

Hertsmere Borough Council
Local Development Framework

Sustainability Appraisal

Including Strategic Environmental Assessment

DRAFT

Scoping Report

September 2005

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Scoping Report

This scoping report forms the first component of the sustainability appraisal (SA) of Hertsmere's emerging local development framework (LDF). In accordance with Government guidance, the SA also incorporates the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under EU Directive 2001/42/EC.

LDFs are required to be subject to SA and SEA to ensure that:

- The LDF will be consistent with international, national, regional and local sustainability objectives; and
- The likely significant effects that the LDF will have on the environment and people of the Borough are assessed and considered in formulating the plan and deciding on the most suitable options.

This scoping report sets out the proposed framework for assessing the sustainability of the Local Development Documents (LDDs) to be prepared as part of Hertsmere's LDF, as presently set out in the Hertsmere Local Development Scheme. The scoping report sets out:

- The key international, national, regional and local policy context in which Hertsmere's LDF will be prepared;
- A snapshot of the current state of the environment in Hertsmere (the environmental 'baseline');
- A summary of the key sustainability issues in Hertsmere;
- A set of SA objectives against which the sustainability and likely environmental effects of various LDF options will be tested;
- A set of indicators against which the sustainability impacts of the LDF's implementation will be measured.

Once comments on the proposed SA framework have been received and considered, a final Scoping Report will be published.

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Part 19 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the sustainability appraisal of all LDDs – both development plan documents (DPDs) and supplementary planning documents (SPDs) - which are prepared by local authorities as part of their LDFs. SA requires the significant effects of the proposed LDF, and the decisions that may result from it on the environment, communities and the economy, to be appraised as an integral part of the preparation process.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) arises from EU Directive 2001/42/EC, and requires that plans, policies and programmes be subjected to 'strategic environmental assessment' (SEA) as they are prepared. SEA aims to ensure that effects of a plan on the environment are assessed and integrated into strategic decision-making.

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It demands the use of quantitative data to analyse environmental baselines and trends to predict outcomes with or without the proposed plan or programme in place. SEA requires an assessment of the likely significant effects of the plan or programme on the environment, including issues such as:

- biodiversity,
- population,
- human health,
- fauna,
- flora,
- soil,
- water,
- air,
- climatic factors,
- material assets,
- cultural heritage,
- landscape, and
- the interrelationship between these factors.

While SEA is more focused on environmental effects rather than the broader concept of 'sustainability' covered under SA, there are considerable overlaps between the two processes. In line with government guidance, both processes are to be undertaken concurrently in conjunction with the preparation of Hertsmere's LDF.

1.3 Overview of Sustainability Appraisal Process

The ODPM's 2004 guidance 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks Consultation Paper' sets out the steps for undertaking SA in parallel with the LDF preparation process. The following represents the 5 stages of SA and the component steps as set out in the consultation paper:

Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
A1*	Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives
A2*	Collecting baseline information
A3*	Identifying sustainability issues
A4*	Developing the SA framework
A5	Testing DPD objectives against the SA framework
A6*	Consulting on the scope of SA
Stage B	Developing and refining options
B1	Developing and testing issues and options against the SA framework
B2	Consulting on the emerging options in the SA
Stage C	Appraising the effects of the plan
C1	Predicting the effects of the preferred options
C2	Assessing the affects of the preferred options
C3	Mitigating adverse and maximising beneficial effects
C4	Developing proposals for monitoring
C5	Preparing the SA report
Stage D	Consultation on preferred options
D1	Consult on the final SA report and the preferred options
D2	Appraise any significant changes
D3	Issue SA statement
Stage E	Monitoring and implementation of the DPD
E1	Monitoring the significant effects of the DPD and publishing report
E2	Implementing remedial action where necessary

* Covered by this Scoping Report

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In April 2005 the ODPM announced changes to the SA process to allow better integration with the LDF process. The Government advised that Stage B will be revised to encapsulate the body of the appraisal work, including testing the draft plan objectives against the SA framework, developing and refining options, predicting and assessing effects, identifying mitigation features, and developing proposals for monitoring.

As a result, it is intended to include Stage A5 in the revised Stage B (which will also include much of Stages C & D) and is therefore not included in this draft scoping report. Nevertheless, this Scoping Report outlines key additional details specific to the scope and level of proposed LDDs, including LDD objectives.

