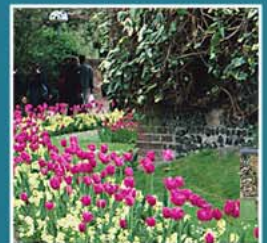


Canterbury City Council

Sustainability Appraisal of the Canterbury Local Development Framework

Updated Scoping Report (agreed scope
following consultation)

January 2010



CANTERBURY
CITY COUNCIL

Entec

Creating the environment for business



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2	Updated Scoping Report	06.10.09
3	Issued Scoping Report with consultation responses	08.01.10



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Canterbury City Council

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This report is an update to the Scoping Report adopted by Canterbury City Council in 2007¹. The 2007 Scoping Report set out the agreed scope of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for Canterbury City Council's Local Development Documents (LDDs) which form the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Canterbury. In the time since the completion of the 2007 Scoping Report, there have been a number of changes: new national plans have been adopted (such as the Government's Low Carbon Transition Plan²); there have been changes to key plans and programmes (the South East Plan³ has been adopted following the completion of further consultation after the 2006 Examination in Public); and there have been changes to baseline indicators and sustainability issues (for example the release of the 2009 UK climate projections⁴). This updated Scoping Report takes these changes into account.

1.2 Purpose of this document

The purpose of the updated Scoping Report is to set out the scope of the SA for the range of Local Development Documents (LDDs) to be included within the Local Development Framework (LDF). The Scoping Report documents the completion of the first key stage of the SA (Stage A) which involves setting the context of the SA, developing the SA framework, establishing the baseline and agreeing the scope (see **Figure 1.1**).

In updating the contextual information that is used to support the completion of the SA, consideration has also been given to the appropriateness of the appraisal framework. Consistent with any changes in the baseline information or changes in plans or programmes, amendments to the appraisal framework are proposed.

¹ Canterbury City Council (2007) Sustainability Appraisal of the LDF. Available online at: www.canterbury.gov.uk

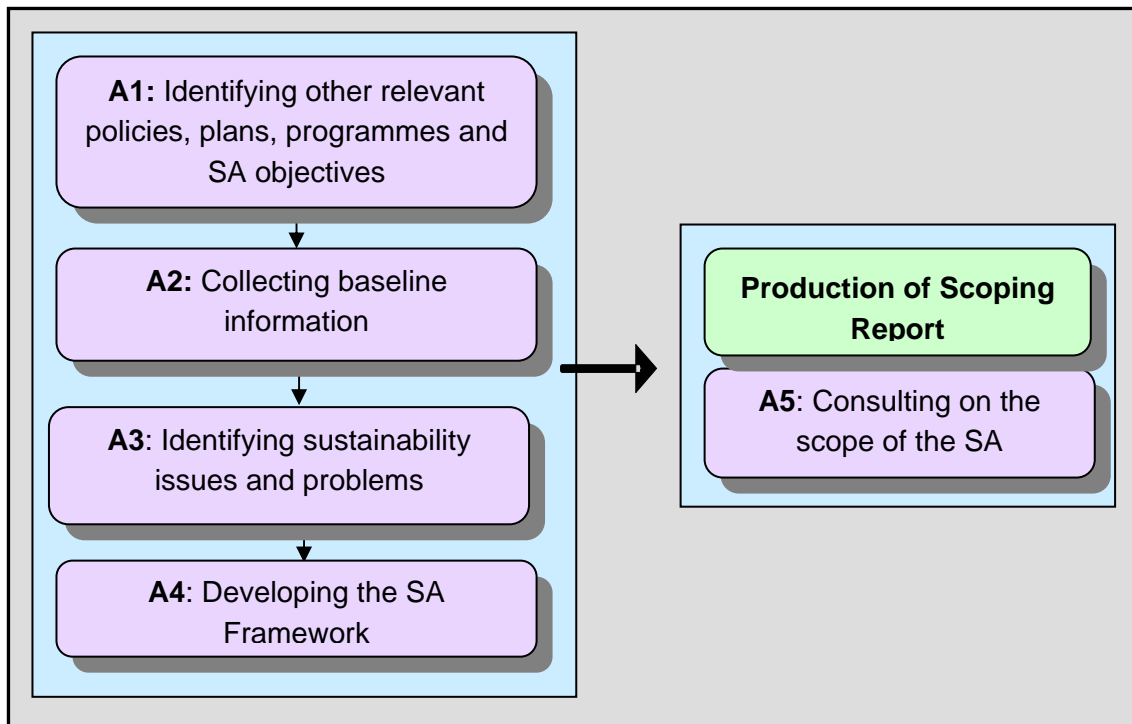
² DECC (2009) UK Low Carbon Transition Plan. Available at http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/publications/lc_trans_plan/lc_trans_plan.aspx

³ Government Office for the South East (2009) The South East Plan. Available at <http://www.gos.gov.uk/gose/planning/regionalPlanning/815640/>

⁴ <http://ukcp09.defra.gov.uk/>



Figure 1.1 Stage A of the SA Process (as identified in government guidance⁵)



For each element of Stage A (A1 to A4 in Box 1.1), **Table 1.1** summarises the purpose of the task and outlines how the updated Scoping Report has built upon the existing information contained in the 2007 Scoping Report.

Table 1.1 Updating each element of Stage A

Scoping Stage Element	Commentary
A1: Identifying other relevant plans and programmes	Plans and programmes (PPs) are reviewed as part of the SA to ensure that the relationship with these other documents is fully explored and to ensure that the relevant environmental protection and sustainability objectives are integrated into the SA. The 2007 Scoping Report reviewed 108 plans and programmes. The updated Scoping Report has considered a further 29 new plans or programmes and a number of amendments to existing plans or programmes.
A2: Collecting baseline information	The identification of the existing baseline conditions and how these are likely to change with time is used to inform a consideration of the significance of the potential effects arising from the implementation of the LDF documents. New data sets such as the UK Climate Predictions 2009 and the National Indicators for CO ₂ emission have been included along with housing figures from the SEP.

⁵ ODPM (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents. Available online at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk>



Scoping Stage Element	Commentary
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems	The issues outlined in the 2007 Scoping Report formed the basis of the baseline issues collection. The Biodiversity and Geological Diversity Issue has been expanded to explicitly include landscape.
A4: Developing the SA framework	The objectives have been rationalised, resulting in three fewer objectives. The economy and employment objectives have been combined, the natural and built asset objective has been combined with landscape to form the historic and built environment objective and the locational patterns objective has been combined with the transport objective.

In accordance with the tasks identified in **Figure 1.1**, this report is structured into the following sections:

Section 2: Links with Other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies. This section outlines the review of relevant international, national, regional, sub-regional and local documents to assist in identifying the key sustainability issues and sustainability objectives.

Section 3: Key Sustainability Issues and Baseline Data for Canterbury District. This section sets out relevant updated baseline information for Canterbury District as well as identifying and describing the key sustainability issues.

Section 4: Development of the SA Objectives. This section sets out the SA objectives and the appraisal criteria.

Section 5: The SA Framework. This section sets out the SA framework and describes how the framework will be used to assess policies.

Section 6: Conclusions and Next Steps. This section provides an explanation of the subsequent stages of SA. It also provides a quality assurance checklist.

1.3 Canterbury's Local Development Framework (LDF)

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced a new planning system that operates at two levels. At the regional level, the regional planning bodies are required to produce a Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which sets out the broad spatial planning strategy for the region over a 15 to 20 year period. For the South East, the RSS is the South East Plan. At a local level, spatial planning is detailed in the LDF.

Within the LDF folder of documents, sit a portfolio of LDDs. These LDDs outline the spatial planning requirements of the local area. The key statutory LDDs are:

- Statement of community involvement;
- Development Plan Documents; and
- Supplementary Planning Documents.



Development Plan Documents outline the key development goals of the LDF and include the Core Strategy and a Proposal Map. In addition, DPDs may also include Area Action Plans and site specific allocation documents. DPDs are subject to Sustainability Appraisal.

Beyond the development of the Core Strategy and the Herne Bay Area Action Plan, the Council is anticipated to include the following DPDs:

- Development Land Allocation document; and
- Development Management Policies.

Ultimately the sources of baseline information in this document (and any specific indicators) will be used to assist the monitoring of the performance of the implementation of the suite of DPDs, including measures such as the:

- The proportion of new dwellings which are on previously developed land;
- Dwelling completion rates and the proportion of new homes that are classified as affordable; and
- Condition of SSSIs.

These measures are reflected in the Annual Monitoring Report completed by the Council.

Following the completion and adoption of this Scoping Report, the evidence base will continue to be refined and updated (where appropriate) for each emerging DPD. This will continue to ensure that the appraisal of the DPDs is based on the most up-to-date information.

1.4 What is Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability appraisal is a systematic and iterative process to appraise, record and consult on the sustainability effects of a strategy, plan, programme or project. It assists the Council in meeting its duty to promote sustainable development under Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. When applied to LDDs, it is undertaken in a manner that incorporates the requirements of the European Union's Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EU) and the transposing UK Regulations⁶ (see box). Whilst it is mostly DPDs that are subject to SA, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which expand or add details to policies laid out in DPDs, may also need to be appraised where they are predicted to have impacts.

⁶ European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (known as the SEA Directive) was transposed into UK legislation on the 20th July 2004 as Statutory Instrument No. 1633 – *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*.



The objective of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive) is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programs with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programs which are likely to have significant effects on the environment

In addition to the environmental effects required by the SEA Directive, the aim of the SA is to identify, describe and evaluate the likely social and economic effects of implementing the LDDs. Where the SA identifies likely significant adverse effects, it should also detail proposals on how to avoid, manage or mitigate these effects. Where positive effects are identified, measures to enhance them may also be proposed.

The five stages of SA are identified in **Figure 1.2**. The subsequent stages (Stage B onwards) involve developing and assessing alternatives and assessing the effects of the LDDs which will be described within a Sustainability Appraisal Report published alongside a draft of the LDD.

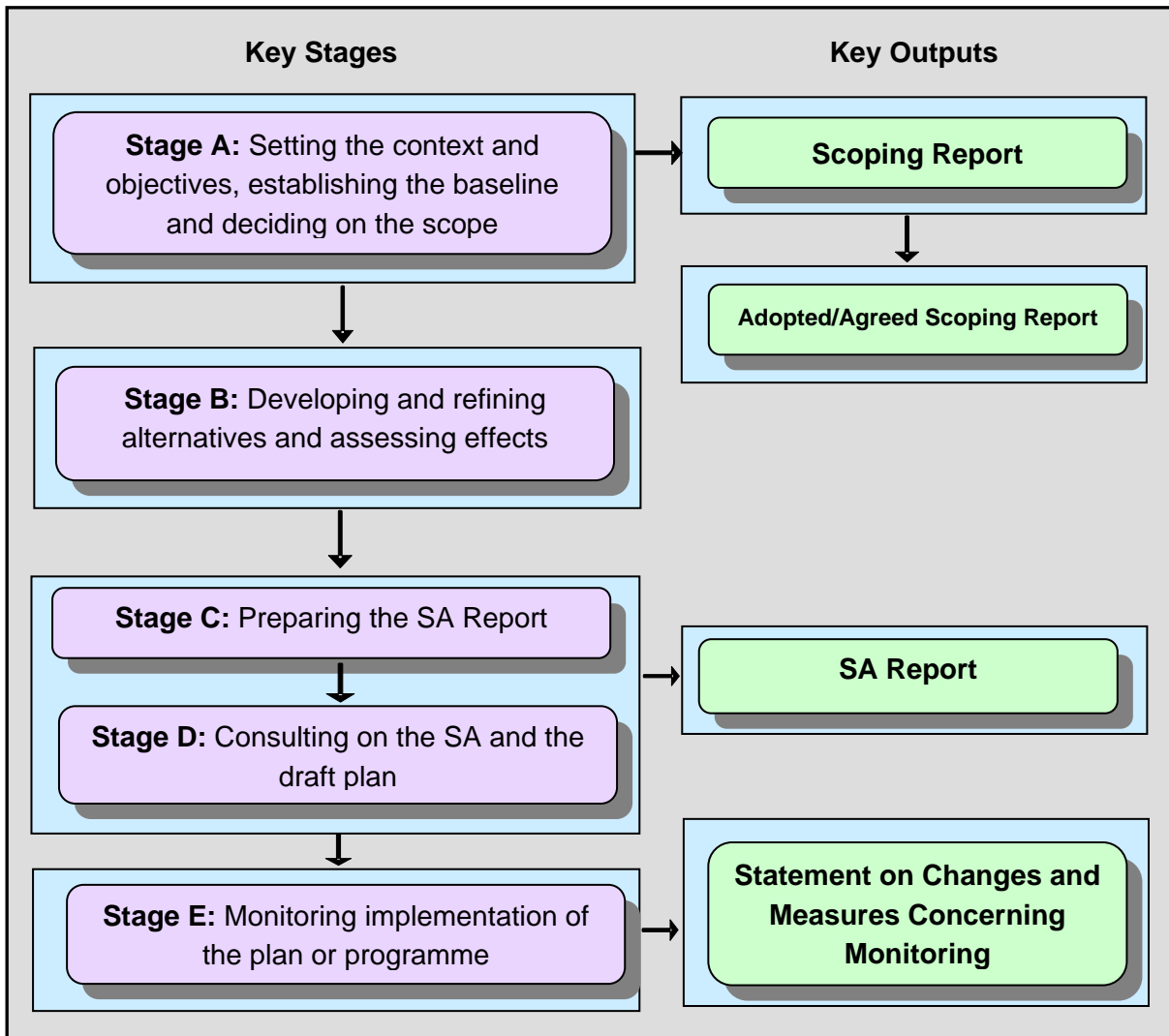
Any SAs of forthcoming LDDs will be undertaken in line with guidance issued by ODPM (2005) in '*Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*' and the requirements of PPS12 '*Local Spatial Planning*'

To date within Canterbury, SAs have been completed of the following spatial planning documents:

- Herne Bay Area Action Plan;
- Developer Contributions SPD;
- Heritage and Conservation SPD;
- Sustainable Construction SPD;
- Reculver Masterplan SPD;
- Wincheap Development Brief; and
- Kent Design Guide (Kent Design Initiative 2005).



