, economic and environmental effects

The presence of environmental features in the landscape can contribute positively to environmental appreciation and understanding of the natural environment either through environmental education centres, or through alternative measures other than statutory education (Objective 1). This can make environmental resources more accessible to local people living in deprivation and can serve to increase education attainment.

The Policy can have a direct benefit to local people through the provision of local employment and indirectly through voluntary work to protect, maintain and enhance the sites concerned by this Policy. It can help give local people skills and experience needed to motivate them, to restore self-worth and confidence and build resilience to help them find other work.

The Policy enables opportunities for economic growth through tourism and through the associated benefits to the regional and local economy (Objectives 3 and 4). The attractiveness of the natural landscapes protected under this Policy attracts local, regional and national tourism to South East region.

The Policy covers site designations that provide biological connectivity, reduce the impacts of development on biodiversity, encourage community engagement and provide attractive areas for general tourism and eco-tourism. There are significant positive and direct effects through this Policy upon Objectives 5 and 6 in the short, medium and long-term upon the South East region.

This Policy supports Objectives 7 and 8 and has beneficial impacts to reduce and mitigate climate change in the short to medium-term and provide a significant positive long-term for people within the South East region.

This Policy serves to protect sites that provide the appropriate landscape settings for some of Medway’s archaeological / historic and cultural features (Objective 9), this enhancing visitor attractiveness and tourism to heritage sites and the region. The natural areas protected under this Policy also serve to provide, protect and maintain areas for creative exploration and expression.

This Policy has no perceived impact upon material assets e.g. mineral extraction (Objective 10). The sites protected by this Policy do protect landscape quality and use of natural assets for wider benefit.

This Policy actively supports and promotes public health (Objective 11) through mental stimulation through connectivity with the natural environment, providing areas for sensitive

recreation and public enjoyment. The site protected under this Policy serve to provide buffers against and remediation of environmental impacts that can have a detrimental impact on human health and well-being and serve to reduce pressures on public health services.

This Policy protects sites of nature conservation value from development pressure, including housing (Objective 14). Whilst this may limit the development potential of some housing sites, this is unlikely to have a significant impact on housing delivery in the short term, but as developable land becomes scarcer, the need for housing may place increased pressure on these sites.

##### Cumulative

This Policy has strong links to policy NE2, for example the designation of SSSI sites within policy NE2 make up component parts of internationally designated sites and that some of the lower tier nature conservation designations in NE2 often border the sites in NE1.

##### SA recommendations

The Policy could include detail on how the sites protected under NE1 contribute to ecosystem services, buffer, protect and mitigate against climate change, provide of health and well-being benefits and the relationship of sites listed under this Policy to sites listed in NE2.

#### 6.4.1.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

#### 6.4.1.4 Summary

Table 69: Summary of Sites of international importance for nature conservation

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short-term	O	+	O	O	++	++	+	+	+	O	+	N/A	N/A	O
Medium-term	O	+	+	O	++	++	+	+	+	O	++	N/A	N/A	O
Long-term	+	+	+	O	++	++	++	++	++	O	++	N/A	N/A	-
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	I	D	D	I	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	N/A	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	N/A	N/A	L

6.4.2 NE2 - Conservation and enhancement of the natural environment

6.4.2.1 Description

This Policy concerns the importance of the listed statutory and non-statutory nature conservation designations for nature conservation, the promotion of conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity resource within these sites, the importance of avoiding damage to these sites and the need for opportunities to strengthen biodiversity networks.

6.4.2.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy does not have a direct impact on education policies and needs (Objective 1), but the presence of such features in the landscape through maintenance of this Policy can contribute positively to environmental appreciation and understanding of the natural environment either through environmental education centres, or through alternative measures to provide education (means other than the statutory schooling systems), which can make education more accessible to local people within deprived backgrounds/ communities and can serve to increase education attainment. The Policy can have a direct benefit to local people through the provision of local employment (Objective 2) and indirectly through voluntary work to protect, maintain and enhance the sites concerned by this Policy. It can help give local people skills and experience needed to motivate them, to restore self-worth and confidence and build resilience to help them find other work. Provided the resources under this Policy are used effectively. The Policy enables opportunities for economic growth (Objective 3) through tourism and through the associated benefits to the regional and local economy and town centre viability (Objective 4). The attractiveness of the lower tiered designated sites and the enhanced accessibility to some of these sites protected under this Policy could attract local, regional and national tourism to Medway and the wider South East.

The Policy covers site designations that provide green infrastructure and natural open space and serves to protect, conserve and enhance the green infrastructure network, ecosystems services and biodiversity features for future generations (Objectives 5 and 6). These sites provide biological connectivity, reduce the impacts of development on biodiversity, encourage community engagement and provide attractive areas for general tourism and eco-tourism.

The sites protected under this Policy serve to make up some of the most valued areas of green and blue infrastructure that provide buffers against drivers of climate change (air pollution) and other environmental issues (e.g. noise, heat island impacts) (Objectives 7 and 8).

This Policy serves to protect sites that provide the appropriate landscape settings for some of Medway’s archaeological / historic and cultural features (Objective 9), thus enhancing visitor attractiveness and tourism to heritage sites and the region. The natural areas protected under this Policy also serve to provide, protect and maintain areas for creative exploration and expression.

This Policy as an existing policy, has no perceived impact upon best features for future generation’s use of material assets e.g. mineral extraction (Objective 10). The sites protected by this Policy do protect landscape quality and use of natural assets for wider socio-economic benefits.

This Policy actively supports and promotes public health (Objective 11) through mental stimulation through connectivity with the natural environment, providing areas for sensitive recreation and public enjoyment. The site protected under this Policy serve to provide buffers against and remediation of environmental impacts that can have a detrimental impact on human health and well-being and serve to reduce pressures on public health services.

If appropriate work opportunities (voluntary or paid) and education measures are maintained / enhanced then this Policy has the potential to provide sense of place, opportunities for community involvement and promote community integration (Objective 12). This Policy protects some existing sites of nature conservation value from development pressure, including housing (Objective 14). Whilst this may limit the development potential of some housing sites, this is unlikely to have a significant impact on housing delivery in the short term, but as developable land becomes scarcer, the need for housing may place increased pressure on these sites.

Cumulative

This Policy has strong links to policy NE1, for example the designation of SSSI sites within policy NE2 make up component parts of internationally designated sites and that some of the lower tier nature conservation designations in NE2 often border the sites in NE1.

SA recommendations

Policy would benefit from including text regarding site resilience through strengthening biodiversity networks and reducing severity of climate change impacts.

6.4.2.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.4.2.4 Summary

Table 70: Summary of Conservation and enhancement of the natural environment

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short-term	O	+	+	O	++	++	+	+	+	O	++	?	N/A	-
Medium-term	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	O	++	?	N/A	+
Long-term	+	+	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	O	++	?	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	I	D	D	I	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	L	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	L	N/A	SE

6.4.3 NE3 - North Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

6.4.3.1 Description

This Policy concerns protecting the natural beauty and landscape setting of the North Kent Downs AONB.

6.4.3.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy does not have a direct impact on education policies and needs (Objective 1), but the presence of such this landscape designation through maintenance of this Policy can contribute positively to environmental appreciation and understanding of the natural environment either through environmental education centres, or through alternative measures to provide education (means other than the statutory schooling systems), which can make education more accessible to local people within deprived backgrounds/ communities and can serve to increase education attainment. The Policy can have a benefit to local people through the provision of local employment (Objective 2) and indirectly through voluntary work to protect, maintain and enhance an important national asset. It can help give local people skills and experience needed to motivate them, to restore self-worth and confidence and build resilience to help them find other work. However, the scale of these effects are unknown at this stage. The attractiveness of the natural landscape and habitats protected under this Policy attracts local, regional and national tourism to the South East region. Therefore, this Policy could enable opportunities for economic growth through tourism and through the associated benefits to the regional and local economy (Objectives 3 and 4).

The Policy covers a specific landscape designation area which serves to protect, conserve and enhance the green infrastructure network as an area of high quality landscape and biodiversity that will protect and enhance the sites designated for nature conservation (Objectives 5 and 6) that lie within it and ensure development needs protect and enhance biodiversity. It will also provide an area for public and community integration, engagement and recreation. The site protected under this Policy make up some of the most valued areas of green infrastructure that provide buffers against drivers of climate change (air pollution) and other environmental issues (e.g. noise, heat island impacts) (Objectives 7 and 8). This Policy serves to protect a site that provides the appropriate landscape settings for the archaeological / historic and cultural features within it (Objective 9), which will enhance and maintain visitor attractiveness and tourism to heritage sites and the region. The AONB will also provide, protect and maintain areas for creative exploration and expression. This Policy as an existing policy, has no perceived impact upon best features for future generation’s use of material assets e.g. mineral extraction (Objective 10). The AONB protected by this Policy protects the landscape quality and use of natural assets for wider benefit.

This Policy actively supports and promotes public health through mental stimulation through connectivity with the natural environment, providing areas for sensitive recreation and public enjoyment. The site protected under this Policy serve to provide buffers against and remediation of environmental impacts that can have a detrimental impact on human health and well-being and serve to reduce pressures on public health services. These impacts through Objective 11 are thought to be minor positive in the short-term, to significantly positive in the medium to long-term for the South East region.

If appropriate work opportunities (voluntary or paid) and education measures are maintained / enhanced then this Policy has the potential to provide sense of place, opportunities for community involvement and promote community integration (Objective 12). This Policy protects the North Kent Downs AONB from development pressure, including housing (Objective 14). Whilst this may limit the development potential of some housing sites, this is unlikely to have a significant impact on housing delivery in the short term, but as developable land becomes scarcer, the need for housing may place greater pressure on this designated area.

Cumulative

Policy NE4 is related to NE3 based on the AONB being a landscape designation and requirements to maintain and enhance the landscape character and NE4 being about sensitive development in areas of high landscape value through adequate means of assessment. Policy NE3 is also strongly related to NE1 and NE2, as policy NE3 includes sites within NE1 and NE2 and provides areas that buffer some of these nature conservation sites in NE1 and NE2 from more urban areas of Medway.

SA recommendations

The Policy could be incorporated into one with NE1 and designation tiers and development sensitivities in NE2 – to cover areas with statutory and non-statutory designations.

6.4.3.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.4.3.4 Summary

Table 71: Summary of North Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short-term	O	?	+	O	++	++	+	+	++	O	+	+	N/A	O
Medium-term	O	?	+	+	++	++	+	+	++	O	++	+	N/A	O
Long-term	+	?	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	O	++	+	N/A	O
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	I	I	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	I	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	N/A	SE



6.4.4 NE4 - Landscape

6.4.4.1 Description

This Policy relates to the distinctive landscape character of Medway, the importance of separation of settlement and containing urban sprawl. It also refers to the use of the Medway Character Assessment and Green Infrastructure Framework for all developments and to ensure proposals strengthen, protect and connect features of local landscapes.

6.4.4.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy is likely to help protect and enhance landscape character, which can help maintain a sustainable tourist industry and associated employment (Objective 2). This Policy also has impacts upon the local and regional economy (Objective 3) by maintaining character and distinctiveness of settlements and driving requirements for new developments to have appropriate review of impacts upon landscape character. It maintains and enhances the attractiveness of Medway and indirectly increases tourist industry value and increases the value of the local economy.

This Policy recognises and protects the landscape character, including areas of naturalness, diverse habitats (biodiversity) and open space (Objectives 5 and 6). It also promotes sensitive development upon green infrastructure and maintains the quality of such sites.

This Policy places an importance of reviewing development impacts upon the green spaces that assist with local climate change effect and the larger natural spaces that may buffer the environment from the impacts of climate change and/or mitigate against climate change e.g. habitats that provide carbon sequestration (Objectives 7 and 8).

The impacts of new developments upon the landscape setting of historical and archaeological features (Objective 9) are considered in landscape assessments required under this Policy and both directly and indirectly preserve historical and cultural value through preservation of local settings, through indirect impacts of maintaining and increasing tourism and by promoting sustainable developments.

The landscape assessments promoted under this Policy have an indirect impact upon making the best use of material assets (Objective 10). They will be used to assess the value of settlements, agricultural land, landscape features and natural areas and to review the impacts and mitigation needs, if required. It won't affect the ability to extract materials but will assess the impacts and identify areas where mitigation is required.

This Policy has the potential to indirectly impact public health and well-being (Objective 11) through a sustainable design process that occurs post assessment stage, once these considerations have been taken into account and how best to mitigate and enhance areas. The importance of good and sustainable design that considers the value of green and blue infrastructure is well documented within local and national policy documents and advice and it is important to current and future development projects. Indirectly this Policy has a minor positive impact on Objective 11 and the public health and health resources in the South East region.

This Policy has an indirect effect on Objective 12, similar to that described above (for Objective 11) and only through elements of good and sustainable design driven by mitigation needs in

landscape assessments will have a minor positive impact in the long-term upon people and communities within the South East region.

This Policy has an indirect effect on Objective 14 through the observations and assessments driven by this Policy and by the good design post landscape appraisal process. This will have a minor positive impact in the long-term for the South East region's housing needs for good and sustainable design.

Cumulative

There are strong relationships between the intentions of the Policy and policies NE1, NE2 and NE3.

SA recommendations

The Policy could include the roles it has in shaping both the urban and rural environments and the impact this has upon communities through social requirements and health and well-being and upon the environment in terms of protecting against climate change through principles of good design being implemented post assessment stage.

This Policy could be focussed on preservation of the landscape character including reference to Green Belt, but then the main reference to Green Belt and its purpose retained in NE6. This will help to avoid repetition and increase policy distinctiveness, but retaining a sense of connection to policy NE6.

6.4.4.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.4.4.4 Summary

Table 72: Summary of Landscape

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short-term	N/A	O	+	O	+	+	+	+	+	O	+	O	N/A	O
Medium-term	N/A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	O	N/A	O
Long-term	N/A	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	D	I	I	I	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	SE	L	L	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE		SE	N/A	SE



6.4.5 NE5 - Securing strong green infrastructure

6.4.5.1 Description

This Policy concerns the protection, management and enhancement of features of value providing green infrastructure in Medway and the benefits of improving natural environment resilience through sustainable design.