1.4 LDDs covered by this scoping report

This scoping report addresses stages A1, A2, A3, A4 & A6 of the SA/SEA process for the following development plan documents:

- Core strategy
- Generic development control policies
- Site specific allocations
- Proposals map.

and for the following supplementary planning documents:

- Planning and Design Guide
- Affordable Housing
- Planning Obligations
- Gypsy and Traveller site provision in South and West Hertfordshire

1.5 Consultation

This draft scoping report has been sent for consultation to the four statutory agencies with environmental responsibilities in England:

- Countryside Agency
- English Heritage
- English Nature
- Environment Agency

Other organisations with an interest in the sustainability of Hertsmere's LDF have also been invited to submit comments:

- Hertfordshire County Council
- Neighbouring local authorities:
 - Three Rivers District Council
 - Watford Borough Council
 - St Albans City & District Council
 - Welwyn Hatfield Council
 - London Borough of Barnet
 - London Borough of Enfield
 - London Borough of Harrow

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- Hertsmere Primary Care Trust
- Hertfordshire Police
- Hertsmere Local Strategic Partnership

The draft scoping report has also been placed on Hertsmere's website inviting comment.

A list of the questions posed to consultees is set out in Section 6.1.

2. Relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

Stage A1: Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

2.1 Overview

Hertsmere's LDF will be influenced by a range of existing plans, policies, agreements and legislation. These may set high-level objectives or in some cases specific targets that need to be taken into account at the local level. A co-ordinated approach is often required across a region, the nation or even internationally to tackle key sustainability issues such as air pollution and climate change.

At the local level and county level, there are already a range of existing plans and strategies that have already been produced to address issues like housing, environmental protection and community development. Some of these have involved extensive research and community involvement, and will be built upon rather than replaced by the LDF.

Hertsmere's LDF therefore needs to consider the various objectives, policies and targets set in a range of existing plans, policies and programmes, and attempt to reconcile some inevitable conflicts. It will be particularly important therefore to identify the priority sustainability objectives to allow decisions to be made where competing objectives and options exist.

2.2 List of relevant plans, policies and programmes

The following table lists the range of existing plans, policies and programmes which are considered to be directly relevant to the preparation of Hertsmere's LDF.

International

Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)
The World Summit in Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002)
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)
Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (Directive 92/43/EC) (The Habitats Directive)
EU Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC)
EU Directive to Promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001/77/EC)
EU Sustainable Development Strategy
EU Spatial Development Perspective
European Biodiversity Strategy

National

Securing the Future - UK Sustainable Development Strategy
Working with the grain of Nature – A biodiversity strategy for England
UK Climate Change Programme (2000)

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DETR (2000) Government Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities: the Future – Delivering an Urban Renaissance
DETR (2000) Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: the Future – a Fair Deal for Rural England
Environment Agency (2001) Water Resources for the Future – A Strategy for England and Wales
DEFRA (2004) Making space for water: Developing a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England.
DETR (2000) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Working together for clean air (2000)
DEFRA (2004) The First Soil Action Plan for England: 2004-2006
UK Waste Strategy
Energy White Paper: Our energy Future – creating a low carbon economy
Saving lives: Our Healthier Nation White Paper
Planning Policy Guidance Note 2: Green belts
Planning Policy Guidance Note 3: Housing
Planning Policy Guidance Note 4: Industrial, commercial development and small firms
Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications
Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport
Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the historic environment
Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and planning
Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation
Planning Policy Guidance Note 19: Outdoor advertisement control
Planning Policy Guidance Note 21: Tourism
Planning Policy Guidance Note 24: Planning and noise
Planning Policy Guidance Note 25: Development and flood risk
Planning Policy Statement 1: Creating sustainable development
Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres
Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable development in rural areas
Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and geological conservation
Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for sustainable waste management
Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks
Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable energy
Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and pollution control
Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide (ODPM, 2005)

Regional

East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England
East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal Report
Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England (July 2003)
Revised Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England 2005-2010
A Shared Vision: The regional economic strategy for the East of England (2004)
A Housing Strategy for the London Commuter Belt 2005-2008
Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England
A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (Oct 2001)
Regional Social Strategy: A strategy to achieve a fair and inclusive society
Living with climate change in the East of England (Feb 2003/Sep 2003)
A Shared Vision: The regional economic strategy for the East of England
Creating Sustainable Communities In the East of England
Towns and Cities – Strategy and Action Plan: Urban Renaissance

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County

Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011
Hertfordshire Structure Plan Alterations 2001-2016 Deposit Draft Version, February 2003
Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11 (consultation draft)
Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan 2006/07 – 2010/11 Strategic Environmental Assessment Report
Hertfordshire Accessibility Planning Strategy 2006/07 – 2010/11 (Draft)
Economic Development Strategy for Hertfordshire 2000-2005 (2000)
The Hertfordshire Environmental Strategy (June 2001)
Hertfordshire Waste Strategy 2002-2024 and Waste Local Plan 1995-2005
Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework and Scheme
Enjoy! A cultural strategy for Hertfordshire 2002-2007
A 50 Year Vision for the Wildlife and Natural Habitats of Hertfordshire
Hertfordshire Sustainable Development Guide (Draft)

Local

Hertsmere Together - a Community Strategy for Hertsmere
Hertsmere Local Plan 2003
Smile - a cultural and leisure strategy for Hertsmere
Hertsmere Contaminated Land Strategy
Hertsmere Environmental Strategy 2004
Hertsmere Borough Council Best Value Performance Plan 2005-2006
A Corporate Plan for Hertsmere
Crime, disorder and drugs reduction strategy for Hertsmere
Hertsmere Housing Strategy 2000-2003, and Update (2003)
Hertsmere Supplementary Planning Guidance: Monitoring and Review – Sustainability Indicators (2003)
Hertsmere Air Quality Review

2.3 Implications of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

The plans, policies and programmes listed above contain several hundred different objectives, targets and indicators that contribute to shaping Hertsmere's LDF.