Figure 1.2 Stages of Sustainability Appraisal



1.5 Consultation

A five week consultation was undertaken on the updated Scoping Report which concluded in November 2009. The consultation was extended to a number of statutory and non-statutory consultees including Canterbury City Council specialists, Kent County Council, the Environment Agency, English Nature and English Heritage. A number of changes have been made to the document; these are detailed in Appendix F.



2. Links with Other Plans and Programmes

This section outlines the plans and programmes that have been reviewed and which are relevant to Canterbury's LDF. A full review of all plans and programmes is provided in **Appendix A**.

2.1 Review of Plans and Programmes

The SEA Directive requires:

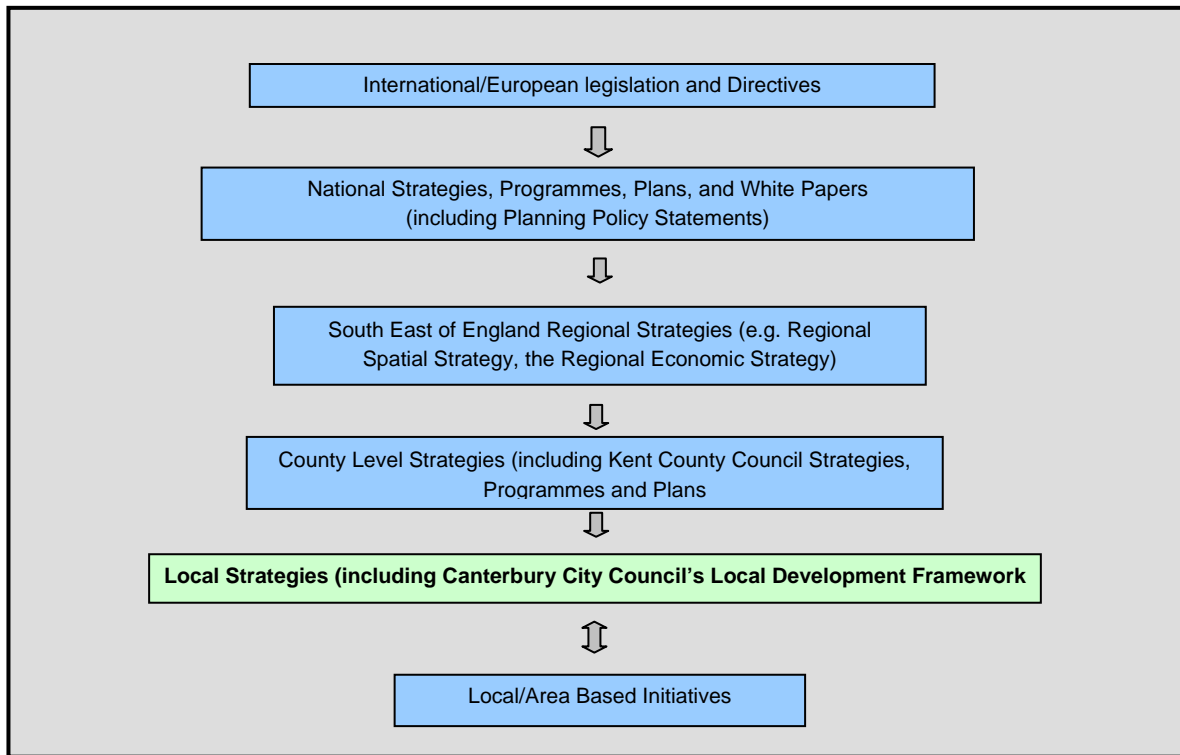
'an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes' (Annex 1(a)), and 'the environmental protection objectives, established at international (European) Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation'. (Annex 1(e))

The SEA scoping process needs to identify and review other relevant plans, programmes, policies and strategies (herein after referred to as 'plans and programmes') that are applicable to Canterbury's LDF and outline the nature of the "*relationship with other relevant plans and programmes*". These could be plans and programmes at an international, European or national level covering a variety of topics (including spatial and resource planning). The review also ensures that the relevant environmental protection and sustainability objectives are integrated into the SA. Reviewing plans and programmes (PPs) also provides appropriate information on the baseline for the plan area and the key sustainability issues.

Figure 2.1 illustrates how the LDF relates in a hierarchical way to international, national, regional and other local PPs.



Figure 2.1 Relationship with Other Plans and Programmes



2.2 Key Environmental Protection Objectives

The list of PPs that have been reviewed are identified in **Table 2.1**. These are presented in a manner consistent with the hierarchy outlined in **Figure 2.1**.

The updated Scoping Report has considered a further 29 new plans or programmes and a number of amendments to existing plans or programmes. These included updates to the South East Plan, the Climate Change Act, The Planning Act, The East Kent Local Strategic Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy (2009), the South East Regional Housing Strategy 2008-2011, The South East Biodiversity Strategy (2008) and the South East Social Inclusion Statement (2008).

From the review of these plans and programmes, a number of key environmental protection objectives have been identified, these are summarised **Appendix A** where a summary of the aims and the key targets is also provided.



Table 2.1 List of Plans and Programmes

Key Plans and Programmes
International Commitments and Directives
<p>The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg, September 2002 - Commitments arising from Johannesburg Summit (2002)</p> <p>EU Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) and previous directives (96/62/EC; 99/30/EC; 2000/69/EC & 2002/3/EC)</p> <p>EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p> <p>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)</p> <p>EU Bathing Water Quality Directive (Council Directive 76/160/EEC)</p> <p>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</p> <p>EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC)</p> <p>EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) & Subsequent Amendments</p> <p>EU Directive on Waste (Directive 75/442/EEC, 2006/12/EC as amended) revised 2008 (2008/98/EC)</p> <p>EU Directive on the Landfill of Waste (99/31/EC)</p> <p>EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC)</p> <p>Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)</p> <p>EU Biodiversity Strategy (1998)</p> <p>EU Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (2002/91/EC)</p> <p>UNFCCC (1997) The Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC</p> <p>World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) Our Common Future (The Brundtland Report)</p> <p>European Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (SEA Directive)</p> <p>European Landscape Convention 2000 (became binding March 2007)</p> <p>The UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)</p>
Relevant National Policy Documents
<p>Securing the Future – the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)</p> <p>Government/Department for Transport - 10 Year Transport Plan 2000 (2000)</p> <p>Sustainable Communities Plan: Building for the Future (2003)</p> <p>“Working with the grain of nature – a Biodiversity Strategy for England” (Defra, 2002)</p> <p>Rural Strategy (Defra, 2004)</p> <p>Energy White Paper - Our Energy Future, Creating a Low Carbon Economy (2003)</p> <p>Energy White Paper - Meeting the Energy Challenge (2007)</p> <p>Environment Agency (2009) ‘Water for people and the environment’ - Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales</p> <p>Making Space for Water: Taking Forward a New Government Strategy for Flood Protection and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in England (Defra, 2005)</p> <p>Housing Act (2004)</p> <p>Sustainable Energy Act (2003)</p> <p>The Future of Air Transport White Paper and the Civil Aviation Bill (2003)</p> <p>Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Defra, 2007)</p> <p>A Strategy for Delivering Government’s Sport and Physical Activity Objectives (DCMS, 2002)</p> <p>DCLG (2006) Code for Sustainable Homes - A step-change in sustainable home building practice</p> <p>Review of Heritage Protection: The Way Forward (2004)</p> <p>The Planning Act 2008</p> <p>The Climate Change Act 2008</p> <p>The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future (DCMS, 2001)</p>



Key Plans and Programmes

Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (ETWFs) (DEFRA 2007)
The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy (Department for Energy and Climate Change, July 2009)
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (HM Government, 2009)
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)
Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)
Play Strategy for England (DCMS, 2008)
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century - White Paper (DCMS, 2007)

Relevant National Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)

PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM 2005)
Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change - Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (DCLG 2007)
PPS3 Housing (DCLG 2006)
PPG4 Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms (ODPM 1992)
Planning Policy Statement - Consultation paper on a new Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Prosperous Economies (DCLG 2009)
PPS6 Planning for Town Centres (ODPM 2005)
PPS7 Sustainable development in Rural Areas (ODPM 2004)
PPS 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM 2006)
PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (ODPM 2005)
PPS11 Regional Spatial Strategies (ODPM 2004)
PPS12 Local Spatial Planning (CLG 2008)
PPG13 Transport (ODPM 2001)
PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment (ODPM 1994) (under review)
Consultation paper on a new Planning Policy Statement 15: Planning for the Historic Environment (DCLG 2009)
PPG16 Archaeology and Planning (ODPM 1996)
PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation (ODPM 2002)
PPG20 Coastal Planning (ODPM 1992)
Consultation paper on a new planning policy on Development and coastal change (DCLG 2009)
Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (CLG 2006)
PPS22 Renewable Energy (ODPM 2004)
PPS23 Planning and Pollution Control (ODPM 2004)
PPG24 Planning and Noise (ODPM 1994)
PPS25 Development and Flood Risk (CLG 2006)

Regional Plans and Programmes

The South East Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (2009)
Transport Section in the South East Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (2009)
Minerals Section in the South East Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (2009)
Regional Tourism Strategy (South East England Regional Assembly 2004)
Waste Section in the South East Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (2009)
Energy Policies in the South East Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (2009)
The South East Regional Sustainability Framework (2008)
Regional Economic Strategy 2006 – 2016 (SEEDA, 2006)
South East Regional Housing Strategy 2008 – 2011
South East Biodiversity Strategy (South East England Biodiversity Forum, 2008)
South East Social Inclusion Statement (SEEDA, 2008)



Key Plans and Programmes

The Stour Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (Environment Agency 2003)
The North Kent and Swale Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Final Strategy April 2004

Kent County

Local Transport Plan for Kent 2006-11 (Kent County Council)
Kent Environmental Strategy (Kent County Council 2003) (under review)
Kent Biodiversity Action Plan (1997)
Vision for Kent – Kent Community Strategy (Kent County Council 2006)
Kent Minerals and Waste Development Framework (ongoing)
Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2007)
Kent Downs AONB Landscape Design Handbook A Management Plan for the Kent Downs (2009 - 2014)
Towards 2010 (Kent County Council 2005)
Kent Design Guide (Kent Design Initiative 2005) (Adopted by CCC as SPD)
The East Kent Local Strategic Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy (2009)
North Kent Shoreline Management Plan (1996)
Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review – Consultation Draft (2007)
North Kent Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan Scoping Report (2006)
Stour Catchment Flood Management Plan (2007)
Kent Agreement 2 (2008-2011)
Unlocking Kent's Potential - KCC's Framework for Regeneration 2009 - 2020

Canterbury District Council Documents

Canterbury District Local Plan First Review (2006)
Corporate Plan (2008 – 2012) (Canterbury City Council)
Open Space Strategy Canterbury District 2004 – 2009 (Canterbury City Council 2005)
Draft Open Space Strategy for the Canterbury District 2009 – 2014 (Canterbury City Council 2009)
Local Economy and Tourism Strategy 2008-2012 (Canterbury City Council, 2008)
Play Strategy (2009-2012)
Canterbury Cultural Strategy 2003 – 2010 (2003)
Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2001 & revised 2008)
Canterbury District Strategy (2009)
The Safer Canterbury District Partnership Plan (2009)
Local Air Quality Management – Draft Air Quality Action Plan for Consultation (Broad Street/Military Road Air Quality Management Area) (2009)
Draft East Kent Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013
Herne Bay Area Action Plan Proposed Submission (2009)
Herne Bay an Economic Assessment (2009)
Canterbury District Housing Strategy 2005-2010
Canterbury District Transport Action Plan (2004)
Canterbury District Walking and Cycling Strategy (2003)
Canterbury District Parking Strategy 2006-2016
The Canterbury Bus Strategy (2004)
Canterbury City Council Environment Policy (2009)
Draft Canterbury Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal (2009)

Supplementary Planning Documents/Guidance



Key Plans and Programmes

Shopfront Design SPG (2003)

Riverside Strategy SPG (2003)

Outdoor Lighting SPD (2006)

Trees and Development SPG (2003)

Crime Prevention Through Design SPG (2003)

Heritage, Archaeology and Conservation SPD (2007)

Development Contributions SPD (2007)

Sustainable Construction SPD (2007)

Village Design Statements

Chartham Parish Design Statement

Littlebourne Village Design Statement

Thanington Village Design Statement

Parish Plans

Barham Parish Plan

Blean Parish Plan

Chestfield Parish Plan

Hackington Parish Plan

Herne & Broomfield Parish Plan

Hoath Parish Plan

Sturry Parish Plan

Thanington Parish Plan

Upper Hardres Parish Plan

Conservation Area Appraisals (Various)



3. Key Sustainability Issues

This section summarises a review of the baseline information for the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainability. This information has been used to identify the key sustainability issues that will need to be reflected with the SA process. In order to maintain consistency within the SA process, the key sustainability issues identified in the 2007 Scoping Report have been used as a framework for the presentation of the updated baseline information.

