



Canterbury District Local Plan

Preferred Option Consultation Draft June 2013

Local
PeoplePlacesProsperity

Foreword

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Local Plan Foreword

Why have a Local Plan?

The City Council has a legal duty to produce a Local Plan, but also the Council wants to ...

- set out its vision for the area, up to 2031
- provide certainty for local people, developers and others about planning decisions for the area

What are we trying to achieve?

Over the next 20 years, the Local Plan is aiming to

- Create well-designed new communities, with good access to jobs and services
- Make sure there is enough housing, and different types of housing, for local people and support new job creation
- Protect sensitive landscape and wildlife areas, and other key environmental assets such as the World Heritage Site, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Conservation Areas
- Make certain that new infrastructure, such as transport, schools, health facilities and so on are provided in parallel with development
- Protect and strengthen town and village centres
- Support the growth of the Universities and Colleges
- Support development of new and improved cultural and leisure facilities

The council has gathered a lot of evidence which indicates that there is a need to grow and broaden the economy and provide housing to meet local needs and to support the local economy.

It has shared this evidence with local people (through public opinion research) local business, and environment and voluntary groups. Public opinion research indicates that a large number of local people support this view and believe new housing and business development is needed, but they are also understandably concerned about transport issues, local services and loss of greenfield land.

The Council is keen to produce a plan supporting the community's needs and now wishes to consult on these proposals.

What happens next?

This consultation lasts 10 weeks, from Thursday 20th June to Friday 30th August 2013. The draft Plan can be viewed on-line at localplan@canterbury.gov.uk and in local council offices and libraries during normal opening hours. You can make comments on-line or by e-mail to planningpolicy@canterbury.gov.uk, or by letter to the Council Offices in Canterbury.

The Council will then consider the comments made by individuals and organisations, and will prepare a final draft Plan. This will be considered by an independent Inspector, appointed by the Government at a public inquiry.

People will be able to make further comments at that stage and may also be invited by the Inspector to attend the public hearings.

Who makes the final decision about the Plan?

The Inspector will make a recommendation about whether the Plan is “sound” (ie whether it stands up to scrutiny against government planning policies) or not. The Council will need to consider the Inspector’s report on the Plan. It is the decision of the Council to finally adopt the Plan, but it can only do so if the Inspector finds it “sound”. It’s this last stage which is so important to us all now. We need a plan which goes through the evidence and shows we have considered the important issues and the government’s policies and prepared a strategy to stand up to this scrutiny.

Chapter 1: Strategy

Vision & Strategy

The Council's vision for the district is that *"through focused, well-planned and environmentally sustainable growth, by 2030 the Canterbury District will be defined by a dynamic strong economy and distinctive cultural and visitor experience from which our communities will prosper. As a council we will provide leadership for our community and shape our district through working in partnership to deliver our vision. We are ambitious and will do the best for our people and will be prepared to take the difficult decisions which may be needed when choices have to be made. We will support the growth needed to deliver our ambition of having a strong dynamic economy and a skilled well-paid workforce supported by the quality of life and housing of the appropriate scale and quality."*

Plan Objectives

- To strengthen and broaden the local economy
- To provide sufficient housing to meet local housing need and support economic growth
- To protect the built and natural environment
- To develop sustainable communities, and seek to ensure that adequate community facilities are provided

Futures Work & Review

- 1.1 In 2006-7, the Council commissioned work on a Futures study for the District. Working with key local and statutory stakeholders and Experian Business Strategies/Future Foundation, the work identified a number of realistic future scenarios that could face the District.
- 1.2 The Futures study proposed 5 alternatives scenarios for the future based on interventions that the Council, together with its partners, could make. From these 5 scenarios, and based on a range of evidence, local knowledge and consultations, stakeholders favoured 3 preferred outcomes: developing the experience economy, knowledge economy and green economy.
- 1.3 The key outcome of the Futures work was that the best strategy for the District to pursue would be to work to the area's strengths by reinforcing the "Canterbury experience" (the visitor economy and a strong mix of retail, leisure, culture and heritage), and to make the best use of the area's existing resources, such as the

strong education base, by supporting and encouraging the development of the knowledge economy. This twin-track approach would be underpinned by a strong commitment to high environmental standards and supporting local goods and services.

- 1.4** In 2011, taking into account changing economic circumstances, the Council asked Experian to review the findings of the original study, to seek to ensure that the assumptions and conclusions remained valid. Experian confirmed that the scenarios were still valid, and that the preferred scenario was still achievable, although in the short term, circumstances would be more difficult.
- 1.5** The strategic vision set out as the basis for the Local Plan has been developed from these three outcomes. The vision recognises that there needs to be more sustained effort to create a higher-value local economy with high-paid jobs by improving the District's retail and cultural experience and building more business service activities. Green and sustainable principles must underpin this development to ensure the protection of the District's environment, which is in fact a key asset in attracting higher value jobs and higher spending visitors.
- 1.6** To help to realise the strategic vision, the draft Local Plan needs to make available appropriate land for necessary development and create the right conditions in terms of:
- Conditions for business – to start up, attract and retain new businesses;
 - Conditions for visitors – to encourage them to visit, to stay and to spend;
 - Conditions for residents – to improve quality of life whilst retaining our heritage and natural assets.

An overview of recent Local Plan policy development

- 1.7** Since the Core Strategy Options Report was published for consultation in 2010, the Council has been seeking to move its planning strategy forward.
- 1.8** The revocation of the Regional Strategies (including the South East Plan) and the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), have significantly changed the national policy context for the preparation of Core Strategies and Local Plans.
- 1.9** The Core Strategy Options Report contained a range of objectives to reflect Government guidance at the time, the Council's previous Corporate Plan, and the outcomes of the Futures work. While the Corporate Plan has been reviewed (see below), and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduced, the outcomes from the Futures work are still fundamental to the overall Local Plan strategy, so many of those objectives established at that time remain generally valid as part of the context for this draft Local Plan. They address a range of issues

related to the preferred scenarios from the Futures Study and the need for foster sustainable communities. Indeed, many of them are reflected in pledges and actions in the Council's new Corporate Plan, and this demonstrates the continuity in the evolution of the development plan despite changing circumstances.

- 1.10** In order to respond to the changing national policy context, the Council has undertaken a number of studies to better understand the implications of different levels of development for the district, and in particular in relation to the NPPF and the outcomes from the Futures work. It has also sought the views of local people on development issues in general, and the potential future development options for the district. The outcomes from the Corporate Plan development, the Development Requirements Study and the Public Opinion Research are set out in more detail below.

Corporate Plan

- 1.11** The new Corporate Plan was adopted in September 2011. Developing from the vision for the district set out above, the Corporate Plan sets out a number of Council pledges relevant to the Local Plan:

- support the growth of our economy and the number of people in work
- plan for the right type and number of homes in the right place to create sustainable communities in the future
- support improvements to tackle traffic congestion
- tackle disadvantage within our District
- make our district cleaner and greener and lead by example on environmental issues;and
- support excellent and diverse cultural facilities; facilities and activities for children and young people; and a broad range of sporting and fitness facilities

These pledges were broadly supported by a wide range of local stakeholder groups.

Key Actions from the Corporate Plan

- 1.12** Some of the key actions in the Corporate Plan relate directly to the strategic direction of this Local Plan. These actions include:
- Preparing and delivering a new Local Plan that strengthens and diversifies our economy in our city, towns and villages;

- Making best use of existing land and identifying new opportunities to enable existing businesses to stay and expand and for new businesses to locate to the area;
- Supporting higher and further education organisations to achieve their ambitions and to create jobs for new graduates and others in the local community;
- Through the Council's plans, encouraging and influencing the growth of the economy, especially in the knowledge-based sector;
- Encouraging the building of the right number and type of homes in the right place to support job growth;
- Ensuring the new Local Plan allocates enough land for enough homes to meet the needs of our sustainable communities in the future;
- Ensuring new building development occurs in the right places to support broader travel options and promoting alternatives to reduce traffic across the district; and
- Ensuring that our plans and activities give sufficient protection to heritage sites and the built and natural environment.

Development Requirements Study

- 1.13** In 2011, a Development Requirements Study was undertaken by Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners (NLP)⁽¹⁾ in partnership with Canterbury City Council, with input from Kent County Council's demography and economic forecasting teams. This considered a number of realistic development scenarios based on different social and economic factors, and also considered the effect of environmental and infrastructure constraints.
- 1.14** The main conclusion of the NLP report was that a significant level of housing would be required to support an increase local labour supply and encourage new job creation and the development of new and innovative industries. Crucially, the Report concluded that adhering to the South East Plan housing figures would likely lead to virtually no net increase in jobs over the Local Plan period.

1 Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners "Canterbury Development Requirements Study" Final Report February 2012

- 1.15** A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the scenarios in the NLP report was carried out by AMEC⁽²⁾ (formerly Entec). This concluded that Scenario E (ie. the Futures “preferred option”) offers “the greatest potential to achieve the appropriate balance (to optimise growth and minimise detrimental environmental effects)”.
- 1.16** However, the SA also states that careful consideration should be given to the proposed location of new development to avoid close proximity to (and adverse effects on) sensitive sites (such as SSSIs or heritage designations) and to take opportunities to maximise innovative design to decrease land-take and resource use of residents to mitigate any potentially significantly negative impacts.

Public Opinion Research

- 1.17** In 2011, public opinion research was carried out in the district by Ipsos MORI⁽³⁾ seeking to understand the opinions of a representative sample of 900 local people in relation to planning and development related issues.
- 1.18** This work demonstrates that there is a significant level of public support for the scale of development set out in this draft Local Plan. There was an expressed desire that higher levels of development should deliver tangible benefits to local people in terms of affordable housing and economic benefits, and providing the opportunity for young people and families to remain in their local area. The majority of respondents also believed that more needed to be done to support local business. The research indicated support for development at Canterbury, Herne Bay and the larger, better-served, villages, but less support for development at Whitstable and the smaller villages.
- 1.19** However, public support for development is conditional. Local people expressed concerns about the loss of greenfield land, traffic congestion and the impact on public services. It is important that the Local Plan, and other public policy interventions, seek to address these issues where possible.

2 AMEC Environment & Infrastructure “Sustainability Appraisal of Development Scenarios” Technical Note February 2012

3 Ipsos MORI “Public Opinion Research into Future Development in Canterbury District” February 2012

Member & stakeholders workshops

- 1.20** To test the NLP, Amec & MORI findings further, the Council held two workshops, one for all Council members, and another for a wide range of local stakeholders, neighbouring Councils and other statutory bodies.
- 1.21** In both cases, there was strong support for the conclusions of the studies, and support for a level of development higher than that originally envisaged in the South East Plan.

Links to “Community Strategy” & Partner Strategies

- 1.22** The Council recognises that the achievement of this set of ambitions for the District does not lie solely with the planning system, or indeed only with the Council. The Council recognises the importance of working with partner organisations in the area and for there to be consistency between the policies and strategies of different organisations.
- 1.23** The Council’s Corporate Plan has been strongly supported by both local people and local partner organisations. The Council is now working closely with local partners (through the Canterbury Partnership, which acts as an umbrella group for various local partnerships) to seek to achieve the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan, combining the different resources, skills and powers of those organisations.

Duty to co-operate

- 1.24** There has been a history of co-operation between the East Kent authorities on planning policy and strategy over many years, and which continues today. This also reflected in joint working in East Kent on other issues and “shared services” arrangements.
- 1.25** For example, through the South East Plan process, the East Kent authorities (Canterbury, Thanet, Dover, Ashford, Shepway and Swale) co-operated on the preparation of a Sub-Regional Strategy to recognise the complementary roles of the different districts. This was followed by the preparation of a Sustainable Community Strategy for East Kent.
- 1.26** More recently, a Regeneration Board for East Kent has been established, whose role is in part to encourage co-operation on planning and related issues, and is currently investigating the development and use of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

- 1.27** There are a number of sub-regional/regional initiatives in which the Council is engaged. These include:
- **‘Open for Growth: The East Kent Growth Plan’**
- 1.28** Prepared by the East Kent Regeneration Board (2012) this document sets out Canterbury and east Kent’s priorities for investment and updates the economic growth elements of the East Kent Local Investment Plan prepared in conjunction with the Homes and Communities Agency in 2010. This economically-focused, high-level strategic plan for East Kent supersedes the Local Investment Plan as the primary sub-regional statement of future investment priorities. It also includes Ashford with the rest of East Kent, thereby reflecting Ashford’s planned growth and role in relation to the rest of East Kent.
- **Expansion East Kent (ExEK)**
- 1.29** This £40 million initiative is available to start-ups and businesses within the four local authority districts that make-up east Kent (including Canterbury) and new inward investors seeking to make an investment in the area following a successful Regional Growth Fund application to the Government. Led by Kent County Council and its partners £35 million has been set aside for the ExEK business assistance programme between 2012 and 2017.
- **Grow For It - East Kent Marketing Campaign**
- 1.30** Complementing ExEK this Kent County Council funded project seeks to enhance current perceptions of east Kent as a place to do business and promote the area as an inward investment opportunity. This would comprise a marketing and PR campaign directed at the creative / digital, biotech / life sciences, green technology and tourism industries involving business leaders, partners, the media and local decision makers.
- **South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP)**
- 1.31** This new partnership comprises Kent, Medway, East Sussex and Greater Essex bringing together leaders from business, local government, further and higher education in order to support the area’s economy. To date it has helped secure two Enterprise Zones – including one at Discovery Park in neighbouring Dover district - and has released £50 million Growing Places Funding with a full pipeline of some £40 million of further schemes also identified.

- 1.32** The Council also works closely with Kent County Council on a range of issues, both at an officer level, and through the Locality Board set up for the district. Neighbouring Councils have also been participants over the last few years in different aspects of the development of the Council's vision and strategy for the area; in particular, the Futures work and the development of the Corporate Plan. The Council has prepared a separate record of cooperation on Local Plan and other matters.
- 1.33** The Council has also sought to engage early with other statutory bodies, such as utilities providers and Government advisory bodies, such as Natural England.

Links to other Council Strategies

- 1.34** The Local Plan also draws together several strands of Council policy. The key strategies linked to the Local Plan are set out below. This is not to say that the Local Plan can deliver all of the objectives of these strategies in isolation. However, it can help to deliver key development-related objectives within these strategies.

Housing Strategy

- 1.35** The Council's Housing Strategy was adopted in 2012. The Strategy seeks to meet the housing needs of local people, and to support the economic aspirations of the area. The key areas identified by the Housing Strategy that need to be considered, and which can in part be addressed by the planning system are:
- A variety of new housing is necessary to support the growth and diversification of the local economy. It must be part of an integrated package, to provide housing for key workers and to assist in the retention of graduates. In particular, more small and medium-sized family housing is required;
 - More additional affordable housing to meet local needs, and to increase the number of affordable homes delivered via planning obligations;
 - A specific need for rented homes at rents that local people can afford, particularly in the light of changes to the Housing Benefit system;
 - A need for more low-cost market and shared ownership housing. Increasing the amount of purpose-built student accommodation is vital to reduce the pressures on the housing market and release family-sized homes for occupation by families;
 - Seeking to ensure that appropriate housing is made available for vulnerable people;
 - Making better use of the existing housing stock; for example, dealing with under-occupation and empty homes; and
 - Identifying potential traveller sites, or providing appropriate advice on suitable locations for such sites

Local Economic Policy and new District Economic Strategy

- 1.36** The Council's Local Economy Policy acknowledges the challenges to the district's economy and seeks to tackle the issues identified in both Futures Study and emerging Development Plan. This Policy is one of a suite of three policies (also including Visitor Economy and Culture) that form the basis of the work to be carried out by the Council's Culture and Enterprise Service up to 2016.
- 1.37** The purpose of the LE Policy is to inform and complement the emerging local development plan by setting out a range of accompanying non-planning economy interventions. In this way the Council will provide the local institutional capacity required to support this agenda, to ensure it is connected with economic development and to bring in other partners and players to realise these objectives. The Policy commits the Culture and Enterprise Service to five key ambitions which identify where it sees its role in the local economy consisting of:
- i. Providing strategy and leadership;
 - ii. Making positive interventions that seek to improve economic outcomes;
 - iii. Attracting and leveraging investment that enable interventions to take place;
 - iv. Enabling the district's businesses to grow and flourish;
 - v. Providing a range of economic related support, advice and guidance.
- 1.38** In addition the Council is also preparing an economic strategy for the district which will seek to complement the new Local Plan with non-spatial planning related economic development and other interventions. The primary focus for this strategy period will be adaption to new macro economic circumstances and a move towards greater resilience by rebalancing the local economy in developing a range of private sector industries. These might include initiatives to promote and assist graduate retention, support new enterprise, enhance business productivity and competitiveness, foster greater levels of exporting from local firms and increase employment opportunities by improving business access to finance for growth.

District Transport Strategy

- 1.39** The District Transport Strategy is currently being prepared. The emerging priorities for the Strategy are to improve access to services, goods and opportunities and tackle the negative impacts of traffic by promoting sustainable modes of transport, achieving reliable vehicle journey times and supporting sustainable development.
- 1.40** Congestion and delays are the main source of problems and frustration for travellers. The best way to achieve reliable journey times, while maintaining and improving access and avoiding traffic build up, is to shift to more efficient ways of travelling that take up less road space. The way of doing this is to promote

alternative forms of travel such as walking and cycling for short journeys and bus and rail use for longer journeys. This approach looks to achieve a rebalancing of the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes and bring about an improvement in public transport, park and ride, walking and cycling while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- 1.41** Both the City Council and County Council will work together through the planning process to facilitate the use of sustainable transport by:
- looking to locate development near existing transport hubs
 - requiring facilities for walking, cycling and public transport and
 - ensuring mixed-use developments where housing and employment are located in close proximity to encourage shorter commuting journeys.

Environment Strategy

- 1.42** The Council's Environment Strategy was adopted in July 2009. It addresses a range of environmental issues in the district including pollution; travel and transport; energy conservation; the natural and built environment and climate change. This is currently being reviewed for the period 2012-16.
- 1.43** We have considered the outcomes from public consultation and research, for example our 2012 Residents Survey, and the results of reports we have had commissioned together with public consultation that are helping us to develop this new Local Plan. We will carry out a public consultation on the draft Environment Strategy, and the results from the consultation will help us to finalise our plans to 2016.
- 1.44** The Environment Strategy is being prepared to take account of other major strategies and policies, such as our new 2012-16 Corporate Plan, and the Kent Environment Strategy. It also considers relevant legislation and guidance.

Open Space Strategy

- 1.45** The Council's Open Space Strategy sets out a way forward to enhance open space for future generations. It includes an assessment of access, quantity, quality and value and a programme or priorities of projects for each typology has been agreed. Some are enhancements and some new areas to fill identified gaps in provision. The priority lists will be the focus for resources of time, funding and partnership working. This strategy is currently being reviewed and will be updated in line with the adoption of the Local Plan.

- 1.46** The Council’s vision for open spaces is to “develop an interconnected network of diverse, high quality open spaces and green infrastructure which meets the needs of local people and make a significant contribution to raising the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Canterbury District”.
- 1.47** Open space provides for a wide range of formal and informal, passive and active leisure, sport, recreational and play activity. High quality, well designed and managed open space makes a valuable contribution to quality of life.
- 1.48** The City Council’s objective is to improve the distribution, accessibility, quality and connectivity of open space. This is seen as a key component to raising the quality of life of the districts residents and visitors. A significant level of open space is proposed to be delivered as part of the new strategic sites set out in this Plan.

Local definition of “Sustainable Development”

- 1.49** The NPPF expresses three aspects of sustainable development:
- **an economic role** – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
 - **a social role** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
 - **an environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.
- 1.50** Within the context set by the NPPF, the Council considers that the following are key elements in a local definition of sustainable development:
- supporting the growth and diversification of the local economy;
 - meeting the housing needs of local people, and ensuring that there is sufficient housing to support economic growth and diversification in the area;
 - protecting the best of the district’s heritage and landscape;

- seek to reduce the risk of flooding to new development; and
- protecting national and international wildlife sites from inappropriate development.

- 1.51** There is a difficult balance to be drawn between these factors, and it will be necessary to prioritise them on occasion. The Council considers that the policies and proposals set out in this Plan represent a comprehensive and positive planning response in seeking to aid the achievement of sustainable development and economic growth in the local area. It addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues based on robust and up-to-date evidence.
- 1.52** However, it is impractical to expect Local Plans to anticipate all possible future circumstances, and the Council recognises that some proposals may come forward which are broadly consistent with the overall strategy, but for which no specific provision has been made. Policy SP1 is largely based on the Planning Inspectorate model policy to provide a presumption in favour of “sustainable development”.
- 1.53** The Council will always work proactively with applicants to find solutions, which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves economic, social and environmental conditions in the area. The Council encourages developers and applicants to work with them on new proposals through its pre-application advice process. Where the proposals are in accordance with the provisions of this Plan, the Council will seek to approve them without undue delay, unless other material considerations indicate otherwise.

Policy SP1

When considering development proposals the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the national planning policy framework.

Planning applications that accord with the policies in this local plan (and, where relevant, with policies in neighbourhood plans) will be approved, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Where the Council considers that a proposal would directly undermine the strategy for sustainable development set out in this plan, such proposals will not be approved.

Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise, taking into account whether:

- **Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the national planning policy framework taken as a whole; or**
- **Specific policies in that framework indicate that development should be restricted; or**
- **The proposals are acceptable in the light of any appropriate assessment required under the Habitats Directive.**

Scale of new development

- 1.54** To implement the Council's vision for the area, there will need to be a significant increase above the historic level of development in the area, both housing and employment space. There will also need to be a significant additional provision of open space of various types, proportionate to the level of other new development. This is addressed in more detail in the individual site proposals and the Green Infrastructure Strategy. The total level of development and open space provision over the Plan period, and interim targets, are set out below.
- 1.55** The Housing Chapter sets out in more detail the background to the housing requirements, the calculation of the residual requirement and other factors. The base date for the calculations in the draft Plan is 1st April 2011. The Economic

Development Chapter provides the background information of the need for employment space, and this is supplemented by the recent Employment Land Review.

Policy SP2

Land is allocated to meet the identified development requirements and guidelines, as set out below.

Development type	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	Total (2011-31)
Housing (units)*	3,000	4,200	4,200	4,200	15,600
Employment land (B1, B2 and B8) (sqm)	25,000	25,000	23,775	23,000	96,775
Other employment uses	To be provided as part of identified employment sites				
Retail provision	Area	Convenience		Comparison	
	Canterbury **	0 sqm		50,000 sqm	
	Herne Bay ***	0 sqm		0 sqm	
	Whitstable			3,250 sqm	

*The mix of housing types and tenures will be expected to meet the proportions set out in the Council's Housing Strategy

**After completion of outstanding permissions

***On completion on Central Development Area

Strategic Site Allocations

- 1.56** This policy identifies the key development sites, to be brought forward in the Local Plan period to 2031. That the parameters set out in this Policy are the primary objectives for these sites. However, there are other considerations to be taken into account, either in other policies set out in this Plan, or in other supplementary guidance provided by the Council.
- 1.57** Draft illustrative layout plans for each of the strategic sites (except site 6) can be seen at Appendix 1.

Policy SP3

Development will be permitted at strategic sites in the district, subject to the provision of the listed infrastructure, as set out below:

SITE 1	DEVELOPMENT	AMOUNT/TYPE
South Canterbury	Housing	4,000 dwellings
	Employment floorspace	70,000 sqm
	Retail	Local centre shopping facilities only
	Other	Local community “hub”; primary school; doctor’s surgery; extended park & ride; combined heat & power facility; 30ha of new public open space, including allotments; 20ha new woodland planting
	Infrastructure	New junction onto the a2 and modifications to the existing junction arrangement; new fast bus link from the site to Canterbury city centre;

SITE 2	DEVELOPMENT	AMOUNT/TYPE
Land at Sturry/ Broad Oak	Housing	1,000 dwellings
	Employment floorspace	Business floorspace to meet the needs of local business/office space
	Retail	Local centre shopping facilities only
	Other	Community facilities to be determined in conjunction with parish council; protection and management of all remaining ancient woodland; provision of new open space; public gardens; parkland and playing fields
	Infrastructure	New Sturry crossing bridge; closure/ partial closure of existing crossings at Broad Oak and Sturry; closure of existing rail foot crossings; provision of new car park for Sturry station.

SITE 3	DEVELOPMENT	AMOUNT/TYPE
Hillborough site, Herne Bay	Housing	1000 dwellings
	Employment floorspace	33,000sqm (Altira Park, extended)
	Retail	Local centre scale shopping only
	Other	Doctor's surgery; community facilities
	Infrastructure	New link to Thanet Way via Altira Park and limited access to Sweechbridge road; provision of new west-facing on-slip to Thanet Way at the Heart-in-Hand junction; measures to discourage additional traffic using Heart-in-Hand road; proportionate contribution (to be agreed) towards the provision of Herne relief route and new Sturry Crossing.

SITE 4	DEVELOPMENT	AMOUNT/TYPE
Herne Bay golf club	Housing	400 dwellings
	Employment floorspace	1ha of mixed commercial uses
	Retail	Local centre scale shopping only
	Other	8ha of sports & leisure facilities, including cricket, football, hockey, tennis and open space; 1.25ha set-aside for Herne Bay High School; doctor's surgery; care home
	Infrastructure	Proportionate contribution (to be agreed) towards the provision of Herne relief route and new Sturry Crossing; new footpath/cycle path to be provided in conjunction with site 5.

SITE 5	DEVELOPMENT	AMOUNT/TYPE
Strode farm, Herne Bay	Housing	800 dwellings
	Employment floorspace	15,000sqm
	Retail	Local centre shopping provision only
	Other	Community facilities, including new parish hall and local needs housing
	Infrastructure	Provision of new relief route for Herne, as indicated on the proposals map; proportionate contribution (to be agreed) towards the provision of new Sturry Crossing; new footpath/cycle path to be provided in conjunction with site 4.

SITE 6	DEVELOPMENT	AMOUNT/TYPE
Land at Greenhill, Herne Bay	Housing	600 dwellings
	Other	Community facilities to be determined; recreation & leisure facilities, new allotment provision
	Infrastructure	Proportionate contribution (to be agreed) towards the provision of new relief route for Herne and new Sturry Crossing.

Site 7	Development	Amount/type
Thanet Way site, Whitstable	Housing	400 dwellings
	Other	Extension of Duncan Down country park; additional public open space, including allotments.

SITE 8	DEVELOPMENT	AMOUNT/TYPE
Land North of Hersden	Housing	800 dwellings
	Employment floorspace	1 ha new business space for local business
	Other	New community building; play areas and allotments; multi-use games area
	Infrastructure	Proportionate contribution (to be agreed) towards the provision of new Sturry Crossing; improved footpath/ cyclepath links to existing network

Detailed development briefs shall be prepared for these sites prior to the granting of planning permission, setting out the detailed requirements for the site; the anticipated phasing of development and physical and social infrastructure through the plan period; and design and other planning requirements for the site, reflecting “garden city” principles. Development proposals submitted for this site shall be in accordance with the total requirements of this policy and the development brief.

Development proposals shall include a schedule for delivery of the total requirements for the site, and shall include an appropriate mechanism to ensure delivery in a timely and co-ordinated manner. Development should also meet the requirements of other policies in this local plan; the provisions of any supplementary planning documents and any other relevant guidance prepared by the Council.

Development proposals for these sites that do not meet these criteria will not be permitted.

Other sites

- 1.58** In addition to the strategic sites identified in Policy SP3, the Council also believes that land to the south of the A28 at Hersden could be considered further, in the light of ongoing investigations as to its suitability as a development site under the Habitat Regulations requirements. The site is located in close proximity to an internationally recognised wildlife site – the Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve located within the Great Stour Valley.
- 1.59** The site does however have a potential role in a wider strategic setting, linked to transport infrastructure, namely the Sturry Crossing Relief Road (see paragraph 5.53). The crossing is to be funded by a combination of sites in Herne Bay and at Sturry/Broad Oak together with land north of Hersden. Development to the south of the A28 could contribute towards this cost, although current assessments show that the sites already proposed to be allocated will fund this crossing.
- 1.60** In assessing any potential development of this site a key issue will be how it is addressed with regard to the Habitat Directive and the Habitat Regulations. This will ensure that the impact on the nature reserve and its conservation objectives in particular, is properly addressed. The Council is investigating the potential of this site at this stage, to contribute to meeting wider transport objectives, with a view to seeking comments during this consultation.

- 1.61** There are also wider issues to address in terms of any role the site could play, particularly in terms of its relative merits to other housing sites and these will need to be assessed before a final conclusion is reached on the site's potential role, which could then be considered through the subsequent Submission stage of the Local Plan.
- 1.62** The Ministry of Defence has recently announced that Howe Barracks is regarded as surplus to requirements and that many elements of the site will be closing in the near future. The exact extent of the changes are yet to be finalised by the MoD however the City Council is mindful that this is an important area within Canterbury city and wishes to set out its approach for the area and the wider contributions it could make to the proper planning of the city.
- 1.63** Housing – The existing housing stock on site is assumed to remain for the accommodation of the families of troops based locally in the immediate future, but its longer term role has yet to be determined. There are approximately 260 units which, if released onto the open market, would contribute to the overall district housing supply.
- 1.64** Much of the remainder of the site is either a site of Special Scientific Interest or is understood to be retained by the MoD for training purposes; again the timescale has yet to be defined. However, even this land would appear to have some major conservation significance and therefore have limited development value. The Council considers that the main area potentially suitable for housing development is that which is currently within the 2006 Local Plan urban boundary. Within this area, land to the west (adjoining Kings Park and Querns Road) has Open Space value and provides for the setting of the city and should largely be retained in its open nature. Open Space areas are also currently protected immediately adjoining the Littlebourne Road and the council would expect a major element of this to be safeguarded in any future development.
- 1.65** Open space/habitat considerations – the City Council would wherever possible look to see the existing value of the area safeguarded and potentially enhanced. The removal of active training within a large area also offers the opportunity to link this with the existing Sturry Road Community Park, to provide a significant urban edge park for the city. This could go hand in hand with the enhancement of habitat management in the old park.
- 1.66** Transport - The MoD land also offers the opportunity to provide enhanced transport links.
1. Tourtel Road to Littlebourne Road link - the Council will safeguard a route for a link which will provide traffic relief in the Military Road area (see paragraph 5.54) and is shown on the Proposals Map.

2. Potential longer eastern bypass - the potential availability of land also provides an opportunity to consider long held aspirations of the community, to find a route for an eastern bypass around the city which would link from the A28 to the A2 (see paragraph 5.55). The City Council in conjunction with County Council as highway authority will assess the potential role of such a road. The scheme will need to be assessed in terms of national policy, in particular its impact on the wider transport strategy for the city. It would also need to be tested through transport modelling against alternative transport options and its impact on the acknowledged value of the Site of Special Scientific Interest. A detailed route has yet to be identified but an area is shown on the Proposals Map. The area to be investigated starts from the A28 at the Sturry Road Park & Ride (at the southern end of the Sturry Crossing Relief road) passing southwards, seeking to avoid the Sturry Road Community Park on the eastern edge of this park, exiting the MoD land onto the A257, adjacent to the BT depot and opposite the junction of Bekesbourne Lane. The area to be investigated would then pass southwards through St Martin's Caravan and Campsite, southwards crossing the railway line, then through the strategic development site at south Canterbury (Policy SP3) to join with the new junction onto the A2 (see indicative layout).

Strategic approach to the location of development

- 1.67** Development in addition to the sites identified in this Plan will be judged against the District settlement hierarchy. The Settlement Hierarchy Study (2011) identified the broad tiers of settlement in the District, based on the size of settlements and the range of services they possess. Canterbury District does not possess a large number of larger villages, but rather many settlements that are small in scale.
- 1.68** The Study recommends that there should continue to be a sequential approach to the allocation of land for development; that is, that new housing development should primarily be concentrated in the urban centres of the District, with new development in the rural settlements limited, proportionate to their scale and position in the settlement hierarchy. However, the Local Plan should also be sufficiently flexible to respond to identified local needs, where this is supported by the relevant Parish Council, or where appropriate, community forum.
- 1.69** Thus, in this Plan, the allocation of land for new development in the District seeks to make best use of previously developed land and buildings, where available, and to follow a sequential approach to the sustainable location of new development, subject to other planning factors. The distribution of new

development also broadly reflects the settlement hierarchy and the outcomes from the Ipsos MORI public opinion research, and is broadly commensurate with the role and function of settlements in the hierarchy.

- 1.70** It is important and appropriate that the distribution of new housing sites in rural settlements reflects such a settlement pattern, and that rural allocations made as part of the emerging Plan are generally small in scale, except in the rural service centre and local centres, where a higher level of development might be supported. Historically rural settlements have grown gradually over time and the Study concluded that such a pattern of organic small-scale growth remains appropriate for the majority of the rural settlements of Canterbury District.

Rural Settlement Hierarchy	
Rural service centre	Sturry
Local centres	Chartham (including Shalmsford Street) Bridge, Hersden, Blean, Littlebourne, and Barham
Villages	Adisham, Bekesbourne, Bossingham, Broad Oak, Hoath, Kingston, Petham, Rough Common, Tyler Hill, Upstreet, and Wickhambreaux
Hamlets	Chartham Hatch, Chislet, Bishopsbourne, Fordwich, Harbledown, Ickham, Lower Hardres, Patixbourne, Stodmarsh, Upper Harbledown, Upper Hardres, Waltham, Westbere, Womenswold, Woolage Green, and Woolage Village

- 1.71** In this context, infilling is generally defined as the completion of an otherwise substantially built up frontage by the filling of a narrow gap. However, infilling may not always be acceptable as open spaces between development can often make an important contribution to the character and setting of the village. Minor development needs to be considered in context with the size and character of the village it is planned for. For example, a proposed development of a vacant site with five to ten homes within a larger village might be considered acceptable minor development. Therefore, the scale, quality and location of appropriate minor development will be dependent on the individual characteristics of each village.
- 1.72** The City Council does not identify the built confines of villages by a line on the Proposals Map, as to do this would infer that any vacant plot within this boundary is suitable for development, which may not necessarily be the case as the openness could be part of the character of the village.

Policy SP4

The urban areas of Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable will continue to be the principal focus for development, with a particular focus at Canterbury, together with development at some of the rural service centres. Policy SP3 identifies the key sites for mixed-use development. Development at these sites will be subject to development briefs or masterplans, setting out the amounts and types of development and their phasing, along with any infrastructure requirements.

In addition to the development allocations set out in this plan:

- 1. In the urban areas, new housing development will be supported on suitable sites, where this would be acceptable in terms of environmental, transport and other planning factors, and would not result in the loss of sites identified for business and other specific uses;**
- 2. Small-scale provision of new housing that is of a design, scale, character and location appropriate to the character and built form of the service centres of Barham, Blean, Bridge, Chartham, Hersden, Littlebourne and Sturry will be supported provided that such proposals are not in conflict with other local plan policies relating to transport, environmental and flood zone protection and design, and those of the Kent Downs AONB management plan, where applicable;**
- 3. In the identified villages, priority will be given to protecting the rural character of the district and development will be restricted to minor development or infill, or that which is needed to meet an identified local need for affordable housing only;**
- 4. Development at the identified hamlets will be limited to only that which specifically meets an identified local need; and**
- 5. In the open countryside, development will normally be limited to that required for agriculture and forestry purposes (see Policy EMP13).**

District Transport Strategy

- 1.73** The Council adopted its current District Transport Action Plan in 2004. This is now under review, and a new District Transport Action Plan is expected to be adopted in 2013. This Plan will need to take account of the proposals and measures put forward in the DTAP.

Policy SP5

Existing Local Plan Policy Measures:

- a. **Controlling the level and environmental impact of vehicular traffic;**
- b. **Providing alternative modes of transport to the car by extending provision for pedestrians, cyclists and the use of public transport;**
- c. **Reducing cross-town traffic movements in the historic centre of Canterbury;**
- d. **Providing public car parks and controlling parking in response to the PARC Plan;**
- e. **Assessing development proposals in the light of transport demands and the scope for choice between transport modes; and**
- f. **Seeking the construction of new roads and/or junction improvements which are in line with the foregoing and which will improve environmental conditions and/or contribute towards the economic well-being of the District.**

Green Infrastructure Strategy

- 1.74** The South East Plan recognised the potential broader role of open space in mitigating the impact of growth on sites of international nature conservation importance. Green infrastructure, comprising networks of multi-functional green space in both rural and urban areas, plays an essential role in supporting ecological process and improving the health and well-being of individuals and societies. National and regional policy now advocates an approach at the local level that identifies, promotes and protects Green Infrastructure through the planning framework.
- 1.75** The Corporate Plan states (Pledge 6) that “we will make our district cleaner and greener and lead by example on environmental issues”. The NLP Report indicated that some 178 hectares of various forms of open space would be required to serve new development in the district, and this will need to be partly met through a Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 1.76** Green infrastructure is an all-encompassing term to describe both natural and man-made urban and rural green spaces. Natural England define green infrastructure as “a strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Green

Infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments and private gardens⁽⁴⁾. There is therefore a clear synergy with other areas within this Plan, and with other Council strategies, in particular, the Open Space Strategy.

1.77 There are a range of components that contribute to green infrastructure:

- parks, gardens and country parks
- natural and semi-natural urban and rural greenspaces
- green corridors - including river and canal banks, cycleways, and rights of way
- outdoor sports facilities
- amenity greenspace (e.g. in housing areas) – including informal recreation spaces, green spaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens
- provision for children and teenagers - including play areas and other more informal areas
- allotments, community gardens, and urban farms
- cemeteries and churchyards
- accessible countryside in urban fringe areas
- river corridors and other water features
- green roofs and walls

1.78 Green infrastructure provides many functions and may have multi-purposes including:

- creating a sense of place and opportunities for greater appreciation of valuable landscapes and cultural heritage
- increasing recreational opportunities, including access to and enjoyment of the countryside and supporting healthy living
- conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including the need to mitigate the potential impacts of new development
- improved water resource and flood management and sustainable design
- sustainable transport, education and crime reduction
- making a positive contribution to combating climate change through adaptation and mitigation of impacts
- production of food, fibre and fuel.

4 Land Use Consultants 'South East Green Infrastructure Framework - From Policy into Practice' June 2009

- 1.79** The City Council is working closely with neighbouring authorities in East and North Kent on comprehensive Green Infrastructure Strategies that can be translated into local strategies and projects for delivery either through new development schemes or by other means.
- 1.80** The Council will expect all the allocated strategic sites to include provision for new green infrastructure, and to meet the requirements of the Habitat Regulations for alternative open space to protect international wildlife sites. The NLP report indicates the preferred option for development would require the provision of some 178 ha of additional open space, and it is the intention to seek to deliver this through new development sites and the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Policy SP6

In parallel with this plan, the council will prepare a green infrastructure strategy, which will set out the overall objectives for future green infrastructure in the district.

In particular, the strategy should:

- 1. Provide measures to protect and enhance biodiversity and meet the requirements of the habitats regulations, and**
- 2. Create and or enhance linkages between natural areas and open spaces and areas of undesignated countryside, as appropriate;**
- 3. Take into account the provisions of the council's development contributions SPD in relation to open space, and the council's open space strategy; and**
- 4. Take into account the design, landscape and biodiversity recommendations in the council's draft landscape character & biodiversity appraisal SPD.**

Infrastructure Planning & Delivery

- 1.81** Alongside this Plan, the Council is developing an Infrastructure Plan, seeking to identify the key elements of infrastructure that would be required to support the level and distribution of development being proposed in this Plan. It is critical that the necessary infrastructure (whether physical or social) is delivered in a timely way, to ensure that the development programme is not delayed significantly. The Council will be establishing an implementation team to monitor and assist with the achievement of the Local Plan proposals.

- 1.82** Key elements of infrastructure include:
- Provision of fast bus links into Canterbury
 - Road improvements at Sturry and Herne
 - Additional Park & Ride provision to serve Canterbury
 - Completion of bus lanes in key areas
 - New/improved A2 junction at Bridge
 - New A2 off slip road at Wincheap, Canterbury
 - New utilities infrastructure
 - New schools/extensions to existing schools
 - New medical facilities
 - New employment floorspace
 - New green infrastructure
- 1.83** The Council is exploring a range of measures to ensure that development and related infrastructure is delivered in an integrated way, such as phasing controls, land ownership controls and trigger points, and the Council will consider using its own powers to assist in the delivery of development within the Plan period, where specific obstacles arise.
- 1.84** The Council will also consider a range of non-planning interventions that it, and other partners, might employ to deliver the strategic vision set out in this Local Plan. The Council recognises that many other inputs are needed beyond the planning system itself to deliver a successful strategy, and the Council is working closely with key partners, such as Kent County Council, to seek to achieve this.
- 1.85** The Council is considering how it can best apply the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and s106 agreements, or other similar mechanisms. Much depends on the level and distribution of development as to what the most effective balance should be between the two funding streams.
- 1.86** Based on the research undertaken so far, the Council is proposing to use s106 Agreements, bonds and other mechanisms to deliver key infrastructure on strategic development sites. It is envisaged that the infrastructure, affordable housing and other requirements on larger sites will be significant, so the Council is considering whether a "nil CIL" should be applied to those sites. On smaller allocated sites, or non-allocated sites that come forward as "windfalls", CIL would then be used to fund other projects which are considered important to the implementation of the wider planning strategy, such as traffic management improvements and open space provision.

- 1.87** At submission stage, the Council will set out a detailed scheme of implementation, identifying key infrastructure and how it is intended that that should be delivered in a timely way to support new development. Development Briefs will be prepared which will include detailed infrastructure delivery proposals.

Policy SP7

The City Council will prepare an implementation plan for the allocations set out in the plan, and will also set out its proposals for the use of s106 agreements and similar mechanisms, and community infrastructure levy.

The implementation plan will identify the scope of infrastructure to be provided; the phasing of such infrastructure linked to development; and the mechanisms by which the council considers that the infrastructure would be best delivered.

Plan Monitoring & Review

- 1.88** The Council will establish a full monitoring programme and will identify key areas for future monitoring, to seek to ensure that the overall Plan strategy is being delivered. It will also establish monitoring targets. Monitoring is likely to include the following:
- a particular focus on the long-term objective to strengthen and diversify the local economy;
 - the delivery of housing (including affordable housing), employment and retail floorspace;
 - the delivery of key physical and social infrastructure;
 - environmental standards and design quality in new development; and
 - condition of environmental resources.
- 1.89** The Council will undertake monitoring on an annual basis, and the results of this monitoring will be reported via an Annual Monitoring Report.
- 1.90** It is the intention to undertake a review of the Local Plan every 4-5 years as a matter of course. The Council will also use the monitoring programme to identify whether there are areas where the Local Plan strategy is not being delivered, and needs more immediate review. However, the Council recognises that it is embarking on what will inevitably be a long-term strategy, and it will not undertake short-term formal reviews of the Plan unless it is clear from its monitoring that key elements of the Strategy are not being delivered. The formal proposals for monitoring and review will be provided at submission stage.

Chapter 2: Housing Development

Housing Development

- 2.1** The Corporate Plan sets out the following pledge to meet the housing requirement up to 2031.

Pledge 8 – we will plan for the right type and number of homes in the right place to create sustainable communities in the future

- 2.2** The 2010 Residents' Survey identified that affordable, decent housing was one of the top five quality of life issues that needed improving. It is a particular concern for young families and those wanting to set up home for the first time. One of the objectives of the Core Strategy Options Report (2010) was for new housing to match the housing market need profile of the area, and to include provision of affordable housing at levels consistent with viability and to also reflect the types and sizes of affordable housing required.
- 2.3** Canterbury District has the second largest population of all the districts in Kent with a population of 151,145 (Census 2011). The District has a young population with approximately 20% (29,531 Census 2011) aged between 15 and 24, reflecting Canterbury's large student population. This is due largely to Canterbury being a centre for further and higher education with the presence of four Universities.
- 2.4** In contrast the coastal towns of Herne Bay and Whitstable together with the rural area have a high proportion of older residents. The number of older people is expected to increase particularly those over the age of 85.
- 2.5** All of these demographic characteristics place often competing demands on the housing market. These are set out in detail in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2009) and the Housing Strategy (2012).

The District's Housing Market

- 2.6** In 2009 Canterbury City Council commissioned a Strategic Housing Market Assessment jointly with the other East Kent Districts for Thanet, Dover, Shepway and Swale. The SHMA identified four distinct housing market areas for the District (Greater Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay and East Kent Rural North) and indicated that house prices were highest in Greater Canterbury and Whitstable.
- 2.7** In November 2012 the average house price for the District was £237,741 (Source: Hometrack January 2013) compared to £230,700 in 2011 and £223,000 in 2007. Property prices are on average £45,000 higher than neighbouring districts. These figures should be treated with some caution as the lower number of transactions in the last few years may distort the figures. The higher house prices are due to

Canterbury acting as a major economic centre within East Kent and as a major tourist destination. It therefore attracts high travel to work patterns from within the District itself as well as from neighbouring East Kent Districts. However, the average earnings in the District are similar to the surrounding Districts. Local house price-to-earnings ratios show that single-earner households and people on low incomes cannot afford to buy a home with 52% of first-time buyers being priced out of the market. This illustrates how unaffordable the market housing has become for many local people.

- 2.8** The highest average house price (based on sales) in the District is £265,688 (November 2012) and can be found in the rural area. Whitstable has the second average highest house price of £256,018 in November 2012 and is quite distinct from the neighbouring coastal town of Herne Bay. The town attracts purchasers of second homes, many of whom are based in London, and features in national newspapers in recent years have had an impact on house prices and affordability whilst helping at the same time to maintain a relatively buoyant local economy. In comparison Herne Bay has a lower average house price in 2012 of £199,636. The lower average prices of larger detached and semi-detached properties suggest the existence of a distinct housing market. In comparison the City of Canterbury's average house price for November 2012 was £228,818 which is lower than the rural area and Whitstable. This could be explained by the recent proliferation of developments containing a high proportion of flats, particularly for the buy to let market.
- 2.9** Affordability is also seen as an issue in the rural areas with many local people unable to afford to buy a house locally due to high average prices and competition from second homes. Younger families in lower-paid occupations have to move elsewhere because they cannot afford to remain in the villages. The SHMA recommended that policies for the creation of affordable homes in smaller villages to meet local housing needs are required, including the use of the 'exception sites' policy i.e. low cost housing on land that would not otherwise be released.

The Canterbury District Housing Strategy

- 2.10** The Council's Housing strategy was adopted in 2012. The Corporate Plan pledge to "plan for the right number of homes in the right place to create sustainable communities in the future" is its core vision. The Housing Strategy is based on extensive evidence and the views of our local communities.
- 2.11** Canterbury District is a lively and successful economic centre, yet the evidence of housing need is compelling. Affordable, decent housing is one of the top five issues for local residents, particularly those under 40 years of age.

- 2.12** The changing structure of the District's population, with high and increasing numbers of both young and old people, is distorting local housing markets. The City Council wants to release under-occupied family-sized homes by providing attractive accommodation that will tempt older people to downsize, while enabling them to lead independent, fulfilling lives.
- 2.13** The high number of young people reflects the City's reputation as a centre for education. This has many positive effects such as jobs, prosperity and a vibrant cultural life. However, concentrations of students affect communities and affect the housing market. Many family-sized homes now provide shared student houses. Competition for accommodation from students contributes to high housing costs. Economic vitality masks deprivation and low incomes and combined, these factors make it difficult for many local people, particularly families with children, to find suitable homes that they can afford to rent or buy. Increasing the amount of purpose-built student accommodation is vital to reduce the pressures on the housing market and to release family-sized homes for occupation by families. The housing market needs to be rebalanced to provide more houses that local families can afford.
- 2.14** Many people still aspire to home ownership, but cannot achieve their ambition. Therefore there is a need for more low-cost market and shared ownership housing, and better availability of mortgage finance. For those unable to buy a home, there is a clear need for more rented homes in the private sector that people employed locally can afford, particularly in the light of changes to the Housing Benefit system. The City Council also aims to increase the number of affordable homes provided through developer contributions and the planning system.
- 2.15** The retention of locally educated graduates is essential to help build new knowledge- and technology-based industries and achieve our economic goals. Therefore housing must be part of an integrated package to attract new businesses with a demand for higher-skilled workers and subsequently lead to better paid employment in the District, reducing the dependence on the low wage economy.
- 2.16** The Housing Strategy examines the interdependence between housing, the planning system and the economy and seeks to address imbalances in the local housing market. It gives guidance on the Council's preferred mix of property types and sizes in all tenures, based on housing need and demographics to meet current and emerging housing need.

Strategic Requirement

- 2.17** The NPPF states that local planning authorities should set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver housing and economic development requirements. The City Council therefore, appointed Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners (NLP) to undertake a development requirements study for the District.
- 2.18** The City Council has set the development requirements for the District in line with scenario E of the NLP report which equates to 780 dwellings per annum. This gives a 20 year District requirement for 2011-2031 of 15,600 units, however, there are some unimplemented sites already in the supply. In addition to the strategic requirement the NPPF states that in order to significantly boost the supply of housing, local planning authorities should identify and update annually, a supply of deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years worth of housing against their housing requirements with an additional buffer of 5% to ensure choice and competition in the market. This can be moved forward from later in the plan period. It is also recommended that the buffer be increased to 20% where there is evidence of persistent under delivery. This is not the case in the District over the last 10 years as the annual delivery has been over the South East Plan annual requirement of 510 pa, 60% of the time and more than doubled the requirement in monitoring year 2007/08 resulting in an overprovision of 1000+ units for the period 2006-11. Therefore as land can be brought forward there is only potentially an issue with the 5 year supply in the final 5 year period (2026-31). Therefore the City Council has applied an additional 5% buffer of 195 units (780pa x 5% x 5years).
- 2.19** The base date survey for this Plan is 2010/11 monitoring survey. Therefore any unimplemented planning permissions or over supply at 1 April 2011 will contribute to the housing land supply for this plan.
- 2.20** The total housing land supply is made up of a number of elements:
- Completions - the net number of new dwellings created annually is deducted from the District's requirement which leaves the residual requirement;
 - Unidentified sites contribution (windfalls) - is made up of two elements:
 - Unidentified small sites - an estimate of the number of dwellings which will be built on unidentified small sites accommodating fewer than 5 dwellings, based on past trends
 - Unidentified large sites - sites accommodating 5 or more dwellings which are not allocated in the plan.

These enter the supply once they have been granted planning permission

- Identified large sites of 5 or more dwellings which are made up of two elements
- Commitments - sites with a valid planning permission for housing;
- Allocations - new sites identified for housing. These come from two main sources: those sites already identified in the existing local plan (2006) which still have reasonable prospect of being delivered; and those sites identified through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) which the City Council supports.

2.21 Housing land supply is continuously monitored and the total land supply is set out annually in the Housing Information Audit carried out by the City Council in conjunction with Kent County Council. In order to ensure that there is a controlled delivery of new housing there will need to be regular monitoring. If it becomes apparent that the pace of delivery of new housing is too slow the City Council may have to adjust the phasing to allow those sites that are to be released later in the plan period to come forward earlier. This will be adjusted in consultation with the developers of those sites via the annual phasing questionnaire sent out to developers as part of the annual HIA survey. The resultant 5 year statement will be included in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report published in December each year.

2.22 The City Council has phased the housing land requirement of 15,600 into 5 year bands as set out in Table H1.

Table H1: Phased housing land requirement

Development type	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	Total (2011-31)
Housing	3,000	4,200	4,200	4,200	15,600

2.23 In order to meet this requirement the City Council has made a number of strategic allocations which are set out below.

Canterbury Sites	
Land at South Canterbury	4,000

Herne Bay Sites	
Strode Farm, Herne Bay	800
Land at Greenhill, Herne Bay	600
Land at Herne Bay Golf Club, Herne Bay	400
Land at Hillborough, Herne Bay	1000
Whitstable Sites	
North of Thanet Way, Whitstable	400
Rural Sites	
Land at Sturry/Broad Oak	1000
Land North of Hersden	800

2.24 Other new housing allocations are set out below and will be subject to an approved development brief or principles setting out the other infrastructure requirements.

Simon Langton Girls School, Canterbury	270
St Martin's Hospital, Canterbury	200
Kingsmead Field, Canterbury	100
Land at Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay	190
Land at Spires, Bredlands Lane Hersden	131
Barham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barham	25

2.25 In addition to the allocated housing sites, the Council has identified two opportunity sites, mainly comprising land owned by the Council and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) at Chaucer Road, which might come forward in the plan period. The land includes the current Council offices and adjacent housing, and land at the Howe Barracks on the A257. Although it is not envisaged that the Council offices will relocate in the short term, this may occur later in the plan period. The Council has considered for some time that re-modelling existing Council housing areas might provide the opportunity for better quality or more appropriate housing to meet identified local needs. The land owned by the MoD is regarded as surplus to requirements as the MoD reviews its operational needs.

- 2.26** It is intended that the development of these two sites, due to their location and existing uses, would be primarily for housing, and would fund the safeguarded A257 road link identified in the Transport Chapter of the Local Plan. The MoD land would also provide the route for the A257 link road. It is uncertain when and if development of these sites would come forward and so the capacity of these sites will be assessed at a later date. Consequently they have not been included in the housing land supply set out below.
- 2.27** The table below sets out the residual requirement based on the sites included in the Housing Information Audit Land Study (HIA) 2012, and shows the City Council's position in meeting this requirement.

Housing land supply component	No. of units	Residual requirement
Strategic requirement 2011-2031	15,600	15,600
Over supply 2006-11	1,003	14,597
NPPF 5% buffer (780 x 5%x5years)	195	14,792
Completion 2011/12	624	14,168
Existing allocations (revised)	997	13,171
Existing sites with planning permission in the supply (2011/12 survey)	1,226	11,945
Small sites contribution 116pa x 19	2204	9741
New Allocations (including strategic allocations)	9916	+175 Surplus

- 2.28** The table above shows that the residual requirement for the period 2011 to 2031 is 15,600. The net contribution from sites with planning permission (up to 31 March 2012) will be 1,226 units. Local Plan housing and strategic allocations will contribute another 9,916 units. The small sites windfall contribution is calculated at 2,204 over the remaining 19 year period. Therefore even with the increased requirement to account for the NPPF 5% buffer, the District still has an oversupply of 175 units. The graph setting out the housing trajectory and the phasing can be found in Appendix 2.
- 2.29** A full list of housing allocations including those allocated for mixed use where there is an element of housing, together with unimplemented sites with planning permission, is set out in Appendix 2.

- 2.30** The City Council has allocated a number of car parks in the urban areas, mostly in Canterbury City, for housing. Some design feasibility studies were carried out as part of the 2006 Local Plan, to assess whether some of the car parks could accommodate residential development on the frontages, or decked over the frontages, while retaining the car parking spaces to the rear. These feasibility studies demonstrate that suitably designed schemes could be accommodated on some of these car parks. Where car parks are identified as surplus to requirements through the parking review, the entire site will be disposed of for housing purposes.
- 2.31** In the past there has been pressure on allocated housing sites for non-residential development including purpose built modular student accommodation. This type of housing does not contribute to the 5 year supply of housing land. Although the City Council is very supportive of the development of purpose built student accommodation as this has the potential to release student occupied family housing onto the general housing market, it will not support this type of development on allocated housing sites as this will erode the 5 year housing land supply. See policy HD7 on student accommodation and paragraphs 2.79 to 2.81 on specialist residential accommodation.

Policy HD1

The City Council will safeguard those sites identified on the proposals map for housing and for mixed use development where there is an element of residential development.

Development on allocated housing sites for other non-residential uses including purpose-built student accommodation will not normally be permitted.

Land is also identified on the proposals map as opportunity sites for new housing during the Local Plan period. The development of these sites would fund the provision of a new link road from Chaucer Road to the A257 Littlebourne Road, Canterbury.

The Range, Mix and Affordability of Housing

- 2.32** The NPPF recommends that local planning authorities should plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community (such as families with children, the elderly and people with disabilities). They should also identify the size, type,

tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations, reflecting local demand. Finally where they have identified a requirement for affordable housing, local authorities should set policies for meeting this need.

- 2.33** A significant change in the District's household make-up will arise from the demand and need for affordable dwellings, smaller households, and also for student accommodation. Student and other accommodation are dealt with more fully in policy HD7 and paragraphs 2.79 to 2.81. These demands are accentuated by choice, living habits and preferences and will affect the future provision of the type, tenure, size and location of new housing.
- 2.34** Affordable housing is defined as housing which is accessible to people whose incomes are insufficient to enable them to purchase or rent adequate housing locally on the open market. The term affordable housing includes social and affordable rented housing, shared ownership and any other product that may from time to time, be introduced by Government policy or via the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). In addition the NPPF also includes intermediate housing in its definition, i.e. homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels.
- 2.35** The Adams Integra report suggests a target of affordable housing tenure mix of 70% social rented and 30% suitable intermediate tenure. However, advice should be sought from the Housing Strategic Policy and Enabling Team as to what might be appropriate on each site.
- 2.36** The Housing Strategy also seeks to improve the housing choice of those within the District and looks to encourage the institutionally funded private rented sector. In some circumstances development of long term private rented housing will be an acceptable tenure.
- 2.37** The mix of tenures, sizes and types of homes provided on any particular development will be required to reflect local needs. This should also encourage social cohesion and the creation of balanced and higher density communities. Different tenures and creative quality design are therefore necessary, in particular in areas of higher density such as town centres and around good public transport interchanges in the urban areas, to provide for the range of accommodation needed and to promote social mix.
- 2.38** For the above reasons when the City Council grants planning permission for new housing development on sites identified on the proposals map, it will expect a mix of market and affordable housing, household size and tenures. This will be achieved through planning conditions, negotiation and legal agreements. The mix of property types and sizes in all tenures must reflect the Housing Strategy. Advice on the exact mix of affordable housing appropriate to a site should be sought from the Housing Strategic Policy and Enabling Team.