The relevant sustainability objectives, targets and indicators from these documents are listed in Appendix 1, together with the identified implications for the SA/SEA of Hertsmere's LDF.

The more specific policy implications of each will be taken into account as the LDF is prepared, in particular as various issues and options are considered in relation to issues such as housing, environment, economy, leisure, community services, accessibility etc.

3. Baseline information

Stage A2: Collecting baseline information

3.1 Overview

The collection of baseline information forms a major part of the first stage of Hertsmere's LDF. In addition to desktop research, Hertsmere BC has commissioned consultants to undertake studies including housing need, employment land and gypsy and travellers needs. A survey is also currently being undertaken of Borough residents to identify other issues and problems that might not be reflected in current data sets.

It is expected that the baseline information will be augmented as data becomes available during the preparation of LDDs. The baseline will also help to provide the framework for the proposed monitoring measures that the SA of the LDDs will need to incorporate in its production (and post-production monitoring) and this should be detailed in the full SA report. The baseline data will need periodic review and updating in order to carry out this process effectively.

Section 3.2 describes the general characteristics of the Borough of Hertsmere.

Section 3.3 lists the more detailed baseline information on the state of Hertsmere's environment, society and economy which is set out in Appendix 2.

3.2 General characteristics of Hertsmere

3.2.1 Location and accessibility

The Borough of Hertsmere is situated north of London in the southwest of Hertfordshire. It covers 38 square miles and includes the distinctly individual communities of Bushey, Potters Bar, Radlett, Elstree and Borehamwood, the latter being the political centre and largest town. The borough also contains several smaller settlements including South Mimms, Ridge and Shenley.

A number of nationally important roads and railway lines pass through the Borough. This provides much of the opportunity for local residents to find work outside Hertsmere. These transport links also render the Borough easily accessible for local business interests. These movements continue to place a heavy burden on the Borough's local road infrastructure. As a result, maintenance, traffic congestion and parking are issues of increasing importance to the Council and local people.

Despite the good rail connections to London and the North, there are generally poor public transport connections east-west across the Borough. This has led to the main towns becoming isolated from each other, making it difficult to share services. As each centre acts as a separate community, local residents' interests tend to be directed towards the urban area where they live.

3.2.2 Historical Context

Hertsmere was created in 1974, following local government reorganisation, from the Urban District Councils of Potters Bar and Bushey, and the Rural District Councils of Elstree and Watford. In 1993 the whole of Elstree village came within Hertsmere. The main towns within the Borough have developed with their own separate identities. Borehamwood grew from a hamlet after the construction of the Midland Railway in 1868. Manufacturing industry moved in and after 1914 the film industry, and later television, provided the economic foundation for the town. During the 1950's and 60's the town's population and housing was dramatically increased with the re-housing of people from London. Today the centre provides the local shopping facilities for the town and surrounding villages as well as jobs in light industry, warehousing and offices.

Attached to Borehamwood, but very different, is the village of Elstree. Dating from Roman times this linear settlement has grown up along Watling Street. A number of its buildings reflect its medieval past creating an attractive place of historical interest. Also situated along Watling Street is the attractive settlement of Radlett that has grown up around road and rail communications providing easy access to London.

Bushey, located east of Watford, is an impressive settlement that still retains its village atmosphere. It has developed from its medieval beginnings, due to its location close to London, as a largely residential settlement. The town has strong links with the Monro Circle of water colourists and the eminent Victorian artist Sir Hubert von Herkomer and his art school. Today the town still retains a strong artistic and cultural community.

From its medieval manorial origins, Potters Bar has developed along the Great North Road (High Street) in the 18th century and grew, after the opening of the railways in 1850, around Darkes Lane creating two centres to the town. The main growth of the town happened in the 1930's when the population trebled. The opening of the M25 has enabled Potters Bar to continue to develop into a modern town with an active community life.

3.2.3 Population

Today the population of Hertsmere stands at 94,450 (2001 Census) an increase of 7.8% from 1991. Although Hertsmere's age structure is similar to the Country as a whole it has a slightly higher population of pensioners and a lower population of people of working age. It is predicted that the population of the Borough will continue to rise reaching 110,000 by 2021.