3.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires an assessment of:

'the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme'. (Annex 1 (b))

'the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected'. (Annex 1 (c))

'the existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC'. (Annex 1 (d))

An essential part of the SA (and SEA) process is to identify the current state of the environment and its likely evolution following a 'business as usual' scenario. It is only with sufficient knowledge of the existing baseline conditions that the key potential effects of individual LDD proposals can be identified, characterised and assessed. Where information on these trends is available it has been included within the following section. Where the key issue has links to one or more of the SA objectives (identified in Section 4) these are referenced in *italics* at the end of the description of the issue.

The issues presented in the following section are listed following the sequence used in the 2007 Scoping Report, as follows:

- A. Climate Factors;
- B. Biodiversity, Landscape and Geographic Diversity;
- C. Waste;
- D. Water Quality and Resources;
- E. Air Quality;
- F. Historic Environment;



- G. Housing;
- H. Employment and the Economy;
- I. Transport;
- J. Skill and Education;
- K. Quality of Life;
- L. Energy and Renewable Energy; and
- M. Sustainable Tourism.

3.2 Key Sustainability Issues and Baseline Data

A. Climate Factors

The adopted South East Plan (May 2009) notes that:

'In recent years, the evidence that significant climate change is occurring on a global scale has become increasingly compelling. These changes will particularly affect England, and research suggests that the South East could be more affected by these changes than other regions. The precise impacts of climate change are not clear, although there will be some opportunities as well as problems. It is, however, already evident that climate change will particularly affect many facets of development and land use. This Plan recognises that challenging measures for mitigation and adaptation relating to climate change will be needed over the Plan period'.

The South East Climate Change Partnership also highlights the implications for climate change in the South East and the importance of a new planning agenda⁷:

'The South East is currently under pressure from many quarters and climate change is going to make things worse. A new planning agenda is urgently required to prepare the region for the challenges it faces from a changing climate'.

Climate Change

- The UK Climate Projections 2009 (50% probability medium emissions scenario):
 - 3°C increase in mean winter temperatures;
 - 3.9°C increase in mean summer temperatures;
 - 22% increase in mean winter precipitation;
 - 22% decrease in mean summer precipitations; and
 - 36.9 cm increase in sea level over the 21st century.

⁷ The South East Climate Change Partnership *Rising to the Challenge – Impacts of Climate Change in the South East in the 21st Century*.



The latest UK climate predictions⁸ suggest that by 2080 under a medium emissions scenario, the South East of England will have an estimated increase in winter mean temperature of 3°C, an increase in summer temperature of 3.9°C. Winter precipitation is forecast to increase by 22% in the South East while summer precipitation is estimated to drop by 22%. These estimated changes to seasonal temperature and precipitation will also be accompanied by sea level rise. The ‘on the ground’ change in sea level is difficult to predict as a number of combining factors act to alter tide level (atmospheric factors, vertical land movement and wave action will all influence peak tides). However, based on a medium emissions scenario, the central estimate (the 50th percentile on the latest models) over the 21st century predicts a sea level rise of 36.9 cm. The extreme of the UKCP09 predictions for sea level rise is a sea level increase of 75.8 cm (95th percentile).

With the large numbers of new housing proposed for Canterbury, Kent and the south east⁹, careful planning and design is required to ensure that climate change effects are fully considered. For example, this may be through:

- Minimising the environmental damage of future development through sustainable construction;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from existing development;
- Reduce the area of hard standing where possible; and
- Encouraging ‘carbon neutral’ households.

National indicators for CO₂ emissions suggest that in 2007/8, Canterbury District total CO₂ production was 906,000 tonnes of CO₂. This is a per capita release of 6.3 tonnes. The total emissions per square km for Canterbury district were 2,874 tonnes of CO₂¹⁰.

Emissions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The domestic sector accounts for 35.7% of greenhouse gas emissions• Vehicular traffic accounts for 32.5% of the total emissions from the district.
(Source: Canterbury City Council (2009) Environmental Policy)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canterbury District has the third lowest levels of CO₂ in the County at 6.3 tonnes per capita. The Council aims to reduce this by 11.2% by 2011 in line with Kent wide targets (Canterbury City Council 2009).

Climate change is likely to lead to greater unpredictability in the weather with the increased incidence of storms during both winter and summer, a long term gradual increase in average temperatures (but still with significant variations in any one year), rising sea levels and an increased risk of flooding. The first decade of the 21st century has demonstrated these climate change effects in Canterbury District, most notably the drought conditions experienced in 2005-6. These effects will need to be addressed in measures which include flood protection and the use of sustainable drainage systems and through the wise and strategic planning of future growth. The District must set an example in reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions (the principal gas linked with climate change) from buildings, industries and transport and these issues will need to be considered within the LDF. Any development policy measures that seek reductions in CO₂ emissions should

⁸ UK Climate Predictions (2009) UKCP 09. Available online at: <http://ukcp09.defra.gov.uk>

⁹ GOSE (2009) South East Plan. Available online at: <http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk>

¹⁰ National Indicator Data (2008) available online at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk>



contribute to potential Council commitments to CO₂ reduction and be in line with the UK's commitment under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012, as well as the Government's higher target to reduce national CO₂ emissions by at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO₂ emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline¹¹.

As a coastal district Canterbury experiences the direct effects of sea level rise and the changing of coastal tide movements. This manifests as coastal erosion. Controlling coastal erosion across the 20km of the districts often built up coastline is costly, though much of the coastal defence policy is to 'hold the line'. Failure to do so along much of the coast would have potentially dangerous (and costly) consequences on coastal Canterbury.

Other greenhouse gases which should be reduced include methane which is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane also results from the decomposition of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills and the raising of livestock. Nitrous oxide is also known as a greenhouse gas and is released during many agricultural and industrial activities and during the combustion of solid waste and fossil fuels.

This issue acts as a driver for SA objective 7 (Climate Change, Energy and Air Quality).

B. Biodiversity, Landscape and Geological Diversity

Biodiversity

Canterbury district has a rich and varied natural environment. This is reflected in the number and variety of designated sites in the district. Canterbury district boasts two National Nature Reserves (NNR); the Blean Woods and Stodmarsh. There are fifteen nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (see Strategic Habitat Network Map at Appendix E) of which three are also internationally designated as Ramsar and Special Protection Areas (Thanet Coast, Stodmarsh and the Swale) and two as Special Areas for Conservation (Stodmarsh and the Blean) (see Figure 1 in Appendix E). The conservation objectives, their condition and pressures on the European protected sites are included in Appendix D.

Southern parts of Canterbury District lie within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These are highly valued for landscape and biodiversity value, including species-rich grasslands, ancient woodland and three important river systems (including the Stour which feeds the Stodmarsh NNR). There are 10 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) within the District which amounts to over 250 hectares of protected countryside. Though these are considered to be of less importance for nature conservation than the nationally designated sites, they still provide a vitally important wildlife and public recreation resource. There are also a number of sites which are considered to be of County importance for nature conservation and these are designated as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). There are currently (2009) 49 LWS which fall totally or partially within the district. The Kent Wildlife Trust manages the local wildlife sites system in Kent on behalf of the Kent BAP Partnership and there is a rolling

¹¹ Defra (2008) Climate Change Act, www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2008/pdf/ukpga_20080027_en.pdf



programme of SNCI designations. There are nine Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR) in the district which provide a level of protection to vital wildlife corridors, these are also managed by Kent Wildlife Trust.

Kent is home to 28 UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitats. The BAP priority habitats are particularly important for nature conservation in the UK. Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) have been produced by the Kent Biodiversity Partnership to enhance and restore these habitats for biodiversity. Each HAP sets out the steps needed to secure a healthy future for the habitat and for the wildlife that depends on the habitat for their survival. They provide up-to-date information on:

- the state of the habitat;
- the positive and negative factors affecting the habitat;
- the current action taking place to conserve the habitat;
- the objectives of the plan; and
- the details of the lead partner organisation and working group members involved.

The Kent BAP targets for all 28 UK BAP priority habitats in Kent can be accessed from the Kent BAP website (www.kentbap.org.uk).

There are 1149 Priority Species on the UK BAP list. 85 species have been made Priority species in the County of Kent. The database of the Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre shows that 35 of these Kent Priority species have been recorded in Canterbury District. The Table 3.1 shows the Kent BAP Priority Species recorded in Canterbury District since 1990.

Table 3.1 Kent BAP Priority Species recorded in Canterbury since 1990

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Water Vole
<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish
<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	Pearl-bordered Fritillary
<i>Bombus sylvarum</i>	Shrill-carder Bumblebee
<i>Bombylius discolor</i>	Dotted Bee-fly
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	False Fox Sedge
<i>Lepus capensis</i>	Brown Hare
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	European Otter
<i>Mellicta athalia</i>	Heath Fritillary
<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Common Dormouse
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus/P. pygmaeus</i>	Pipistrelle Bats (45 & 55hz)



Scientific name	Common name
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's Needle
<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Great Crested Newt
<i>Aspitates gilvaria</i>	Straw Belle
<i>Idaea ochrata cantata</i>	Bright Wave
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Nightjar
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting
<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Corn Bunting
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher
<i>Passer montanus</i>	Tree Sparrow
<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Grey Partridge
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turtle Dove
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush

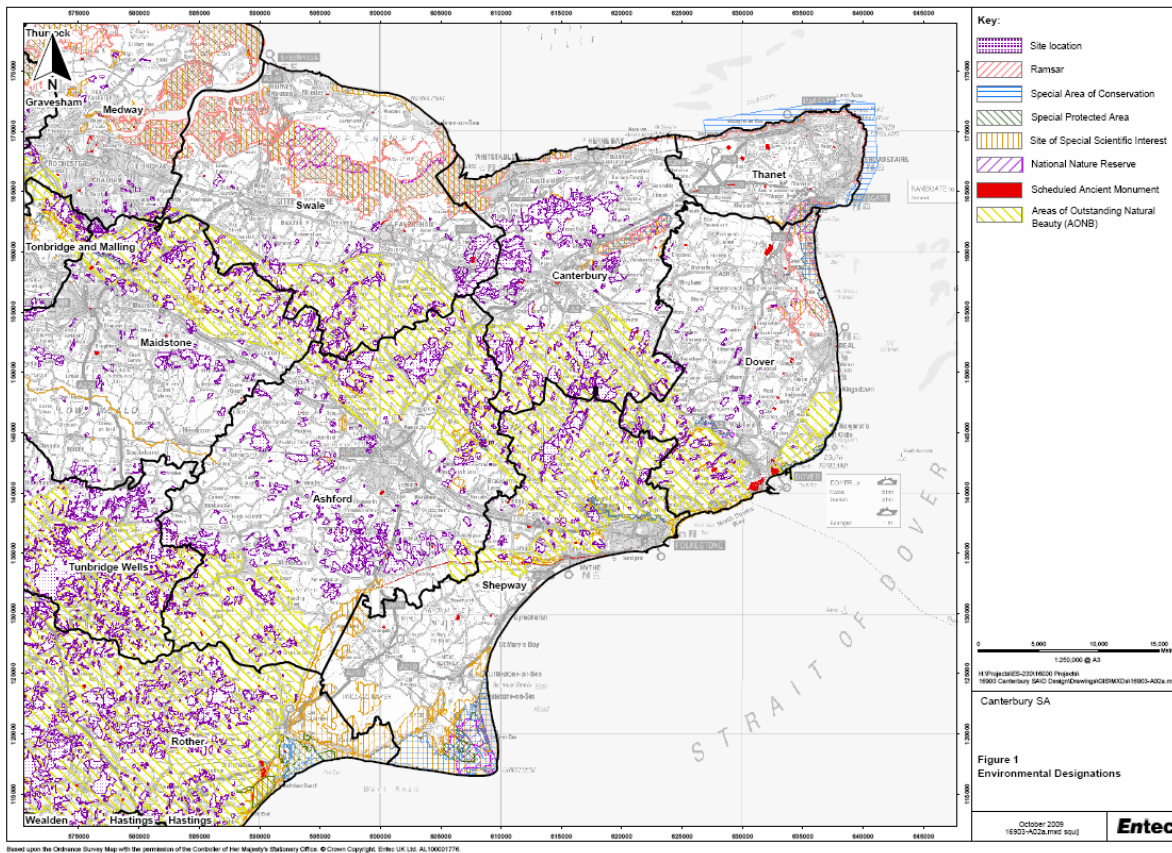
A number of species listed as protected in the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 occur in the District and include Bats, Common Otter, Dormice and Great Crested Newt.