- 2.39** Affordability is an issue in the Canterbury District. The SHMA guidance recommends that for a market property to be affordable, it should cost no more than 3.5 times the gross household income. House price ratios are as follows:
- the lower quartile property costs 9.5 times a lower quartile income in the City of Canterbury
 - The average house price in the District costs 6.85 times the average salary (Source SHMA Table 8.11).
- 2.40** Therefore affordability is a key issue in the Canterbury District and is most acute in Canterbury and Whitstable. The SHMA recommended that the overall affordable housing target should be 40% for Canterbury and Whitstable with 35% in the rest of the District, subject to viability testing. It also recognised that affordability can be an issue in the rural areas and recommended that the City Council should examine whether reducing the threshold to lower numbers of units would be feasible, particularly as the existing target of delivering 35% affordable homes has consistently not been met and the Council is seeking to address this during the life of this plan.
- 2.41** In 2012 the City Council appointed Adams Integra to undertake an Economic Viability Assessment of the Future Development in the Canterbury District, in particular an assessment of affordable housing viability. This report recommended that given the current economic climate and to maintain the viability of sites, the Council should consider a 30% affordable housing requirement on sites of 7 or more units across the District. This is a lower percentage than that recommended in the SHMA, however, it now applies a lower threshold of 7 or more units, and therefore recognises the current economic difficulties. The threshold for affordable housing has also been lowered in response to evidence suggesting that in the past the capacity of some sites has been artificially reduced to fall below the affordable housing threshold. The affordable housing requirement will apply to all types of housing developments including sheltered housing schemes. Where proposals are submitted below the 30% affordable requirement threshold, the City Council will require a viability assessment to provide justification.
- 2.42** The report also recommended that for sites below 7 units, development will be expected to make either on-site provision or a financial contribution in lieu of on-site provision where there is a viability issue. This will only apply to new additional units and will not apply to replacements. The City Council's preference is for onsite provision and a case needs to be made as to why this cannot be achieved. A viability statement may be required and may be assessed by an independent assessor if necessary. Where a financial contribution is deemed more appropriate, the City Council will apply the formula set out below. As this is a 20 year plan, the City Council will keep all viability issue and the affordable housing percentage under review.

Calculating Commuted Sums for affordable housing

2.43 The City Council will apply the formula set out below for financial contributions.

The financial contribution is arrived at by the following steps:

- Step 1: Open Market Value (OMV) of the housing units on-site (A)
- Step 2: Multiply (A) by the residual land value percentage of 20% (B)
- Step 3: Add 15% of the result of (A) X (B) to reflect site acquisition and servicing costs. This gives the per unit sum.
- Step 4: Apply to the relevant site number and proportion (in this case 30% affordable housing contribution)

Policy HD2

The City Council will require all types of residential development to make provision for affordable housing. A requirement of 30% is to be provided on-site, for schemes of 7 or more units. For schemes of 2 to 6 units either an on-site provision or a financial contribution will be sought using the formula in paragraph 2.42 and in accordance with the City Council's Procedure Note.

Permission will be refused where the size of the development is artificially reduced to fall below the threshold requiring provision of affordable housing.

2.44 To assist the creation of balanced and sustainable communities, new housing accommodation should be provided alongside other social and physical infrastructure, to ensure that existing infrastructure capacity is not exceeded and made worse by new development. Integral to encouraging balanced and sustainable communities are measures to provide access to public transport, education, health and other public services, measures to prevent crime, leisure and recreation and a strong environment that will aid sense of place and community. New housing development will be expected to make reasonable provision towards improving social and physical infrastructure.

Housing Outside Urban Areas

2.45 Outside the urban areas, housing provision is restrained by the NPPF. The District contains villages of varying sizes and character. Some villages may have the potential for some limited minor housing development or infill development,

consistent with the scale of the village. Infilling is generally defined as the completion of an otherwise substantially built up frontage by the filling of a narrow gap. However, infilling may not always be acceptable as open spaces between developments can often make an important contribution to the character and setting of the village. Minor development needs to be considered in the context of the size and character of the village where it is planned. For example, a proposed development of a vacant site with five to ten homes within a larger village might be considered acceptable minor development. Therefore, the scale, quality and location of appropriate minor development will be dependent on the individual characteristics of each village. The City Council does not identify the built confines of villages by a line on the Proposals Map, as to do this would infer that any vacant plot within this boundary is suitable for development, which may not necessarily be the case as the openness could be part of the character of the village.

- 2.46** The City Council appointed Catherine Hughes Associates to undertake a rural settlement hierarchy study of the District in 2011. As a result policy SP4 sets out the hierarchical approach to the location of development in the District.

Affordable Housing – Rural Exception Sites

- 2.47** Affordability has become a particular issue in the rural areas, with the price of rural housing increasing to such an extent that it is beyond the means of many local residents seeking to enter the housing market. One consequence of this is that the demographics of some villages have become unbalanced in terms of the age structure.
- 2.48** People with family or employment ties in a village are being forced to move away in order to find housing they can afford. A family or employment connection is one where: someone has been living in the community through choice for at least five years, the exact period shall be assessed with Parish Councils, someone who has close family living in the community for at least five years or someone who has a special reason for needing to be living in the community, or is employed in local services.
- 2.49** The City Council wants to be responsive to the need for rural housing identified through studies and in consultation with the Parish Councils, local rural communities and a suitable local forum in unparished areas. The rural exceptions policy HD3 enables land which would not ordinarily be acceptable for housing development in rural areas to be made available for low cost housing. This housing should remain affordable for either sale or rent in perpetuity, to meet local needs.

- 2.50** Outside of the urban areas, rural exception housing should normally have the support of the Parish Council or representative community organisation. It will be the responsibility of the local community and /or the parish council, in conjunction with the City Council, to identify the local need for affordable housing based on a housing needs survey. Local housing need will not be confined to just the immediate parish and could include the needs of an adjacent parish.
- 2.51** The City Council will make any planning permission subject to a legal agreement to ensure that the affordable homes remain affordable in perpetuity. Only non-standard shared ownership leases will be accepted that limit ownership to 80% of the total value. Those people who are considered to be a priority for new local needs housing will be chosen in a sequential way. This will be done in conjunction with the Parish Council on the basis of the need within the parish, neighbouring parishes and the wider area.
- 2.52** Assuming there are no other overriding planning objections, the City Council may reach agreement with an applicant and grant planning permission for the development on the basis that it is an exception to normal planning policy justified by an identified local need. The planning permission restricts the development of affordable housing which will always be below prevailing market value and available only to meet local needs.
- 2.53** As the development is an exception to normal policy and restricted to this particular form of housing, the value of the land will be substantially below that of ordinary housing land. It is the low cost element of the land which enables the housing development to be affordable. Low cost housing should not be low quality housing and proposals will be expected to be designed to a high standard.
- 2.54** Low cost home ownership, i.e. where the home is sold but an equity share is retained by the developer, may be an alternative to shared ownership. In the case of low cost houses for sale it is important to ensure that the purpose of the scheme is maintained in perpetuity, and that the dwellings are not sold on by the first occupants at full market value. To do this the occupier should be prevented from being able to own the dwelling outright. This is achieved through shared equity and for this reason the scheme will normally be managed by a Registered Social Landlord.
- 2.55** The NPPF recommends that local planning authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet local needs. In order to control sporadic development in the countryside and to maintain the primary objective of meeting rural affordable housing need, the City Council will only permit an element of cross-subsidy on rural exceptions sites in exceptional circumstances for example, where there is a proven viability issue. The developer will be required to provide

a financial viability statement in connection with the proposal and this may be validated by an independent assessor. To avoid potential abuse through developments becoming dominated by market housing rather than affordable housing, the amount of market housing required to support such a scheme will be kept to a minimum and should amount to no more than 30%. The applicant will also need to demonstrate that the element of market housing is meeting an identified local need. Any market housing will need to be of a comparable scale and design with the affordable housing element. Development of cross-subsidy sites will not be regarded as creating a precedent for future expansion to meet other housing needs. Any such development will also need to satisfy the environmental policies of the plan.

Policy HD3

The City Council will only permit small scale affordable housing to meet local needs on exceptions sites that is, unallocated land outside the boundary of the urban areas and/or built confines of villages, subject to the following criteria:

- a. **The applicant and the parish council or local community in conjunction with the City Council, must demonstrate the existence of a local need which cannot be accommodated in any other way, i.e. no other sites are available within the village;**
- b. **The development must be of a scale not in excess of the identified local need;**
- c. **The City Council must be satisfied that the long term occupancy of the dwellings can be controlled to ensure that the housing will continue to be available for a local need at an affordable price in perpetuity and this will be defined by a legal agreement. Proposals to construct dwellings offering a discounted initial purchase price only will not be acceptable. The City Council will seek to control occupancy through agreements as appropriate to meet local needs;**
- d. **The development must be capable of proper management by a registered provider, village trust or a similar organisation;**
- e. **There is no conflict with environmental protection policies;**
- f. **Any site must be well related to the village and existing facilities; and**
- g. **Market housing will only be acceptable as a minor element of the scheme in exceptional circumstances, for example, to enable the financial viability of the scheme and to meet an identified local market need. A financial viability statement will need to be submitted with any application and may be validated by an independent assessor. The market housing element will amount to no more than 30% of the scheme. Any permitted market housing must be comparable in scale and design to the affordable housing element.**

New dwellings in the countryside

- 2.56** The City Council considers that minor development within existing villages is generally acceptable in principle, and the provision of housing development within some villages is likely to continue, thus adding to the existing housing stock in the rural area. However, to avoid the spread of speculative new buildings, the NPPF recommends that local planning authorities should avoid new isolated homes in the countryside unless there are special circumstances. One such exception is the need for new homes for agriculture workers who generally need to live near to livestock or an agricultural enterprise, and the size of the dwelling reflects the accommodation needs.
- 2.57** To establish genuine cases, an independent report may be required setting out the need for the development and the financial viability of the business. The need should establish whether the new home is required for rural workers for example, in agriculture, forestry or other countryside occupations with a demonstrable operational need to live near to their rural enterprise. Consideration will be given to existing and future requirements of the enterprise and the number of workers who meet this need. The need for, and size of the dwelling should be related to the needs of the enterprise rather than personal circumstances. Financial viability information may be required where the need is not conclusive and will be dependent on the individual circumstances.

Policy HD4

Planning permission for new dwellings in the countryside will only be granted in the following circumstances:

- a. **Where there is an essential need for a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside, for example, to meet the needs of agriculture or forestry. In such circumstances the City Council will require the applicant to produce an independent report demonstrating the need for the dwelling and the financial viability of the business.**
- b. **Where existing dwellings serving or closely connected with the holding do not provide sufficient accommodation for essential rural workers.**
- c. **The proposed development would represent the optimal viable use of a heritage asset or would be appropriate enabling development to secure the future of heritage assets; or**
- d. **The development would re-use redundant or disused buildings and lead to an enhancement to the immediate setting; or**
- e. **The development is of exceptional quality or innovative nature of the design**

Where a need is proven, the City Council will normally require the new agricultural dwelling to be sited in association with existing groups of farm buildings.

Residential Reuse of Buildings in the Countryside

- 2.58** Whilst the reuse of existing buildings in the countryside is preferred to new building development, thus preventing the sporadic development of buildings in the countryside, the City Council is concerned that this does not lead to a proliferation of residential conversions of existing rural buildings. Whereas some residential conversions can be undertaken so as not to have a material impact upon the character or appearance of a building, it is often the associated use of the external space around such buildings for domestic purposes that changes the character and appearance of the surrounding area. Where buildings have previously been in use but have been abandoned or fallen into a state of dereliction, permission will not necessarily be granted for their reuse where the remains of the building have blended into, and become part of, the wider landscape over a period of time. Where this occurs, the site will not be regarded as previously developed land in line with Government guidance.
- 2.59** The loss of rural buildings to residential purposes will also prevent other more beneficial uses to the surrounding area from being implemented such as tourism, business enterprise or other low impact uses that provide a benefit to the local economy and community.
- 2.60** Applications for conversions of buildings in the countryside to residential uses will be treated with particular care given that new housing in the countryside is subject to strict control. Residential conversion of existing rural buildings in the open countryside, will therefore only be allowed in exceptional circumstances. The applicant will be expected to demonstrate that every reasonable effort has been made to secure a suitable alternative and preferred re-use, that it forms a subordinate part of a scheme for an appropriate business, tourism or community re-use, or that it meets an identified local housing need for affordable housing.
- 2.61** Proposals for the conversion of buildings in the countryside to residential use need to comply with the criteria set out in Policy HD5. The City Council will consider the withdrawal of permitted development rights and the use of appropriate conditions when granting planning permission. These would be used to prevent future alterations or development that might affect the fabric, character or setting of the building. If an agricultural building is proposed for conversion, the applicant may be expected to provide information that the building has been used for a legitimate agricultural purpose for a minimum of 10 years since its substantial completion. A condition may also be imposed where there may be demand at a future date to provide a replacement building and where there are concerns over proliferation of buildings in the locality.

- 2.62** Rural buildings may provide important roosting, breeding or feeding habitats for protected species such as bats or barn owls. The City Council will apply policy LB10 of the Local Plan if a building is considered likely to contain protected species.

Policy HD5

Planning permission for the conversion of an existing agricultural or other rural building in the open countryside to a residential use will only be granted if the following criteria are satisfied:

- a. **It has been demonstrated by means of a supporting statement to the satisfaction of the City Council that the building has been actively marketed for 2 years, for suitable preferred or alternative re-uses, such as business, tourism or community; or**
- b. **The residential conversion is a subordinate part of a scheme for a business, tourism or community re-use, which will have a positive benefit on the local economy and community; or**
- c. **The residential conversion meets an identified local housing need; and**
- d. **The form bulk and design of the building is sympathetic to the rural surroundings and it respects local styles and materials; and**
- e. **The building is capable of conversion without major reconstruction or extension and any alterations can be achieved without a detrimental impact on its character and appearance; and**
- f. **The building is capable of conversion and reuse without requiring substantial additional outbuildings or a significant change in the setting of the building; and**
- g. **There is no overriding conflict with other policies in the Local Plan.**

Replacement Dwellings and Residential Extensions In The Countryside

- 2.63** Replacement dwellings and extensions to residential properties are normally acceptable in principle, on the basis that the replacement is of a similar scale and does not harm the rural appearance and character of the surrounding countryside. The extension should also be modest, subservient in scale and complement the design of the existing dwelling. In all respects, the rural character and appearance of the area should not be harmed. This should ensure that new development and/or extensions to residential properties, including the expansion of the residential curtilage, are appropriate in their rural context. Proposals will need to reflect the guidance set out in paragraphs 5.58-5.69 and satisfy policy DBE13.

Quality of New Housing - Density and Internal Space Standards

2.64 The City Council has become increasingly concerned about the density and quality of recent housing development some of which have exceeded 50/ha. This is reflected in the Council's Housing Strategy. Higher housing densities must not be at the expense of good design. The Housing Strategy has shown that there is a decreasing need for 1 to 2 bed flat developments and a there is now a greater need for family accommodation. As a result of this the housing density on developments will be lower than in recent years. Therefore all new housing development must satisfy policies DBE7, DBE9 and DBE10 of the Design and Built Environment Chapter. To ensure that everyone has a decent home in which to live, all residential development must satisfy policy DBE11 – minimum space standards and must reflect the needs of the household it is designed for. This is in line with the objective of the Housing Strategy to set local space standards for new homes in all tenures and means that all new design should meet the standards contained in Table D3, paragraph 5.46 and policy DBE11 in the Design Chapter.

Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

2.65 The evidence in the East Kent Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) shows that the housing market needs to be balanced to achieve the economic ambitions of the district, and to meet local housing need. While a proportion of smaller properties are necessary for younger and older single people, the main property types that the future housing market needs are those that will attract more affluent working households and families, and those that meet the needs of younger families facing deprivation and affordability problems.

2.66 This means combating the continued tendency to sub-divide larger homes into flats and to put into place measures to develop larger, family-sized, semi-detached and detached homes. This is reflected in the SHMA recommendations. The Council therefore considers that there is a strong case for seeking to retain existing family housing, in the context of the wider housing and economic strategy.

2.67 Furthermore, there is evidence that a high proportion of HMOs in any given area (mostly family accommodation in Canterbury city, occupied by students) changes the character of the area, and the nature of the local community. While the Council recognises the value of the universities to the local economy, and the many positive aspects of the presence of students in the City - economic, cultural and social, it is necessary to consider how existing communities and the balance of housing are affected by significant concentrations of HMOs in particular areas. However, any policy should ensure that there is a supply of HMO-type accommodation available within the City for students, to provide accommodation choice.

- 2.68** The Council has also undertaken research that indicates that levels of late-night disturbance, untidy gardens and incidents of litter and poor storage of refuse experienced by local residents are significantly higher in areas with higher proportions of HMOs than those with lower proportions.
- 2.69** In order to address these three issues – housing need; community cohesion and residential amenity – the Council considers that the proportion of HMOs in any given area should be no more than 10% of the number of properties. The Council believes that Policy HD6 set out below is a reasonable response to the issues. For the purposes of policy HD6, the designated area includes the area within the urban boundary of Canterbury and the wards of Sturry North, Sturry South, Barton, Wincheap and Blean Forest. It also includes the parish of Harbledown and that part of the Lower Hardres Parish north of the A2. A plan showing the area can be found in Appendix 2.
- 2.70** An Article 4 Direction, similar to that consulted on in 2011, will need to be put in place, and the Council is intending to do towards the end of the Local Plan process.

Policy HD6

In order to maintain an appropriate housing mix within the designated area, and to safeguard the character of local communities, the proportion of multiple occupancies should not exceed 10% of the total number of dwellings within a 100m radius of any application property. The City Council will not permit changes of use to HMOs, or extensions to existing HMOs, where that proportion is exceeded.

In areas where there is an exceptionally high proportion of HMOs in any particular block of properties, consideration will be given to permitting further conversions.

In all cases, regard will also be had to the following factors:

- a. **whether the proposals would lead to a level of car-parking that would exceed the capacity of the street;**
- b. **whether the proposals could provide acceptable arrangements for bin storage and other shared facilities; and**
- c. **whether the design of any extension would be appropriate in terms of the property itself or the character of the area.**

Purpose-Built Student Accommodation

- 2.71** The Housing Strategy highlights the distortions in the housing market largely due to presence of students who occupy many family sized houses as Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). The aim is to encourage purpose built student accommodation to reduce the pressure on the housing market and release family sized homes for occupation by families. The City Council will work with the universities and colleges to enable this objective to be achieved through joint working. Preference will be given to purpose built student accommodation see policy HD7.
- 2.72** The Housing Strategy identifies that the private rented sector is the largest source of accommodation for students. This often results in a high level of competition with local residents for family style accommodation leading to an inflationary effect on rent levels in the market. This in turn has consequences for affordability for the whole population. To avoid a worsening of the situation it is vital that any increase in student numbers by the universities, is matched by an equivalent increase in student accommodation.
- 2.73** In order to try and address this, the City Council will be supportive of proposals for purpose-built managed, student accommodation on appropriate sites which is in line with the Student Impact Scrutiny Review recommendation. The City Council will work with the universities to achieve this aim.
- 2.74** However, new student accommodation should not be built at the expense of general housing as the City Council must address the need for new family and affordable housing as identified in the Housing Strategy and Corporate Plan. Proposals for student accommodation in the City often compete for the same sites as general housing. In order to protect the delivery and supply of sites for general housing, proposals for purpose built student accommodation on sites allocated for general housing in this plan, will not be generally acceptable. Any new proposals for student accommodation will also need to satisfy the criteria in the HMO policy HD6.

Policy HD7

Proposals for purpose-built managed student accommodation will only be granted if:

- a. **It is the acceptable redevelopment of a non-residential site, where there is no longer a proven need for the existing use;**
- b. **The site is not already allocated for general housing;**
- c. **The proposal would not lead to a concentration of students in an otherwise residential area and therefore conflict with the HMO policy H5;**
- d. **The site is well served by public transport and, if applicable will have adequate transport links to the establishment's existing educational facilities;**
- e. **Parking requirements on site are kept to the operational minimum, and must include servicing and drop-off facilities;**
- f. **The proposal would not lead to an unacceptable level of car parking on the surrounding street;**
- g. **The development is to be a car free development**
- h. **The proposal respects the character of the surrounding area and satisfies the criteria in policies DBE3 and DBE4;**
- i. **Provision is made for cycle storage;**

The proposals provide acceptable arrangements for bin storage and other shared facilities.

Retention of housing accommodation

- 2.75** The City Council will seek to ensure the retention, diversification and growth of the existing housing stock across the District to achieve strategic housing targets by 2031, and to achieve a balanced mix of housing accommodation in the District. The loss of housing accommodation conflicts with one of the City Council's planning aims. Where possible any loss of housing accommodation will be resisted unless there is an overriding justification, or where the particular proposal fulfils other Corporate Plan objectives.

Policy HD8

The City Council will only permit the loss of housing accommodation where:

- a. **The existing accommodation is unsuitable for residential use; or**
- b. **The existing residential accommodation is incompatible with adjoining uses; or**
- c. **The change of use will ensure the retention and refurbishment of a building which makes a significant contribution to the character or appearance of the area, where it could not be achieved if the residential use remained; or**
- d. **The proposed use will meet an identified community, business, tourism, or other residential need, which would be compatible with the character and amenity of the area.**

- 2.76** One of the City Council's aims is for homes that have been empty for more than six months or properties that have remained vacant for a significant period, to be brought back into use. This includes vacant floors suitable for residential use above other uses. This will:
- assist the provision and variety of residential units in our built up areas;
 - maintain and maximise the supply of housing in the District; and
 - make more efficient use of existing buildings.
- 2.77** When physical alterations to buildings are proposed, the City Council will seek to encourage separate access to the upper floors in order to retain, or make provision for, the future use of the upper floors for residential purposes.
- 2.78** Where changes of use to the ground or upper floors of premises are concerned, and where there is a dwelling on a floor above, the City Council will discourage uses which will make the upper floors incapable of self-containment or unsuitable for living in, by not making provision for separate access to the upper floor or through environmental nuisance or the erection of extensions or equipment.
- 2.79** The City Council also encourages the residential use of vacant properties providing the use does not conflict with other Local Plan policies and is located within reasonable distance of local amenities, shops and public transport.

Note: The Government is currently proposing legislation regarding the change of use from offices to residential without the need for planning permission. This section may need to be revised to reflect the new legislation see Chapter 3 Employment.

Policy HD9

The City Council will grant planning permission for proposals to bring empty residential property into more efficient residential use and vacant properties, including under-used spaces above shops, into residential use, unless:

- a. **The intensity of the proposed residential use is such that it will have an adverse impact on the amenity of nearby properties and/or lead to a significant increase in on-street parking prejudicial to highway safety;**
- b. **The premises are more suitable for office use in line with policy EMP3;**
- c. **There will be an adverse impact upon the character or appearance of an area, or a statutory listed building; and**
- d. **There will be conflict with other Local Plan policies or there is a conflict with nearby uses in locations unsuitable for residential use.**

Other residential accommodation

- 2.80** To help improve diversification of residential accommodation in the District, the City Council encourages the provision of other residential accommodation to meet the needs of the District. Such examples are nursing homes, specialist elderly accommodation or other uses which are residential in nature but do not fall into the definition of a dwelling house. These types of development can add to the attraction and vitality of urban areas, improve the residential mix of accommodation and encourage people to live and stay within the District.
- 2.81** With an ageing population there is a need for flexibility in new residential accommodation and the Council is seeking to achieve 20% of housing to be built to lifetimes homes standard (policy DBE7). However, there is also a need for specialist elderly accommodation which can range from sheltered housing, extra care housing to residential care homes. For the purposes of planning policy proposals for retirement homes or villages and extra care housing where the accommodation is self-contained and there is an element of independent living, will be regarded as residential dwellings (Use Class Order C3) and subject to the normal housing policies in this Local Plan. For nursing homes or other high

dependency accommodation where there is a high degree of on-site care and where facilities are communal, these will be regarded as care homes and Use Class Order C2.

- 2.82** The location of these types of development is important, as the use should be compatible with surrounding uses and not impact on wider residential amenity, the character of the area and should be accessible to local shops, services and other public facilities.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

- 2.83** The Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (March 2012) defines gypsies and travellers as "Persons of nomadic habitat of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such".
- 2.84** The guidance states that local planning authorities should use a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform local plans. As a result the City Council is working in partnership with the other East Kent local authorities of Thanet, Dover and Shepway on a review of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2007). This will provide a robust evidence base on existing provision and future demand for sites. This section may need to be updated once the GTAA review is completed. It is the Council's intention to produce a separate development plan document on this issue following the completion of this study.
- 2.85** There is only one permanent gypsy site in the District at Vauxhall Road, Canterbury which is run by Kent County Council. In addition there are a number of private single family gypsy and traveller sites around the District. This reflects the historical trend of a preference for single family sites compared to formal Council run sites. Therefore in advance of the preparation of a separate development plan document, the City Council will apply the criteria based policy HD10. To aid the appropriate selection of sites, advice from the planning department should be sought early in the process, preferably before the purchase of a site or land. In general, sensitive locations such as designated nature conservation sites or sensitive landscape areas must be avoided and preference will be given to sites located in or near existing settlements. Any planning permission will normally have permitted development rights removed.

Policy HD10

In considering applications for seasonal, temporary or permanent use of land by Gypsies and Travellers, planning permission will only be permitted if the following criteria are met:

- a. **The Council is satisfied that there is a clearly established need for the site and the number of pitches involved cannot be met by an existing site;**
- b. **The site should be well related to and within a reasonable distance of local services and facilities - shops, public transport, schools, medical and social services, particularly where it is outside an existing settlement;**
- c. **Where the site is on the outskirts of a built up area, care is taken to avoid encroachment on the open countryside.**
- d. **If location outside an existing settlement is unavoidable, the form and extent of the accommodation does not adversely affect the visual or other essential qualities of an AONB, SSSI, national or local nature reserve, or other area of landscape significance designated in the development plan, or conservation area.**
- e. **The use of the site should not have an adverse impact on residential amenity or existing buildings or uses, either by the close proximity, activities or operations on the site which would be detrimental to the surrounding area;**
- f. **Access to the site should not be detrimental to highway safety for vehicles and pedestrians, and should not conflict with other transportation policies or objectives.**
- g. **Proposals should incorporate a landscape strategy where appropriate.**

Chapter 3: Economic Development and Employment

- 3.1** This Local Plan will seek to provide the conditions required for economic success and prosperity in the district. It will ensure that the area fulfils its role as an important sub-regional centre and as a key driver in the East Kent economy. This requires opportunities for businesses to expand in the district and for employment levels to remain high.
- 3.2** The Local Plan will ensure that the area's traditional economic strengths including culture, heritage, leisure, hospitality and shopping can be sustained (see relevant policies in other chapters of the Plan). It will also continue the momentum created by the previous Local Plan by supporting the development of Canterbury as a 'Knowledge City' in terms of its education sector and private sector based knowledge-led businesses together with financial and professional service activities. Fundamental to these objectives is providing sufficient land in the right locations, to encourage the diversification of the local economy into new vibrant sectors.
- 3.3** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that local plans should be based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements.
- 3.4** Local planning authorities should have a clear understanding of business needs within the economic markets operating in and across their area. The NPPF says that local planning authorities should use the evidence to assess the needs for land or floorspace for economic development. This should address both the quantitative and qualitative needs for all foreseeable types of economic activity over the plan period. It should include retail and leisure development and the role and function of town centres and the relationship between them, including any trends in the performance of centres.
- 3.5** In drawing up local plans, local planning authorities should:
- set out a clear economic vision and strategy for their area which positively and proactively encourage sustainable economic growth;
 - set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period;
 - support existing business sectors, taking account of whether they are expanding or contracting and, where possible, identify and plan for new or emerging sectors likely to locate in their area. Policies should be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan and to allow a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances;
 - plan positively for the location, promotion and expansion of clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries;

- identify priority areas for economic regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement; and
- facilitate flexible working practices such as the integration of residential and commercial uses within the same unit.

3.6 Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. To promote a strong rural economy, local and neighbourhood plans should:

- support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well designed new buildings;
- promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses; and
- support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors, and which respect the character of the countryside.

3.7 Planning policies should avoid the long term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of a site being used for that purpose. Land allocations should be regularly reviewed. Where there is no reasonable prospect of a site being used for the allocated employment use, applications for alternative uses of land or buildings should be treated on their merits having regard to market signals and the relative need for different land uses to support sustainable local communities.

The Canterbury District Economy – Its Performance and Prospects

3.8 More detailed overviews of the local economy are available to view in NLP’s Development Requirements Study (2012) and the Canterbury District Futures Study/Review (2006 & 2011).

3.9 A fuller discussion reflecting on these documents together with recent economic and other trends within the economy and relevant economic and planning policies is set out in the District’s Employment Land Review (2013). This includes analysis of the district’s strengths and opportunities as well as the weaknesses, key challenges and risks that could constrain future economic growth. Together, these factors will influence future demand from the local economy for land and property.

3.10 Comprising 58,966 jobs (Source: BRES, 2012), 5,005 registered enterprises (Source: ONS, 2012) and worth £2.7 billion (Source: KCC, 2012) the Canterbury District has the second largest economy in Kent. In terms of the local economy’s general

position the District performed well over the period 1998-2008, prior to the recession. At that time average employment growth in the district totalled 574 jobs per annum - an average growth of 1.2%, a rate that outperformed both Kent (1.1%) and the South East (0.7%) over the same period.

- 3.11** The recession however has caused the local economy to stall, the structural impact of which has had major implications for the district. For example between 2008 and 2011, over 2,000 jobs were lost across a range of different sectors although wholesale and retail trade (-1,192) and the transportation and storage (-374 jobs) industries have been among those worst hit to date. Added to this the district's public administration and defence (-480) sectors have also suffered as a result of public sector cuts. This picture has deteriorated further due to the announced closures of the Prison and Howe Barracks in Canterbury in 2013. This has been accompanied by impacts from the closure of the Pfizer site in Sandwich, higher rates of unemployment, falling earnings and decreases to the local business population.
- 3.12** Critically, the only industry to prosper since 2008 has been the 'professional, scientific and technical activities' (i.e. often used as a proxy for private sector knowledge based industries) which gained almost 900 jobs thereby significantly increasing in size (+36%) despite the recession. Canterbury here experienced the third highest level of growth of any district in the county and greater than that experienced at county, South East LEP, regional and UK area levels. To this end the district now retains the third largest 'professional, scientific and technical activities' sector in the county.
- 3.13** In terms of future prospects there are some significant challenges over the early period of this Local Plan. Most forecasts indicate that the local economy will not return to pre-recession growth at least until the medium term. In addition, the public sector is anticipated to reduce further in size but the extent of this contraction is uncertain. Some initial estimates suggest over 1,300 public sector jobs could be lost in the district by 2015 (Source: DTZ, 2011).
- 3.14** Generally the private sector and key growth sectors are under-represented in the local economy, which instead continues to rely upon a few consumption driven, low-value added sectors and the publicly funded sector. Diversification of the local economy is hampered by historically low levels of non-retail/tourism based inward investment and business relocations from elsewhere.
- 3.15** Notwithstanding these and other challenges and threats, it is felt that the local economy can be stewarded towards recovery while ensuring it is able to exploit any growth potential and address structural economic weaknesses.

- 3.16** In this way the district is well-positioned in terms of some of its key competitive advantages. The district is a greatly attractive place to live underlined by the high quality of life enjoyed by most residents. It attracts significant numbers of higher education students, providing an expanding pool of high skilled labour complementing an already skilled resident base. The district also experiences relatively low levels of out-commuting to work, which has helped to maximise local labour supply. Added to this the district can boast improved transport links to the strategic road and rail network including new fast rail links (High Speed 1) enabling London to be reached in under an hour by train.
- 3.17** In business terms the continued growth of the local education sector (both tertiary and private/specialist) has driven demand in the construction/development sector and supply chain business and consumer services together with need for higher skilled (e.g. academic/technical) and manual labour. The retail sector has also shown some resilience with few vacant shops in Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable and increased levels of investment in the district's retail offer.
- 3.18** More recently the area has begun to grow an important private sector component to the local knowledge economy which has been catalysed by the success of the Canterbury Innovation Centre. This presents optimistic future growth prospects which can help the local economy rebalance towards non-public sector activity. With the need for greater job creation in mind, the economy overall remains a strong priority for local residents. Recent research conducted by IPSOS MORI (2012) found that local residents overwhelmingly wanted the council to help create new employment opportunities and support business development.
- 3.19** In summary, despite the high degree of uncertainty regarding local economic prospects there is a clear need and opportunities available to help shape the district's future economic role. The Local Plan will be vital in helping to provide the underlying conditions required or prepare the ground to enable the economy to prosper and flourish. Also essential however will be effective non-planning economic development interventions such as business support alongside encouragement to residents currently disengaged from the local economy, to become economically active. The Council already undertakes such activities in partnership with other organisations, and will consider what other interventions could take place alongside the Local Plan.

Canterbury Futures Study

- 3.20** The Canterbury Futures Study (2006) proposed 3 preferred outcomes based on a range of evidence, local knowledge and consultations which include developing the District's experience economy, knowledge economy and green economy. A

Review (2011) suggested that the 'Knowledge Economy' outcome is still achievable for the district although there will be challenges in doing so because of current economic conditions.

The Corporate Plan

- 3.21** The Council's Corporate Plan (2011-2016) seeks to increase local prosperity by diversifying and strengthening the district's economy, and supports the growth of the number of people in work. One of the key pledges in the Corporate Plan is to "support the growth of our economy and the number of people in work", and commits the Council to helping to develop "a more diverse and resilient economy".
- 3.22** The Plan identifies key economic interventions with which the Council feels it can make a positive impact in improving 'people, places and prosperity' in the District. This follows the emergence of the 'economy' and 'improving job prospects' as local residents' highest priorities (particularly young people) in recent consultation.
- 3.23** These interventions include the role of the Local Plan in making best use of existing land and identifying new opportunities to enable existing businesses to stay and expand and for new businesses to locate to the area.

Other policies and strategies

- 3.24** The Council's Culture and Enterprise Local Economy Policy (2011-2016) together with its emerging economic strategy help to inform and complement the development plan by for example setting out a range of accompanying non-planning economy interventions. In this way the Council will provide the local institutional capacity required to support this agenda, to ensure it is connected with economic development and to bring in other partners and players to realise these objectives.
- 3.25** The East Kent Local Investment Plan (2010) and East Kent Growth Plan (2012) highlight the strategic spatial priorities for East Kent as agreed between the local authorities of Ashford, Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Shepway together with Kent County Council. This document underlines the economic potential of the sub area particularly in light of the closure of Pfizer and other economic shocks. As part of its vision for growth, 'Canterbury Knowledge City' is identified as a key spatial priority particularly due to its potential to directly create over 3,000 new jobs at Canterbury.
- 3.26** Underpinning the evidence base for the Local Plan is the district's Development Requirements Study (Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners, 2011). This provided a range of scenarios for future development in the area. It found that, in order to increase the labour supply and to support new job creation in the district, a significant

level of new housing was required (15,600 to support the creation of 6,500 new jobs), and that an additional 96,775sqm of employment floorspace would be required to meet the anticipated needs of businesses through the Plan period.

- 3.27** In testing these scenarios with the local community a Public Opinion Survey (Ipsos MORI, 2012) found that 71% of people supported housing provision at South East Plan levels and above. The main reasons expressed for this support related to the local economy and future job creation.
- 3.28** The survey also reinforced the importance of local economic growth for local people. When asked about economic issues, the majority (69%) considered there to be insufficient employment opportunities in the area while a higher level (85%) said more should be done to help businesses set up in the area. The research also found many local people (68%) would support the building of new homes if it helped to create jobs by attracting people and businesses to the area. This reflects the Council’s own research over the last few years, and is itself reflected in the Pledges in the Council’s Corporate Plan.

Existing employment land supply

- 3.29** In 2007-8, the Council carried out a detailed Employment Land Review (ELR)⁽⁵⁾ looking at the value and role of existing sites, and exploring the potential of other sites. Many of the sites allocated for employment development, or protected for long-term economic use, remain valid for that role. However, in allocating new sites for housing and employment, some land previously allocated for business purposes is now identified for other uses. There is no net loss of land available for the business land requirements set out in the NLP Study.
- 3.30** This review was updated in 2012-13⁽⁶⁾ to assess the overall employment land position in the district, the quality and suitability of existing employment sites, and new site proposals submitted to the Council. The key findings of the updated ELR are incorporated in this Local Plan in various ways:
 - Sites allocated in the previous Local Plan identified as being no longer suitable for employment purposes have been de-allocated;
 - New sites that have been assessed as being suitable and well-located for employment purposes have been allocated in this Local Plan, where appropriate, subject to them not significantly exceeding the scale of new

5 “An assessment of Employment Land in Canterbury District” May 2008 Savills
 6 “Employment Land Review Update” CCC March 2013

employment land recommended within the Development Requirements Study; and

- Sites currently in employment use that are considering to be suitable for continued use for employment purposes, and which contribute to the range of sites available in the market, are identified for retention.

3.31 One of the key findings of the Review has been that there is a healthy supply of employment land, beyond that which is required purely to meet the need for land for Class B employment uses (offices; research and development facilities; light and general industrial; storage and distribution uses). The ELR concluded that with the new sites being proposed and discounting the sites which are recommended for release, the Council can identify a supply of 158,649sqm of business space over the Plan period.

3.32 However, the Council is aware that there are other business sectors that do not fall within Use Class B (business, industrial and storage uses) but are important to the district economy, and this is also identified in the Review work. These are addressed specifically by Policy EMP2, but the Council is seeking to apply its other employment land policies more flexibly to recognise both those business needs, and the surplus of employment land that will exist if the policies in this Local Plan are implemented. This includes potentially permitting office uses in Class B to change to other uses such as education, where those sectors are important to the local economy.

New employment land allocations

3.33 In accordance with the evidence provided through the Development Requirements Study, the Council is allocating a number of sites to deliver the appropriate level of business land and accommodation through the Plan period.

3.34 The sites identified in Policy EMP1 have been allocated in conjunction with housing and other uses to ensure that employment land is appropriately located, and can be delivered as part of mixed-use development schemes. The strategic employment land allocations in the table below are allocated through the strategic development allocations set out in the Strategy Chapter of this Plan.

Area	Site	Floorspace
Canterbury	Land at Barton Farm	70,000 sqm
Herne Bay	Land at Strode Farm	15,000 sqm
	Land at Altira Business Park	33,000 sqm
Total		118,000 sqm

Policy EMP1

The following sites are identified and protected for business purposes, under use classes B1 and B8:

Area	Site	Site Area
Canterbury	Innovation Centre, University of Kent*	3.45ha
	Broad Oak Road/ Vauxhall Road	1.6ha
	Canterbury West Station	0.4ha
	Office Connection site, St.Andrews Close	0.2ha
Herne Bay	Eddington Lane (various)	7.9ha
	Altira Park	10ha
	Metric Site	0.5ha
Whitstable	Land at Wraik Hill	3.4ha
Rural areas	Canterbury Business Park (Highland Court)	3ha

*Class B1 only

on these sites, a proportion of non-Class B business uses will be permitted, not more than 10% of completed floorspace on each site. Business uses that are provided for elsewhere in the plan, or which could compromise the primary business use of these sites (eg: retail; residential homes) will not be permitted.

Other business uses

- 3.35** As the Development Requirements Study confirms, significant parts of Canterbury's economy are driven by non-traditional industrial uses such as higher education, public health, hotels and catering, leisure and a number of "sui generis" uses (such as car showrooms). The Study indicates the general requirements in terms of schools, and hospital places and doctors' surgeries, and the Council has other sources of information related to some of these uses.

- 3.36** The Council considers that there are two different approaches that it needs to apply to respond to the potential needs of these sectors. Where the Council has access to sufficient information regarding need, the Local Plan should identify relevant levels of development and appropriate locations. These uses include:
1. Primary, secondary and tertiary education (Use Classes D1/D2) – plan specifically according to individual requirements of each university, and local schools; and
 2. Public Health (Use Class D1, C2) – plan partly through results of Development Requirements Study, and also plan specifically according to individual requirements of each health body, where possible.
- 3.37** Where such specific information about development needs is not available, sites cannot be identified in the Local Plan. To meet this situation, the Council has sought to put in place a flexible policy framework, which allows those less predictable disparate needs to be met without site allocations. This reflects the guidance in the NPPF that local plan policies should be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan. These uses include:
1. Hotels and leisure (Use Classes C1/D2);
 2. Social care (e.g. care homes)(Use Class C2);
 3. Other education (e.g. private, charity)(Use Classes C2/D1); and
 4. Other uses not included in the main planning use classes (eg: car showrooms).
- 3.38** Generally speaking, however, these developments should not take place on allocated business sites, except in the circumstance set out in Policy EMP3.

Policy EMP2

The Council will support the development of premises for non-class b uses, (including hotels and leisure uses, health & social care) and other uses where they are significant in terms of the local economy, and education uses not addressed through other policies in the Plan.

Such uses will be permitted, including on allocated business sites, subject to the provisions to Policy EMP1 and the following criteria:

1. **Not being contrary to Local Plan policies relating to landscape and nature conservation;**
2. **There not being significant transport impacts that cannot be mitigated;**
3. **There not being significant disturbance to residential amenity; and**
4. **The development not resulting in the loss of sites allocated for other forms of development.**

Canterbury “Start Up” Programme

- 3.39 A new “Canterbury Start-up Programme” (Start My Biz), has been established to help boost business start-ups in the area, focussing on Canterbury to begin with, but with the intention of expanding the programme across the whole district. The programme is supported by Canterbury 4 Business, Business Support Kent, the Universities and Colleges, the East Kent Growth Fund and the Council. The purpose of the programme is to encourage new start-up businesses by providing business support in a range of ways.
- 3.40 The Council considers that one way of providing support to this programme is to try to ensure that appropriate business premises can be made available in suitable locations. The Council will therefore support the re-use of upper floors above retail and other commercial premises in the town centres for such purposes. In some cases, this may not require planning permission, depending on the existing uses. This will also help to revitalise some areas of the towns. The Council also has policies to protect existing employment land and buildings (EMP4), and to support home-based business (EMP5), which should also assist the Start-up Programme.

Policy EMP3

The Council will grant planning permission for the use of upper floors of retail and commercial premises in town centres for office uses in Classes B1 and A2, subject to environmental, conservation and transport considerations being assessed as acceptable, and the premises not being considered more suitable for residential use in line with Policy HD7.

Protection of employment land and sites

- 3.41 The land and sites identified for business development in this Plan have been allocated to provide a long-term appropriate supply of well-located business land to meet anticipated need/demand throughout the Plan period to 2031. These sites are not allocated solely to meet short-term demand, and so the Council believes it is important to protect these sites to ensure long-term provision of business floorspace to support the economic development strategy for the area. The NLP Study indicates that over the Plan period, some 97,000sqm of business floorspace would be required and it is therefore vital to ensure that this land remains available for business throughout the Plan period.

- 3.42** Equally, the Council's research over the last few years has demonstrated the importance of second-hand land and buildings, which provide a low-cost source of premises for local businesses, particularly those just starting up.
- 3.43** The NPPF states that planning policies should only protect sites allocated for employment use in the long term where there is a reasonable prospect of their being used for that purpose.
- 3.44** Since May 2013, the conversion of office space to residential use has been "permitted development". In February, the Council submitted an exemption application for Canterbury City Centre, and three business park sites, so that the loss of important office space can be controlled in key areas.
- 3.45** The Council has therefore identified a number of new business allocations and existing premises that it believes need to be safeguarded from other forms of development for the benefit of the local economy and local business.
- 3.46** As well as new business allocations, the existing premises to be protected by this policy are:
- Barton Business Park, Canterbury
 - Altira Park, Herne Bay
 - Eddington Lane, Herne Bay
 - Hillborough Business Park, Herne Bay
 - Wraik Hill, Whitstable
 - Joseph Wilson Business Park, Whitstable
 - John Wilson Business Park, Whitstable
 - Augustine Business Park, Whitstable
 - Lakesview Business Park/Canterbury Industrial Park, Hersden
 - Canterbury Business Park, Highland Court
 - Barham Business Park, Barham

Policy EMP4

(a) to support the wider economic strategy for the district, the Council will not permit the loss of existing or allocated employment sites, as identified on the Proposals Map, except where:

- **It would be in compliance with the non Class B provisions of Policy EMP1;**
- **Part redevelopment for other uses would trigger the development of one of the district's other key employment sites identified in the plan;**
- **It would secure the reinvestment of an existing significant employer within the district; or**
- **It would meet identified community needs where no alternative provision is made in this plan.**

(b) the Council will support the in-situ expansion and extension of existing businesses onto adjoining land, unless there is a significant environmental, amenity, landscape, transport or other planning reason why the expansion should not be supported.

(c) protection of office space

The loss of office accommodation in the district to other uses will not normally be permitted, except in the following circumstances:

1. **The building is to be used for other business purposes in accordance with the Council's wider economic strategy, such as for higher education purposes needing office space. Where planning consent is granted for higher education purposes, planning conditions will be applied to control future uses; or**
2. **The property is a listed building or is of significant architectural or historic merit and the proposal will ensure the long term retention of the building; or**
3. **The change of use would enable an existing business to invest and expand by relocating to a more appropriate site elsewhere in the district; and**
4. **The accommodation needs of the existing occupiers have been met directly through the provision of appropriate floorspace in new development elsewhere in the district.**

Home-based businesses

- 3.47** The NPPF advises that Local Plans should recognise that changes such as the increasing availability of high-speed broad-band are likely to increase the incidence of home-based business. Research indicates that there is a particular propensity amongst cultural, creative and knowledge-based business to home-work. It also suggests that home-based business is economically more significant than is sometimes recognized, and that South East England is one of the most active areas in terms of home-based business⁽⁷⁾. There may also be considerable benefits to the new Canterbury “Start-up Programme” if business can function from domestic offices. There are also potentially quite significant benefits to be gained in relation to reducing traffic congestion, and hence air quality. In terms of the Council’s vision for Canterbury district, therefore, home-working needs to be supported.
- 3.48** Planning permission is not required if the use of part of a home for business purposes does not change the overall character of the property as a single dwelling. For example, the use of a room as an office for one of the residents of the house, or for childminding purposes, would be unlikely to mean that the character of the dwelling-house had changed and would not normally require planning permission.
- 3.49** If the business involves any of the following, then planning permission is likely to be required:
1. more people visiting the property during the day/evening than would normally be the case for residential use;
 2. uses that require employees to be present at the dwelling;
 3. uses that require business vehicles to be kept at the site;
 4. deliveries taking place that are more frequent and involve larger quantities of goods than is usual for a household;
 5. the use of a large part of the property for business activities, such as offices, storage, and other commercial purposes (including the use of sheds and garages); or
 6. activities that are noisier than domestic use or produce fumes that would not be expected from residential properties.
- 3.50** The Council wishes to support home-working in all areas of the District, as a way of encouraging new business to develop, and to assist in reducing congestion resulting from people travelling to different workplaces.

7 “Invisible Businesses: the characteristics of home-based businesses in the United Kingdom” Mason, Carter & Tagg July

Policy EMP5

The creation of a workplace within a dwelling, or through the adaptation of suitable outbuildings within a residential curtilage, will be permitted where the character and amenity of the building, neighbouring dwellings and the area, is maintained by:

- 1) limiting the type and level of activity, including the hours of work, and visits and deliveries, to that consistent with the residential amenity of the area;**
- 2) preventing any harmful future intensification; and**
- 3) limiting any advertisement to a small discreet sign or notice.**

Supporting the delivery of new digital infrastructure

- 3.51** The Council recognizes the importance of the provision of digital infrastructure to support its wider economic aspirations and planning policy. Beyond those developments covered by “permitted development” rights, the Council will require the provision of new digital infrastructure within new developments, and will also support the retro-fitting of existing settlements, where feasible and appropriate.
- 3.52** The Council recognizes that there are areas of the district which are not as accessible to new digital services (“not-spots”), and the Council will support provision in those areas, where planning permission is required.

Policy EMP6

Proposals for the installation of digital infrastructure will be required, on allocated sites in this plan, and will also be supported in retro-fitting existing urban areas and villages, subject to no detrimental impacts on listed buildings, the character and appearance of conservation areas and sensitive landscape areas.

Particular support will be given to the provision of such infrastructure in “not-spot” areas of the district.

Education

- 3.53** Education as a sector is very important to the Canterbury district. As well as the district being an important centre of culture and learning, its education sector is a significant economic contributor in its own right. It is a major employer in the public and private sectors and continued to perform well through the recession. Despite ongoing economic uncertainty between 2008 and 2010 the sector had created 1,500 more jobs (+13% growth) so that by 2010 it provided a total of 13,100 local jobs (Source: ONS, 2011). One in five of all local jobs are now in education.
- 3.54** Elsewhere the sector has important multiplier effects on other sectors of the local economy such as the construction, business services and retail and hospitality industries. A recent study estimated the annual local economic impact of the three principal universities at almost £153 million in 2009/2010 with over 3,200 district jobs (in addition to those already employed by the institutions) dependent on the spending of the universities and their students (Source: Canterbury City Council, 2011).
- 3.55** The education sector attracts talented and creative economic migrants from across the UK and beyond and provides a lucrative business development opportunity for potential suppliers and other procurement based partners and stakeholders. Elements of the sector also help to directly and indirectly generate new visitor trips through conferencing and student related tourism. In this sense the global nature and market of education helps to showcase Canterbury's profile across the world.
- 3.56** In the context of this development plan the education sector maintains a significant physical presence particularly with regards to the district's universities and colleges. This is essential in three key respects.
- 3.57** Firstly, they are considerable users and occupiers of office and other accommodation notably in Canterbury and this development plan seeks to support their strategic and operational requirements. Secondly, these institutions can act as drivers of physical regeneration and renewal both through their own investment but also in their ability to act as magnets for other commercial investment which otherwise may not have been attracted to the area. Their role in this regard needs to be highlighted and encouraged wherever possible.
- 3.58** Thirdly, education and the area's universities and colleges specifically remain a central element of the Council's vision and strategy to diversify the local economy and support the development of knowledge-based business in the area.

- 3.59** The Council recognizes that the fiscal environment for further and tertiary education is also changing rapidly, and that long-term planning may be complicated. It therefore seeks to continue to support the Universities and Colleges in the improvement, diversification and development of their educational offer, but also the development of business ideas stemming from innovative research and other University core business. The Universities differ in location and built form, and this requires different policy approaches. The University of Kent is located on the edge of the City in a largely self-contained campus; Canterbury Christ Church University is located in a “ribbon” form around the edge of the city Centre, utilizing a number of sites.
- 3.60** The Council therefore supports the preparation of long-term strategies for the University sites, and will work with the Universities to facilitate their preparation. The Council will also support and work to promote links between the Universities and local businesses, and also the development of new business ideas emerging from the Universities.

Policy EMP7

Within the campus of the University of Kent identified on the proposals map, the council will support development of educational buildings for teaching and office space; student accommodation; business accommodation (compatible with the university’s role in research & development and business innovation); sports facilities and other facilities directly related to the university’s core business.

The council will expect a masterplan to be prepared for the whole identified campus site, prior to any significant development within the site. Such a masterplan should maintain the campus character of the university; respect the setting of the site in the wider countryside; identify the key uses and their disposition within the site and any relocation of uses within the wider campus area. It should also set out a landscape strategy for the whole site.

Significant development proposals at the university will also be subject to updating of the university’s transport impact assessment, and a review of the university travel plan.

The city council will also grant planning permission for educational and ancillary uses on those sites identified within the campus boundary; subject to design, siting and access considerations.

Policy EMP8

Land is identified at North Holmes road to permit the intensification or redevelopment of the main site for higher education purposes. The council will also support the development of new facilities for Canterbury Christchurch University in suitable locations within the urban area of the city, for managed student accommodation and for teaching and general office accommodation. Any new proposals for the main site, or other larger sites in the city should be accompanied by a development strategy to support the proposals and a transport plan to demonstrate how any additional activity can be catered for in transport terms.

Schools & Colleges

- 3.61** The City Council has cooperated with Kent County Council in respect of the impact of proposed new development in the Plan on the need for new or improved school provision in the district, and some of that provision is made as part of the strategic allocations in the Plan.
- 3.62** However, the Council will also seek to support new school facilities, where development comes forward in addition to that identified in the Plan.
- 3.63** In particular, there is a proposal to relocate the existing Simon Langton Girls' School to new premises adjacent to the existing Simon Langton Boys' School at Nackington Road and Langton Lane in Canterbury, and land is allocated in this Local Plan to support that proposal. Other schemes may come forward during the Local Plan process.
- 3.64** The Council also believes that there is a strong case to be made for grammar school provision at the coast. This not only would broaden educational provision, but could also reduce the volume of students travelling to other parts of the District, or outside the District for schooling. The Council will work with KCC on possible options for such provision.
- 3.65** The Council also wishes to see the Hadlow College site in Canterbury retained for college purposes in the future, to meet teaching or student accommodation needs.

Policy EMP9

The City Council will work with the education authority and other school providers to ensure that provision is made for educational needs arising from new development and that appropriate mechanisms are secured through legal agreements to deliver this provision.

Policy EMP10

Land is allocated at Langton Lane, Canterbury for a new secondary school.

Land is also identified at Hadlow College, Canterbury for retention for college purposes.

Whitstable Harbour

- 3.66** Whitstable Harbour is a small, but busy harbour, serving a range of business uses including minerals importation, fishing, and some restaurants and retail uses. It also has considerable significance in terms of its value to the local community and to visitors. It is the Council's objective to support the continued business use of the Harbour, and the expansion of business uses within the Harbour, in the long-term. Whitstable Harbour is located within the Town Centre boundary as set out in the Town Centres chapter.
- 3.67** The Council will not therefore normally support uses which would compromise that continued business use, in particular, residential uses.
- 3.68** The Tourism and Leisure Chapter contains a policy relating to the possible development of a marina along the North Kent coast.

Policy EMP11

Developments within the Whitstable Harbour area as shown on the proposals map will be granted planning permission if they conform to the Whitstable Harbour strategic plan, to sustain a working harbour with an appropriate balance of operational uses, and non-operational uses that are compatible with the maintenance of the operational capability of the harbour, subject to appropriate design and access considerations. Proposals that would undermine this broad strategy will not normally be permitted.

Supporting Rural Business

- 3.69** The NPPF (para 28 onwards) encourages local planning authorities to support economic development in rural areas, and this is supported by the Council's own Corporate Plan.
- 3.70** Agriculture still forms a significant economic sector in Canterbury, in terms of land use, and a significant proportion of farmland in the district is classified as "best and most versatile". Conversely, a lot of the farmland that does not fall into that category is sensitive for other reasons – in areas of flood risk, sensitive landscapes and in and adjoining areas of nature conservation importance. The Council will also continue to support new agricultural development which supports agricultural operations and innovative farming methods. The NPPF seeks to safeguard the long term potential of best and most versatile agricultural land (ie: grades 1, 2 and 3a), and this policy is reflected in this Plan.

Policy EMP12

Subject to the development allocations set out in this plan, the Council will seek to protect best and most versatile farmland for the longer term. Where development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary to meet a housing, business or community need, planning consent will normally only be granted on best and most versatile land where a suitable site on poorer quality land cannot be identified.

- 3.71** Large buildings, such as barns, workshops, silos and industrial units located in rural conservation areas or the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, (AONB) can have a major impact. They should be carefully designed to a high standard, particularly where they are located next to open countryside or are visible from nearby roads. Standard industrial sheds in bland materials and garish colours will not be acceptable in such locations. High quality contemporary architecture of an extremely high standard that harmonises with the landscape will be encouraged.
- 3.72** Modern farm buildings are generally constructed from steel or concrete portal frames and clad with profiled sheets. This form of construction is economic, but may not be aesthetically pleasing. The pressure to increase efficiency has led to traditional barns and livestock buildings being abandoned. Historic farm buildings should be kept in agricultural use if at all possible.

3.73 Where new agricultural buildings are necessary, their visual impact can be reduced by the following means:

- Dividing broad roof spans into a number of bays, each bay having a pitched roof, or adopting a double-pitched roof;
- Using timber cladding and/or dark coloured profiled sheeting to reduce the scale of large buildings. Dark brown, blue or grey are recommended for roofs, with lighter tones for walls. Green is to be avoided (unless a very dark shade is chosen) as it clashes with natural greens. Timber cladding is especially effective if used in conjunction with a brick plinth; cement sheeting should be avoided;
- Setting new agricultural buildings into the landscape. Existing vegetation can help screen buildings and use should be made of the natural landform, for example by avoiding prominent ridges. Ideally new buildings should not be sited close to historic farm buildings because of the inevitable clash of scale, but siting new development to the rear of existing buildings can help in lessening impact; and
- Screening with low maintenance native plants. Quick growing conifers look suburban and should not normally be used in a rural setting.