According to the 2001 Census, 7.5% of Hertsmere's population is not of white UK origin, slightly less than the national average of 7.9% but representative of Hertfordshire. The largest minority groups are Asian, Mixed, Black and Chinese.

3.2.4 Society

Hertsmere is generally a relatively affluent area with a low crime rate, good education and low unemployment. However it does contain pockets of social deprivation with Borehamwood having some of the most deprived wards in Hertfordshire, while Aldenham East is the least deprived ward in the Country.

In 1999 unemployment in Hertsmere was 1.8% and included considerable local variation with some wards in Borehamwood having the highest unemployment in the Borough at

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around 4%. Unemployment in Hertsmere in December 2002 was 1.4% compared with the East of England rate of 1.7% and the National rate of 2.5%

Within a national context, Hertsmere enjoys relatively low crime rates. Hertfordshire as a county has one of the lowest crime rates of all county areas in England and Hertsmere's crime rate is just above the county average. However, crime and the fear of crime *are* paramount amongst Hertsmere's residents and recent opinion surveys show that reducing crime and the fear of crime are the most important areas for agencies to work together on.

In general terms the health experience of residents of Hertsmere compares favourably with the average across Eastern England. The infant mortality rate is 3.5 per 1000 live births and life expectancy for males is 76 years and for females 81 years. Nearly 7% of the population describes their health as "not good" compared to the average of more than 9% in England and Wales.

3.2.5 Economy

The majority of Hertsmere's population is very mobile, with 60% of people commuting to work outside the area and with a high proportion of the population classed within the professional and management category sector. Hertsmere is a popular location for large employers and small businesses including the service sector, pharmaceutical industries, high technology and telecommunication businesses in particular. It is also an attractive location for warehousing and distribution companies.

Borehamwood has been at the heart of the British Film Industry for the past 80 years. Although the industry declined in the 1970's, BBC TV, Millennium Studios and the Hertsmere Borough Council owned Elstree Film and Television Studios still operate from Borehamwood, and Hillside Studios from Bushey. With the resurgence of film and television production in South West Hertfordshire there are significant economic development opportunities for both the local labour force and supporting businesses.

The continued trend away from manufacturing towards service-based industry has also resulted in a local skills shortage. Local businesses are therefore increasingly dependent upon employees from outside of the Borough. Education and re-skilling within the local workforce is growing in importance as a consequence.

3.2.6 Environment

80% of Hertsmere is designated Green Belt, most of which is in agricultural use. This has helped to retain the separate character of Hertsmere's towns and villages and has prevented the merging of settlements. The green belt provides opportunities for outdoor recreation and sports such as horse riding and cycling, while enhancing the attractiveness of the borough.

There is one site of special scientific interest within the district at Redwell Woods, and one proposed at Hilfield Park Reservoir. In addition there are three nature reserves, three important geological sites and four prescribed ancient monuments.

Hertsmere falls mostly within Watling Chase Community Forest, an initiative by the Countryside Agency and Forestry Commission. It is one of twelve Community Forests that provide access to outdoor sport and recreation.

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The main rivers and streams include the River Colne, Catharine Bourne, Mimmshall Brook and Tykes Water. Open waters include Hillfield Park Reservoir, Aldenham Reservoir and lakes at Tyttenhanger and Bowmans Green Farms.

With respect to geology, the northern part of the district is underlain by a highly permeable gravel and chalk aquifer, which holds the main groundwater drinking water resource for the area. Elsewhere, the chalk aquifer is protected by clay strata, although it is still permeable in places. The aquifer is highly susceptible to urban pollutants, particularly near the River Colne.

Hertsmere's urban environment is mainly suburban in character, and is predominately contained within the urban areas of Potters Bar, Bushey, Elstree & Borehamwood, and Radlett. There are many buildings of historic interest that contribute to the quality of the built environment, many of which are within the Borough's fifteen conservation areas, including Bushey, Elstree, Shenley, Letchmore Heath and Aldenham.

3.3 Detailed baseline data

Appendix 2 sets out the detailed baseline data that has been or is currently being collected to provide the evidence base for informing the preparation of Hertsmere's LDF.

The Council will continue to collect and collate information as required throughout the LDF process to inform its decision-making on the new plan. Therefore, in some cases the desired baseline information identified in this scoping report may not yet be specifically set out in the table in Appendix 2, or might only be available at a County or regional level. Where possible, Council will attempt to fill these information gaps as the LDF preparation progresses, and through the subsequent monitoring of its implementation.