In addition, many species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, including species given protection under Schedule 1: Bittern, Spotted Crake, Garganey, Marsh Harrier, Hobby, Kingfisher, Barn Owl, Bearded Tit and Cetti's Warbler.

Further species are identified as being of conservation concern under Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.



Figure 3.1 Designated Environmental Sites in Kent



Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is the process to assess the impacts of a plan or project against the conservation objectives of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA). SACs and SPAs are referred to as European Sites; collectively, these sites form a European Union-wide network known as Natura 2000. The HRA determines whether the impacts would adversely affect the integrity of a European Site¹².

There is a requirement for HRA to be undertaken on spatial plans and programmes. This will continue to be the case for Canterbury, as for all Local Planning Authorities where proposals could impact on internationally designated sites for wildlife. To date, Canterbury CC has completed HRAs for the Reculver, Herne Bay and Development Options SA work.

¹² Note that Ramsar sites are not strictly covered by the Habitats Directive, although any assessment under Article 6(3) and (4) would need to consider these sites in some way.



Landscape

The majority of Canterbury district falls within the North Kent Plain Joint Character Area (JCA). The southern part of the district, which is also within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), falls within the North Downs JCA. A small section of the North West coast of the district falls within the Greater Thames Estuary JCA. The Landscape Assessment of Kent¹³ breaks the district into smaller character areas with nine falling either completely or partly within Canterbury, these areas are the Blean, North Kent Fruit Belt, the Stour Valley, East Kent Horticultural Belt, East Kent Arable Belt, the Wantsum and Lower Stour Marshes, the Eastern Swale Marshes, Petham: East Kent Downs and Elham: East Kent Downs.

There are 13 miles of coast from Reculver to Seasalter including the towns of Herne Bay and Whitstable.

Southern parts of Canterbury District lie within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This is a sensitive and nationally important landscape. Kent BAP habitats found in this part of the AONB include 'lowland beech & yew woodland', 'lowland woodpasture & parkland' and 'lowland calcareous grassland'. The Kent Downs AONB Management Plan provides aims and policies for conserving and enhancing biodiversity and identifies the Canterbury District part of the AONB as falling within the East Kent Downs Character Area.

Landscape

- 27% of Canterbury is covered by Kent Downs AONB.
- The district comprises nine of the Kent Landscape Assessment areas.
- The Canterbury Landscape and Biodiversity Appraisal identifies 48 local landscape character areas outside of the AONB.

The draft Canterbury Landscape and Biodiversity Appraisal¹⁴ identifies 48 local landscape character areas within the district (excluding the AONB). The Appraisal provides advice on the condition and sensitivity of character areas and provides advice on the conservation or restoration needs for that character area.

Canterbury District wealth of natural landscape features provides a valuable resource in the form of 'Green Infrastructure'. The linkage of Green Infrastructure across the District helps to maintain landscape and habitat connectivity.

The Canterbury District Local Plan 2006 defines three Special Landscape Areas in the Canterbury District, including the North Kent Marches SLA, the North Downs SLA and Blean Woods SLA. These areas benefit from an objective to preserve and enhance distinctive landscapes, with guidance set out in the landscape appraisals. In addition, the Canterbury District Local Plan 2006 identifies two Areas of High Landscape Value, known as the 'Canterbury Area of High Landscape Value' and the 'Wantsum Channel', which seek to protect the historic landscape setting of Canterbury and the dramatic landscape of the Wantsum Channel respectively.

¹³ Kent County Council (2004) Landscape Assessment of Kent

¹⁴ Canterbury City Council (2009) Canterbury Landscape and Biodiversity Appraisal - undertaken by Jacobs and covers all of the district which falls outside of the Kent Downs AONB.



Geology

Kent's varied scenery reflects a long history of geological and landscape evolution (www.kentrigs.org.uk) and its geological resource is intrinsically important to the District and should be considered as part of the SA. Indeed, a number of SSSIs are designated (partially and sometimes wholly) for their geological interest (the Thanet Coast SSSI is one example). There are several Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS); Chislet Colliery has three 'tip' sites; Long Rock at Tankerton, Brambeling Quarry, Coopers Pit at Canterbury and Chartham Hatch Pit within the district¹⁵. RIGS fulfil a similar role for geology as County Wildlife Sites do for biodiversity.

Soil quality across the district is indicated by the agricultural land classifications with the area to the south and east of Canterbury city are of high agricultural quality (Grades 1 and 2). In addition areas between Canterbury and Reculver are also of high quality (Grade 1, 2 and 3)¹⁶.

The need to protect and enhance the biological and preserve geological diversity of the District's environment is important and should be reflected throughout policies within the Local Development Framework. This issue acts as a driver for SA objectives 5 (Countryside and Historic Environment) and 6 (Geology and Biodiversity).

C. Waste

One of the most significant issues facing the South East region is the growing amount of waste produced and how to manage it now and in the future, especially in light of population trends, proposals for new housing in the south east, the decrease in average household occupancy rates, and the changes in likely disposal options available (particularly the decrease in landfill over the next decade). Nationally, municipal waste is now growing by approximately 0.5% per year¹⁷. The South East Plan sets out that the Kent and Medway area is to manage annually 958,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) and 2.12 million tonnes of construction and industry waste (C&I) between 2008 and 2010. This is predicted to increase to 1.22 million tonnes of MSW and 2.66 million tonnes of C&I for the period 2021-2025¹⁸.

¹⁵ Kent Landscape Information System (Viewed 2009) Available online at: <http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/home.htm>

¹⁶ Viewed on Magic (magic.gov.uk)

¹⁷ Defra, Waste Strategy for England 2007

¹⁸ Government Office for the South East Region (2009) The South East Plan



These are significant quantities of waste and unless it is adequately managed and treated, it has the potential to cause significant problems. However, it also has potential value as a resource if it can be re-used or recycled. Long term provision needs to be made to manage waste in an efficient and environmentally sound manner. Measures must also be taken to counter the trend of year on year increases in the amount of waste generated.

Key waste management figures taken from the Kent County Council website include:

- In 2008/09, Kent residents produced 753,313 tonnes of rubbish and has a population of 1,394,700, equating to 506.67 kg per head;
- Kent has 18 Household Waste Recycling Centre's countywide, the average recycling rate of these is 65.62% (including soil and hardcore); and
- Kent has been given waste reduction targets of 733kg per household by 2009/10 and 704kg per household by 2010/11.

- In 2006/07, the total Municipal Solid Waste arisings in Kent were 810,009 tonnes. This was a decline of 0.35% from the previous year (Source: Kent Minerals & Waste Annual Monitoring Report 2006-07).
- The Regional Spatial Strategy sets targets to recycle or compost 50% of all waste by 2010 and 65% by 2025 in the South East.
- The 2007/2008 latest figures for Canterbury district show that over the year (from April 2007 to March 2008) a total of 45.34% of all household waste was recycled with the remaining 54.66% going to landfill (Shelford Landfill site)(Canterbury City Council 2009).
- Residents in Canterbury district now recycle or compost 47% of domestic waste (Source: Best Value Performance Plan 2008/2009)
- There are a total of 44 recycling sites across Canterbury district. There are also local facilities for recycling other household waste; Kent County Council operates two household waste recycling centres within Canterbury district; the Canterbury Recycling Centre and the Herne Bay Household Waste Recycling Centre (<http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/assets/recycling/recyclingguide.pdf>).
- 81% of people in the Canterbury District are satisfied with waste recycling (source: BV90b).
- Dry recyclables including paper, card, cans, plastics and foil are collected from the kerbside on a fortnightly basis, commingled in clear sacks. Green waste is collected at the same time via a 240L wheeled bin or reusable sacks. Non recyclable refuse is collected on an alternate weekly basis (alternate week to green waste and dry recyclables) via a black 240L wheeled bin and the quantity of waste is limited due to a policy of no side waste (source: Kent's Municipal and Solid Waste Baseline Report).

Indicative figures on the Kent County Council website show that the draft 2008/2009 recycling composting rates for Canterbury of 46% of household waste is one of only three local authorities in the region to top 45% recycling rates.

Kent have recently completed the construction of a major energy from waste facility at Allington Quarry. This facility will help to reduce Kent's dependency on landfill. The process will see un-reused, recycled or composted waste used as fuel to produce energy.

The *Survey of arisings of, and use of, construction and demolition waste* (DCLG 2007), identified that approximately 88.63 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste was produced in England and Wales in 2005. Of this 47.5%, accounting for over 42.07 million tonnes of material was recycled as aggregate. The *South East Plan* (GOSE, 2009) recognises the significant amount of waste generated by construction and seeks to continue to reduce construction and demolition waste through the adoption of Policy W2.

Landfill gas is a potent greenhouse gas (mainly a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide). There are strong drivers to ensure that it is collected and either flared to reduce its greenhouse gas potential or used to generate electricity.

This issue acts as a driver for SA objectives 15 (Natural Resources) and 16 (Waste).



D. Water Quality and Resources

Water is vitally important; we are dependent on surface and groundwater sources for our drinking water. Amongst many other uses, water is needed for industrial abstraction, for recreation, to generate energy, to run machinery, to carry wastes and to enhance the landscape. Water is also vital as a habitat for freshwater and marine plants and animals and provides resources for terrestrial species.

The area covered by both the North Kent and Swale Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) and the Stour CAMS includes a wide range of different aquatic habitats with a high conservation value. The importance and diversity of ecology and fisheries in the North Kent and Swale CAMS area is reflected by the variety of different areas of conservation importance¹⁹. The rivers in the North Kent CAMS area support populations of white-clawed crayfish, pearl mussels, otters and other species important on local, national and international levels⁹. The rivers in the North Kent CAMS area are generally of high quality for salmon and sea trout.

- In 2001 for Kent County, according to Southern Water, 105,260,500 litres of water was needed for household use. Based on a population growth of 0.4% per year, forecast shows that 108,469,000 litres of water is needed in 2006, and 112,489,000 for year 2011 (Source: Local census predictions and Water Industry Report [Government] 2001).

The period from 2004 to 2006 was the second worst drought since records started in 1914. Only the drought of the 1920s was worse. Over the period November 2004 to January 2006, only 724mm of rain fell. This led to a severe depletion in ground water reserves which only recovered following higher than average rainfall in the spring of 2007.

For the Southern Water region, 68% of the population is dependent on groundwater for its drinking water supplies, which makes the region vulnerable in times of drought or if climate change alters the rainfall pattern. The pressures on water resources are set to increase through additional demands from population growth and new housing, for example, the proposed growth of Ashford represents a 20% increase in the domestic population that South East Water serves - in an area where water resources are already under pressure. Greater water efficiency, especially within existing and future housing stock, is essential for the sustainable management of water resources (for example grey water recycling systems, 6/4L Dual Flush WCs, aerating taps and maximum capacity volume white goods etc). The Government's Code for Sustainable Homes (DCLG 2006) suggest that to improve the sustainability of buildings to a 'Level 3' standard, measures should be adopted to use no more than 105 litres of water per person per day. The population of the South East is projected to grow by up to 13% over the next 25 years which could result in an increased water demand of 49 million litres a day²⁰.

¹⁹ Environment Agency (April 2004) The North Kent and Swale Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Final Strategy

²⁰ Southern Water (2009) Water Services Customers and the Community. Available online at: www.southernwater.co.uk



Domestic water use in Kent for 2009 is 164.4 l as an overall per capita measurement²¹.

Failure to manage water resources effectively is likely to cause significant changes to valuable habitats and water quality within the region as a result of predicted climatic change and unchecked changes in demand. Water quality is not only linked to excessive extraction, but also to point and diffuse pollution. In line with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), development of brownfield sites should ensure that impacts from diffuse pollution from historical contamination is fully addressed leading to improvements in water quality, (ground and surface water) and associated aquatic ecology.

South East Water (www.southeastwater.co.uk) and Southern Water (www.southernwater.co.uk) provide regular updates on their websites of reservoir and aquifer levels, regional rainfall and domestic water usage, as well as other general information on how these have changed over time.

This issue acts as a driver for SA objectives 3 (Water Quality).

E. Air Quality

Canterbury City Council declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in April 2006 for the Broad Street/Military Road area. This was due to the Government's air quality objectives with respect to nitrogen dioxide were not being met. Further, the 2007 annual air quality monitoring report (Canterbury Annual Progress Report, 2007) recognises two further areas of concern within Canterbury (at Rheims Way and North Lane) with regard to nitrogen dioxide levels.

Road traffic emissions is the main source of air pollution in the district with the major roads of the A2, A28 and A290 being key hotspots.

The AQMA for the Broad Street/Military Road area has a number of tailored measures aimed at improving air quality in the area and reducing the effects of poor air quality in the area. A number of district wide measures are also in place to help to improve air quality across the district²².