6.4.5.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy is likely to support the local tourist industry, which in turn provides sustainable employment (Objective 2). Additionally, there are likely to be impacts upon the local and regional economy (Objectives 3 and 4) as a result of maintaining green infrastructure that is of high amenity, biodiversity and landscape value. It maintains and enhances the attractiveness of Medway and indirectly increases tourist industry value and increases the value of the local economy.

The protection of green and blue infrastructure has many benefits by enhancing public open space, by retaining and securing sites with high biodiversity and landscape value (Objectives 5 and 6). It also helps deliver, maintain and enhance connectivity for green and blue infrastructure by linking to designated sites and areas of high biodiversity value.

The Policy also promotes the protection of green and blue infrastructure (Objectives 7 and 8) in terms of the positive impact the natural environment can have upon resilience mitigating industrial pollution causing climate change and other environmental issues.

This Policy actively supports and promotes public health (Objective 11) through mental wellbeing as a result of connectivity with the natural environment, providing areas for sensitive recreation and public enjoyment. The green and blue infrastructure components protected under this Policy serve to provide buffers against and remediation of environmental impacts that can have a detrimental impact on human health and well-being and serve to reduce pressures on public health services.

This Policy can provide a sense of place where restoration works to enhance green and blue infrastructure have taken place and if friends of groups and local communities can be engaged in restoration measures then this Policy can go further to improve community integration and engagement (Objective 12). However, this will depend on the funding streams available to be able to involve the local community, which is likely to affect the duration or level of effects, or both.

This Policy will facilitate the delivery for supporting infrastructure to support sustainable design principles for new housing developments (Objective 14), though the protection of natural infrastructure may result in lower site yields on a case by case basis.

Cumulative

There are no specific cumulative effects associated with this policy.

SA recommendations

There are elements within the actual policy text that have relevance for, but are not the drivers of this Policy such as the protection grading of designated site tiers and may be best described in other policies e.g. NE1 and NE2 and then linking this Policy text to these other policies. Reference to blue infrastructure should be included in this Policy.

6.4.5.3 HRA Implications

As highlighted previously with respect to policy DS2, policies that promote enhancements to the network of public rights of way along the riverside need to be supplemented with appropriate wording ensuring the protection of European sites.

Planning applications that could enhance recreational pressure within the north Kent marshes would need to be supported by an HRA.

This Policy should also ensure the protection, maintenance and enhancement of supporting habitats to European sites and prevent development that could lead to the loss or fragmentation of these habitats unless it can be demonstrated that adverse impacts to the integrity of European sites can be adequately mitigated.

6.4.5.4 Summary

Table 73: Summary of Securing strong green infrastructure

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short-term	N/A	O	+	+	++	++	++	++	O	O	+	+	O	+
Medium-term	N/A	O	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	O	+
Long-term	N/A	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	+	O	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	I	I	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	I	I	I	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	T	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	T	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	L	L	SE

6.4.6 NE6 - Green Belt

6.4.6.1 Description

This Policy concerns the importance of and preservation of a functioning Green Belt.

6.4.6.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy has the potential to support rural employment through appropriate development in the Green Belt (Objective 2). However, Green Belt will also limit the areas in which new employment development can occur, which may result in long term shortfalls of developable land.

This Policy is likely to have impacts upon the local and regional economy (Objectives 3 and 4) by maintaining character and distinctiveness of settlements and landscape character by maintaining a functioning Green Belt. It maintains and enhances the attractiveness of Medway and indirectly increases tourist industry value and increases the value of the local economy, though the level of effect will depend on how the policy is implemented.

This Policy directly and indirectly impacts the landscape character of the Green Belt including agricultural land, natural habitats and open space and helps to separate these areas from urban settlements (Objectives 5 and 6). It also promotes sensitive development upon green infrastructure and maintains the quality of such sites.

The policy ensures that the impacts of new developments upon Green Belt land are considered in a way that preserves historical and cultural value (Objective 9) through preservation of local settings, through indirect impacts of maintaining and increasing tourism and by promoting sustainable developments.

Under the Policy, Green Belt land will continue to be protected from development with proposed development diverted to areas outside the green belt. This is considered best practice and is in line with national policy, however represents no significant change from the assumed baseline. Through this Policy, the council is seeking opportunities to enhance Green Belt land by considering beneficial uses to strengthen its function. This could result in the use of natural assets for wider benefit, but have unknown impacts on agricultural land and the quality of the landscape.

This Policy directly impacts public health and well-being (Objective 11) through the protection and maintenance of Green Belt (green space) as it increases the potential for access to natural and tranquil areas for Medway’s population.

The purpose of Green Belt as stated in the NPPF includes the purpose to assist urban regeneration and recycling of derelict and other urban land. In this sense it may serve to reduce crime or the fear of crime (Objective 13).

This Policy protects the function of Green Belt in preventing urban sprawl, but also therefore assists urban regeneration. Development (including housing) are generally seen as inappropriate for the Green Belt, so there are potential issues in terms of housing allocations, particularly in the long term, though this may be off set in the short and medium terms by the promotion and delivery of housing in urban areas.

Cumulative

Currently this Policy is strongly connected to NE4, some recommendations for separation of these policies has been suggested in section 6.4.4.2.

SA recommendations

This Policy could be included in the landscape policy NE4 or at least ensuring NE4 retains the landscape character including areas of Green Belt, but then the main reference to Green Belt and its purpose retained here in NE6. This will help to avoid repetition and increase policy distinctiveness, but retaining a sense of connection to policy NE4. The policy could seek to define specific recommended uses for the Green Belt which would enhance the Policy against Objective 10.

6.4.6.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.4.6.4 Summary

Table 74: Summary of Green belt

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short-term	N/A	?	O	O	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	?	O	N/A	?	?
Medium-term	N/A	?	?	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	?	+	N/A	?	?
Long-term	N/A	-	?	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	?	+	N/A	?	-
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	I	I	D	I	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	D	N/A	I	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	N/A	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	N/A	N/A	SE	N/A	SE	N/A	SE	SE

6.4.7 NE7 - Flood and water management

6.4.7.1 Description

This Policy ensures all development reduce, or does not increase, flood risk and promotes the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs) and ensures developments are resilient to climate change. It also serves to maintain and protect aquifers and ground water sources and ensure developments meet objectives identified in the specific River Basin Management Plans.

6.4.7.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy is likely to have a positive impact on the growth potential and viability of town centres as a destination for development, which will result in more sustainable local economy (Objectives 3 and 4). Security against flooding is a key driver for economic growth.

This Policy is likely to contribute positively to landscapes and habitats (objectives 5 and 6) by delivering cleaner water systems and protecting natural aquifers and groundwater that can subsequently enhance the green infrastructure network. Species and habitats using the water environment and connected areas of green infrastructure will benefit from the reduced incidences and severity of flooding and the reduction in pollution into existing watercourses through the drive for remediation measures through new development design. It also encourages the protection of green infrastructure along watercourse networks.

This Policy will help mitigate the effects of future climate change (Objective 7 and 8) by the reduction of water stress, water quality improvements, minimisation of flood risk and reduction of severe flood events, creation of resilient habitats that provide biodiversity or carbon sequestration functions.

This Policy will serve to provide more attractive green and blue infrastructure that create areas for social recreation and physical activity, which may indirectly support an improvement in health (Objective 11).

This Policy will facilitate the delivery of supporting infrastructure for new housing developments (Objective 14), as well as promoting robust and sustainable design principles.

Cumulative

This Policy has links with NE1, NE2 and NE5 and likely has links with policies regarding the built environment.

SA recommendations

The wording for the NE7 policy and associated text seems to read well and be comprehensive no further changes are suggested here.

6.4.7.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.4.7.4 Summary

Table 75: Summary of Flood and water management

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short-term	N/A	N/A	O	O	+	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	+
Medium-term	N/A	N/A	+	+	++	++	++	++	N/A	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	+
Long-term	N/A	N/A	+	+	++	++	++	++	N/A	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	I	I	D	D	D	D	N/A	N/A	I	I	I	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	L	K	K	SE	SE	N/A	N/A	L	SE	SE	K

## 6.5 Built environment

### 6.5.1 BE1 - Promoting high quality design

#### 6.5.1.1 Description

This Policy emphasises the need for all new design in Medway to be of a high quality. The Policy provides a variety of ways in which high quality design can be implemented, such as respecting the existing environment, landscape and townscape, protecting and enhancing historic assets, making efficient use of land, ensuring good connectivity and supporting sustainable design.

#### 6.5.1.2 Appraisal and recommendations

##### Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy indirectly supports economic competitiveness in Medway and growth in town centres (Objectives 3 and 4). It seeks to create new spaces that are adaptable and flexible, which can attract new businesses of different size and type. It also supports good connectivity which can drive growth by increasing access to businesses and services. The Policy also supports attractive streetscapes that respect the existing area and develop the public realm, which can help to make town centres more attractive for businesses and the public alike.

The Policy supports Objectives 5 and 6 which relate to the protection of biodiversity and green space. It promotes the use of green infrastructure, the efficient use of land and respecting existing environments, all of which can help to protect and enhance biodiversity. However, the Policy supporting text states that only features ‘worthy of retention’ should be considered. Defining what is worthy could be very subjective and natural features can be very important locally.

Promoting methods for adaptation and mitigation of the impacts of climate change (Objective 8) is specifically outlined in this Policy. It also seeks to improve energy efficiency, supports green infrastructure and promotes accessible places, which can reduce car use and associated emissions (Objective 7). The Policy also encourages the efficient use of land and the consideration of the existing local character, which supports the aims of Objective 10 to help improve the local landscape. Similarly, it supports the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and heritage assets, delivering the aims of Objective 9 and helping to drive the protection and growth of Medway’s heritage.

Access to facilities and services and good connectivity are both outlined in this Policy, performing well against Objectives 11 and 12, which seek to improve quality of life and a sense of community. Good connectivity and supporting pedestrians and cyclists can lead to more active travel options, increasing levels of physical activity. Encouraging high quality landscaping and areas of public realm will help form important centres for exercise, recreation and other community activities. Respecting the local environment can also help to establish Medway’s unique character and ensure it is not lost to new development, improving a sense of place among the local community. The Policy also drives safer environments, supporting Objective 13.

The Policy performs well against Objective 14, supporting wider development that is well connected, has good access to local services and is of a high quality, sustainable design. However, these effects may slightly inhibit development in the short term as proposals adapt to the requirement of new planning policy.

## Cumulative

This Policy supports a wide range of other policies relating to development, the historic environment and sustainable communities.

## SA recommendations

The Policy should encourage developments to protect and enhance natural features. Features ‘worthy of retention’ is quite subjective wording. Encouraging efficient use of land could be expanded further to provide examples about what is considered efficient. This could include the co-location of certain businesses or the use of brownfield land.

### 6.5.1.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

#### 6.5.1.4 Summary

Table 76: Summary of Promoting high quality design

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+	+	N/A	+	+	+	+	+	O
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+	+	N/A	+	+	+	+	+	+
Long Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+	+	N/A	+	+	+	+	+	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	I	I	I	I	I	N/A	D	D	I	I	I	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	L	L	L	L	N/A	L	L	L	L	L	N/A



6.5.2 BE2 - Sustainable design

6.5.2.1 Description

This Policy sets out the requirement for new development to incorporate mitigation measures to reduce the impact on climate change and to improve water efficiency across Medway.

6.5.2.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

By encouraging sustainable growth this Policy also supports improved conditions for biodiversity. Mitigation measures could include the use of green spaces, green roofs or green walls, all of which can provide additional habitats (Objectives 5 and 6).

This Policy performs well against those objectives directly related to climate change (Objectives 7 and 8). It meets a number of the aims by seeking to reduce impacts on climate change in all new development. It also aims to exceed Building Regulations standards and maximise water efficiency in Medway.

This Policy is likely to help improve the quality of life for residents in Medway (Objective 11) by aiming to decrease direct health impacts related to climate change, such as excessive heat.

The use of BREEAM to promote sustainable design would also help to improve energy and water efficiency in all new development in the region and use good design principles, supporting Objectives 3 and 14.

Cumulative

This Policy supports other policies relating to sustainable development and healthy communities.

SA recommendations

This Policy considers sustainability in new buildings, but is it possible to also consider how current design could be improved to improve energy and water efficiency in existing buildings. The Policy could also provide examples of what mitigation measures could be considered and support measures such as green spaces or green facades to provide additional benefits to biodiversity and communities.

6.5.2.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.5.2.4 Summary

Table 77: Summary of Sustainable design

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	+	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	+	++	++	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	I	I	D	D	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	L	K	K	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	L

6.5.3 BE3 - Housing design

6.5.3.1 Description

This Policy supports high quality living spaces which are of a reasonable decent size, adaptable, with an appropriate layout, minimal disturbance and necessary facilities and supporting infrastructure. It requires new developments to follow the Nationally Described Space Standard (2015) and Medway Housing Design Standard.

6.5.3.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy encourages extensive use of trees and will therefore perform well against Objectives 5, 6 and 7. This would help to provide habitat, increase biological connectivity and improve local air quality. By supporting adaptable dwellings which consider environmental comfort and energy efficiency, this Policy supports Objectives 8 which encourages high quality design in buildings to adapt and mitigate against climatic change.

This Policy supports Objective 11 to improve health and wellbeing of residents. Cycle storage and open space can facilitate increased exercise and more comfortable living arrangements, such as suitable ventilation, will have health benefits, particularly for more vulnerable groups. This Policy also promotes good design principles which consider place-making and distinctiveness. This supports Objective 12 which seeks to increase community satisfaction and place making.

The provision of well-designed housing across Medway strongly supports the aims of Objective 14. It will help deliver homes which are flexible, supporting the concept of lifetime neighbourhoods which ensures design is inclusive, regardless of age or disability.

Cumulative

This Policy supports a wide range of policies relating to sustainable development, design, good health and wellbeing, connectivity and specific transport needs, such as cycling.

SA recommendations

Although not related to a specific Objective, the requirements to follow the National Standards or the MHDS standard is unclear. The National Standard states that it replaces local standards and therefore developers should follow this standard rather than locally-issued criteria.

