

Appendix A: Quality Assurance Checklist

SEA Quality Assurance Checklist

Objectives and context	Where identified
The plan's or programme's purpose and objectives are made clear.	Section 1 and Section 2 sets out the background to the requirement for the Sustainability Appraisal including the SEA. It identifies that the SA is undertaken in relation to the Draft Local Plan. It sets out the plan period, the area covered and the purpose of the plan.
Environmental issues and constraints, including international and EC environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets.	Sustainability issues have been considered through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of Plans, Policies and Programmes set out in 2 and Appendix C. • An analysis of baseline conditions set out in Section 3 and Appendix D.
SEA objectives, where used, are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.	Section 4 and Table 4.1, The Sustainability Framework and Table 4.2 links the framework to SA/SEA themes. Decision-making criteria and potential indicators are set out in Appendix L and M.
Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	Key messages, the source of messages and implications for the SA Framework are set out in Section 2, Table 2.1 and Appendix C.
Conflicts that exist between SEA objectives, between SEA and plan objectives and between SEA objectives and other plan objectives are identified and described.	Potential conflicts between SA objectives have been identified in Section 5 and will be identified in the on-going SA analysis and reports.
Scoping	Where identified
Consultation Bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report.	The Environmental Agency, Natural England and Historic England together with other parties were consulted on the Scoping Report and Issues Report. A summary of the responses received to the Scoping Report are set out in Appendix B. The consultation bodies will be consulted on the Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 SA Report.
The assessment focuses on significant issues.	Sustainability issues have been identified in Section 3, Baseline data and characteristics of Canterbury District and i sustainability issues and the consequences of not having a Local Plan are set out in Appendix D. Section 3.1 sets out the summary of the key sustainability issues.
Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.	Section 4.5 sets out the range of uncertainties and assumptions including recognition of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the baseline data.
Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.	No issues have been knowingly eliminated from this SA Report.
Baseline information	Where identified
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan or programme are described.	Section 3 and Appendix D of this SA Report presents the baseline analysis of the district's social, economic and environmental characteristics including their likely evolution without the Local Plan.
Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including	Section 3 and Appendix D identifies baseline data, where appropriate identifying areas which may be affected by the Local Plan.

areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan.	
Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.	Section 4.5 sets out the range of uncertainties and assumptions including recognition of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the baseline data.
Prediction and evaluation of likely significant effects	Where identified
Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects are identified, including those listed in the SEA Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant.	Section 5 summarises the appraisal of the sustainability performance of the Draft Local Plan in terms of the Local Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives, preferred development requirements and Spatial Strategy, site allocations and policies. Detailed appraisal matrices are also provided at Appendix E to K that have been developed to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.
Both positive and negative effects are considered, and where practicable, the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.	Both positive and negative effects are considered, and where practicable, the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed. Positive and negative effects are considered within the appraisal matrices and within Section 5. Potential effects are identified in the short, medium and long-term.
Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where practicable.	The cumulative effects of the Local Plan are considered in Section 5.9.
Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable.	Inter-relationships between effects are identified in the assessment commentary, where appropriate.
Where relevant, the prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds.	These are identified in the commentary, where appropriate.
Methods used to evaluate the effects are described.	These are described in Section 4 and Appendices G and M.
Mitigation measures	Where identified
Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan are indicated.	These are identified within the appraisal matrices.
Issues to be taken into account in development consents are identified.	These are identified within the appraisal matrices.
The SA Report	Where identified
Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation.	The SA Report is clear and concise.
Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms. Uses maps and other illustrations where appropriate. Maps and tables have been used to present the baseline information in Section 3 where appropriate.	Maps and tables have been used to present the baseline information in Appendix D where appropriate.
Explains the methodology used.	Section 4 presents the methodology used for assessment whilst consultation arrangements are discussed in Section 1.
Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion.	Information is referenced throughout the SA Report.

Contains a non-technical summary Included.	Included.
Consultation	Where identified
The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process.	This SA Report is being consulted upon at the same time as the Draft Local Plan.
The consultation bodies, other consultees and the public are consulted in ways which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft plan and SA Report.	This SA Report is being consulted upon at the same time as the Draft Local Plan.
Decision-making and information on the decision	Where identified
The SA Report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan.	Responses received to this SA Report will inform the preparation of the Local Plan Regulation 19 stage.
An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account.	This information will be provided in subsequent reports.
Reasons are given for choices in the adopted plan, in the light of other reasonable options considered.	Section 5 and Appendix G set out the reasons for the selection of the Council's preferred development requirements.