The 2009 Updating Screening Assessment (USA) (as part of the fourth round on LAQM Review and Assessment) recognises that the council will meet objectives on all pollutants except for nitrogen dioxide. Monitoring data recognised three areas of exceedance (outside of the existing AQMA) in Wincheap, Sturry Road and St Dunstons. In addition to these exceedances, and in accordance with the recommendations in the Detailed Assessment carried out in 2008, the USA 2009 report recommends that two new AQMAs are declared along North Lane and Rhemis

²¹ <http://www.ccwater.org.uk/server.php?show=nav.333>

²² Canterbury City Council (2009) Air quality action plan. Available online at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/buildpage.php?id=5333



Way. The USA report also suggests two sites for additional NO₂ monitoring at the Wincheap Green junction and A291 Herne Street.

This issue acts as a driver for SA objectives 4 (Transport) and 7 (Climate Change, Energy and Air Quality).

F. Historic Environment

Canterbury has a long history of settlement and activity and the Cathedral, St. Augustine's Abbey and St. Martin's Church (which are milestones in the religious history of England) were identified by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The District, including the towns of Whitstable, Herne Bay and the rural villages has 2897 listed buildings, 786 locally listed buildings, 53 scheduled monuments, 94 conservation areas and 2 historic parks or gardens (on the English Heritage register). In addition, there are a further 32 gardens on the Kent Gardens Trust/Kent County Council compendium (Canterbury City Council, 2009). This rich variety of architectural and cultural heritage ranges from picturesque villages, to Victorian suburbs, a working harbour and the World Heritage Site. The historic environment needs to be preserved and enhanced since the quality and character of the environment is of prime importance to residents and tourists will also play an important role in attracting new investment. The issue of how to balance the protection of the historic environment with the needs for growth is of particular importance to the District.

Canterbury is home to one of the UK's 28 world heritage sites. The site is comprised of three parts: the Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church.

Unesco justification for the Canterbury World Heritage Site

The Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church provide the visual record of the introduction of Christianity to Britain. St Martin's preserves, in whole or in part, the building in which Bertha and subsequently Augustine and his followers first worshipped. The Cathedral stands on the site where Augustine first established his Cathedral and the ruins of the abbey include the remains of the monastery where his monks lived and worshipped and where the Kentish Kings and first archbishops were buried.

Architecturally St Martin's preserves evidence of Roman and Saxon construction, with later additions. The excavated remains of the abbey conserve some of the most important Saxon remains in the country and the cathedral outstanding examples of Romanesque, Early Gothic and Late Gothic craftsmanship. Notably the great crypt with its carved capitals, one of the earliest (if not the first) Gothic choirs in England, the lofty Perpendicular nave and the finest surviving collection of 12th century and early 13th century stained glass in Britain.

Historically Canterbury is the cradle of English Christianity, and has been associated with the development of the Christian church in Britain since the 6th century onwards. Since the 11th century it has been the seat of the primate of all England. In Medieval times, following the martyrdom of St Thomas, it became one of the three most popular places of Christian pilgrimage. Today it is to Canterbury that all Anglican churches throughout the world look to as their spiritual home and to Canterbury that some 1 million visitors come every year to worship, to relive the past and to enjoy the beauty of the present.

Natural England and Canterbury City Council have produced an Urban Archaeological Database which summarises documentation about the archaeology of Canterbury and is used to assess archaeological potential and importance of proposed development sites in the City.

This issue acts as a driver for SA objective 5 (Countryside and Historic Environment).



G. Housing

Canterbury has a population of 146,200 in 2007 with 62,592 dwellings. The population of Canterbury has a higher than average proportion of the population of university age and over 60. In 2007, there were 15,000 full time students in Canterbury. The recent housing market assessment found that 73% of dwellings were owner occupied with 15% privately rented, 8.5% council rented and 3% owned by housing associations (Canterbury City Council 2009).

The Housing Strategy for Canterbury 2005 – 2010 was developed within a framework set by national, regional and sub-regional housing plans and programmes. The key priorities of the Housing Strategy are to:

- Maximise the supply of appropriate and affordable housing in all tenures to meet the identified needs of the District;
- Improve access to housing and extend choice for all sections of the community;
- Ensure that the quality of housing is maintained to the highest possible standard; and
- Promote fully sustainable communities and support independence for vulnerable people.

These key priorities reflect the need in the District to improve the local supply of affordable housing and to improve the overall quality of housing. Currently, house prices in the District are higher than in surrounding areas of East Kent, and the average for England (as indicated by the Housing Market Assessment using 2007 figures). However, within Canterbury there are also marked variations in residential property prices and the city centre, and southern rural and Whitstable areas tend to be the most expensive. The Housing Market Assessment figures for affordability indicate that the ratio of income to house prices for lower quartile income against lower quartile property value was higher in Canterbury (9.5) than East Kent as a whole (8.1). Similarly, though less markedly, the average income to average house price ration was 6.8 in Canterbury and 6.1 in East Kent as a whole. These figures indicate that affordability in the district is a major issue. (Canterbury Housing Strategy, 2005 and Land Registry (<http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/>) and Canterbury City Council 2009).

The Kent and Medway Structure Plan, which previously specified the housing requirements for Kent, has now been replaced by the housing chapter within the adopted South East Plan. The annual requirement for houses is set out in **Table 3.2** and represents an upward revision of the figures shown in previous drafts of the South East Plan.

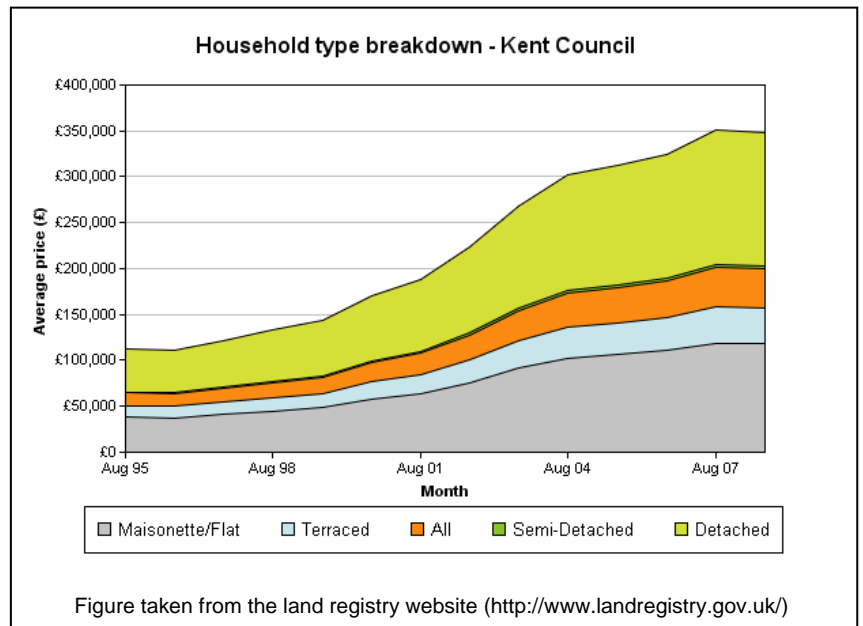


Table 3.2 Housing Requirements for period 2006-2026 (specified in the South East Plan)

District/Strategic Development Area	Annual Average	Total
Canterbury	510	10,200

The revised housing figures will require an annual average house provision of 510, the latest construction figures were 638 houses in 2006/07, 1,284 in 2007/08 and 965 in 2008/09. However, the latest two years figures include readjustments made for undercounting in previous years. The average completion figure (for the years 01/02 to 08/09) is 692 units (Canterbury City Council 2009) and is within the annual average required by the South East Plan. The current economic climate which has seen a dramatic slow down in house building in the last year. Nationally, in the 12 months to June 2009 there was a 41% drop on the starts for the 12 months to June 2008 which was itself 53% below the peak which occurred in the 12 months to June 2006. The 2009 percentage drop represents a third of the government’s target of 240,000 new homes a year²³.

The requirements for housing growth (detailed in **Table 3.2**) will have positive and negative implications for the District. For example, they will help to provide new homes for the population which has increased rapidly over a number of years but could also put pressure on existing green-field sites and other environmental assets in the District. The increase in accommodation and population within the District is likely to put additional strain on water resources in the region, which are already under pressure due to demand and falling precipitation rates affecting ground and surface water recharge levels.



The current economic climate against which this Scoping Report has been completed is one of a sharp drop in house prices over the last year. However, when house prices are examined in the context of the last 14 years it is clear that although house prices have declined in the last year, there has still been a significant rise in property value over the last decade and a half indicating that the identified affordability issues in the district are unlikely to have been greatly affected by the current market conditions.

²³ Federation of Master Builders (2009)



This acts as a driver for SA objectives 10 (Sustainable Living and Revitalisation), 11 (Sustainable Design), and 12 (Housing).

H. Employment and the Economy

Canterbury District has one of the largest economies in Kent and with 76,400 economically active inhabitants (ONS, 2008), this represents 75% of the working age population which is lower than the South East average of 82% (Canterbury City Council 2009). The number of economically active inhabitants combines both full-time and part-time employment. The service sector continues to be the largest employer in Canterbury with public sector and tourism related employers contributing the greatest proportion of jobs. Due to the tourism dependent nature of much of the service sector employment in Canterbury, there is a high proportion of the population (37.7%) employed on a part-time basis²⁴ (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3 Employee jobs by industry for 2008

Employee Jobs	Canterbury District (employee jobs)	Canterbury District (%)	Kent (%)	South East (%)	GB (%)
Manufacturing	2,600	4.3	8.9	8.5	10.6
Construction	2,600	4.3	5.7	4.6	4.9
Services	53,400	88.8	84.3	85.3	83
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	16,700	27.7	26.4	24.7	23.3
Transport & communications	2,220	3.7	6.6	6	5.9
Finance, IT, other business activities	6,900	11.4	17.6	23.8	21.6
Public admin, education & health	24,000	39.9	29.1	25.5	26.9
Other services	3,600	5.9	4.6	5.4	5.2
Tourism-related	4,900	8.1	7.7	8	8.2

Source: Viewed online at www.nomisweb.co.uk (2008).

The number of VAT-registered businesses in the District has risen from 3,245 businesses in 1994 to 4,175 in 2007²⁵ (ONS). This figure has increased steadily since 1998 and the UK figure represents the highest number of

²⁴ Office of National Statistics (2009)

²⁵ The figures are based on Stock (at end of year).



new registrations covered by the latest BERR publication (1994-2007)²⁶. At present there is no data available on the effects of the current economic climate on the levels of VAT registration/deregistration although it is anticipated that this will result in an increase in deregistration and a decrease in registrations.

The percentage of unemployed people in Canterbury District is approximately 4.6% (Source: Nomis, 2008). This compares to 5.7% in Kent, 4.4% for the South East and 5.7% for the UK

Traditionally investment in the District has mainly been limited to retail, residential educational and leisure development. This has consequences for the employment opportunities which are generated and this may contribute to the lower than average incomes experienced in the District. Investment in finance, IT and other business activities would help to address this balance and potential opportunities exist with the Higher Educational establishments in the area (e.g. Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Kent)²⁷. The report titled 'Economic Profile 2008 – Canterbury' identified that the proportion of the district's employees working in the knowledge economy had increased from 16.5% in 2003 to 20.8% in 2008.

Table 3.4 identifies average weekly earnings for the Canterbury District between 2002 and 2008.

- Canterbury has a small but strong manufacturing base mainly located on the coastal business parks.
- The total number of hectares available for A1/B2 use in Canterbury is 46.55, 1.76 for B2 and 7.8 for B8 (Source: Canterbury City Council AMR [April 2007-March 2008]).
- The percentage of those of a working age who were economically active was 81.4% for Canterbury, compared to 80.4 in Kent, 82.3% for the South East and 78.8% for the rest of the UK in 2008 (Source: Office of National Statistics).

²⁶ BERR(2008) Business start-up and closures. Available online at: <http://stats.berr.gov.uk>

²⁷ This is supported by the South East Plan (Policy EKA6) which indicates proposals for intensifying or expanding the technology, knowledge and scientific sectors will be supported at a new site in Canterbury linked to the university.



Table 3.4 Average Weekly Earnings (£)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Canterbury District	336.4	389.8	406.4	398.6	400.6	413.4	431.2
KCC Area	383.6	399.6	409.4	412.0	428.3	453.6	475.8
South-East	419.9	434.8	447.2	450.4	469.0	481.9	499.8
UK	392.2	405.2	420.3	431.7	444.8	459.3	479.1

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis (2008)

Between 2002 and 2008, average earnings remained lower than county, regional and national levels. This can largely be attributed to higher than average levels of employees earning under £250 per week. This is arguably a reflection of the comparatively high concentration of local employment in the District's retail, education and health sectors where employment is frequently characterised by low earnings.

A range of interventions from the Council, the County Council and SEEDA will be needed to address the relatively low average wage levels and the gap between the District, Kent and the remainder of the South East (e.g. through the provision of suitable employment land, encouraging specific business uses, or linking with specific sectors such as renewables or those based on the knowledge economy).

Within Canterbury District there are also opportunities for diversifying the economy and growing knowledge-based industry to derive from the international reputations and recognition of the Universities and Colleges.

This issue acts as a driver for SA objectives 1 (Economy and Employment) and 2 (Rural/Coastal Communities).