Policy EMP13

The Council will permit proposals for new agricultural buildings or development subject to the following criteria:

- **It has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council, by means of a supporting statement, that there is an economic need for the development;**
- **The proposal avoids harm to its physical setting by its siting, scale, design, materials and external colours;**
- **Where existing buildings are of architectural or historic importance any extensions should respect their existing design and use of materials; and**
- **There is no detrimental impact on landscape interests, protected species, sites or features of nature conservation interest or on sites of archaeological or historical importance.**

Where appropriate, new landscaping should be provided to further reduce the visual impact of the new building and this should reflect the character of the surrounding area.

Other rural businesses

- 3.74** The Council will also support other types of rural business development that provides opportunities for rural businesses to develop; that brings additional employment opportunities to the rural areas, or that meets specific needs for rural communities. This Local Plan does not, in the main, identify sites in the rural areas for business, but will apply the following policy in considering proposals for such development.
- 3.75** The Government has published plans to permit the change of use of some rural buildings to business and other uses for a short period. Beyond the scope of those proposals, the Council will apply the following policy.

Policy EMP14

The Council will grant planning permission for the conversion of existing rural buildings, and well-designed new buildings and premises, that support the development and expansion of business in suitable locations in the rural areas, as follows:

- **Preferably, in or on the edges of existing settlements;**
- **Conversions of existing buildings for business or tourism uses, including accommodation;**
- **Particular care should be exercised in the design of buildings and premises, where permitted within the north downs area of outstanding natural beauty, or where it involves the conversion of an historic building;**
- **Access and parking provisions are acceptable and the use does not significantly increase traffic to the detriment of the area or highway safety;**
- **There is no detrimental impact on landscape interests, protected species, sites or features of nature conservation interest or on sites of architectural or historic importance, or their settings where appropriate; and**
- **There is no detrimental impact on residential amenity.**

The Council will not normally support proposals that would result in the loss of existing business premises that provide essential services to the rural areas.

Horse-related development

- 3.76** Horse-riding continues to be a popular activity and can bring significant employment and economic benefits to the rural areas, in addition to providing recreation and enjoyment. However, the associated development and its intensity of use can have a significant impact on the countryside.

- 3.77** This issue has been identified in the landscape appraisals that have been undertaken for the district. Any horse-related development proposal will need to satisfy the criteria in the design policies in the Plan, and any ancillary development or works should seek to employ a high standard of design, which should reflect the rural surroundings. In appropriate circumstances there may be a requirement to undertake removal of associated equipment such as jumps, when not in frequent use, to avoid visual clutter.
- 3.78** The proposed means of enclosure should be sympathetic to the character of the adjoining countryside; for example, the boundaries should be stock proof. However, the Council would not necessarily wish to see the introduction of harsh fencing and would expect suitable hedge boundary treatment. This could be in addition to fencing to minimise the impact on the landscape. Where possible, the proposal should be well related to the existing rights of way network.
- 3.79** The Kent Downs AONB unit has also produced guidance on “Managing Land for Horses”, and this contains some guidance in relation to planning and design matters. Applicants seeking permission for such developments in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty should also have regard to that advice in preparing proposals.

Policy EMP15

Development proposals relating to the keeping and riding of horses will be granted planning permission where:

- **Development is of an appropriate scale, design and intensity with its surroundings;**
- **There is no detrimental impact on landscape interests, protected species, sites or features of nature conservation interest or on sites of archaeological or historical importance;**
- **Access and parking provisions are acceptable and the use does not significantly increase traffic to the detriment of the rural area or highway safety;**
- **Buildings are of good quality design and are sited to avoid an adverse impact on the wider landscape;**
- **There is no adverse impact upon residential amenity;**
- **Lighting should be kept to the minimum necessary to serve the unit, and should be designed so as not to impact on neighbouring properties or the wider countryside; and**
- **The proposed means of enclosure are sympathetic to the character of the adjoining countryside.**

In the North Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, proposals should take into account the guidance provided by the Kent Downs AONB unit.

Chapter 4: Town Centres and Leisure

Town Centres

- 4.1** Our town centres are vitally important to the District's economy. In 2010 the wholesale and retail sector alone directly employed some 11,000 workers, which amounts to about 18% of the total workforce in the Canterbury District (Source: British Register Employment Survey, 2010). As well as retail, numerous other uses operate from town centres, including: offices, leisure, entertainment facilities, the more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurants, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, night-clubs, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres, and bingo halls), and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities).
- 4.2** A considerable evidence base has helped to inform the content of this chapter comprising local and national studies together with ongoing health monitoring conducted by the Council and its partners such as the Canterbury City Partnership which will take on a greater role in enhancing the economic role of the city over this plan period.
- 4.3** All three towns weathered the recession of 2008-2009 remarkably well. The economic downturn has nevertheless affected investment conditions, development prospects, consumer demand, and in turn future planning across the District. A growing body of evidence (e.g. CBRE, 2011, Portas Review, 2011) points to a fundamental shift in the needs and behaviour of consumers who increasingly seek to purchase products and services in ways other than visiting their local town centres.
- 4.4** Where these national trends are likely to develop further over time the Council recognises the need to exercise flexibility in its planning approach to the town centres, and ensure that they are appropriate to the present and future. In general it is essential that the towns adapt to this changing context, maintain economic competitiveness, strengthen retail product and continue to flexibly diversify their overall offer in a way that meets the future demands of the visitor market as well as enhancing the social and cultural assets critical to a successful town centre.
- 4.5** As a result this local plan seeks to ensure the District's town centres are well positioned to take advantage of a renewed upturn in commercial interest in the towns and city when the economy begins to recover. It also aims to provide a solid basis beyond the recovery to maintain and build upon the success achieved to date and to help our city and town centres adapt to a rapidly changing consumer environment.

Retail hierarchy

- 4.6** Canterbury city centre acts as a sub-regional centre for retail. The Council believes that the changes in national trends are likely to result in a continued increase in the demand for the city as a retail destination. Canterbury needs to make the most of this opportunity, encourage investment in the centre, attract more of the big retail names, support the independent sector and expand the centre to meet an identified retail need. It is essential that the Council seeks to safeguard its strong retail offer in the Primary Shopping Area and retain its position as an important regional centre for retail and consumer services, providing for the needs of residents, students, workers, tourists and the visitor economy generally.
- 4.7** The district centres (Herne Bay and Whitstable) have a complementary role as part of the established retail hierarchy, serving the local population. They ensure a sustainable focus and pattern for development and their position within the retail hierarchy will continue to ensure they have opportunities to enhance and strengthen their role. The distinctive characteristics of each centre will be promoted, and there is clearly scope within both centres for making improvements to the public realm and shopping environment.
- 4.8** Whitstable, an important district centre for retail, with an unusual and successful retail offer of an independent and eclectic range of shops, needs to be carefully supported in maintaining its retail character.
- 4.9** The retail offer of Herne Bay, also dominated by independents, should benefit from regeneration efforts identified in the Herne Bay Area Action Plan, which seeks to improve the retail offer and increase the amount of consumer spending retained in the town.
- 4.10** Local Neighbourhood Centres contain a range of small shops of a local nature, such as a small supermarket, newsagent, sub-post office and pharmacy and potentially other services such a hot-food takeaway and launderette.
- 4.11** Our larger villages perform the role of village centres, and may typically include a small convenience shop, newsagents and sub-post office.

Promoting a Competitive Town Centre

- 4.12** It is essential that the Council continues to promote competitive and well managed town centres. Town centres are essential to sustainable and thriving communities and supporting their viability and vitality is crucial.

Town Centre Designations

- 4.13** Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay have designated town centres, which are shown on the Proposals Map. A strong town centre policy enables and encourages a full range of town centre uses to be implemented within them, but also allows the Council to reject proposals that do not add to the vitality and viability of the town centre or which conflict with other policies and objectives. Such town centre uses include, retail, leisure, entertainment facilities, intensive sport and recreation uses, offices, arts, culture and tourism development. Indeed the Council will support the provision of a diverse range of uses which appeal to a wide range of age and social groups. It is social and cultural experiences which provide critical reasons to go into town.
- 4.14** A diversity of uses adds to a town centre, making it more attractive, but a proliferation of uses in the same locality, which do not 'add value', will be unacceptable. For changes of use to restaurants, pubs or takeaways within town centres, in particular, the Council will consider the proximity of other similar uses and whether a proliferation of the same use within the same immediate area affects the vitality and viability of the town centre, or is in conflict with other policy objectives, including traffic and environmental objectives.

Policy TCL1

Within the designated town centres, planning permission will be granted for development of a range of town centres uses that add to the vitality and viability of the town centre, including the experience economy, except where the proposed development is in conflict with other policies or other environmental objectives.

The Council will seek to enhance the established character and diversity of town centre uses, and avoid over-concentration of particular uses that would be detrimental to the character and function of an area or to the vitality or viability of a shopping frontage or locality.

Development should be of an appropriate scale in accordance with that centre's position in the hierarchy.

Primary Shopping Areas

- 4.15** The Council has designated Primary Shopping Areas in Canterbury city, Whitstable and Herne Bay. These areas are intended primarily for A1 use, to ensure a competitive retail offer and accessible shopping core, which will underpin healthy and thriving town centres. Alternative retail and non-retail uses can in most

instances be located in the Mixed Shopping Frontages or wider town centre and still contribute to vitality and viability. In Canterbury, Policy TCL2 relates to a designated shopping 'Area', while in the smaller coastal towns the plan refers to a designated shopping 'Frontage'.

- 4.16** In Canterbury, examination of uses illustrates that in 2011 76% of units in the Primary Shopping Area were in A1 retail use, and with only 3% of units vacant. It is notable, however, that a number of A3 units have emerged in the Primary Shopping Area and while such uses are successful and important to town centre vitality, excessive numbers may damage shopping circulation routes and reduce the availability of large retail units. St Georges Street and Sun Street in particular have seen numerous changes of use to A3 use. Further reductions in A1 retail may reduce the draw of pedestrians through these areas to the detriment of nearby shopping streets. It is important that the sub-regional attractiveness of Canterbury as a retail destination is preserved, to ensure that retail trade is not diverted to other nearby centres, such as Maidstone, Ashford or Westwood Cross. It is therefore vital to protect the Primary Shopping Frontage and refuse developments which harm or undermine its retail function. This is supported by the large capacity for A1 floorspace at Canterbury.
- 4.17** Where the growth of non-retail uses reduces the availability of choice for customers and creates 'dead frontages', there is a loss of vitality of the centre and attractiveness to customers. This is particularly marked in Herne Bay town centre, where strict application of the Primary Shopping Frontage policy will assist with consolidating the main shopping streets, and ensure there is an accessible central core of shopping for comparison and choice and which supports the planned regeneration activities. The Herne Bay Area Action Plan includes specific development proposals for the town centre, including significant retail provision.
- 4.18** In Whitstable, the Primary Shopping Frontage will seek to ensure that a central core of shopping services is maintained to serve the local community, while still providing flexibility for its diverse range of cafes and independent businesses important to the visitor economy and the character of the town.

Policy TCL2

Within the Primary Shopping Area/Frontages, the Change of Use of ground floor premises from Class A1 shops to other uses will only be permitted where:

- a. **It can be shown that the premises is no longer needed for A1 use and the retention of A1 use at the premises have been fully explored, without success, by way of marketing at a reasonable rate for a period of at least 12 months.**
- b. **The proposed change of use does not have an unacceptable impact on the retail function, on the attractiveness of the primary shopping area, or on pedestrian circulation to nearby streets.**

Mixed Shopping Frontages

- 4.19** Within the Mixed Shopping Frontages a mix of uses will be acceptable (including retail, professional and financial services, restaurants, cafes and bars), where this does not harm the vitality, attractiveness and viability of the shopping function of the area. Within these Mixed Shopping Frontages, therefore, the Council will encourage an active mix of uses, and resist the loss of retail (A1-A5) uses to residential or other non retail uses. It is important that active frontages / shopfronts are maintained so that the Mixed Shopping Frontage remains active and no areas of dead frontage are created, thereby isolating units further away. Care will be taken to avoid excessive concentrations of single uses that could cause amenity issues and affect the main shopping focus.
- 4.20** In Canterbury, a section of Castle Street and St Margaret's Street has developed a successful estate agent niche. This mixed shopping frontage, however, despite having a character consistent with a town centre, has little A1 retail. The Council will encourage retail uses on these shopping streets in particular, improving the shopping connection along Castle Street to Wincheap and the proposed satellite retail centre.
- 4.21** Planning proposals for change of use to A3, A4, or A5 will need to be carefully considered against policy TCL3. Particular attention should be given to avoiding the clustering of non-A1 uses where this is detrimental to the attractiveness of the centre in accordance with Policy TCL1. Within the mixed shopping areas of Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay, the Council will support measures to protect and promote the charm and convenience of the independent retail sector.
- 4.22** In the case of St Peters Street, additional flexibility is provided through Policy TCL4.

Policy TCL3

Mixed Shopping Frontages are designated at Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable as shown on the Proposals Map. Changes of Use of ground floor premises in these areas between the A use class will be permitted where the proposed use:

- i. **retains an active shop front and maintains or enhances the vitality, attractiveness and viability of the shopping area;**
- ii. **is complementary to the shopping function of the area and provides a direct service to the public; and**
- iii. **does not result in an over concentration of such uses in the area.**

Change of use to residential or other non-retail uses will not normally be permitted.

Cultural Enhancement Area

- 4.23** The Council recognises that the ‘experience’ aspects of a successful town centre are essential and in Canterbury has introduced additional flexibility in a defined area to the north west of the City, including St Peters Street, Orange Street, the Marlowe Theatre and Westgate Hall. In this area the Council will permit a range of ‘cultural / leisure / tourism’ town centre uses, in addition to retail uses, provided an active frontage and shopfront is retained at ground floor level and the new use is compatible with adjacent land uses. Such uses might include museums, art galleries and event spaces to take advantage of the substantial cultural investment in this part of the City at the Marlowe Theatre, Beaney Institute, the Westgate Hall and the Westgate Towers. Such uses contribute to meeting the demands of a visitor market, provide the social and cultural assets critical to a successful town centre and allow the centre to react positively to difficult economic times.

Policy TCL4

Within the Cultural Enhancement Area (as shown on the proposals map), planning permission for ‘active’ town centre uses (including retail, recreation, art, creative, cultural and tourism development) will be granted, provided an active frontage/shopfront is maintained (where applicable) and it is compatible with adjacent land uses and the character of the area.

- 4.24** Ongoing pedestrian enhancements and alterations to traffic flow in the Westgate Towers area would contribute to improving the pedestrian experience and increasing pedestrian footfall at St Peters Street and St Dunstons Street.

Local Centres

- 4.25** Local Centres are important in meeting the retail needs of the local residents who wish to shop locally or who are dependent on the facilities they offer. The retail services offered and any community facilities present play an important role in meeting local day-to-day needs particularly for the elderly and other vulnerable groups. They also boost local economic activity and employment and provide a focal point for community initiatives. These local centres are marked on the proposals map and include:

- Tankerton Road, Tankerton;
- Herne Bay Road/ St Johns Road, Swalecliffe;
- Sea Street, Herne Bay;
- Canterbury Road, Herne Bay;
- Reculver Road, Beltinge;
- Faversham Road, Seasalter.

- 4.26** They represent a highly sustainable service provision which offers an alternative type of service to larger supermarkets, and contributes to reducing congestion and pollution. The Council will protect their retail viability and vitality and ensure that it is not undermined by potentially damaging development elsewhere. It will be important to regularly assess the health of the existing local centres, and to ensure development respects their scale, function and identity. Every effort should be made to ensure that retail and community uses are not lost and the Council will expect evidence that the property has been managed and operated effectively and actively marketed, should an alternative use be proposed.

- 4.27** Any change of use in new local centres created as part of new developments allocated by this plan will also need to satisfy Policy TCL5.

- 4.28** The Local Centres Policy also applies to the Canterbury City areas of Wincheap, and St Dunstons. Indeed these areas would have fulfilled a similar function since medieval times as suburbs of the City and still serve their local residential population with a range of retail and other services. St Dunstan's and Wincheap have a 'village' character and their residents identify with a distinct sense of place and community. Protection of the A1 retail and service provision in the Local Centres is essential to maintain the sustainability of the associated neighbourhoods, retention of their character and their continued vitality and success.

Policy TCL5

The Council will protect and improve the provision of retail uses and other uses that meet local needs in the designated local centres and the Canterbury City areas of Wincheap, St Dunstons and Northgate. Planning permission will only be granted for a change of use from a retail shop or other community use if:

- a. **The proposed use does not threaten the vitality and viability of the local centre;**
- b. **The proposed use is not detrimental to residential amenity;**
- c. **The proposed use does not jeopardise the balance and variety of services available in the local centre to meet the needs of the local community;**
- d. **There is evidence to demonstrate that there is no demand for the continued use of the premises for retail or community premises; and**
- e. **The use is no longer viable and the property has been actively marketed at a reasonable rate for a period of at least 12 months.**

Proposals for new shopping or community provision within or adjacent to local centres will be permitted where the proposals meet a local need, widen the choice, quality or range of shopping or community facilities, and are of a scale appropriate to the function of that particular centre.

Retail development

4.29 Retail capacity studies carried out by DTZ in 2011 have reviewed future retail trends, the vitality and viability of the Canterbury City Centre and the quantitative retail needs of the City, Herne Bay and Whitstable. The Council must provide an adequate framework to enable the retail industry to establish and maintain appropriate town centre sites to meet identified retail need, and ensure the regional status of Canterbury's shopping provision is not eroded.

Non-food (comparison) retail need

4.30 Comparison retailing relates to items not obtained on a frequent basis, including clothes, footwear, household and recreational goods. Despite using lower expenditure growth rates, more conservative future expenditure growth estimates, and stronger internet shopping growth forecasts, retail capacity forecasts undertaken in 2011 by DTZ have identified that sufficient capacity for new comparison floorspace should emerge over the forecasting period to support a significant new development(s) in Canterbury city centre. Combined capacity figures for both central and non-central provision might rise to as much as 31,000

sqm by 2021. Due to limitations in long-term forecasting, these figures need to be treated with caution, but nevertheless a significant retail allocation should be made in or around the City to ensure this need is met, particularly for the earlier forecasting periods.

- 4.31** Whitstable town centre comparison capacity is more modest, rising to 1550 sqm by 2021. There is also a theoretical capacity for 1700sqm by 2021 for non-central comparison floorspace. Although listed as non-central capacity the sequential approach must apply and the Council must seek to meet this capacity where possible in the town centre or edge of the town centre.
- 4.32** Herne Bay has an under-performing town centre, due to the limited range of comparison goods retailing and the strength of Canterbury. Once completed, significant comparison retail in the Central Development Area, as well as other allocations in the Herne Bay Area Action Plan, will use and indeed exceed, any available capacity for additional floorspace for the foreseeable future.

Food (convenience) retail need

- 4.33** Canterbury is well provided for convenience goods (including food, drink and non durable household goods), with an increase in floorspace in recent years. There is no overriding need for new floorspace in the immediate future and therefore any new proposals for additional food retail would need to present a strong qualitative or regeneration argument.
- 4.34** For Herne Bay, the retail study identified very modest levels of capacity. Implementation of the foodstore envisaged in the Adopted Masterplan for the Central Development Area would use this remaining capacity, as well as those increases in capacity that result from increasing Herne Bay Town Centre's market share for convenience good expenditure. Similarly, the study indicates that in Whitstable there is no theoretical capacity for convenience floorspace. Any out-of-town capacity would be removed by the provision of food retail floorspace in the Central Development Area, since Herne Bay would become more self-sufficient in convenience goods terms. Regeneration activities identified in the Area Action Plan are key to ensure additional retail capacity is generated. The Council will resist any out of town development that would threaten implementation of the Area Action Plan and regeneration of the Herne Bay Town Centre.
- 4.35** A review of the retail capacity will be undertaken at five-yearly intervals and updated as necessary. However, several key drivers for change, may significantly affect future retail provision across the District. These include the effect of online shopping, the increase in non-food provision in supermarkets, shopping as more of a 'social experience', and the impact of the improvements to the District's many retail competitors, including Ashford, Maidstone and Westwood Cross. These

factors, together with the continued tightening of credit and the hesitant economic recovery, will restrict the growth in spending on comparison goods and developer confidence in the near future. Maintaining and improving the vitality and viability of the City and the town centres of Herne Bay and Whitstable must remain a priority.

New Retail and other Main Town Centres Uses Development

- 4.36** The Council will positively focus new development in the City and District centres. Any development will be expected to be of an appropriate scale and design for the particular centre. Proposals outside these areas will be assessed according to the sequential test, the requirement for good accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport, and their impact on committed and planned public and private investment.
- 4.37** The Council will apply the sequential test to main town centre uses as follows:
- town centres locations; followed by,
 - edge of centre locations; followed by,
 - retail Nodes
 - out of centre locations.
- 4.38** Proposals at out of centre locations will only be permitted if suitable sites are not available in centre, edge of centre locations or designated retail nodes. Preference will be given to accessible sites that are well connected to the town centre.
- 4.39** Testing the impact of development will focus on the impact of the development on in-centre investment and vitality and viability (including trading impact). For major schemes this impact assessment should be an assessment up to 10 years from the time the application is made. For such schemes, the cumulative impact of committed development must be considered as part of this assessment.
- 4.40** In the case of existing retail warehouses that are effectively limited to bulky goods, the Council will resist pressures to broaden out the range of goods permitted to be sold. This is to protect the vitality and viability of the City centre but it would also help retain the availability of units for bulky goods sales. If proposals come before the Council for relaxing the restrictions on the range of goods to be sold, then they should meet the requirements of policy TCL6 below.

Policy TCL6

Planning permission for retail development or other Main Town Centre Uses in an edge of centre or out of centre location will not be granted unless the applicant has successfully demonstrated:

- a. **That there are no other more suitably located and available sites nearer to the town centre using a sequential approach to site identification;**
- b. **Flexibility in terms of format and scale;**
- c. **The site is accessible and convenient to a range of transport modes other than the car, including good local public transport services and proposals to enhance accessibility, including that for pedestrians and cyclists; and**
- d. **The proposed development does not have a detrimental effect on the highway network in terms of congestion and road safety.**

When assessing applications for retail, leisure and office development outside town centres, and with a floorspace that meets or exceeds 950sqm, the Council will also require an impact assessment which will include an assessment of:

- a. **The impact of the development on existing, committed and planned public and private investment (including regeneration schemes) in a centre or centres in the catchment area of the proposal;**
- b. **The impact of the proposal on town centre vitality and viability, including local consumer choice and trade in the town centre and wider area; and**
- c. **Effect on the vitality and viability of other town centres and local centres defined in development plans.**

Development that gives rise to adverse impacts will be refused.

- 4.41** The government has recently consulted on 'Extending Permitted Development Rights for Homeowners and Businesses' (2012). For a temporary period this would allow shops and financial/professional services establishment to extend their premises, subject to certain restrictions without planning permission.

Diversification of the Retail Offer and Meeting Retail Need.

- 4.42** The comparison (non-food) retail need identified for Canterbury city is significant. In order to maintain Canterbury's current role and competitive position in the retail hierarchy it follows that the Council should seek to meet this need.
- 4.43** The NPPF states that Local Planning Authorities should: *"allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, community services and residential development needed in town centres. It is important that retail*

and leisure needs are met in full and are not compromised by limited site availability. Local planning authorities should therefore undertake an assessment of the need to expand town centres to ensure a sufficient supply of suitable sites”.

- 4.44** Given the historic city is more constrained than most centres, the significant comparison retail capacity identified and the lack of suitable city centre sites to accommodate this need, the council needs to make a significant retail allocation in a suitable location. Advice received from DTZ in the Retail and Leisure Strategy 2011 recommends that the Council should focus on the higher quality and specialist retail and leisure operators within the city centre, providing an holistic offer for resident and visitor markets and identify a satellite centre in an edge or out of centre location. This should be complementary to the City centre, catering more for bulky goods and large format/mass market retailers and leisure operators (conditioned appropriately), ensuring a focus on high quality and specialist retailers in the City centre.
- 4.45** The Wincheap Retail Area (currently the Wincheap Industrial Estate and Riverside Retail Park) close to the Park and Ride, and within walking distance of the City centre, is well placed to act as a satellite retail centre. It must, however, have a complementary retail function, catering for more mass market and large format retailers. There is already substantial retail floorspace on the estate and a target retail floorspace of 50,000sqm should be provided. Any redevelopment should seek to provide alternative premises for existing occupiers of the estate where possible. Redevelopment should make the best of the advantages of the estate, including its position on one of the main entrances into the city, the presence of Canterbury East train station and major bus routes, its proximity to the new Canterbury–Chartham footpath / cycle path and its close relationship to the historic city, an important regional retail centre.
- 4.46** A planned redevelopment of the estate should incorporate a high quality design and enhanced environment, a traffic management scheme that would ensure essential improvements to traffic flow on Wincheap (including a new off-slip from the A2, and a relief route for Wincheap itself) and a mix of complementary retail, leisure, and business uses. The Council will encourage a residential element to the scheme where that helps deliver the Council’s priorities, and is located and designed in such a way that it is not incompatible with leisure uses.
- 4.47** A master planning exercise will inform the preparation of a development brief for the Wincheap Retail Area. Any development adjacent to the residential properties on Wincheap should pay regard to the scale of the residential context. Proposals adjacent to the open space on the Great Stour should also pay regard to its wildlife and landscape quality. This area of habitat is designated as a Local

Wildlife Site and Area of High Landscape Value and will be safeguarded in any development proposals. The development brief should also respond to flooding risks in the locality.

- 4.48** The Council will look to promote the improvement of Wincheap itself through the re-development of the existing estate, and highway improvements in particular. The line of proposed new road infrastructure to relieve Wincheap of the in-bound traffic is safeguarded on the Proposals Map.

Policy TCL7

The Wincheap Retail Area (as shown on the proposals map) will be developed as a satellite retail centre of Canterbury city, focused on retail and leisure provision. The Council will facilitate the implementation of a comprehensive mixed-use redevelopment. Any scheme will be required to:

- (a) substantially accommodate the large format retail and leisure floorspace identified by the Wincheap Retail Development Brief during the plan period; and**
- (b) form an effective, functional and complementary satellite centre of Canterbury City Centre; and**
- (c) provide improved, attractive and convenient pedestrian links with Canterbury city centre: and**
- (d) contribute towards a package of transport improvements.**

Redevelopment of any part of the Wincheap Retail Area must not impede the successful implementation of the comprehensive retail and leisure-led redevelopment scheme and contribute financially to the overall delivery of transport and pedestrian infrastructure as indicated in the Development Brief.

The location and design of new residential development identified as essential to viability of the scheme must be compatible with the primary retail and leisure function of the site.

Enhancing and protecting Herne Bay and Whitstable Town Centres

- 4.49** The NPPF encourages policies to support the vitality and viability of town centres and plan positively for town centres that are in decline. The Council continues to strongly support the improvement of retail provision and enhancement of the town centres generally.
- 4.50** Herne Bay will undergo significant changes over the life of the Local Plan. Regeneration schemes as set out in the Area Action Plan are attracting significant new investment through the implementation of Development Principles Supplementary Planning Documents for:
- Central Development Area (Policy HB1);
 - Beach Street (Policy HB2);
 - Bus Depot (Policy HB3).
- 4.51** As well as enhancing the retail and cultural offer, status and trading performance of Herne Bay, these will help to retain a higher proportion of residents' expenditure within the town, much of which has been lost to nearby centres of Westwood Cross and Canterbury. There is no significant capacity beyond the floorspace on these identified sites and it is imperative that regeneration of the town is not threatened by development of out-of-town floorspace. The consistent application of the 'town centre first' policy in planning terms is vitally important to ensuring redevelopment of key town centre sites and that the associated regeneration of the town has the best opportunity for success.
- 4.52** Similarly Whitstable has limited retail capacity. As such significant additional out-of-town floorspace should not be permitted.
- 4.53** As there is no capacity for any significant additional retail convenience and comparison floorspace on top of that which is already identified in mixed use sites in Whitstable and allocated sites in Herne Bay, any retail development during the Local Plan period will be mainly focused on the implementation of current allocations and other qualitative improvements and schemes. The significant new investment committed and planned for the District's main centres should not be jeopardised or harmed by additional out of centre retailing.

Policy TCL8

Within Whitstable and Herne Bay town centres development will have to be of an appropriate scale and character to reflect and respond to the role and function of the centre, and should promote the individuality of the centre, responding to any distinct features. The Council will continue to encourage environmental enhancements, improving attractiveness and accessibility of the main shopping areas.

Environmental Improvement Areas

- 4.54** The Council will explore options for pedestrian and environmental improvements at a range of locations across the District. In particular the Council will investigate key entry points to the City and those parts of the City and coastal towns where environmental enhancements would benefit pedestrian movement and access.
- 4.55** An attractive and accessible public realm benefits visitor perceptions, assists the safe movement of pedestrians and improves town centre vitality. A strategy will be developed for appropriate schemes that builds on the Council's document titled: "Streets as Destinations: Canterbury City of Imagination Public Realm Strategy". Options that may be explored include:
- Wincheap Roundabout and Castle Street to improve the connection between retail at Wincheap and the City Centre;
 - St Georges Roundabout to Canterbury East to ensure high quality development at this prominent ring-road location;
 - St Georges Roundabout and the quality of the pedestrian linkages between the three constituent parts of the World Heritage Site;
 - Riverside links from Northgate to the coach park;
 - St Dunstons Street and the Westgate Towers;
 - Memorial Park, Herne Bay;
 - Whitstable Harbour.
- 4.56** Environmental improvements might include pedestrian bridges, subway improvements, signage and lighting improvements, improvement to the consistency of materials and layout and the use of high quality street furniture, surfaces and planting. Policy DBE11 gives further advice on public realm improvements.

Policy TCL9

The Council will identify Environmental Improvement Areas within the Canterbury District. Within these areas the Council will seek environmental improvements that benefit physical and visual connections and enhance the environment through the use of, landscape and surface treatments, street furniture and signage. Opportunities for the integration of high quality public art should be pursued, and treatment of the public realm should be informed by the heritage values of the place, where appropriate.

Mixed Use Developments

- 4.57** The Council places a high priority on the redevelopment of appropriate underused town centre sites. New town centre developments should incorporate a mix of uses, and contribute towards meeting the government's sustainable development and social inclusion objectives. The mix of use that is appropriate will depend on the location of the sites, and relevant constraints, but the inclusion of affordable and market housing for rent or sale at upper levels, as well as office, retail, education or leisure will ensure prominent town centre sites contribute to employment and vitality of the town centres. Such a mix will have the benefit of providing housing in a sustainable location with access to a range of facilities including jobs, homes, entertainment and shops in close proximity to each other. With the exception of the Roger Britton Carpets site, the Mixed Use development sites in Policy TCL10, have approved development briefs or principles. There is also an adopted development brief for the area around Canterbury West Station.

Policy TCL10

Within (and around) the town centre, new large developments and development within commercial frontages should incorporate a mix of uses (including residential uses on upper floors where practicable), which will make a more efficient use of land and add to the vitality of the area. Within the Primary Shopping Areas/ Frontages, a mixed use retail development shall not result in the overall loss of retail floorspace at ground floor level.

In addition to new sites coming forward in town centres, the following sites are allocated for mixed use development with an indication of the types of uses that would be appropriate as part of the development.

Canterbury

- (a) White Horse Lane: retail, residential, community uses;**
- (b) Roger Britton Carpets, Wincheap: retail and residential;**
- (c) Kingsmead: retail, leisure and business, with limited potential for residential;**
- (d) Peugeot Garage: student housing, office/commercial, leisure and education.**

Herne Bay

- (a) Central Development Area: community, health, residential, retail, office and leisure;**
- (b) Beach street: galleries, restaurants and cafes with residential on upper floors;**
- (c) Bus depot: retail and residential.**

Whitstable

- (a) The Warehouse, Sea Street: residential or offices or hotel, with public open space;**
- (b) Whitstable Harbour: fishing, industrial, office / business, leisure and parking.**

Development of those sites listed above will need to conform to the associated adopted Development Briefs or agreed development principles.

Commercial Leisure and Cultural Facilities

4.58 The role of the City and towns as a 'social experience' will be key to their future success and visitors enjoy an exceptional social and cultural experience in the District historic centres, buildings and museums. Commercial leisure and cultural provision, however, are important to the experience that residents, visitors and tourists seek from town centres and includes (but is not limited to):

- Cinemas
- Restaurants/cafes
- Private health and fitness facilities
- Hotels
- Pubs/bars
- Nightclubs
- Bowling / Skating
- Theatres/music venues

4.59 Provision of commercial leisure was considered in the Canterbury Retail and Leisure Study (2011). Canterbury's commercial leisure market is not as comprehensive as would be expected for a city with Canterbury's population structure, affluence and heritage. Although it is well catered for in some areas of leisure, in others there are obvious gaps. Indeed, provision has reduced further with the loss of a small ice rink, bowling venue and laser arena and now there is a notable lack of leisure activities for young people. The following gaps in provision can be identified:

- The family orientated leisure sector - increased cinema provision and/or addition of large format entertainment such as an ice rink or bowling alley would strengthen this sector and enhance the early evening economy (5pm - 9pm).
- Increasing the presence of higher end bars which would again help to strengthen the early evening economy, to serve the professional and family market and complement the Marlowe Theatre.
- Mainstream health and fitness provision;
- The budget and high end hotel market could be strengthened.

4.60 Such activities would also be supported at appropriate sites at the coastal towns as well as at the City. In addition, the Council will seek to safeguard existing leisure and cultural activities to meet the needs of visitors and the local population. The Council will also give general support for new proposals including the joint use of facilities, provided they comply with other relevant policies. Potential for leisure and cultural activities are identified as suitable uses at both the Kingsmead Depot mixed use site and will be a particular theme of development at Wincheap Retail

Area, particularly on upper floors. A Cultural Enhancement Area at St Peters Street introduces additional flexibility for cultural uses right in the centre of the historic City.

- 4.61** Land is also allocated for leisure / cultural / tourism purposes at the Kings Hall and the seafront at Central Parade in Herne Bay.

Policy TCL11

Planning permission will normally be granted for proposals for new leisure and cultural activities and replacement and enhancement of existing facilities on allocated sites, in areas where there is an identified shortfall, or where facilities are provided as part of joint-use community proposals.

Major commercial leisure and cultural facilities serving the City or the coastal towns should be located within or close to the town centre, or if this is not achievable, at other locations within the urban area that are highly accessible by all modes of transport, particularly public transport.

Planning permission for change of use involving the loss of existing indoor sport, leisure and cultural facilities will only be granted where the applicant clearly demonstrates that there is no longer a need for that facility and that there are sufficient similar facilities in the local area. The property should be actively marketed at a reasonable market rate for a period of at least 2 years.

- 4.62** Some town centres uses, such as pubs and bars can, particularly when concentrated, lead to late evening noise and anti-social behaviour. In principle, however, it is reasonable for such uses to be included within town centres, provided they are sensitive to the proximity of homes and measures are put in place to minimise disturbance.

Policy TCL12

Within the City or town centres, the Council will grant planning permission for development that could lead to significant evening and night-time activity provided that:

- a. **The development should not lead to a significant increase in anti-social behaviour in the area in which it is located or on main transit routes to / from the area; and**
- b. **The proposal incorporates adequate measures to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour; and**
- c. **There will be no unacceptable impact on residential amenity either as a result of the proposal itself or as a result of the cumulative impact with other similar uses nearby.**

Chapter 5: Transport Infrastructure

- 5.1** The City of Canterbury is the main shopping, cultural, academic and employment centre for East Kent. The numbers of workers, shoppers, students and tourists who visit the area throughout the year put pressure on the transport network and car parks within the District, particularly in Canterbury. The Council's aspiration for economic and population growth and a better quality of life requiring improved mobility and transportation choices will bring increasing demands on the transport network.

East Kent

- 5.2** East Kent acts as the gateway to Europe, with good road and rail connections to London, the M25 and the continent. Despite this, it suffers from being peripheral to the south-east heartland. The key issue for the area is economic regeneration, particularly in the coastal towns where the loss of seaside holidaymakers and closure of main employers has led to high levels of unemployment. The area has the potential to attract investment and new residents. The high speed rail services offering much quicker journey times to London, attractive countryside and varied coastline, artistic coastal towns, picturesque villages and historic landmarks make this an attractive area to live.
- 5.3** Major housing and employment schemes are planned, particularly around Ashford, Whitfield, Westwood Cross and Sittingbourne/Isle of Sheppey. Many other areas are the focus of regeneration, including central Margate, Dover seafront, the Discovery Park Enterprise Zone and Folkestone seafront. The expansion of Manston Airport is considered the key enabler to boost the economy of Thanet with expansion plans over the next 25 years to cater for a forecast 4.75 million passengers per annum by 2033. Part of the proposal is for a Thanet Parkway station located near Minster to serve the airport. At the port of Dover, Government forecasts suggest a 101% increase in roll-on roll-off channel traffic by 2030 and in response, Dover Port proposes that this increased demand be met through a second terminal at the Western Docks which will be built when market conditions are favourable and will undoubtedly result in increased freight traffic using the A2 through the District.
- 5.4** As a sub-regional centre, the City of Canterbury attracts people from across East Kent. It is recognised that sub-regional centres should be a focus for investment in multi-modal transport infrastructure both within and between centres. The investment is supported by initiatives to re-balance travel patterns through behavioural change, as well as providing support for economic activity, health and education provision, retail development and housing. Canterbury City Council

will work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development within the District.

Canterbury

- 5.5** Canterbury is recognised as a regional “hub” for education and shopping and is a major visitor centre attracting millions of visitors a year. The City currently depends on a large net inflow of commuters to support the level of jobs in the area as well as an influx of secondary school children and students in higher education.
- 5.6** Around 160,000 vehicles per day travel to and from Canterbury along the nine “A” and “B” roads that converge on the City. The layout of the City with its medieval streets, heritage buildings and railway crossings presents a challenge that makes traffic management solutions very difficult. Although the City is bypassed to the south-west by the A2, the highway network is under acute pressure. As a result, Canterbury suffers from significant peak hour congestion especially on the inner ring road and inner radial routes. This contributes to the poor air quality, particularly in areas within the Air Quality Management Area. This is despite 1 million passengers using the park and ride every year since in 2003. Two railway stations which serve the City and High Speed One services now stop at Canterbury West station cutting the journey time to London from approximately 90 to 56 minutes.

Whitstable

- 5.7** Whitstable is a successful and thriving artistic coastal town which attracts many visitors. The high street is the main shopping area for the town and is the main vehicle access to the harbour. The town’s popularity has increased the long standing conflict between through traffic, on-street parking, deliveries and pedestrian movement. There is also a very high seasonal demand for car parking, especially during the weekend of the Oyster Festival when 70,000 people visit the town.

Herne Bay

- 5.8** In contrast to Whitstable, Herne Bay does not suffer from high levels of congestion. Here the challenge is to revitalise the town centre and reduce the need for residents to leave the town for services, leisure or retail opportunities by making the centre a pleasant and attractive environment for shoppers and visitors. The ease and attractiveness of travelling through the town on foot needs to be improved with pedestrian priority crossing points and routes through the town, linking its shopping streets with the seafront. The Herne Bay Area Action Plan aims to achieve this through Policies HB19 & HB21.

Rural areas

- 5.9** The Canterbury District has many rural areas which consist of picturesque villages and hamlets, surrounded by beautiful countryside. The main transport issues for rural areas are the inadequate availability of public transport, traffic using rural or residential areas to avoid congestion on main distributor routes and inconsiderate driver behaviour.

Links with other strategies

Corporate Plan 2011-2016

- 5.10** The Council has committed to ten pledges including to “support improvements to tackle congestion and the state of our roads and pavements.” Roads and pavement repairs are the top priority for the District’s residents and businesses and the City Council recognises that it can only achieve improvements to traffic congestion, roads and pavements with the specific support and encouragement of Kent County Council as the local transport authority.

The Council’s stated aim for 2016 is:

- 5.11** By 2016 more people will choose to travel sustainably, (for example by public transport) congestion will remain at 2011 levels and air quality will not have worsened. In order to meet this aim, we would expect to see progress on the following measures during the next five years:
- keeping traffic movements on Canterbury’s ring road to 2011 levels
 - increasing the number of people using park and ride
 - improving air quality measures
 - seeing a reduction in the proportion of people saying that traffic congestion needs to be improved

The City Council has identified the following actions which are incorporated into this Plan:

- working closely with Kent County Council in the management of roads and pavements and taking action to discourage inappropriate parking on pavements
- championing improvements to support the District’s road networks including completing the fourth A2 slip road at Wincheap
- reviewing our parking strategy to increase car parking spaces at our park and ride sites, reduce City centre parking spaces and set parking charges to influence travel choice
- ensuring new building development occurs in the right places to support broader travel options and promoting alternatives to reduce traffic across the district

- improving traffic flow through greater use of interactive signs, better linking of traffic signals and creation of transport hubs and connectivity
- encouraging sustainable travel by supporting improvements to public transport, increasing cycling and walking routes, car clubs and charging points for electric and hybrid cars
- encouraging businesses to develop plans that minimise congestion and parking problems.

Local Transport White Paper (2011)

- 5.12** In January 2011, the Government published a White Paper – Creating Growth Cutting Carbon - Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen which set out how local transport initiatives can contribute to its vision for *“a transport system that is an engine for economic growth, but one that is also greener and safer and improves quality of life in our communities”*.
- 5.13** The Government believes that targeting investment in projects that promote green growth will build the balanced, dynamic low carbon economy that is essential to our future prosperity. It also believes that local action is best placed to deliver the early reduction in carbon emissions through the promotion of sustainable transport modes like walking, cycling and public transport which also facilitate access to local jobs that will boost economic growth.

The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF)

- 5.14** The Government’s vision has been carried forward into the new National Planning Policy Framework which has replaced the previous suite of Planning Guidance. The NPPF emphasises the importance of rebalancing the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes, whilst encouraging local authorities to plan proactively for the transport infrastructure necessary to support the growth of ports, airports and other major generators of travel demand.
- 5.15** The NPPF recommends that Transport Assessments and Travel Plans should accompany applications for developments that generate significant amounts of movement, although it recognises that the opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas. It sets out three tests that development plans and decisions should take account of :
- the opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure;
 - safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all people; and
 - improvements can be undertaken within the transport network that cost effectively limit the impacts of development. Development should only be

prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of development are severe.

Local Transport Plan for Kent

- 5.16** A Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out the local transport authority's policies and delivery plans for managing and improving the local transport network. County Councils should work closely with District Councils to ensure that the transport implications of development proposals are identified and mitigated at an early stage in the planning process.
- 5.17** Kent County Council's Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2016 (LTP3) has five themes aligned to the previous government's national transport goals.
- 5.18** These LTP3 themes are:-
- Growth Without Gridlock – covering the objectives of traffic management, unlocking regeneration and housing growth, improving access to jobs and services, and supporting the function of the county's international gateways;
 - A Safer and Healthier County – covering the objectives of safer roads, active travel, and a safe and secure network;
 - Supporting Independence – covering the objectives of improving access to public transport, walking and cycling, particularly in disadvantaged areas;
 - Tackling a Changing Climate – covering the objectives of reducing emissions from transport and smarter travel; and
 - Enjoying Life in Kent – covering the objectives of improving access to learning, culture, social networks and the countryside, enhancing the journey experience, protecting Kent's natural and built environment, and providing for sociable streets.

The Strategy Approach

- 5.19** The Transport Steering Group has been instrumental in the development of the Draft Transport Strategy. In response to public consultation, workshops, evidence gathering, analysis and study, congestion has been identified as the biggest challenge to the area in achieving its vision. Congestion and delays are the main source of problems and frustration for travellers. Most people accept that congestion is an inevitable result of an area being successful and attractive. Since much of the frustration arises from being unable to predict how long a journey will take, the Draft Transport Strategy aims to improve journey time reliability so that travellers can be more certain of when they will arrive at their destination.

- 5.20** It is clear that merely building more roads to meet demand is unaffordable, would be opposed by local residents, threatens the historic fabric of the City and would generate increased traffic elsewhere on the network. The best way to achieve reliable journey times, while maintaining and improving access and avoiding traffic build up, is to shift to more efficient ways of travelling that take up less road space. The way of doing this is to promote alternative forms of travel such as walking and cycling for short journeys and bus and rail use for longer journeys. This approach looks to achieve a rebalancing of the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes and bring about an improvement in public transport, park and ride, walking and cycling while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 5.21** Planning policies have encouraged a balance of land uses so that people have been encouraged to minimise journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities. Development has only been prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of development are severe. When considering providing public car parking and controlling the level of parking, the Council will refer to the parking strategy as set out in the Draft Transport Strategy.
- 5.22** This approach has been broadly successful. Canterbury continues to be a vibrant and attractive place and traffic levels have stabilised. Both the City Council and County Council will therefore work together through the planning process to facilitate the use of sustainable transport by:
- looking to locate development near existing transport hubs
 - requiring facilities for walking, cycling and public transport and
 - ensuring mixed-use developments where housing and employment are located in close proximity to encourage shorter commuting journeys.
- 5.23** For larger scale residential developments, planning policies will promote a mix of uses with key facilities such as primary schools, health facilities, and local shops and encourage the use of more sustainable transport modes such as walking and cycling.

Policy T1

In considering the location of new development, or the relocation of existing activities, the Council will always take account of the following principles of the Draft Transport Strategy:

- a) Controlling the level and environmental impact of vehicular traffic including air quality;**
- b) Providing alternative modes of transport to the car by extending provision for pedestrians, cyclists and the use of public transport;**
- c) Reducing cross-town traffic movements in the historic centre of Canterbury;**
- d) Providing public car parking and controlling parking in accordance with the Parking Strategy;**
- e) Assessing development proposals in the light of transport demands and the scope for choice between transport modes; and**
- f) Seeking the construction of new roads and/or junction improvements which will improve environmental conditions and/or contribute towards the economic well-being of the District.**

5.24 In support of Policy T1, this plan proposes a hierarchy of transport modes. They will be considered in the following order:

- walking
- cycling
- public transport
- park and ride
- private car

5.25 To this end, the Draft Transport Strategy is broken down into seven strands as shown in Table 1 below. Each strand and is made up of a number of transport modes although it is recognised that each mode supports a number of the seven aims.

Each strand has its own chapter in the Transport Strategy.

Table 1: The Four Strands of the Strategy

Headline Aim	Strand	Aim	Transport Modes/Issues
<p>“to improve access to services, goods and opportunities and tackle the negative impacts of traffic by promoting sustainable modes of transport, achieving reliable vehicle journey times and supporting sustainable development”</p> <p>*access to be measured by:</p> <p>1. average journey times to key destinations by sustainable forms of transport</p>	Encouraging Sustainable Travel	Encourage the use of alternative modes of transport as an alternative to the private car	Walking Cycling Bus Rail
	Car Parking Strategy	Manage the availability of car parking to balance the impact of car use with the need to provide access to services and opportunities	On and off-street parking Parking tariffs Park and Ride Future parking demand and provision Residential parking standards Enforcement and management issues
	Managing the Network	Achieve reliable journey times across the transport network	Intelligent transport systems Additional capacity Minimising disruption
	Reducing the Demand to Travel	Reduce the overall number and length of journeys undertaken	Sustainable development

2. journey time reliability for the private car/van			<p>Travel plans</p> <p>Broadband coverage and online public services</p> <p>Workplace charging and road user charging</p>
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5.26 Table 2 shows some supporting objectives that are not essential to the Strategy's delivery but are important considerations.

Table 2: Supporting Objectives

Headline Aim	Objective	Aim	Transport Modes/Issues
<p>"to improve access to services, goods and opportunities and tackle the negative impacts of traffic by promoting sustainable modes of transport, achieving reliable vehicle journey times and supporting sustainable development"</p> <p>*access to be measured by:</p> <p>1. average journey times to key destinations by sustainable forms of transport</p>	Access for All	<p>Support independence and reduce social exclusion</p>	<p>Subsidised bus services</p> <p>Community transport and taxis</p> <p>Concessionary travel schemes</p>
	Air Quality & Freight	<p>Stabilise and, where possible, reverse the adverse effect of transport</p> <p>Enable the sustainable movement of goods whilst ensuring the negative impacts are minimised</p>	<p>Local air quality management</p> <p>Air quality action plan</p> <p>Freight action plan</p> <p>Planning and development control</p>
	Road Safety	<p>Reduce the number of people killed and injured on Canterbury's roads.</p>	<p>Crash remedial measures</p> <p>20mph zones</p> <p>Speed management</p> <p>Road safety campaigns</p> <p>Safer routes to school</p>

2. journey time reliability for the private car/van			
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- 5.27** Therefore, in line with the principles of sustainable development and this Plan's overall hierarchy of transport modes, measures for walking, cycling, public transport and park and ride will be the priority to ensure new development supports sustainable travel.

Walking and Cycling

- 5.28** Walking forms part of nearly every journey undertaken and there are few places that cannot be reached on foot. Therefore, pedestrian activity extends to every home, shop, school, workplace, leisure centre and visitor attraction utilising the existing streets, pedestrian areas, alleyways, paths and bridleways. Walking is available to nearly everyone and is the cheapest and healthiest way to get around. Canterbury's urban areas are particularly suited to walking being mainly flat and compact and as such the potential to shift journeys currently made by car to walking is extremely high which would help in reducing peak hour congestion. One example of this is the Riverside pedestrian and cycle routes through the City.
- 5.29** The needs of pedestrians vary greatly depending on physical ability, confidence, awareness, judgement for example, so new developments will need to take into account the requirements of all pedestrians in terms of design, layout and permeability to support those who are mobility impaired. Traffic free networks for pedestrians need to ensure that they are safe, direct and attractive. Pedestrian priority measures in residential streets will be sought and vehicle speeds must be kept low. These principles, as outlined in the Kent Design Guide, will be used to secure high quality design for new development. Walking links will also be investigated, where a short length of path or a new bridge or tunnel can substantially reduce the walking distance between key destinations.
- 5.30** Cycling has much to offer as a means of transport, particularly for local journeys as it has little environmental impact, keeps you fit, is affordable and also takes up less road space than the private car. Canterbury already has a good cycle network and more routes may be identified in the emerging Transport Strategy, these are necessary to make cycling a sustainable alternative to the car. All new development will look to provide traffic free segregated cycle routes with residential streets that are safe for cycling through low vehicle speeds. New cycling routes will also be identified as part of the strategic site allocations.

- 5.31** Priority will be given to the main urban areas and links to surrounding settlements which generate significant amounts of commuting. Examples are the cross-city cycle route, the Canterbury to Sturry cycle route, the Crab & Winkle route from Canterbury to Whitstable and the Canterbury to Chartham route. Key cycle routes will link residential areas with town centres, railway stations, schools, shops, places of work, bus stations, leisure facilities and other public services. Secure cycle parking at destinations will also be provided in a convenient location in good view or monitored by CCTV. A sufficient number of secure and covered cycle parking spaces must be provided as part of new residential developments in order to reduce the car dependency.

Policy T2

Land will be safeguarded for the proposed pedestrian and cycle routes, as shown on the Proposals Map (Inset maps 1, 2 & 3)

Bus

- 5.32** Bus travel has been Canterbury's transport success story. While bus use across the UK has continued to decline, Canterbury has seen rapid growth since 2004. The local bus network is especially important because it is a lifeline to many people, especially those who are too young or old to drive, have a disability or cannot afford to run a car.
- 5.33** The vision of the Canterbury Quality Bus Partnership for the local bus network is to build around "key bus routes" which offer fast, direct, reliable and frequent bus services to the main areas of demand. The Triangle service, connecting Herne Bay, Whitstable and Canterbury, has shown that the improved frequency of the service to every ten minutes still makes these routes commercially viable at this frequency.
- 5.34** Stagecoach believes it should be possible to achieve similar frequencies on other key routes in the medium-term through upfront 'Kick-start'-style public investment. These routes could be further improved by additional bus priority measures.
- 5.35** The main improvements currently needed are bus priority measures along the main routes into the City, especially for those routes that support the park and ride service.
- A28 Sturry Road - complete in-bound bus lane between the Vauxhall roundabout and Tourtel Road
 - A28 – new bus link from new development at Sturry and Broad Oak to park and ride site

- 5.36** These key routes will also be fed by local bus routes and community transport schemes at local transport hubs. The first local transport hubs will be the existing park and ride sites. This would feed rural services into the key bus routes and also provide links with commuting coach services to London and the rest of the south east and employment sites in Canterbury, for example, the Kent and Canterbury hospital and local colleges and universities.

Policy T3

Planning permission will not be granted for proposals that prejudice the effective implementation of bus improvement measures and fast bus links

Rail

- 5.37** The improved high speed rail service to/from Canterbury is a big driver for change and prosperity and a modern, efficient, safe, punctual and reliable rail service is central to the transport objectives of the City Council. Most of the future planned improvements will be progressed by Network Rail and the rail operator under the new Integrated Kent Franchise but this Local Plan will support further improvements at the District's stations such as the implementation of Travel Plans and physical enhancements.

Policy T4

Planning permission will not be granted for proposals that prejudice the effective implementation of rail improvements

Parking Strategy

- 5.38** The availability, cost and location of parking all influence whether someone uses the car. There is little point promoting alternative forms of transport unless the demand for car parking is carefully managed and controlled. This Local Plan looks to balance the need for parking with the need to manage the use of the private car. This will be achieved through increasing car parking spaces at our park and ride sites, reducing the number of city centre parking spaces and setting parking charges to influence travel choice.

Park and Ride

- 5.39** The role of park and ride is to provide a less environmentally damaging alternative to the private car. It is better to have part of the journey into the City made by bus than none at all and therefore, the Canterbury Parking Strategy states that all future parking demand for the City will be met by expanding park and ride provision. There is a requirement for approximately 800 additional park and ride spaces over the Local Plan period and it is proposed that this is achieved in the following way:
- Sturry Road +100 spaces (total 700 capacity)
 - Wincheap +300 spaces (total 900 capacity)
 - New Dover Road/south Canterbury +400 spaces (total 1,000 capacity)
- 5.40** The precise number of spaces and the split between the three sites will be determined at the appropriate time when development and infrastructure is delivered through the Local Plan period.
- 5.41** The Council will keep under regular review future need for park and ride provision, as the sites identified in this Local Plan are brought forward, and the need for specific sites. In the event that an additional or alternative site is required during the plan period, the Council will give consideration to bringing forward a site at Faulkner's Lane, Harbledown to provide additional / alternative capacity.

Policy T5

Land identified on the Proposals Map at Faulkner's Lane, Harbledown is safeguarded for additional/alternative capacity for a Park & Ride site.

Wincheap Park and Ride

- 5.42** The regeneration of Wincheap Industrial Estate will require the delivery of an A2 off-slip at Wincheap, making the Wincheap park and ride site more attractive for motorists approaching the city from the A2 north-western direction. Therefore, this Plan proposes to expand the existing park and ride site at Wincheap.

Policy T6

Land identified on the Proposals Map adjacent to the existing Park and Ride site at Wincheap is safeguarded for the expansion of that facility.

Sturry Road Park and Ride

- 5.43** This Local Plan identifies significant development at Herne Bay, Hersden and Broad Oak/Sturry. Although there is currently spare capacity at the Sturry Road park and ride site, there may be a need to expand the site within the plan period to cater for the additional demand from this new development.

Policy T7

Land identified on the Proposals Map adjacent to the existing Park and Ride site at Sturry is safeguarded for the expansion of that facility.

New Dover Road Park and Ride

- 5.44** There is an existing planning consent to expand capacity at the New Dover Road site from 600 to 800 spaces and it is expected that this expansion will be provided by 2014. In addition, this Plan identifies a large strategic allocation at South Canterbury including a new grade separated interchange on the A2 near Bridge. It is proposed, as part of this development, that the existing New Dover Road park and ride is expanded and re-sited close to a new A2 interchange and will be included in the development brief.

Policy T8

Provision will be made adjacent to a new A2 interchange near Bridge for the relocation and expansion of the New Dover Road Park and Ride.

Park and Ride for Whitstable

- 5.45** The other main routes into Canterbury currently not served by park and ride sites are the A290 from Whitstable and A257 from Sandwich. Both these routes are served by regular bus services (the Triangle and Diamond routes) and have recently undergone substantial investment. Their patronage may be adversely affected by the provision of park and ride along these routes. Therefore, a site situated on these routes is not considered appropriate at this time.
- 5.46** The Council considers that there is a demand particularly in the summer for a park & ride site to service Whitstable, therefore the Council will investigate sites within the vicinity of the Borstal Hill roundabout, one of the main access routes to Whitstable.