6.5.3.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.5.3.4 Summary

Table 78: Summary of Housing design

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	++
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	++
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	I	D	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	L

6.5.4 BE4 - Housing density approach

6.5.4.1 Description

This Policy outlines how density in Medway will be managed and improved. It promotes the efficient use of land which improves vibrancy and vitality in town centres. It supports higher densities at transport interchanges to develop sustainable transport options. The Policy also ensures development and density is reflective of the surrounding area and provides a variable housing mix.

6.5.4.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy supports Objectives 3 and 4. It supports growth in town centres by providing mixed use developments with more homes, facilities and services. It also encourages social and cultural activities and community life. Increasing vibrancy in town centres can help to facilitate growth and attract residents and visitors to Medway.

Higher densities could help to protect biodiversity and green spaces by using land more efficiently, removing pressures to build on protected areas (Objectives 5 and 6). However, high densities developments should still consider open spaces, trees and other urban greening methods which can benefit biodiversity and improve health and wellbeing and the attractiveness of a local area.

By encouraging the best use of land and maximising densities at key transport hubs, this Policy supports more sustainable forms of transport. This will help to address issues such as poor air quality and mitigate the impacts of climate change (Objectives 7 and 8).

This Policy performs very well against Objective 10 by ensuring the best use of land throughout Medway, particularly in the medium and long terms. It supports the use of previously developed land, particularly around transport hubs and increasing densities to ensure space is used efficiently.

The Policy also supports healthy and safe communities by encouraging walking and cycling in a safe environment (Objectives 11 and 13). Creating more attractive and active town centres can also help to reduce anti-social behaviour and increase community cohesion and engagement, by providing social and cultural offerings for residents to engage with and increasing a sense of place (Objective 12).

Objective 14 aims to increase the delivery of a variety of housing and to meet the growing housing need in Medway. This Policy actively supports delivering different housing types in high density developments to meeting housing need. It also considers supporting infrastructure, including transport infrastructure, to support new development.

Cumulative

This Policy supports other policies which seek to improve housing delivery, town centre vitality and mixed-use development.

SA recommendations

The Policy could include a reference to how increased densities and more efficient use of land could reduce pressure on other green spaces, such as Green Belt and protected areas. High densities should still use open spaces and trees to support biodiversity throughout Medway.

Although called ‘housing density’ this Policy is wider than just housing and also considers mixed-use developments and growth in town centres.

6.5.4.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.5.4.4 Summary

Table 79: Summary of Housing density approach

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	?	?	+	+	N/A	+	+	+	+	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	?	?	+	+	N/A	++	+	+	+	++
Long Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	?	?	+	+	N/A	++	+	+	+	++
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	I	I	I	I	I	I	N/A	D	I	D	D	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	L	L	L	L	L	N/A	K	L	L	L	L

6.5.5 BE5 - Historic environment

6.5.5.1 Description

The Policy focuses on restricting development that may adversely impact designated assets and settings, ensuring that all new development contributes to local distinctiveness and character of the area and encourages development which makes sensitive use of historic assets and their setting.

The Policy also emphasises resisting the demolition or destruction of heritage assets without first obtaining substantial justification that clearly demonstrates that public benefit outweighs the harm or loss of the asset.

6.5.5.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy economically benefits Medway as it creates opportunities for enhancing the attractiveness of Medway and raising the town’s profile through the preservation of historical heritage assets. The preservation and enhancement of Medway’s rich historic environment can lead to increased tourism. Historic tourism resulting from an investment into the towns’ historical environment can improve the provision of jobs and increase business opportunities for local town shops and independent businesses across Medway (Objectives 2, 3 and 4).

It should be noted that an increase in tourism comes with a risk of harm or damage occurring to physically vulnerable heritage assets due to increased foot traffic. Tourism may also negatively impact the environment when considering the increase in amount of transport to and from the sites and the potential increase of noise and air pollution.

This Policy will be effective in strengthening the community’s connection to their local heritage through conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. A healthy connection to surrounding culture and heritage can improve self-worth and wellbeing through social inclusion. The preservation of the historic environment can open doors for increased community engagement and strengthened community bonds. For instance, investments in the historic environment can establish a shared connection to heritage which may reduce social inequalities and result in harmonious and mixed communities. This can result from providing residents with opportunities to become actively involved in their local community leading to more socially connected neighbourhoods (Objectives 11, 12 and 13).

Given potential constraints on development in certain locations, housing delivery may be affected as a result of a precautionary principle applied to developments that could affect heritage features. However, this may only be a short term effect as experience of implementing this policy evolves (Objective 14).

Cumulative

The potential for increased tourism resulting from the application of this Policy relates to Transport Policy T6 which discusses extending transportation routes to connect with heritage sites.

SA recommendations

More consideration should be given to focussing on areas within Medway that have had less investment into their historic environment or appearance than others. Development in these areas, coupled with preservation and enhancement of the historic environment would increase job prospects, welcome tourists and breathe new life into the community. It will also increase competitiveness within the wider area.

6.5.5.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.5.5.4 Summary

Table 80: Summary of Historic environment

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	++	++	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	+	++	O	-
Medium Term	N/A	+	++	++	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	+	++	O	?
Long Term	N/A	+	++	++	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	+	++	+	?
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	I	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	I	D	I	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	L	L	L



6.5.6 BE6 - Managing development in the historic environment

6.5.6.1 Description

Policy BE6 emphasises the need for quality planning and design to be applied to any developments which can impact upon a heritage asset or its setting.

Designs must focus on preservation or enhancement of the assets historic or architectural character, appearance and setting. Developers must submit a desk-based assessment or a field evaluation where there is any potential for heritage assets with archaeological interest.

The Policy also emphasises that loss or demolition of heritage assets will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there are exceptional reasons and only if all possible methods of preservation of the asset have been fully investigated. In the case where a heritage asset will face demolition, the developer will make information about the asset and its significance available to the council and will salvage any material where possible.

6.5.6.2 Appraisal and recommendations

This Policy supports economic development through ensuring that quality planning and design is incorporated into development, with concern to heritage assets. This will increase the attractiveness of the Medway and raise its profile. The prioritisation of preserving and enhancing heritage assets will lead to an increase in historic tourism and future growth of the community. This type of positive investment in Medway can also improve economic prosperity through increased job prospects within the tourism industry and businesses within the town that would benefit from increased foot traffic (Objectives 2, 3 and 4).

Additionally, the Policy supports the preservation of heritage assets (Objective 9) through ensuring a thorough evaluation of the archaeology and history of a site prior to development. This will benefit areas of Medway where the heritage is less preserved.

The conservation of heritage assets will positively impact the community as it will ensure that a connection between the community and its historic environment is not damaged from the increase in new developments (Objectives 11 and 12).

It should be noted that tighter restrictions on planning designs may make it more difficult to obtain development within some areas as Medway has a rich historical environment and an abundance of heritage assets. This may adversely affect economic and population growth by limiting housing development (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This Policy does not directly link with other policies in the plan beyond this chapter.

SA recommendations

Greater clarification could be provided regarding the vetting process for deciding if there are ‘exceptional and overriding’ reasons for the demolition of a heritage asset.

6.5.6.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.5.6.4 Summary

Table 81: Summary of Managing development in the historic environment

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	+	++	N/A	-
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	+	++	N/A	-
Long Term	N/A	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	+	++	N/A	-
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	I	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	I	D	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	T
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	L	N/A	L

## 6.6 Health and communities

### 6.6.1 HC1 - Promoting health and wellbeing

#### 6.6.1.1 Description

This Policy provides an overview of the current health issues facing Medway and adopts a multidisciplinary approach to managing these issues. The Policy supports addressing the underlying causes of poor health, by increasing access to physical exercise and healthy foods, and also improving direct access to healthcare services. The Policy addresses both physical and mental health and well-being in the whole population, from the young to the elderly.

#### 6.6.1.2 Appraisal and recommendations

##### Social, economic, and environmental effects

By preventing more hot food outlets opening near schools, there may be a benefit on the daily diets of school children, which could have a positive effect on cognitive function and educational attainment (Objective 1). The level of effect would depend on the level to which this policy was implemented and the lengths to which schools supported this by offering healthy food options.

This Policy indirectly supports the local labour force (Objective 3) and economy as improvements to health can help to reduce the number of days of work missed due to illness.

It is uncertain how beneficial this Policy would be in terms of supporting town centres (Objective 4). By limiting takeaway provision, it may impact some businesses, particularly those in town centres. Nevertheless, it does allow for new healthy eateries to be set up and develop in Medway.

The Policy seeks to create environments that facilitate everyday exercise through active travel. It aims to directly improve health (Objective 11) by improving access to healthcare services and facilities, and reducing unhealthy food provision, particularly near schools.

The Policy appreciates the many factors which contribute to good mental and physical health and wellbeing. It supports improved safety (Objective 13), which can reduce isolation and anxiety, and also considers more vulnerable groups and how their individual perceptions of crime and feelings of safety may differ. The Policy also supports increased access to green spaces, which provide areas for exercise and recreation.

It also supports the aims of Objective 14 by ensuring new developments contribute to the provision of important supporting infrastructure, such as healthcare facilities and services.

##### Cumulative

This Policy is supported by policies which address other health determinants, such as noise and air quality. Policies related to safe and affordable housing and supporting lifetime homes will also be supported by this Policy. However, it could conflict with those related to town centre growth as it restricts some uses by limiting takeaway provision.

##### SA recommendations

It should be noted that where Environment Impact Assessments are required, under new legislation health must be considered as a topic within the EIA. However, a proactive approach could be taken when health is scoped out or an EIA not required by requiring a HIA to ensure health benefits are achieved. The Policy also

highlights the possibility of relocation a hospital site. The Policy could highlight the commitment to local consultation, which would need to be undertaken to ensure the new location is appropriately located and accessible to meet the needs of vulnerable groups.

#### 6.6.1.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

#### 6.6.1.4 Summary

Table 82: Summary of Promoting health and wellbeing

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	O	N/A	+	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	+	+
Medium Term	O	N/A	+	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	+	+
Long Term	O	N/A	+	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	+	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	I	N/A	I	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	D	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	L	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	L

6.6.2 HC2 - Community facilities

6.6.2.1 Description

This Policy supports the protection and enhancement of a variety of community facilities across Medway. It appreciates the important role facilities have in local communities and how and they can bring people together and develop cohesive but diverse communities. The Policy also acknowledges the particular struggle rural areas have in keeping community facilities afloat, and seeks to address this.

6.6.2.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

By ensuring new community facilities are located within accessible locations, supported by cycling or walking transport infrastructure, this Policy encourages more sustainable forms of transport which are good for health and local air quality by reducing private vehicle use (Objective 7).

The protection of many community facilities would also have an indirect impact on heritage in Medway (Objective 9). Many of these assets, such as churches or village halls, may have historic value and this Policy helps to ensure they are protected, but still used practically in the 21st Century. Town centres are not completely reliant on shops for growth, and the provision or development of community facilities in centres could encourage growth by attracting more visitors.

The Policy responds to the needs of many different community groups to allow mixed communities to develop and thrive (Objective 12). These facilities can form important centres in which residents can actively engage with their local community. Many facilities can also provide direct access to important services, increase social interaction and decrease social isolation within more vulnerable groups, leading to added health benefits (Objective 11).

This Policy also supports the development of housing to meet housing need in Medway, but ensures that appropriate supporting infrastructure is provided, particularly in larger housing developments (Objective 14). It also supports more sustainable forms of transport, such as cycling or walking, which can provide direct health benefits (Objective 11).

Cumulative

This Policy supports other policies relating to sustainable development, the rural economy and connectivity and sustainable transport.

SA recommendations

This Policy outlines how large developments should provide community facilities, but it remains important to support existing facilities to protect the character of the local area. The policy could therefore reference redevelopment of existing community facilities too.

6.6.2.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.6.2.4 Summary

Table 83: Summary of Community facilities

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	+	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	I	N/A	I	D	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	N/A	L	L	N/A	L

6.7 Infrastructure

6.7.1 I1 - Infrastructure planning and delivery

6.7.1.1 Description

This Policy outlines how infrastructure will be developed throughout Medway. Development will be appropriate, will involve stakeholder consultation and will make the best use of land to meet the infrastructure needs of Medway.

6.7.1.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

This Policy aims to support the economy and the local labour market (Objectives 2, 3 and 4). New infrastructure is likely to attract new business to Medway and encourage growth across the borough and in key centres as it demonstrates the necessary support network will be in place for businesses. Similarly, this Policy will also support the delivery of housing provision and supporting infrastructure (Objective 14).

The Policy also helps to ensure that land is used appropriately and is safeguarded for future use (Objective 10). However, it could impact negatively on protected areas or green space (objectives 5 and 6) if these areas are at risk of being used for infrastructure development.

Cumulative

This Policy reinforces all other policies relating to the delivery of different types of infrastructure across Medway including housing, waste, energy and transport.

Recommendations

This Policy could detail what type of land would be safeguarded for future use and whether protected green space or farming land is at risk, and how this might be managed.

6.7.1.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.7.1.4 Summary

Table 84: Summary of Infrastructure planning and delivery

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	O	O	O	?	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	O
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	+	?	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	+	+	++	?	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	I	I	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	L



6.7.2 I2 - Developer contributions

6.7.2.1 Description

This Policy ensures that sizeable new developments will be expected to provide or contribute towards additional infrastructure requirements. The Policy does have some degree of flexibility if the contribution would impact the viability of the development.

6.7.2.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

The Policy encourages economic growth in Medway (Objectives 2 and 3). By allowing sizeable developments that deliver supporting infrastructure, this Policy will support the provision of new business infrastructure and housing to support a growing workforce. This Policy ensures supporting infrastructure is delivered alongside sizable housing developments, supporting the aims of Objective 14 to meet housing need in Medway, but also ensuring infrastructure can cope with population growth. The delivery of supporting infrastructure also partly supports Objective 11 which outlines that individuals should have good access to healthcare services and facilities. This Policy would ensure that new developments provide new infrastructure if they will put pressure on current services.

Cumulative

This Policy reinforces all other policies relating to the delivery of sizable infrastructure across Medway which could put pressure on existing infrastructure and services.