I. Transport



Transportation in Canterbury District is of a wider strategic importance for East Kent. For example, the growth of Pfizer pharmaceuticals at Sandwich, increased air traffic at London-Manston Airport, the Channel Tunnel rail link and access to Kent's Channel ports all have implications for transport corridors and modes within and across the District, Thanet, Dover, Ashford and also London and Europe.

However, East Kent suffers from areas of high traffic congestion, limited rural bus services and slow train links to London which may have implications for the growth of the economy. Traffic congestion in and around Canterbury is serious and solutions need to be found which will not damage the historic character of the city and towns, or the peace of the rural area. The problems are most evident in the city centre.

Canterbury district had good rail connections with the rest of the South East, with three train lines serving the district and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link high speed link to London is due to start up in 2009. The A2 trunk road provides vehicular links to London and Dover, while the A28 links Canterbury to Ashford and Margate and the A299 Herne Bay and Whitstable to Faversham and Margate.

There is also a high demand within the District placed on the existing transport and parking infrastructure by tourism, shopping, education and employment. This demand extends beyond the District where a problem is created by a high number of schools and work-related journeys made between the coastal towns and Canterbury.

This issue acts as a driver for SA objective 4 (Transport).

J. Skills and Education

A key concern for Canterbury District (and more widely in Kent) is the level of economic and social polarisation within the area and its impact on educational achievement.

The District still faces a number of labour market challenges. The decline of traditional industries (farming, tourism, port industries, manufacturing, mining and engineering) has left people without local employment opportunities in the jobs they are trained to do. Employment growth has often been in unskilled occupations. The lack of economic opportunities can discourage people from attaining higher educational

- Of all traffic travelling along the A28 through Canterbury at peak traffic times only 13% (eastbound) and 6% (westbound) is 'through traffic' (i.e. has no business in Canterbury).
- Canterbury District has 3 Park and Ride sites with a combined total of 600 spaces, 28 School Travel Plans and 20 Walking Buses. The number of trips on Park and Ride [year ending 2005] is 973,300 trips. (Source: Canterbury City Council Transport Department). According to the Canterbury City Council, there are 43 bus routes, 9 train stations, 3 train lines and 38 cycleways. The length of the cycle routes measure approximately 74km long (Source: Canterbury City Council Transportation Team).
- In 2006, the off-street parking demand in Canterbury on a Saturday (outside the Christmas peak) was 3869 and the total parking capacity was 4505. On-street demand in the controlled parking zone was 1574 and capacity was 2193. There are 3663 private non-residential parking places in the CT1 postcode area. (Source: Canterbury Parking Strategy 2006 to 2016).
- Over 13 million people have used Canterbury District's Park and Ride services in the last 17 years representing a saving of 7 million car journeys into and out of the city centre (Source: Canterbury City Council Parking Services)

- There are 37 primary schools within Canterbury District, 17 secondary schools, 2 pupil referral units and 2 special schools (www.kent.gov.uk).
- Kent has 449 primary schools, 97 secondary schools and 24 special schools (www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning).
- Education and lifelong learning employers are considered nearly twice as likely to report unfilled vacancies, 30% compared with 16% for all industries in Kent and Medway. Hard to fill vacancies account for 42% of these unfilled vacancies, with 30% explained by skill shortages (9% of vacancies are skill shortage vacancies) (Source: <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/se-sss-TheEducationandLifelongLearningSector.pdf>).



qualifications and therefore hinders development of skills within the District.

Kent County has around average class sizes. According to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), 2008 class sizes in LA primary schools average 28.8 pupils compared with 29.1 for the South East and 28.7 for England. Whilst class size for LA secondary schools average 25.3 for Kent, 25.5 for the South East and 25 for England. There are “skills hotspots” in East Kent (such as Canterbury’s universities and Pfizer pharmaceuticals) and many Kent residents commute to London to access higher quality jobs. Delivery of much of the growth area, regeneration, and wider economic development, agendas requires investment not only in infrastructure and buildings but in the skills of businesses, people and community-based organisations. This means continued efforts by the public, private and voluntary sectors to shape and deliver the right kind of lifelong learning and vocational training opportunities to meet a range of community and individual needs.

With regards to qualifications, Canterbury District ranks well above the national average (see **Table 3.5**). In 2008, 35.3% of the working population was qualified at NVQ level 4 and above (compared with 29.0% nationally, 31.5% in the South East and 26.6% in Kent).

Table 3.5 Qualifications (all figures are for working age) Jan 2008 - Dec 2008

	Canterbury District (numbers)	Canterbury District (%)	Kent (%)	South East (%)	GB (%)
NVQ4 and above	32,200	35.3	26.6	31.5	29.0
NVQ3 and above	51,700	56.7	45.9	50.8	47.0
NVQ2 and above	67,600	74.2	64.7	68.9	65.2
NVQ1 and above	81,100	89.0	81.5	83.4	78.9
Other Qualifications	5,200	5.8	6.8	7.7	8.7
No Qualifications	4,700	5.2	11.7	8.9	12.4

Source: Viewed online at www.nomisweb.co.uk Source: ONS annual population survey (2008).

This issue acts as a driver of SA objective 9 (Access to Services). Note: Although this SA Objective is broad it does include access to skills and training.

K. Quality of Life

As stated in the Canterbury District Community Strategy there is a need to “improve quality of life for all, both now and in the future, and to ensure Canterbury District (its towns, coasts and countryside) is known regionally, nationally and internationally as a great place to live, work, visit or study”.

While the District of Canterbury is relatively wealthy overall, compared to East Kent and other areas of the country, it does have areas of deprivation which score significantly worse than the average on factors such as income, employment, health, and education and housing. Four wards in particular are within top 10% most



disadvantaged wards in Kent²⁸. These wards are Heron (Herne Bay), Northgate (Canterbury), St Stephens (Canterbury) and Seasalter (West of Whitstable).

Canterbury district has an interesting demographic with the universities in Canterbury leading to an overrepresentation of young adults (there are over 30,000 full and part time students). There is a high proportion of over 60s and an under representation of 30-60 year olds²⁹.

Official crime statistics, to March 2009, show that there has been a decrease in crime levels of 8.1% from the previous year which represents 837 fewer victims and offences. In addition to a drop in actual crime, there has been a drop in the fear of crime in the Canterbury area³⁰.

In order to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of Canterbury District, a number of factors will need to be addressed (which may include many of those mentioned in this section). However, to improve the overall quality of life for the people in the District – many of the issues will need to be addressed in an integrated manner – since the issues are interconnected and cannot be seen in isolation.

Spatial planning has a role to play in addressing these issues in an integrated and comprehensive way.

This issue acts as a driver for SA objective 13 (Quality of Life).

L. Energy and Renewable Energy

Energy consumption and renewable energy must be a fundamental part of any longer-term aim of reducing CO₂ emissions. The consumption of energy is part of every aspect of our day-to-day lives and economy. Currently, the majority of our energy is provided through the consumption of fossil fuels, which release greenhouse gases into the

- For 2008/09 according to the Office of National Statistics, the number of notifiable offences in Canterbury recorded by the police for violence against a person was 2,006. For robbery offences and theft of a motor vehicle, the number recorded was 80 and 239 respectively (Source: Office of National Statistics).
- In April 2001, the percentage of population describing their health as "not good" was 8.9%. This is compared with 7.1% for South East Region and 9.2% for England and Wales (Source: 2001 Census, Office of National Statistics).
- Between January 2005 and December 2007, in Canterbury District, life expectancy rates for male and female are 78.6 and 81.9 respectively. This is compared to a South East average of 78.9 and 82.7 and a national average of 77.65 and 81.81 (Source: Office of National Statistics).
- The South East has the second lowest circulatory disease mortality rate for persons aged under 75 in England. Furthermore the South East has the third lowest cancer mortality rate for persons aged under 75 in England (SEERA, Regional Sustainability Framework, 2008).
- The number of adults that smoke in Canterbury District (22.6%) compares favourably to the England average (24.16%). (Source: NHS Community Health Profiles, 2009).
- The number of obese adults in Canterbury District (22.1%) is better than the England average (23.6%) (Source: NHS Community Health Profiles, 2009).

²⁸ Canterbury City Council (2009) Partnership Plan 2009 - 2012. Available online at: <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/assets/communitysafety/partnershipplan200912.pdf>

²⁹ Office for National Statistics (viewed 2009) www.nomisweb.co.uk

³⁰ Canterbury City Council (2009) Partnership Plan 2009 - 2012. Available online at: <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/assets/communitysafety/partnershipplan200912.pdf>



atmosphere. An increase in population and changes in lifestyle has resulted in an increase in demand for energy. Focus in this area should target reductions in overall consumption and the promotion of alternative and renewable form of energy.

In 2007 52.1 thousand tonnes of fuel was used on transport in Canterbury District, of this 23.5 was freight based.

Domestic Energy Use: In 2009, domestic (including space heating, hot water, lighting, cooking, and appliances) accounted for 33.6% of all electricity use in the UK (down from 35.6% in 1980)³¹. Electricity consumption in Canterbury for 2007 was 584.1 GWh. The domestic commercial split on this energy was 265.9 GWh domestically and 318.2 GWh. Commercially³² the per capita domestic consumption was 4,314 KWh, the average in the SE for the same period was 4,933KWh. The gas consumption figures for the same period saw domestic users consuming 947.5 GWh and commercial 374.6 GWh, the average domestic user consumed 17,199KWh of gas, the SE average was 17,799KWh. The largest component of energy consumption within the home is used for heating. There are a number of developments and redevelopments planned in Kent and the south east region and strategies and incentives should be put in place in order to ensure that these projects embrace and adhere to ecohomes initiatives. Information and education should be provided by the Council in order to achieve targets in reducing the consumption of energy from non-renewable sources.

Transport Sector Energy Use: Transport has been the biggest single energy user in the UK for the past 21 years, replacing industry as the largest consuming sector. Transport accounted for 38% of final energy use in 2008. In Canterbury in 2007 75.6 thousand tonnes of fuel was used on transport in Canterbury District, of this 23.5 was freight based and 34.7 was used on car travel. Furthermore transport energy consumption rose by 21 per cent between 1990 and 2008 (DECC, 2009). Despite increase efficiency in road vehicles resulting in a reduction in energy consumed per person per passenger-km, the over all average distance travelled per person has also increased.³³

Alternative Energy Forms: The nature of the topography and location of Canterbury district results in the area having a number of possible alternative forms of energy production. Currently, Canterbury is not utilising alternative forms of energy production with only a small number of renewable energy projects running, such as the Canterbury EEC energy project and the Wildwood energy project. Canterbury's non-reusable, recyclable or compostable waste contributes to the Kent energy from waste plant at Allington Quarry. Offshore wind power on the Kentish Flats (approximately 8.8km from Herne Bay) has been supplying energy to the national grid since December 2005. This site is made up of 30 turbines that can produce 3MW each with a total capacity of 90MW, enough to power 100,000 homes when operating at capacity (although in 2007 the Kentish Flats wind farm

³¹ DECC (2009) Energy in Brief 2009. Available on line at: www.decc.gov.uk

³² Department of Energy and Climate Change (2009) *Total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level*

³³ DTI Publication - UK Energy in Brief - July 2006 - URN 06/220



operated at 73% capacity - due to mechanical fault and lower than predicted wind³⁴). The forms of renewable energy that are potentially³⁵ suitable for the Canterbury district include; offshore/on shore wind power, biomass energy, bio and sewage gas, solar, wave and tidal.

This issue acts as a driver for SA objective 7 (Climate Change, Energy and Air Quality).

M. Sustainable Tourism

Canterbury continues to be one of the most popular tourist destinations within the UK generating an equivalent of 8% of the regions GDP³⁶. Some of the districts most popular attractions include the Norman Cathedral (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Herne Bay and Whitstable. The districts main attractions draw the majority of the visitors. The rises in domestic tourism may continue as a consequence of increases in taxes affecting the cost of air travel, combined with the current economic downturn, the apparent and actual threats of natural disasters stimulated by climate change and man-made disasters.

In 2008, Canterbury Cathedral was the 7th most visited paid attraction in the UK, with 1,000,419 visitors³⁷ and the 2nd most visited place of worship. However, this is a 6% decrease in visitors on the 2007 figures. The Cathedral acts as a magnet attraction in Canterbury (and indeed the South East, being the most visited attraction in the Region), along side other cultural and retail attractions. The movement and management of such huge numbers of tourists to the Canterbury District is a key issue for sustainability. Initiatives need to be in place to ensure that potential rises in road traffic from both tourism and a rising local population does not impede local business activities and that visitors are not discouraged.

- In 2006 the District provided for 596,430 staying trips to Canterbury and 5,839,353 tourism day trips (Source: Cambridge Economic Impact Model 2006).
- Canterbury Cathedral was the 7th most visited attraction in England in 2008 with over 1 million visitors.

Canterbury Environmental Education Centre had 9,000 visitors in 2008, a 28% increase on the previous year. For the same period Canterbury Heritage Museum received 17,811 visitors which was a 10.6% increase on the previous year. Other visitor attractions in the district include the Herne Bay Museum, the Herne Windmill, the Roman Museum, St Augustine's Abbey, the West Gate Museum and the Whitstable Museum and Gallery.