The baseline information in Appendix 2 includes the following information, where currently available:

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Population and household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total population • Population density • Average household size • Population distribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Males ○ Females ○ Aged 0 to 15 ○ Aged 16 to 74 ○ Aged 75 and over • Housing tenure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Owner occupied: Owns outright ○ Owner occupied: Owns with a mortgage or loan ○ Rented from: Council (local authority) ○ Rented from: Housing Association / Registered Social Landlord ○ Rented from: Private landlord or letting agency ○ Rented from: Other • Percentage of households living in type of accommodation, April 2001: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whole house or bungalow: Detached ○ Whole house or bungalow: Semi-detached ○ Whole house or bungalow: Terraced (including end terrace) ○ Flat or maisonette ○ Caravan or mobile home
Social inclusiveness and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Index of multiple deprivation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Overall rank b) Income c) Employment d) Education e) Barriers to housing and services f) Health deprivation and disability • % of residents surveyed who consider that they are happy with their level of involvement in local decision making • % of people claiming jobseekers allowance who have done so for a year or more • % of 18-24 year olds claiming unemployment related benefits • % of under 16s living in income deprived families • % of economically active population with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) no qualifications b) NVQ3 or higher qualifications • % population in household with no wage earner • Child care centre waiting lists / availability by location

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Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport accessibility - % of all uses within accessibility zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Primary schools b) Secondary schools c) Child care centres d) Other education facilities e) Retail f) Offices over 1,000 sq m g) Industrial premises over 1,000 sq m h) Open space (various types) i) Leisure centres (gyms, swimming pools etc) j) Cinema k) Residential l) Hospitals m) Doctors n) Pharmacies o) Banks p) Post offices q) Job centres Proximity of services to population - % of population within identified threshold distance of services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Train station b) Bus stop (with min frequency) c) Primary school (1500m) d) Secondary school (3000m) e) Child care centre (1500m) f) Doctor (1500m) g) Pharmacy (1500m) h) Bank (1500m) i) Post office (1500m) j) Job centre (3000m) k) Local open space (800m) l) District open space (1500m) m) Town centre (1500m) n) Supermarket (1500m) o) Library (1500m) % of buildings open to the public that are suitable & accessible to disabled people
Housing need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of dwellings not meeting the 'decent homes' standard Housing affordability: House price to income ratio for working households aged 20-39 (average price 2/3 bed dwelling vs average household income) Housing affordability ratio for males and females, by dwelling type Proportion of families accepted as statutorily homeless within the last 2 years Affordable housing units completed in the year Number of people on housing waiting list and average time on list Number of abandoned homes Number of unauthorised travellers encampments

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Well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total crime per 1000 population • Violent crime committed in a public place per 1000 population • Fear of crime: % of residents that feel safe / very safe living in Hertsmere • Life expectancy (by gender) • General health: % of people describing their health as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Good b) Fairly Good c) Not good • People of working age with a limiting long-term illness • Road accidents – killed or seriously injured • Properties affected by flood risk • Accessibility of health services (see accessibility)
Liveable communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident perceptions of town centres (survey) • Resident perceptions of neighbourhoods (survey) • Number of empty shops in town centres • Accessibility of town centres and retail / services (see accessibility) • Proportion of local ('non-clone') shops in high streets (by centre) • Retail floorspace in centre vs out-of-centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Total floorspace in/out of centre b) % in/out of centre • % of highways that are of a high/acceptable standard of cleanliness • % of Borough deficient in various types of open space, as per needs survey • Open space accessibility (see accessibility) • % of residents satisfied with LA cultural services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) sports and leisure facilities b) libraries c) museums d) arts activities and venues e) parks and open spaces
Heritage and landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed buildings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Good condition (number / %) b) At risk (number / %) c) Lost in previous year • Ancient monuments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Good condition (number / %) b) At risk (number / %) c) Lost in previous year • Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Total ha b) Net change • Green belt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Total ha b) Net change • % of conservation areas with an up-to-date character appraisal
Land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenfield land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) total ha b) area lost • % of new homes built on previously developed land • Average density of new housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Borough b) By town

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Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of services and trip-generating uses (see accessibility) • Private car ownership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) % of households with 0, 1, or 2+ vehicles b) Average vehicles per household c) Change from previous survey • Modal split for journeys to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) work b) shopping c) school • Mean average distances for journeys to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) work b) shopping c) school • % population working from home • Greenway/cycleway usage (counts) • Length of greenways/cycleways per head of population • Trip-generating developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) % with green travel plans being implemented b) % with cycle facilities c) % located in high accessibility zone (see accessibility)
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland Bird Species Population • Woodland Bird Species Population • Bird numbers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Skylark (reflecting farmland) b) Song Thrush (reflecting woodlands and mixed farmland) c) House sparrow (reflecting urban environments) • Condition of SSSIs • Wildlife sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) total ha b) area lost • Ecological quality of ponds
Water and soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical river quality • Biological river quality • River quality objectives: % passed/failed • Water use by sector • Agricultural land resource (ha) • Contaminated land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) amount (ha) b) number of sites (BVPP – 'of potential concern to LA')
Air, climate and energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO2 emissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Total CO2 carbon emissions b) per capita • Air quality – number of days of air pollution poor / moderate • Energy produced by renewable sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) kWh b) as % of total energy production • % all homes with renewable energy sources eg. solar hot water, solar panels, wind turbines