Recommendations

There are no specific recommendations for this policy at this stage.

6.7.2.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.7.2.4 Summary

Table 85: Summary of Developer contributions

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	O
Medium Term	N/A	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	T	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	T	N/A	N/A	T
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	L

6.7.3 I3 – Education

6.7.3.1 Description

This Policy outlines education in Medway and how primary, secondary and higher education will be sustained with rising population growth. The Policy includes requirements for new education facilities, including good connectivity, outdoor facilities and the co-location with community facilities.

6.7.3.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

This Policy directly sets out how education will be managed appropriately to cope with population increase (Objective 1). The Policy considers all education stages, from early years through to higher education. The Policy also sets out how new education facilities should be implemented, considering access, connectivity and additional use.

By encouraging the co-location of educational facilities with community uses, such as sports clubs, this Policy supports Objectives 11 and 12. It means schools can become important community centres, providing spaces for groups, sports and recreational activities which can be good for health and wellbeing, and strengthen community cohesion.

Indirectly, this Policy strongly supports economic resilience and a sustainable local workforce (Objectives 2 and 3). It ensures that future employees have the skills and knowledge to support wider productivity across Medway.

This Policy ensures that new residential developments contribute to funding educational services across Medway, supporting Objective 14 which sets out a requirement to ensure supporting infrastructure is provided alongside new housing. The Policy also supports safe and accessible schools which encourage sustainable forms of transport, such as walking or cycling, which can contribute to improvements to local air quality (Objective 7).

Cumulative

This Policy supports social policies relating to health and communities, infrastructure policies and strengthens those covering economy in Medway by developing an educated future workforce.

Recommendations

There are no specific recommendations for this policy at this stage.

6.7.3.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.7.3.4 Summary

Table 86: Summary of Education

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	++	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Medium Term	++	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Long Term	++	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	D	I	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	T	T	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	K	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	L

6.7.4 I4 – Communications technology

6.7.4.1 Description

This Policy addresses how telecommunications are a vital consideration for prosperity in Medway. It sets out a requirement to improve communication infrastructure across Medway whilst respecting the visual landscape and existing buildings.

6.7.4.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

Robust communication infrastructure is also important for education and therefore this Policy will support wider education attainment and also increase access to educational resources (Objective 1).

This Policy supports the development of communications technology as a catalyst for growth. Good broadband and connectivity is essential for modern businesses to be competitive (Objectives 2 and 3).

Reliable and efficient communication is also important for health (Objective 11) as it can reduce feelings of isolation by allowing people to communicate and access wider information and interests.

The Policy takes account of the existing landscape, local amenity and heritage assets. It ensures that the visual and physical impact of communication infrastructure is minimised by using techniques such as sharing existing structure. It also states that conservation areas and historic assets should not be effected by development, supporting the aims of Objectives 6 and 9.

Cumulative

This Policy is very important alongside other infrastructure and development policies due to the important role communication infrastructure has, particularly on economic growth.

Recommendations

There are no specific recommendations for this policy at this stage.

6.7.4.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.7.4.4 Summary

Table 87: Summary of Communications technology

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Term	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	D	D	D	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	K	K	K	N/A	N/A	K	N/A	N/A	K	N/A	K	N/A	N/A	N/A

6.7.5 I5 – Utilities

6.7.5.1 Description

This Policy outlines the importance of ensuring water, energy and sewage supplies are sufficient to manage current and future demand. It states that any new development must ensure that it is supported by appropriate utility infrastructure.

6.7.5.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

Efficient and reliable utilities are vital for any infrastructure, and therefore ensuring utilities meet demand is vital for the economy in Medway (Objective 3).

This Policy seeks to reduce water stress and is therefore supportive of Objectives 7 and 8. Any new development must ensure current facilities can accommodate an increase in demand, or upgrades must be undertaken.

Without appropriate utilities, housing development could not occur. Therefore this Policy also supports Objective 14 by enabling housing delivery and ensuring utilities can cope with new demand.

Cumulative

Utilities are a vital part of infrastructure delivery. Therefore it supports the policies relating to the delivery of different types of infrastructure across Medway including housing, waste, energy and transport.

Recommendations

This Policy could consider how existing utilities could be improved to increase efficiency. For example, if water leakage was an issue with current supplies, could this also be addressed?

6.7.5.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.7.5.4 Summary

Table 88: Summary of Utilities

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L



6.7.6 I6 - Open space and sports facilities

6.7.6.1 Description

This Policy outlines how Medway will ensure the protection of existing open spaces and sports facilities. Any new developments must clearly justify why any losses should occur and, or ensure equivalent or better facilities are provided.

6.7.6.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

Open spaces often form part of the green network and therefore offer benefits for biodiversity on a local scale (Objectives 5 and 6).

This Policy ensures the protection of existing open spaces and sports facilities which are vital for health and wellbeing. These places can directly provide space for recreational and physical activity and also supports reducing social isolation (Objectives 11 and 12). These areas have multiple functions and can be vital centres for community activities which can increase community cohesion. Open spaces and sports facilities also provide space for cultural activity which can promote more mixed communities with a variety of offerings.

The policy also supports the requirement for housing developments to have sufficient supporting infrastructure, which will ensure that no losses occur unless replaced by equivalent or better facilities (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This Policy supports others related to housing by ensuring important supporting infrastructure is protected or enhanced. It also relates closely to health and community policies due to the important roles these facilities and spaces have on health and wellbeing. This Policy should be read closely with I7 and I8 because together they ensure the protection and delivery of open spaces and sports facilities.

Recommendations

This Policy could be combined with I7 and I8 to demonstrate how Medway supports both the protection of viable open spaces and sports facilities, but also supports the delivery of new services.

6.7.6.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.7.6.4 Summary

Table 89: Summary of Open space and sports facilities

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	++	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	++	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	T	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	T
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	L

6.7.7 I7 - New open space provision

6.7.7.1 Description

This Policy identifies Medway’s support for the provision of new open spaces, particularly on large, strategic developments.

6.7.7.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

This Policy acknowledges the importance of open and green spaces, demonstrating how it can benefit biodiversity. These spaces can offer habitats for biodiversity and will therefore be supportive of Objectives 5 and 6 by increasing the greenspace network and providing new spaces for biodiversity to occupy.

This Policy supports the delivery of open spaces which are vital for health and wellbeing (Objective 11). These areas can directly provide space for recreational and physical activity, which can also support reducing social isolation. These spaces have multiple functions and can be vital centres for community activities which can increase community cohesion (Objective 12). They can also provide space for cultural activity which can promote more mixed communities with a variety of offerings.

Objective 14 sets out a requirement for housing developments to have sufficient supporting infrastructure, which includes important open spaces.

Cumulative

This Policy supports others related to housing by ensuring important supporting infrastructure is delivered. It also relates closely to health and community policies due to the important roles these facilities and spaces have on health and wellbeing. This Policy should be read closely with I6 and I8 because together they ensure the delivery and the protection of open spaces.

Recommendations

This Policy could be combined with I6 and I8 to demonstrate how Medway is committed to both the delivery of new open spaces and recreational facilities, and the protection of existing infrastructure and spaces.

6.7.7.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.7.7.4 Summary

Table 90: Summary of New open space provision

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	L

6.7.8 I8 - New playing pitches

6.7.8.1 Description

This Policy outlines Medway’s commitment to providing new pitches where need is identified, in line with Sport England guidance.

6.7.8.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

This Policy directly supports Objectives 11 and 12 as it promotes the delivery of new playing pitches which are important for health and wellbeing including reducing social isolation.

Cumulative

This Policy supports others related to housing by ensuring important supporting infrastructure is delivered. It also relates closely to health and community policies due to the important roles these facilities and spaces have on health and wellbeing. This Policy should be read closely with I6 and I7 because together they ensure the delivery and the protection of open spaces.

Recommendations

This Policy could be combined with I6 and I7 to demonstrate how Medway is committed to both the delivery of new open spaces and recreational facilities, and the protection of existing infrastructure and spaces.

6.7.8.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.7.8.4 Summary

Table 91: Summary of New playing pitches

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A

6.7.9 I9 - Gillingham Football Club

6.7.9.1 Description

This Policy outlines the important role Gillingham Football Club has in the local economy and community. It demonstrates Medway’s continuing support for the club and the potential relocation.

6.7.9.2 Initial appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

This Policy supports the sustainable development of Gillingham Football Club, which will provide jobs and secondary business to the local community (Objective 3).

It also provides an community centre which provides a place for social activity and enjoyment. It offers a multifunctional community space and the potential for health benefits for all demographics (Objectives 11 and 12).

Cumulative

This Policy supports other policies relating to community and health. It also forms a vital part of the local economy and Medway’s character and will therefore support related policies.

Recommendations

There are no specific recommendations for this policy at this stage.

6.7.9.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.7.9.4 Summary

Table 92: Summary of Gillingham Football Club

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	I	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A



6.8 Transport

6.8.1 T1 - Promoting sustainable transport

6.8.1.1 Description

Medway Council’s approach to promoting sustainable transport is to combine efficient land use with transport improvements and development. It proposes to unlock future development through regeneration, where appropriate sites will provide higher density (housing) development, which are well served by sustainable transport options. These sites are determined through accessibility to four walking zones centred around rail stations, measured by walking distance. There is also an intention to influence travel behaviour by reducing car dependency, traffic congestion, noise and air pollution, coupled with improvements to public realm, in turn boosting the local economy by attracting investment.

6.8.1.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

Social impacts would be reflected through promoting the housing supply (Objective 14) within close walking distance to sustainable public transport options, particularly rail stations and important bus interchanges (Objective 7). This is important for linking residents to employment opportunities (Objective 2) within Medway and Kent. Regeneration has been put forward as the key approach in this Policy, with mixed use development as a vital approach. This can provide the opportunity for a close range of goods and services for the local community, without the need to travel far, which retains spending within Medway, boosting the local economy and a sense of place (Objectives 3 and 4). With increased housing supply orientated around public and active modes of transportation, this will encourage residents to opt for sustainable modes of transport which results in healthier, more vibrant communities, especially for shorter journeys (Objectives 11 and 12).

Promoting sustainable opportunities for active and public transport, is important for long-term environmental benefits (Objectives 5 and 7). A restrained approach applied to more peripheral locations is important for maintaining their built form and heritage (Objective 9), since increased development can risk harming these at-risk areas. With the promotion of public transport through shorter walking distances to rail and bus interchanges, and the potential for seamless payment methods with future methods of sustainable transport in peripheral areas, this will help to encourage mode shift through convenience.

Cumulative

Promoting sustainable transport fits in with the overall agenda of the future for Medway, with a plan for walkable healthy streets, reducing the impact of traffic induced climate change, and increased chances of attracting investment and economic growth opportunities.

SA recommendations

It is worth exploring more viable short and medium-term opportunities for sustainable transport in peripheral areas to reduce car dependency and congestion within the town centre and beyond. The ‘ArrivaClick’ service may transform the area, but the vision has not been fully explored, and therefore limits the chance for providing sustainable transport in the short and medium-term. Approaches such a park-and-ride scheme may be considered here as a workable option.

6.8.1.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.8.1.4 Summary

Table 93: Summary of Promoting sustainable transport

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	O	+	O	O	N/A	O	N/A	O	N/A	O	O	N/A	O
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	+	O	N/A	+	N/A	O	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	++	++	+	O	N/A	++	N/A	O	N/A	++	+	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	D	I		D		D		D	D	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	P		P		P		P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	K	L	L	L		K		K		L	L	N/A	L

6.8.2 T2 - Linking sustainable transport and development

6.8.2.1 Description

Promoting sustainable transport has been linked with development in Medway’s vision. It is planned in conjunction with emphasising the Hoo Pensinsula as a sustainable location for growth, and as a brand. This includes making better use of the Grain freight line to provide passenger services, which is supported by Network Rail. The HIF would provide vital opportunities for unlocking potential in Medway through access to funds for developing the vision of linking sustainable transport and development.

6.8.2.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

There are good potential social impacts associated with linking sustainable transport and development. The approach of focusing high density development around key stations and interchanges encourages strategic growth, attracting investment, which in turn can boost the local economy (Objectives 2, 3 and 4). Network Rail’s proposal of extending an existing service from Gravesend to London should be considered for medium to long-term improvements to economic and employment opportunities for Medway and nearby residents (Objective 2). Increased housing development (Objective 14) in conjunction with improved walking access to passenger rail services will increase the opportunity for social inclusion, by providing accessibility to key opportunities and services, and creating more socially connected neighbourhoods and communities (Objectives 1, 11 and 12).

Unlocking the potential of connectivity and opportunity from increased rail passenger services offers very good opportunity for economic growth in Medway. Increased movement provides higher footfall for local businesses and provide employment opportunities to cater for growth (Objectives 3 and 4). This can in turn increase attractiveness and provide the case for increased housing development (Objective 14). It is therefore important that new transport development and improvements to existing transport infrastructure is sustainable, to reduce local congestion and encourage sustainable travel behaviour through active and public transportation (Objective 7). The HIF can provide the opportunity for unlocking potentially high-impact strategic infrastructure schemes, which can make this vision a potential reality.

Cumulative

Combining land use and sustainable transport is a key strategic step for economic development and investment. By providing a transport hub in the Hoo Peninsula, this will have a great effect on traffic reduction, and quicker journey times overall for those that remain to use private motor vehicles to and from the area.

SA recommendations

Alongside a plan of increased housing provision, it is important to maintain sustainable housing development alongside sustainable transport through affordable options to ensure diversity and to maintain a local sense of identity. This Policy does not address the topic of delivering affordable housing to meet the needs of groups of residents to ensure social inclusion, which is an important factor relating to accessibility. Issues surrounding a safe environment for residents is also important, and should be considered for enhancing social impacts of new housing and transport development.

Although sustainable transport and development can affect the environment, there is limited detail provided in this Policy and so this needs to be built on for a fuller picture of social, economic and environmental effects.