³⁴ BERR (2008) Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm 2nd Annual Report. Available online at: <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file50164.pdf>

³⁵ The Economic Impact of tourism in Canterbury in 2003

³⁶ www.industry.visitsoutheastengland.com/site/business-advice

³⁷ Enjoy England (2008) Visitor Attractions Survey 2008. Available online at: <http://www.enjoyengland.com>



The latest visitor spend suggests that tourism brings in £300 million a year (for 2006) to Canterbury district which represents 12% of the total visitor spend across the county³⁸. The number of visitors staying over night has not increased at the same rate as day visitor expenditure in the period up to 2006.

The ICOMOS Conference of 1990 in Canterbury agreed seven principles for sustainable tourism, which can be summarised as:

1. Comprehensive tourist development plans are essential for developing any tourist potential.
2. It should be a fundamental principle of any tourist development plan that both conservation and tourism should benefit from it.
3. A significant proportion of revenue earned from tourism should be applied for the benefit of conservation, both nationally and regionally.
4. The best long-term interests of the host community should be the primary determining factor in selecting options for tourist development.
5. Educational programmes should assist and invite tourists to respect tourism policy and should take these factors into account.
6. The design of buildings, sites and transport systems should minimise the potentially harmful effects of tourism.
7. Good management should defined the level of acceptable tourism development and provide controls to maintain that level.

Canterbury district should aim to develop tourism in ways that are beneficial economically, socially and environmentally. In order to promote sustainable tourism, local tourist destinations should be encouraged and allowed to thrive, promoting local regeneration and helping to develop new and existing events, infrastructure, facilities and attractions. This is reflected in the Canterbury Local Economy and Tourism Strategy (2002), this has two key aims with regard to tourism in Canterbury:

- ‘enhancing Canterbury’s reputation as an international tourism destination – improving the visitor experience through the quality and range of visitor attractions, festivals and events and accommodation; and
- improving Canterbury’s cultural offer – providing opportunities for existing and new audiences to participate in culture and sport, becoming recognised as a nationally significant cultural centre’.

³⁸ Canterbury City Council (2008) Draft Local Economic Strategy 2008-2012. Available online at: <http://www.business.canterbury.gov.uk/assets/businessplan/2008localeconomystrategyconsultation.pdf>



This issue acts as a driver for SA objective 1 (Employment and Economy).

3.3 Summary of the Key Issues

Key sustainability issues are those factors that need to be addressed to improve sustainability within the District. These issues can partly be addressed through land use and spatial planning and have been revised to take on board comments from the consultees. The issues are summarised in **Table 3.6** with additional information presented in the following sub-sections. They are not presented in any order of importance.

Table 3.6 Key Sustainability Issues for Canterbury District

Key Sustainability Issues for Canterbury District	
A.	Climate Change: The urgent need to address the causes of climate change to reduce the current and future threat to Canterbury District's population, wildlife, natural resources, archaeological and cultural heritage and material assets (including flood risk).
B.	Biodiversity, Landscape and Geological diversity: The need to conserve, enhance and maintain biodiversity, landscape character and protect sites important for their geological resource across the District. In particular, the need to enhance Canterbury District's environment as the green heart of East Kent, taking the lead on environmental protection and enhancement.
C.	Waste: The need for an integrated sustainable approach to managing waste from reduction through to re-use, recycling and reprocessing. The need to continue to increase the amount of domestic, commercial and industrial materials recycled or reused. The need to reduce the volume of construction, demolition and excavation wastes produced.
D.	Water Quality and Resources: The need to manage and protect water resources in response to climate change, population growth and lifestyle choices - which are all placing increasing demands on Canterbury District's water supplies.
E.	Air Quality: The primary source of air pollution in the District is from road traffic, especially on the roads around and into the City. This may be a concern for health and for the conservation and preservation of buildings and there is a need to address this.
F.	Historic Environment: Canterbury District has an exceptionally rich urban and rural heritage. However, the quality of the historic environment is coming under increasing pressure from competing land uses. Canterbury is rich in archaeology, heritage and conservation interests, the Cathedral being one Britain's 28 Unesco World Heritage Sites.
G.	Housing: The need to meet local and regional housing targets will require that new development comes forward on previously developed land (PDL) and, given the small amounts of PDL available, also on green field land. Meeting housing needs whilst also minimising the impact of development on the districts sensitive environmental receptors is one of the key issues for Canterbury City Council. There is also the need to maximise the supply of appropriate, well designed, located and affordable housing (in all tenures) to meet the needs of the District. The supply of affordable housing may also be an issue in some areas of the district along with its importance in supporting communities in those areas.
H.	Employment and the Economy: Canterbury is one of the largest economies in Kent and has low levels of unemployment. However, there is a need to broaden the local economy and to increase the knowledge based industry by drawing on links with the Higher Education Institutions and reducing reliance on tourism and retail.
I.	Transport: There is the need to encourage investment in transport infrastructure, to increase transport choice and reduce congestion. There is also the need to improve rural bus services.
J.	Skills and Education: The level of economic and social polarisation within the area has had an impact on educational achievement in some areas. The District is, however, an important focus for higher and further education and there is a need to strengthen the links between secondary and further education.
K.	Quality of Life: Quality of life for the community in Canterbury District can be positively promoted by improving the quality of the physical environment, social well-being and economic and environmental improvements and by recognising the interconnectivity of the above issues.
L.	Energy and Renewable Energy: The need to promote sustainable forms of energy, reduce overall energy consumption and become more energy efficient.



Key Sustainability Issues for Canterbury District

M. **Sustainable Tourism:** Tourism represents an important sector to the Canterbury District and the City in particular. There is the need to promote responsible tourism which is both ecologically and culturally sensitive, and that benefits the entire district.



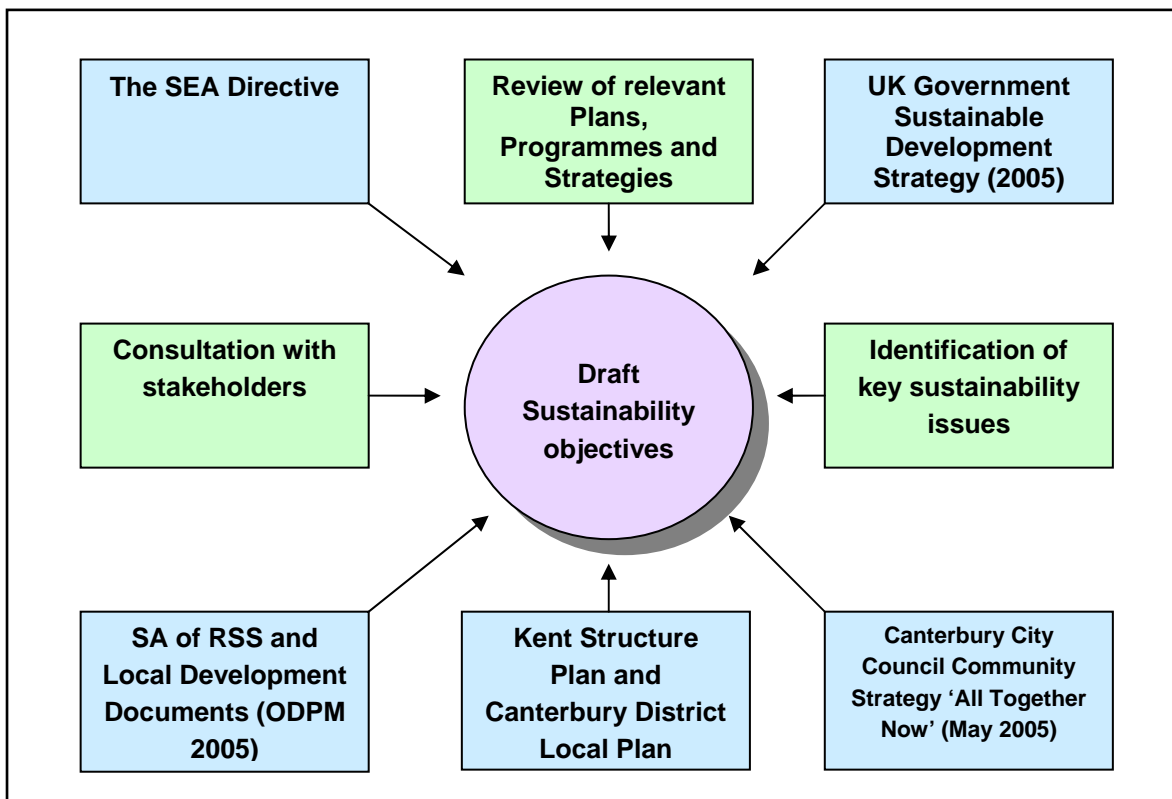
4. Evolution of the SA Objectives

What are SA objectives? 'Objectives specify a desired direction for change and they should *focus on outcomes*, not how the outcomes will be achieved ('inputs'); they should focus on ends rather than means; on the state of the environment rather than on responses to pressures on it. For instance, they should focus on "improving biodiversity" or "improving access", rather than say establishing wildlife areas or protecting rail corridors (different ways of getting to what is really wanted).' (Therivel, R (2005) SEA in Action).

4.1 Introduction

The SA objectives and appraisal questions were developed as part of the 2007 Scoping Report and have acted as the integral parts of an appraisal framework against which a number of LDD's have been appraised. The objectives were developed taking into account a number of key sources; these are identified in **Figure 4.1** below.

Figure 4.1 Development of the SA Objectives



4.1.1 Review of the SA objectives

The SA Objectives have now been used to appraise a number of LDDs. The results of the appraisals have indicated that there is a degree of overlap between a number of the SA Objectives. It is proposed that the 2007 objectives are rationalised to reduce overlap between topic areas. The rationalised SA Objectives will be consulted on through the five week consultation period.

The rationalisation of the SA Objectives also provides an opportunity to reflect the adopted South East Plan and the recently published Minerals and Waste Development Framework Sustainability Objective (August 2009). The revised SA objectives are presented in **Table 4.1**. There are now total of 16 SA objectives, which represents a reduction of 3 from the 2007 SA Objectives. The objectives are still grouped against the key sustainable development aims of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy:

- Sustainable innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment;
- Protect and enhance the physical and natural environment;
- Just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal wellbeing; and
- Use resources and energy as efficiently as possible.

There are a number of specific changes between the 2007 SA Objectives and those proposed in **Table 4.1**. These are:

- The Locational Patterns Objective which was SA Objective 17 in the 2007 Scoping Report is combined with the Access to Services and Transport SA Objectives. The key questions ‘Will it help to provide more equal access to opportunities, services and facilities (e.g. sport, culture, health, education, open space etc.)?’ fits well within SA Objective 10, Access to Services, while the guide questions ‘17.1 Will it reduce the need to travel?’ and ‘17.3 Will it encourage access to cultural and sporting facilities by sustainable modes of transport?’ fit well under the SA Objective 5 Transport;
- The Landscape and Natural and Built Assets objectives have been combined to create the Countryside and Historic Environment Objective. The guide questions for this section have also been combined. The former landscape guide question relating to designated sites has been amended to remove mention of nature conservation which is addressed in the Geology and Biodiversity Objective; and
- The Kent Minerals and Waste Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (August 2009) combines both employment and economy under one objective and also landscape and the natural and built environment under one objective. These are two sets of objectives which scored very similarly in the SAs undertaken using the 2007 Scoping Report. There is also a level of overlap between the guide questions and to a lesser degree the SEA Directive topics against which they score. It is proposed that the 2007 SA objectives Employment be combined with Economy to create Economy and Employment.