Policy T9

The Council will require any future proposals for a park and ride at Whitstable to meet the criteria as set out below :

- a. **Minimise the visual impact in respect of the location, layout and design of the development;**
- b. **Ensure that the development will not have a significant adverse effect on the amenity of local residents;**
- c. **Development which would materially harm scientific or nature conservation interests, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively is mitigated and any impacts can be adequately compensated;**
- d. **Any proposals will be expected to meet the aims of design policies DBE3 & DBE13**

Parking Standards

- 5.47** Kent County Council currently applies the parking standards set out in the Kent Design Guide Interim Guidance Note 3 for residential developments and the Kent and Medway Structure Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance 4 for commercial developments. Government policy no longer requires local authorities to set maximum parking standards. Instead, local authorities are encouraged to develop locally appropriate standards taking into account factors such as the availability of public transport and local car ownership levels.

Policy T10

The City Council will apply Kent County Council's residential parking standard IGN3 or any subsequent guidance. For all other developments the City Council will apply SPG4 or subsequent guidance. Cycle parking, where provided, will be convenient, secure, covered and where possible complemented by showering and changing facilities for cyclists.

Policy T11

Within the historic core of the City Centre of Canterbury, Canterbury West Station Conservation Area and in the town centres of Herne Bay and Whitstable, as identified on the Proposals Map, the Council will require that on-site parking for retail, office or commercial development will be restricted to operational parking only except when such an approach would prejudice other Local Plan objectives. The same will apply in other areas where on-street parking controls exist, subject to there being the scope for reasonable multi-modal access to the proposed development.

- 5.48** An area-wide workplace parking levy could be investigated in the future, building on the work of organisations in Canterbury who are already charging their staff and/or visitors to park in conjunction with promotion of alternatives as part of their travel plans. The City Council will look to set an example and improve its Travel Plan in order to reduce the number of single occupancy car journeys made by staff. Options to be considered will include increasing the incentives to travel more sustainably, as well as considering the removal of free car parking at the Military Road offices.

Managing the Network**Wincheap Traffic Management Scheme**

- 5.49** The new Local Plan identifies Wincheap industrial estate as being the most suitable location for meeting retail capacity for the City over the plan period. The A28 Wincheap corridor is a primary route into the City and provides access to the Wincheap industrial estate. As such, the route suffers from congestion and pollution. This high quality development for retail, business, leisure, housing and open space would be expected to contribute towards improving traffic management in Wincheap and environmental enhancements to the public realm. Policy TCL7 refers to the redevelopment of the Wincheap retail area.
- 5.50** Key transport infrastructure that is required in the Wincheap area during the plan period includes:
- A2 off-slip road,
 - re-provision and expansion of the park and ride to capture A2 and A28 traffic
 - a relief road/mini gyratory system through industrial estate with bus lanes. A safeguarded route is shown on the proposals map but the Council may investigate other potential routes

- pedestrian/cycle links to Castle Street & the City centre
- possible signalised junction at Wincheap Green

Policy T12

The Council will seek to implement the A2 off-slip road at Wincheap, an A28 relief road through the industrial estate and improvements at Wincheap Green. Any development proposals that might prejudice these improvements will be resisted. Contributions towards these infrastructure improvements will be sought from appropriate developments.

A2 Bridge Interchange

- 5.51** This Local Plan has identified a strategic development site at South Canterbury. This is for a mixed use development including housing, a community hub, play areas, green spaces, two primary schools, a doctor's surgery and commercial.
- 5.52** Access to this site from the A2 near Bridge is currently very difficult and with the current arrangement, traffic from the proposed development would impact on the A2 therefore a new grade separated interchange would be a prerequisite of any significant development in this location.
- 5.53** As such, the following transport measures are considered essential :
- a new grade separated interchange on the A2
 - a fast-track bus service into the City centre
 - bus fare incentives for residents
 - parking controls
 - the provision of greenways to encourage walking and cycling journeys into the City centre
 - expansion and relocation of the New Dover Road park and ride closer to the new A2 interchange

Policy T13

The Council will require the provision of a new A2 interchange near Bridge as identified on the Proposals Map as an integral part of new development proposals. Any development proposals that might prejudice this junction will be resisted. Contributions to this road and junction will be sought from appropriate developments in the area as set out in Policy SP3 .

Herne Relief Road

- 5.54** The current traffic using the A291 through the centre of Herne causes congestion and high levels of pollution. Any new development sites allocated in Herne Bay which would create additional traffic would be required to fund a relief road through the Strode Farm area and improvements to Bullockstone Road. The City Council has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Kent County Council, and the relevant site owners/agents to ensure that the Herne Relief Road is delivered at an appropriate point with fair and proportionate contributions from all relevant developments.

Policy T14

The Council will require the provision of an A291 Herne Relief Road as identified on the Proposals Map as an integral part of new development as set out in Policy SP3. Any development proposals that might prejudice this route will be resisted. Contributions to this relief road will be sought from appropriate developments.

Sturry Crossing

- 5.55** New mixed use development sites have been allocated at Sturry/Broad Oak and Hersden which lie within the A28 corridor. The A28 through Sturry suffers from congestion due to the high levels of traffic and the operation of the level crossing at Sturry. Whilst sustainable modes like walking, cycling and public transport will be provided for by these new sites, it is accepted that the new development will still create additional traffic. Any further significant development in this area will be required to improve and mitigate the effects of this additional traffic. New development sites allocated in Herne Bay, Sturry, Broad Oak and Hersden will be required to fund a Sturry by-pass that avoids the level crossing by providing a new road bridge including a bus lane over the railway line. The City Council has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Kent County Council, and the relevant site owners/agents to ensure that the Sturry crossing is delivered at an appropriate point with fair and proportionate contributions from all relevant developments.

Policy T15

The Council will seek to implement a Sturry crossing as identified on the Proposals Map. Any development proposals that might prejudice this route will be resisted. Contributions to this relief road will be sought from appropriate developments as set out in Policy SP3.

A28/A257 Barracks Link

- 5.56** A short link road between Chaucer Road and St Martins Hill through the Chaucer Barracks could remove some A28 traffic, particularly from Tourtel Road and Broad Street and will be investigated further with the landowner. This would be funded by the development of the opportunity sites identified on the proposals map.
- 5.57** Prior to submission stage studies will also be carried out through the transport modelling to assess whether a full eastern Canterbury by-pass linking the A28/A257/A2 would have a beneficial effect on congestion on the ring road. The Council will also need to consider whether such a scheme could be justified in terms of national transport policy and what the environmental effects might be.

Policy T16

The Council will seek to implement a local distributor road between Chaucer Road and the A257 as identified on the Proposals Map (Barracks Link), funded by any development of the opportunity sites identified on the Proposals Map. Any development proposals that might prejudice these improvements will be resisted.

Rural Transport

- 5.58** There is a need to maintain and promote public transport in rural areas as it can provide an important service for the community and contributes to the vibrancy and sustainability of the countryside. It offers greater mobility for those who do not have access to a car or choose not to own one. An effective public transport system will, therefore, reduce the reliance on the private car, which will in turn reduce pollution and energy consumption. The Council recognises the need to protect existing public transport facilities for the rural area and will continue to encourage Kent County Council to investigate additional methods of public transport to serve outlying areas.
- 5.59** The City Council is keen to reduce the dependency on the car in rural areas by encouraging alternative modes of transport. The Council is investigating new cycle routes linking rural settlements to the main urban areas and these are shown on the Proposals Map (see all Insets). These routes will help facilitate sustainable commuting and green tourism opportunities.

Rural Lanes

- 5.60** The Canterbury District possesses a rich heritage of ancient lanes which are an important feature in the countryside and are of significant landscape, historic and nature conservation importance. The City Council is concerned at the damage and disruption caused by heavy traffic using unsuitable rural roads and will work with the County Council to discourage inappropriate heavy traffic through appropriate traffic management measures. Measures to safeguard Canterbury District's rural lanes should include restraining traffic, imposing speed restrictions, limiting road upgrading, planting and making tree preservation orders. The City Council is also mindful of the detrimental impact resulting from the rigid application of highway standards and will therefore seek to protect important lanes from any changes that would damage their character.

Policy T17

Rural lanes which are of landscape amenity, nature conservation, historic or archaeological importance will be protected from changes and management practices which would damage their character, and where possible be enhanced.

Reducing the Demand to Travel

Transport Assessment and Travel Plans

- 5.61** As set out in National Planning Policy Framework, *"all developments that generate significant amounts of movement should be supported by a Transport Statement or Transport Assessment"*. This assessment ensures that the opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, that safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all people, and improvements can be undertaken within the transport network that cost effectively limit the impacts of development.
- 5.62** Most travel plans arise from the findings of the transport assessment. A travel plan sets out a plan of measures and initiatives, for a site or organisation, which encourages more sustainable travel, with an emphasis on reducing the reliance on the private car, particularly single occupancy travel. They contain a range of measures including new infrastructure, changes to working practices such as flexible working hours and revenue funding for a new bus service. Canterbury City Council will work in partnership with Kent County Council to target those organisations in the District which are generating high volumes of traffic, notably those impacting on the AQMA. The City Council will also continue to work towards its own travel plan targets.

Policy T18

Development proposals considered by the Council to have significant transport implications are to be supported by a Transport Assessment and where applicable a Travel Plan. These should show how multi-modal access options will be achieved, and how transport infrastructure arising from the expected demand will be provided. Such measures will be the subject of or included in a legal agreement or undertaking.

- 5.63** Improvements in communications technology have the potential to reduce the need to travel significantly. Home working has potentially quite significant benefits to be gained in relation to reducing traffic congestion and hence improve air quality. The Council recognises the importance of the provision of digital infrastructure and supports this and home working through policies EMP5 & EMP14.

Assessment of Transport Impact

- 5.64** In order to assess the transport implications of future development, Canterbury City Council and KCC have jointly funded a strategic multi-modal VISUM model for the District. The model simulates traffic on the existing network and can test the effect of major new development on the network and/or model changes to the network. These allow planners to assess the impact of various development options, new infrastructure or policy changes on traffic movements. This model can also include the effects on demand for not only car travel but also commercial traffic, park and ride and bus and rail services.
- 5.65** The VISUM computer model sets out the existing main road network consisting of the road junction (nodes) and the road links which connect them together with details about the length, speed capacity and other characteristics. The study area is divided into zones and the number of car trips per day between these nodes is established. The highway assignment model software finds the shortest path between every pair of zones and estimates and assigns the traffic on each path. These estimates are then calibrated with the amount of traffic in real-life. New links can be created, representing new infrastructure and the traffic diverted from the link due to the new road can be calculated. The multi-modal model allows for travellers to switch between car, bus, rail and park and ride options in response to travel costs and congestion, provides a better representation of actual travel behaviour than a purely highway based model.
- 5.66** VISUM testing has been carried out on a number of development scenarios including all of the proposed strategic allocations.

Chapter 6: Tourism and Visitor Economy

6.1 The Council's Vision as set out in the Canterbury District Strategy for 2030 is :

" Through focused, well planned and environmentally sustainable growth, by 2030 the Canterbury District will be defined by a dynamic strong economy and distinctive cultural and visitor experience from which our communities will prosper ".

6.2 The Corporate Plan 2012-2016 supports the development of a sustainable and diverse cultural offer that supplies a wide range of opportunities for residents and visitors to engage in cultural activities and through this Local plan the Council aims to achieve this.

6.3 The East Kent Community Strategy sets out a vision to have a distinctive profile as a visitor destination, with a wealth of cultural treasures, sustaining a thriving tourist economy.

6.4 East Kent offers a rich mixture of culture, heritage and a wide range of important tourist attractions. Within East Kent, there is growing national and international recognition and publicity of this geographical cultural growth area, which has developed through the volume of cultural and sporting regeneration programmes and capital infrastructure programmes primarily in the Canterbury, Margate and Folkestone 'triangle'. This in turn has brought extra interest to established and growing cultural organisations and programmes, such as the Whitstable Biennale, Herne Bay Festival and Canterbury Festival, whilst building new interest and support for flagship developments, such as the Turner Contemporary Gallery in Margate and the new Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury.

6.5 This cultural regeneration and growth programme, coupled with a new appetite for the 'stay-cation' in Britain, has brought new interest in culture activity from regional and national visitor marketing organisations, such as Visit Kent, who are increasingly advocating Kent, and particularly East Kent, as a cultural hot spot. Coupled with the opportunities High Speed 1 has brought to East Kent, Canterbury District finds itself at a point of demographic change in light of its new position on the commuter map, and the strong emerging cultural and sporting infrastructure will be important in showcasing the District as a place to relocate both business and family.

6.6 The contribution that Canterbury makes to the cultural and historical fabric of the UK is beyond value as reflected in its status as a prime visitor destination. With Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey, Beane Institute and Royal Museum, the new Marlowe Theatre and St Gregory's Music Centre which provides high quality performance, rehearsal and music therapy space.

- 6.7 Kent County Council's Vision for Kent 2012-2022** states that we must make the most of Kent's natural environment for people to enjoy, contributing to their well being, and also to attract business and tourism.
- 6.8 Kent County Council - The Kent Environment Strategy** aims to deliver initiatives in the Kent area that enable people to more readily access green space and the historic environment. Initiatives such as Explore Kent aims to increase tourism, by gaining better access to Kent's green spaces. The aim is to enhance Kent as a destination to work and visit by improving tourism, and the wider rural economy.
- 6.9 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** requires local planning authorities to allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of tourism development in town centres. It supports sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors, and which respect the character of the countryside. This should include the provision and expansion of tourist and visitor facilities in appropriate locations where identified needs are not met by existing facilities in rural service centres.

Cultural Heritage

- 6.10** Canterbury's cultural heritage acts as a strong attraction for visitors, and tourism is, and has always been, a key activity in the District, Tourism also plays a large part in the East Kent economy and makes a contribution towards retailing, employment, physical regeneration, infrastructure and links between community organisations.
- 6.11** The Council will build upon Canterbury's offer and reputation as a cultural and heritage destination to grow the value of tourism offer both economically and socially across the District.
- 6.12** The Council will use the substantial recent investment in the District's cultural and sporting infrastructure as a platform to promote excellence, broaden engagement and deliver a lasting legacy of cultural, economic and social benefits to residents, visitors and businesses. The Council's Cultural Policy sets out the Council's strategy for delivering this. This includes the arts, events, sports, museums, heritage, theatre and the cultural and creative industries.
- 6.13** The Canterbury District has a distinct visitor economy offer, based around a traditional seaside resort in Herne Bay, an historic port and fishing harbour in Whitstable, classic English countryside and one of Europe's oldest tourist destinations in Canterbury, a stopping off point since Roman times and a destination for religious pilgrimages to the Canterbury Cathedral.

- 6.14** As an industry, the District's overall visitor economy – which includes the cultural infrastructure – supports over 8,000 jobs, or 12% of the district's employment profile, bringing more than £347million to the district in 2010 via an estimated 7million visitors a year. The visitor economy, driven by an outstanding cultural and heritage offer, is therefore a significant contributor to the local economy, as well as supporting the wider economic, employment and tourist value of Kent more generally.
- 6.15** The Council's Visitor Economy Policy sets out how to direct investment and attract and retain visitors to the District, whilst seeking to balance the needs of local residents, the environment and visitors. The policy understands the value and distinctiveness of Canterbury City's offer and its role in capitalising on this reputation to disperse visitors to other attractions throughout the wider district.
- 6.16** Tourism should also be managed so that it does not increase problems of traffic congestion, but promotes alternative modes of travel to and from visitor destinations. It is also important to ensure that accommodation and tourism facilities make provision for people with disabilities and are accessible to everyone throughout the district.
- 6.17** Attraction and dispersal of visitors across the District is crucial in creating a sector that provides a positive impact on the District and East Kent, whilst converting day visitors to overnight stays is critical in developing a sustainable visitor economy for the City and wider District.

Cultural Infrastructure

- 6.18** Developing the cultural and heritage offer of the District will play a key role in furthering Canterbury's image as a place to continue to visit and stay. The Council is aware of the increased appeal and recognition of east Kent as a cultural destination and the district's location in East Kent has also acted as a gateway into and from Europe. The council aims to work with partners and agencies to support an improved and sustainable cultural offer for residents and visitors alike.
- 6.19** The Council will also seek to build upon the Canterbury image, by adding to existing cultural and heritage facilities, attractions and initiatives. This will be achieved through the implementation of the Council's Cultural Policy, which will promote cultural well-being across the District. Culture is considered to include such activities as arts, sports, libraries, museums, heritage, archaeology, children's play, countryside recreation, and cultural tourism.

Public Art

- 6.20** 'Public Art' can encompass a wide variety of elements and includes art as part of the design of buildings and developments, the design of landscape and planting, street furniture, signing, entrance features, sculpture, water features, mosaics, murals and lighting in the public realm for general enjoyment.
- 6.21** Public art can greatly benefit a new development. It can create a sense of place and engender civic pride, it creates distinctiveness of places and spaces, and can ensure that a building, development or landscape scheme is unique. A site-specific artist commission can increase involvement of and ownership by local residents and workers to firmly link schemes to local areas. Landmark public art can also act as recognisable orientation points, lasting symbols for particular buildings and as cultural tourism attractions.
- 6.22** The investment in the District's cultural infrastructure puts it in an enviable position from which to deliver the benefits of both the intrinsic and instrumental value of culture to users and residents. Although cultural activity and development is predominantly clustered around our town centres, the Council will work with developers to provide cultural interventions and benefits through the application of the Council's Public Art Policy through Development Contributions. Other funding may also be available through other sources from arts bodies and charitable trusts.
- 6.23** The Council encourages the considered use of cultural interventions in developments as a means of strengthening community identity and values. The Council's Public Art Policy is a means to identify how large developments can integrate cultural interventions into their proposals at an early stage, and identify the benefits these interventions can have on new and emerging communities.
- 6.24** The proactive use of the Public Art Policy is especially encouraged for development and investment within Canterbury City, where larger investment in infrastructure is acknowledged as more difficult. The Council values the contribution this investment in culture and the public art realm has on providing constant renewal of the City's cultural offering, and in improving the City's reputation as a modern cultural destination for visitors.
- 6.25** The Council is committed to ensuring that the City's standing as a leading cultural and heritage destination for the 21st Century provides a unique and diverse cultural offer for residents and visitors alike, and that all our communities have access to a high quality cultural offering.

Policy TV1

Proposals for cultural or arts facilities will be encouraged, particularly where they are located within or close to town centres or public transport nodes or where new public places are created. The Council will encourage and grant planning permission for development that adds diversity to or improves the cultural development or heritage of the District. Such considerations will be subject to policies DBE4, DBE5-9 & DBE15 and the environmental and traffic management implications.

All large development proposals should seek to promote public art, directly in the design of new developments and through the payment of a financial contribution secured through a Section 106 agreement or another suitable mechanism such as CIL.

Visitor Accommodation and Attractions

- 6.26** It is the City and County Councils' view that the District's cultural and visitor economy sectors would benefit from more options and availability for overnight stays within the district. In particular both Councils note the need for more hotels, particularly those at the top end of the market, as well as more guesthouses and self-catering accommodation to support current demand, and drive the overnight stay visitor markets.

Hotels

- 6.27** Providing sufficient hotel accommodation catering for a range of tastes and budgets is essential to the District and for Canterbury City in particular. Hotels are employment generators both directly and indirectly and are frequently drivers of urban regeneration.
- 6.28** Notwithstanding the current economic climate, interest from hotel developers has been considerable and stronger in Canterbury than for anywhere else in Kent. This interest comprises a range of brands from 4 star to budget accommodation. The strength of interest in the City is linked to the quality of the destination, its heritage and an element of affluence in the local population, as well as the strong international tourism market. In turn the levels of business that the City's hotels have to turn away can be significant, especially in June, July and August.

- 6.29** Canterbury is already a strongly positioned leisure break destination. This is helped by improved accessibility to the city (e.g. HS1) together with a greater variety of attractions (e.g. international festivals and symposia) and schemes of sufficient scale and impact to generate overnight hotel demand (e.g. new Marlowe Theatre and Kent County Cricket Club). The Cathedral and the historic built environment also continues to attract many visitors.
- 6.30** Other key drivers to market growth are Canterbury's expanding universities and ongoing regeneration which will boost growth in population and employment.
- 6.31** There is potential for new corporate demand for hotel accommodation in the City to grow over the next 5-10 years given the proposed new homes and opportunities for new office, business, technology and science park developments in the City.
- 6.32** In addition there may be scope for other types of hotel development such as golf hotels, country house hotels, hotels at or near visitor attractions and spa/leisure hotels. These types of hotel development are often opportunistic and therefore tend to be very site specific. Where these can offer a different and niche type product these are also encouraged in order to diversify the portfolio of local hotel accommodation. Furthermore hotel proposals are likely to be received which seek to satisfy university generated demand.
- 6.33** Recent additional provision (e.g. Travelodge and Premier Inn) suggest budget hotels are less of a priority for the City and there remains many independent hotels and guest houses which also provide accommodation for this sub-market. The Council will therefore support proposals which seek to strengthen provision at mid-market and boutique/prestige levels including themed hotels and those targeting a specialist market.
- 6.34** The Council is aware of the need to provide a responsive system for which investment in the cultural and visitor economy infrastructure of the district can be encouraged. The Council, taking into consideration other sections of the Plan, will seek to achieve sustainable tourism by encouraging proposals that support the Council's desire to convert day visitors to staying visitors, and that improve the opportunities for visitors to explore the whole District offer. This should encourage longer stays and greater spend in the Canterbury District.
- 6.35** Hotels are generally difficult to proactively encourage and plan forward for, therefore this Local Plan does not intend to identify specific sites for this type of proposal. The Council will assess future hotel development proposals in the Canterbury District according to the policies TV2 and TV8.

Policy TV2

Planning permission will be granted in or on the edge of town centres for proposals to provide new tourism development including hotels, guesthouses, bed and breakfast, self catering accommodation and new visitor attractions after consideration of the following criteria:

- a. The anticipated traffic generation and whether the location is readily accessible by a range of means of transport including walking and cycling and by public transport;**
- b. The environmental and landscape considerations;**
- c. The impact on neighbourhood amenities;**
- d. The standard of design;**
- e. The relationship to existing tourism development and whether the proposal is for the upgrading of those facilities;**
- f. Whether the proposal will contribute to the diversification of tourist attractions in the District.**

- 6.36** The Council is concerned that, wherever possible, existing visitor accommodation including guest houses, bed and breakfast and self catering accommodation, is not lost to other uses. The visitor economy is a key provider of employment and income to the District's economy, as well as supporting the sustainability and viability of the District's outstanding cultural infrastructure, which benefits both residents and visitors alike.
- 6.37** In order to safeguard these establishments, the Council will require applicants to demonstrate that there is no longer a need or demand for a particular facility by considering how it has been managed, marketed and operated to date. For example, the Council may require evidence of a pricing strategy and market competitiveness, and that marketing and promotion has been undertaken in recognised tourism publications and channels over the previous two years. Evidence of a lack of demand may also be required and will be based on the preceding three years occupancy rates and returns.
- 6.38** Finally, the Council may require evidence that the building cannot be enhanced or investment undertaken to make it more suitable for continued tourism use.

Policy TV3

Planning permission will not be given for development involving the loss of visitor staying accommodation in the District unless:

- a. **There is clear evidence to demonstrate that the existing accommodation is no longer needed; and**
- b. **The use is no longer viable and the business has been actively marketed for a minimum 2 years with no genuine interest;**
- c. **The change of use is the only practical way to conserve a listed building ;**
- d. **The building is no longer fit for purpose as visitor staying accommodation.**

If a change of use to residential accommodation is proposed, then, in addition to the above, the applicant must also demonstrate that every reasonable effort has been made to first secure other appropriate cultural, tourism, economic or community uses.

Touring and Static Caravan Tourist Sites

- 6.39** The Council will seek to protect existing touring and static caravan tourist sites that make a recognised contribution to attracting and retaining visitors to the District. An emphasis will be placed on encouraging sites to upgrade, renew and extend their offer to retain and grow their offer, and create viable and sustainable touring sites that meet the high standards visitors expect, and that market leaders provide.
- 6.40** Development and renewal would be subject to other considerations in the Plan including transportation, design, environmental, landscape and nature conservation impacts. Proposals adjacent to sites of Nature Conservation Interest and Sites of Special Scientific Interest will only be acceptable if they are of small scale and cause no harm to the NCI or SSSI. Developers may have to fulfill the requirements of Habitat Regulations where adjacent to internationally important wildlife sites.

Policy TV4

The Council will grant planning permission for new touring and static caravan tourist sites within the District or the refurbishment and expansion of existing sites provided that the proposals meet the aims of Policies DBE4, DBE7, DBE8 & DBE9.

In respect of proposals for new sites, the Council will require a legal agreement or similar mechanism to ensure the site remains in tourism use.

The Council will not permit the loss of existing sites unless it can be demonstrated that the use of the site does not make any positive contribution to the local economy.

Coastal Investment

- 6.41** The Council will encourage investment in the local cultural infrastructure of the District's coastal towns that provides opportunities for both residents and visitors to engage in cultural activity.
- 6.42** The Council understands the value of culture in regenerating places and communities, and the value of a strong cultural offer in encouraging local residents to utilise their town centres and public spaces.
- 6.43** The District's coastal offer needs to be seen in the context of the wider coastal regeneration programme that has supported the development of neighbouring districts, and the Council will encourage cultural investment and development that provides complimentary and unique offers against the wider east Kent development programme.

Marina Provision along the North Kent Coast

- 6.44** Evidence at the South East regional level indicates that there is a shortfall of Marina provision along the North Kent coast between Ramsgate harbour and facilities around the Medway estuary. However, there would appear not to be a requirement to make provision for a Marina within the Canterbury District during the plan period, given the fact that there are already firm proposals for Queenborough & Rushmeade and Sheerness. These would provide the additional berths required along the North Kent coast. If, however, proposals are received for further provision within the Whitstable and Herne Bay areas they would be considered against Policy TV5.

Policy TV5

Any proposals for Marina provision and associated facilities will be permitted if :

- a. **The design policies DBE1, DBE4 & DBE5 are adhered to;**
- b. **A transport assessment has been carried out in order to assess the transport impact on the local road network and any mitigation or infrastructure measures arising from the transport assessment are completed before the development begins;**
- c. **The development would not result in any increased risk of flooding elsewhere, and any mitigation measures are completed in advance of the development;**
- d. **A full and detailed Habitats Regulations Assessment has been carried out to establish the impact on the surrounding internationally important sites for wildlife, such as Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area for Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar;**
- e. **Development which would materially harm the scientific or nature conservation interests, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and areas of known nature conservation interest is mitigated and any impacts can be adequately compensated;**
- f. **If the proposals relate to Whitstable Harbour, any development does not undermine the Harbour Strategy to maintain a working harbour.**

Herne Bay

- 6.45** Herne Bay is a traditional seaside resort in a desirable position with reasonable transport links, improving beaches and a nostalgia factor that draws people to the town in the summer season. However, during the rest of the year there is insufficient tourist income to maintain a basic level of tourist infrastructure. Planned investment in the sea front, will improve the town's tourism prospects. In addition, a major events programme has provided new reasons to visit in recent years and there are modest signs of a recovery in business.
- 6.46** The Herne Bay Area Action Plan, which covers the period up to 2020, objectives are to improve the vibrancy and attractiveness of Herne Bay as a seaside tourist destination including the delivery of a revived and thriving area for the remaining pier and provision of improved recreational, leisure and community facilities in the town centre for residents and visitors. Also the provision of good quality,

graded visitor accommodation is an objective. Policies HB14, HB15, HB16, HB18 & HB19 of the action plan should be considered for proposals relating to tourism and the visitor economy in Herne Bay.

Reculver

- 6.47** Reculver is recognised as a destination for the District's residents and visitors. The main attractions are the Roman fort and towers, church, the Reculver Country Park, caravan parks, a public house and information centre. The area is well known for bird watching and the Oyster Bay and Viking Trail which is a recognised combined cycle and pedestrian access route which also attracts visitors to the area. Other long distance coastal paths such as Saxon Shore Way can also be accessed from Reculver.
- 6.48** The Reculver area has more to offer by way of further investment and attraction, to promote in particular, leisure pursuits and activities, and the increased and improved use of the land and seafront. The Council will seek to promote investment into the area through the provision of leisure and open air activities sensitive to the character of the area and in the country park including the absorption of the previous caravan club site. The Council will also continue to encourage the improvement of the environment, and to consider whether the remaining caravan parks could accommodate additional development or activities that would bring further investment and visitors into the Reculver area.
- 6.49** The Reculver Master Plan SPD 2009, aims to develop Reculver as a high quality strategic hub for green tourism and education and sets out a strategy of how to achieve this.

Policy TV6

Proposals to further enhance the attraction of Reculver and develop Reculver Country Park (as shown on the proposals map) as a quality attraction for visitors, in particular open air recreational proposals, will be permitted by the Council. Any proposals would be subject to design, visual and environmental impacts, including meeting habitat regulations requirements and ensuring suitable access arrangements.

Any future development at Reculver will need to meet the aims of the Reculver masterplan.

Whitstable

- 6.50** Whitstable is a town whose principal function was trade and commerce operating through a mixed use port, local shopping centre coupled with a combination of unique features including a working harbour. There are a growing number of independent shops - and oysters, which have been at the root of the town's status as a fashionable place to be. Whitstable's reputation nationally has developed over the past decade into a bijou arts hub on Kent's 'creative' coast, with many former shops and businesses transforming into boutique art galleries, independent jewellery and clothes shops and artist's workshops. The growth and recognition of the international festival, the Whitstable Biennale, has further developed the town as a platform for contemporary arts. These developments have strengthened Whitstable's relationship with links to London, the 'Down from London' visitor and second home owner. The Council will therefore support new visitor attractions and additional provision for tourist accommodation to attract additional visitors to stay longer in the area provided that the character of the town is maintained and enhanced.

Rural Investment

- 6.51** Tourism is becoming increasingly important for the vitality of the rural economy and can be another method of farm diversification with the creation of holiday accommodation or other tourist facilities in redundant buildings. Tourism, recreation and leisure activity in rural areas can bring significant economic, social and environmental benefits if carefully managed and, in many instances, will serve to underpin the continued viability of local services, including village shops, country pubs and agricultural enterprises. Other forms of rural diversification, such as woodland initiatives, the marketing of locally branded farm produce or country sports activities can be mutually supportive of tourism activity and opportunities to develop linkages should be actively identified and pursued.

Policy TV7

Opportunities to promote tourism and recreation based rural diversification will be encouraged where they provide jobs for local residents and are of a scale and type appropriate to their location.

Environmentally focused tourism initiatives with a primary focus on experiencing natural areas that foster environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation will be encouraged.

- 6.52** Rural tourism must be developed and managed in a sustainable way ensuring that the character of the countryside and the very asset on which its popularity depends is not destroyed. Therefore, the Council will support tourism initiatives which are appropriate in scale to their surroundings and which seek to reuse existing buildings, thereby avoiding the proliferation of buildings in the countryside.

Policy TV8

The Council will permit new development, change of use, conversion or extension of existing buildings in the countryside and villages, to provide tourist accommodation, attractions or facilities provided that :

- a. The nature and scale of the proposal is in keeping with the rural surroundings;**
- b. Access and parking provisions are acceptable, the use does not significantly increase traffic to the detriment of the rural area or highway safety and the applicant has considered accessibility by a range of transport modes;**
- c. The development can be implemented with no adverse effect on the character of the building or its setting, or the open character of the area;**
- d. There is no adverse impact upon residential amenity;**
- e. There is no detrimental impact on landscape interests, protected species, sites or features of nature conservation interest or on sites of archaeological or historical importance;**
- f. There is no overriding conflict with other policies in the Plan, such as the loss of village facilities.**

Where tourism attractions and facilities are proposed in new buildings, the Council will ensure that the new development is related to an existing settlement and is not isolated in the open countryside so as to have an adverse impact upon its character and appearance. This should also improve the proposal in sustainability terms and reduce the need for travelling by car.

When considering proposals for self catering and bed and breakfast accommodation in rural areas, applicants may be expected to enter into a legal agreement or similar mechanism to ensure the accommodation remains in holiday use.

Chapter 7: Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change

Climate Change

- 7.1** The issue of climate change is of global importance, and it is essential that activities in the District contribute to national objectives for reducing carbon emissions. Many of the necessary actions will need to be delivered locally and will require both adaptation and mitigation measures. The NPPF recognises that planning plays a key role to "secure radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimising vulnerability and providing resilience to the impact of climate change, and support the delivery of low carbon energy ...".
- 7.2** Decisions need to be taken in reference to the Climate Change Act (2008), which sets a legally binding greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels and at least 34% by 2020. The UK has also signed up to the EU Renewable Energy Directive, which includes a UK target of 15% of energy from renewables by 2020.
- 7.3** To support the move to a low carbon future and in determining planning applications, the National Planning Policy Framework requires planning authorities to: identify opportunities from which development can draw its energy supply from decentralised renewable or low energy supply systems; plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions and actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings.
- 7.4** It is important for mitigation and adaptation measures to be taken forward together. For example, a new renewable or low carbon energy supply is vital to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but it is also vital to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The NPPF makes the following statement: "Local planning authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations".

Responses to Climate Change

Action to reduce the Canterbury District's impact on climate change will include:

- **giving priority to development in urban or edge of urban locations that are well served by sustainable forms of transport; and**
- **ensuring development encourages and improves access to these sustainable forms of transport; and**
- **encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport; and**
- **promoting developments that generate renewable energy; and**
- **encouraging Combined Heat and Power at strategic development sites; and**
- **designing development to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.**

Action to adapt to expected climate change will include:

- **giving preference to development of previously developed land where this is sustainably located;**
- **encouraging environments that promote biodiversity and a green infrastructure network;**
- **locating and designing development to eliminate unacceptable flood risk;**
- **ensuring that there is no inappropriate development at designated coastal Overtopping Zones and Coastal Protection Zones experiencing erosion;**
- **adopting sustainable drainage systems; and**
- **designing development to ensure water efficiency is an integral part of design.**

Climate Change Mitigation

- 7.5** Numerous policies in this plan will assist reducing the impact of development on climate change, including policies to ensure an appropriate location and density of development (particularly Chapter 2 relating to housing and Chapter 3 relating to economic development). Approaches to sustainable travel are set out in Chapter 5 and the policies in the Design and Built Environment section of this plan (and policies DBE1, DEB2 and DEB6 relating to sustainable design and construction in particular) are key to mitigating the impact of new development. Responses include, site selection, orientation and layout, accessibility to travel alternatives, meeting Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes and installation of renewable micro-generation equipment.
- 7.6** The development of renewable and low-carbon energy is a key means of reducing the District's carbon emissions. Renewable and low carbon energy encompasses a wide range of technologies, including Combined Heat and Power (CHP); Combined Cooling, Heat and Power (CCHP); district heating; energy from waste; biomass; wind; solar thermal; photovoltaics; geothermal sources and heat pumps.
- 7.7** 'Renewable Energy for Kent', a study prepared for KCC in 2011, updates existing renewable energy studies for Kent to identify resource potential for renewable energy. In the Canterbury District there is a theoretical potential for commercial wind energy (although there are numerous physical and non-physical constraints, including the AONB), a significant biomass resource, potential opportunities for district heating networks and significant potential for improvements to existing buildings. There is, of course, a significant gap between the physically accessible resource and what is practically deliverable.
- 7.8** The Council will prepare a Sustainable Construction and Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document which will provide more information on the available opportunities and constraints relating to large scale renewable energy or low carbon energy installations. Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy will be supported where they respond positively to the opportunities identified, especially small-scale community-led initiatives for wind schemes, solar clubs and the use of biomass.

Policy CC1

Proposals for the utilisation, distribution and development of renewable and low-carbon sources of energy, including freestanding installations, will be encouraged. In considering such proposals, the Council will give significant weight to their environmental, community and economic benefits, alongside consideration of public health and safety and impacts on biodiversity, air quality, landscape character, the historic environment and residential amenity of the surrounding area.

- 7.9** Proposed changes to Part L of the Building Regulations will expect all new dwellings to be zero carbon after 2016 (the zero carbon target for non-domestic builds applies from 2019, with earlier dates for schools (2016) and public sector buildings (2018)). The definition of zero carbon requires new dwellings to take into account: emissions from space heating, ventilation, hot water and fixed lighting; and exports and imports from the development (and directly connected energy installations) to and from centralised energy networks. By following this policy the Government will expect new buildings to have net zero carbon emissions from regulated energy use over the course of a year.
- 7.10** Home insulation is key to reducing energy use and indeed inadequate insulation and air leakage are leading causes of energy waste in most homes. All new homes should seek to maximise energy efficiency through roof, wall, floor insulation and high specification window systems. Improved insulation saves money and energy resources, and makes homes more comfortable. For new homes the challenge is to ensure that energy efficiency measures are properly designed and installed in a way that is not compromised by air leakage and thermal bridging.
- 7.11** Irrespective of whether this zero carbon target is brought into force, the council will expect all development to make carbon savings. When seeking to reduce carbon emissions all development should take account of the following energy hierarchy:
- **Energy Efficiency:** The first step for energy efficiency requires compliance with Part L of the Building Regulations. Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes incorporates important targets for energy efficiency.
 - **Carbon Compliance:** The second stage is the use of on-site low and zero carbon energy technologies for heat and power. This could include electric power generation from photovoltaics and wind generators, and heat from biomass and wind pumps. It could include micro-generation on individual homes up to development-scale district heat or CHP systems.

- **Allowable Solutions:** Where energy efficiency and carbon compliance are unable to achieve the required carbon savings through on-site and near-site measures, developers can contribute to a carbon offsetting fund to enable investment in high quality low and zero carbon community projects.
- 7.12** It may not be possible for new development to achieve zero carbon by energy efficiency measures and carbon compliance alone and the developer will need to look to Allowable Solutions. From 2016 (and specified further as part of the preparation of a Sustainable Construction and Renewable Energy SPD), the Council will accept contributions to a carbon offsetting fund to enable investment in high quality low and zero carbon community projects, which could include programmes to improve the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock. The Council will focus on Energy Efficiency and Carbon Compliance, adopting the Government's agreed national limits for Energy Efficiency and Carbon Compliance , and permitting the use of Allowable Solutions to meet the zero carbon target.
- 7.13** Viability has increasingly become a critical issue in determining applications for new development and the incorporation of low carbon/renewable requirements. Renewable energy measures, however, have a positive benefits for the community and the economy. The long term costs of climate change, and the long term benefits of adaptation measures are significant and these issues should be taken into account in viability considerations.
- 7.14** An Energy Statement should be submitted as part of the 'Sustainability Statement' required to accompany planning applications by policy DBE6. As part of its Sustainable Construction and Renewable Energy SPD and Community Infrastructure Levy, the Council will establish a Community Renewable Energy Fund to administer and account for carbon credits and other funds generated through Allowable Solutions.

Policy CC2 – To be reviewed following government ‘zero carbon’ announcements

Development in the Canterbury District should include measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from energy use in accordance with the following energy hierarchy:

- 1. Minimising energy requirements;**
- 2. Carbon Compliance: (a) Incorporating renewable energy; (b) Incorporating Low Carbon Sources.**
- 3. Allowable Solutions**

Where available and feasible, new development will be expected to connect to existing Combined Heat and Power (CHP) distribution networks. The use of on site CHP will be encouraged.

Where it is not feasible or viable to achieve the goal of zero carbon from energy efficiency and carbon compliance measures, the council will coordinate and accept contributions towards Allowable Solutions to enable investment in carbon reduction elsewhere in the district – The Community Renewable Energy Fund.

The Council's Sustainable Construction and Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document will provide further guidance.

- 7.15** There are progressively demanding standards for carbon dioxide emissions set through the building regulations. This, together with challenging requirements to seek local opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy will mean that decentralised energy is becoming an important option.
- 7.16** The Council will expect the new Strategic Development Sites to provide site wide renewable or gas fired Combined Heat and Power or alternatively to connect to an existing network. Due to the significant landscape and wildlife constraints in the District it is considered this would be a crucial method of delivering renewable and low carbon energy to these developments. Preference will be given to schemes that capitalise on biomass as a fuel source and work is underway to stimulate demand and develop local, sustainable supply chains.

Policy CC3

Within the Strategic Development Areas (as shown on the Proposals Map) and other development over 200 units, the development will be required to provide site wide renewable or gas fired Combined Heat and Power (CHP) or connect to an existing CHP distribution network.

An exception will only be made where it is demonstrated that the provision would not be viable or feasible or it can be demonstrated that an alternative carbon reduction strategy would be more appropriate.

Climate Change Adaptation

- 7.17** Alongside the transition to a low carbon society, increasing resilience to climate change impacts is a priority and as well as reducing our carbon emissions we need to prepare for the climate change we cannot avoid.
- 7.18** All new development should be planned to avoid significant vulnerability to impacts of climate change. Key responses of the planning system include: **reducing risk of flooding, ensuring building stock is resilient to the effect of climate change, the use of sustainable urban drainage, ensuring efficient use of water, planning for future water resources, and ensuring a high quality green infrastructure network** to support biodiversity, healthy environments, urban cooling, local flood risk management, carbon sequestration and local access to shaded outdoor space.

Flooding

Reducing risk of flooding

- 7.19** The City Council's approach to flood and coastal defence acknowledges and supports the Government's aim and objectives for flood and coastal defence. The Council's policy aim is to reduce the risk to people and the developed and natural environment from flooding and coastal erosion by encouraging the provision of technically, environmentally and economically sound and sustainable defence measures.
- 7.20** Flood risk means risk from all sources of flooding including from rivers and the sea, directly from rainfall on the ground surface and rising groundwater, overwhelmed sewers and drainage systems and from other artificial sources such as reservoirs, canals and lakes.

- 7.21** One of the three primary objectives of the Council is to discourage inappropriate development in areas at known risk from flooding and coastal erosion and, as the Local Planning Authority, to take account of flooding and coastal erosion risks in all matters relating to development control, including development plans and individual planning applications, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and its supporting Technical Guidance (2012).
- 7.22** A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) prepared by Herrington Consulting in 2011 looked at the current risk of flooding in the District as well as looking at flood risk in 100 years' time – to take into account the effects of climate change. It adopts a precautionary approach to the appraisal of risk and this has meant that the impacts of residual risk events have been examined in great detail. This process has resulted in the analysis of breach and overtopping scenarios and the production of comprehensive flood extent and hazard maps for both 2010 and for the year 2110 taking into account future climate change.
- 7.23** In addition, detailed information on flood depth and velocity is now readily available for the densely urbanised towns of Herne Bay and Whitstable. In these areas it is not always possible to locate new development away from the town centre for economic regeneration and other sustainable reasons. The availability of detailed and site specific flood data enables these risks to be better understood and through the use of appropriate design, the potential impacts of flooding can be mitigated.
- 7.24** The Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) provides guidance for the completion of site specific Flood Risk Assessments as well as setting out policy recommendations to help manage the risk of flooding elsewhere in the District. Copies of the document are available to view at the Council offices.
- 7.25** The City Council will apply a sequential risk-based approach to new development in line with the National Planning Policy Framework, the accompanying Practice Guide and the SFRA. The starting point will be for new development to avoid areas where there is a high risk of flooding and to locate new development in areas where there is no or low risk of flooding. If this is not possible, then the Sequential Test will be applied as outlined in NPPF, followed by the Exceptions Test. The flood risk vulnerability of land uses will be applied as set out in table 2 of the Technical Guidance, which seeks to locate more vulnerable land uses in areas of lower flood risk.
- 7.26** Where development has undergone these tests and is unavoidable, the City Council will require any application to be accompanied by a **Flood Risk Assessment** and will require measures to manage any residual risk and/or flood resilience measures to be implemented.

- 7.27** This may include protecting their properties by preventing or limiting the amount of water entering the home (flood resistance) or constructing a building in such a way that although floodwater may enter the building, its impact is minimised (flood resilience) (i.e. no permanent damage is caused, structural integrity is maintained and it is easier to dry and clean). Measures may include safe access and escape routes, flood resilient building techniques including the siting of electrical controls and appliances at higher levels, raising ground or floor levels, the use of sustainable drainage systems and potentially flood barriers. These measures cannot be used to justify inappropriate development in inappropriate locations. Development should ensure that they do not exacerbate or create flood risk elsewhere. Sustainable Drainage Systems are key and the Council's requirements are set out at Policy CC11.

Flood Scrutiny Panel

- 7.28** Following the significant flooding of buildings and land across the District and in many parts of Kent between Winter 2000 and Spring 2001, the City Council established a Flood Scrutiny Panel to consider those events and how in the future the City Council could improve the way flood emergencies are dealt with, reduce the extent of flooding, lessen the impact and frequency of flooding and make sure the public is more aware of what is being done and who to contact.
- 7.29** As part of the findings of the panel it is now the City Council's objective to remain proactive not only with its own work, but also in pressing other agencies such as Southern Water, the Environment Agency and Kent County Council to action items that are clearly their responsibilities. As such, The City Council's approach to new development is to ensure that in no way does new development make the flooding situation worse, and in some cases the aim would be to improve it. A Drainage Impact Guidance note has been adopted by the City Council, which follows the advice of national planning policy guidance, as mentioned above.
- 7.30** Flooding during the winter of 2000 and spring of 2001 occurred across the District from rivers and non-main rivers overtopping their banks, such as the Plenty Brook in Herne Bay. Much flooding occurred as a result of surface water sewers and road drains not being able to cope with the amount of water, particularly in the rural areas, high water tables, unmaintained minor watercourses and significant run-off from open fields, and in some instances from foul sewers and old springs.
- 7.31** As a result of this flooding, there are many areas at known risk of flooding in which the City Council will take a cautious approach to new development. The City Council will now require for all planning applications in areas at known risk of flooding to have carried out a Flood Risk Assessment and where relevant, a Drainage Impact Assessment and employ other drainage measures where

necessary, as part of the proposed development. Should inadequate or no information be submitted, the planning application will be unacceptable and will be refused.

- 7.32** Known areas at risk of flooding include Blean, Chestfield, the Gorrel Stream, Swalecliffe Brook, Westbrook, Plenty Brook, Stour, Little Stour and Nailbourne river.

Policy CC4

All development proposals within the areas at risk of flooding or increased surface water run-off shall be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment and/or Drainage Impact Assessment, where relevant. This assessment shall be in accordance with the Council’s Drainage Impact Guidance Note and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, including the requirement for a contribution towards new flood defence or mitigation measures. Measures identified to mitigate effects shall be installed and maintained at the developers’ own expense. Flood resilient and/or resistant measures will also be required.

Fluvial Flooding

- 7.33** The infrastructure along the coastal lowlands with respect to foul and surface water drainage is nearing saturation despite improvement works. This particularly applies in the vicinity of the four main watercourses at the coast, along and including the Gorrell Stream, Swalecliffe Brook, Westbrook and Plenty Brook. Before any significant further development takes place in these locations, major improvements such as new culverted outfalls, major pumping at outlets or large attenuation lakes may be necessary. Development within a floodplain, is not only in itself at risk of flooding but, by reducing the amount of land available for flood water storage, or by impeding flows, can increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.
- 7.34** As a result of the significant flooding across the District from various fluvial sources during 2000 and 2001 the City Council has reassessed its approach to the risk of inland flooding. Where funds permit or external funding is available or other agencies (both private and public) are prepared to fund the work, appropriate flood alleviation measures will be carried out to reduce the frequency and extent of flooding. However, allied to this objective is the need to ensure that new development is not at risk itself from flooding and does not exacerbate flooding elsewhere.

Coastal Flooding

- 7.35** A significant part of the current developed area on the coast is at risk from sea flooding and erosion. Although the City Council's coastal defences are considered to be adequate at the present time, there is an acknowledged need to maintain and improve the defences with time and this is a current City Council objective. This objective is dependent on central Government continuing to support the City Council by funding the vast majority of the cost.
- 7.36** The Environment Agency identifies areas that are technically at risk of flooding and these are shown as Zones 2 & 3 on the proposals map. Flood zones are defined as:
- Zone 1 - little or no risk with an annual probability of flooding from rivers and the sea of less than 0.1 %.
 - Zone 2 - low to medium risk with an annual probability of 0.1-1.0% from rivers and 0.1- 0.5 % from the sea.
 - Zone 3 - high risk with an annual probability of flooding of 1.0 % or greater from rivers, and 0.5 % or greater from the sea.
- 7.37** These areas are indicative and should not be used as the sole basis of decisions. The Council also holds, or has access to, other detailed information relating to flood risk. Any detailed flood information held by the Council should also be taken into account in relation to development proposals, where flooding may be an issue. The Council takes a view that the flood risk areas could also include land seaward of the coastal defences. Furthermore, these areas may change during the Plan period and the City Council recommends that the Environment Agency be contacted direct to ascertain whether a particular parcel of land or a building falls within an area at risk of flooding. The Environment Agency floodplain includes large parts of the urban areas of Whitstable, Herne Bay, Swalecliffe and Hampton plus swathes of rural land at Seasalter, Graveney and east of Reculver. The City Council remains firmly committed to minimising the risk of flooding to these urban areas through continual maintenance of sea defences and through seeking financial assistance from central Government. The Environment Agency is making continual improvements to flood plain mapping and consults with the City Council engineers to ensure accuracy.
- 7.38** To assist potential developers the City Council has produced a Corporate Policy Statement on 'Flood and Coastal Defence' and Drainage Impact Assessment Notes guidance notes with respect to 'Drainage of New Developments'.

- 7.39 The City Council holds additional detailed information, such as shoreline management plans and coastal strategy plans which are available to the public. For information on individual properties, the public can contact Council engineers who will advise them of any available detailed information on flood risk.
- 7.40 As part of its commitment to reducing the risk of flooding, the City Council will encourage the County Council, Environment Agency and other statutory undertakers to investigate the feasibility of, and carry out, flood alleviation measures in areas at known risk of flooding.
- 7.41 To assist in the achievement of this flooding and coastal defence strategy through the planning process, all future developments will be required to be in accordance with the following policies.

Policy CC5

On sites that have not been previously developed within the Environment Agency's Zones 2 and 3, no development will be permitted unless an exceptional justification can be demonstrated.

Policy CC6

Minor infill development and development on previously developed land within Zones 2 & 3 as defined by the Environment Agency as shown on the Proposals Map (see also all insets), will be permitted subject to the provisions of other Local Plan policies. Each case shall be treated on its own merits on the particular circumstances that apply having regard to the risks attached.

Overtopping

- 7.42 There are two areas at Seasalter that are liable to overtopping from the sea. The areas at Faversham Road and at Admiralty Walk are classified as hazardous, as buildings and property can be damaged by wave action. Policy CC7 refers to overtopping zones which are shown on the Proposals Map.

Policy CC7

Within the overtopping hazard zones as shown on the Proposals Map (see also all Insets), no development will be permitted unless an exceptional justification can be demonstrated.

Coastal Change

- 7.43** The Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2) was approved in 2010 and this sets out a broad and effective sustainable management approach to the coastline. The full SMP2 can be viewed at www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk.

Coastal Change at Seasalter

- 7.44** At Faversham Road some of the properties are also in front of the main sea defence bund and are at risk from direct flooding by the sea. The Shoreline Management Plan recognises that continuing to maintain the sea defences in this area, in their current position, is unlikely to be sustainable in the long term. It recommends that the current policy should be to maintain the defences in their current position for at least 50 years and discontinued with a new line of defence constructed in the following 50 – 100 years. Although the position of this line of defence has not been fixed it is likely that eventually permanent loss of some or all of the properties to erosion and flooding will occur. In view of this, at Faversham Road, the Council will not permit replacement dwellings, nor extensions to existing dwellings, without an exceptional justification. Better flood protection will not suffice. Permitted development rights remain unchanged.

Policy CC8

Replacement dwellings outside the urban boundary at Faversham Road, Seasalter, will not be permitted. Extension to existing dwellings will only be permitted where there is an exceptional justification.

Coastal Change at Reculver

- 7.45** The Shoreline Management Plan highlights that for years 1 – 20 the existing sea defences between the Reculver Towers and Minnis Bay (beyond the boundary of the Canterbury District) will be maintained, but that after that time a managed

realignment of the coastline would be appropriate. Investigations and monitoring continue, but such changes would have a significant impact on the West Wantsum area, creating important brackish and saline habitats.

- 7.46** A further section of coastline to the west of the Reculver Towers, will continue under the existing management of ‘no active intervention’ – allowing continued erosion of the cliffs, maintaining geological exposures and the landscape quality of this coastline.
- 7.47** The Council has adopted the Reculver Masterplan (see Policy TV6) as a Supplementary Planning Document. The Masterplan aims to provide a co-ordinated vision for the enhancement of Reculver, setting out principles for development, aspirations of existing stakeholders and existing and future funding streams. It also provides a framework for future changes to the physical environment. Such changes include the use of managed coastal retreat to widen existing rivers and ditches mainly to the east of Reculver to create coastal marshes and attract wetland birds.
- 7.48** The Council will work with the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Thanet District Council to investigate and define (if necessary) a Coastal Change Management Area to respond to proposals for a managed retreat at Reculver. This coastline already benefits from development restraint through its designation as an Undeveloped Coast (Policy LB3) but further agreement and definition of the extent, location and implementation of any managed realignment will be necessary.

Policy CC9

The Council will work with partners, including Thanet District Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage and landowners to investigate and define (if necessary) a Coastal Change Management Area at Reculver, to include the likely extent of coastal retreat.

Any development or management proposals in this area must be mindful of possible coastal change, flood risk, impact on future wetland habitat enhancements, and public safety.

Coastal Protection Zone

- 7.49** In certain areas the cliffs and coastal slopes are not entirely stable due to erosion. New building in certain areas would exacerbate the present situation and prejudice future remedial works. For public safety reasons, development will not generally be permitted in coastal protection zones.

Policy CC10

A Coastal Protection Zone is defined on the Proposals Map (Insets 3 and 5), and in this area planning permission for new development will be refused.

Sustainable Drainage

- 7.50** The impermeable surfaces in urban areas, including roads, footpaths, paved gardens, driveways and roof slopes mean that rainfall quickly runs into drains and water courses. This urban runoff poses a serious flood risk, can have serious polluting effects and can cause damage to urban watercourses from the frequent operation of storm sewer overflows.
- 7.51** As the natural river catchment is ultimately the sink for urban runoff it is vital that stormwater discharges are managed effectively both in terms of quantity and quality. A highly effective way of doing this is through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). SuDS are designed to reduce the potential of flooding on new and existing urban developments, often working by ensuring that water can soak away into the underlying soil or holding water temporarily. By doing this the amount of water entering drains or the river can be reduced or delayed, thereby reducing the likelihood of flooding.
- 7.52** As more development takes place and the amount of impermeable surfaces increase, the use of SuDS, including soakaways, swales, rain gardens and porous/permeable surfaces, has an important role to play in allowing stormwater to enter the ground directly and not to place unrealistic loads on the downstream water network. Green roofs can also have the advantage of slowing down runoff from roofs and also providing a useful refuge for wildlife.
- 7.53** When carefully designed, SuDS can have numerous other benefits, such as protecting and enhancing ground water quality, providing wildlife habitats and providing interesting landscape structures and water features. These features such as ponds, ditches and swales can be integrated into on-site green infrastructure.
- 7.54** The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires new developments and redevelopments to have drainage plans for surface runoff approved by the Local Flood Authority. The Local Flood Authority is responsible for adopting and maintaining new SuDS that serve more than one property and have been constructed as approved and function as designed. "National Standards for sustainable drainage systems" (designing, construction, operating and maintaining drainage for surface runoff) were published in 2011. These National Standards

set out what to design and construct in order to gain approval from the lead Local Flood Authority and for operating and maintaining SuDS which the Local Flood Authority adopts. The document sets out a hierarchy of destinations for surface water runoff: discharge to the ground, followed by a surface water body, surface water sewer, followed by combined sewer. Most relevant to SuDS, surface water runoff must be discharged to the ground.

- 7.55** To ensure the potential for SuDS is maximised on site and any delays in approval are avoided, pre-application discussions between developers, planners, highways authorities and the SAB (SuDS Approval Body) should be arranged from the earliest stages of site design. There will be two types of SuDS approval, a free standing application for permitted development and a combined application where planning permission is required. The detailed implementation of the Act, including phasing options, needs to be confirmed through secondary legislation, expected in 2014.

Policy CC11

Planning decisions should utilise Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) unless there are practical reasons for not doing so. All developments should aim to achieve greenfield runoff rates and ensure that surface water run-off is managed as close to its source as possible using the following hierarchy:

- a. **Discharge into the ground**
- b. **Discharge to a surface water body**
- c. **Discharge to a surface water sewer**
- d. **Discharge to a combined sewer**

It will not normally be acceptable for surface water runoff to enter the foul water system.

SuDS or other appropriate measures should:

- a. **Maintain public safety;**
- b. **Provide sufficient attenuation to surface water flows as appropriate;**
- c. **Ensure that there is adequate treatment of surface water flows, such that there is no diminution in quality of any receiving watercourse; and**
- d. **Provide or enhance wetland habitat and biodiversity where possible.**

Approval for the design and long term maintenance of SuDS will be required prior to development being permitted.