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Resource use and waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total waste collected per annum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) total tonnage b) kg per head • Total waste recycled per annum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) total tonnage b) kg per head • Household waste: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Total tonnage b) Kg per head c) Total sent for recycling/composting (tons) a) % sent for recycling/composting • Ecological footprint (global ha per person)
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people employed • Unemployed benefit claimants rate (%) • Average weekly earnings • Gross value added per head • VAT registered businesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Total businesses b) Change from previous year c) New registrations pa as % of total d) New registrations surviving 3 years • Vacant employment land by Class (ha) • Vacant town centre shopping units (by % of total)

4. Sustainability issues

Stage A3: Identifying sustainability issues

4.1 Key sustainability issues for Hertsmere

The following section identifies the key sustainability issues affecting Hertsmere, as drawn from the current collection of baseline information presented in Appendix 2.

4.1.1 Housing affordability

Housing affordability is a significant issue for the borough. Hertsmere's high house prices are a direct consequence of its attractiveness as a place to live, surrounded by Green Belt and within easy commuting distance from London.

A report prepared by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation Report (2003) identifies Hertsmere as the least affordable district in Hertfordshire for a person on an average income to purchase a home. It is also the 2nd least affordable in the East of England after Cambridge, and the 31st least affordable local authority area in England.

	Ratio of average house price for 2-3 bed home to average household income
Hertsmere	5.34
Hertfordshire	4.65
East of England	4.27
England	4.11

Females are more disadvantaged than males when it comes to affordability. The average price of a detached dwelling is 18.49 times the average female income in the borough, while a flat/maisonette costs 5.01 times the average annual income for women. All ratios for men and women in Hertsmere are above the average for Hertfordshire and for England.

Housing costs also affects the ability of the “key workers” of the borough to live here and makes the recruitment and retention of young professional staff particularly difficult.

In a recent survey of the borough, residents ranked housing affordability as the 3rd most important issue needing to be addressed in Hertsmere, after fear of crime and roads.

4.1.2 Motor vehicle usage

A key sustainability issue for Hertsmere is the relatively high level of car usage in the borough compared to walking, cycling and public transport use.

There are many factors that influence a person's choice of travel mode, including trip purpose, trip distance, disposable income, time of year/weather, frequency/accessibility of public transport, and perception of personal safety.

Vehicle ownership can provide an indication of an area's socio-economic status and the availability and personal perception of other travel methods. Hertsmere has one of the highest rates of car ownership in Britain. Over 82% of all households have at least 1 car, and 41% of households have 2 or more vehicles.

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Vehicles per household	Hertsmere	Hertfordshire	East of England	England
0	18	18	20	27
1	41	42	44	44
2 or more	41	40	36	29
Average number of vehicles per household	1.36	1.34	1.27	1.11

Car ownership is increasing, with the proportion of car-free households falling by 4% from 1991 to 2001, while the number of 2 and 3+ car households rose by 4% and 1% respectively. Trends indicate that car ownership in Hertsmere will continue to increase.

Hertsmere also has relatively low levels of walking and cycling compared to other local authorities. Of journeys to work, only 1.1% were made by cycling, the lowest level in Hertfordshire (average 1.8%). This has declined by 0.3% since 1991. Similarly, only 8% of Hertsmere's residents walked to work, below the average of 8.8% for Hertfordshire, and 10% for England and Wales. The location of employment relative to place of residency may be a factor.

The borough has a higher level of train usage for journeys to work (13.8%) than the County (10.5%), East of England (6.9%) and National levels (7.4%), reflecting the good rail connections and the large number of residents that commute to London to work. However, despite the good north/south rail connections radiating from London, there are no east-west rail links within the borough. As a result rail does not feature prominently in school, leisure or shopping journeys.

Bus use for work journeys in Hertsmere is 4.1%, which is above the average for the County (3.2%), similar to the average for the East of England (4.0%), although significantly less than that for England as a whole (7.5%).

4.1.3 Reducing inequality

Hertsmere is generally a relatively affluent area with a low crime rate, good education and low unemployment.

However it does contain pockets of social deprivation, with Borehamwood having some of the most deprived wards in Hertfordshire, particularly with respect to indicators such as income and child poverty. On the other hand Aldenham East is the least deprived ward in the Country. There are also some smaller pockets of deprivation in North Bushey, Potters Bar and the Battlers Green area of Radlett.

Housing affordability is also a contributor to inequality in Hertsmere.

4.1.4 Pressures on landscape character

Approximately 80% of the borough is Green Belt, much of it high quality landscape area, which provides Hertsmere with a high quality living environment.