Table 4.1 SA Objectives

SA Objective	Key questions/guidance	SEA Dir. Topic
Sustainable innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment		
1. Economy and Employment To achieve a strong and stable economy which offers rewarding and well located employment opportunities to everyone.	1.1 Will it improve efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy? 1.2 Will it encourage investment in businesses, people and infrastructure for the long term? 1.3 Will it increase the number of businesses in the District? 1.4 Will it help diversify the economy? 1.5 Will it lead to an increase in the local skill base through recruitment from Canterbury's Higher education establishments? 1.6 Will it help to foster growth in the knowledge based economy? 1.7 Will it promote sustainable tourism? 1.8 Will it meet the employment needs of local people? 1.9 Will it improve physical access to jobs through improved location of sites and proximity to transport links?	Material assets
2. Rural/Coastal Communities To sustain vibrant rural and coastal communities.	2.1 Will it assist with the diversification of the rural/coastal economy? 2.2 Will it support and encourage the growth of rural/coastal businesses? 2.3 Will it retain village/coastal services and local trading schemes? 2.4 Will it assist in the provision of affordable houses in rural/coastal areas?	N/A
Protect and enhance the physical and natural environment		
3. Water Quality To protect and improve the quality of inland and coastal waters.	3.1 Will it minimise the adverse effects on ground and/or surface water quality? 3.2 Will it avoid adverse impacts on coastal waters, fisheries and bathing waters? 3.3 Will it protect and improve ground and surface water quality?	Water
4. Transport Reduce road traffic and its impacts, promoting more sustainable modes of transport.	4.1 Will it reduce travel demand? 4.2 Will it improve transport of goods/people by more sustainable means? 4.3 Will it encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport? 4.4 Will it help to reduce traffic congestion and improve road safety? 4.5 Will it reduce the need to travel?	Air, Climatic factors
5. Countryside and Historic Environment To protect and improve landscapes for both people and wildlife and to protect and maintain vulnerable assets (including built and historic)	5.1 Will it improve access to the countryside and open space? 5.2 Will it avoid adverse impacts and enhance designated and non-designated landscape features? 5.3 Will it protect and enhance Green Infrastructure throughout the district? 5.4 Will it improve access to urban open space? 5.5 Will it help to protect and enhance sites, areas and features of historic, cultural archaeological and architectural interest? 5.6 Will it help to conserve historic buildings, places and spaces that enhance local distinctiveness, character and appearance through sensitive adaptation and re-use? 5.7 Will it improve and promote access to buildings and landscapes of historic/cultural value?	Landscape, Cultural Heritage Including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage, Soil
6. Geology and Biodiversity To avoid damage to geological sites and improve biodiversity.	6.1 Will it avoid damage to and enhance species and habitats? 6.2 Will it minimise habitat fragmentation? 6.3 Will it provide opportunities for new habitat creation or restoration and link existing habitats as part of the development process? 6.4 Will it ensure the sustainable management of natural habitats? 6.5 Will it avoid damage to and protect geologically important sites?	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna
7. Climate Change, Energy and Air Quality To reduce the causes and impacts of climate change, improve air	7.1 Will it reduce vulnerability to climate change? 7.2 Will it reduce or minimise greenhouse gas emissions? 7.3 Will it maintain and improve local air quality?	Air, Climatic factors



SA Objective	Key questions/guidance	SEA Dir. Topic
quality and promote energy efficiency.	7.4 Will it minimise the need for energy? 7.5 Will it increase efficiency in the use of energy? 7.6 Will it help to increase the share of energy generated from renewable sources?	
8. Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion To reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion which would be detrimental to the public well-being, the economy and the environment.	8.1 Will it help to minimise the risk of flooding to existing and new developments/infrastructure? 8.2 Will it help to discourage inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding and coastal erosion? 8.3 Will it help to manage and reduce the risks associated with coastal erosion? 8.4 Will it reduce vulnerability to flooding and coastal erosion?	Climatic factors, Water
Just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal wellbeing		
9. Access to Services Share access to services and benefits of prosperity fairly and improve wellbeing of everyone.	9.1 Will it improve social and environmental conditions in the most deprived areas? 9.2 Will it increase economic activity? 9.3 Will it improve access to skills and training for raising employment potential? 9.4 Will it help to provide more equal access to opportunities, services and facilities (e.g. sport, culture, health, education, open space etc.)?	Human health, Population
10. Sustainable Living and Revitalisation To revitalise town and rural centres and to promote sustainable living.	10.1 Will it improve townscapes/rural centres and physical assets? 10.2 Will it encourage more people to live in town centres? 10.3 Will it improve provision of shops or services within town centre? 10.4 Will it promote responsible tourism which is both ecologically and culturally sensitive? 10.5 Will it improve physical access to services, such as a GP, a hospital, schools, areas of employment and retail centres?	Population, Human health, material assets
11. High Quality Design and Sustainability To encourage sustainable design and practice.	11.1 Will it use architectural design to enhance the local distinctiveness of development? 11.2 Will it improve the quality of the built environment through high standards of sustainable design and construction of new and existing buildings? 11.3 Will it minimise light and noise pollution?	Material assets, Landscape, Cultural heritage
12. Housing To make suitable housing available and affordable to everyone.	12.1 Will it encourage more access to affordable housing? 12.2 Will it encourage access to decent housing? 12.3 Will it provide an appropriate mix of housing to meet residents' needs and aspiration and create balanced communities? 12.4 Will it reduce the number of unfit and empty homes? 12.5 Will it reduce the number of empty homes? 12.6 Will it reduce the level of homelessness in the District?	Population, Human health
13. Quality of Life To improve the quality of life for those living and working in the District.	13.1 Will it reduce actual levels of crime? 13.2 Will it reduce the fear of crime? 13.3 Will it reduce death rates and negative health impacts in key vulnerable groups? 13.4 Will it promote healthy lifestyles? 13.5 Will it improve peoples' perception of their local area being a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together? 13.6 Will it promote sport and physical activity?	Population, Human health
Use resources as efficiently as possible		
14. Use of Land To deliver more sustainable use of land in more sustainable location patterns.	14.1 Will it promote the wise use of land (minimise development on greenfield land)? 14.2 Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded & underused land? 14.3 Will it reduce land contamination? 14.4 Will it promote the use of previously developed land? 14.5 Will it encourage urban renaissance?	Soil, Material Assets, Landscape
15. Natural Resources To ensure the prudent use of natural resources and the sustainable management of existing resources.	15.1 Will it minimise the demand for raw materials? 15.2 Will it promote the use of local resources? 15.3 Will it reduce minerals extracted and imported? 15.4 Will it increase efficiency in the use of raw materials and promote recycling? 15.5 Will it minimise the use of water and increase efficiency in water use?	Material Assets, Soil



SA Objective	Key questions/guidance	SEA Dir. Topic
	15.6 Will it protect water resources? 15.7 Will it encourage farming practices sensitive to the character of the countryside?	
16. Waste To reduce generation and disposal of waste, and achieve sustainable management of waste.	16.1 Will it reduce the amount of waste generated? 16.2 Will it encourage the recycling of waste? 16.3 Will it increase the demand for recycled materials? 16.4 Will it ensure the management of wastes consistent with the waste management hierarchy?	Material Assets

Table 4.2 shows the extent to which the SA objectives encompass the range of issues identified in the SEA Directive.

Table 4.2 The SA Objectives Compared Against the SEA Directive Issues

SEA Directive Issue	SA Objective
Biodiversity	6
Population *	9, 10, 12, 13
Human Health	9, 10, 12, 13
Fauna	6
Flora	6
Soil	5, 14, 15
Water	3, 8
Air	4, 7
Climatic Factors	4, 7, 8
Material Assets *	1, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16
Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological	5, 11
Landscape	5, 14

* These terms are not clearly defined in the SEA Directive

The assessment indicates that all of the topics mentioned within the Directive are covered by the SA objectives and as such will aid compliance with the scope of assessment required by the Directive (Annex I).

The appraisal framework, which combines the baseline information and the objectives, has been amended to reflect the rationalisation of the SA Objective. This is discussed in the following section.



4.2 Developing Indicators for Monitoring

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive to establish how the significant sustainability effects of implementing the Local Development Framework will be monitored. However, as ODPM Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal of RSS and LDDs notes *'it is not necessary to monitor everything, or monitor an effect indefinitely. Instead monitoring needs to be focused on significant sustainability effects'*.

The table in **Appendix C** identifies a number of possible indicators that could be used for monitoring the sustainability impacts of Canterbury City Council's Local Development Framework. The list contains a number of indicators which are already in common use (e.g. through the Annual Monitoring Report prepared by the Council). This list will change as an understanding of the key sustainability impacts becomes clearer during the latter stages of the SA. In addition, the selection of a final set of indicators and development of a monitoring framework will require additional research into issues such as the future availability of data and what information is or could be collected.



5. The SA Framework

5.1 Assessing Sustainability Performance

Table 5.1 sets out the appraisal framework, developed to meet the requirements of the SA Guidance (including the requirements of the SEA Directive). It contains the SA objectives and appraisal criteria (presented in Section 4). The matrix also includes the timescale of the effect and a commentary. These are briefly explained below:

Timescale - Will the effect manifest itself in the short, medium or the long term? In the context of the LDF for Canterbury City Council the short term can be interpreted as being within the first year or so of the LDD, the medium term within the lifetime of the LDD, and the longer term beyond this.

Commentary - The commentary text within the matrix and summary text within the report will identify possible impacts and proposed mitigation measures, in the form of amendments to policy or inclusion/removal of policy to increase the opportunity for sustainable development. Where a score is indicated as ‘uncertain’ the commentary should identify ways in which this uncertainty could be reduced, for example, through additional data collection or further consultation with experts.

Cumulative effects, as well as the temporary/permanence and likelihood of the effects are identified within the commentary.

Geographical effects will be noted where the effect is felt differentially within, for example different wards, rural or urban areas, coastal versus inland communities or sites outside the District.

Each policy (or option) being appraised should be considered against each of the SA Objectives in the matrix (Table 5.2). This is undertaken by the appraisal team and is informed by the baseline data and evidence gathered as part of the Scoping Report. It should also be informed by expert judgment from various technical specialists including key stakeholders/consultees. The detailed criteria will be used to inform the assessment, although the individual criteria will not be answered. The results are recorded using the measures identified in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 Possible Alignment between the Policies and the SA Objectives

Alignment	Description	Symbol
Major Positive Impact	The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective.	++
Minor Positive Impact	The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	+
Neutral	The proposed policy does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective	0
Minor Negative Impact	The proposed policy detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	-



Alignment	Description	Symbol
Major Negative Impact	The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective.	--
No Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible.	~
Uncertain	The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependant on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?



Table 5.2 SEA/SA Appraisal Framework Template

Policy/Action/Activity						
SA Objectives	Detailed Criteria/Guidance	Key Baseline Information	Timescale			Commentary/Explanation (to include cumulative and synergistic effects as well as the differential effects on urban/rural or coastal/inland communities where appropriate)
			Short term	Medium term	Long term	
1. Strong and Stable Economy To achieve a strong and stable economy with opportunities for all.	1.1 Will it improve efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy? 1.2 Will it encourage investment in businesses, people and infrastructure for the long term? etc.		++	++	+	
2. Employment To offer everyone the opportunity for rewarding and well-located employment.	2.1 Will it meet the employment needs of local people? 2.2 Will it improve physical access to jobs through improved location of sites and proximity to transport links?		-	-	--	
3..... etc			?	?	?	
Overall Commentary						
- Move away significantly	- Move away marginally	+ Move towards marginally	++ Move towards significantly	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	~ No Relationship



6. Conclusions and Next Steps

Updating the scoping report to reflect the most recent baseline information, issues and plans and programmes places the Council in a good position to carry out informed sustainability appraisals on the emerging LDDs. The next stage of the SA process (Stage B) involves predicting and evaluating the effects of the LDD which form part of the LDF. Each appraisal will seek to demonstrate the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of the LDDs and based on this appraisal will consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects. The appraisal process will be reported within the SA Report which will be published for public consultation at the same time as the draft LDF.

The key LDF documents which will be appraised using the scope outlined in this report is the Core Strategy which is likely to go through a couple of rounds of broad strategy development before the policies are formalised for consultation (and appraisal).

In addition to appraising the Core Strategy and depending on subsequent requirements there may be the need to appraise a Development Land Allocation document and possibly Development Management Policies.

As the Core Strategy emerges it is intended that there is a continuing focus on providing iterative sustainability advice. In doing so the council hope to ensure that the resulting documents have not only been guided by and robustly tested against the Issues and Objectives identified in this SA Scoping Report but also the principals of the SEA Directive.

The SA Report structure will follow that outlined in Appendix 15 of the ODPM Guidance on SA and will reflect the methodology set out in Section five of this report. (The approach might be a slight variation on the ODPM methodology, dependant on approach).

6.1 Quality Assurance

This report presents the approach which will be undertaken for the SA of Canterbury City Council's LDF. It follows closely the advice and guidance provided by the ODPM and has been prepared to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive and associated regulations. It fulfils the requirements outlined within the Quality Assurance Checklist within the ODPM (2005) SA Guidance.

The ODPM SA Guidance contains a Quality Assurance checklist to help ensure that the requirements of the SEA Directive are met. Those relevant to this stage have been highlighted.



Table 6.1 Quality Assurance Checklist

Quality Assurance Checklist	
Objectives and Context	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear. 	Section 1.1.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability issues, including international and EC objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets. 	International and EC objectives are identified in Appendix A. The commentary outlines where these are taken on board by the SA objectives and framework. Possible indicators (and their sources) have been identified in Appendix B.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate. 	Section 4 contains the SA objectives and detailed criteria. Proposals for monitoring have not been identified at this stage and this will be undertaken during the remaining stages of SA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained. 	Section 2 identifies these documents and Appendix A reviews them.
Scoping	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the SA Report. 	Consultation has been ongoing. The Council consulted a range of organisations in August 2005 on appropriate evidence to inform the SA work. A workshop was held in January to which all the environmental consultation bodies were invited. A Scoping Report was published for 5 weeks in May 2006.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The appraisal focuses on significant issues. 	Significant sustainability issues have been identified in this report which should assist in focussing on the significant issues in the appraisal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit. 	These are made clear throughout the report where appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration. 	These are made clear throughout the Report where appropriate.
Baseline Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described. 	See Section 3 and Appendix C. Trends are incorporated throughout the description of issues and are also picked up in the key evidence boxes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan where practicable. 	See Section 3.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained. 	These are made clear throughout the Report where appropriate.