Water Quality, Water Efficiency and Water Supply

- 7.56** The Water Framework Directive aims to ensure that inland and coastal waters meet good chemical and ecological status by 2015 subject to certain limited exceptions. It includes the promotion of the sustainable use of water and requires that a management plan (which includes a programme of measures to improve water bodies) be prepared for each river basin.
- 7.57** The River Basin Management Plan for the South East River Basin District includes East Kent. It is essential that this Local Plan supports the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan. Relevant Key Actions for the Stour Catchment area include:
- Southern Water will improve sewage works at nine locations, including Canterbury;
 - The Environment Agency will work with partners to improve fish passage and flow;
 - There will be partnership work through the 'better rivers' programme to enhance the River Great Stour;
 - The Environment Agency will work with local authorities and site owners to ensure adequate investigation and remediation of land affected by contamination;
 - The Highways Agency, local authorities and the Environment Agency will develop targeted pollution prevention initiatives to prevent and limit the introduction of pollutants to groundwater.

Policy CC12

The Council will require that new development incorporates well designed mitigation measures to ensure that there is no adverse effect on water quality, both during construction and during the lifetime of the development. Furthermore, the Council will seek to ensure that every opportunity is taken to enhance existing aquatic environments and ecosystems. This will include the restoration of natural river features (including riverbanks) and removal of barriers to fish passage when appropriate opportunities arise.

As well as playing a part in encouraging a healthier water environment, the supply of water resources is also a significant issue for the City Council and the Canterbury District. The Council must ensure that it does not create adverse pressures on the water environment that could compromise ability to meet Water Framework Directive objectives. It is essential that any growth is managed in such a way that provision of water resources and waste water treatment does not cause the water environment to deteriorate. Overall there is a need to improve water quality and ecological status.

Kent, including the Canterbury District, is currently water stressed in terms of overall water resources and the public water supply, much of which is sourced from groundwater. Both South East Water and Southern Water (responsible for supplying water to the Canterbury District) are required to produce Water Resources Management Plans. These documents seek to ensure there is a robust and resilient water supply, and where the security of supply can be maintained under the most severe conditions. Indeed there are many challenges that these water supply organisations need to address, including demand from housing growth, the effects of climate change and the need to reduce energy use, and maintaining high levels of environmental protection.

A mixture of demand management and supply measures are likely to be used to secure future sustainability of water supply, including:

- demand management measures such as increased meter installation;
- reduced leakage and water efficiency initiatives;
- new resource developments and infrastructure improvements, as required.

New development in the Canterbury District must recognise the issue of water stress. There is a need for ongoing liaison between planners, water companies and the Environment Agency in order to ensure that the scale and distribution of housing and future demand is understood, planned for, and associated infrastructure is funded for in the long-term. The Council will seek to ensure that new development meets a number of design measures that will contribute to demand management at new developments. The main water efficiency measures are as follows:

- Water consumption within the home is one of the five compulsory aspects to address to achieve the Council's minimum standard of Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (Policy DBE2).
- Policy CC11 requires new development to utilise Sustainable Urban Drainage

South East Water is currently drafting its South East Water Resources Management Plan 2014. This is being produced in collaboration with other water companies (including Southern Water) and the Environment Agency and is likely to be published for consultation in June 2013. It will include options for securing water supply in the District. The Council must ensure that building rates do not run ahead of new infrastructure completion if temporary constraints are likely.

To ensure co-ordination of water resource planning across the south east region, the Environment Agency and the water companies have established a mechanism for integrated planning known as Water Resources in the South East (WRSE). This is designed to ensure that the individual WRMPs produced by the water companies are coordinated in terms of planning water supply, and understanding environmental impacts. In preparing this Local Plan the Council will have regard to Water Resource Management Plans and outcomes of the WRSE process.

Policy CC13

The Council will ensure that development is phased using appropriate time scales for the construction of any necessary major water and/or wastewater infrastructure associated with development proposals. The Council will consult in detail with water companies and the Environment Agency to ensure the need for new water services infrastructure is understood and planned for.

Such water services infrastructure might include:

- wastewater network and treatment;
- local drainage and storage infrastructure;
- local water supply distribution infrastructure;
- major transfer pumping stations and pipelines to local areas of demand;
- new storage provision (e.g reservoirs)

Major development options such as a reservoir at Broad Oak, that may be proposed for water supply purposes, may have significant implications for the environment and potentially for nearby communities. It is expected that in advance of submitting a planning application for such developments, the scope and timescale of environmental assessment and/or assessment of impact on communities should be agreed with the City Council and other relevant bodies. Other information that may be required includes justification of need, location and choice of water supply options. This process will inform the content of any informal environmental impact assessment and ensure that the Council has the information it requires to assess the proposal at the planning application stage.

Chapter 8: Design and The Built Environment

Canterbury City Council aims to be an area whose special qualities and distinctiveness are recognised and cherished. The District's unique legacy of its historic and natural environment should be preserved and enhanced. Within this context new development should positively contribute to the creation of places and community. This vision demands a high quality of design that cannot afford to allow poor development. High quality design requires a clear understanding of the local physical, social, economic and environmental context. The City Council will promote the use of skilled designers to help deliver the vision. Design codes, development briefs and detailed design guidance will be prepared to help guide new developments.

- 8.1** Good design ensures attractive usable, durable and adaptable places and is a key element in achieving sustainable development. Seeking to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings is one of the 12 core principles of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012). "Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people" (NPPF paragraph 56).
- 8.2** Good design contributes positively to making places better for people. Poor design which is inappropriate in its context, or which fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions, will not be accepted. The City Council will ensure that developments:
- Function well and add to the quality of the wider area, both in the short and longer term
 - Establish a strong sense of place creating an attractive and comfortable place to live, work and visit
 - Optimise the potential of a site for development, creating an appropriate mix of uses and green infrastructure
 - Respond to local character and history and reflect local identity and distinctiveness, while not preventing or discouraging innovation
 - Create safe, inclusive and accessible environments
 - Are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and landscape design.
- 8.3** Good design is not easy to define because it involves a degree of subjectivity. What is clear is that the creation of high quality places involves more than just the design of individual buildings. Although the design and appearance of

individual buildings are important securing high quality design goes beyond aesthetics. The connections between people and places and the creation of identity, together with the integration of new development into the natural and historic environment, are as important as the design of individual buildings.

- 8.4** The Canterbury District has a rich built and natural heritage. Places within it have a distinctive character created by a mixture of elements including architectural style, layout, history, landscape and the mix of uses. Throughout the District, in both urban and rural locations, the City Council will aim to ensure that all new development is of the highest design quality. Good design involves understanding and responding to the distinctive local character of a place in order to create locally distinctive sustainable development that works functionally, ecologically, socially and aesthetically to positively enrich the environment.
- 8.5** In planning for the achievement of high quality and inclusive design, developers should have regard to national good practice set out in *By Design – Urban design in the planning system: towards better practice*; *By Design – better places to live*; *Safer Places – the Planning System and Crime Prevention*; and *Planning and Access for Disabled People: A Good Practice Guide*. In addition developers should refer to *The Kent Design Guide* (December 2005) which is a companion document to the design principles discussed in this Local Plan. Canterbury City Council has adopted ‘Kent Design’ as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). In addition guidance on Archaeology, Conservation and Heritage, Shopfronts and Shopfront Security, and Outdoor Lighting have also been produced and adopted. A number of site specific development briefs and detailed guidance are already available from the City Council, (including development briefs, conservation area appraisals, landscape appraisals and area based guidance). Development briefs and design codes will be produced to help explain the local context and what is required from a development. The use of skilled designers and design review will be promoted to help deliver the City Council’s vision for the District. Pre-application discussions on proposed development will be encouraged to help inform the design process. These documents and processes are intended to assist the local planning authority in making decisions and help people who are applying for planning permission. By providing this advice, the City Council helps ensure that good quality development is achieved.

Sustainable Development

- 8.6** Sustainable development can be defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of those in the future to meet their own needs” (the Bruntland definition from ‘Our Common Future, the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987). The Government’s five guiding principles of sustainable development are: “living

within the planet's environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly".

- 8.7** Land is a finite resource, and it is an objective of the City Council to make more efficient use of previously developed, derelict or underused land. Developments should conserve natural resources, be energy efficient and minimise pollution. In 2010 energy use in domestic buildings (heating, air conditioning, ventilation, lighting etc) accounted for 43% of the UK's total energy consumption. The City Council will encourage developments that incorporate best practice initiatives that aim to reduce this level of energy consumption, such as: the Code for Sustainable Homes (2006) with the accompanying Technical Guidance (updated on a six monthly basis); Passivhaus; and the recommendations from the Building Research Establishment (BRE).
- 8.8** The Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) is a national standard designed to improve the sustainability of new homes. It is voluntary for private house builders but all publicly funded houses have had to be constructed to code Level 3 since 2008. The CSH measures the sustainability of a house against nine categories and a code level is awarded on the basis of how many mandatory minimum standards have been achieved. The code uses a star rating system to communicate the overall performance of the house (one star = Code Level One). The statutory means of achieving zero carbon homes is being progressed through the Building Regulations rather than through the CSH. By 2013 the Building Regulations will require an energy saving standard equivalent to CSH Code Level 4. In 2008, the Government published 'Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society'. This set out the need to build more flexible and inclusive housing in order to meet the future requirements of our ageing population. To encourage the development of more Lifetime Homes the government incorporated the standard into the Code for Sustainable Homes, and all housing built to Level Six of the code must comply with the Lifetime Homes Standard. Homes built to lower levels of the code can also obtain an additional four credits if they satisfy the Lifetime Homes criteria.
- 8.9** Passivhaus standards focus on building fabric and performance with the aim of reducing energy consumption. Typically a Passivhaus should result in an energy rating equivalent to level 5 or 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. The Code for Sustainable Homes and the BRE Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) standards are overarching sustainability assessment ratings which address a large number of environmental issues. The construction and occupation of buildings are major consumers of resources and can produce large quantities of waste and carbon emissions. In terms of embodied energy there is nothing more sustainable

than an existing building and the possibilities of sensitively altering or retro-fitting buildings to bring them up to modern standards should always be considered before demolition and re-building is proposed.

Policy DBE1

All development should respond to the objectives of sustainable development and reflect the need to safeguard and improve the quality of life for residents, conserve energy resources and protect and enhance the environment.

The City Council will therefore require development schemes to incorporate sustainable design and construction measures and must satisfy the criteria set out below:

- a. **Schemes must take account of the checklist in table D1 and demonstrate how sustainable construction and design principles have been incorporated into their proposals;**
- b. **New build housing should be constructed to meet the Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 and should be compliant with the current building regulation standards which currently aims to have zero-regulated CO₂ emissions from the regulated use of energy for all new build houses from 2016;**
- c. **Non residential developments should meet a 'very good' BREEAM rating from 2012 and an 'excellent' rating from 2015;**
- d. **New developments will also need to be resilient to climate change through the inclusion of appropriate climate change adaptation measures. These could include flood resilient measures, solar shading and drought resistant planting, limiting water runoff, reducing water consumption and reducing air pollution.**

8.10 When justifying a proposed design in a design and access statement, the following points in Table D1 concerning sustainability should be considered.

Table D1: Sustainable design and construction measures checklist

Design	Fabric/Services
Site selection and layout design (efficient use of land) and orientation to minimise energy consumptions where applicable.	Life cycle environmental cost analysis of construction materials.

The presence of buildings of mixed use, tenure and type.	Choice of materials including using those that are locally sourced, are from renewable resources or are recycled (e.g. secondary aggregates), where appropriate.
Sustainable urban drainage	Efficient heating, cooling and lighting
Integrated landscape structure and open space system including shelter belts linked where possible to the surrounding landscape.	Effective building management systems
A safe circulation system for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists with priority clearly given to pedestrian and cycling safety and links to public transport nodes.	The source of energy used and metering
Adequate storage space for recyclable materials and composting	Efficient water use and re-use of water
Conservation and retention of high quality natural features (trees, hedgerows, watercourses, water bodies etc.) and the contribution made to increasing and enhancing biodiversity.	Level of insulation
Bicycle storage	Home user guide and energy monitoring
Optimising natural ventilation	
Limiting excessive solar gain and provision of shading both on and around the building	
Protection and enhancement of biodiversity	
Accessibility of the site to a choice of travel alternatives	

- 8.11** New homes should be constructed using sustainable methods and built to meet the needs of present and future occupants. Homes should provide good internal and external space standards and be constructed to use the minimum of energy consumption for heating.

- 8.12** Since the 19th century our society has become increasingly dependent on fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas. Burning fossil fuels releases large amounts of CO², a greenhouse gas, which is causing climate change. Renewable energy is derived from natural forces that are continuously at work in the earth's environment and are not depleted by use. Renewable energy sources produce few or no greenhouse gases. An Energy Statement should be submitted as part of the Sustainability Statement submitted to the Council with planning applications, as required by policy DBE6. The most common forms of renewable energy are:
- Solar thermal (solar water heating)
 - Photovoltaic or PV (solar electric)
 - Wind turbines
 - Biomass heating
 - Ground and air source heat pumps
- 8.13** For the installation of renewable energy (micro-generation) equipment applicants may need to apply for both planning permission (and listed building consent if relevant) and Building Regulations approval. Permitted development rights allowing householders to install specified types of micro-generation equipment without applying for planning permission were introduced on 1 December 2011. If a proposal is not 'permitted development' then a planning or listed building consent application will need to be submitted to the City Council before work can begin. If the proposal relates to a listed building, or is within a conservation area or in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the controls over permitted development are slightly more restrictive.
- 8.14** Renewable technologies are easiest to fit in a new build as part of an integrated design. However they can be retrofitted to existing buildings depending on their location and orientation. It is nearly always cheaper to save a kWh of electricity than to produce one. Therefore the most important starting point is to reduce energy demand in the building.
- 8.15** For some renewable or micro-generation applications it may be necessary to include detailed proposals for the restoration of the site once the apparatus has reached the end of its functional life and is no longer required or the use ceases. Conditions may be used to ensure restoration of the site in these cases.

Policy DBE2

In determining applications for the development of renewable or micro-generation equipment, the City Council will expect applicants to:

- a. Avoid any adverse impacts (visual, aural, olfactory) or cumulative impact where appropriate;**
- b. Have given weight to the environmental, social and economic benefits**
- c. Have minimised the visual impact in respect of the layout and design of the development;**
- d. Ensure that the development will not have a significant adverse effect on the amenity of local residents;**
- e. Ensure that the installation would not have an adverse cumulative impact on the environment by reason of proximity to other existing or proposed renewable energy developments.**

The Design Process

Local character and distinctiveness

- 8.16** Good design enables land to be used efficiently, but above all it produces development which fits the site and possesses a locally distinctive character with a 'sense of place'. Development without this quality is 'anywhere' development and usually looks 'out of place' in its context. The following set of general design principles and accompanying policies aim at creating 'places' with a strong locally distinctive character or identity. The aim is to enhance the unique characteristics of a place while identifying possible improvements for places of poor or mediocre quality. The imposition of pre-determined 'pattern book' building designs rarely results in the creation of locally distinctive identity. A collaborative approach to development is needed across the professional spectrum to produce site-specific design solutions arising from the local context.
- 8.17** The aim of the City Council is to ensure that all new development in the Canterbury District achieves the highest standards of design. Quality design has a key role to play in shaping and enhancing the District, as well as repairing the damage done

by inappropriate development in the past. Developments should aim to create distinctive, linked, sustainable places that support community cohesion. The appearance of proposed development and its relationship to its surroundings are material considerations in determining planning applications and appeals. Such considerations relate to the design of buildings and to urban design. Successful streets, spaces, villages, towns and cities tend to have common characteristics which serve to remind us what should be sought to create a successful place. Those characteristics can be related to the following themes:

- Townscape and character: a place with its own identity.
- Space and enclosure: a place where public and private space is clearly distinguished.
- Quality of the public realm: a place with attractive and successful outdoor areas.
- Ease of movement: a place that is safe and easy to get to and move about in.
- Legibility: a place that has a clear image and is easy to understand.
- Adaptability and resilience: a place that can change easily.
- Diversity: a place with variety and choice.

8.18 The appearance and treatment of the spaces between and around buildings is as important as the design of the buildings themselves. Thus landscape design should be considered as an integral part of creating quality places. New buildings should respond to the landscape of the site and its surroundings. Landform, slopes, trees and habitats should be sensitively integrated into the development.

8.19 The starting point for all good design is the context of the specific site in question (the character and setting of an area within which a projected scheme will be situated). Understanding context involves understanding and responding to the pattern of the built and natural environment and the social and physical characteristics of the locality in order to be able to produce locally distinctive design. The character of settlements and small groups of buildings arises from the layout pattern of buildings, streets and spaces, density, grain, scale (height and massing), details and materials. The relationship between built form (scale and materials) and their landscape setting is a key feature of distinctive local character.

8.20 Where part, or most of the context of a development site is of a rich quality (i.e. distinct architectural, historical and/or landscape merit), new development should respect, complement and enhance it. This does not rule out high quality contemporary architectural design. The assessment of architectural quality will be carried out in relation to the following objective measures: how the scheme

relates to its context, how the proposed use is expressed through its design philosophy, structure, materials, proportions, visual order, functioning and detailing.

- 8.21** Canterbury District is an attractive area rich in architecture of every period and style. The design quality achieved in the past was generally very high, particularly in respect of the sense of place, 'rightness' and delight. The quality of design in new developments is one of the most obvious measures of success of the planning system. The expectations for quality in design have been rising over the past decade. Future generations will judge us by the quality of what we build today.
- 8.22** There will be circumstances where the traditional design styles need to be followed very closely, for example in formal terraces, estate villages, or where the character of the place depends on the similarity of style, form and detailing. The introduction of modern versions of traditional styles will, in many instances, be acceptable or desirable. In these cases the choice of materials, colours, detailing, and workmanship will be key factors. In other areas where the traditional architecture does not create the character or appearance of the 'place', adventurous, high quality, contemporary designs will be encouraged.
- 8.23** Buildings should be visually interesting at street level with active frontages created with entrances, windows and doors. Active frontages allow overlooking and interaction with public spaces and streets. They help to create a sense of vitality and contribute to making places safer. Architectural detailing should be carefully considered and incorporated into new buildings. Detailing should convey the quality of design and create an attractive, visually interesting building. Developments should incorporate materials of an appropriate high quality. The durability of materials together with their colour and attractiveness will be considered along with their compatibility with neighbouring buildings.

Policy DBE3

The distinctive character, diversity and quality of the Canterbury District will be promoted, protected and enhanced through high quality, inclusive, design which reinforces and positively contributes to its local context creating attractive, inspiring and safe places.

The City Council will expect all development proposals to be of high quality design and will assess proposals against the following considerations:

- a. The character, setting and context of the site and the way the development is integrated into the landscape;**
- b. The conservation and integration of existing natural features including trees and hedgerows to strengthen local distinctiveness, character and biodiversity;**
- c. The visual impact including the impact on local townscape character and the skyline;**
- d. The form and density of the development: the efficient use of land, layout, landscape, density and mix, building heights, scale, massing, materials, finish and architectural details including proposed lighting schemes;**
- e. The provision of visually interesting frontages at street level;**
- f. The privacy and amenity of neighbouring buildings and future occupiers (including overshadowing, outlook and sunlight);**
- g. The provision of appropriate hard and soft landscaping;**
- h. The impact of noise, dust and vibration from the development or neighbouring uses including polluting elements such as noise, air and light;**
- i. The provision of appropriate amenity and open space;**
- j. The safe movement within and around the proposed development, and**
- k. Accessibility: buildings and places should meet the highest standards of access and inclusion;**
- l. Parking arrangements conform to the latest adopted vehicle parking standards;**

- m. The proposed development does not have a detrimental effect on the highway network in terms of congestion and road safety;**
- n. The compatibility of the proposed development with other adjacent uses.**

8.24 In certain circumstances the Council will consider creative and modern design solutions in appropriate locations. Although modern in their design proposals will need to reflect local context and distinctiveness, be fit for purpose and stand the test of time.

Policy DBE4

Proposals for new modern design will only be granted where the building design is of high quality. Any new proposals will be expected to demonstrate

- a. High quality design solutions appropriate to the site;**
- b. Attention to the quality and appropriateness of materials, methods of construction, finishes and architectural detailing reflecting the local context;**
- c. Visual interest when viewed as a whole and in detail;**
- d. Attention to proportions, scale, form and massing;**
- e. The impact on the skyline from short and long distance view points;**
- f. Integration between the different parts of the building to create a coherent whole; and**
- g. The impact on local amenity.**

Design and Access Statements, Development Briefs and Sustainability Statements

8.25 Applicants for planning permission should provide a written statement setting out the design principles they have adopted in relation to the site and its wider context. This helps in the assessment of the application against Local Plan policies, and it requires applicants to think about design in an analytical and positive way.

It enables the applicants to demonstrate how they have responded to the environment in which it is located, and how they have taken account of the views of the community.

- 8.26** Planning application design and access statements are appropriate for small, low key development proposals, as they still can have an impact on the community. In such cases, only a brief statement explaining the design approach is likely to be necessary. Applicants will be tasked with demonstrating how their applications conform to good design principles discussed above. The Kent Design Guide is a good resource for advice on the design process. In addition the City Council has published a number of conservation area appraisals which provide a useful source of information on the local context for proposals within conservation areas.
- 8.27** On occasions when village design statements, development briefs or design codes have been prepared and adopted as a material consideration, or as a supplementary planning document by the City Council, these will form the background design guidance for new development proposals.
- 8.28** A design and access statement should be submitted with planning applications and should:
- explain the design principles and design concept;
 - outline how these are reflected in the development's layout, density, scale, visual appearance and landscape design;
 - explain how the design relates to its site and wider area through a full site, area appraisal and tree survey where appropriate, and to the purpose of the proposed development;
 - explain how the development will meet the local authority's design objectives/policies (and its other planning policies);
 - demonstrate that the development of the design has taken account of the views of the local community.
- 8.29** The written design and access statement should be illustrated (as appropriate) by plans and elevations, photographs of the site and its surroundings, and other illustrations, such as perspectives.
- 8.30** Development briefs for specific sites or areas will, in certain cases, have been adopted, following a period of public consultation. Where the development brief is not prepared by the City Council, the landowner or developer is advised to seek guidance on its content because different types of site (large town centre sites

and small rural infill sites) are likely to require different approaches. In general, the development brief should set out the key constraints and contextual characteristics of the site, and establish design parameters for the proposed development. These might include infrastructure needs, opportunities for external spaces and other environmental enhancements.

- 8.31** Including information about the sustainability principles incorporated in the development can be a useful method of clarifying the ways in which the objectives of sustainable development have been incorporated. Where appropriate, a sustainability statement should provide information on the subjects contained within the sustainability checklist in Table D1. This statement could be included in the design and access statement. The sustainability statement is an important means by which applicants should demonstrate design quality. For major developments, (as defined in the General Development Procedure Order 1995 or subsequent amendments), a sustainability statement should form a separate document that focuses in detail on measures taken to reduce environmental impact and enhance social and economic benefits. An energy statement may also be required as part of this process.
- 8.32** The National Planning Policy Framework stresses the importance of pre-application discussions in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. This ensures a mutual understanding of development objectives and constraints. Good quality pre-application discussions help to ensure that all applications are complete, address all the relevant issues and enable improved outcomes for the community. Time delays often result from failure to discuss development ideas with the Council and applicants are encouraged to discuss their design and sustainability statements with planning officers prior to submission of planning applications.

Policy DBE5

Design and access statements shall be submitted with planning applications setting out the principles used in the scheme to relate the development within and to its context, including the issues set out in paragraph 5.20. This will apply to all planning applications, where the development is visually significant or is significant to its neighbours.

Policy DBE6

Sustainability statements including an energy statement, will also be required in appropriate circumstances, particularly with applications for major development, and should demonstrate how the proposal has responded to the objectives of sustainable development.

- 8.33** Any proposal for large scale development should seek to provide a clear and coherent design framework layout that incorporates the design objectives of Policy DBE3 and provides a higher quality development in the surrounding area.
- 8.34** Applications for subsequent stages and/or revisions to stages that have already received planning permission will only be considered favourably if they are consistent with the overall principles of the development and any approved Development Brief.

Urban Form and Scale

- 8.35** The scale and massing of development determines its visual impact and its effect on townscape. In assessing a proposed building's 'envelope' (height, width, massing and depth) consideration will be given to its relationship with heritage assets, local topography and the effect on skylines. Consideration will also be given to the effect of a proposed building's mass can have on amenity (including; overshadowing; loss of sunlight and daylight; and, creating an adverse micro-climate). The general policy is that new buildings should be based on the heights of existing buildings, particularly in historic areas. This relates to both the height of the building and also to the street enclosure ratio. Accommodating growth will require a relatively high density of development. Tall buildings (over five storeys) are not considered necessary to achieve this and most parts of the District are not considered suitable for tall buildings. High density development does not have to involve building high or disrupting the urban grain. With skill and care it is possible to incorporate large modern uses within the grain of historic places. Tall buildings (over five storeys) need to be designed with an appreciation of the context in which they are to be built. If proposals have a detrimental impact in terms of overshadowing, loss of sunlight, or would be overbearing on their surroundings they will be refused permission.
- 8.36** Planning applications for tall buildings (over five storeys) should be accompanied by accurate and realistic representations of the proposed building. These representations should show the proposed development in all significant views

affected including the public realm, streets adjacent to the site and long distance views. The appearance of the building should be accurately rendered in a range of weather and light conditions including a night-time view.

- 8.37 Canterbury** is perhaps the most critical place in terms of its character and the impact of new developments on views and vistas. Building heights should be determined by the immediate context of a development. However it is not expected that new buildings will exceed four residential storeys over an active ground floor (i.e. five storeys maximum height). The existing five storey developments at Whitefriars and the Tannery are considered to be the maximum heights acceptable. The seven storey accommodation block at Christ Church University and the gasometer at Wincheap have a detrimental effect on the skyline of the City, and if these buildings are redeveloped their visual impact should be reduced. Part of the character of the City is the variation in building heights and variation in height within the overall limit is encouraged. Five storey development will not be acceptable everywhere across the City and the case for building higher than adjacent buildings (ie the local context) will have to be argued on a case for case basis. In Canterbury the effect of tall buildings on the historic context, and the world heritage site, is particularly important. Any proposal for a tall building will need to ensure that it preserves or enhances the site and skyline. In addition the effect on the setting of the World Heritage Site and views to and from historic buildings should be carefully considered (See policies HE2 and HE3). In addition to the above, the City Council has adopted specific design guidance for the New Dover Road area. Development proposals in this area should take into account this advice.
- 8.38 Herne Bay** is a Victorian seaside town of mainly two to three storey houses with a slightly higher central area (two to three storeys over an active frontage). Building heights should be determined by the immediate context of a development. There is an existing cluster of taller buildings at Kings Road and the St Anne's Court block of flats at Pier Avenue. There should be no further tall buildings in these locations and if the buildings are re-developed their visual impact should be reduced.
- 8.39 Whitstable** is a town of two storey houses with a central area of two or three storeys. The predominant building height is an active ground floor with a residential floor over. Building heights should be determined by the immediate context of a development. There are two tall buildings in Whitstable that do not fit with their context (21-23 High Street and Windsor House on Belmont Road). If these buildings are re-developed they should be replaced with two to three storey buildings appropriate to the location. The City Council has adopted specific design guidance in respect of two areas within Whitstable, notably Joy Lane and Marine Parade. Development proposals in these areas should take into account this advice.

- 8.40** **The rural area** contains mainly one and two storey buildings however there are some large agricultural buildings that are single storey but over 7.0 metres high. Many rural properties are set further back from the roadway than their urban counterparts and walls, railings, fences and hedges are very important to the character of the area. Where new development is permitted, traditional types of boundary treatment should be used (such as picket fences or simple iron 'Park' style railings). Large buildings, such as barns, workshops, silos and industrial units located in rural conservation areas or the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), can have a major impact. They should be carefully designed to a high standard, particularly where they are located next to open countryside or are visible from nearby roads. Standard industrial sheds in bland materials and garish colours will not be acceptable in such locations. High quality contemporary architecture of an extremely high standard that harmonises with the landscape will be encouraged.
- 8.41** The massing, overall shape and size of a building, should generally be kept as simple as possible. The technical difficulty of weatherproofing hips and valleys was largely responsible for adopting simple forms. Flat roofs do not form part of the local vernacular building tradition, and have an inherent maintenance problem. They can look 'out of place' in conservation areas because the silhouette of a flat roof is abrupt and the building can look unfinished unless carefully designed.
- 8.42** Present day expectations of housing (room sizes, ceiling heights) can easily produce a design out of scale with its local context. Care must be taken to ensure that the scale of new buildings is in keeping with their surroundings. Eaves heights are critical and should be similar to neighbouring buildings. Chimneys are an important feature and should be integral with the structure of a house, not built onto it.

Residential Design

- 8.43** There have been a number of planning applications made over the last five years for new dwellings and conversions where the room sizes and room shapes have been sub-standard. New homes are perceived as being smaller, (with small bedrooms, less storage space and smaller gardens) when compared to older properties. Research by CABE and English Partnerships carried out in 2008 found that residents in private homes did not have enough space for furniture or enough storage space for their possessions. Even households with a spare bedroom reported that space was not adequate. Small flats and houses have limited scope for adaptation and cannot support the needs of growing families. Children are not provided with a space to study or play. Smaller properties offer less value for money per square metre than equivalent dwelling types built over 15 years ago and consequently they do not attract the widest range of potential purchasers.

The value of such properties can also decline resulting in a lack of care of maintenance and neglect. Surrounding properties and the wider area can also be adversely affected.

- 8.44** In order to address the concerns over inadequate dwelling size in new housing space standards have been prepared. The standards relate to a minimum gross internal floor area (GIA - measured to the internal face of the perimeter walls) of accommodation for a specific number of bed spaces. The more bed spaces provided the more space is required for living, sleeping, cooking and storage.

Policy DBE7

All new housing proposals should have an acceptable standard of accommodation in terms of internal layout, room sizes and amenity space. Residential accommodation should meet the minimum space standards set out in table D3. In addition developments should provide:

- a. **Storage space and space for refuse and recycling**
- b. **Facilities for covered cycle parking**
- c. **Outdoor space for private and communal use**

The City Council will expect at least 20% of all residential developments to be built to Lifetime Home Standards spread equally between all tenure groups.

Table D3: Minimum residential space standards

	Dwelling type (bedroom/persons)	Essential GIA (sq.m)
Flats	1p	37
	1b2p	50
	2b3p	61
	2b4p	70
	3b4p	74
	3b5p	86
	3b6p	95
	4b5p	90
	4b6p	99
	Two storey houses	2b4p
3b4p		87
3b5p		96
4b5p		100
4b6p		107
Three storey houses	3b5p	102
	4b5p	106
	4b6p	113

8.45 To achieve a good standard of homes that are flexible and adaptable they must be built to the above minimum internal space standards. These standards are considered to be the minimum acceptable and the City Council would expect to see a range of homes in excess of these minimum sizes. The usability of a home is not solely dependent on its size but also on whether it can be organised to meet the needs of the residents. People appreciate larger living space and the number of rooms provided. Providing a large internal floor area will however not compensate for a poorly designed internal layout, badly proportioned spaces and awkward door swings. Rooms should be of sufficient size to allow them to function in relation to their proposed use. Where multi-functional rooms are

proposed they should allow for future sub-division. Living rooms should have a width greater than 3.3 metres. Bedrooms should have a minimum floor area of 7m² for a single bedroom and 12m² for a double/twin bedroom (ensuite showers/bathrooms do not count towards this minimum). Single bedrooms should be at least 2m wide, double bedrooms at least 2.6m wide and all bedrooms should be at least 3m in length. Additional guidance concerning internal space standards is available from the Lifetimes Homes Standard.

- 8.46** The Lifetime Homes Standard was established in the 1990s to incorporate a set of principles that should be implicit in good housing design. In this context good housing design should maximise utility, independence and quality of life without compromising on the aesthetics or cost effectiveness of design. It seeks to provide flexible accommodation that meets the changing needs of households over time. It is therefore an expression of inclusive design as it has the ability to meet the requirements of a wide range of households such as families with pushchairs, wheelchair users and some people with disabilities.
- 8.47** The City Council instructed Adams Integra as part of their Economic Viability Assessment, to appraise the impact of a 20% requirement for all housing developments to be built to lifetime homes standards. They concluded that it would not have a significant negative impact on scheme viability and therefore the City Council will expect 20% of all residential developments to be built to Lifetime Home Standards, as set out in policy HD1.

Inclusive Design

- 8.48** The City Council will expect all buildings and places to meet the highest standards practicable for access and inclusion. An inclusive environment will be easily used by as many people as possible without separation, special treatment or undue effort. It is important to ensure that full access is integrated into all design features rather than being seen as an add-on or just for disabled people. The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) describe inclusive design as 'making places everyone can use'. In their guidance document, entitled Principles of Inclusive Design (2006), CABE note that by 'designing and managing the built environment inclusively, the frustration and hardship experienced by many.....can be overcome (2006: iii).' Five principles set by CABE are deemed vital towards achieving this objective, and are broken down as follows:

Principles of Inclusive Design

- i. Placing people at the heart of the design process – through extensive stakeholder consultation right at the start of the thinking process.
- ii. Acknowledging diversity and difference – good design can only be achieved if the environment created meets as many people's needs as possible.

- iii. Offering choice – where a single design solution cannot accommodate all users, applying the same high design standards should enable the access requirements of all users to be met.
- iv. Providing flexibility in use – places need to be designed so they can adapt to changing uses and demands.
- v. Providing buildings and environments that are convenient and enjoyable to use for everyone – involves considering roads, walkways, building entrances, signage, lighting, visual contrast and materials.

The principles above provide an important starting point for addressing inclusive design in the built environment. They should be used in assessing planning applications and in drawing up masterplans and area planning frameworks, as well as in the scoping of highways and traffic management schemes.

Creating an inclusive environment requires that developments:

- Can be used safely, independently, easily and with dignity by all regardless of disability, age, gender, ethnicity or other circumstances;
- Are convenient and welcoming with no barriers, so everyone can use them independently without undue effort or separation;
- Are flexible and responsive to taking account of what different people say they need and want, so people can use them in different ways;
- Are planned in a way that encourages active community participation, particularly from disability/access groups;
- Are realistic, offering more than one solution to help balance everyone's needs, recognising that one solution may not work for all.

Whilst inclusive design is a primary objective of any development or streetscape scheme, it is appreciated that there are other policies and drivers associated with the conservation of specific buildings and their setting, and the preservation and enhancement of wider locations through Conservation Area designations.

The provision of an 'access for all' approach does not need to preclude high quality design solutions. However, careful consideration should be given to the design rationale early in the scoping and planning process, so that 'competing demands' can be managed and stakeholder discussions facilitated. Developers should have regard to the best practice set out in BS8300 – 2009 "Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of

disabled people". Attention to materials palette, long term maintenance and problems associated with a disconnected streetscape environment need to be tackled early in discussions.

Policy DBE8

The City Council will require developments to meet the highest standards of accessibility and inclusion. Developers should ensure that developments:

- a. **Can be used safely and easily by all;**
- b. **Are convenient, welcoming and enjoyable to use independently without special treatment;**
- c. **Are flexible and responsive so that people can use them in different ways;**
- d. **Are realistic and recognise that one solution may not work for all.**

Residential Intensification

8.49 There are a number of pressures that affect the character and distinctiveness of the residential areas in the Canterbury District. Recent Government policy has encouraged the development of housing on previously developed land (brownfield land). There are fewer homes being built than new households that are being formed each year and consequently there is a housing shortage. Part of this demand is being met by infilling and intensification of existing housing developments. Selling off part of a large garden for development, for example, is a way in which building land can be made available, although this is now not included in the Government's definition of previously developed land.

8.50 However local character and distinctiveness are crucial elements in why people choose to live where they do. Piecemeal and incremental changes can adversely affect this character. Change is of course inevitable and it is necessary to allow people to adapt to their changing circumstances. Decisions on what is appropriate should be informed by an analysis of the character of the locality and the value placed on that area by the local community. The City Council has produced guidance on residential intensification (April 2008) and development proposals should have regard to this guidance.

8.51 The issues that these areas are facing include:

- Intensification of use – demolition and redevelopment of original house;
- Scale and appearance of new infill development not in keeping with context;

- Loss of building line, street pattern and roofscape;
- Side extensions that tend to create a terraced effect in the street;
- Acquisition of rear gardens for backland development;
- Tandem development proposals;
- Cumulative changes damaging character;
- Loss of planting and specimen trees;
- Oversized and overbearing redevelopment proposals for apartments/flats with parking areas dominant;
- Demand for on street parking;
- Front gardens surfaced to provide off street parking.

Policy DBE9

The principle of residential intensification will only be acceptable if:

- a. The site is in an existing residential area;**
- b. The site has been allocated for housing;**
- c. And the development would not conflict with other policies in the Local Plan.**

The development should take account of the guidance given in paragraphs 8.56-8.62 below and the Council's Residential Intensification Design Guide (2008).

- 8.52** Site layout and the orientation of the development should follow the character of the area, particularly in well-established residential areas where houses fronting the road with an established building line are the norm. If a new cul-de-sac is to be created the houses at the entrance should front the main road in order to retain the appearance of the street frontage. Possible development plots should be of a similar size to those prevailing in the adjoining area – i.e. wide enough to locate the building(s) with adequate separation between them. The depth of frontage (i.e. front garden) should be maintained especially where front gardens contribute to the character of the area. Where depths of frontages vary greatly

the minimum depth of frontage should be an average size and not be reduced to the shallowest plot. Examples of suitable plot layouts and other guidance can be found in the Council's Residential Intensification Design Guide (2008).

- 8.53** New dwellings should be sited to prevent any direct overlooking of habitable rooms of the existing neighbouring houses. New dwellings should be positioned away from common boundaries to ensure that windows do not overlook principal elevations and that daylight and sunlight are not adversely affected. Proposals should retain important trees and landscape features and should not disturb wildlife corridors. Large gardens that make a significant contribution to the character of the area and its biodiversity should not be lost.
- 8.54** New development proposals when considered acceptable in principle will need to fit in with existing built form in terms of density, appearance, proportion, scale, and massing. Proposals to develop at a scale and massing that are considered to be out of character with the adjoining area, and would harm the surrounding context will be resisted. Backland development will only be allowed where it does not affect the amenities of surrounding properties. The new development should avoid the overlooking of existing private amenity space.
- 8.55** The height form and footprint of the proposed building, particularly in respect of infill developments, should be similar to that prevailing along the road frontage. The width of building plots and the width of the proposed infill dwelling should be similar to that prevailing in the street frontage. There should be adequate side boundary separation of buildings in the street frontage; appropriate separation will be required between houses depending on the location's streetscape. Sufficient parking shall be provided on site. A limited amount of parking can be provided to the front of the house in the garden if the space is well landscaped and designed in such a way that the hard surfacing does not dominate and cover the whole of the front garden. The drainage of such hard surfaced areas should be via a sustainable drainage system. Vehicular access points should be designed in accordance with the standards set out in Kent Design.
- 8.56** The loss of healthy mature areas of established planting, including trees and hedgerows which have a general amenity value, will be resisted where it is considered that these form an intrinsic part of the area's character and appeal.
- 8.57** All dwellings designed as family houses should provide private garden space suitable for family needs. Shared open spaces for flats and elderly people's accommodation may be acceptable. The over development of individual plots will be resisted.
- 8.58** Apartment designs and developments of flats will be resisted in locations where they are considered to be out of scale and context with the surrounding area. They will also be resisted where the site's location is considered to be unsustainable

in terms of convenient, easy and safe pedestrian links to local facilities and public transport links. Intensive housing or apartment developments should be avoided unless they are of an appropriate scale and the footprint of the new building is similar to that of the existing dwelling.

Alterations and Extensions

- 8.59** The Government is currently consulting on extending permitted development rights to allow for single storey extensions with a depth of up to 8 metres to be built, without the need for planning permission in unprotected areas. The consultation document proposes that in non-protected areas, single-storey rear extensions with a depth beyond the rear wall of eight metres should be allowed under permitted development rights for a detached house and six metres for any other type of house. The following section may need to be rewritten to reflect the outcome of the Government's consultation and any subsequent changes to permitted development rights.
- 8.60** Extensions need to be individually designed for the specific building. Often the best approach is to pick up the style of the existing building, especially in conservation areas and for listed buildings. In other locations extensions of a contemporary design may be appropriate. Where alterations or extensions are proposed for listed buildings, building in conservation areas and the AONB, consideration will be given to the impact of the proposal on the special interest and fabric of the existing building.
- 8.61** Alterations and extensions to existing buildings should be designed to: complement the scale and massing of the existing building; preserve any features of interest; provide a satisfactory relationship between the old and new fabric; not lead to overlooking, overpowering or overshadowing of neighbouring properties; and ensure adequate natural light within the building, garden and amenity space.
- 8.62** The fundamental principle in designing a new residential extension is that it should not dominate the main house. It is important that smaller houses, particularly cottages, retain their original form. Two storey extensions can often cause problems due to loss of light and overlooking. This is particularly the case with rear extensions to two-storey terraces, where ideally new additions should be kept to single storey.
- 8.63** The position and form of an extension should take into account the size, proportion and form of the main building. Materials should generally match the existing, as should the general detailing, though there are occasions when a lighter construction may be more appropriate with a cladding such as weatherboarding.

Occasionally a lightweight link with glazing can provide a useful solution to the problem of adding an extension without losing the character of the original building.

- 8.64** Extensions can be designed so as to appear part of the original concept or, alternatively, as a contemporary addition. Both of these approaches require skill, in the former case an extension may not be noticeable; in the latter the extension would be different, but compatible, and attractive in its own right. It is usually preferable to leave the existing 'original' house/building intact and extend under a separate roof. The ridge height of the extension should be lower than the original. If the extension is smaller, lower and follows the design of the original it should be acceptable. Bulky, box like, flat roof extensions should be avoided. In order to provide a break between the old and the new a set back is advisable. This will help the extension read as being subsidiary to the original building. Setting an extension 'in' from the existing also helps disguise different brick courses, joints, and bonding to the existing façade, and also separates the eaves. An extension should recognise the shape of the existing building rather than ignore it (i.e. plan form, roof pitch and span). Once an extension begins to match or exceed the size of the original, the integrity of the original house will tend to be lost. Two storey extensions should have pitched roofs clad in suitable materials. The ridge line should not exceed the height of the original and a lower ridge is preferred.
- 8.65** Rear extensions can have a detrimental effect on neighbours, especially in terraces. A depth of 3.0m is usually acceptable for terraces (3.6m for semis) if they are single storey. Two storey extensions to terraces create shading, and are overbearing to neighbours. If the house is a semi then a two-storey extension may be acceptable if no part of it protrudes beyond a 45 degree line from the nearest part of the extension to a window of a habitable room of a neighbour.
- 8.66** The most effective way of preserving the architectural character of a listed building or a conservation area is for new buildings to positively respond to traditional building styles and materials. This does not mean that there has to be a slavish copying of old houses but the scale, form, materials and details should harmonise with the rural or village setting. Traditional buildings usually have steep roof pitches (47.5 degrees plus), narrow gables (maximum 6m wide), wide frontages to the street and comparatively low floor to ceiling and eaves heights. Small dormer windows usually provide light to attic rooms. Any extensions are generally single storey lean-to or pitched roof continuations of the main building. If these traditional forms are followed, new buildings should respond sensitively to historic areas. Further advice can be found in the Conservation area appraisals.

- 8.67** The massing, overall shape and size of a building, should be kept as simple as possible. The technical difficulty of weatherproofing hips and valleys was largely responsible for adopting simple forms. Flat roofs do not form part of the vernacular building tradition, and have an inherent maintenance problem. They generally look 'out of place' in conservation areas because the silhouette of a flat roof is abrupt and the building can look unfinished unless carefully designed.
- 8.68** The overall shape of traditional buildings was horizontal with low eaves heights resulting in a 'ground hugging' appearance. The vertical proportions of windows and doors balanced this horizontal appearance. Traditional elevations have well balanced proportions between the solid 'wall' and the voids or openings they contain. This results in a high solid-to-void relationship (with the solid wall dominating), and, a simple arrangement of openings. Traditional constructional techniques limited the size of openings, and led to relatively narrow vertically proportioned windows. Modern construction methods can ignore these structural limitations and large horizontal picture windows are possible. The traditional solid-to-void relationship can be lost and the result is a building that is very weak visually which lacks the strong appearance of a historic building. Present day expectations of housing (room sizes, ceiling heights) can also easily produce a design out of scale with its context.
- 8.69** Conservatories evolved from the greenhouses and orangeries of the 18th and 19th centuries. Conservatories began to become popular in the 1980s. Many firms started to offer off the peg structures, some very basic and some "bespoke" and very expensive. They are, however, now offered as extensions to living space rather than houses for plants. The problem with these conservatories is that their design is standardised which tends to lead to the repetition of design motifs, (fancy ridges, arched windows, etc) and a failure to consider the architectural context/local distinctiveness.
- 8.70** Conservatories are not appropriate for certain types of building – where it would adversely affect the special character and appearance. Conservatories should be resisted on the following:
- Barns converted to residential use
 - Older historic buildings which have not been altered, or only little altered. (e.g. small 17th century cottage, a medieval hall). Such buildings would never have had a conservatory and to add one now would ruin their character.
 - Lodges, turnpike cottages, purpose designed dwellings with a strong character
 - Where it is proposed on a main elevation and would visually dominate the building.

- 8.71** Pubs, hotels and nursing homes often use the conservatory form to create additional dining or bar space. If the pub is listed (or historic) this can be problematic because the proposed conservatory usually needs to be very large. In such situations a standard product is likely to be unacceptable and a specific design solution should be prepared.

Policy DBE10

The City Council will permit alterations and extensions to buildings which:

- a. **are compatible with the character of the original building in terms of design, layout, choice of materials and position;**
- b. **will not result in unacceptable loss of privacy to neighbouring properties;**
- c. **will not create unacceptable overlooking or overshadowing to neighbouring properties; and**
- d. **are not detrimental to the amenity and character of the locality.**

Particular attention will be paid to ensuring that such works to listed buildings and non-listed buildings in conservation areas do not damage their special architectural character.

Landscape Design

- 8.72** Landscape design should be seen as the total design of outside space from the very first layout design stage where built development and open space is broadly zoned to the detailed design of hard surfaces, lighting, street furniture, enclosing walls, fences and other structures as well as planting design including using drought resistant planting where possible.
- 8.73** High quality landscape design is paramount to the creation of successful development and place. In appropriate circumstances, a Landscape Design Strategy should accompany a planning application in order to indicate how a new development relates to the space about it.
- 8.74** New development, particularly large scale developments on sites where the context is ordinary or poor, demands a particular approach. Here the aim is to create a higher quality development to the surrounding context to act as a new focus for the local area. Successful places are characterised by built form and external space design being conceived together prior to traffic circulation. For example, a strong landscape framework is employed to integrate the development into the landscape setting and structure a connected open space system and pedestrian/cycle circulation network. Built development is then arranged within

the openings in the framework and connected by a road hierarchy designed to be pedestrian/cycle friendly and not to dominate the visual appearance of the development.

- 8.75** A 'cellular' structure as described above, created by the landscape framework, serves to sub-divide the development into a series of connected individual areas each able to assume its own distinctive character. In this way extensive areas of characterless development are avoided. New development should relate to its landscape setting. Landscape design should be used to help create or maintain the character of an area. Existing landscape features should be surveyed and assessed and used to provide a structure for site planning.
- 8.76** A detailed tree survey and evaluation should be carried out before design work begins. The survey should include a plan showing location of trees, shrubs and hedges and give details of species, trunk circumference, spread of canopy, height, condition, age, ultimate size and existing levels. Changes to site levels or soil compaction will affect the functioning of tree and shrub roots and any changes, therefore, must be kept outside the spread of roots. If existing vegetation is to be retained the standards set out in B.S.5837; Trees in relation to construction 1995 should be referred to.
- 8.77** A landscape scheme accompanying a planning application should include the following information:
- Survey and evaluation;
 - Details of surface treatments, hardstandings, paths and edges;
 - Details of proposed means of enclosure such as fencing, walls, bollards, etc
 - Proposed open spaces, play areas and structural planting (including mounding);
 - Planting schedule of species, varieties and numbers of plants to be used.
- 8.78** Landscape design should enhance the visual amenity of a locality. It can also create valuable wildlife habitats. Where possible planting should utilise native species to safeguard existing habitats, and help create wildlife corridors. The future maintenance must also be considered. Large forest or parkland trees and existing trees must be given adequate space. The shadowing effect of large trees near a dwelling can lead to demands for its removal. The local planning authority will expect new development to provide adequate space for existing or new trees to mature and prosper.

Policy DBE11

In order to achieve high quality design of the public realm, development proposals will be expected to:

- a. Reinforce or enhance the established character of the area;**
- b. Integrate with existing path, circulation networks and patterns of activity and permeability;**
- c. Integrate with the existing landscape setting;**
- d. Respond to contextual features and be locally distinctive;**
- e. Contribute to a safe and secure environment;**
- f. Be accessible and usable to people with varying mobility requirements;**
- g. Create attractive, manageable, well functioning spaces within the site.**

Public Realm, Open Space and Outdoor Lighting

- 8.79** Public Realm is the space within a town or development that is not privately owned and is available for the public to use. The design and layout of the public realm will have a direct bearing on the success of a development in terms of functionality, visual appearance and sense of place. The public realm helps to create a strong identity, and contributes to the creation of a sense of place for both visitors and users. The City Council will encourage a legible, comfortable, stimulating and safe public realm. The ground floor of buildings fronting onto public spaces should have active and interesting uses to help animate the locality. The choice of paving materials and street furniture influences the perception of these places. The coordination of streetscape elements will give visitors and users a positive impression of the place. Streets and paths should be welcoming, understandable and easy to use.
- 8.80** Road design and off-street parking standards are a major determinant of the amount of land required for new housing, the price of that new housing and of the ability of urban design to create places of distinct character. Standards will be applied in a flexible manner where possible, to provide opportunity for the design of more creative external spaces. (See the Manual for Streets, Department of Transport, published by Thomas Telford books, 2007). The creative use of built

form and landscape design should be used to reduce the visual impact of roads and to reduce vehicle speed, rather than obvious 'bolt-on' traffic calming measures, wherever possible. Generous road space gives the message that drivers have priority, can drive fast and habitually use the car. Developments should be designed to help promote walking and cycling. Road layouts should prioritise safe, easy and direct pedestrian routes and the creation of a network of well-connected public open spaces. The Kent Design Guide (2005) states "It may be appropriate to limit parking where there is easy access to public transport and walking and cycling routes. It may even be practical to have car-free commercial or residential developments but these must be backed by evidence that potential residents will not require parking spaces. It is essential that robust controls are in place on surrounding public highways to prevent displaced parking".

- 8.81** In order to ensure that the public realm is attractive, it needs to be well maintained. This policy applies to all open space areas that are not within an enclosed private curtilage. Public and private areas should be clearly defined.
- 8.82** Spaces such as St George's Street in Canterbury, Mortimer Street in Herne Bay, and Harbour Street in Whitstable are where people walk, cycle, drive, are pushed or are carried. They are places of activity, where people meet, talk, trade and entertain. Within such spaces there can be a number of features including trees, seats, planters, public art, signs, railings, adverts, market stalls and litter bins. However this mix of urban space and features can be uncoordinated and haphazard.

Policy DBE12

In order to ensure that functional, visually successful public open space is created with a strong sense of place as part of new development, the Council will expect developments to incorporate the following:-

- a. The retention and incorporation of public rights of way and the creation of a connected open space and pedestrian/cyclist circulation system related, where appropriate, to a landscape framework having regard to safety and security;**
- b. The maximising of opportunity for all areas of the public realm to be subject to natural surveillance;**
- c. The incorporation of landscape design to the frontage of development sites, particularly where they border principal roads;**
- d. In order to improve the physical environment of the public realm the Council will expect the promotion of public art, subject to appropriate consultative and planning considerations. Where new development changes or creates new public places, the Council will expect the provision of public art to be included as part of the proposal.**

- 8.83** Public Open Space - It is important that public open space is conceived as a 'connected system' at the very beginning of the master-planning process. Open space contributes and is an important element of the provision of green infrastructure. There should be safe pedestrian/cyclist 'green' linkages between a hierarchy of public open spaces. It is important that the maintenance of any open space is provided for by the development associated with it. New open spaces should contribute to encouraging and enhancing biodiversity. The City Council will resist proposals that result in poorly accessible, or unmanageable areas of open space, except where the open space is primarily for nature conservation interests. Where appropriate the City Council will seek a contractual arrangement, commuted payment, or legal agreement with regard to the on-going maintenance requirements of the area.
- 8.84** The layout of new development has an influence on safety, security and the fear and perception of crime. Natural surveillance is an important factor that assists in promoting safety and security. Where possible, development should incorporate principles of best practice in designing out crime and the opportunities that arise

through development for criminal behaviour. New proposals should be mindful of the advice contained in Design for Crime Prevention: A Kent Design Guide for Developers, Designers and Planners (2013).

- 8.85** In partnership with Kent Police, the City Council has produced supplementary planning guidance 'Crime Prevention through Design' (2003) which advises on the impact of development on the opportunities for criminal and anti-social behaviour in the private and public realm.
- 8.86** Public Art can encompass a wide variety of elements and includes art design as part of the design of buildings and developments, the design of landscape and planting, street furniture, signing, entrance features, sculpture, water features, mosaics, murals and lighting in the public realm for general enjoyment.
- 8.87** Public Art can greatly benefit a new development. It can create a sense of place and engender civic pride; it creates distinctiveness of places and spaces, and can ensure that a building, development or landscape scheme is unique. A site-specific artist commission can increase involvement of and ownership by local residents and workers to firmly link schemes to local areas. Landmark public art can also act as recognisable orientation points, lasting symbols for particular buildings and as cultural tourism attractions. The City Council has an agreed methodology of selecting, appointing and commissioning artists. Public art advice can be sought through the City Council. Public art will be sought and secured through a legal agreement as part of new development.
- 8.88** To maintain a sustainable quality of life for the District's residents, workers and visitors, the City Council will support the mixing of uses across a locality. A mix of uses helps create more sustainable living and movement patterns and more vital and vibrant places. However the mix of uses must be compatible and developments that may give rise to noise, vibration and disturbance (such as evening and late night opening, or industrial uses), will be considered carefully against Policy QL12 (noise pollution policy) and appropriate conditions will be imposed to mitigate the harm that may be created. The City Council will also encourage the mixing of housing tenures within new developments so that a variety of tenure types are imperceptibly incorporated.
- 8.89** Outdoor Lighting proposals should aim to achieve good design, enhance the urban fabric, be energy efficient, and avoid significant impact on the surrounding countryside, sites of nature conservation value and the amenity of local residents. Particular attention should be given to the impact of outdoor lighting, including floodlighting for sports pitches, on the wider area and long distances views particularly from higher ground. In order to control the impact of lighting schemes,

the standards set out in the Institute of Lighting Engineers' 'Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light' will be taken into account and the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance on Outdoor Lighting 2006 will be applied.

- 8.90** Lighting proposals can enhance design and the urban fabric and improve public safety but can also cause light pollution, and have an adverse impact on the amenities of local residents and the wider area. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 amended the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to bring artificial light from premises under the statutory nuisance regime as of 6 April 2006.
- 8.91** Light pollution can occur as 'sky glow', 'glare' or 'light trespass', which result in the orange glow visible around urban areas and the introduction of suburban character into rural areas; the uncomfortable brightness of a light source when viewed against the sky; and light spillage beyond the site where it is not desired or required.
- 8.92** Outdoor lighting has the potential to affect sites of nature conservation interest and in particular protected and other species. For example, artificial night lighting can have a detrimental impact on wildlife by impacting on migration patterns, foraging areas and feeding grounds and can affect breeding patterns. It can also distract and disorientate animals such as bats, birds, moths and other flying insects. For proposals adjacent to designated sites or sites known to have, or be adjacent to, protected species, early advice should be sought from Natural England and/or the City Council's Countryside Officer.
- 8.93** The Institute of Lighting Engineers (ILE) publication Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Light Pollution, 2000, identifies the obtrusive light limitations for exterior lighting installations according to environmental zones and recommends that these are included in development plans. The guidance sets out examples of each Environmental zone (E1 to E4):
- **E1: Intrinsically dark areas** such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, etc
 - **E2: Low district brightness areas** such as rural or small village locations
 - **E3: Medium district brightness areas** such as small town centres or urban locations
 - **E4: High district brightness areas** such as town/City centres with high levels of night-time activity.