Proposed government targets require Hertsmere to accommodate 2600 new homes between 2005 and 2021. While the Council has in the past been able to achieve the vast majority of new dwellings on previously-developed land, Green Belt and other open land is likely to come under considerable pressure in the LDF plan period.

4.1.5 Pressures on urban character

Hertsmere contains distinct urban settlements, with each tending to act as a separate community. Local residents' interests therefore tend to be directed towards the urban area where they live. As a result, there is considerable local interest in maintaining the distinctive characteristics of each urban area.

Urban character could come under pressure from the need to accommodate additional development over the next plan period, for example housing requirements in the draft RSS). It is also potentially in conflict with the desire to protect greenfield land from further development. Balancing these pressures therefore presents a key challenge for the LDF.

4.1.6 Reducing the fear of crime

Within a national context, Hertsmere enjoys relatively low crime rates. Hertfordshire has one of the lowest crime rates of all county areas in England and Hertsmere's crime rate is just above the county average. However, crime and the fear of crime rate highest in recent opinion surveys amongst Hertsmere's residents as areas requiring improvement in their neighbourhood.

Further work is therefore required to help make sure that Hertsmere's residents feel safe and secure in their homes and in public places.

4.1.7 Increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy sources

The amount of energy obtained in the East of England from renewable sources, 0.45%, is low compared to the UK average (2%). Total potential renewable resources are equivalent to 40% of energy used. The region has a target of 14% of energy from renewable sources by 2010.

The Council does not have detailed statistics on energy efficiency in existing buildings. There is no up-to-date design guidance seeking energy efficiency in new buildings, and anecdotal evidence suggests that new buildings are not optimising energy efficiency opportunities.

A key sustainability challenge for Hertsmere will be to encourage designs that use less energy, and proposals that provide renewable energy sources.

4.1.8 Air quality, especially on main transport routes

The Environment Act 1995 requires local authorities to undertake air quality reviews. In areas where an air quality objective is not anticipated to be met, local authorities are required to establish air quality management areas (AQMAs) and implement action plans to improve air quality.

An air quality 'Updating and Screening Assessment' conducted for the Council in 2003 concluded that the UK air quality objectives will not be met for nitrogen dioxide in Hertsmere. The annual mean for nitrogen dioxide is likely to be exceeded in Hertsmere, mainly at locations in close proximity to the M25 and M1 and in the urban centres of Potters Bar and Borehamwood.

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Although the 2003 PM10 objectives were being met, it was predicted that the lower PM10 objectives to be introduced in 2010 would not. These were forecast to be exceeded at many locations throughout Hertsmere, particularly at South Mimms Service Station and properties in Potters Bar which are very close to Junction 24 of the M25.

AQMAs have therefore been established by the Council, as required by the National Air Quality Strategy.

The primary source of these pollutants is motor vehicle emissions, as there are no major industrial sources of these pollutants in Hertsmere. As Motorways and trunk roads passing through the borough provide the main source of these pollutants, regional and national initiatives to reduce traffic congestion, vehicle use and emissions will play an important role in dealing with this issue.

4.1.9 Water supply and demand

The south east is one of the driest areas in the UK. Yet at 191 litres per person per day, average water consumption is 28 litres above the national average. Long, hot summer days, high expectations in gardens and an increased use of power showers and other water-hungry domestic appliances, are just some of the many reasons behind the ever-increasing demand for water.

Hertsmere's water is supplied by Three Rivers Water, which draws approximately 55 per cent of the water from groundwater sources, while the remainder is taken from surface sources on the River Thames and from Grafham Water.

Mapping included in the draft RSS indicates that most of the region's groundwater resources are broadly in balance, but no that further resources are available for abstraction. In some areas surface and groundwater abstraction already exceeds sustainable limits.

Water availability is likely to be a constraint to large-scale development in the region. This influences not just water supply for people but also habitats and biodiversity. Key issues for the LDF will include how new development can be accommodated within water supply constraints, and how to reduce water consumption and leakage.

4.1.10 Reducing waste and increasing recycling

The proportion of household waste that is recycled in Hertsmere has been below the National target rate for some time, and has similarly lagged behind the average recycling rate for the county, region and nation. Following recent initiatives by the Council, the latest figures have shown a significant improvement, with 20.5% of the total waste collected by the borough and household waste recycling centres being recycled in the last year, meeting the national target of 20%. The majority of the remaining rubbish is currently buried in landfill in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Essex (although these existing landfill contracts will expire during the course of the LDF).

The Government's recycling target rises to 21% this year, and will increase to 30% by 2010, while Hertfordshire councils have voluntarily agreed to a much higher target of 50% of waste being recycled or composted by 2012. Hertsmere's recycling rate is still currently below the county average of 22%.