6.8.2.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.8.2.4 Summary

Table 94: Summary of Linking sustainable transport and development

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	O	O	O	O	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	O	N/A	O
Medium Term	O	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Long Term	+	+	+	-	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	I	D	D	D	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	L	SE	K	L	N/A	N/A	K	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	L

### 6.8.3 T3 - Hoo Peninsula rail connection

#### 6.8.3.1 Description

The Hoo Peninsula has been recognised as a sustainable location for growth, and therefore the plan has acknowledged the importance of safeguarding rail connection to the area for vital connectivity. Many of Hoo Peninsula’s residents commute by car to stations, which is unsustainable given future levels of predicted growth. Therefore, a potential Hoo Peninsula rail connection provides a sustainable alternative to minimise further congestion and pollution caused by private modes of transport. Importantly, further development of Hoo Peninsula is dependent on stronger connections and upgrades to its transport infrastructure for sustainable economic growth through greater investment and employment opportunities.

#### 6.8.3.2 Appraisal and recommendations

##### Social, economic, and environmental effects

With a reinstatement of passenger rail connection for Hoo, this would support the wider vision for regeneration, as it would provide more accessibility between housing, vital transport links, and opportunities for further social and economic growth (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 12 and 14). It can indirectly assist in creating a more vibrant community with the encouragement of shared travel, rather than private car transport which can detach members of the community.

The plan has recognised that new rail related infrastructure and upgrades to transport links, such as a station, can provide additional employment opportunities for residents (Objectives 2 and 4). It has documented the importance of the role of a strengthened rail connection and upgrade to transport in assisting the overall development of the Hoo Peninsula’s image and attractiveness (Objectives 4 and 7)

The new rail link and subsequent plans for related infrastructure has direct environmental impacts associated with commuter car traffic and congestion from the Hoo Peninsula, through an encouragement in alternative, greener travel modes, which could include walking and cycling (Objective 11). This provides the potential for growing local opportunities for residents, and thereby lower congestion and noise and air pollution levels due to shorter journey times and a sustainable alternative transport mode (Objectives 6 and 7).

##### Cumulative

The extension of a passenger rail route service to the Hoo Pensinsula will provide a positively important opportunity for developing Hoo’s brand. Rail infrastructure is a greener alternative to the currently unsustainable favour for car transport to nearby main stations, and will have both significant social, economic and environmental impacts.

##### SA recommendations

The vision for social development is limited without further comments on how the Hoo Pensinsula’s brand will be built on. It may be the case that access to HIF could unlock further development in the region, but this hasn’t been confirmed, and so alternative approaches need to be considered for a solid case in the regeneration of the Hoo Peninsula, and justification of new transport links.

Although the plan acknowledges the role that rail infrastructure can play in providing an opportunity for economic growth, more detail is required on how this will be, and what impact this will have on local businesses. It is important that future development does not harm the local community identity, and respect and preserve the town’s historical features.

It is worth exploring the possibility of planning additional links in conjunction with the new rail related infrastructure, such as pedestrian pathways and bicycle lanes depending on journey times and purposes, for a wholesome image of green infrastructure to further enhance Hoo’s brand and sense of community. It is also important to explore the protection of any green spaces that the new rail link may conflict with and to minimise any disruption of construction on biodiversity.

The construction phase of an extension to a rail route must be considered early in order to minimise any social implications to local residents in terms of noise pollution, economic implications to local businesses where construction may result in medium-long term transport route diversions, and environmental implications to local wildlife where there is a risk of affecting natural habitats with increased noise pollution and movements of materials.

#### 6.8.3.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

#### 6.8.3.4 Summary

Table 95: Summary of Hoo Peninsula rail connection

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	O	O	O	O	N/A	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	O	N/A	O
Medium Term	O	O	+	+	N/A	?	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Long Term	O	+	+	+	N/A	?	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	I	I	D	D	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	P	P	P	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	L	K	K	K	N/A	K	K	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	K

6.8.4 T4 - Rochester Airport

6.8.4.1 Description

Medway Council has recognised the development on Rochester Airport as an important opportunity for economic growth in the region. Following national policy approach of sustainable economic development, the Council has merged the plan of developing a strategic economic hub through the theme of sustainable transport.

6.8.4.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

The plan to regenerate Rochester Airport as a strategic economic hub to serve business (Objectives 3 and 4), public services, training, heritage and leisure uses (Objectives 11 and 12), would support Medway residents in particular with providing local employment opportunities in the knowledge and high technology industries, at a time when this industry is in growing demand and growth. Although the new and improved facilities will deliver positive social impacts through economic growth opportunities, it will largely focus on skilled employment. There is no direct mention of how training opportunities may benefit those with less technical and/or skilled experience, and so might result in many temporary employment opportunities regarding reconstruction of the runways, and therefore unsustainable, short-term work (Objective 2).

The plan appreciates that the redevelopment of Rochester Airport may involve environmental impacts, however no explicit detail has been provided on what the specific impacts would be and how they would be mitigated. This is important since there will be increased movement of people in the area, which may generate increased traffic and proposes a potential risk to biodiversity that may be present (Objective 7).

Cumulative

Rochester Airport’s development plans play an important part in rebranding Medway. It will create important employment opportunities for local residents including those with limited skills who may benefit from training. This will play a further role in decreasing the role and importance of private vehicle usage in the future when planned alongside better public transport links.

SA recommendations

To provide more long-term and sustainable work, this Policy should aim to enhance the skills of local residents to reduce unemployment and promote a sense of community pride in local development and construction. This can take the form of providing training opportunities and apprenticeship opportunities for school leavers.

To reduce environmental impacts of increased movement of people for construction or employment purposes, transport options to and from Rochester Airport and surrounding areas in Medway and Kent should be explored to minimise increasing traffic congestion and as well as noise and air pollution. This should include consideration of any mitigation which may be required such as additional public transport options to deter private transport.

6.8.4.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.8.4.4 Summary

Table 96: Summary of Rochester Airport

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	O	O	O	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	+	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	+	++	O	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	+	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	++	++	O	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	+	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	I	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	D	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	K	K	L	N/A	N/A	K	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A



6.8.5 T5 - Riverside infrastructure

6.8.5.1 Description

The River Medway and its surroundings have been recognised as an important opportunity for growth that meets changing market and business demand, yet protects the historical and cultural identity associated with the local residents. It also plays a strategic role in linking economic opportunities with the wider South-East region by reinforcing its location within the Thames Gateway. Importantly, the Policy recognises the strategic potential in the Chatham Docks as providing a mixed use, multi-functional purpose for economic growth through both business and tourism opportunities.

6.8.5.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

The Policy has recognised the economic benefits realised with flexibility in meeting constantly changing economic circumstances. This is important since businesses that are no longer viable economically can stunt growth, are unsustainable long-term and will no longer serve employment purposes (Objectives 2 and 3). However, the Policy addresses existing strengths that can be further utilised for growth, rather than simply entering ‘higher value’ development approaches. This will indirectly create more sustainable and healthy local communities that are resilient to change (Objectives 11 and 12). The area also has historical and cultural significance that has been recognised through its manufacturing and industrial routes, and therefore protected from any future development, which is important to preserving and strengthening social historical and cultural identity (Objective 9).

There has also been recognition of the Chatham Docks site featuring the potential capacity for new homes (Objective 14) as a potential issue for future transport issues with increased congestion due to its peripheral location. The Policy has thought about mitigating this with viable transport links through upgrades, or utilising the disused line to Gillingham Station.

The Policy has clearly thought out the different potential opportunities and conflicts the site provides, and where the vision should steer clear of attempting to deliver it as an operational commercial port facility, since this is better served by Sheerness Port. This proves appreciation shown to Medway’s existing capabilities.

Cumulative

The riverside infrastructure development fits well with Medway’s plans to extend their regional significance across the South East, and the subsequent economic growth Objective. There is potential to be unlocked with mixed-use development and a thriving tourist industry, especially in conjunction with policy T6.

SA recommendations

Since the plan highlights most of the benefits associated with the site, and looks open to utilising existing strengths, and exploring further economic opportunities by regularly reviewing land allocations, it would be wise to ensure that land if plans were to include new housing, mixed-used development would minimise unnecessary travel for residents for access to vital goods and services. Furthermore, new housing opportunities allows the chance for considering eco-friendly development, which can both protect the environment with the promotion of low carbon living and provide a new image for the area, that can also appeal to tourists.

Although the Policy has acknowledged that upgrades to the waterfront affects the environmental features of the river and estuarine habitats, there is no further detail on how they would be protected alongside regeneration. For tourism opportunities to flourish, a plan is required for improvements to the docks, and safe walking paths, which allows the chance for creating a green infrastructure network to improve quality of life for visitors and residents, and enhances the chance for biodiversity to flourish. Multi-functional spaces for all ages, such as parks and play spaces, would also provide an additional benefit. This is important as with increased movement of people, goods and service that may be introduced to the area, protection of blue and green spaces is vital for a sustainable approach to development.

The Policy has highlighted the national policy importance of safe transport of minerals and recycled materials, but has not provided further information here on what this entails for the River Medway. More detail is required on how increased movement of goods and their environmental impacts will be mitigated against. This could take the form of restricting more polluted motor boats and vehicles.

Since this Policy is looking at water-related infrastructure and development, it is wise to explore the future risk of flooding, and proofing development against the potential elements of climate change. This could be an extension to certain vehicle types allowed into the area, and barriers to protect the area from flooding.

6.8.5.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.8.5.4 Summary

Table 97: Summary of Riverside infrastructure

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	O	+	O	O	?	?	?	+	N/A	O	O	N/A	O
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	O	-	?	?	?	+	N/A	+	+	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	+	++	O	-	?	?	?	+	N/A	+	++	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	I	I	I	D	D	D	N/A	I	D	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	K	L	L	L	K	K	L	N/A	L	L	N/A	L

6.8.6 T6 - Medway riverside path

6.8.6.1 Description

This Policy is a continuation on the previous policy associated with riverside infrastructure, with a focus on the social benefits that may not have been fully explored. The plan is to develop the Riverside Path to provide social and health benefits especially, and create opportunities for tourism through related attractive features surrounding design planned around quality of life.

6.8.6.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic, and environmental effects

There are many social benefits associated with developing the Riverside Path. It will build upon the multiple existing histories and identities associated, enhancing a sense of pride for residents (Objectives 9 and 12). The views and urban connections offered at the site will support tourism-related development through quality walking spaces linked to the England Coastal Path, which proves continuation in thought associated with design for people (Objectives 3 and 4).

Importantly the Policy has thought about urban linkages between the Riverside Path and other important amenities, such as access to town centres, Universities, work places and cultural activities (Objective 3). This is positive in terms of regenerating the area into a multi-purpose development site appealing to all groups of people from a variety of backgrounds and ages (Objective 11 and 12). This will indirectly support local businesses as they will flourish from increased tourism and benefit from protection of current land usage (Objectives 2 and 3).

Cumulative

Redevelopment of the Riverside Path merges well with the wider policies surrounding the bigger picture for Medway and creating a sense of pride and enhancing the local identity for residents with protection of important cultural and heritage sites, such as policy BE5, whilst simultaneously creating multi-use spaces to attract tourists for economic growth.

SA recommendations

Since some areas are restricted by historic military and industrial uses, other plans must not conflict with the historical and cultural significance of these areas, and make effort to support and protect previous and current uses of the land. Sport and recreational opportunities must be planned in conjunction with green infrastructure links for continuation of quality design and life, and extension of health benefits. Green infrastructure and pathways should also be planned with safety in mind, as increased people movement adds the risk of higher potential perception of crime. This could be mitigated against with well-lit pathways and secure transport links.

Development of the Riverside Path will undoubtedly create many economic opportunities for growth, but to ensure it is sustainable, land use must continue to be regularly reviewed to maintain the constant change for the changing market demand. However, this should be done alongside protection of local businesses, cultural and heritage sites to ensure a sense of local pride and culture remains, which is an important part of attracting tourism.

Since this Policy will aim to increase access to the Riverside Path, any new pathways need to be assessed carefully against any environmental impacts this might have on biodiversity links, to avoid habitat fragmentation. Other environmental impacts must also be considered, such as waste management and

recycling with increased footprint in the area. It would be wise to utilise the use of underused land rather than untouched landscape for extension of the riverside path to minimise environmental effects.

6.8.6.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.8.6.4 Summary

Table 98: Summary of Medway riverside path

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	+	?	?	N/A	?	+	O	+	+	?	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	+	++	++	?	?	N/A	?	++	O	+	++	?	N/A
Long Term	N/A	+	++	++	?	?	N/A	?	++	O	+	++	?	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	I	I	I	N/A	I	D	D	D	D	I	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	K	K	L	K	N/A	K	L	K	L	L	L	N/A

6.8.7 T7 - Marinas and moorings

6.8.7.1 Description

This policy on marinas and moorings addresses leisure use in transport, and supports a variety of activities in relation to boat sales, repair facilities, chandlery, boat storage, club house and parking, alongside other important catering trades. The risk of increased vehicular movement is a concern due to increased traffic congestion and associated environmental impacts. This Policy aims to highlight that the existing marinas are close to or at full capacity, and any further development must be clearly justified and environmental impacts avoided.

6.8.7.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

Marine associated activities play a primary part in the leisure and social benefits provided in Medway, but the Policy primarily acknowledges the many environmental risks present with increasing vehicular movement associated with activities (Objective 9). The plan is that any future development would sufficiently mitigate against any adverse environmental effects, by ensuring it has a purpose, supports other land usage nearby and around Medway, and limits impacts on transport, flood risk, and protected sites (Objective 8).

The Policy has recognised potential for growth with a gap in the South-East market in relation to marina provision, which can also benefit Medway’s leisure boating offer, and subsequently improve its attractiveness, boosting tourism as a result (Objective 3).

Cumulative

Improvements to Medway’s marinas and moorings play an important part in the regeneration of the riverside and the wider perception of Medway. Their management is critical to protecting the environment, which is at great risk from increased vehicular traffic. Nevertheless, this Policy fits in with Medway’s stance of protecting current land usage alongside future development needs (Objective 3).

SA recommendations

As river access to shore facilities and attractions requires improvement, it should be stated which improvements will be made, and how, and if any environmental impacts are present, that they should be mitigated against. This could be in the form of exploring at-risk sites, and preventing increased traffic in that area.