- 8.94** The City Council will apply the levels detailed in the ILE guidance to the environmental zones identified above. These levels are reproduced in Appendix 4 to the plan.
- 8.95** Different development proposals, such as security or car park lighting or sports and recreational lighting warrant specific guidance and advice on appropriate lighting schemes. Supplementary Planning Guidance on Outdoor Lighting provides such advice, together with general advice on external lighting techniques and pollution control.
- 8.96** Lighting quality is an important visual element of urban design after dark and will be considered in the same context as other building and urban design issues through the development process. The City Council regards good quality outdoor lighting to be an important element of urban design for the reasons listed below, however this must be balanced against the wider impact of such schemes.
- **Orientation** - Important buildings and streets, points of arrival such as bus and railway stations, monuments, church spires, parks and rivers are all part of the rich urban scene that are less visible after dark. Sensitive illumination of these urban features will be encouraged for navigation and ease of use.
 - **Safety** - Lower light levels can make navigation in a busy urban area more hazardous. High quality, appropriate lighting can obviate personal injury risks and improve road safety.
 - **Security** - Good lighting has a positive impact on the use of CCTV and can be a deterrent to crime against property and the person. In order to reduce light pollution and the creation of deeply shadowed areas which deter observation, care must be taken to avoid excessive or poorly directed lighting.
 - **Environment** - Lighting requires energy. Other policies in the Plan seek to ensure that energy use is sustainable and it is the City Council's intention to promote the sustainable use of energy in outdoor lighting. In addition, light pollution can harm the character of the countryside, villages and in some cases urban areas, where dark night skies are an important part of the nocturnal landscape. Well-designed and appropriate outdoor lighting is important to protecting the nocturnal landscape.
 - **Architectural lighting** - The architectural and urban quality of Whitstable, Herne Bay and Canterbury is a key element in generating and enhancing civic pride and in creating a sense of place. The illumination of buildings of architectural and historic interest is of value to tourism as well as providing amenity. It is essential that any such lighting scheme is well designed to minimise light spillage and distortion of architectural detailing.
- 8.97** When assessing applications for or including outdoor lighting, the City Council will have regard to the Outdoor Lighting SPD (2006) and the following checklist. Information on the following may also be requested:-

- 1) Are the lighting proposals necessary?
- 2) Could alternative methods to lighting be employed to achieve safety and security?
- 3) Is the lighting installation level proposed appropriate for the task or scheme?
- 4) Does the proposal make use of the best available technology and advice from the Institute of Lighting Professionals?
- 5) Are there any opportunities to remove or redesign existing lighting that is inappropriate or intrusive?
- 6) Is the angle of the proposed installation below 70 degrees to minimise sky glare?
- 7) Does the installation spread light above the horizontal, which is not recommended?
- 8) Is there an adverse impact on the night sky?
- 9) Is there an adverse impact on residential amenity?
- 10) Is there an adverse impact on long distance views?
- 11) Is there an adverse impact on protected nature conservation sites and protected and other species?
- 12) Would limiting the hours of operation by planning conditions be appropriate?

Policy DBE13

Proposals for new outdoor lighting or new developments which include outdoor lighting will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

- a. It has been designed to minimise light glare, light trespass, light spillage and sky glare through using the best available technology to minimise light pollution and conserve energy.**
- b. It does not adversely impact residential amenity;**
- c. It does not adversely affect sites of nature conservation interest and/or protected and other vulnerable species and heritage assets;**
- d. It does not adversely impact on protected landscapes or those areas where dark skies are an important part of the nocturnal landscape;**
- e. The lighting levels do not exceed the levels recommended by the ILE in the relevant environmental zone as set out in Appendix 5;**
- f. It does not have an adverse impact on long distance views or from vantage points.**

In addition the City Council will expect proposals to demonstrate that they have had regard to the checklist set out in paragraph 8.101. For large developments involving outdoor lighting or those developments in or adjacent to sensitive locations, the City Council may require a Lighting Strategy to be submitted.

Chapter 9: Historic Environment

- 9.1** The Canterbury District benefits from an outstanding historic environment, and it is essential that its heritage assets should be conserved and enjoyed for their own sake and the enjoyment they bring to this and future generations. The District's heritage helps to create a sense of place and a special identity. It makes a significant contribution to the economic viability of the District and its quality of life. The quality and character of the historic environment is key in delivering sustainable development and is of prime importance to residents, visitors and tourists.
- 9.2** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the national policy on conservation in the historic environment which is recognised as a key element of sustainable development. One of the 12 core principles that should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking is that planning should conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations.
- 9.3** The NPPF defines the historic environment as "*all aspects of the environment resulting from interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible buried or submerged and landscaped and planted or managed flora*". A heritage asset is "*a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local authority (including local listing)*". Designated heritage assets include "*a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation*". Significance is a key term and is used to sum up the qualities that make an otherwise ordinary place or building a heritage asset. Significance (for heritage policy) is defined as "*the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting*". Not all heritage assets will be formally designated and undesignated assets may nonetheless be a material planning consideration for development management. The difference between a heritage asset and other components of the environment is that a heritage asset holds a meaning for society over and above its functional utility. It is this significance that justifies the protection given in planning decisions.
- 9.4** The historic environment underpins planning policy for the District; it encompasses the interpretation and preservation of heritage assets, preservation of outstanding buildings and sites, and enhancement of the character and appearance of the area. This is not limited to the built environment and archaeological sites, but

also includes historical rural, urban and coastal landscapes, which are so important to the quality of our lives. Rather than being a constraint on economic growth, this approach will ensure the District remains attractive to investment in the future.

Context and local distinctiveness

- 9.5** Designing for local distinctiveness involves the creative reconciliation of local practices and materials with the latest technologies, building types and needs. There is no reason why character and innovation should not go together. New and old buildings can coexist happily and create an attractive synergy. Far from obstructing change, the remains of the past can act as a powerful catalyst for renewal and a stimulus to high quality new design and development. In seeking to define local character and distinctiveness, it should be recognised that this can vary considerably within an area. Canterbury District comprises a wide variety of both urban and rural conservation areas, of different sizes and types. In addition within each conservation area there are different character zones. In reality each conservation area is made up of interrelated places and spaces, which have their own distinctiveness. Development should therefore be assessed in terms of its impact on this local context and on the wider area. Characterisation studies, village design statements and conservation area appraisals all assist in identifying the key features of a conservation area that should be reflected in the design of new development.
- 9.6** The context of a development is the character and setting of the area in which it is located. This can include: the townscape of an area; its wider landscape; the particular pattern of streets, buildings and spaces in the area; the established land uses in an area; and the specific scale, massing and design of buildings adjoining the site and in the street. Integrating new development into its landscape setting reduces its impact on nature and reinforces local distinctiveness. The layout, massing and landscape design of development can be integrated successfully into the wider landscape through green infrastructure, including structure planting, shelter belts, green wedges, and green corridors along roads, railways and rivers. Local building traditions and materials can be important, as can the history and use or functions of the area.
- 9.7** Canterbury District has a strong vernacular tradition of buildings constructed from local materials to suit local conditions. Village streets are usually composed of buildings of several different periods, but nevertheless retain a harmonious appearance that can easily be ruined by the construction of an out-of-scale building.

- 9.8** Planning applications for new development should clearly show the context of the proposal. Accurate site surveys and drawings that show surrounding buildings and spaces are required. Designs should generally start with the broad principles of layout and massing and it is important to develop a scheme in three dimensions at the earliest stage. The nature of the presentation drawing work required for submission with a planning application will vary depending on the size and the complexity of the development. Historical research is advisable, in order to establish the context of the proposal and to get a feel for the continuity of development which will guide the new building. The Canterbury Archaeological Trust may be able to offer help on the archaeological and historic background, and the City Council has map and photographic collections that can be consulted. Developers, architects and surveyors should contact Development Management for pre-application discussions, so that basic principles of design can be agreed at an early stage and abortive work avoided.
- 9.9** Getting the right building form appropriate to the conservation area is essential. The designer should draw inspiration from the area's character and identity. Larger developments may need to be broken down into separate buildings that reflect the scale of adjacent buildings although in some circumstances, where a larger internal floor space is desired, a careful externally worked up design, which reflects the historic plot subdivisions, may be possible. Where a site is being redeveloped, the historic plot widths should be used as a guide, particularly to indicate whether a building should be narrow or broad-fronted. Small, regularly shaped and narrow sub-divisions of plots accommodate a range of buildings and make the most efficient use of land. Plot widths are reflected in the traditional roof forms, which were usually small by modern standards. Unless care is taken to respond to local building forms and patterns of development, there will be a tendency for buildings to become out of proportion. Traditional roofs were often double pitched with valley gutters and hips, giving small roof profiles. Buildings that are too square can produce roofs that look totally out of place in an historic environment.
- 9.10** It is essential that the designer responds to the existing layout of buildings, in order to achieve a scheme which ensures that adjacent buildings relate to one another and streets and spaces complement one another. Square Plan houses, often with single span roofs over wide gables, can look out of place in conservation areas and the Kent Downs AONB.

Policy HE1

The Council will support proposals which protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment and the contribution it makes to local distinctiveness and sense of place. Proposals that make sensitive use of historic assets through regeneration, particularly where these bring redundant or under-used buildings and areas into appropriate use, will be encouraged.

Development must conserve and where appropriate enhance, or reveal, the significance of heritage assets and their settings. Other than in exceptional circumstances development will not be permitted where it is likely to cause harm to the significance of heritage assets or their setting.

- 9.11** The Council will support the production of neighbourhood plans, conservation area appraisals, parish plans, and village design statements that help to ensure future development is based on a thorough understanding of local character and context. To help achieve this, the Council will work with local communities to identify those aspects of the historic environment which they consider to be important to the character of their locality and help them to secure their protection and enhancement.
- 9.12** Historic environments are made up of an intricate web of features including buildings, structures, the street pattern, public spaces, trees and gardens, and alleyways. The Local Plan aims to protect these features and ensure they are retained and reinstated where appropriate. Street pattern and the 'grain' of a place are often critical to the character of a historic location. Patterns of movement have evolved over centuries and the existing layout often creates views and vistas of great character. New development should fit in with the existing 'grain' of an area. Where the historic street pattern has been lost or damaged the City Council will seek its restoration where appropriate.
- 9.13** Design of new development in historic locations needs careful consideration. It should reinforce or create a sense of place and make an environment that offers variety and visual interest. High quality designs that respect the historic context will be encouraged. However the design of new developments should avoid confused and superficial reflections of existing historic buildings.
- 9.14** The policies set out in this section should be read in conjunction with the Design and Built Environment Chapter, and are supplemented by other guidance documents, including Kent Design, the Heritage, Archaeology and Conservation Supplementary Planning Document and Conservation Area Appraisals in particular.

The Canterbury World Heritage Site

- 9.15** The Canterbury World Heritage Site was designated in 1988 by Unesco. The World Heritage Site was nominated by the government and was evaluated internationally before being inscribed by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee. UNESCO has produced a set of operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention which states that "World Heritage Sites are places of Outstanding Universal Value to the whole of humanity. Outstanding Universal Value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries".
- 9.16** The designation of the Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church as a World Heritage Site (WHS) demonstrates the significance and Outstanding Universal Value of these sites, which are milestones in the religious history of England. The setting of the WHS is key to its protection and enhancement and the Buffer Zone for the Canterbury WHS (which includes the streets and spaces surrounding, and forming the immediate setting of, the three separate parts of the designated WHS) is shown on the Proposals Map. The Buffer Zone links the three separate parts of the WHS together.
- 9.17** The Government Circular on the Protection of World Heritage Sites (DCLG and DCMS Circular 07/2009) sets out the national planning context. The circular states that local authorities should take account of the need to protect and conserve World Heritage Sites and that policies for the protection and sustainable use of a World Heritage Site should apply both to the site itself and to its setting.
- 9.18** A brief synthesis of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, is as follows:

St Martin's Church, the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey and Christ Church Cathedral together reflect milestones in the history of Christianity in Britain. They reflect in tangible form:

- *The reintroduction of Christianity to southern Britain by St Augustine, commencing at St Martin's Church where Queen Bertha already worshipped, and leading to the conversion of King Ethelbert.*
- *The successive architectural responses to Canterbury's developing role as focus of the Church in England – adaptation of Roman buildings, the development of Anglo-Saxon building in mortared brick and stone, and the flowering of Romanesque and Gothic.*
- *The development under St Augustine and the monks from Rome, of early Benedictine monasticism, which spread from its cradle in Canterbury throughout Britain had a profound impact on English society.*
- *The Abbey scriptorium, which was one of the great centres of Insular book production, and whose influence extended far beyond the boundaries of Kent and Northumbria. The development of literacy, education and scholarship at the Abbey meant that Canterbury became the most important centre of learning in the country.*
- *Canterbury's importance as a pilgrimage centre, based on Augustine and its other early saints, was transformed by the murder and canonisation of Archbishop Thomas Becket, whose Cathedral shrine attracted pilgrims from all over Europe.*
- *The wealth and power of the Cathedral in the 12th century - when the offerings of large numbers of pilgrims helped the building of the magnificent enlargement of the east end, with its exceptional stained glass windows and the rebuilding of the choir and transepts following the fire of 1174. These features form one of the finest examples of Early Gothic art.*
- *The Cathedral's rich panorama of Romanesque, early Gothic and late Gothic art and architecture is exceptional.*
- *The establishment of Canterbury as the seat of the spiritual leader of the Church of England.*

- 9.19** The full version of the statement of OUV is set out in the draft Canterbury World Heritage Site Management Plan (to be published in 2013). The Management Plan provides guidance for development and conservation in the WHS and Buffer Zone, but the importance of the WHS transcends local and national boundaries. As such, the Council will also consider whether any major developments outside the Buffer Zone have an impact upon the outstanding universal value of the WHS.

- 9.20** The City Council is concerned with the protection, enhancement, management, promotion and interpretation of the three sites. Particular objectives are improving the links and connections between the three sites, and preserving and enhancing the Buffer Zone, and setting of the sites.

Policy HE2

The Council will protect and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the inscribed Canterbury World Heritage Site. Development within it should protect and enhance the character, integrity and quality of these values. Development within the buffer zone and setting should not have an adverse impact on those values, including views to and from the Site.

Developers, planning authorities and others envisaging change should have a thorough understanding of the physical, historical, social and economic context of the World Heritage Site and the contribution that site's setting makes to an appreciation of Outstanding Universal Value, including its integrity, authenticity and significance.

All major development within the Buffer Zone, as defined on the Proposals Map, must preserve and, where possible, improve the links and connections between the three separate parts of the WHS.

Significant Views and Setting of the World Heritage Site

- 9.21** The prominence and visual impact of the cathedral and its Bell Harry tower, rising above the roofs of the city in order to create a sense of awe and inspiration, was an essential characteristic of historical views of the city. It still is today and a key element of the WHS Management Plan is to prevent proposals coming forward that would cause damage by blocking, or imposing on, the World Heritage Site, or by creating an intrusive element in a view's foreground or middle ground.
- 9.22** Canterbury's valley location results in a large number of viewpoints that allow broad vistas across the city roofscape and some of the most important viewpoints are described in the Canterbury Conservation Area Appraisal. *'Long distance view'* locations were selected for their accessibility from a public space and their advantage of providing the best views to illustrate the historic significance of the city and the World Heritage Site. The locations are described and depicted in detail in the Canterbury Conservation Area Appraisal, but include the view from specified locations at Tonford Meadows, Harbledown, St. Thomas Hill, St. Martins Hill, St. Georges Field, New House Lane, Neal's Place, the University Road/University Slopes and Beaconsfield Road/St. Stephen's playing fields. Planning permission will not be granted for development of buildings or structures within or close to

the areas that are of special importance for the preservation of views of Canterbury (the view cones), unless it can be shown that the development will not affect one of the identified '*long distance-views*' locations and/or, significantly change the skyline.

- 9.23** Canterbury is a compact City in a valley setting that provides for a close relationship between the town and its surrounding rural landscape. The cathedral is the dominant element of the townscape, as it has been for centuries, and is the focus of many views from City streets and surrounding areas. This valley setting is assessed as part of the Canterbury Conservation Area Appraisal, which illustrates important views of the cathedral seen against the backdrop of the valley sides. An Area of High Landscape Value has been identified to protect the historic setting of the City and World Heritage Site. Within this area, any development that causes unacceptable harm to the local landscape character or the setting of the City and/or WHS should not be permitted. Policy LB2 is also relevant when considering the Council's approach to development in the Canterbury Area of High Landscape Value.
- 9.24** The document titled 'Seeing the History in View: A method for Assessing Heritage Significance Within Views' presents a method for understanding and assessing heritage significance within views. In terms of the setting of heritage assets, guidance from English Heritage, 'The Setting of Heritage Assets' (October 2011) provides guidance on how to understand settings of heritage assets in general.
- 9.25** The elements of character particularly relevant to the setting of the World Heritage Site include:
- **Roofscape** - not only is there a need to protect buildings and features that make an individual contribution to the city roofscape and skyline, the collective value of the smaller or less prominent roofs is equally important, particularly in the medieval parts of the city.
 - **Grain** - the grain of the surrounding street pattern and/or landscape elements can create a sense of place.
 - **Scale and massing** - the relationship between architectural elements are often an important factor. The Bell Harry Tower was undoubtedly designed to impress within the grounds of the World Heritage Site itself as well as in its setting.
 - **Materials and colours** - whilst individual buildings within the setting may have developed at different times and in different styles, the use of a sympathetic palette of materials can help provide a degree of harmony, further enhancing the significance of the World Heritage Site through its setting.

- 9.26** Control of the above elements in new developments is required to protect character and setting of the World Heritage Site. Indeed the height, mass and form of any development in the City needs to be considered in terms of its impact on long views of the Cathedral. Any new development should not detrimentally affect important viewpoints or significantly change the skyline of the City and should enhance, rather than detract from, the historic roofscape (see the Design chapter – Urban form and scale).

Policy HE3

The City Council will seek to protect significant views of the city, and in particular the three parts of the World Heritage Site and their setting, from both within and from outside the city. Development proposals should respond positively to the character and setting of the World Heritage Site which contributes to its Outstanding Universal Value.

Where buildings are proposed that are substantially taller than their neighbours, affect one of the identified long distance views, locations and/or, significantly change the skyline, then they should be assessed against the following criteria.

- **The relationship to context (topography, urban grain, built form, views, prospects and vistas and effect on the skyline;**
- **The effect on the historic environment including the need to preserve and enhance historic buildings and sites;**
- **The effect on the World Heritage Site and its buffer zone;**
- **The architectural quality of the proposed building including its scale, form, massing and silhouette.**

Through the careful siting and design of buildings and appropriate landscaping, developers should demonstrate how their proposals will respect or enhance the landscape and topographical features which contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage Site.

Views into, out of and across the World Heritage Site are identified in Canterbury Conservation Area Appraisal. Development proposals will be assessed against their impact on identified views.

Listed Buildings

- 9.27** The term listed building can cover a wide variety of man-made structures, not just houses but also churches, industrial and agricultural buildings and structures like bridges, walls, statues, mileposts and lampposts. Listed buildings have a

special architectural or historic interest and it is essential that they are well maintained, have an appropriate use and are kept in good repair. There are 2,897 statutory listed buildings in the Canterbury District.

- 9.28** The historic fabric of listed buildings, both internally and externally should be protected from unsympathetic change. The Council will encourage and if necessary enforce the repair and restoration of listed buildings, and will pursue all reasonable means to ensure that listed buildings and their settings are preserved or enhanced.
- 9.29** Historic buildings are important both as products of human creativity and for what they can tell us about the past. The foremost principle that should guide works to historic buildings is to retain the original structure and fabric as far as is possible. Each type of historic building has its own characteristics and significance, usually related to its original function, and these should be respected when proposals for alterations or change of use are put forward. Some buildings, particularly earlier timber frames, require a thorough understanding of the structure before contemplating any alterations. Applicants should submit a description of the significance of a heritage asset affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail to be submitted should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be sufficient to explain the impact of the proposal on the significance of the asset. This information should be set out in the documents accompanying an application for planning permission or listed building consent and could be included within the design and access statement. Applications will not be validated if the impact of the proposal on the significance of the asset cannot be understood.
- 9.30** During alterations, earlier features are sometimes revealed such as timber framing, brickwork, fireplaces, early windows and door openings, panelling and even wall paintings. In some cases the City Council may attach conditions to a listed building consent for the retention of certain features or for their proper recording.
- 9.31** Most buildings have been subject to some change or alteration in their lifetime. Extensions, conservatories, porches and balconies that pre-date the original building may be of interest, and need not detract from the quality of the building. Generally, good later features should not be removed in order to restore a building to an earlier form. Some later additions and alterations can, on the other hand, spoil a building's appearance, and there may be opportunities where remodelling can be carried out to the benefit of the owner and to the historic integrity or character of the building. Advice and guidance concerning the alteration of listed buildings has been adopted by the City Council and applicants should refer to the 'Heritage, Archaeology and Conservation Supplementary Planning Document 2007'.

- 9.32** The significance and importance of historic buildings can be seriously devalued by inappropriate neighbouring developments and uses. The City Council will protect the setting of a listed building when considering proposals either in its curtilage or in neighbouring property. Applicants will be expected to provide sufficient information about the proposed development and its relationship to its setting as part of a heritage statement, and/or design and access statement.
- 9.33** As well as buildings included in the Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest, there are also Locally Listed Buildings considered to be of local interest and which often contribute to the special character of conservation areas.
- 9.34** Additional protection from minor external alterations is given when these buildings are located inside a conservation area (known as an Article 4 Direction). Additional controls over alterations to dwelling houses also apply in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 9.35** A listed building should not be demolished, extended or altered in any way which affects its character without first having obtained listed building consent. This applies to internal and external works, anything fixed to buildings, outbuildings, walls, gates or other features or structures within the curtilage. Proposals that reduce the energy consumption of listed buildings will be welcomed provided that they do not cause harm to the building's fabric or character. Roof insulation, draught proofing and secondary glazing can all be installed without having a detrimental effect on the special interest of the building.
- 9.36** When consent is given to alter a listed building, the City Council will, where appropriate, impose conditions to ensure appropriate standards of workmanship and that historic materials are retained or reinstated. The Council will normally require any planning application for the change of use of a listed building to be accompanied by full details of any associated alterations so that the effect on the character of the building can be ascertained. A proposed change of use for a listed building may be acceptable if it offers the best way of retaining or refurbishing it. When considering any changes of use of listed buildings, local planning authorities must consider the contribution that a particular use makes to the significance of a heritage asset both now and for future generations. Any substantial harm to, or loss significance of a designated heritage asset will be refused unless it can be shown that the public benefits outweigh the harm or loss. If a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of the designated asset, this harm will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposals, including securing its optimum viable use.
- 9.37** The special architectural or historic interest of a statutorily listed building can be seriously affected or damaged by the inappropriate design of shopfronts, and the size, location, style and materials used in the design of advertisements.

Advertisements, which would adversely affect the character of a listed building, will be resisted. Where inappropriate shopfronts or signs exist, the City Council will use its planning powers to encourage or secure their replacement or removal. When considering the proposals for replacement shopfronts and advertisements, the City Council will ensure that the design, detailing and materials are appropriate for the period and context. This is considered in more detail at policy HE9.

- 9.38** There is a presumption in favour of preserving listed buildings and consent will not usually be given for their demolition. Poor condition is no justification for demolition and where a building is redundant, every effort must be made to find an optimum viable new use. The optimum viable use should be consistent with the character of the building and design interventions must have regard to the stated significance of the asset. This principle will also be applied to locally listed buildings.
- 9.39** Buildings included within the local list will be retained wherever possible and protected from development that would harm their local architectural or historic interest or their setting.

Policy HE4

Alterations and extensions to listed buildings and development affecting the setting of listed buildings and locally listed buildings should preserve and enhance their character and appearance and the special features for which they are designated. These features can include curtilage buildings, structures, spaces and the landscape setting that are integral to their character, and important views within and into the area or site.

Development that would have an adverse impact on their special historic or architectural interest, or their setting, will not be permitted.

The re-use of listed buildings, including locally listed buildings will be encouraged where that use (the optimum viable use) is demonstrated to be compatible with the character, appearance, fabric, interior and setting of the building.

Listed buildings including those included within the local list should be retained wherever possible. Demolition of listed buildings, including curtilage listed buildings and locally listed buildings will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. Where an application will lead to substantial harm or total loss of significance consent will be refused unless it can be demonstrated that:

- **The substantial or loss of significance is necessary to deliver substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm;**
- **The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and**
- **No viable use can be found in the medium term, conservation through grant funding is not possible and the harm to or loss of the asset is outweighed by the benefits of bringing the site back into use.**

Applications for new works to listed buildings will be carefully assessed. Extensions will be required to be of an appropriate scale and design and in materials that retain the special interest of the original building. The character and significance of the building should not be diminished by over-restoration. Existing architectural or historic features including internal features should generally be retained as they can be are important to the character of the building.

- 9.40** Where historic buildings are converted to a new use, the essential historic character and structure should be retained. The general principles in conversion are to retain the historic structure and fabric and repair what exists rather than renew unnecessarily. The onus lies upon the applicant to prove where necessary that

the building is structurally sound and is capable of being converted to the proposed use without the need for major structural works. Existing features that contribute to the architectural character of the building, for example cowls, wagon entrances, hoist doors, ladders, stairs and old machinery, should be retained. In recent years barns have increasingly become redundant. However, one of the principal features of traditional barns is the unpartitioned interior, often of impressive proportions. Their character is less likely to be lost if they are converted to uses such as workshops or meeting halls, which require large open plan spaces. Residential conversions can often destroy too much of the original fabric by making new openings, partitioning interior spaces, or creating enclosed gardens with garages, greenhouses and hedges that affect the agricultural setting. Residential conversions need to be handled with great care to avoid loss of character.

Policy HE5

In considering proposals for external or internal alterations to a listed building, and external alterations to a locally listed building, the City Council will, if the alterations are required or desirable, ensure that the building is fit for its purpose whilst having special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest, which it possesses.

Applications for change of use to listed and locally listed buildings must be accompanied by:

(a) A detailed and accurate measured survey including full details of any structural timber framing a scale drawing with large-scale details of joints will be required for timber-framed listed buildings).

(b) Detailed plans clearly explaining the principles of the conversion, showing how:

- i. the alterations affect the external appearance of the building.**
- ii. the alterations affect the structure of the building. The detailed plans must show the effect that repairs and inserted floors would have on the existing structure. Any inserted structure should be reversible.**
- iii. the proposed internal layout respects the original character of the building.**

(c) Details of the treatment of landscaping, open spaces and boundaries to respect the character of the building and its setting.

- 9.41** Owners have a legal responsibility to look after listed buildings properly. Modest expenditure and repairs on a regular basis can prevent far more serious problems such as dry rot and timber decay from developing in the future. It is particularly important to check any down pipes and gutters on a regular basis to ensure they are not blocked or overflowing.
- 9.42** There are always some buildings, which for a variety of reasons, are allowed to deteriorate or are left empty for long periods. When historic buildings are left to deteriorate for any length of time the cost of repairs escalates. Any building left empty is at great risk from vandalism and arson. Nationally there has been an increasing incidence of historic buildings being lost or seriously damaged in this way. Historic buildings should therefore not be left empty for long periods of time, but if this is unavoidable, very thorough security measures should be taken. Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect or damage to a heritage asset in the hope of obtaining consent, the City Council will not take the resultant deteriorated state of the asset into account.
- 9.43** The City Council maintains a register of heritage assets at risk. The register contains information about the property and assesses its condition. Development Management monitors these buildings and negotiates with owners to bring buildings back into use and good repair. Where negotiations fail, then legal action can be taken to preserve the building. If the owner of a listed building fails to maintain it, the Council may serve a Repairs Notice under Section 48 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 specifying those works necessary to ensure the building's preservation. If those works are not carried out within a specified period, the Council may serve a Compulsory Purchase Order on the building. If the building has been deliberately left to become derelict and that the underlying motive for the neglect was to facilitate demolition and redevelopment, the Council may be able to purchase the building for minimum compensation.
- 9.44** If a listed building, or unlisted building in a conservation area, is left vacant and is not properly *secured or repaired*, the Council can carry out emergency repairs after giving seven days notice to the owner and can subsequently recover the costs under sections 54 and 55 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The Council is always reluctant to take action through the courts, and relies on co-operation from building owners, but it will consider using these powers if it is necessary to ensure the long-term survival of any historic building in its area.

Conservation Areas

- 9.45** The City Council has a duty to survey and designate areas which it considers are of special architectural or historic interest as conservation areas. The sense of history and the type and quality of buildings, spaces, trees and other features contributes to the special character of these areas. There have been 96 conservation areas designated in the Canterbury District for their special architectural or historic interest. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 defines a conservation area as "an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance".
- 9.46** Conservation areas in the District vary greatly in their nature and character, ranging from small rural villages to the City centre and from seaside towns to country houses set in their historic parks. English Heritage advises that the formal assessment and definition of 'special architectural or historic interest' ideally should be based on a detailed appraisal of the area. Appraisals will be different depending on the conservation area, local needs and resources available. In consultation with all relevant stakeholders, conservation area appraisals and management plans are being prepared and used to assist with this aim.
- 9.47** The variety of building styles dating from different historical periods can add to character and interest within a conservation area. New buildings do not always have to copy their older neighbours to be successful. Innovative design of new buildings may be appropriate provided it is of high quality and is sensitive to the context of the site. The site layout and design details are often key and for this reason planning applications for new developments in conservation areas will need normally to be a full rather than an outline application. Development proposals should have regard to the historical patterns of buildings, streets and spaces (the 'grain' of the area). Local distinctiveness can be emphasised by retaining or reinstating the historic street pattern, traditional building lines, boundary walls, open spaces (including private gardens and yards), alleyways, footpaths, kerb lines and carriage entrances. It is also important to take into account the impact of proposals outside conservation areas where these might affect the setting of and important views in to and out of the such areas.
- 9.48** Conservation involves people managing change to a heritage asset in ways that sustain, reveal or reinforce its significance. Keeping a significant place in use is likely to require continual adaptation and change. If these changes and interventions respect the values of that place then they will benefit the historic environment. English Heritage (Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance, April 2008) identifies seven points to consider when making decisions about managing change to significant places or assets:

1. Establish whether there is sufficient information to understand the impact of potential change.
2. Consider the effects on authenticity and integrity.
3. Take account of sustainability.
4. Consider the potential reversibility of changes.
5. Compare options.
6. Apply mitigation.
7. Monitor and evaluate outcomes.

This seven point checklist should be the basis for assessing all applications for change to heritage assets.

Policy HE6

Development within conservation areas should preserve or enhance the special architectural or historic character or appearance.

Development, in and adjoining a conservation area, which would harm its character or appearance, will not be permitted. Important features or characteristics which need to be protected, and which may contribute to their special character and setting, include plan form, buildings, architectural features, archaeological sites, materials, trees, streets and spaces, and the relationships between these features.

New development in a conservation area should make a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment and respect its surroundings in terms of height, massing, volume, scale, form, materials, details, roofscape, plot width and the design of any new pedestrian or vehicular access.

Development within, affecting the setting, or views into and out of a conservation area, as shown on the Proposals Map and all Insets, should preserve or enhance all features that contribute positively to the area's character or appearance. Particular consideration will be given to the following:

- a. **The retention of buildings, groups of buildings, existing street patterns, historic building lines and ground surfaces;**
- b. **Retention of architectural details that contribute to the character or appearance of the area;**
- c. **The impact of the proposal on the townscape, roofscape, skyline and the relative scale and importance of buildings in the area;**
- d. **The need to protect trees and landscape;**
- e. **The removal of unsightly and negative features; and**
- f. **The need for the development.**

- 9.49** Highway improvements and maintenance should be carried out in a manner that is sensitive to their surroundings in order to minimise adverse environmental impacts on Conservation Areas. Old signposts, mile stones, street name boards, and other items of street furniture as well as being of historic interest can contribute to the character of a conservation area. The Council will encourage the reduction of unnecessary street signage (or clutter), and reinstatement of traditional signage where appropriate. Government advice is clear that "the excessive or insensitive use of traffic signs and other street furniture has a negative

impact on the success of the street as a place" and that "street signs are periodically audited with a view to identifying and removing unnecessary signs" (Manual for Streets, Department for Transport, 2007).

- 9.50** The highways authority has been requested to ensure that highway maintenance and repair respects the historic materials in conservation areas. For example, a traditional stone paving or granite kerb treatment should not be replaced by cheaper materials, such as tarmac and concrete. Historic highway structures, such as bridges, retaining walls and railings, may also be of significant historic interest. Where the structure is listed or located within a conservation area it would be protected from demolition, and any repairs or alterations would need to be acceptable in both engineering and conservation terms.

Policy HE7

In carrying out highway works or traffic schemes, the Council will seek to encourage protection of the character and setting of historic buildings, ancient monuments and conservation areas, without prejudicing road safety. Highway and parking standards will be applied flexibly in conservation areas and the Council will encourage reductions in highway signage and preservation and enhancement of footpath and kerb materials.

Traditional paving materials, street furniture and landscape features which contribute to the character and appearance of a conservation area will be retained and, where necessary, reinstated.

- 9.51** The Council will resist the demolition of heritage assets which contribute to the character and appearance of conservation areas. When Conservation Area Consent is applied for, the Council will refuse consent unless it can be demonstrated that:
- the demolition is necessary in order to deliver substantial public benefits;
 - the nature of the heritage asset affected prevents all reasonable uses for the site;
 - no viable use for the asset can be found in the medium term that will enable conservation;
 - conservation through grant funding is not possible;
 - the harm or loss of the heritage asset is outweighed by the benefits of bringing the site back into use.
- 9.52** Applicants will be asked to provide evidence that other potential owners of the heritage asset have been sought via appropriate marketing and that reasonable endeavours have been made to seek grants for the asset's conservation.

- 9.53** In order to avoid any unsightly gaps or vacant sites, the city council will impose conditions on a conservation area consent that no demolition shall take place until planning permission has been granted and contracts let for the replacement development.

Policy HE8

The City Council has a presumption in favour of the conservation of heritage assets. The more significant the asset, the greater the presumption in favour of conservation, and the greater the justification required for its alteration. Proposals involving substantial harm to heritage assets within a conservation area will normally be refused unless it can be shown that the harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits. If the proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a heritage asset, or the building or element affected does not contribute to the significance of the area, the harm will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.

Article 4 Directions

- 9.54** Minor changes to residential buildings, such as window alterations, re-roofing and the erection of walls and fences, are normally permitted development under planning legislation and as such do not require planning permission. However, in conservation areas, minor alterations and additions of this sort can lead to gradual erosion of the character or appearance of an area. The City Council has powers to control such works by making directions under Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order, 1995 on dwelling houses. Indeed in the conservation areas of Canterbury City, Herne Bay, and Whitstable Town, and for locally listed buildings within 42 rural conservation areas, Article 4 Directions are in place. These controls are a mechanism for tightening planning controls over changes to the frontages of houses. This includes: the erection or alteration of a chimney; enlargement, improvement or other alteration of a dwelling house; construction of an external porch; painting of a house; and erection of a satellite dish. The direction also removes permitted development rights to demolish a gate, fence or wall fronting a highway.
- 9.55** The result is that, for example, changing the windows and doors to the front elevation of a house in these conservation areas requires planning permission. Original doors and windows significantly contribute to the character and appearance of a conservation area. The City Council has adopted the following criteria for assessing applications for window alterations where an Article 4 Direction is in place:

1. Use of purpose made, or high quality factory made timber sash windows. Planning permission not required if windows are an exact copy or replica.
2. Use of factory made timber sash windows or uPVC vertical sliding sash windows as replacements for Victorian/Edwardian one over one or two over two sash windows (i.e. windows with one or two panes, not Georgian styles which are divided into six or eight small panes). Approve subject to choice of manufacturer and detailing, ensure that vertically sliding sashes are proposed.
3. Use of uPVC replacement windows in suburban houses (post 1920). Approve subject to choice of window style. In many cases the uPVC replacements can match the appearance of original joinery.
4. Applications to replace inappropriate modern windows in pre 1920 houses (i.e. houses originally built with timber sashes). Approve subject to choice of style of replacement unit. The replacement should match the appearance of traditional sashes as far as possible.
5. Applications to replace traditional vertical sliding timber sash windows with standard uPVC units (i.e. side hung, top hung, bottom hung, horizontal pivot, vertical pivot or louvre). Refuse.

9.56 In the case of replacing small paned traditional sash or casement windows (glazed with six or eight panes per sash) it is impossible to replicate the glazing bars in PVC. The only solution therefore may be to replace the window in timber and install secondary double-glazing. The use of glazing bars fitted between the double-glazing is generally not acceptable on windows to front elevations. The use of stuck on glazing bars may be acceptable in certain locations.

9.57 If windows are replaced without planning permission the house owner and the installer could be subject to an enforcement notice requiring them to remove the new windows. The rules regarding flats, and apartment blocks, are different and planning permission will be required for materially changing windows. This is to avoid a block of flats having a random mix of window styles.

Advertisements and shopfronts

9.58 Advertisements can greatly influence the appearance of an area. The purpose of controlling advertisements in conservation areas is to help everyone involved in outdoor advertising to contribute in a positive way to the appearance of an attractive and cared for environment. The most stringent controls are needed in conservation areas, which are often the original village centres. Advertisements can also detract from the appearance of listed buildings and a proliferation of poorly designed and incongruous signs will be detrimental to an historic area.

- 9.59** Advertisements and shop signs can complement the character of an area if designed properly. Indeed it is entirely possible for on-premise signage to reflect the character or architecture of its surroundings, without sacrificing any of its other primary communication functions. Well-designed signs certainly can be employed to create a sense of place and improve the attractiveness of an area to customers and tourists. Shop and trade signs should be integrated into the design of the shop front or building as a whole and sympathetic in form, scale, and materials. In conservation areas the City Council will seek to ensure that advertisements are kept to the minimum necessary to identify the building and its function. Advertisement consent will not be permitted for internally illuminated box fascia signs; or obtrusive fixed 'Dutch' blinds or window/door canopies.
- 9.60** Window stickers, pavements signs and illuminated signs hung inside the window can be equally harmful to amenity and will be discouraged where possible. In the case of listed buildings, permission will not be given where the City Council considers there would be harm caused by advertisements, lighting, colour schemes and blinds or canopies. Further advice is provided in the 'Shopfront Design' Supplementary Planning Document.

Policy HE9

In conservation areas and on, or affecting, listed buildings, advertisements will be kept to a minimum in order to maintain the character and appearance of conservation areas and to avoid harm to the fabric, character or setting of listed buildings. Their size, design, materials and colouring must not detract from the character and appearance of the area.

Where a building is listed, locally listed or has a special character, the City Council will grant advertisement consent or listed building consent for painted timber fascia advertisements and traditional hanging signs. Consent for internally illuminated box signs and plastic blinds will be inappropriate in an historic context and consequently will be refused.

Where illumination of a sign in a conservation area is acceptable it should be achieved by halo or other illumination to individual letters.

Projecting signs of traditional design will be acceptable provided they are: carefully positioned in relation to the elevation of the building; hung from traditional brackets; there is only one sign attached to the building; and any illumination is external and/or unobtrusive.

Advertisements alongside roads will not be permitted where they would prejudice road safety.

Shopfronts

- 9.61** The appearance of shopfronts can have a major impact on the character of a conservation area. Inappropriately designed shopfronts can seriously damage the special architectural or historic interest of a listed building, or a loss of local character and distinctiveness. Where older shopfronts still remain, or where shopfronts are distinctive and contribute towards the character of the building and the street scene, there is a presumption against their replacement. Both customers and retailers benefit if the environment of the street scene is enhanced by well-designed and maintained shop fronts. As well as the alteration or replacement of shop fronts, other ill considered alterations might include the addition of canopies, security shutters, and cash point machines.
- 9.62** Security features associated with shop fronts should generally be internal in order to avoid harming the appearance of the building. Solid external roller shutters in conservation areas are generally not considered to be acceptable as they are unsightly, generate feelings of insecurity in people walking by, hide internal intruders and encourage graffiti. The SPD on *Shopfronts Design* provides more detail on the city council's approach.

Policy HE10

Shopfronts which are of architectural and historic interest should be retained.

The City Council will expect a high standard of design in new and altered shopfronts, blinds and security measures. Where new shopfronts are proposed they should:

- a. **Create a fascia and shop window which is in character with the building itself, the upper floors and the surrounding street scene;**
- b. **Be correctly proportioned and be designed in an architectural style appropriate for the building and its context;**
- c. **Not result in a needless loss of architectural features; or**
- d. **Not introduce 'house styles' and materials which are out of character with the building and its surroundings.**

Where a shopfront with historic significance and value survives there will be a presumption in favour of its retention. If a new shopfront will form part of a group of original historic shopfronts its design should complement their character and quality.

Trees and hedgerows in Conservation Areas

- 9.63** Conservation area designation affords some protection to trees and hedgerows and Tree Preservation Orders can also be used. It is also important to ensure that new planting is designed to be in character with the conservation area and also pays regard to the setting of buildings. Care should also be taken in the choice and location of species to complement the character of the conservation area and to safeguard important views and building settings.
- 9.64** Felling and ill-considered pruning of trees can ruin the appearance of an area and spoil the setting of buildings. In conservation areas local authorities have been given powers to control works to trees. With limited exceptions, all trees standing within a conservation area are legally protected and the local planning authority must be given six weeks written notice of any works proposed to be carried out.
- 9.65** It is an offence to cut down, lop, top, uproot or wilfully damage or destroy any tree in the area without the consent of the local planning authority. The exemptions to this are:
- a. If the tree is dead, dying or dangerous – for the felling or carrying out on trees so far as it is necessary to remove the dead, dying or dangerous part. However five days notice should still be given except in an emergency.
 - b. Small trees – i.e. a tree with a diameter of less than 75mm at 1.5 m above ground level.
- 9.66** Where a tree is felled under the dead, dying or dangerous exemption, the legislation places a duty on the landowner to plant a replacement. Owners wishing to carry out works to a tree are required to complete a form (Notification of Tree Works within a conservation area, known as a Section 211 Notice). The planning authority may respond in one of three ways:
- a. decide that retention of the tree is justified in the interests of amenity and make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO);
 - b. write to the applicant informing them that the works may proceed;
 - c. allow six weeks to expire without making a TPO, after which time the works may proceed,(but works should be completed within two years).
- 9.67** The planning authority is unable to impose conditions or to refuse the works detailed in a Section 211 Notice, other than by making a TPO.

- 9.68** The intention of the legislation is to stop pre-emptive felling and to give the local authority sufficient time to negotiate agreed action or, if this fails, to make a Tree Preservation Order. When designating a conservation area it is not necessary to provide a detailed survey of location and species of the trees. However, the more detailed survey information that can be provided the more effective future monitoring, enforcement and prosecution action is likely to be.

Archaeology

- 9.69** The Canterbury District possesses an extremely rich and varied archaeological heritage, comprising an internationally important legacy of buried deposits, artefacts, and structures, as well as standing structures and buildings. The archaeological resource is a valuable, but fragile, part of the District's heritage and once destroyed, cannot be replaced. The resource includes not just the physical artefacts but also the historic landscape as a whole. Preserving this resource is an important part of the City Council's commitment to the historic environment. The archaeological resource comprises all material remains relating to the history of man's presence in the district and includes:
- a. Scheduled Monuments, defined as sites of national importance that are protected under the Ancient Monuments Act 1979.
 - b. Archaeological remains defined as of national importance which although meriting designation are not scheduled;
 - c. Other archaeological remains defined as of regional (county) or district importance;
 - d. Archaeological and historic landscapes consisting of one or more sites in association.
- 9.70** There are currently 52 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Canterbury District. Scheduled Monument Consent is required to carry out any works which may affect them (including repairs) and works which would adversely affect their character and setting are not permitted. Such operations may include the flooding, tipping on, or disturbance of the ground. It is an offence to carry out such operations without first giving notice, although there are some exemptions. Development that would adversely affect the site or setting of a scheduled monument or of an archaeological site that is of national importance, will not be permitted.
- 9.71** Advice on whether there is likely to be an archaeological site affected by a development proposal can be obtained by contacting the City Council. The Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the City Council is a computerised database, which contains district wide information about the archaeological resource. Within Canterbury City the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) is a record of excavations and finds. It includes general information about the objects

or locations, the situation in which they were found, who they were discovered by and when, as well as detailed notes about the probable use or purpose. The UAD is linked to a GIS system and can display many different layers of information on a map base. The aims of the UAD, are to aid planning decisions and to provide an educational and research tool. The UAD is also used to assess the archaeological potential and importance of proposed development sites within the City.

- 9.72** Developers will be required to submit an archaeological assessment and/ or field evaluation report with applications for planning permission where known or potential archaeological remains are likely to be affected by the proposed development. These help to define the character, extent, depth and quality of such remains and thus indicate the weight which ought to be attached to their preservation. The Council will require developers to incorporate the results of these studies into their proposals, so that important remains are preserved in situ (i.e. In their original position), through, for example, the careful siting of buildings and sensitive design of foundations. This approach will also apply to currently undiscovered sites and areas of interest which will emerge after the publication and adoption of this plan.
- 9.73** If a developer is not prepared to provide evaluation information then the City Council may direct the applicant to provide such information under Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Applications) Regulation 1998.
- 9.74** The emphasis should be on preserving archaeological sites in situ. If this is not appropriate or possible, then an archaeological investigation for the purposes of preservation by record will be required before the site is developed. This is likely to involve a full archaeological excavation and recording of the site, conservation of any finds and publication of the results.
- 9.75** Where the disturbance or destruction of some archaeological remains, normally those of lesser importance, is considered acceptable or unavoidable, appropriate recording works will be ensured through agreements and through attaching conditions to planning permissions and listed building consents. As well as site work, this will include the compilation of an indexed archive record and the submission of a report, that may, where the quality of the remains merit it, involve the full popular and academic publication of the results and public display and interpretation.
- 9.76** Provision should be made for the long-term storage of the site archive and finds for future generations. Displays, both temporary and permanent, can help people to appreciate the value of archaeology and can provide a sense of history for new and existing communities.

Policy HE11

The archaeological and historic integrity of designated heritage assets such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other important archaeological sites, together with their settings, will be protected and, where possible, enhanced. Development which would adversely affect them will not be permitted.

Where important or potentially significant heritage assets may exist, developers will be required to arrange for field evaluation to be carried out in advance of the determination of planning applications. The evaluation should define:

- **The character, importance and condition of any archaeological deposits or structures within the application site;**
- **The likely impact of the proposed development on these features (including the limits to the depth to which groundworks can go on the site); and**
- **The means of mitigating the effect of the proposed development including: a statement setting out the impact of the development.**

Where the case for development affecting a heritage asset of archaeological interest is accepted, the archaeological remains should be preserved in situ.

Where preservation in situ is not possible or justified, appropriate provision for preservation by record may be an acceptable alternative. In such cases archaeological recording works must be undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by the City Council's Archaeological Officer or a competent archaeological organisation that has been agreed by the City Council in advance.

- 9.77** Many historic assets with archaeological interest do not have any form of statutory protection and are not currently designated but have an equivalent significance of a scheduled ancient monument. The absence of designation for such assets does not indicate lower significance and they should be considered subject to policy HE11 above. These undesignated assets can be under threat from the various pressures of development, agriculture, forestry and tourism.

Area of Archaeological Importance/Archaeological potential

- 9.78** Canterbury's historic core has been designated as an Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and is only one of five such areas in England and Wales. The AAI comprises the walled area of the City and section of its immediate suburbs, an area known to have been intensively settled in Roman and Medieval times. It is a criminal offence to undertake construction work inside the boundaries of an AAI without notifying the Secretary of State's designated authority of your intentions. Within

this area there is a legal requirement to give the City Council six weeks prior notice in writing of any ground works, tipping or flooding works and to allow access for archaeological work, whether or not these are the subject of a planning application. Under the terms of the Act, the appointed Investigating Authority (Canterbury Archaeological Trust) has the statutory right to enter, survey and excavate sites for a period of up to four months and two weeks after the expiry of the six week notice period.

- 9.79** The Council is currently undertaking work to update its understanding of the archaeological resource towards providing a detailed assessment of the extent to which the AAI is fragmented and the implications for development of relatively undisturbed sites. Although the AAI highlights an area of particularly intensive remains, recent developments within the city may mean that the relative importance of the remaining undisturbed sites within the City has increased. Maintaining the interest of the City's archaeological resource relies on prevention of an excessive fragmentation of the remaining resource and this will be taken into account when applying policy HE12 in the Canterbury AAI.
- 9.80** In Canterbury, 23 archaeological sites and structures of national importance are scheduled as ancient monuments. Other structures are listed and are subject to listed building controls. There are many other important remains within the AAI that are not currently scheduled and indeed outside the AAI there are other known remains and areas of archaeological and historic interest. There will also be many further important remains which are presently undiscovered, some of which will lie outside the known sites and areas of interest. Development proposals which affect locally important archaeological remains should take account of the relative importance of those remains. If the preservation in situ of the archaeological remains cannot be justified, arrangements should be sought to record those parts of the site that would be destroyed or altered.

Policy HE12

Within the Canterbury Area of Archaeological Importance and areas of recognised archaeological potential elsewhere in the District the city council will not determine planning applications involving work below ground level until the applicant has provided information in the form of an evaluation of the archaeological importance of the site, and an assessment of the archaeological implications of the proposed development.

Historic landscapes, parks and gardens

- 9.81** Historic parks and gardens contribute to the setting of historic, listed buildings, and are valued as 'works of art', perhaps by a well known designer, or for their horticultural interest or association with a notable person or event, and as a focus for community identity and sense of place. English Heritage maintains a Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. There are two registered historic parks in the Canterbury District (both grade II): Broome Park in Barham, and Dane John Gardens in Canterbury. The main purpose of the Register of Historic Parks and gardens is to help safeguard the features and qualities which make the park or garden of special interest. The register does this by helping owners and planners to anticipate the effect of any change that is being considered on those features of special interest. Important parks and gardens are vulnerable to gradual small-scale change and planting schemes or paths through the landscape are part of what makes the gardens historically important.
- 9.82** In 1992 the Kent Gardens Trust, in conjunction with KCC produced the Kent Gardens Compendium, a comprehensive list of parks and gardens in Kent which were of horticultural and/or historic importance. The compendium provided the City Council with detailed information about the important historic gardens in the District so that the impact on them of any proposed development could be assessed and to keep a record of gardens of all types which may be of interest to scholars and horticulturists. This major work was revised in 1996. A list of the 32 parks and gardens included in the 1996 Compendium is given in Appendix 6.
- 9.83** Development will not be permitted where it would adversely affect the character, appearance, artistic integrity or setting of the 34 (two on the national register and 32 on the local compendium) historic parks and gardens.
- 9.84** As well as its scenic character and quality, the landscape of the District has outstanding historic and archaeological dimensions. This historic environment includes rural and coastal landscapes and the physical evidence of past human activity they contain. Such landscapes may be fragile and require protection, and have enormous potential to contribute to a sense of place and identity, but also contribute to the quality of daily life through understanding and appropriate management and access. The historic landscape may include numerous features, including parks and gardens, field boundaries, ancient woodlands, hedgerows, trees and archaeological features. The Canterbury District Landscape Character and Biodiversity Assessment considers the cultural integrity (influence of man) of our historic landscapes in its critique of landscape character and its generation of landscape guidelines for the Canterbury District. This should be supplemented by the AONB Management Plans for that area of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the Canterbury District. The Woodland Trust maintains an ancient

woodland inventory. Ancient woodland is land that has been continuously wooded since at least 1600, and which are particularly important features of the historic landscape.

Policy HE13

The historic landscape, including ancient woodlands, hedgerows and field boundaries, parks and gardens or historic or landscape interest and archaeological features (such as standing remains and earthwork monuments) will be preserved and enhanced. Within historic landscapes:

- a. **Development which would adversely affect their historic character and appearance will not be permitted;**
- b. **The conservation of their landscape and architectural elements will be encouraged;**
- c. **The maintenance, restoration and reconstruction of the layout and features of historic parks and gardens will be encouraged where this is appropriate and based on historical research; and**
- d. **Development that would detract from settings would not be permitted.**

Chapter 10: Landscape and Biodiversity

- 10.1** One of the City Council's objectives is to protect and enhance the countryside, acknowledging its own intrinsic value, the diversity of its landscapes, heritage and wildlife and recognising that a high quality rural environment contributes to the economic, social and cultural well-being of the district.
- 10.2** The countryside in the Canterbury District is a distinctive and variable feature of the area. The south of the District is part of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and to the north of the City the landscape is dominated by the extensive Blean Complex, an ancient woodland. Further north and east the landscape is dominated by grazing marsh, wetland and saltmarsh. As a result of a significant landscape quality, large areas of the District have been designated for their landscape value and the diversity of these landscapes gives rise to a wide range of wildlife habitats.
- 10.3** The protection of wildlife sites and biodiversity is based on a network of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, and on measures to protect and enhance biodiversity in the wider countryside. In addition to these protected sites, the District is home to several species that are protected by law, including bats, barn owls, dormice and great crested newts. The Council's commitment to retention and enhancement of our biodiversity resource is a key element in ensuring a sustainable approach to planning in the District.
- 10.4** Conservation of geodiversity (the variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, soils, landforms and natural processes) is also an important issue for the council. Rocks, fossils and minerals have been formed over millions of years and represent unique past environments and events. The information provided by geodiversity helps us to understand how our planet has changed over time and how life evolved. Importantly, geodiversity underpins our landscape

Landscape Policy and Designations

- 10.5** The Council will ensure that landscape improvements are secured for the long-term through the development process. We will use the following documents and work areas to judge proposals affecting the landscape:
- a. European Landscape Convention – compliance with 'local distinctiveness' and a need to consult widely with local people to ascertain views;
 - b. Natural England – North Kent Plain National Character Area profile (2012) and the North Downs National Character Area profile (2013);

- c. Kent Downs AONB Management Plan (2009 – 2014);
- d. Kent Downs Landscape Design Handbook (2005);
- e. The Landscape Assessment of Kent (2004);
- f. The draft Canterbury District Landscape Character and Biodiversity Assessment (updated 2012);
- g. Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan (2010);
- h. Canterbury Area of High Landscape Value (Review of Local Plan Inspectors comments (2005).

Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- 10.6** The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a statutory national designation and includes much of the south of the District. Designation confers the means to protect the most important landscapes of England and Wales for the benefit of future generations. The primary purpose of this designation is the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, which relates not only to the area's landscape value but also its fauna, flora and geology.
- 10.7** The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Section 89(2b) requires that local authorities "shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB and prepare and publish a plan which formulates the policies of the local authority for the management of the AONB and carrying out their functions in relation to it". The management of the AONB is guided by a Joint Advisory Committee which includes representatives from Kent County Council, all the District Councils within the AONB and landowning, conservation and amenity interests. The City Council participates actively in the Joint Advisory Committee.
- 10.8** The NPPF strongly supports the high priority given by the Council to ensuring this important landscape is properly safeguarded in application of planning policy and makes the following statement:
- 10.9** *"Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in..... Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty".*

- 10.10** In pursuing the primary purpose of designation, account must also be taken of the economic and social needs of local communities, acknowledging the importance of maintaining an active and economically sustainable working countryside. Pressures exist for various types of development and the fundamental consideration must be that the special qualities, features and character of the AONB are properly safeguarded. However, a range of objectives and policies of the Local Plan seek to address the needs of local communities within the AONB in ways that meet this requirement.
- 10.11** As required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000), a Management Plan has been prepared for the Kent Downs AONB which sets in place clear **aims, policies** and **actions** for the conservation management and enhancement of the AONB for a five year period and sets a longer term **vision**. The Management Plan is a statutory document which complements the approach of the Local Plan and will provide valuable support in implementing, reviewing and developing policy.
- 10.12** In addition to the Management Plan, the Kent Downs Landscape Design Handbook, which provides guidance on good design and management of the Kent Downs, has been adopted by the Council as a material consideration for development control purposes. To enhance and protect the landscape and rural economy within the Kent Downs AONB, the Council will welcome proposals which meet the aspirations of the Management Plan and Landscape Design Handbook.

Policy LB1

High priority will be given to conservation and enhancement of natural beauty in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and planning decisions should have regard to its setting. Proposals which conflict with the objective to conserve and enhance the AONB will not be permitted.

In considering proposals for development, the emphasis should be on small-scale proposals that are sustainably located and designed. The Council will grant proposals which support the economy and social well being of the AONB and its communities, including affordable housing schemes, provided that they do not conflict with the aim of conserving and enhancing natural beauty.

Proposals will also be encouraged where they serve to facilitate the delivery of the Statutory Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and are desirable for the understanding and enjoyment of the area.

Areas of High Landscape Value

10.13 Canterbury City Council has retained a number of landscape designations, because of their 'greater than local' importance and where the Council is certain that their special importance requires particular policy recognition. Of particular note is the Canterbury Area of High Landscape Value (AHLV), described in more detail in the heritage section of this Local Plan. Three other AHLVs are defined on the proposals map. The North Downs AHLV, the Blean Woods AHLV and the North Kent Marshes AHLV were all designated as Special Landscape Areas in the Kent and Medway Structure Plan. Both the Canterbury AHLV and the Wantsum Channel AHLV were originally designated in the Canterbury District Local Plan (2006).

- a. The North Downs AHLV is a landscape designation associated with the Kent Downs AONB. The designation includes land outside the AONB. These areas, associated with the AONB boundary, are deemed to have an important quality that is contiguous with the AONB designation, identified as part of detailed assessment of the existing AONB boundary. These areas will be proposed by the Council as extensions to the AONB when the boundary is reviewed by Natural England in due course.
- b. The Blean Woods AHLV identifies landscapes important to the character and setting of the Blean Wood Complex. It is an important objective of the Council and other agencies to preserve and enhance this landscape, with long term objectives to meet habitat network potential for woodland or heathland where appropriate, particularly where it improves habitat connectivity of the Blean woodlands.
- c. The North Kent Marshes AHLV identifies an open and ecologically important landscape defined by open flat grazing land, with broad skies, few landscape features and a strong sense of remoteness, wildness and exposure. It forms part of an extensive complex of coastal marshes that flank the Swale Estuary along its northern and southern shores.
- d. The Wantsum Channel AHLV has been designated because of the strategic importance of this landscape in East Kent. The Wantsum Channel formerly separated the Isle of Thanet from the rest of Kent. The marshes form a dramatic open landscape of ditches and fields, reclaimed from the sea. The settlement pattern reflects the ancient coastline with most villages located on the old shoreline.
- e. Canterbury AHLV (the Valley of the River Stour around Canterbury) has been identified to protect the historic and landscape setting of the City and the World Heritage Site. Policy HE3 and associated text also sets out requirements for protecting the setting of the city.