Since residential houseboat moorings occupy areas that could otherwise be used for leisure facilities, and generally have more environmental impacts associated with them, future development should focus on enhancing the marina for leisure facilities to make justifiable use of the land. If residential moorings persist, temporary stays should be avoided to limit traffic congestion and its cumulative effects.

As the Policy states, development should not undermine the role of town centres, and so future additions to leisure facilities should avoid replication in other areas in Medway, to avoid unhealthy competition and harmonise leisure activities on offer, in relation to a given area and its current usage.

More information could be provided on whether there would be any preference towards land use types, and implications for employment opportunities for local residents.

If there is to be an increase in visiting vessels, the flood risk both local and downstream must be considered and mitigated against, otherwise an increase in vehicular traffic should be limited, such as through monetary methods.

6.8.7.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.8.7.4 Summary

Table 99: Summary of Marinas and moorings

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### 6.8.8 T8 - Urban logistics

#### 6.8.8.1 Description

This Policy acknowledges the increasing importance of urban logistics as vital for meeting the needs of future urban living, given changing retail patterns. The housing crisis across the Britain has clashed with availability of industrial land, and so Medway’s plans are to safeguard existing B8 (storage or distribution) sites for these purposes.

#### 6.8.8.2 Appraisal and recommendations

##### Social, economic and environmental effects

Medway is strategically located for the manufacturing and logistics industries, especially given its proximity to London and other regions in the South-East, but has underperformed in this area. There is potential for improved urban logistics patterns within the region, given the large population and manufacturing sector, which justifies protecting certain industrial land for this purpose (Objective 3). New facilities and demand will also provide employment opportunities, which further reinforces the cycle of logistics with increased spending (Objective 2).

The Policy has acknowledged the environmental impacts associated with increased road traffic, since the industry relies on it for movement of goods. The plan realises the potential for mitigating poor air quality with the use of low emissions vehicles, which are suitable for the type of movement involved (Objective 11). Increasing use of online shopping and deliveries can also minimise the environmental impacts associated with private vehicles travelling to town centres, as delivery vehicles can cater to many residents at once (Objective 11).

##### Cumulative

By safeguarding industrial land for sustainable urban logistics, this is a step towards sustainable economic growth which will contribute to a thriving Medway. Although a move to low emissions vehicles would aid in mitigating environmental impacts, this does not dismiss the congestion created by increasing consumer demand, which is expected to increase (Objective 11).

##### SA recommendations

Considering low emissions vehicles for urban logistics is an excellent option for mitigating air quality impacts. In the long term, it would be beneficial to replace low emission targets with targets for no emissions, to compliment wider changes across Britain for reducing the environmental effects created by increasing demand for goods. This could be arranged with moving towards using electric vehicle systems.

As urban logistics still involves people for organisation of deliveries, this can provide employment opportunities where local residents should be prioritised. This will both reduce unemployment levels and minimise unnecessary long travel distances by employees living further away (Objective 2).

As online shopping becomes increasingly popular, this may negatively impact growth and productivity in town centres as less people shop in town. This will likely affect small and independent businesses the most, and so they may need to diversify their business approach by catering to local people through online means. This fits in with Medway’s wider policies of adapting land use allocation to the changing market and business needs (Objective 3).

Another recommendation for sustaining a thriving and healthy community in Medway is to ensure that there are suitable leisure activities in the town centre, which will maintain footfall in town centres, minimise social isolation and prevent the negative impacts of online business on town centres and their contribution to a local identity for residents (Objective 4).

#### 6.8.8.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

#### 6.8.8.4 Summary

Table 100: Summary of Urban logistics

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	O	O	?	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	?	O	O	N/A	-
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	?	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	?	O	O	N/A	-
Long Term	N/A	+	+	?	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	?	O	O	N/A	-
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	I	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	D	I	I	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	K	N/A	N/A	L	L	L	N/A	L



6.8.9 T9 - Connectivity and permeability

6.8.9.1 Description

This Policy seeks to enhance policy T2, with an additional focus of creating safe, continuous transport links within developments, to enhance the perception of safety and minimise car use through design centred around public transport and active transport.

6.8.9.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The main benefits of this Policy relate to the Plan’s social objectives. This policy promotes healthier communities and social inclusion, by specifying designing with pedestrians and vulnerable groups in mind (Objective 11). The creation of walkable streets in conjunction with networks of multi-functional green spaces, increased river access and river crossings which provides an effective approach to continuation of safe and accessible pathways in attractive settings (Objectives 5, 11, 12 and 13).

It will also benefit the tourism industry with increased people movement through areas, subsequently improving footfall to town centres and providing economic growth to local businesses (Objectives 3 and 4).

The Policy has also acknowledged the potential environmental benefit with reduced traffic congestion from designing walkable streets and promoting greener modes of transport (Objectives 7 and 11).

Cumulative

This Policy fits in very well with the overall stance of regeneration and creating a sustainable Medway, where social impacts have been considered through efficient design, and encouragement of community-centred sustainable transport. This also fits in with the tourism agenda of redeveloping the riverside area, for a continuation of Medway’s green pathways and overall image (Objective 5). Improving networks of green spaces and river crossings merges well with policies T5 and T6.

Furthermore, by creating walkable streets, this can counteract the negative effects of increasing online patterns of consumption and urban logistics on small and independent businesses, as highlighted in policy T8 - Urban logistics.

SA recommendations

As a continuation of safe walkable streets and creating liveable communities, the Policy could specify that all areas are well lit and contain security features, so vulnerable groups are confident during their journey. Where new links will be made, they should preferably accompany shared spaces for all ages such as parks and play areas, whilst protecting any habitats and biodiversity routes. The creation of extra walkable routes is especially important for children in school areas, as the additional pathways could encourage young people to lead more active lifestyles long-term. In this case, extra attention must also be given to land use and traffic congestion in school areas, and encourage the merging of child and family-friendly facilities to make journeys shorter, in turn reducing traffic congestion and related noise and air pollution.

More detail could be provided on how this Policy will encourage employment opportunities to flourish, as people would feel safer to walk during early and late hours of the day.

This Policy fits well with the agenda of strengthening the green infrastructure network, though the policy should aim to ensure that new pathways do not contribute to habitat fragmentation.

6.8.9.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.8.9.4 Summary

Table 101: Summary of Connectivity and permeability

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	O	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	O	O	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	O	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	++	+	N/A
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	O	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	++	+	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	D	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	L	N/A

6.8.10 T10 - Vehicle parking

6.8.10.1 Description

This Policy looks at parking standards by considering factors that determine justified requirement of additional spaces or changes, especially regarding housing requirements. The market-led approach to land use across Medway’s plans is echoed here. The Policy recognises the effects of parking, particularly on taking up vital space for other land use. This is also dependent on the type of vehicle, such as personal, shared, blue badge, or commercial vehicles. The Policy also includes measures to address the negative visual image of parked vehicles in Medway.

6.8.10.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The social effects of the Policy are caused by reducing car parking spaces in areas with more private vehicle due to a lack of accessible public transport. The Policy also indirectly encourages a feeling of safety within neighbourhoods by ensuring surveillance is maintained (Objective 13). The Policy also notes a social and historical perspective on car ownership, and so private motor vehicles may play a role in identity formation for some residents.

A key approach has been the identification of ‘Home Zones’, which supports the vision of a better-connected Medway, with a multitude of land uses within a given zone, that reduces the need for longer travel distances and instils a sense of pride and identity for residents (Objective 12).

Cumulative

This Policy recommends the use of more efficient methods of parking, which fits well with the recommendation of a park-and-ride scheme in policy T1 for those travelling to and from more peripheral regions. Vehicle parking plays a key role in traffic congestion and the level of free-flowing traffic and subsequent pollution levels (Objective 11).

SA recommendations

As this Policy has recognised, a movement away from extra vehicle parking spaces can be achieved through more sustainable means, such as focusing on high density development near public transport stations. It is recommended that these high-density developments should be planned in conjunction with the liveable streets approach taken in policy T9, for a rounded approach to providing healthier communities that are well-connected to vital goods and services.

With regard to the Home Zones, it is especially beneficial for young families that parks and play facilities can be included, for an overall liveable approach for the future of Medway.

This policy could elaborate on reducing the need for parking spaces through transit oriented development, i.e. housing development planned around important transport links and interchanges. This will reduce the need for parking spaces as less people will require private cars if public transport and active transport are easily available. This particularly aligns well with policies T1, T2, and T9.

6.8.10.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.8.10.4 Summary

Table 102: Summary of Vehicle parking

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	O	N/A	O	O	O	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	O	N/A	O	O	O	N/A
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	O	N/A	O	O	O	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	I	N/A	D	D	I	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	P	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	N/A	L	L	L	N/A

6.8.11 T11 - Cycle parking and storage

6.8.11.1 Description

This policy sets out requirements for various types of cycle parking and storage to encourage cycling as an easy and safe mode of transport for all members of society.

6.8.11.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

By providing easier cycle parking and storage, active transport becomes a more attractive option which reduces Medway’s contribution to climate change through reduction in carbon emissions as well as noise pollution (Objective 7). This would also improve Medway’s leisure offerings by facilitating cycling for leisure throughout the borough (Objective 9).

Increased use of cycling for both transport and leisure has direct positive effects on health and wellbeing (Objective 11), and can also improve deprivation and inclusivity by providing and cheap and accessible transport option (Objective 12), which may indirectly reduce barriers to employment (Objective 2). Additionally, the improved cycle security through implementation of this policy would directly affect perception of crime in Medway (Objective 13).

Cumulative

This Policy aligns well with the sustainability agenda in Medway, and merges well policies T1 and T2 in the promotion and linkage of sustainable transport and development. It also fits well with policy T9, as it complements a green infrastructure network with healthy, liveable and walkable streets. In addition, the Policy furthers the health and wellbeing aims of the Plan by promoting active transport.

SA recommendations

As this Policy aims towards providing cycle facilities for all ages and abilities from the outset of design, it should be stated that the design considers inclusive cycles, which increases accessibility levels and inclusion.

6.8.11.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.8.11.4 Summary

Table 103: Summary of Cycle parking and storage

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	+	N/A	++	++	++	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	+	N/A	++	++	++	N/A
Long Term	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	+	N/A	++	++	++	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	I	N/A	D	D	D	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	P	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	N/A	L	L	L	N/A

6.8.12 T12 - Managing the transport impact of development

6.8.12.1 Description

This Policy involves considering a development’s effects on land use and transport through transport assessments and travel plans. In addition, there is a requirement for new vehicular crossovers to demonstrate safety has not been compromised. Medway Council has produced a Strategic Transport Model (STM) that plays an important part in development approval and overall effectiveness.

6.8.12.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy has recognised that new or additional development can have detrimental effects on the transport network with increased congestion, which can affect the residents’ perception of their town due to reduced perception of safety, especially when walking (Objectives 12 and 13). This has an indirect effect on social exclusion, as there are members of society who are affected by more crowded and noisier places, and may be deterred by the negative outcome of increased traffic congestion.

Assessing future development in this way also allows robust and efficient planning, both for developers and the Council (Objectives 3 and 4). Transport Assessments and Travel Plans aiming to reduce vehicle traffic indirectly consider environmental impacts such as air quality and noise effects, and could contribute to a more attractive Medway (Objectives 9 and 11).

The requirement for Transport Assessments and Travel plans would also act to encourage more sustainable transport, which would reduce carbon emissions and air and noise pollution (Objective 7). This however may indirectly affect Medway’s housing supply by placing further pressure on developers (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This Policy complements policy T2, in the promotion of integrating land use and transport as a strategic and efficient method of achieving sustainable development. This therefore indirectly supports climate change policies, and those seeking to increase health and wellbeing through active transport.

SA recommendations

The policy could be strengthened by providing specific requirements for transport assessments and travel plans, and by providing more detail on what criteria these documents may be checked against.

More detail could be provided on what mitigation strategies would be adopted for varying types of development. This is important as different types of land use have differing impacts on the travel network depending on demand and the groups of people that use this. In addition, the policy could require developers to also examine the impact of transport trends on the proposed development, to offer a more balanced approach.

6.8.12.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.8.12.4 Summary

Table 104: Summary of Managing the transport impact of development

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	O	N/A	?	N/A	O	?	O	?
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	?	N/A	+	?	O	?
Long Term	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	?	N/A	+	?	O	?
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	I	N/A	I	I	D	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	P	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	L	N/A	L	L	L	L



6.9 Minerals, waste and energy

6.9.1 MWE1 - Minerals supply

6.9.1.1 Description

This Policy makes allowances for the responsible management of minerals in order to ensure a steady and adequate supply to meet local needs and contribute to regional requirements.

6.9.1.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy indirectly supports the longevity of the existing minerals industry in the local area for the short to medium term duration of the Policy. This could have resulting benefits for employment opportunities within Medway, and also help to secure the economic foundation of Medway through increased competitiveness within the region (Objectives 2 and 3).

The extraction of raw minerals is likely to produce air and noise pollution due to the extraction methods required in the short to medium term, and this in conjunction with the use of virgin materials (Objective 7).

This Policy makes the best use of material assets (Objective 10), by assessing the availability of mineral reserves within the area and ensuring adequate supply for the duration of the plan to areas within and beyond Medway and Kent.

The extraction of minerals may however have a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of residents due to air and noise emissions and potential loss of high value community space (Objective 11). Ensuring a consistent supply of aggregates indirectly ensures materials required for house building and supporting infrastructure are available at the local and national level (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This Policy provides security of materials needed to execute policies in relation to infrastructure, the built environment and housing. In addition, this Policy indirectly supports other employment policies by providing employment and serving the local economy. Conversely, the Policy may oppose the aims of policies on health and community and the natural environment, due to the impacts of extraction.

SA recommendations

This is primarily a policy for ensuring the steady supply of minerals to meet local and national requirement, however it provides little detail about the locations of reserves and quantities expected to be taken from each location. Providing this would be useful to show there is a considered strategy for mineral provision.

Mineral extraction brings employment and economic benefit, can improve training and development prospects for young people, and provide opportunities for skilled employment in a given area. This has a wider impact on the local economy.

This Policy could make reference to the impacts that mineral extraction can have on environmental and social amenity in the local and surrounding areas in the short to long term. Although mineral extraction can have negative impacts over the short to medium term, due to noise and air emissions, loss of green space and visual amenity, in the long term the impacts can be positive, depending on the proposed restoration use of the land. Providing more information about the requirements placed on developers to improve the land

post-extraction will make it clearer where the additional benefits of mineral extraction can be found, beyond the economic aspect.

It would be advantageous to develop a minerals strategy which incorporates policies MWE1 to MWE5 within the one document, providing some context to the planning considerations underpinning the selection process for mineral extraction sites and planning sustainable mineral extraction.

The following can be considered when assessing available mineral supply:

- Take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to the supply of minerals, before considering extraction of primary minerals
- For mineral rich areas where a non-extractive development is planned, set out policies to facilitate the extraction of minerals prior to the development
- Set out environmental criteria against which planning applications will be assessed, to ensure that permitted operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment, and human health; including noise, dust, visual intrusion, traffic, tip and quarry slope stability, mining subsidence, flood risk, groundwater impacts, migration of contaminants, and cumulative effects.
- Put measures in place to ensure worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity and that high-quality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites is carried out, including considerations for agriculture (where high quality agricultural land is present), geodiversity, biodiversity, native woodland, the historic environment and recreation.

6.9.1.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.9.1.4 Summary

Table 105: Summary of Minerals supply

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	+	-	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	+	-	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	?	?	N/A	N/A	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	+	?	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	T	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	T	N/A	N/A	T	T	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	SE	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	SE	L	N/A	N/A	SE

6.9.2 MWE2 - Land-won extraction of sands and gravels

6.9.2.1 Description

This Policy ensures that proposals for the extraction of sand and gravel will be permitted within previously identified areas of search, providing there is a proven need for mineral extraction to ensure the Council maintains a 7-year landbank, there is a clear programme and time limit for the operation proposed and satisfactory provision for the restoration and after use of the site.

6.9.2.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy indirectly acts to ensure that development proposals for mineral extraction in pre-defined areas are approved, providing there is a need for mineral extraction. This ensures there will be steady employment and economic investment from the minerals sector over the duration that the Policy is in force (Objectives 2, 3 and 4).

Although satisfactory provision for the restoration and after-use of sites is mentioned within the Policy, it is not specific about what this means, and therefore it is not possible to assess whether this Policy is likely to have a positive or negative impact on the enhancement of green space and biodiversity networks (Objectives 5 and 6).

In the short to medium term, extractive operations may have a local adverse effect the health and wellbeing of residents due to air and noise emissions and potential loss of high value community space (Objective 11).

Developments for mineral extraction may have adverse environmental impacts during their operational phase and pre-restoration, however these are short-medium term in duration and non-economic benefits from these developments are usually experienced in the long term (Objectives 5-9). without more detail in the Policy regarding the use of the space post-restoration, and/or measures to be put in place to enhance environment, wellbeing and social value it is not possible to determine the local effects.

This Policy supports the protection of mineral reserves to ensure that these can be extracted where they are found, this facilitates the use of these assets for wider benefit (Objective 10). Extraction of minerals also indirectly supports the development of housing and associated infrastructure (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This Policy provides a supply of raw materials for policies relating to infrastructure, the built environment and housing. This policy also affects development scenarios as it adds to the consultation requirements for developments within 250m of the safeguarded search area. Additionally, this Policy indirectly supports the aims of the employment policies. In contrast, the Policy may conflict with the aims of policies on health and community and the natural environment, due to the impacts of extraction.

SA recommendations

To strengthen the policy, more detail could be provided in the description or separately on the identified areas of search, including the methodologies used to identify these and their locations.

The Policy references the restoration and after-use of extraction sites, however doesn’t provide any further information on requirements for this. The after-use of mineral extraction sites can have significant social and environmental benefits if carried out appropriately. Stating in the policy that satisfactory provision for

the restoration and after use of sites will include enhancing the environmental and social value of the site will support the attainment of Objectives 5 – 12. The processes in place to ensure these benefits are managed through the planning process should be made clear, e.g. requiring developers to set aside funding for restoration.

It should be made clear that there is a trade-off between the extraction of materials and the quality of the natural environment, and what measures there may be to balance the economic gain against the disruption of sites and potential impacts to human health.

By highlighting the benefits of mineral extraction post restoration, for example restoration as parkland or similar, it will be possible to demonstrate positive impacts in the long term for Objectives 7 and 10.

6.9.2.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.9.2.4 Summary

Table 106: Summary of Land-won extraction of sands and gravels

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	+	?	?	-	?	?	+	-	?	?	+
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	+	?	?	-	?	?	+	-	?	?	+
Long Term	N/A	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	D	D	I	I	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	K	L	L	L	L

6.9.3 MWE3 - Land-won minerals: chalk and clay

6.9.3.1 Description

This Policy ensures that extraction of land-won minerals (chalk and clay) will be permitted outside of identified areas for mineral extraction, provided this does not have an adverse impact on sites which are protected or already allocated, and there are clear plans and timescales for restoration, unless in exceptional circumstances.

6.9.3.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

Enabling development for mineral extraction where there is a need for this can provide employment opportunities in the industry as well as education opportunities (Objectives 1-3).

There is not enough information available on post-restoration requirements or uses to be able to say whether this Policy will have a positive or negative effect on existing green and open space networks (Objective 5) or how this may affect Medway’s resilience to climate change (Objective 8). The requirement to ensure no adverse impact to protected features will have a positive impact on the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the historic environment (Objectives 6 and 9).

Mineral extraction in general has negative impacts relating to localised pollution (Objective 7) in the short to medium term, however there can be benefits post restoration. Without further information on requirements for this within the Policy it is not possible to say whether there will be a long term positive impact.

This Policy supports the responsible extraction of minerals where they are found, provided the extraction is needed and does not affect designated features in the surrounding area, and so supports the efficient use of material assets (Objective 10).

Without further information on post-restoration uses, it is not possible to say what the impact of this Policy will be on address health and wellbeing, deprivation and inclusivity, and community safety (Objectives 11-13).

The extraction of minerals does indirectly contribute to the provision of materials made available for homebuilding, therefore making reserves available where needed will have an indirect positive impact on housing in Medway (Objective 14).

Cumulative

By placing requirements and limitations on extraction of land-won minerals (chalk and clay), this policy may restrict employment and development scenario policies. By stating protections for designated sites and land uses, this may positively affect policies on the Natural environment, communities, and housing. By securing a supply of materials, this policy would also support parts of the plan aiming to deliver housing and infrastructure.

SA recommendations

It would be useful to have more information about the assessment process to separate high value sites from those that would be considered for extraction, how these considerations will be managed and under what circumstances it would be considered necessary to extract from these sites.

This Policy is specific about the need to ensure there is no adverse impact on sites designated for environment or heritage, and that the sites will be satisfactorily restored following development, however additional detail on the requirements for protected sites or post use restoration could provide benefits to biodiversity, green space, climate change mitigation and resilience, heritage assets, health, wellbeing and community safety; and allow Objectives 5-6, 8-9 and 11-13 to be assessed. Examples of this could be requirements to restore to parkland for environmental and social benefits, depending on the needs of the area, and enhancement of existing social and environmental features.

Information on post-restoration site use could also allow for an assessment to be made regarding the long-term impacts for pollution and contribution to climate change (Objective 7), as if sites are restored with climate change in mind this could have a positive long-term effect.

Clarity on what overriding benefits could be considered to justify development in protected or allocated areas would strengthen the Policy. If the overriding benefit is economic, further information on how local community benefits would be ensured should be included.

6.9.3.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.9.3.4 Summary

Table 107: Summary of Land-won minerals: chalk and clay

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	+	?	?	-	?	?	+	?	?	?	+
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	+	?	?	-	?	?	+	?	?	?	+
Long Term	N/A	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	I	I	I	D	I	I	D	I	I	I	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	T	T	T	P	P	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	L	L	K	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	K

6.9.4 MWE4 - Minerals, wharves and railheads

6.9.4.1 Description

This Policy ensures that identified minerals import and distribution facilities that currently benefit from permanent planning permission will be safeguarded from development that would prejudice or prevent their operation except in exceptional circumstances.

6.9.4.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy provides a safeguard for industry related to mineral importation and associated infrastructure in the region and therefore safeguarding jobs and economic investment (Objectives 2 and 3). By protecting the import and distribution infrastructure it supports the use of already developed land and facilitates the use of natural resources for the wider regional benefit (Objective 10)

It is unclear how this Policy would affect biodiversity, green space, and climate change mitigation and resilience (Objectives 5-8), as development that would otherwise be located on or near to the identified facilities may be re-located because of this policy.

The import of aggregates enables the housing development industry and therefore supports the provision of sustainable housing (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This Policy enables import and distribution to continue which supports policies that encourage infrastructure and house building. In addition, this Policy indirectly supports other employment policies by protecting current areas of employment. This policy also affects development scenarios as restricts development near the identified facilities and adds to the consultation requirements for developments within 250m of a safeguarded importation or distribution facility.

SA recommendations

This Policy could be strengthened by including information about the key minerals importation and distribution facilities protected by this Policy, and their relevance in the wider regional/national context.

Some clarity could be provided regarding the material considerations that would override the presumption for safeguarding minerals importation and distribution facilities. Alternative provision for the loss of an importation or distribution facility should be assessed to ensure that the most suitable land is used, and high value environmental or social land is not compromised.

6.9.4.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.9.4.4 Summary

Table 108: Summary of Minerals, wharves and railheads

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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Short Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	?	?	?	?	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	?	?	?	?	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	?	?	?	?	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	I	N/A	I	I	I	I	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	N/A	L	L	K	L	N/A	SE	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE



6.9.5 MWE5 - Minerals infrastructure

6.9.5.1 Description

This Policy proposes to safeguard facilities for the production, handling and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material in Medway to ensure that proposed development does not prejudice or prevent their operations, except in exceptional circumstances.

6.9.5.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy provides a safeguard for named minerals facilities and infrastructure in the region, thereby safeguarding jobs and economic investment (Objectives 2 and 3).

Facilities that support the recycling of aggregates for the construction industry directly contribute to the achievement of a circular economy via increased reuse of materials (Objective 7).

The use of material assets is supported indirectly by the Policy, as the use of secondary or recycled material may reduce the need to extract minerals and facilitate the use of material for the benefit of the region (Objective 10).

Safeguarding facilities for the production, handling and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material supports the housing development industry, and contributes toward a sustainable supply of housing (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This Policy indirectly supports other employment policies by protecting current areas of employment. In addition, this Policy protects minerals infrastructure which is needed to implement policies that encourage infrastructure and house building. This policy also affects development scenarios as it restricts development near minerals infrastructure and adds to the consultation requirements for developments within 250m of the infrastructure.

SA recommendations

Reference could be made to the fact that safeguarding facilities for concrete batching, the manufacture of coated materials, other concrete products and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material also provides protection to workers in this industry, supporting the economic development of Medway.

Alternative provision for the loss of existing facilities should have the proper environmental protection in place, and be located in suitable areas of land which does not adversely affect high value sites. A process for site selection should be made clear, for example avoidance of protected features, use of existing industrial land, or proximity to existing minerals infrastructure.

Further detail would be helpful on what information will inform the decision-making process, for example, what material considerations could override the presumption for safeguarding mineral resource.

6.9.5.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.9.5.4 Summary

Table 109: Summary of Minerals infrastructure

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	?	?	++	?	?	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	?	?	++	?	?	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	?	?	++	?	?	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	I	N/A	I	I	D	I	I	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	N/A	P	P	T	P	P	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	N/A	L	K	SE	L	L	SE	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE

6.9.6 MWE6 - Waste management

6.9.6.1 Description

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that developers seek to minimise the generation of waste, having regard to the waste hierarchy. The council aim to promote sustainable waste management within all new developments ensuring there is an appropriate provision for waste management.

6.9.6.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy promotes sustainable waste management principles, contributing to the growth of the sustainable economy, and by referring to the need to consider the proximity principle when considering waste management (Objective 7). This also indirectly contributes to making the best use of material assets (Objective 10), as it would facilitate efficient use of natural assets.

This Policy will facilitate the delivery of supporting infrastructure which will service a growing range of housing stock, and promoting good design principles relating to lifecycle and waste management within these developments (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This Policy complements policies that encourage high quality development in Medway and sustainable use of resources. This in turn would reduce the pressure on landfills in the area which has environmental benefits. Additionally, the reference to supporting South East Waste Planning Advisory Group supports Policy I1 by taking a wider view on waste management in the region.

SA recommendations

Consolidating policies MWE6 – MWE10 into a strategy for waste management would provide a more coherent set of guidance. This could cover requirements for overarching waste management strategy and Objectives, such as the reduction in the quantity of waste going to landfill, in addition to requirements included via the planning process and provision of waste management facilities.

More detail should be provided on the waste management planning undertaken via the South East West Planning Advisory Group (SEWPAG) and the cross-border waste management issues and opportunities identified through this group.

6.9.6.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.9.6.4 Summary

Table 110: Summary of Waste management

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	?
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	?
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	?
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	T	N/A	N/A	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	T
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	L

6.9.7 MWE7 - New waste management facilities

6.9.7.1 Description

This Policy specifies that provision should be made for further waste infrastructure development within existing industrial areas in the local region, providing environmental and land use standards are met. The priority will be to explore the development of new waste management facilities that are able to utilise existing railways or the River Medway as a means of transportation.

6.9.7.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

By providing the incentive for the development of waste management services within local industrial areas this Policy encourages suitable employment opportunities in accessible locations (Objective 2). This will also contribute to establishing Medway with a strong economic foundation to enable sustainable growth and competitiveness within the wider region by investing in an area of business which is becoming more economically viable within the UK (Objective 3).

This Policy promotes sustainable waste management principles and contributing to the growth of the sustainable economy (Objectives 7 and 10). Utilising existing rail facilities or the Medway as a means of transportation provides a more sustainable alternative to lorry transportation, reducing the impacts associated with freight (Objective 7). Utilising the available space on industrial areas makes best use of existing previously developed land that is not of a high environmental value (Objective 10). New developments will be of an appropriate environmental standard and suitably located, minimising the adverse effects on sensitive receptors (Objectives 5 and 7).