- 10.14** The Canterbury District Landscape and Biodiversity Appraisal and the Kent Landscape Assessment gives detailed analysis of, and guidelines for, each of the character areas associated with these landscapes. In general, however, the Council's objective is to preserve and enhance these distinctive landscapes. AHLVs are of special importance because of landscape, archaeological and nature conservation interest, their local amenity value and their importance to the setting of historic, ecological or wider landscape features.

Policy LB2

The following Areas of High Landscape Value are defined on the Proposals Map and Inset Maps:

- a. **The North Kent Marshes;**
- b. **The North Downs;**
- c. **Blean Woods;**
- d. **Wantsum Channel;**
- e. **Canterbury (the valley of the River Stour around Canterbury).**

Within these areas, development will be considered in relation to the extent to which its location, scale, design and materials would protect the local landscape character and enhance the future appearance of the designated landscape and its nature conservation interest. Development proposals which would cause unacceptable harm to their local landscape character, archaeological or nature conservation interest will not be permitted.

Within the Canterbury AHLV, development proposals should have particular regard to the historic setting of the City and the World Heritage Site.

The Undeveloped Coast

- 10.15** Canterbury District contains attractive areas of undeveloped coast at Seasalter, Swalecliffe, Bishopstone and Reculver. The scenic importance of much of this coastline and the adjoining countryside is of countywide significance and parts have great scientific interest and recreational value. As the coastal hinterland merges into broad areas of countryside, no attempt has been made to define an inland boundary. Development proposals at and adjoining the undeveloped coast will be assessed for their impact on the coast and its unspoilt scenic quality; and refused if considered to be detrimental to the character of the area. The Council will encourage public access and recreation where this is not detrimental to sites of international wildlife importance.

Policy LB3

Development will not be permitted if it detracts from the unspoilt scenic quality or scientific value of the undeveloped coast as shown on the Proposals Map.

Tranquility

- 10.16** Tranquility is recognized as a powerful contributor to the sense of well-being of many people and is normally associated with natural areas, and with the absence of man-made disturbance. Seeking an escape from noise and stress in urban areas is one of the main reasons for visits to the countryside.
- 10.17** The visual impact of built development or uses and any associated noise and light pollution can have a significant impact on the enjoyment of the tranquility of our countryside, as well as its character. Policy LB4 includes tranquility as one of the aspects of the landscapes in the District that should be protected and enhanced.

The Canterbury District Landscape and Biodiversity Appraisal

- 10.18** The landscape character of the District is an important asset. The particular qualities of the landscape play a major role in defining sense of place and provide the fabric of and home to, our natural resources and biodiversity. Local residents and visitors value the beautiful and peaceful environment and countryside within the District and the difference which this makes to quality of life.
- 10.19** The Canterbury District Landscape and Biodiversity Appraisal identifies and describes distinctive landscape character types throughout the district, excluding the AONB. This information will be used to ensure that development proposals reflect the distinctive character, qualities and sensitivities of the area, maintain local identity and protect and enhance the contribution that they make to wider ecological networks. The Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal will be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance and will be used when determining applications for development within the rural areas.
- 10.20** The planning system needs to accommodate change, whilst retaining and where possible, strengthening the pattern and diversity of the landscape. In essence the landscape character appraisal process can be used to identify and prevent the destruction of inherent landscape character or take advantage of opportunities to strengthen the character and thus enhance local distinctiveness. Context and local distinctiveness must be considered in all proposals for new development and the Council will seek to ensure that the landscape character is reinforced, restored, conserved or improved as appropriate.

- 10.21** Distinguishing features and patterns in the landscape are key to the character and distinctiveness of a landscape and might include settlement patterns and roads, the pattern, height and composition of hedgerows (and other field boundaries), woodland and trees and the types and distribution of wildlife habitats.
- 10.22** The Council will also seek to ensure that any landscape changes avoid damage to existing ecological networks and ensure that potential opportunities for sites to contribute to a habitat network are realised, or potential of a site for the future realisation of the habitat potential of the site is retained. Policy LB8 and supporting text set out expectations in more detail.

Policy LB4

Proposals for development, and associated land use change or land management, must demonstrate that they are informed by, and sympathetic to, the landscape character of the locality. In considering development proposals, the Council will take every opportunity to reinforce, restore, conserve or improve, as appropriate, the landscape character of the area in which they are proposed.

Development will only be permitted if the following criteria can be satisfied:

- a. **Development would be appropriate to the economic and social wellbeing of the area;**
- b. **The site selection can be adequately justified, with the siting of development minimising the impact;**
- c. **Development would safeguard or strengthen tranquility, features and patterns that contribute to the landscape character and local distinctiveness of the area;**
- d. **The scale, design, materials and landscaping measures are appropriate and would lead to an enhancement of the character of the landscape;**
- e. **Development will promote maintenance, enhancement, and restoration of biodiversity as appropriate in accordance with policy LB9.**

All development must take into account the sensitivity of the particular landscape to accommodate change. Development, or associated land use change or land management, which would adversely affect the landscape character of an area, will not normally be allowed. The development should appropriately address the findings of the Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal condition and sensitivity guidelines of the particular landscape policy zone/zones affected.

Conservation and Enhancement of Biodiversity

10.23 Biodiversity resources are not restricted to designated sites and it is important to conserve and enhance the diversity and distribution of habitats and species more widely. Sites designated in the District for their international, national and local importance, however, form a critical part of the District's strategy for habitat and species protection.

Internationally designated sites

10.24 The most important sites for biodiversity and individual wildlife species receive statutory protection under international and national legislation. Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas (SPA), and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are internationally important and are afforded the highest level of protection.

10.25 There are currently four internationally designated sites within the District:

- Stodmarsh (SAC, SPA, Ramsar)
- Blean Complex (SAC)
- Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay (SPA and Ramsar)
- The Swale (SPA and Ramsar)

10.26 Other sites which lie close to the Canterbury District include the Wye and Crundale Downs SAC; the Parkgate Downs SAC; the Thanet Coast SAC and the Lydden and Temple Ewell Downs SAC.

10.27 Ramsar sites have been designated as wetlands of International Importance as a Waterfowl Habitat under the Ramsar Convention, which requires signatory governments to conserve wetlands generally, and designated sites in particular. Special Protection Areas are designated under Article 4 of the Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds), which requires member states to take "appropriate steps to avoid pollution or the deterioration of habitats or any disturbance affecting the birds". Special Areas of Conservation have also been designated under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora) because of a possible threat to the special habitats or species which they contain and to provide increased protection to a variety of animals, plants and habitats of importance to biodiversity both on a national and international scale.

10.28 There are also two European Marine Sites in the Canterbury District:

- North East Kent European Marine Site;
- Swale and Medway European Marine Site.

- 10.29** A European Marine Site is not a statutory site designation, but instead is essentially a management unit for the marine parts of SACs and SPAs sites, up to the high water mark. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (The Habitats Regulations) 2010 (as amended) contain special provision for responsibilities in relation to European Marine Sites, and all statutory bodies with jurisdiction in the marine area are charged with a duty to comply with the Habitats Directive.
- 10.30** Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) are a type of Marine Protected Area. They will protect areas that are important to conserve the diversity of nationally rare or threatened habitats and/or species and those places containing habitats and/or species that are representative of the biodiversity in our seas. A Defra consultation on proposals for the designation of MCZs in English inshore and offshore waters finished in March 2013. Decisions on which sites to designate will be taken later in 2013.
- 10.31** It is possible that development within the District may affect one of these internationally designated sites. If there is a risk of a significant effect of a plan or a project on one of these sites, it would require an Appropriate Assessment under The Habitats Regulations 2010 (as amended), to determine whether or not they would have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site. Under European legislation, the City Council as a competent authority has a duty to exercise its functions to ensure that these sites are maintained in a favourable condition.

Policy LB5

Sites of international nature conservation importance must receive the highest levels of protection. Where a likely significant effect of a plan or project on European sites cannot be excluded, an Appropriate Assessment in line with the Habitats Directive and associated regulations will be required.

In the event that the Council is unable to conclude that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites, the plan or project will be refused.

- 10.32** In some circumstances this may require an approach to be developed and implemented across administrative boundaries. The Council is required to consider in-combination effects as part of the Habitat Regulations Assessment of plans and projects including cross-boundary issues. A cooperative approach across local authority boundaries may be required when considering effects on European sites. Natural England will provide guidance for the development of avoidance and mitigation strategies to protect the integrity of European sites.

10.33 The impact of recreational disturbance is considered a key concern for the coastal SPAs and further research is needed into this issue. Impacts on SPA birds (and the bird interest features of Ramsar sites) and in particular disturbance, needs to be dealt with at a strategic level because in-combination impacts are likely and effects can occur at a significant distance from the development itself, especially recreational disturbance as a result of new housing.

10.34 A robust evidence base is essential to understand the potential impacts of future development on European sites and design effective mitigation, which will ensure compliance with the Habitats Regulations. Local authorities across North Kent have been working with Natural England to establish what information is available for the North Kent Marshes SPA and identify additional research (particularly recreational access and bird behaviour work) that is necessary to determine avoidance and mitigation policies. Some of this evidence gathering is underway and significant further work will be required to support individual developments. Most recent evidence, however, suggests that 'likely significant effects' cannot be ruled out from housing development. Notably development within 6km from access points have been identified as most likely to lead to increased pressure on the Swale SPA and large developments beyond 6km will also have an impact. Therefore it is necessary for developments that are likely to increase visitor numbers, to undertake a bespoke assessment of their impact. It seems likely that approved development would be expected to:

- Protect high tide roosts and the least disturbed areas currently;
- Manage the visitor impact around the popular locations;
- Identify all access points and suggest measures proportionate to the risk of disturbance arising from each one;
- Monitor impacts and assess the effectiveness of management measures.

10.35 It is likely that a similar approach will be required from development likely to have an impact on the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA, although this will need to be confirmed with further research. Often an appropriate response to the concern related to additional visitor generation is the provision of significant open space on site and associated links to the countryside that are of sufficiently high quality to reduce the number of journeys to the coast for recreation.

Nationally Designated Sites

10.36 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are nationally designated sites under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which have important wildlife or geological value. There are currently 15 SSSIs within the Canterbury District covering 2000 hectares. The following sites have SSSI status: Chequers Wood and Old Park, Church Woods, East Blean Woods, Ellenden Woods, Illenden and Oxenden Woods, Larkey Valley Woods, Lynsore Bottom, Preston Marshes, Stodmarsh, Sturry

Pit, The Swale, Tankerton Slopes, Thanet Coast, West Blean and Thornden Woods, and Yockletts Bank. Other SSSIs may be designated where other Sites of Special Scientific Interest are identified. There are two sites in the Canterbury District which are notified as SSSI for their geological interest: Sturry Pit and Thanet Coast.

- 10.37** The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the Wildlife and Countryside Act and imposes a duty on public bodies exercising statutory functions which may affect SSSIs, to take reasonable steps consistent with the proper exercise of these functions, to further enhance the features for which the site is notified (as SSSI).
- 10.38** There are two National Nature Reserves in the District, which are Stodmarsh and Blean Woods. National Nature Reserves, declared by Natural England, represent many of the finest wildlife and geological sites. As well as managing some of our most pristine habitats, our rarest species and our most significant geology, most reserves offer great opportunities to the public, as well as schools and specialist audiences, to experience England's natural heritage.

Policy LB6

Planning permission will not be granted for development which would materially harm the scientific or nature conservation interest, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively, of sites designated for their nature conservation, geological, or geomorphological value. Support will be given for their enhancement.

Development that affects a Site of Special Scientific Interest or associated National Nature Reserve will only be permitted where an appraisal has demonstrated:

- a. **The objectives of the designated area and overall integrity of the area would not be compromised, or**
- b. **Any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social or economic benefits of national importance and a substitute site of at least equal value can be proposed.**

Locally designated sites

- 10.39** There are Local Nature Reserves at Bishopstone Cliffs, Larkey Valley Woods, Seasalter Levels, Bus Company Island, Foxes Cross Bottom, Curtis Wood, Tyler Hill Meadow, Jumping Downs, No Man's Orchard and Whitehall Meadows. The network of local sites is strategically important for delivering biodiversity targets as they contain many important habitats such as ancient woodlands and lowland grassland. Local Nature Reserves are protected by statute, under Section 21 of

the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and amended by Schedule 11 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, by principal local authorities and are designed to increase the public enjoyment and understanding of nature as well as promoting nature conservation.

- 10.40** The District also contains a range of habitats and geological features of local significance designated as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). Local Wildlife Sites are non-statutory sites of significant value for the conservation of wildlife. These sites represent local character and distinctiveness and have an important role to play in meeting local and national targets for biodiversity conservation. There are 49 Local Wildlife Sites in the Canterbury District.
- 10.41** Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR) are a network of roadside verges that have been identified through the Road Verge Project (a partnership between Kent County Council, Kent Highways and Kent Wildlife Trust) as containing scarce or threatened habitats or species. Due to their linear nature they also act as important wildlife corridors, enabling species to travel between other habitats. They are managed by Kent Wildlife Trust. There are nine RNRs in the Canterbury District.
- 10.42** Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological sites (RIGS) are non-statutory Earth Science sites designated by locally based RIGS Groups. RIGS are considered to be important as an educational, research, historical or recreational resource using locally developed criteria. The RIGS notification to landowners and local authorities is one way of recognising and thereby protecting these important Earth Science and/or landscape features for the future. There are currently five RIGS sites in the Canterbury District: Chislet Colliery Tip, Cooper's Pit, Long Rock, Bramling Quarry, and Chartham Hatch Pit.

Policy LB7

Development or land-use changes likely to have an adverse effect, either directly or indirectly, on:

- a. **Local Wildlife Sites;**
- b. **Local Nature Reserves; or**
- c. **Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological Sites**

will only be permitted if the justification for the proposals clearly outweighs any harm to the intrinsic nature conservation and/or scientific value of the site. Where development is permitted on such sites, careful site design should be used to avoid the negative impact. Where negative impact is unavoidable, measures must be taken to ensure that the impacts of the development on valued natural features and wildlife have been mitigated to their fullest practical extent. Where mitigation alone is not sufficient, adequate compensatory habitat enhancement or creation schemes will be required.

- 10.43** The network of local sites is strategically important for delivering biodiversity targets as they contain many important habitats such as ancient woodland and lowland grassland.

Landscape Scale Biodiversity Networks

- 10.44** Traditionally, nature conservation has focused on protecting important sites. This approach has been successful, however it, alone, cannot sustain biodiversity in the long-term. Important sites are still fragmented and isolated from one another. In order to successfully conserve a viable natural environment, account needs to be taken of physical factors such as water and nutrient cycling. These processes link sites to the wider landscape and affect the habitat found. In other words, there is a need to reconnect biodiversity with ecosystems, and change the scale of work towards a landscape focus.
- 10.45** Improving, connecting and extending wildlife-rich areas allows species to move through the landscape in response to changing conditions in the environment. As well as enabling populations of the same species to colonise new areas, it increases their genetic diversity and their resilience to disease and climate change. There is a need to increase the quality of the entire countryside for wildlife and ensure a healthy and functional environment. This is vital to our own quality of life.

- 10.46** Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) maps (produced by South East Biodiversity Forum) are a reflection of the areas where biodiversity improvements are likely to have the most beneficial results for establishing large habitat areas and/or networks or wildlife habitats. The Council will therefore pursue net gains for biodiversity in and around BOAs, and projects which seek to enhance biodiversity within the Canterbury District will be supported.
- 10.47** The draft Canterbury District Landscape and Biodiversity Appraisal (2012) gives more detailed advice on habitat opportunities across the District, together with advice on how habitats and networks might be enhanced. Although advice in the document does not replace on-site survey, it will advise on whether a site may be important to the overall strategic habitat network. All sites, however, have the potential to be important for biodiversity and the document will give general advice on how a landscape and its ecological features may be enhanced for biodiversity benefits.
- 10.48** Although on-site assessment is necessary to ensure that the potential for biodiversity opportunity is properly scrutinised, this is a useful starting point for this analysis. It is important that all development does where possible, contribute towards connectivity of habitats and does not damage future opportunities for improving connectivity of habitats in strategically important areas.
- 10.49** The Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy, (see Policies SP6 and OS11) currently under preparation, will also give advice on guidance relevant to habitat networks.

Policy LB8

New development will need to:

- a. **avoid the fragmentation of existing habitats and support the creation of coherent ecological networks through both urban and rural areas; and**
- b. **retain, protect and enhance notable ecological features of conservation value such as ancient woodland, hedgerows, trees, river corridors and other water bodies, and habitats that offer breeding or feeding sites of local importance to populations of protected or targeted species.**

Strategic opportunities for biodiversity improvement will be actively pursued within the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. Development which significantly damages opportunities for improving connectivity of habitats in these strategically important areas will be refused.

Protected Habitats Outside Designated Areas

- 10.50** Not all sites with important species and habitats are designated for protection and important habitats often occur as fragments within the landscape. Preventing further fragmentation by safeguarding existing habitats and improving linkages between them is essential. To achieve this, opportunities must be sought to expand, link and buffer sites.
- 10.51** Regulation 37 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires the encouragement of the management of features in the landscape that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. These features are defined as linear features or stepping stones which are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. By protecting these natural habitats and networks across the District, the Council will be able to avoid or repair fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats. Small features also play a vital role in connecting more extensive sites and these may include small copses, avenues of trees, and habitats such as ponds and meadows.
- 10.52** The UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012) provides a detailed framework for safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity throughout the District. The species and habitats considered to be of conservation concern are given the terms 'species of principal importance' and 'habitats of principal importance'. Canterbury City Council wishes to support the conservation, restoration and enhancement of species and habitats principal importance (note: the lists of 'priority' habitats and species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan were used in drawing up the list of species and habitats of principal importance). The Kent Biodiversity Partnership. Habitat Action Plans produce by the Kent Biodiversity Partnership provide advice on securing a healthy future for the habitat and for the wildlife that depends on the habitat for their survival.
- 10.53** The strategic habitats in the district include:
- Woodland, including Ancient Semi Natural Woodland habitat (ANSW), deciduous woodland, and wet woodlands, which could be restored, enhanced and re-connected.
 - Wetlands – (including coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, reed bed, inter-tidal mudflats and saltmarsh) where wet grassland, reedbed, fen, and open water could be restored and recreated and where coastal realignment could help re-create inter-tidal habitats.
 - Neutral grasslands, semi-improved, unimproved (free from artificial chemical nutrient addition) and traditional grasslands which would benefit from consistent grazing and annual cutting practices to preserve character and enhance biodiversity of flora and invertebrates and provide an important wildlife corridor between other habitats.

- Lowland health and acid grassland, where there are opportunities for restoration and re-creation of habitats.
- Chalk downs where there are opportunities to restore, re-create and manage chalk grassland, chalk woodland and species rich scrub.

10.54 An update to the Kent Wildlife Habitat Survey will be available in 2013. The survey will include an investigation into how land use has changed over the last 20 years. It will aid long term monitoring and conservation of important areas for wildlife, enabling planners to make informed decisions on spatial planning, and assisting the decision making process.

10.55 In the district's urban environment, private gardens, previously developed land, buildings and built structures can provide important habitats for wildlife. Such sites that are either connected to the overall biodiversity network, or act as wildlife refuges for animals moving out from these sites across the broader network of green spaces in the City, will also be assessed for their biodiversity value.

Policy LB9

Wherever possible, sites supporting Habitats of Principal Importance not otherwise protected by policies will be protected from development proposals which would result in the loss of or damage to their nature conservation value, particularly where the site forms a link between or buffer to designated wildlife sites. Where potential arises, positive opportunities for habitat restoration and re-creation will be encouraged through the development process.

Where development is permitted on such sites, mitigation will be required to reduce the negative impacts. Where this is not possible, adequate compensatory habitat enhancement or creation schemes will be required and/or measures required to be taken to ensure that the impacts of the development on valued natural features and wildlife have been mitigated to their fullest practical extent.

Protected Species

10.56 The Council seeks to ensure that species protected by legislation and species recognised by guidance and Biodiversity Action Plans are safeguarded during development. Protected species occur right across the District, not just in protected sites and the presence of such species is a material consideration in considering development proposals. The Council will expect to receive all relevant ecological surveys at an early stage and before determining an application for a proposed development.

- 10.57** The extent of protection afforded by legislation varies according to the species. The following are examples of species that are listed under Annex 4 of the European Habitats Directive and known to occur within the Canterbury District: otter, great crested newt, dormouse and all species of bats. The Badgers Act provides protection for badgers and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) identifies species that are offered further protection, including nesting birds and reptiles. The UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012) identifies further Species of Principle Importance' for conservation, such as hedgehog. The Council supports countywide multi-agency and community efforts to deliver the UK Biodiversity Strategy (Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services) through the Kent Biodiversity Partnership.
- 10.58** In the event of planning permission being granted, appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures will depend on the species and current best practice. Best practice guides have been, or are being, developed for most species and developers will be expected to use current best practice. Where a proposed development affects a European Protected Species, the Habitats Regulations 2010, must be satisfied in determining the application. Case law (R (on the application of Simon Woolley) v Cheshire East Borough Council; Morge vs Hampshire County Council) clarifies that local planning authorities must apply the same three tests as Natural England when deciding whether to grant planning permission when one or more of the European protected species offences under the Habitats Regulations may be committed if a planning permission is granted:
- the activity must be for imperative reasons of overriding public interest or for public health and safety;
 - there must be no satisfactory alternative; and
 - favourable conservation status of the species must be maintained.
- 10.59** The Council will consider the local importance of protected species and any direct or indirect disturbance that may occur to the species as the result of a proposed development. The Council will strongly support ecological enhancements as part of proposed developments.

Policy LB10

When development proposals are being considered for a site known, or likely to have protected species or Species of Principal Importance, or species identified in Kent Biodiversity Action Plans, developers will be expected to carry out an ecological survey and present proposals for mitigation and enhancement. Planning permission will only be granted where the City Council is satisfied that the mitigation measures proposed represent an appropriate response to the habitat or species interest of the site.

In some cases it may be necessary to find an alternative location for the development, to avoid harm to wildlife and geological interests. Compensation measures to offset significant harm caused by the development may also be necessary e.g. through off-site contributions to sites with good ecological potential or by integrating biodiversity features within new development.

For European protected species, planning permission will only be granted where the three tests set out in the Habitats Regulations are satisfied.

- 10.60** Excessive external lighting can be a particular issue for a number of species, including bats, and can have a significant impact on the natural environment by affecting the activity rhythms of both plants and animals. Policy DBE13 must be applied and supporting text provides further advice.

Impact of development on nature conservation interest

- 10.61** Development and other activities can have direct and indirect impacts on areas of nature conservation interest. Indeed development sites can have an impact on a natural resource a considerable distance away, particularly if the effect relates to air quality or water resources. Further, the impact of one development may be small, but the cumulative effect of several can be significant.
- 10.62** Detrimental impacts can be avoided and gains achieved by carrying out an ecological survey at an early stage, using careful design and by guiding development away from sensitive sites. Opportunities to deal with the impacts of development on sensitive sites through mitigation measures and/or seeking appropriate compensation should be taken.
- 10.63** Development decisions should be based on a clear understanding of the biodiversity interest of the development site (and other areas affected), as well as of national and county biodiversity priorities and targets. Restoration and enhancement efforts, and mitigation and compensation for adverse impacts, should be concentrated in areas where there is scope for significant nature

conservation gain or where the most valuable and fragile habitats and species occur. The potential value to biodiversity of previously developed land and previously worked sites should be taken into account.

Policy LB11

All development should avoid a net loss of biodiversity, and actively pursue opportunities to achieve a net gain, particularly where they are wildlife habitats and species identified as Species or Habitats of Principal Importance, or where they are protected under wildlife legislation. This will be secured by:

(a) ensuring that site evaluation is undertaken to establish the nature conservation value of proposed development sites; and

(b) identifying, safeguarding and managing existing and potential land (or landscape features of major importance for wild flora and fauna) for nature conservation as part of development proposals, particularly where a connected series of sites can be achieved.

Development which may harm (either directly or indirectly) Habitats or Species of Principal Importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity, will only be permitted if:

- a. **there are no reasonable alternatives and there are clear demonstrable social or economic benefits of the development which clearly outweigh the need to safeguard the site or species; and**
- b. **adequate compensation and mitigation measures are provided when damage to biodiversity/ geodiversity interests are unavoidable.**

Any mitigating measures that may be provided must be within the control of the developer.

Trees, woodlands and hedgerows

- 10.64** Trees, woodland and hedgerows are an essential component in the natural environment of both towns and the countryside. They make an important contribution to the visual amenity and quality of the environment, and can be a key component in the appropriate setting of new development, and the enhancement of the urban fringe and damaged landscapes. Woodland can also help to maintain air quality and the balance of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Trees, woodland, hedgerows and other landscape features, such as watercourses

and ponds, can be of significant importance to flora and fauna, enabling their movement through the countryside or towns by providing a 'stepping stone' or 'wildlife corridor' function.

- 10.65** Our trees, woodlands and hedgerows are an essential element of sustainable development. The Council will seek to:
- protect and enhance the value and character of the District's woodland and hedgerows, promoting appropriate woodland and hedgerow planting in association with development to restore and improve degraded landscapes;
 - realise the economic, environmental and social benefits that woodland management and tree planting can provide;
 - promote higher standards of management of existing woodlands, and seek new markets for woodland produce;
 - manage woodland in light of the impact of climate change.
- 10.66** Many of the district's woodlands are considered to be ancient and are identified on Natural England's Provisional Inventory of Ancient Woodland. This was updated in 2012 by the report titled: A Revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Canterbury District. The NPPF states that planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss. Ancient woodland is a unique resource in terms of biodiversity, heritage and landscape character. A national veteran tree survey is currently underway.

Policy LB12

The value and character of woodland and the hedgerow network should be maintained and enhanced, particularly where this would improve the landscape, biodiversity, or link existing woodland habitats. This will be achieved by:

- a. **protecting ancient woodland, ancient trees and 'important' hedgerows from damaging development and land uses;**
- b. **promoting the retention and effective management, and where appropriate, extension and creation of new woodland areas and hedgerows;**
- c. **promoting and encouraging the economic use of woodlands and wood resources, including wood fuel as a renewable energy source;**
- d. **promoting the growth and procurement of sustainable timber products; and**
- e. **promoting the retention, enhancement and extension of existing hedges.**

- 10.67** New development provides an opportunity for planting trees, woodland and hedgerows. Such planting can improve the character of settlements and enhance the appearance of the nearby countryside. It can link remnants of ancient woodlands, enhance biodiversity and improve access for recreation. The City Council will require adequate space to be reserved within new developments for trees or other appropriate landscaping. Planning permission may be refused where the proposed planting and landscaping treatment is inadequate or unsuitable for the development, its setting or the local area.
- 10.68** The City Council will make Tree Preservation Orders to protect trees and woodland that it considers make a positive contribution to local amenity.

Policy LB13

Development should be designed to retain trees, hedgerows, woodland that make an important contribution to the amenity of the site and the surrounding area and which are important to wild flora and fauna. The City Council will refuse planning permission for proposals that would threaten the future retention of trees, hedgerows, woodland or other landscape features of importance to the site's character, an area's amenity or the movement of wildlife.

New development should incorporate tree planting as an integral element of landscaping schemes, where this is in keeping with the landscape character of the area, helps to restore and enhance degraded landscapes, screen noise and pollution, provides recreational opportunities, helps mitigate climate change, and contributes to floodplain management.

- 10.69** Trees can be particularly adversely affected by development. When development proposals are submitted that may affect trees within or adjacent to the site, the City Council will require the applicant to submit a tree survey in accordance with British Standard BS5837. Construction activity too close to the base of trees can damage roots, and can eventually lead to the loss of trees. Developers will be required to provide protection, in line with BS5837, for all trees to be retained, and demonstrate that the existing branch spread and future growth of trees have been taken into account in the design of the proposed development. For example, if a tree shades or otherwise impinges the use of a building, there may be pressure to cut back or remove trees that were not directly affected at the time the development was built. The Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Document provides further advice.

- 10.70** Tree planting is not appropriate where it would cause damage to, or loss of, important open habitats, such as unimproved grassland or heathland. Tree planting is not the only way to create woodland, and greater gains are made for biodiversity where new woodland is allowed to develop through natural succession. Effort should be directed towards areas, woodland types or species which are the rarest or most fragile and therefore provide the greatest potential for biodiversity gain.

The Blean Complex

- 10.71** The Blean Complex is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), selected as an example of oak-hornbeam forests for which this area is only one of two outstanding sites in the UK. The SAC designation strengthens the protection given to the site.

Policy LB14

The Council will support projects that restore, enhance and connect the valued woodland habitat complex of the Blean. The Council will give particular support to projects that benefit the landscape through sensitive and traditional woodland practices and which support the timber market and wider local economy.

Seasalter

- 10.72** The climate is changing and sea level rise, together with an increased risk of flooding, is anticipated. Large and connected areas of coastal, marsh and estuarine land able to 'absorb' excess water can help to mitigate these effects.
- 10.73** The Canterbury District coastal marshland habitats are at particular risk. The problems and opportunities that this poses need to be anticipated and planned for and the impacts on vulnerable habitats of species avoided or reduced. In particular, restoring, enhancing and extending habitats is key to preparing for climate change, as well as planning for areas of managed realignment. Areas of designated interest will be given special protection.
- 10.74** The Seasalter Levels are a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, showing how important the area is as part of the North Kent coast freshwater grazing marsh. It is also a valuable wetland site for wintering and migratory wildfowl and wading birds, including wigeon, teal, redshank and lapwing. The Proposals Map identifies an area of opportunity for biodiversity improvement. Canterbury City Council works closely with Swale Borough Council and Natural England to bring the site into better ecological

condition, and to attract important migratory bird species and associated plants and insects. The Council will continue to investigate ways of acquiring land through Compulsory Purchase Orders to extend the Seasalter Levels Local Nature Reserve.

Policy LB15

The Seasalter marshes, designated of national and international conservation importance within The Swale Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), are the largest area in unfavourable ecological condition in the North Kent Marshes Environmentally Sensitive Area. The Council will strongly support projects to restore, enhance and extend the ecological value of this area and promote the extension of Seasalter Levels Local Nature Reserve to the wider area shown on the Proposals Map.

River Corridors

- 10.75** Both new development and redevelopment should minimise flood risk and enhance rivers and the riverside environment. This could be by increasing public access, improving water-related habitats, landscape or water quality or by securing the restoration of natural river features.
- 10.76** Any new development should be assessed against their polluting effects. Development should not harm water quality. The Riverside Strategy SPG (2003) (currently under review) and Policy OS12 provides further guidance and sets the Council's land use proposals for the River Stour corridor.

Policy LB16

The environment within river corridors and river catchments, including the landscape, water environment and wildlife habitats, will be conserved and enhanced.

Supply of water, treatment and disposal of waste water and flood risk management should be sustainable and deliver environmental benefits.

Chapter 11: Open Space

- 11.1** The Council’s vision for open spaces is to “Develop an interconnected network of diverse, high quality open spaces and green infrastructure which meets the needs of local people and make a significant contribution to raising the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Canterbury District”.
- 11.2** The Council has a desire for quality open space and to protect, enhance and promote the use of open spaces. The Open Space Strategy is currently under review and will be updated in line with the adoption of the Local Plan. This will set out various objectives to achieve this.
- 11.3** Open space provides for a wide range of formal and informal, passive and active leisure, sport, recreational and play activity. High quality, well designed and managed open space makes a valuable contribution to quality of life.
- 11.4** Open space is valuable for the following reasons :
- Engenders social inclusion – no barriers to entry
 - Encourages social interaction – provides a meeting place for people of all ages
 - Improves health and well being – physical exercise, recreation and psychological calming
 - Provides a focus for community regeneration and urban renaissance – catalyst to improve disadvantaged environments
 - Provides sustainable movement routes – walking and cycling routes away from road corridors
 - Provides ecosystem services – for example, biodiversity habitat, surface water drainage and cleaner air
 - Provides a setting for economic renewal. The National Ecosystem Assessment identifies the economic benefit of having a network of high quality and accessible open spaces
 - Place setting/ public realm – visual appeal
- 11.5** The Council’s objective is to improve the distribution, accessibility, quality and connectivity of open space. This is seen as a key component to raising the quality of life of the District’s residents and visitors. The Council’s aim is to create a district which people want to visit with enhanced leisure and sports facilities and a vibrant cultural economy.
- 11.6** The Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners report January 2012 looked at various scenarios for future development, the preferred option,(scenario E) for the Canterbury District states that there would be an additional requirement of 178ha of new open space/recreation facilities to be provided related to providing 780 dwellings

per annum over the period 2011-2031. This additional open space will be provided as part of the strategic allocations, new developments and through the green infrastructure strategy.

- 11.7** It is important that public open space is a key design component in large scale developments and regeneration projects at the start of the process. Any proposed open space needs to be designed to link in with and compliment the surrounding area. This reflects the importance of designing new areas in sympathy with the existing environment.

The Corporate Plan 2011-2016 includes 10 pledges.

- 11.8** The following 6 pledges relate to a connected network of high quality open space :

- Pledge 3 – the right type and number of homes in the right place to create sustainable communities
- Pledge 5 – Cleaner and greener place leading on environmental issues
- Pledge 6 – Facilities and activities for children and young people
- Pledge 7 – Diverse cultural facilities and activities for residents and visitors
- Pledge 9 – Greater involvement for local people
- Pledge 10 – A broad range of sporting and fitness facilities and activities

This demonstrates the cross- cutting benefits open space can deliver which supports many different aspects of the Council's activities.

- 11.9** The Corporate Plan aims to support a broad range of sporting and fitness facilities in order to make a significant contribution to improving health and wellbeing. This will encourage more people to lead physically active lifestyles by promoting and encouraging the use of informal spaces, such as countryside, parks, open spaces and beaches, to improve physical activity levels. The Council is aware of the connection between accessible open space and present day public health issues. Connected, well designed, high quality open spaces with opportunities for active recreation are a priority, this will be achieved through the Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 11.10** This local plan aims to protect and enhance the existing open space and green infrastructure network to ensure that there is a range of environmental and recreational assets that meet the needs of the communities, natural habitats and species and contribute towards the development of sustainable living environments.

- 11.11** Open space performs a wide range of roles in enhancing the liveability of cities, towns and rural villages. Protecting open space for its amenity, ecological, educational, social and community benefits are now well established principles among planning authorities and other organisations.
- 11.12** Open space is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as being *“any land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground.”*
- 11.13** National Best Practice is based on former Planning Policy Guidance note PPG17, which defines open space as *“parts of the urban area which contribute to its amenity either visually or by contributing positively to the urban landscape, or by virtue of public access.”* Within this definition, there are 2 key types of open space:
- Urban green space – *“land that consists predominantly of permeable, soft surfaces such as soil, grass, shrubs or trees.”*
 - Public open space– *“both green spaces and hard ‘civic’ spaces, to which there is public access, even though the land may not necessarily be in public ownership.”*
- 11.14** National best practice sets out a typology of open spaces, broken down into greenspaces and civic spaces, each of which contributes towards ensuring a diversity of open spaces is provided within the District.
- **Parks and gardens**- The District has a wide range of parks and gardens, in both public and private ownership. Policy HE13 and paragraphs xxx set out further detail on the District’s historic parks and gardens and these paragraphs should be read in conjunction with that section of the Local Plan.
 - **Natural and semi-natural greenspaces, including urban woodland** - The District has a wide diversity of natural and semi-natural green spaces which provide valuable opportunities for recreation. These areas include the coast, AONBs, SSSIs, AHLVs and this section should be read in conjunction with the Landscape and Biodiversity chapter of this plan in relation to the protection of these areas. In addition, the City Council considers that the beach should be included as a category of open space in its own right for its contribution to leisure, recreation and the environment.
 - **Green corridors** - These include riverside areas, footpaths, cycleways, bridleways and other rights of way. They often link two areas together and provide a valuable area of amenity space for walking, cycling and horse riding, meaning that they contribute towards opportunities for sustainable forms of transport as well as performing a recreation function.
 - **Outdoor sports facilities** – These include public or private playing fields and other areas designed for participation in outdoor sports.

- **Amenity greenspace** - Amenity greenspace includes informal recreation spaces and greenspaces, often found in a residential area. It therefore performs a valuable function as an area of open space for people living within close proximity to it.
- **Provision for children and young people** - In providing open space, the Council considers that this definition should be widened to ensure that provision recognises the diverse needs of the residents in the District, such as older people and the disabled, in addition to children and young people. In terms of appropriate forms of provision, this could include, for example, equipped play areas and skateboard areas for children and young people.
- **Allotments** - It is important that allotments are retained where they can perform an important open space function and contribute to the City Council's wider sustainable development objectives, including the production of local fresh produce and enhanced quality of life in terms of health, social activity, urban 'green space' and wildlife habitats. Community gardens offer the opportunities for community participation, inclusion and learning.
- **Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds** - These are valuable areas for quiet contemplation and informal recreation, and are often valued areas for wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

The type of civic spaces identified are:

- Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians perform a range of recreation functions and are a key element of the civic environment.

11.15 The National Planning Policy Framework states that "Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well being of communities".

It also states that existing open spaces, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements: or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location ; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss

- 11.16** The National Planning Policy Framework enables local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to identify land as 'Local Green Space', however the local green space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space.

The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves ;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, historic significance. recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

- 11.17** This Local Plan does not designate any Local Green Spaces as areas identified for protection are mentioned in policy and are shown on the proposal maps.

The Need for Open Space

- 11.18** The Council will seek to ensure the creation of a comprehensive and attractive network of formal and informal recreational facilities and open space, which is informed by a district wide audit, to identify areas of need for all forms of open and recreational space. This will play an important role in the wider objectives of urban renaissance, the promotion of social inclusion and well-being and achievement of sustainable patterns of development. The Council will protect existing open space in the district, and improve the quality of this open space for residents, workers and visitors, as well as taking every opportunity to provide additional open space where there is a recognised need.

- 11.19** It should be considered that open spaces can provide multiple functions, and for auditing purposes a prime function should be assigned.

There are six categories of outdoor space :

- semi-natural areas
- strategic urban parks and green corridors
- amenity greenspace
- children's play areas
- open space for sport
- allotments/community gardens

- 11.20** The typologies identified indicate the range of functions, and it should be considered that open spaces can, apart from providing sports and recreation spaces, provide strategic functions, urban quality, promote health and well being , provide havens and habitats for wildlife, provide a community resource and provide a visual amenity.
- 11.21** Formal areas are defined by Fields in Trust (formerly NPFA) as areas provided primarily for formal sports and team games include sports pitches, golf facilities, and other areas laid out for sports.
- 11.22** Informal open spaces are defined by Fields in Trust as areas unsupervised for outdoor children’s play and sport. These can consist of casual informal playing spaces within housing estates, including safe shared spaces such as play streets, outdoor equipped play areas, and play facilities that offer specific opportunities for outdoor play such as BMX track and skateparks.
- 11.23** It is national best practice for local authorities to carry out an audit of open space provision in their area and relate this to a local needs assessment of open space provision. From this process, local standards for provision of open space should be derived and these standards applied in the determination of planning applications. The aim is to ensure that an adequate supply of accessible open space and sports and recreation facilities is maintained and enhanced.
- 11.24** Using the 2011 census data the population is related to the geographic audit of open space and the local standards. The purpose of the mapping exercise is to show current public open space primary usage, provision and to help identify gaps in provision for each public open space typology.

At present the major gaps in provision are:

Canterbury:

- Amenity green spaces – Southern section of Wincheap ward and Barton ward;
- Outdoor sports pitches (1 adult, 4 junior/mini football & 1 rugby)

Herne Bay:

- Amenity green spaces – Reculver, Heron, West Bay wards;
- Outdoor sports pitches (4 football junior);
- Play areas for Reculver
- New allotment site

Whitstable:

- Amenity green spaces – Swalecliffe, Tankerton, Harbour and Seasalter wards
- Play area at South Tankerton and Harbour Wards
- Outdoor sports pitches (Mini junior football, cricket, rugby)
- New allotment site

Rural areas:

- Green corridors- Herne Bay to Canterbury, Faversham to Canterbury and Bridge to Canterbury;
- Play areas at Chislet and Bossingham and Lower Hardres

To address some of these major deficiencies sites have been allocated as open space for use as playing fields, junior football pitches, public recreational uses and at Ridlands Farm, Canterbury for a football club. The Council will aim to address where it can, the remaining deficiencies through this Local Plan, whilst also maintaining and enhancing existing and new open space.

11.25 Canterbury District Open Space quality standard:

- There should be a high quality park in each town
- There should be a range of licensed event spaces in each town
- Everyone should have access to a space where children can play within 300 metres of their home(this includes amenity open space)
- There should be 1.3 hectares of amenity open space for every thousand people

- All open spaces should reach minimum quality standards – cleaner, safer, greener
- Open space and play areas in new developments should be designed to current national guidance

Public or Private Playing Fields

- 11.26** Playing fields can be important for their visual contribution and residential amenity in an otherwise built up urban area and provide informal recreation.
- 11.27** In exceptional circumstances, development on playing fields may be permitted where the sports and recreation facilities can be best retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site and where the developer has demonstrated that the site is the best location for the development and there is no alternative site.
- 11.28** In cases such as these, the Council will expect the developer to make alternative provision of at least equivalent community benefit, quality and size in the locality. In addition, when the Council considers proposals for development on playing fields, it will take into account the adequacy of all other forms of open space provision in the area.
- 11.29** The Council encourages the provision of sports and leisure facilities. More land is needed in the Canterbury district for playing fields, and additional public playing fields are proposed as shown on the Proposals Map (Insets 1 & 3). Additional playing fields may also be provided as part of the strategic allocation sites.

Policy OS1

Proposals for development, which would result in the loss, in whole or in part, of playing fields will only be permitted if:

- a. **The site has first been considered for other recreational/amenity uses in the wider community, particularly where the site provides a strong visual amenity;**
- b. **There is an overriding need for the proposed development which outweighs the loss of the playing fields; or,**
- c. **Sports and recreation facilities can best be retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site; and,**
- d. **An alternative open space is provided of an equivalent amenity and leisure standard in the locality which does not generate significant additional trips by private car; or,**

The developer enters into an agreement to provide an appropriate amount of land as public open space as part of a new development.

Policy OS2

Land is allocated at Greenhill, Herne Bay, as shown on the proposals map (inset 3), for public playing fields.

Policy OS3

Land is allocated adjacent to St Augustines Business park, Swalecliffe, as shown on the proposals map (Inset 5), for junior football pitches.

Proposed new football club

- 11.30** Following the redevelopment of Canterbury City Football Club's stadium at Kingsmead, Canterbury City Council has been seeking a suitable site in Canterbury to accommodate a new football ground. Since the process began in 2007, a total of 29 sites have been assessed and at present land at Ridlands Farm has been identified as the most worthy of investigation and a planning application is currently being prepared which will be subject to consultation.

- 11.31** The proposal being considered is for a football ground with a minimum capacity of 1000 spectators. The football ground will be enclosed by a 1.83m perimeter fence with some car parking provided nearby.
- 11.32** The draft proposals also offer an opportunity to address some of the objectives of both of the Council's Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategies. There is potential as plans develop for some of the remaining land at Ridlands Farm, to be enhanced for informal public recreational uses and/or mini football pitches for community football and grass roots development. It is envisaged that this would improve the access, quality and value of the space for the community from its existing use as farmland.

Policy OS4

Land is allocated at Ridlands Farm, Canterbury as shown on the Proposals map (Inset 1) for Canterbury City Football club and informal public recreational uses including public playing fields.

Urban Areas

- 11.33** Within the urban areas across the District there is a wide range of different types of open space, all of which make an important contribution to the built and natural environment. These open spaces include open areas for informal recreation, public parks and gardens, allotments, cemeteries, playing fields, children's playing space, wildlife areas, scrub, small woods, the beaches, river and stream corridors. They fulfil a number of visual, recreational and amenity functions that help to improve quality of life, the urban fabric and provide accessible recreation facilities. In addition, they can help meet wider sustainability objectives, such as enhancing biodiversity, protecting natural resources, improving the permeability of land for storm drainage and promoting the growth of a diverse economy. Other spaces such as those surrounding ancient monuments, castles, churches and parks are of historic and/or archaeological interest and importance. Open spaces make a valuable contribution to the townscape in the urban areas and development of them would lead to the loss of residential and leisure amenity, and be detrimental to the quality of the built environment.
- 11.34** Urban green space is increasingly valued for social, economic and environmental benefits and the potential for improving public health, community well-being and quality of life. With the public health shift towards prevention, rather than

treatment, and growing understanding that health includes physical, mental and social well-being, focus has increasingly turned to the environment and how the areas in which we live and interact can influence our health.

- 11.35** The benefits of safe, attractive and functional green space in communities include not only the direct benefits of providing a place for physical activity, but also those conferred through “passive” use; i.e., psychological and social benefits of people engaging with nature and the social interactions that take place between people using green space. Parks can also provide communities with the space and opportunity for social interaction. Attractive neighbourhood greens have been shown to promote informal social interaction, strengthening social ties or social capital, which in turn, is conducive to better health.

Canterbury

- 11.36** Canterbury City contains a World Heritage Site and a high number of listed buildings with the Cathedral at its core. It includes a network of green spaces, with Dane John and Westgate Gardens as two principal historic parks. Canterbury has significant recreational space at Thanington, Victoria Recreation ground, St Stephens and the Sturry Road Community Park.
- 11.37** Sturry Road Community Park is one of the largest community-led greenspace regeneration projects in the UK. It has been created by the community for the community. It consists of a 18 hectare (45 acre) public park on the eastern edge of Canterbury which includes play facilities for all ages, an ornamental garden, sports pitch, BMX track, multi-games court, skateboard park, event arena, a mile long circular walking route, jogging, cycling and exercise trails linked to the Canterbury to Fordwich cycle/walking route, newly planted amenity woodland and an ecological park with wildflower meadow. It is part managed and funded solely by a charitable trust composed of local people.
- 11.38** The riverside pathways and corridors in and around Canterbury from Chartham to Fordwich provide links to more than 25 hectares of open space along the river and provide pocket parks. The Riverside Strategy aims to protect and enhance the land alongside the River Stour corridors and Policy OS11 seeks to implement this.

Herne Bay

- 11.39** Herne Bay was developed in Victorian times as a seaside resort. It has a large central multi purpose park, the Memorial Park, plus the seafront and beach within the town. On the fringe of Herne Bay there are four significant pieces of open space in Burton Fields, The Downs, Hampton Pier and Reculver Country Park. The beach is also recognised as an important amenity open space.

- 11.40** The Herne Bay Area Action Plan which covers the period up to 2020, aims to enhance sports and play facilities in the area including the development of water sports facilities, enhancement of the public realm and improvement of public spaces including open spaces. Objective (C) is to provide improved recreational, leisure and community facilities in the town centre for residents.
- 11.41** Herne & Broomfield community park, to the South of Herne Bay, provides a large open space with an associated BMX racing track. There are also local community events held at the community park including star gazing events.

Whitstable

- 11.42** Whitstable retains its distinctive, small fishing and sailing settlement feel and is a honey pot for tourists especially in the summer months. The only significant public park is Whitstable Castle, which was restored in 2010 following a Heritage lottery fund grant of £2 million. It now provides quality open space with the addition of a play area. The park and adjacent tea garden is now managed by a charitable trust made up of local people.
- 11.43** The only other significant amenity open spaces are Tankerton Slopes and Duncan Down which include a mix of semi natural areas and amenity open space. In Whitstable there are three significant areas of recreational space, Cornwallis Circle, Columbia Avenue, and Westmeads Recreation Ground. However, the beach is also recognised as important amenity open space.

Green Gaps

- 11.44** The objective of the green gap policy is to retain separate identities of existing settlements, by preventing their coalescence through development.
- 11.45** There are national objectives that restrain built development outside the urban areas and in the countryside which is supported by the Council. The allocation of green gaps on the proposals map (see also Inserts 1,3 and 5) supplements these.
- 11.46** Historically, some development has occurred outside the urban areas, that has led to the gradual erosion of the open countryside and coalescence between built up areas. The Council is concerned that this gradual coalescence between existing built up areas not only harms the character of the open countryside, but is having an adverse impact on the setting and special character of villages. Therefore, this local plan has proposed an extension to the green gap between Sturry and Broad Oak and a new green gap between Canterbury and Bridge to ensure the countryside between these areas is protected.

- 11.47** The green gaps have been specifically identified as they lie between built up areas, whether they are villages or urban areas, which are gradually expanding, particularly along the road frontages. The designations have been limited to 'pinch points', where settlements, often due to linear expansion, are at a particular risk of coalescence.
- 11.48** These areas are considered critical to the objective of retaining separate identities of settlements, and many of them have come under development pressure in the past, including proposals for isolated development, and may again in the future. Existing development constraint policies remain the most important means of countryside restraint and this will remain unchanged outside the urban areas. It is therefore important that there is not a perceived tiering of countryside protection. This designation draws attention to specific areas where inappropriately located new development could lead to coalescence between settlements.
- 11.49** This need not be as a result of further isolated residential development, but other minor development related to activities such as agriculture, recreation and the keeping of horses. Proposals for development within the green gaps will be considered with particular regard to siting, design and external appearance.
- 11.50** The following Green Gaps are shown on the Proposals Map (see also Insets 1,3 and 5)
- Between the urban areas Herne Bay and Whitstable
 - Between Canterbury and Sturry
 - Between Sturry and Westbere
 - Between Sturry and Hersden
 - Between Sturry and Broad Oak
 - Between Blean and Rough Common
 - Between Canterbury and Tyler Hill
 - Between Canterbury & Bridge

Policy OS5

Within the Green Gaps identified on the Proposals Map (see also Insets 1,3 and 5) development will only be permitted where it does not:

- a. **Significantly affect the open character of the Green Gap, or lead to coalescence between existing settlements;**
- b. **Result in new isolated and obtrusive development within the Green Gap.**

Proposals for open sports and recreational uses will be permitted subject to there being no overriding conflict with other policies and the wider objectives of the Plan. Any related built development should satisfy criteria (a) and (b) above and be kept to a minimum necessary to supplement the open sports and recreation uses, and be sensitively located and of a high quality design.

The Herne Bay and Whitstable Green Gap

- 11.51** The council has successfully sought to protect the built up areas of Herne Bay and Whitstable from coalescence, through its application of a 'Green Gap' policy. This approach remains one of the Council's key objectives for both coastal towns. Within the Green Gap, the Council considers that open air recreation, leisure and education uses would be appropriate on the basis that the objectives behind the Green Gap allocation are not breached. The land, although serving its purpose by preventing inappropriate development, could be utilised for more beneficial uses whilst still achieving the Council's objective.
- 11.52** The Council encourages the provision of open air sports, recreational uses, allotments and community gardens along the coast and the green gap is considered an appropriate location for these uses. As such, the following policy whilst seeking to protect the open character and function of the green gap makes provision for the open use of the land and appropriately located and designed small buildings ancillary to the use of the land.

Policy OS6

Within the Herne Bay and Whitstable Green Gap identified on the Proposals Map (Insets 3 and 5), development will only be permitted where it does not:

- a. **Result in a material expansion of the built up confines of the urban areas of Herne Bay or Whitstable; or**
- b. **Significantly affect the open character or separating function of the Green Gap; and**
- c. **Result in new isolated development within the Green Gap**

In those areas within the green gap where education, leisure uses or allotments are promoted, planning permission will be granted where in addition to the considerations set out in (a) to (c) above, built development shall be incidental, necessary to the function of those uses and located to have a minimal impact upon the open character of the green gap. All development will be subject to Design Policies DBE7, DBE8 & DBE9 of this local plan.

Rural

- 11.53** In the rural areas there is access via open land and public rights of way to an existing asset of visual and informal open space. In villages, the Council's emphasis is on retaining the established pattern and character of the settlements and not on allocating open space. Different types and patterns of open space and buildings are found in each settlement, and the provision of village greens and existing informal and formal space contributes to the character and appearance of these areas, whilst providing necessary amenity value. Green infrastructure also relates to the rural environment. In the wider countryside, green infrastructure is often viewed at a larger scale, encompassing large country or regional parks, extensive habitats, major landscape features such as river corridors and flood meadows landscapes, and the identification of wide green corridors and ecological networks. Green infrastructure at this scale can provide the wider framework and context for planning green infrastructure at a more local level.
- 11.54** In the rural areas some villages, particularly the larger villages, contain a central open space, village green or recreation area, which provide opportunities for recreation sport and play. There is access to many areas of woodland, marshland, local and national nature reserves and general open space.

- 11.55** The District contains extensive woodland such as The Blean, Larkey Valley Wood and Denge Wood. The Blean woodland is of national importance due to its ancient woodland status. The area includes a number of sites protected for their national and international wildlife interest.

Countryside

- 11.56** The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) fulfils the Government's commitment to give people greater freedom to explore open countryside. The City Council will work in partnership with Kent County Council to ensure that the existing public access to the countryside is protected and where possible enhanced in appropriate locations. Improved access can also relieve pressure on popular, congested attractions by introducing visitors to other areas. This improved accessibility must be carefully designed with a view to conserving the countryside. When new, large settlements are created it is essential that connections to existing rights of way in the locality form part of the landscape design strategy.
- 11.57** The countryside is coming under increasing pressure from new forms of leisure and recreation and intensification of existing uses. The Council will support proposals for leisure facilities in the District where they do not conflict with the criteria in Policy OS7 or with other policies of the plan. In considering proposals for leisure uses in the countryside, care must be taken to conserve the landscape, wildlife and natural resources of the District. Built development associated with proposals of this nature must be ancillary to the main use and should be appropriate in scale and design and be unobtrusively located, preferably within or adjacent to an existing settlement.

Policy OS7

Proposals for sports and recreation facilities in the countryside will only be permitted where:

- a. They are well related to an existing settlement;**
- b. There is no detrimental impact on landscape interests, protected species, sites or features of nature conservation interest or on sites of archaeological or historical importance;**
- c. There is no adverse impact upon residential amenity;**
- d. Access and parking provisions are acceptable, the use does not significantly increase traffic to the detriment of the rural area or highway safety and the site is accessible by a range of transport modes;**
- e. Buildings and other related development are well designed, appropriate in scale and function to the use of the land and sensitively located to retain the openness of the area;**
- f. The rural character of the area is safeguarded.**

Protection of Existing Open Space

- 11.58** The overall deficiency in open space in the District, as previously mentioned, means that the Council is especially determined to prevent the loss of existing open space within the urban boundaries, whether publicly or privately owned, by reason of its contribution towards recreational or visual amenity.
- 11.59** Open space can be lost by gradual erosion through development and this is an action addressed by the Council's open space strategy. The loss of open spaces could lead to town cramming and be detrimental to the character of the built environment, undermining quality of life and the progress towards urban renaissance. Therefore, this local plan has proposed additional areas for the Protection of Existing Open Space as shown on the proposals map and Insets 1,3 and 5.
- 11.60** Certain land uses may be compatible with the open space protection designation in appropriate locations. For example, some leisure uses requiring a minimal amount of built form may enhance an area or provide a valuable amenity resource.

- 11.61** In exceptional circumstances where development on protected existing open space cannot be avoided the developer will be expected to provide compensatory accessible open space of comparable quality, size and character in the vicinity.
- 11.62** In some cases, the open space protection areas overlap with other designations e.g. nature conservation; an example of this is Tankerton Slopes, which is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Such sites are also protected as open space because if circumstances change and the reason for designating the SSSI no longer existed, the City Council would still wish to retain the area as open space and resist development.
- 11.63** There are protection of existing open space areas along the Thanet Way, A2990 that are considered important. They are part of a larger entity of good quality open land, playing fields and farmland, both sides of Thanet Way, which still has coherence, and which mitigates much of the inevitably adverse environmental effects of a major highway running through an urban area of no great visual distinction. These areas have a positive amenity value for local residents and act as a buffer alongside the Thanet Way therefore any development within these areas is likely to be resisted.

Policy OS8

Development which would involve the loss of open spaces and play areas within residential areas which contribute to the visual or recreational amenity of the area will be refused.

Public Open Space held in Trust

- 11.64** The Council holds various parcels of land in Trust. Initially, via the King George V Memorial Trust process and, from 2012, in recognition of Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Fields project. Fields in Trust launched a national campaign to protect 2012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities all across the country as a permanent living legacy of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
- 11.65** The adoption of a site as a Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Field will bring the following benefits:
- Create a strong identity for the area
 - Work with community groups to develop projects
 - Manage and protect the environment
 - Support community groups to take ownership of their local spaces
- 11.66** Protection has been sought and granted under this scheme for the following sites:
- Herne Bay coastal park (from Hampton to Reculver)
 - Tankerton slopes, Whitstable
 - Mariner's View, Whitstable
 - Hollow Lane, Canterbury
 - Cherry Orchard, Herne
- 11.67** These sites along with the King George V Field in Canterbury are registered with Fields in Trust as a trust but managed by the local authority and protection is given in perpetuity. These sites are shown the Proposal maps (Insets 1,3 and 5) as areas for the Protection of Existing Open Space.