Finally, this Policy facilitates the delivery of supporting infrastructure which will service a growing range of housing stock and promoting good design principles relating to lifecycle and waste management within these developments (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This policy supports parts of the plan aiming to promote development on brownfield land to a high environmental standard. In addition, this Policy indirectly supports other employment policies by providing employment and serving the local economy. This Policy also contributes to the development of local industry which may reduce the environmental impacts of road transport and landfill.

SA recommendations

Additional detail regarding the types of designated and/or protected sites should be provided to provide clarity on submission requirements for the development of waste facilities outside of identified industrial areas.

Identification of the key, high level opportunities for waste management infrastructure development in the area would help to focus the policy.

6.9.7.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.9.7.4 Summary

Table 111: Summary of New waste management facilities

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	+	?	+	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	+	?	+	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	+	?	+	N/A	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	N/A	I	I	I	N/A	N/A	D	I	N/A	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	N/A	T	P	P	N/A	N/A	P	T	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	N/A	L	K	SE	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	L

6.9.8 MWE8 - Existing waste management facilities

6.9.8.1 Description

This Policy aims to safeguard the existing waste management facilities in Medway to retain self-sufficiency and achieve zero waste to landfill. To achieve this, the current waste facilities and a 250m buffer will be safeguarded against non-waste development that would prejudice or prevent their use.

6.9.8.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

This Policy will safeguard existing jobs in the waste management industry, therefore indirectly having a positive impact on employment and the local economy as a result (Objective 2). The waste management facilities also make Medway attractive to industry and could contribute toward economic growth (Objective 3).

The protection of existing waste management facilities contributes to the continued development of the waste management industry in the local area, which supports circular economy principles and the waste hierarchy (Objective 7). Consequently, material assets such as raw materials and land would be more efficiently used as less waste is sent to landfill (Objective 10).

Cumulative

This policy supports a future of zero waste to landfill, which indirectly supports policies that promote green space, open space, and sustainable resource use. This Policy also indirectly supports other employment policies by protecting current areas of employment. This policy also affects development scenarios as it restricts development near existing waste management facilities, and adds to the consultation requirements for developments within 250m of the infrastructure.

SA recommendations

The protection of existing skills and labour implied within this Policy could be stated more clearly. Protecting the infrastructure protects the existing jobs, which impacts the local economy and retains the skills base within the area required to keep facilities operational.

It should be made clear that alternative equivalent provision for waste management facilities should be made in existing industrial areas, and won’t require land-take from high value land in line with policy MWE7.

It would be useful to have some clarity on the material considerations that would indicate the need for proposed development which would require the relocation of waste management facilities, for transparency.

6.9.8.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.9.8.4 Summary

Table 112: Summary of Existing waste management facilities

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	T	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE	N/A	N/A	K	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



6.9.9 MWE9 - Waste disposal to land

6.9.9.1 Description

If there are proposals for the creation of void space or land-raising to facilitate a disposal facility for non-inert or hazardous waste, they will be assessed against a range of criteria, including landscape and amenity impacts, the availability of access and sustainable methods of transport, lack of alternatives for disposal, the proximity principle, regulatory requirements, timescales proposed for the operation, and plans for restoration and after-use.

6.9.9.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

As this Policy relates to the assessment process for identifying the suitability of proposals for landfill it is difficult to quantify the sustainability impacts of the Policy as it is dependent on the decision of the individual assessing the need for landfill against environmental and social constraints (Objectives 6, 9 and 11).

Should a development for disposal of non-inert or hazardous waste be proposed and so trigger the implementation of this policy, it would directly impact the local area by creating jobs and possibly by reducing open space (Objectives 3 and 5). This could be temporary, depending on the intended after-use of the site.

Landfill, although necessary is a last resort method, and does not support the promotion of sustainable waste management (Objective 7), to reduce contributions to the impacts of climate change. The Policy does however, state that clear justification is needed as to why the material must be deposited in landfill.

Landfill provision is needed as housing provision increases, however the emphasis should be on the improvement of local facilities for waste management to reduce the levels of waste for landfill to a minimum (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This Policy reinforces the need to reduce pressure on the road transport network by encouraging transport by rail and water, and stating a maximum road haulage distance of 50 miles. Conversely, this Policy may indirectly restrict employment opportunities in the Hoo Peninsula and the Isle of Grain by placing additional criteria on a potential development, and so go against job creation policies.

SA recommendations

There should be a clearer commitment to the protection of existing green space and open space when considering landfill proposals, to make it clear that there is a commitment to the protection of green space which is established and of high quality in addition to protected sites and wild spaces. This could also be mentioned in terms of restoration and after-use.

Reference should be made to the protection of water resources in line with Objective 8, to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change regarding water quality.

It should be made clear that the proximity of historic and cultural assets will be considered when considering proposals for landfill development.

The location of landfill should be considered carefully to ensure that the principles of environmental justice are considered, to ensure individuals and communities of lower socio-economic class aren’t disproportionately affected by landfill development when considered in combination with existing heavy industry or waste management facilities.

6.9.9.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.9.9.4 Summary

Table 113: Summary of Waste disposal to land

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	-	?	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	?
Medium Term	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	-	?	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	?
Long Term	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	?	?	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	?	N/A	N/A	?
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	D	?	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	T	N/A	N/A	T	?	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	T	N/A	N/A	T
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	L	?	K	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	L

6.9.10 MWE10 - Waste water treatment works

6.9.10.1 Description

This Policy ensures that proposals for new or extensions to waste water treatment works, sewage treatment and disposal facilities will be permitted in suitable locations where there is a proven need for the facility, provided that the development does not conflict with the need to safeguard the environment and does not create unacceptable impacts on amenity.

6.9.10.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

Enabling the approval for development relating to waste water treatment would be economically beneficial for Medway, by providing additional employment opportunities and delivering economic benefits across Medway via the development process (Objectives 2 and 3).

It’s not possible to say whether this Policy is likely to conserve and enhance green space and biodiversity features without having further details on the kinds of sites that will be protected and safeguarded via the planning process, and how action will be taken to prevent negative impacts to local amenity, including cultural heritage (Objectives 5, 6 and 9).

Development of waste water treatment facilities does promote sustainable waste management and circular economy principles, in addition to minimising pollution and contributing to the management of water quality in the area (Objectives 7 and 8). Care should be taken to ensure that the negative environmental impacts of such developments are minimised through the planning system, such as smell, odour and loss of amenity.

Additional wastewater treatment development will provide essential public services (Objective 14), however treatment plants can have negative impacts to health and wellbeing due to noise and odour, which should be considered (Objective 11). Care should be taken to ensure potential adverse impacts to health are managed when siting multiple waste treatment facilities in areas close to residential amenity.

Cumulative

This Policy overlaps with policies relating to provision of utilities, water stress and water pollution, and in general complement the Plan’s consideration of climate change. It also enables growth, so indirectly supports economic and employment policies.

SA recommendations

The policy could be strengthened by clarifying the assessment process to be used when identifying new sites that are not on previously developed land. This could be an overarching assessment process to apply to all types of waste development for the introductory section of the overall waste management policy.

This Policy could include the wider context of the development, for example, developing on an existing industrial estate could have adverse human health impacts when the effects of similar cumulative developments are assessed, and when near residential areas.

Development should be designed with future environmental constraints in mind, for example increasing water scarcity in the South East, which will further support Objective 14 by promoting good design principles.

To encourage the highest environmental standards, the Policy could require the use of best available techniques for the design of new or upgraded facilities, to ensure these are energy and water efficient and resilient.

6.9.10.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.9.10.4 Summary

Table 114: Summary of Waste water treatment works

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	?	?	+	+	?	○	?	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	?	?	+	+	?	○	?	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	+	+	N/A	?	?	+	+	?	○	?	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	D
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	L	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	L

6.9.11 MWE11 - Energy and renewables

6.9.11.1 Description

This Policy recognises Medway’s contribution to the UK’s energy security as a strategic priority for the Local Plan. It encourages opportunities for power generation and energy storage, and supports energy development where it does not compromise the environment, community and economy, and actively promotes the development of local employment opportunities. The Policy commits to exporting opportunities for Combined Heat and Power systems to connect to district heating networks.

6.9.11.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

The Policy supports the development of local supply chains and employment opportunities, while protecting those already in the energy sector in Medway. This would encourage sustainable employment opportunities, attract skills from beyond the borough, encourage inward investment, and enable Medway to remain competitive within the wider region (Objectives 2 and 3).

Without further information, it is not possible to conclude how the Policy impacts green and open space and biodiversity features (Objectives 5 and 6). The Policy supports protection and expansion of existing gas-fired power stations, which will contribute to a local direct increase in emissions. However, Medway contributes to a large proportion of the UK’s energy security and energy developments producing greenhouse gases should be considered within the national context to ensure climate change aims are met (Objectives 7 and 8). The encouragement of district heating networks, small scale solar energy and decentralised and local power generation will contribute to a reduction to the impacts of climate change. As such, this Policy provides the opportunity to reduce the contribution to, and adapt against, climate change, however further detail is required to fulfil the assessment at this stage (Objective 8). The Policy will ensure developments mitigate impacts to the community and heritage assets, which may still result in negative impacts (Objective 9). New development on brownfield land could facilitate land recovery from contamination, but the Policy supports development on agricultural land (albeit lower grade) and may result in landscape impacts (Objective 10).

There are unlikely to be overall significant impacts on health in Medway, except for potential localised impacts on certain communities close to stacks with increased emissions (Objective 11). Increased skilled employment in the borough due to investment in infrastructure and local supply chains may have a positive impact on health, and could reduce deprivation (Objective 12). The Policy supports good design principles which would apply to district heating networks, and would provide supporting infrastructure for housing (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This Policy encourages good growth in industry which would provide jobs, and so supports employment policies. Reference to environmental restrictions complements policies that aim to protect the environment, human health and cultural heritage. This policy also supports energy security and diversity, which integrates well with climate change policies.

SA recommendations

This policy could be enhanced by reflecting some of the supporting text in the formal policy wording, especially in relation to promotion of renewable energy.

It is recommended that this Policy considers proposals which could increase greenhouse gas emissions in the area in line with national policy, including the Climate Change Act (2008) and the government’s Clean Growth Strategy. The Policy could further promote the use of decentralised power generation, Combined Heat and Power Systems and district heating networks by requiring new developments to integrate such initiatives by design. The Policy may also seek to provide guidance relating to energy use due to agriculture, industry, transport and buildings.

6.9.11.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.9.11.4 Summary

Table 115: Summary of Energy and renewables

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	+	++	N/A	?	?	?	?	-	-	?	+	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	+	++	N/A	?	?	?	?	-	-	?	+	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	+	++	N/A	?	?	?	?	-	-	?	+	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	I	D	N/A	D	D	I	I	I	I	I	I	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	P	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A	P
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	SE	SE	N/A	L	K	K	K	K	K	L	L	N/A	L

6.9.12 MWE12 - Low carbon development

6.9.12.1 Description

This Policy sets out a hierarchy for energy initiatives which will contribute towards making Medway a low carbon economy. It prioritises energy efficiency through thermal and fabric improvement, then encourages provision of CHP, CCHP, on-site heating systems, and renewable energy generation. It further requires ‘suitable’ additional measures for carbon reduction targets to be met. This is to be demonstrated by design, and developers are encouraged to meet higher than national standards.

6.9.12.2 Appraisal and recommendations

Social, economic and environmental effects

By encouraging efficiency and localised power generation through renewable energy, the Policy contributes to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by design (Objective 7), but could go further to increase resilience against the effects of climate change (Objective 8).

There are health and wellbeing benefits to a low carbon economy. This Policy has the potential to improve efficiency and reduce the cost of power, which will reduce fuel poverty and may improve local air quality (Objective 11). The Policy directly addresses good design principles for housing, and therefore supports sustainable housing and supporting infrastructure (Objective 14).

Cumulative

This Policy has strong connections to the housing and built environment policies, in addition to being driven by the aims of the climate change policies.

SA recommendations

The Policy focuses on residential developments, which is the largest source of emissions in Medway. It is recommended that the scope of the Policy is broadened to focus on other sources, such as industry, power, agriculture and transport to be in line with the Climate Change Act (2008) and the government’s new Clean Growth Strategy.

The Policy does not address the carbon sequestration potential of ecosystems, particularly marshes, and could capitalise on the protection and enhancement of ecosystems, to directly benefit Objectives 5 and 6.

The Policy could focus on improving resilience against the effects of climate change to further encourage a low carbon economy by referencing circular economy principles, encouraging good design developments beyond residential housing and improving water management. For residential properties, reference could be made to ensuring thermal comfort in extreme weather events to ensure that developments are not only low carbon but also resilient to future climates.

6.9.12.3 HRA Implications

There are no specific implications for the HRA.

6.9.12.4 Summary

Table 116: Summary of Low carbon development

SEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Short Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+
Long Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	+
Direct (D) / Indirect (I)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	N/A	N/A	I	N/A	N/A	I
Temporary (T) / Permanent (P)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	N/A	N/A	T	N/A	N/A	T
Local (L) / Kent (K) / South East (SE)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE	L	N/A	N/A	L	N/A	N/A	L



## 7 Summary

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This report summarises the interim SA of the development scenario options and draft policies of the emerging MLP, which are to be consulted on under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012. The SA undertaken at this stage has built upon previous SA work completed by Medway Council during earlier Regulation 18 consultations. This iteration of SA demonstrates a progressive evolution of the appraisal process, and incorporates a refined SA framework based on previous consultation responses, updated baseline information and a revised context review.

The appraisal has objectively reviewed the development scenarios and emerging draft policies and has provided an indication of the nature of effects (including timeframes, the polarity associated with achieving sustainability objectives and the geographical extent of effects). Based on the nature of these effects, measures have been proposed that can be considered by Medway Council as part of the ongoing policy development process, which could help mitigate adverse effects and enhance positive outcomes.

The findings of this interim SA will therefore form an active part of the decision making process moving forward. Medway Council will, where appropriate, consider the content of the interim SA in defining later iterations of the emerging MLP, including the drafting of preferred options for consultation under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012.