Policy OS9

Proposals which would result in the loss of protected existing open space as shown on the Proposals Map (all Insets), will only be permitted if:

- a. **There would be no material harm to the contribution the protected open space makes to the visual or recreational amenity of the area;**
- b. **Where there would be material harm, this would be balanced against demonstrable need for the development;**
- c. **There is no alternative site available to accommodate the proposed development, and any harm that might result from the development could be offset by the provision of other open space of comparable quality, size, character and usability in the locality;**
- d. **The open space has been assessed by the Council as making no positive contribution to its overall strategy on open space.**

Provision of Outdoor Playing Space Through New Development

- 11.68** The Council considers that it is appropriate that new development supports the provision of on or off-site open space and outdoor playing space in appropriate circumstances in order to achieve the objectives of the Local Plan.
- 11.69** The Council considers that good landscape design is required to properly integrate built form and open space. The overall objective is for residential development to be well designed, with open space integrated and seen to be essential to the layout and design of the development. Open space should be functional, robust and accessible for all residents. The use of open space in housing design is considered in policy DBE7 & DBE15 of this Local Plan.
- 11.70** There is not only a need to incorporate areas of informal recreational open space within all residential developments, but also a need to make provision for outdoor playing space, ranging from small play areas for pre-school children to playing fields for adults. As part of all new housing development the Council will require the provision of, or financial contribution towards six categories of outdoor space, semi-natural areas, strategic urban parks and green corridors, amenity greenspace, children's play areas, open space for sport, allotments or community gardens.

11.71 Local Quantity Open Space Provision Standards for new residential development-open space typology requirements per 1000 new residents are as follows:

Parks	0.3 ha
Green corridors	0.3 ha
Sports fields	0.87 ha
Amenity greenspace	1.3 ha
Play areas	0.3 ha
Semi natural	4.0 ha
Allotments	15 plots

11.72 The Council is committed to the principle of collecting Development Contributions for open space requirements. A Development Contributions Supplementary Planning Document was adopted in 2007. This sets out contributions relating to housing, education, transport, open space and other community benefits in relation to new developments. This will continue to be used until either an updated SPD or a Community Infrastructure Levy is adopted.

11.73 The size and context of a proposed development will determine the type and nature of the open space required. In most large scale 'greenfield' developments it will be appropriate to provide on site open space. However, in some high density urban contexts the provision of open space may conflict with an established high density character.

11.74 Where it is inappropriate to provide open space within a development, the developer will be required to make a financial contribution for "off-site" provision in accordance with specified rates related to the Council's open space provision standards as set out in paragraph 11.71. These were established in the Council's Open Space Strategy following public consultation.

Policy OS10

New housing development shall make provision for appropriate outdoor space, including semi-natural areas, strategic urban parks and green corridors, amenity greenspace, children's play areas, open space for sport, allotments or community gardens proportionate to the likely number of people who will live there.

Where the development does not allow for the provision of such open space on site, developers will be expected to make financial contribution towards the provision, or improvement of open space or recreational facilities elsewhere in the locality, through entering into a legal agreement or another suitable mechanism. New open space that is created through new developments will automatically be protected and Policy OS9 will apply.

Green Infrastructure

- 11.75** The Council's Open Space Strategy aims to develop, protect and enhance Green Infrastructure. The Council's Open Space Strategy aims to develop, protect and enhance Green Infrastructure. Green Infrastructure is the network of green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect villages, towns and cities. In rural areas this can include fields, woodlands, hedgerows, country parks, rivers and lakes. In urban areas it can include domestic gardens, street trees, sports pitches, civic spaces, green roofs and walls.
- 11.76** Providing green infrastructure also emphasises the importance of connecting the many individual natural and fabricated elements and space to enhance a local area. Green infrastructure can be planned, designed and managed as a network so that the whole is more than the sum in parts. We can benefit because such networks help our future urban and rural landscape to address challenges such as climate change, flood risk, water management, food supply, providing efficient and renewable energy and creating comfortable, attractive places in which to live.
- 11.77** A green infrastructure strategy will be produced jointly by Canterbury City Council with other local authorities and the North Kent Environment Group, this will aim to create a sustainable green infrastructure network that goes beyond the District boundary to ensure all areas are interlinked.

Policy OS11

Proposals for new development should ensure that :

- a. **Green infrastructure is planned, designed and managed to conserve and enhance the distinctive character and special qualities of, rural and urban landscapes, and the identity of settlements. Where feasible as part of all new developments and proposals, developers will need to establish and extend green space networks as corridors for movement by foot and cycle, as havens for wildlife and natural habitats and for leisure, amenity and recreational use. Where practicable green linkages should be encouraged from within existing settlements to the open countryside.**
- b. **Existing open space is protected and improved as part of these networks, which where possible, should extend through major new development sites and connect directly with community facilities, employment areas and transport hubs.**

11.78 Policy SP6, relating to the green infrastructure strategy, should also be referred to when considering green infrastructure in new developments and open space.

Riverside Strategy

11.79 The riverside strategy aims to create a network of access routes including long distance walks, town centre footpath links, riverside paths and cycle routes from Chartham to Sturry. The wildlife interest and biodiversity of the river will be enhanced.

11.80 The Riverside Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance 2003 is in the process of being updated. Policy OS12 safeguards a route adjacent to the river, and is shown on the Proposals Map (Inset 2). There are also a number of open space allocations associated with this strategy and these are shown on the Proposals Map (Inset 2)

11.81 All sites including future development sites that are adjacent to the river will be expected to contribute to and make provision for a riverside route for pedestrians and cyclists.

Policy OS12

Land identified on the Proposals Map (Inset 2) along the River Stour corridors in Canterbury City will be protected from development to enable its future use and contribution towards the riverside corridor, as set out in the Riverside Strategy adopted by the Council.

Allotments

11.82 The Council has produced an allotment strategy and its aims are :

- **Protect:** Due consideration and protection should be given under the planning system, to ensure the needs of current and future generations of allotment gardeners are taken care of, and inappropriate development does not take place.
- **Invest:** Allotments should be managed and developed so they are fit for purpose.
- **Access:** Work towards creating opportunities for all who want an allotment garden to have access to one, where reasonably practicable.

11.83 It is important that allotments are retained where they can perform an important open space function and contribute to the Council's wider sustainable development objectives. It is important that allotments are sited in accessible locations that people can walk to from residential areas. They contribute to enhanced quality of life in terms of health, social activity, urban 'green' space and provide valuable wildlife habitat.

11.84 All local authorities have a duty to provide a sufficient number of allotments and to publicise and let them to local residents. For the urban area this is Canterbury City Council, however in rural areas it is the parish council. This is enshrined in legislation.

11.85 Although there are no guidelines as to the level of provision, the allotment strategy adopted a spatial model based on the recommendations from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners of 15 plots per 1000 households in terms of provision and a catchment of 1,000 metre radius based on the 2009 allotments survey.

11.86 Community garden areas can take many forms but are characterised by people working together for mutual benefit and help to others. They can help to regenerate neighbourhoods, strengthen community bonds, produce food in a sustainable fashion, promote gardening as physical and mental health therapies,

provide recreation and provide training for the socially disadvantaged. They have no particular legal status, so land and agreements must be in accordance with allotment law.

- 11.87** Additional allotments and/or community gardens will also be provided as part of the strategic development sites.

Policy OS13

Land is allocated at Lime Kiln Road for a future allotments/community garden site, see Proposals Map (Inset 1)

Policy OS14

Permission will only be granted for development proposals that involve the loss of existing allotment land and/or community garden land if both the following criteria are met :

- a. **Demand for allotment land and/or community garden land within the locality no longer exists, or suitable alternative provision of allotment land, of comparable quality, can be made available locally; and**
- b. **The allotment land or community garden land is not suitable for, or not required to rectify any local shortages of, public outdoor playing space.**

Chapter 12: Quality of Life

Community Development

- 12.1** The Local Plan is important in promoting community development and social infrastructure and the contribution these can make in improving the quality of life for all people in all areas of the District. Local authorities have the power to promote social, economic and environmental well-being, for the District, having regard to this when using the 'power of well-being'.
- 12.2** Community facilities are those, which are provided for the benefit of the community, such as schools and other education provision, shops, post offices, libraries, doctors surgeries, places of worship, village halls, health, social care, local shopping, transport, sport, youth and community services, recreation and amenity space, culture and the arts, playgrounds and open space.
- 12.3** Access to facilities and improving quality of life are essential elements of the Canterbury District Local Plan and the East Kent Sustainable Community Strategy and where possible the Local Plan should assist with delivering community facilities in the right locations. Such facilities might be associated with, and delivered by, new development, but 'access for all' and identifying gaps in provision across the wider community is essential. A wide range of services is also essential to community well being.
- 12.4** Through partnerships and community involvement, planning policy will seek to address unmet needs in our communities. Planning and development activity must ensure that new communities do not place pressure on existing facilities and indeed actively seek to improve access for existing communities. In this way it should facilitate and promote sustainable and inclusive patterns of development, contributing to the creation of safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities.
- 12.5** Through the development of this local plan, the City Council will need to work with stakeholders, such as Kent County Council, the Health and Well Being Board, other providers of community facilities, voluntary organisations and the wider community to identify the demand for facilities and identify deficiencies. It will need to consider the most efficient method of meeting such needs, including promoting shared facilities, allocation of sites, the collection and use of development contributions, and provision as part of development. Community involvement in the planning process should assist in promoting sustainable communities, with pride in their locality, and with functioning local community networks. The Corporate Plan action plan sets out various actions, one of which is to involve local communities in planning sustainable communities of the future.

- 12.6** The East Kent vision is to have fairer, stronger and healthier communities in reviving coastal towns, enjoying high quality of life. A high quality, integrated transport network, with reduced congestion and pollution, offering a wide choice of accessible transport to all sections of the community, is also envisaged.
- 12.7** The Vision for Kent 2012-2022 encourages a more resilient society where local communities identify local priorities and have more influence and involvement in the shape and delivery of services in their community with the support of elected representatives to work with them to address the priorities.
- 12.8** There are plans to encourage the growth of charities and social enterprises that can take on more responsibilities for providing services and to support the voluntary and community sector to enhance its capacity, innovate and become more entrepreneurial so the sector can grow and can deliver more value for the public sector, whilst retaining their independence.
- 12.9** The Government is committed to developing strong, vibrant and sustainable communities and to promoting community cohesion in both urban and rural areas, in order to meet the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities.
- 12.10** The National Planning Policy Framework states that "The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities". The NPPF also considers that "To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies should plan positively for the provision of shared space, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments". "Planning should guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day to day needs".

Social Infrastructure

- 12.11** Social infrastructure is a term that describes the wide range of community, leisure, health and educational facilities which contribute to the quality of life of the district and local communities. This includes 'formal' facilities such as surgeries or schools, and 'informal' facilities including village halls, play areas, places of worship, cemeteries and community centres. Informal facilities need to be local, accessible and appropriate to the identified needs of the particular community and, in particular, sustainable. Their provision in the right location and appropriately designed is therefore essential in the implementation of a successful community strategy.

- 12.12** Where a rural location is proposed for informal facilities and it has been demonstrated that there are no suitable land or buildings available within the locality, the Council will support community initiatives which are appropriate in scale to their surroundings and which seek to reuse existing buildings. Where community uses are proposed in new buildings, the Council will ensure that the new development is closely related to an existing settlement and not isolated in the open countryside so as to have an adverse impact on its character and appearance. The need for the development should be demonstrated in either case.
- 12.13** In appropriate circumstances, proposals that will lead to more people using and putting further pressure on the use and capacity of existing local community buildings, will be expected to make a financial contribution towards maintaining or upgrading them. Policy SP7 of this Local Plan will be applied in appropriate cases, and a contribution will be sought to offset the impact upon those existing facilities.

Policy QL1

Proposals for new buildings or uses for local communities to provide social infrastructure and community facilities will be encouraged and granted planning permission on the basis that any new building is appropriately designed and located, and highway safety and residential amenity would not be prejudiced.

Services and Facilities for Sustainable Communities

- 12.14** Sustainable Communities are places where people want to live and work now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run and offer quality of opportunities and good services for all. For communities to be sustainable they must offer decent homes at prices people can afford, good quality jobs for local people, good public transport, schools, health care, shops and a clean, safe environment. People also need open public space where they can relax and have the ability to have a say on the way their neighbourhood is run.
- 12.15** The diversity of local communities must be taken into account to promote social inclusion and maximise life chances and independence. People with disabilities, older people and the young are less mobile than the majority of the population but need access to a wide range of facilities, therefore, provision has to be made to include services and facilities that are accessible to all in order to create

sustainable communities. Policy DBE 8 of this local plan will require developments to meet the highest standards of accessibility and inclusion and sets out 4 criteria to achieve this.

Village Facilities and Services

- 12.16** Village facilities and services are important for serving and meeting local needs. These village facilities in the parished areas often provide the focal point for the communities they serve and help to enhance village life. The Council is concerned at the increasing loss of village facilities such as the village shop, post office, public house and hall. This can have an adverse effect on the well-being of the local community and can result in an increase in the need to travel to the nearest available facility. This often puts the least mobile groups of society at a disadvantage. The loss of these facilities can dramatically change the character of the village or area as they often serve a wider catchment than just the settlement they are located in.
- 12.17** The loss of these services also has an impact on rural employment and the wider rural economy. The Council therefore aims to protect such services and facilities unless there are strong reasons to show that this is unrealistic.

Policy QL2

Within the villages, the Council will permit the use or extension of existing residential properties or farm or other appropriate buildings such as village halls and churches, to provide convenience shops or other local services, unless there is an overriding conflict with other policies in the Local Plan.

- 12.18** In order to establish genuine proposals for the loss of existing village facilities to other uses, the Council will require the applicant to demonstrate that there is no longer a need or demand for the particular facility by considering how the existing facility has been managed, marketed and operated for 2 years.
- 12.19** Village shops and post offices provide for the essential day to day convenience shopping needs of the local community. They offer important retail facilities in particular for the elderly and less mobile. Village public houses often provide a focus for community life and reduce the need to travel. Rural communities should have reasonable access to such facilities particularly as public transport is limited in these areas.
- 12.20** The Council will seek to resist the loss of local shops and services where this would result in a significant or absolute loss of facilities to a community. The Council will also seek to retain the shop front in circumstances where permission is granted

to enable the premises to be reinstated as a shop should the future opportunity arise or to ensure that the building remains in keeping with the area, such as a conservation area.

Policy QL3

The Council will not permit the loss of village and community facilities in the parishes, such as public houses, shops and post offices to other uses unless it can be demonstrated that:

- a) The use is no longer viable, the business has been actively marketed for 2 years with no genuine interest and there is no longer a continuing demand for the use or facility; or,**
- b) There is alternative provision for a similar type of use within an acceptable walking distance; and**
- c) There would be no detrimental impact on the rural character and community.**

Farm Shops

- 12.21** Farm shops are one possible form of farm diversification and can provide a new source of employment in the rural area. They are also important for promoting the purchase of locally grown produce and regional speciality foods and other rural wares. When assessing applications for farm shop buildings of this nature, consideration will be given to their scale and location, visual impact and their impact on local villages and the surrounding area.
- 12.22** Farm shops can also contribute in providing a valuable community service for the elderly or less mobile by being encouraged to adopt box delivery schemes or collection points within settlements.

Policy QL4

The Council will grant planning permission for farm shops provided :

- a) There is no detrimental impact on local shops or on the character of the surrounding area;**
- b) Access and parking provisions are acceptable and the use does not significantly increase traffic to the detriment of the rural area or highway safety;**
- c) There is no detrimental impact on residential amenity;**
- d) There is no overriding conflict with other policies in the Plan.**

Transport, Community Services and Community Buildings

- 12.23** The Transport Strategy 2004 is currently being updated. This will have proper regard to people with disabilities, and those who for whatever reason are limited in their travel options. The strategy looks to address the reasons for social exclusion and tackle the barriers through a range of measures that not only support the vulnerable but empower local communities to provide the transport they need.
- 12.24** The draft transport strategy aims to improve access to services, goods and opportunities to all through supporting independence and reducing social exclusion by improving transport links to key destinations and bringing services closer to communities through supported bus services, community transport, taxis and concessionary travel schemes.
- 12.25** Kent County Council has a major countrywide project, Supporting Independence Programme, aimed at tackling dependency culture. There are various other schemes available to communities to enable them to access services and facilities and these are all set out in the draft transport strategy.
- 12.26** Parking facilities, access controls, public transport provision, highway design and the design, layout and physical environment are among the aspects which need to be considered. The Council will also continue to improve the pedestrian environment by promoting access to all public areas. This will ensure equal access for all including people with disabilities.

Policy QL5

Provision will be made to accommodate local community services within new residential development and mixed use developments.

New community services will be located where they are accessible by walking or cycling and by public transport from the area they serve. Whenever practical they should be located within urban or local centre areas.

Residential development will not be permitted until the required funding for the community services and facilities it requires has been identified and agreed.

- 12.27** The Strategic development sites are set out in Policy SP3 of this Local Plan and provision will be made to ensure that community services and facilities are integrated as part of these new development sites. Policy QL5 will apply to all strategic development sites as well as any other new development sites coming forward through the planning application process.
- 12.28** Some communities need more specialist services as a result of differences relating to their age, culture, disability, lifestyle, or other factors, which result in vulnerability. Examples of such communities include older people, young families, black and minority ethnic communities, people with disabilities, student campuses and people who live in deprivation. The Equalities Act 2010 has two main purposes, to harmonise discrimination law, and to strengthen the law to support progress on equality. Policy QL1 of this local plan supports new community facilities.
- 12.29** The Council's Corporate Plan aims to put people first by understanding their needs, shaping their services around them, and doing our best to help improve the quality of life for all our residents.
- 12.30** The aim of the Council's Corporate Plan is to involve local communities in planning sustainable communities for the future and to positively encourage the development of the right mix and type of homes to meet local needs.

Policy QL6

Planning permission will not be granted for development involving the loss of public or privately operated community buildings or sites, or uses for community purposes, unless there is no demonstrable need for the use of the facilities within the locality, and it is demonstrated that other uses to serve the local community could not operate from the buildings or land.

Community Spaces and Facilities

- 12.31** The Council's aim, as stated in the Corporate Plan, is to have made a significant contribution to improving health and well-being in our district and to have more people leading physically active lifestyles.
- 12.32** The Council's objective is to improve the distribution, accessibility, quality and connectivity of open space. This is seen as a key component to raising the quality of life of the district's residents and visitors.
- 12.33** Urban green space is increasingly valued for its amenity value, social, economic and environmental benefits and the potential for improving public health, community well-being and quality of life. With the public health shift towards prevention, rather than treatment, and growing understanding that health includes physical, mental and social well-being focus has increasingly turned to the environment and how the areas in which we live and interact can influence our health. Quality green space is widely regarded as a key feature of health promoting neighbourhood environments. The parks and green spaces in and around our towns and cities improve the health, well-being and quality of life of individuals.
- 12.34** The Canterbury District is fortunate to have a broad range of leisure facilities as well as many parks, open spaces and beaches. The benefits of safe, attractive and functional green space in communities include not only the direct benefits of providing a place for physical activity, but also those conferred through 'passive' use; ie, psychological and social benefits of people engaging with nature and the social interactions that take place between people using green space. Attractive neighbourhood greens have been shown to promote informal social interaction, strengthening social ties or social capital, which in turn, is conducive to better health.
- 12.35** The Council is working jointly with other local authorities and the North Kent Environment Group to produce a Green Infrastructure Strategy. As part of this strategy, green infrastructure should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability.
- 12.36** The Council recognises that it has an important role to play in supporting local people to increase lifelong participation in sport, physical activity and active lifestyle choices. Taking part in regular exercise not only improves physical health but also mental well-being. It contributes to improving broader public health and reduces the burden on local healthcare services. The Council can increase participation in a number of ways, for example, through our planning system we should provide for a diverse range of sporting facilities as well as supporting our

existing leisure facilities. The Council will achieve this by promoting and encouraging the use of informal spaces, such as countryside, parks, open spaces and beaches, to improve physical activity levels.

- 12.37** When considering protection and provision for sporting, leisure and open space activities Policy DBE7 and Policies OS1, OS2, OS3, OS4, OS6, OS8, OS9, OS10 & OS11 will apply.

Policy QL7

Land is allocated on the Proposals Map for community purposes on :

- **Land south of Greenhill, Herne Bay**
- **Land at end of Vauxhall Avenue, Canterbury.**

In this Policy, community purposes includes social and physical infrastructure provided to meet identifiable local need. This could include buildings for local groups and the community, playing fields, car parking, areas of open space, allotments, community gardens and affordable housing, depending on an assessment of local needs.

Health Facilities

- 12.38** High quality health facilities are a key element in supporting the well-being of the community. These form part of the District's social infrastructure and their provision and availability to the District's communities are an important element in the Council's objectives for social well-being within them. The Local Plan seeks to contribute to enabling health provision alongside the Council's Community Plan. The Local Plan, therefore, looks to provide a link between the development process and the provision of health infrastructure.
- 12.39** Canterbury has a good network of primary health care facilities which, in the Council's view, must be safeguarded and enhanced. New development will bring new pressures on these facilities, and the Council will ensure that provision for new and enhanced health facilities form part of these new development proposals. Health facilities also play a key part in acting as a focus for the community in wider initiatives for community development, for example providing for 'health living/learning initiatives' , support for community projects and dual use of facilities.

- 12.40** The Council will continue to urge the providers of the District's health facilities to ensure continual investment and upgrading of these facilities to meet growing demand.

Policy QL8

The Council will ensure that adequate provision is made for health facilities arising from the impact of new development, and that appropriate mechanisms are secured through legal agreements to deliver these facilities.

- 12.41** Good quality health facilities (primary and acute) are also important to the wider economic well-being of the community, and are seen as a key factor in attracting investment and in catering for the needs of the large number of visitors to the District. Policy QL9 promotes and safeguards the Kent & Canterbury Hospital's strategic role for the district and wider area.
- 12.42** The Council considers that the provision of new health facilities should be supported as part of its Corporate Plan pledge to seek to create sustainable communities for the future, both at strategic sites in the Local Plan, where appropriate, but also as a more general approach. However, the ongoing changes to the management of health service functions and services makes it difficult to know exactly what new facilities will be needed in which specific locations. In order to address this uncertainty, Policy QL10 supports the provision of new medical and health facilities for which there is a known need, subject to environmental, transport and other considerations. This policy approach has been developed in discussion with the former NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust.
- 12.43** The Health and Well Being Board will be consulted on future provision required for new health care provision and facilities.

Policy QL9

Land is allocated at Kent & Canterbury Hospital as shown on the Proposals Map(Inset1) for health-related development.

Policy QL10

The Council will support the provision of new medical and health facilities subject to Policies DBE4, DBE6, DBE7 & DBE8 of this Local Plan.

Air Quality

- 12.44** The Council is strongly committed to ensuring the air quality within the District remains at an acceptable limit, and will continue to monitor and assess air quality as part of this commitment.
- 12.45** Under the Environment Act 1995, the Government published the Air Quality Strategy in 2000. All local authorities have had to carry out a review and assessment of the air quality in their districts to see if Government limits for air quality for seven key pollutants would be met. In areas where these limits cannot be met, Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) would have to be established and ways of reducing air pollution considered and set in place. The Council undertook its first round of review and assessment between 1998 and 2002.
- 12.46** The first round concluded that UK Air Quality Objectives (AQOS) would be achieved for all pollutants and no further action was required at that time. However, the review and assessment procedure is an on-going process and legislation requires that a further review and assessments be undertaken. The main source of air pollution in the Canterbury District comes from vehicle pollution, which can lead to high levels of particles (PM10) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).
- 12.47** Since 2002, three further rounds of review and assessment have been carried out. The initial Update and Screening Assessment (USA) in 2003 showed that all air quality objectives (AQO's) would be met. However, an Annual Progress Report submitted for 2004 showed increases in NO₂ and the conclusion was that the annual objective for NO₂ might not be achieved. A Detailed Assessment was undertaken in 2005, which confirmed these findings. The Council's first AQMA was declared in May 2006 in Broad Street/Military Road. An Action Plan has been drawn up to improve air quality in the area.
- 12.48** During the most recent rounds of review and assessments (2006 to 2011), additional areas where air quality objective might not be met have been identified. The Annual Progress Report in 2007 identified pollution hotspots in North Lane, St Peter's Place and Rheims Way.
- 12.49** A detailed assessment in 2008 confirmed these exceedences. The USA in 2009 highlighted further hotspot areas including Wincheap, Sturry Road and St Dunstan's Street. All of these hotspot areas have been studied further and this has resulted in the declaration of a new AQMA in November 2011, known as AQMA 2 - Canterbury City Centre. AQMA 2 encompasses the original Broad Street/Military Road AQMA.
- 12.50** It is essential therefore to consider air quality when making decisions with regard to future developments, transport and pollution control issues. It will be particularly important to ensure that traffic conditions are not allowed to deteriorate as this

could result in worsening air quality, possible future breaches of limits and the declaration of more AQMAs. Reference should be made to the Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership's document "Air Quality and Planning Technical Guidance" when considering development that may have an impact on the AQMA. The Council are working with Kent Highways in the scope of the Local Transport Plan and the Air Quality Action Plan to look at ways to reduce NO₂ levels within the AQMA. In addition, developments involving, for example, houses and schools close to heavily trafficked roads must be looked at carefully to ensure that the occupants are not exposed to levels of pollutants above the air quality limits.

- 12.51** It is important that air quality is given due consideration in the planning process at the earliest possible stage. It is not sufficient to simply demonstrate that the impact of a development is no worse than the existing or previous land use on a particular site. Where developments are proposed within or that could impact on an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) mitigation measures should be considered as standard practice, particularly in cases where the development is new and does not replace an existing use. This is especially important where the development has the potential to result in a deterioration of air quality or introduce new sensitive receptors to the area. For example, provision for a large number of parking spaces, significantly increasing the number of trips in and out of an area, significant heating plant or new residential houses close to a busy road.
- 12.52** In some instances, mitigation may not be appropriate or feasible and the development may be deemed to be unacceptable. Developer contribution may be required in some instances to assist planned or ongoing air quality improvement projects.
- 12.53** Air quality assessments will be required in many instances and in particular for the following :
- Development is likely to have a significant impact on an AQMA
 - Development has the potential to cause a deterioration in local air quality (i.e. once completed it will increase pollutant concentrations)
 - If the development is located in an area of poor air quality (exposing future occupiers high background levels of air pollution)
 - If the demolition/construction phase will have a significant impact on the local environment (e.g. through fugitive dust and exhaust emissions)
- 12.54** Planning considerations can help reduce exposure and allow a development to take place:
- Building layout – eg. moving the building line back from the street/creating gaps in the facades - avoiding street canyons

- Building design – eg. not putting habitable rooms closest to the road, limiting residential to 1st floor or above.
- Consideration of mechanical ventilation
- The use of outside space
- Car free/reduced car schemes or travel plans

12.55 It is crucial to involve the relevant people at an early stage so pre-application discussion can take place, especially with any larger developments in/around the City centre.

Policy QL11

Development that could directly or indirectly result in material additional air pollutants and worsening levels of air quality within the area surrounding the development site will not be permitted unless acceptable measures have been taken as part of the proposal.

Sensitive development (such as housing) will not normally be permitted in Air Quality Management Areas.

Potentially Polluting Development

- 12.56** Some activities have the potential to result in the contamination or despoiling of the land on which they take place. In order that this does not cause problems in future years, planning permission for such potentially polluting uses will be conditional on suitable arrangements to ensure that appropriate remedial measures will be taken where necessary. The Council will have regard to any new guidance relating to Planning and Pollution Control which will ensure necessary mitigation measures are put in place. The Kent & Medway Environment Protection Technical Group are in the process of producing guidance that will set out guidance and standards to be used throughout the Kent authorities.
- 12.57** The National Planning Policy Framework aims to minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment. It states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by preventing new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability and by remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land where appropriate.
- 12.58** On some occasions new development may cause noise or light pollution or be proposed near to an existing noise or light pollution source, for example, the use of aircraft/helicopters or the use of floodlights near to residential properties. The Council will seek to ensure that adjoining uses are compatible as far as the potential for noise and light pollution is concerned, and this will be considered under Policies DBE3 and DBE13 and the supporting text of this plan and in accordance with any new guidance relating to Planning and Noise. Applicants may be required to submit a noise assessment and/or a health impact assessment and/or a lighting strategy relating to the proposal to the Local Planning Authority.

Policy QL12

When granting planning permission for development which could potentially result in pollution, the Council will impose conditions or seek agreements to ensure subsequent mitigation measures are undertaken.

Waste Management and Recycling

- 12.59** Kent County Council is the Waste Planning and Waste Disposal Authority and therefore determines proposals relating to waste. However, the City Council is a consultee on any such proposal within the District. In order to minimise the impact

on the environment, the City Council will use the criteria set out in the following policy to assess any waste-related proposals and this will inform the response. In most cases the proposals will need to be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment in line with current legislation.

Policy QL13

Any major proposal for waste disposal, waste incineration, energy generation from waste or other waste-related proposals, will need to address the following issues:

- a. **The need for the proposal;**
- b. **Consideration of alternative sites;**
- c. **Air quality and the impact on public health;**
- d. **Impact on the landscape and visual amenity;**
- e. **Geology, hydrology and ground conditions;**
- f. **Ecology and nature conservation interests;**
- g. **Noise impact;**
- h. **Archaeology;**
- i. **Traffic generation and alternative methods of transportation of waste by means other than by road;**
- j. **Impact on residential amenity;**

Lifetime of the scheme and any subsequent restoration of the site.

The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan is currently being reviewed and once the waste and mineral sites have been decided they will be incorporated into this Local Plan.

Appendix 1: Indicative layouts for Strategic Development Sites

Please note that these site layouts are for **ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY**.

They indicate the possible range of uses that could be accommodated on each site. They do not necessarily represent the final layout for each site, which will be determined through the preparation of Development Briefs in due course.

Appendix 2: Schedule of Housing Allocations and Permissions

Strategic Allocations

Ref	Site Name	No. Of Units	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016/17	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 -20	2020 -21	2021 -26	2026 -31
Canterbury													
SHLAA206	South Canterbury	4000				50	100	100	250	350	300	1400	1400
Herne Bay													
SHLAA010	Land at Greenhill	600				50	50	50	50	50	50	250	50
SHLAA011	Strode Farm	800				50	50	50	50	50	50	250	250
SHLAA208	Land at Herne Bay Golf Club	400				50	50	50	50	50	50	100	
SHLAA129	Land at Hillborough	1000					50	50	50	50	100	300	400
Whitstable													
SHLAA001	North of Thanet Way Whitstable	400				50	50	50	50	50	50	100	
Rural													
SHLAA148	Hersden - land North of Hersden	800					50	50	50	50	50	250	300
SHLAA177	Sturry/Broad Oak	1000					50	50	50	50	100	300	400

Other New Allocations

Ref	Site Address	No. Of Units	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016/17	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 -20	2020 -21	2021 -26	2026 -31
Canterbury													
	St Martin's Hospital	200			50	50	50	50					
SHAA/147	Simon Langton Girls School Canterbury	270				50	100	120					
	Kingsmead playing Field	100				50	50						
Herne Bay													
SHAA/013	Land at Bullockstone Road	190				50	50	40					
Rural													
SHAA/211	Barham Court Farm, Barham	25				25							
SHAA/096	Spires land at Bredlands Lane, Sturry	131				30	30	30	11				

Local Plan Allocations Carried forward from the Canterbury District Local Plan (2006)

Ref	Site Name	No. Of Units	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 -20	2020 -21	2021 -26	2026 -31
Canterbury												
CA554	8-12 Pilgrims Way	12			12							
CA477	Holman's Meadow car park Dover Street	20			20							
CA503	BT car Park Upper Chantry Lane	20				20						
CA476	BT Depot Littlebourne Road	100			40	60						
CA347	Ivy Lane North	10			10							
CA508	Scrap metals yard/builders merchants Parham Road	65			65							
CA278	Northgate car park	21			21							
CA480	Kingsmead depot (Mixed Use)	40					40					
CA479	Land adj registry office St Stephen's road	5				5						
CA481	Station Road West	40		40								
CA043	Rosemary Lane Car Park	20		20								
CA286	St John's Lane car park	5			5							
CA282	St John's Lane Employment Exchange	24								24		
CA507	Castle Street car park	54								54		
CA281	Hawks Lane	9			9							

Ref	Site Name	No. Of Units	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016/17	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 -20	2020 -21	2021 -26	2026 -31
CA047	St Radigund's Place	7	7										
CA050	St Peter's Lane	13		13									
CA488	East of White Horse Lane (Mixed Use)	10				10							
CA500	Land at Puckle Lane	9			9								
CA483	Land at Gordon Road	11		11									
CA482	Canterbury East Station Car Park	24				24							
CA555	Adj 192 Wincheap (Roger Britton Carpets) (Mixed Use)	6				6							
Herne Bay													
CA340	Park Rd/Kings Road Junction	43				43							
AAP HB1	Central Development Area William Street	80			40	40							
AAP HB2	Beach Street	20						20					
AAP HB3	Bus Depot Richmond Street	30				30							
CA426	Corner of Canterbury Road/Victoria Park	5				5							
CA514	Adj 181 Sea Street	14				14							
CA491	Land at Herne Bay railway station	35				35							
Whitstable													
CA299	Adj 37 Essex Street	7		7									

Ref	Site Name	No. Of Units	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016/17	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 -20	2020 -21	2021 -26	2026 -31
CA021	Windmill Road	8				8							
CA527	Builders Yard rear of 3 Belmont Road	23			23								
CA308	124 & adjacent Middle Wall	7	7										
CA297	Adj 100 Albert Street	11			11								
CA305	Adj 15 Hamilton Road	10					10						
CA310a	North and south of Beresford Road	20					20						
CA303	Diamond Road	26				26							
CA317	East of Westmeads Road	14				14							
CA309	Tile Warehouse Sea Street (Mixed Use)	5				5							
CA530	Land at Ladysmith Grove	31	31										
CA525	Blue Anchor Caravan Park Seasalter	50				50							
CA524	Tankerton Road car park	17	17										
Rural													
CA559	Rough Common Road	16				16							

Unimplemented Planning Permissions as at 31 March 2012

(Under construction or not started)

Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	losses
Canterbury							
CA0400497	The Tannery Mildreds Lane	28	27	27	27	30	
CA0800425	26 New Dover Road	9					1
CA0900172	Land between 274 and 288 Wincheap	6					
CA0900180	9 The Friars and 1 King Street	1					
CA0900818	Land enclosed by Kingsmead Road Broad Oak Road	10	10	15	15	15	
CA091416	Stable Block Hoath Farm Bekesbourne Lane	2					
CA0901611	13A Monastery Street		4				
CA0901638	Land adjacent to 64 Warwick Road		8				
CA0901760	Land rear of 121 - 125 Sturry Road		8				
CA0901764	Nunnery Fields, George Roche Road	11	15	15	15	15	
CA0901882	153 Ashford Road Thanington	0	1	2	2		1
CA0902019	4-5 Upper Bridge Street	2					
CA1000030	Land adjacent to 49 Ulcombe Gardens & 25 Kemsing Gardens	2					

Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	Losses
CA1000047	Land adjoining 29 Suffolk Road	1					
CA1000243	41 Norman Road Land rear of	1					
CA1000261	37 and land rear of 37 Northgate	2					
CA1000320	Haleswood, 2 The Crescent	1					
CA1000369	102 New Dover Road	1					1
CA1000375	Bat and Ball Car Park Site, St Lawrence Cricket Ground	5	7	7	7	3	
CA1000397	26A St Peter's Street						1
CA1000479	Land at 64a Union Street	1					
CA1000519	Land rear of 30 Oaten Hill	1					
CA1000544	8 St Alphege Lane	2					1
CA1000585	Old Oast House, Hollow Lane	2					
CA1000619	Westwood, Stodmarsh Road	1					1
CA1000835	21 Roper Road		2	4	2		1
CA1000896	Land rear of 58 Thanington Road	1					
CA1000922	28 Prioress Road		4				1
CA1001181	Lesser Knowlesthorpe, Barton Mill Road		3				
CA1001193	Former National Tyre Depot, St Dunstan's Street	10	10	10	10	9	
CA1001937	23 Oaten Hill	6					

Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	losses
CA1002002	2 Burgate Lane		1				
CA1002042	Land rear of 58 London Road		2				
CA1100167	George Roche Road (Phase 3), Nunnery Fields			2	8	8	
CA1100262	Land at the front of Kingdom Hall, Homersham/ Sullivan Close Canterbury	6					
CA1100468	11-12 Orchard Street	2					
CA1100534	62 London Road		1				
CA1100613	Land adjacent to 30 Salisbury Road	1					
CA1100650	Land at Farleigh Road			6	6		
CA1100672	Land to Corner of Broad Oak Road & Farleigh Road		2				
CA1100689	Land adjacent to 87 Broad Street	1					
CA1100733	Francewood Littlebourne Road		1				
CA1100783	65-65A London Road				2	9	2
CA1100922	45-47 Wincheap	4	10				
CA1100977	8 Vernon Place		4				
CA1101087	Land adjacent to 10 Cogans Terrace		1				
CA1101095	96 Broad Oak Road	2					
CA1101492	Land adjacent to 12 Green Dell, Hales Place		1				
CA1101501	49A Castle Street	1					

Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	Losses
CA1101812	11-12 & 14C Burgate		3				
CA1101906	St Mildreds Tannery	2					
CA1101982	24 Roper Road	4					
CA1102137	St Mildreds Tannery Rheims Way			2	3		
CA1200136	15 The Friars						1
Herne Bay							
CA0701630	Woodlands Farm Barn Calcott Hill	1					
CA0801009	45 School Lane Herne	2					1
CA0801124	25 Broomfield Road Land adjoining	1					
CA1000644	Land rear of 37 Hunters Forstal Road	2					
CA1001228	Land rear of 12 Gorse Lane		1				
CA1001973	Land rear of 70 Mill Lane		1				
CA1101363	Land adjacent to 44 Ridgeway Road	1					
CA0401278	89 Station Road Herne Bay	8					1
CA0701658	1 Blackburn Road	1					1
CA0800293	39-41 Mill Lane South Herne			3			1
CA0801370	22 Oakdale Road	4					1

Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	losses
CA0900265	18 Holmscroft Road		2				1
CA0900755	57 Grand Drive	3					1
CA0900954	Land bounded by Richmond Street Telford Street High Street	14					
CA0900999	Herne Bay Methodist Church, High Street				4	5	
CA0901241	Land to the rear of 46-48 Eddington Lane	1					
CA0901439	Land between 9 and 11 The Fairway	3					
CA0901660	82-86 High Street			10			
CA0901824	23 St George's Avenue	1					
CA0901879	10 Riley Avenue	1					1
CA1000012	Land adjoining 40 Fleetwood Avenue	1					
CA1000503	Land west of Mill Lane & north of A299 Thanet Way	25	25	25	25	31	
CA1000600	54 Sea View Road	2					
CA1000801	Brade End, Whitstable Road	1					1
CA1000889	Land adjacent to The Water Tower Dence Park	20					
CA1001301	66 Eddington Lane		4				
CA1001418	8 Mickleburgh Hill	1					
CA1001662	56 - 58 Central Parade		12				
CA1001695	Land fronting Western Avenue	1	1				

Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	losses
CA1001719	Old Printing Works rear of 115 High Street	1					
CA1001730	172-174 Mortimer Street	5					
CA1002006	Land rear of 131 Mickleburgh Hill	1					
CA1002121	Land adjacent to 40 Bournemouth Drive		1				
CA1002175	64 Mortimer Street			1	2	3	
CA1100400	3 High Street		1				
CA1100548	4A Poplar Drive		1				
CA1100624	Land at 41 and to the rear of 39 Mill Lane South Herne	5					1
CA1100780	Land to the rear of 9-13 Albion Lane	1					
CA1100793	Land adjacent to 29 Westlands Road	1					
CA1100870	28 William Street	2					
CA1100908	The Coach House Strode Park House, Lower Herne Road	3					
CA1100956	12 Pier Avenue	2					1
CA1101222	29-31 Park Road			2	3		
CA1101437	Land part of 61 Hampton Pier Avenue	1					
CA1101485	106-108 Mortimer Street	2					
CA1101653	53 The Broadway	1					
CA1101708	Land adjoining 5 Hawthorn Corner Maystreet		1				

Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	losses
CA1101854	96 Station Road		4				
CA1200008	9-11 Wolseley Avenue	1					1
Whitstable							
CA0101203	78/80 Middle Wall		1				
CA0601531	Land rear of 43 Joy Lane		1				
CA0601549	5C Tower Parade	1					
CA0700434	89 Station Road	7					1
CA0700864	16A Preston Parade Seasalter	1					1
CA0701263	40 Joy Lane Land Rear Of	1					
CA0701471	Former Huyck Factory Site Millstrood Road		35	35	35	33	
CA0701487	197 Cromwell Road	2					1
CA0701601	1-3 and 80 to 84 Castle Road Bridge Approach	20					
CA0801059	51 Golden Hill South	11	11				1
CA0801193	Ivydene Montpellier Avenue		1				
CA0801312	126 & 128 Joy Lane	2					1
CA0801330	Land rear of 5 Kingsdown Park	1					
CA0900029	5 Preston Parade	1					1

Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	Losses
CA0900425	Portways The Drive	1					1
CA0900444	Whitstable Post Office, Gladstone Road			3	3	6	
CA0900843	Land rear of Woodlands Kenwood & St Vincent's Tower Road	1					
CA0901209	17A Marine Parade	7					
CA0901585	138 Millstrood Road	2					1
CA0901703	1A Harbour Street	1					
CA0901713	Barton Yard at junction of Diamond Road and Westmeads Road				3	11	
CA0901804	126 and garages at rear of 128 Tankerton Road		2	4	4	3	
CA0901873	72 Queens Road	2					1
CA0901917	Land between 112 & 114 Maydowns Road Chestfield	1					
CA1000049	Scottish Lodge Radfall Ride	1					1
CA1000059	Land rear of 33 Saddleton Road	1					
CA1000086	Adult Studies Centre 90 Station Road	5					
CA1000228	17 Marine Parade		2	3	3	5	
CA1000306	226a and 226b Tankerton Road		5				
CA1000387	Land rear of 15 Grimshill Road	1					
CA1000411	Land rear of 15-31 High Street	14					
CA1000713	53 Joy Lane	1					1

Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	losses
CA1000736	Land to rear of 17-19 High Street	1					
CA1000753	133 Dargate Road	1				1	
CA1000874	Rear of 83A High Street	1					
CA1000941	47 Joy Lane	1					
CA1001148	Land adjacent to 9 Bowyer Road	1					
CA1001337	9 Herne Bay Road		5				
CA1001360	33A Borstal Hill		4			1	
CA1001629	16 Hodgson Road	1					
CA1001635	Land adjoining 28 Golden Hill	2					
CA1001644	Chestfield Farm, The Drove Chestfield		5				
CA1001842	78 St Mary's Grove	1				1	
CA1001856	Land adjacent to The Prince Albert PH, Sea Street	2					
CA1100256	Land adjoining 28 Golden Hill	1					
CA1100319	6 Station Road	2				1	
CA1100573	Land adjoining 43 Clover Rise	1					
CA1100579	2 Cromwell Road	1					
CA1100582	65-67 High Street						1
CA1100668	2 Admiralty Walk	2					1

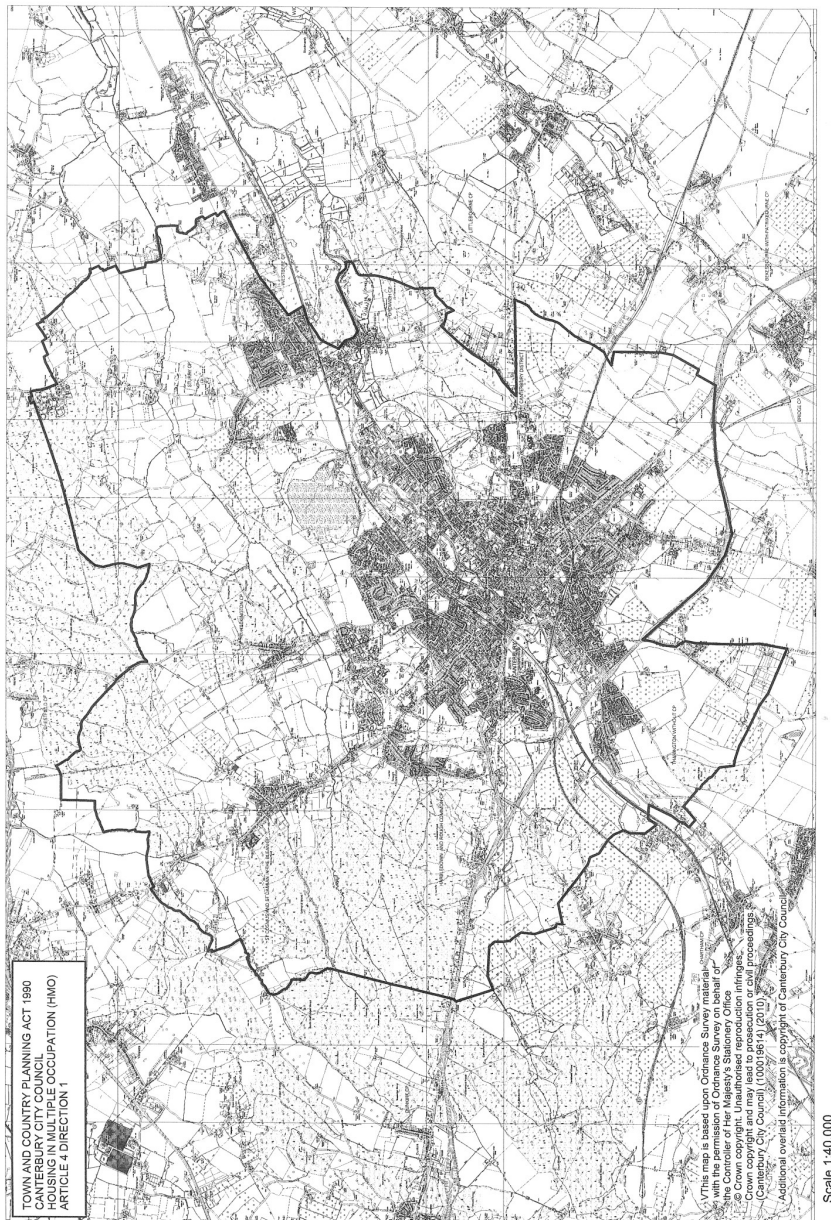
Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	Losses
CA1100740	Land rear of 19 Saddleton Road	1					
CA1100747	55 Millstrood Road			2	6		1
CA1100757	Crow Park Farm, Molehill Road Chestfield		2				
CA1101084	Land rear of 37 Joy Lane	1					
CA1101190	156 Tankerton Road		6				
CA1101287	Queens Acre, Broomfield Gate Chestfield		1				1
CA1101335	56A High Street	1					
CA1101388	45 Joy Lane		1				
CA1101436	51-59 High Street		2				
CA1101448	8 Herne Bay Road	1					
CA1101451	Croft Farm, Dargate Road	2					2
CA1101490	Land rear of 4 Paddock View	1					
CA1101570	Drove House, Molehill Road Chestfield	1					1
CA1101651	Land adjoining 20 Plantation Road Chestfield	1					
CA1101759	Land Adjacent to 25 Grimthorpe Avenue	1					
CA1101889	11 Burnan Road		1				
CA1101967	18 Princess Road	1					1
CA1102005	Fairmead	4					

Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	losses
CA1200048	Land adjacent to 26 Beach Walk	1					1
CA1200088	117 Kite Farm	2					
CA1200167	Cherrybrook Lodge, Rayham Road		2				1
Rural							
CA1000840	Land between 16 and 22 The Street Adisham	2					
CA1001828	Bulls Head 9 The Street Adisham		2				
CA1101984	Land south of 24 The Street Adisham		2				
CA1101885	The Thatched House, Gravel Castle Road Barham	1					1
CA0900312	Land fronting Loganlea House Aerodrome Road Bekesbourne		1				
CA1100021	Bourne Park Bishopsbourne	1					
CA0900638	land adjacent to 7 Chestnut Avenue Blean	1					
CA1101870	Clovelly 29 Tile Kiln Hill Blean		1				
CA1001965	Land adjoining Mount Charles House Mount Charles Walk, Union Road Bridge		1				
CA1100216	73 High Street Bridge	4					
CA1100578	94-96 High Street Bridge	3					
CA0901655	Shalmsford Farm, shalmsford Street Chartham	10	10	5			
CA0901832	Sand Down Gravel Hill Chartham	3					1

Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	Losses
CA1100232	Carlton Lodge, Ashford Road Chartham						1
CA1100727	27A Chartham Downs Road Chartham	1					1
CA1101723	Bobbin Lodge, Bobbin Lodge Hill Chartham	1					
CA1101952	11 Nightingale Close Chartham	1					
CA1001048	Land adjacent to Rosary Farmhouse, Church Road Hoath	1					
CA1002032	Land rear of Hoath Village Hall, Church Road Hoath		3				
CA1100945	Cornerstone Maypole Lane Hoath	1					1
CA0900308	3 School Path Littlebourne	1					1
CA1000491	Ellen Court, Nargate Street Littlebourne	15					30
CA0801079	The Glebe, School Lane Lower Hardres	1					1
CA1001011	Beech Cottage, Nackington Road Lower Hardres	1					1
CA1001441	Three Horse Shoes, Hardres Court Road Lower Hardres	2					1
CA1100600	Little Eaton Farm Pett Bottom Road Lower Hardres		1				
CA1001744	Little Catts Farm, Catts Wood Road Lower Hardres		1				
CA1101294	The Former Hog and Donkey Public House North Stream Marshside		1				
CA1101235	2-3 The Green Keeper's Hill Patrixbourne	2					1
CA1100519	Cedar House, Broadway Petham	1					1
CA1102006	Furring, Garlinge Green Road Petham	1					1

Application Number	Site Address	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016-17	losses
CA0700104	Fordwich Garage Fordwich Road Sturry	14					
CA0901207	38 Island Road Sturry		6				1
CA0901507	35 Island Road Sturry		2				
CA1000166	31 Island Road Sturry	1					
CA1001020	Land adjacent to Fieldway House, Field Way Sturry		5				
CA1001272	Franklyn House, High Street Sturry	29					23
CA1001840	102 Island Road Sturry		1				
CA1001906	Land rear of 25 Island Road Sturry		1				
CA1100440	Land adjacent to Calcott Hall Sturry						
CA1101945	64 Sturry Hill Sturry		1				
CA1200193	68 Shalloak Road Sturry	1					1
CA1100698	The Manor House Hardres Court Road The Stables Upper Hardres	1					
CA0901580	25 Island Road Upstreet				5	6	1
CA1002112	Tudor Cottage, the Street Wickhambreaux	2					1
CA0700325	Denne Hill Coach House Dene Hill Denne Hill Farm Womenswold	1					
CA1101128	Freshfields Westcourt Lane, Woolage Green Womenswold	1					
CA0901633	204 Dargate Road Yorkletts	2					

Appendix 3: Housing in Multiple Occupation - Possible Article 4 Direction Area



Appendix 4: Schedule of Employment Allocations

Schedule of Employment Allocations

Sites identified under draft Policy SP3		
Area	Site	Provision
Canterbury	South Canterbury	70,000 sqm
Herne Bay	Hillborough	33,000 sqm (includes Altira Park)
	Herne Bay Golf Club	Mixed commercial uses
	Strode Farm	15,000 sqm
Sturry	Sturry/Broad Oak	Business floorspace to meet local business needs
Rural Areas	Land north of Hersden	Business floorspace to meet local business needs

Sites identified under draft Policy ED1		
Area	Site	Provision
Canterbury	Innovation Centre, University of Kent	3.45ha
	Broad Oak Road/ Vauxhall Road	1.4ha
	Canterbury West Station	0.4ha
	Office Connection site, St.Andrews Close	0.1ha
Herne Bay	Eddington Lane (various)	8.2ha
	Altira Park	1.6ha
	Metric Site	0.2ha
Whitstable	Land at Wraik Hill	3.2ha
Rural Areas	Canterbury Business Park (Highland Court)	3ha

Appendix 5: Outdoor Lighting

Outdoor Lighting Design Guidance

It is recommended that developers have regard to the Obtrusive light limitations set out below and advice is sought from a professional lighting designer before installing any exterior lighting.

Table 1 – Obtrusive Light Limitations for Exterior Lighting Installations – General Observers						
Environmental Zone	Sky Glow ULR [Max %](1)	Light Intrusion (into Windows) Ev [lux] (2)		Luminaire Intensity I [candelas] (3)		Building Luminance Pre-curfew (4)
		Pre-curfew	Post-curfew	Pre-curfew	Post-curfew	Average, L [cd/m2]
E0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E1	0	2	0 (1*)	2,500	0	0
E2	2.5	5	1	7,500	500	5
E3	5.0	10	2	10,000	1,000	10
E4	15	25	5	25,000	2,500	25

ULR = Upward Light Ratio of the Installation is the maximum permitted percentage of luminaire flux that goes directly into the sky.

Ev = Vertical Illuminance in Lux - measured flat on the glazing at the centre of the window.

I = Light Intensity in Candelas (cd)

L = Luminance in Candelas per Square Metre (cd/m2)

Curfew = the time after which stricter requirements (for the control of obtrusive light) will apply; often a condition of use of lighting applied by the local planning authority. If not otherwise stated - 23.00hrs is suggested.

* = **Permitted only from** Public road lighting installations

(1) Upward Light Ratio – Some lighting schemes will require the deliberate and careful use of upward light, e.g. ground recessed luminaires, ground mounted floodlights, festive lighting, to which these limits cannot apply. However, care should always be taken to minimise any upward waste light by the proper application of suitably directional luminaires and light controlling attachments.

(2) Light Intrusion (into Windows) – These values are suggested maxima and need to take account of existing light intrusion at the point of measurement. In the case of road lighting on public highways where building facades are adjacent to the lit highway, these levels may not be obtainable. In such cases where a specific complaint has been received, the Highway Authority should endeavour to reduce the light intrusion into the window down to the post curfew value by fitting a shield, replacing the luminaire, or by varying the lighting level.

(3) Luminaire Intensity – This applies to each luminaire in the potentially obtrusive direction, outside of the area being lit. The figures given are for general guidance only and for some sports lighting applications with limited mounting heights, may be difficult to achieve.

(4) Building Luminance – This should be limited to avoid over lighting, and related to the general district brightness. In this reference building luminance is applicable to buildings directly illuminated as a night-time feature as against the illumination of a building caused by spill light from adjacent luminaires or luminaires fixed to the building but used to light an adjacent area

Road Classification (1)	Threshold Increment (TI)	Veiling Luminance (Lv)
No road lighting	15% based on adaptation luminance of 0.1cd/m ²	0.04

ME6/ ME5	15% based on adaptation luminance of 1cd/m ²	0.25
ME4/ ME3	15% based on adaptation luminance of 2cd/m ²	0.40
ME2 / ME1	15% based on adaptation luminance of 5cd/m ²	0.84

TI = Threshold Increment is a measure of the loss of visibility caused by the disability glare from the obtrusive light installation

Lv = Veiling Luminance is a measure of the adaptation luminance caused by the disability glare from the obtrusive light installation

(1) = Road Classifications as given in BS EN 13201 - 2: 2003 Road lighting Performance requirements. Limits apply where users of transport systems are subject to a reduction in the ability to see essential information. Values given are for relevant positions and for viewing directions in path of travel. For a more detailed description and methods for determining, calculating

Appendix 6: Kent Compendium of Parks and Gardens

Garden	Compendium No.
Barham Park	7
Barton Court, Canterbury	8
Bourne Park, Bishopsbourne	24
Broome Park	32
Castle Street, 1 and 2, Canterbury	38
Castle Street, 68, Canterbury	39
Charlton Park	42
Cobham Court, Bekesbourne	57
Dane John, Canterbury	73
Elbridge House, Sturry	90
Flint Cottage, Bishopsbourne	101
Harbledown Lodge	129
Havisham House, Harbledown	134
Howletts	147
Kenfield Hall, Nr Petham	158
Masters Lodge, Canterbury	188
Memorial Park, Herne Bay	190
Mystole House	199
Old Dover Road, 35, Canterbury	210
Oswalds, Bishopsbourne	216
Petham House	229
Precincts, The, 29, Canterbury	240
Quaives, The, Wickhambreaux	246

St Dunstons Street, 45, Canterbury	281
St John's Hospital, Canterbury	282
Street End Place	293
Strode Park, Herne	295
Vernon Holme, Harbledown	321
Watling Street, 26 and 27, Canterbury	339
Westfield, Fordwich	346
Westgate House, Canterbury	347
Westgate Gardens, Canterbury	348
Whitstable Castle	352
Woodlands, Adisham	360