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A recent Council survey showed that 50% of all residents surveyed felt that a lack of space at home to store recyclables was a barrier to increasing recycling; rising to 70% for those residents living in flats.

Reducing waste production, increasing recycling, and disposing of non-recyclable waste remain key sustainability issues for the borough. Associated issues will involve the need to provide recycling storage and collection facilities in new developments, minimising construction waste, and potentially accommodating new recycling and composting facilities within the borough.

5. Sustainability appraisal framework

Stage A4: Developing the SA framework

5.1 Draft sustainability appraisal framework for Hertsmere

Table 5.1 sets out Hertsmere's proposed sustainability appraisal framework.

Column I in the table shows the broad sustainability theme under which objectives and indicators are grouped.

Column II lists the proposed sustainability appraisal objectives for Hertsmere. The various component's of Hertsmere's LDF will be assessed in detail against these objectives to see whether or not it is likely to have a significant positive or negative effect.

Although not specifically required by or presented in the SEA directive or the Town and Country Planning Regulations, sustainability appraisal objectives have been widely embraced as a means of assessing the sustainability of proposed plans at a strategic level. The objectives set out in Table 5.1 have been developed by considering relevant sustainability objectives in contextual policy and plan documents (as shown in Appendix 1), and integrating them in a manner considered to be best suited to the characteristics of Hertsmere. :

Column III sets out the indicators that will be monitored to see whether the objectives in Column II and any relevant targets are being achieved. Indicators have been chosen to align as closely as possible with relevant regional and national indicators where appropriate, and with other local indicators such as those included in Hertsmere's Best Value Performance Plan.

Table 5.1 Hertsmere's sustainability appraisal framework

(I) Theme	(II) Objectives Will the plan or policy help to...	(III) Indicators
A) Social inclusiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share the benefits of prosperity fairly and reduce poverty Promote lifelong learning and development 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Index of multiple deprivation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Overall rank Income Employment Education Barriers to housing and services Health deprivation and disability % of people claiming jobseekers allowance who have done so for a year or more % of 18-24 year olds claiming unemployment related benefits % of under 16s living in income deprived families % of economically active population with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> no qualifications NVQ3 or higher qualifications % population in household with no wage earner Child care facilities waiting lists % of residents surveyed who consider that the

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		council takes account of residents' views*
B) Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure ready access to essential services and facilities for all residents 	<p>9. Public transport accessibility - % of all uses within accessibility zones*:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Primary schools Secondary schools Child care centres Other education facilities Retail Offices (> 1000 sq m) Industrial premises (> 1000 sq m) Open space (various types) Leisure centres (gyms, swimming pools etc) Cinema Residential Hospitals Doctors Pharmacies Banks Post offices Job centres <p>10. Proximity of services to population - % of population within threshold distance of services*:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Train station Bus stop (with min frequency) Primary school Secondary school Child care centre Doctor Pharmacy Bank Post office Job centre Local open space District open space Town centre Supermarket Library <p>11. % of buildings open to the public that are suitable & accessible to disabled people</p>
C) Housing need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home 	<p>12. % of dwellings not meeting the 'decent homes' standard</p> <p>13. Housing affordability: House price to income ratio for working households aged 20-39 (average price 2/3 bed dwelling vs average household income)</p> <p>14. Housing affordability ratio for males and females, by dwelling type</p> <p>15. Proportion of families accepted as statutorily homeless within the last 2 years</p> <p>16. Number of people on housing waiting list and average time on list</p> <p>17. Number of abandoned homes</p> <p>18. Number of unauthorised travellers encampments*</p>
D) Well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide environments that promote healthy and safe living and reduce anti social behaviour 	<p>19. Total crime per 1000 population</p> <p>20. Violent crime committed in a public place per 1000 population</p> <p>21. Fear of crime: % of residents that feel safe / very safe living in Hertsmere</p>

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		<p>22. Life expectancy (by gender)</p> <p>23. General health: % of people describing their health as:</p> <p>a) Good</p> <p>b) Fairly Good</p> <p>c) Not good</p> <p>24. People of working age with a limiting long-term illness</p> <p>25. Road accidents – killed or seriously injured</p> <p>26. Properties affected by flood risk*</p>
E) Liveable communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create local communities and town centres that are attractive, vibrant and distinct 	<p>27. Resident perceptions of town centres (survey)*</p> <p>28. Resident perceptions of neighbourhoods (survey)*</p> <p>29. Resident perceptions of Hertsmere Borough as a place to live</p> <p>30. Number of empty shops in town centres</p> <p>31. High street individuality: proportion of local ('non-chain') shops in high streets (by centre)*</p> <p>32. Retail floorspace in centre vs out-of-centre:</p> <p>a) Total floorspace in/out</p> <p>b) % in/out</p> <p>33. % of highways that are of a high/acceptable standard of cleanliness</p> <p>34. % of Borough deficient in various types of open space, as per needs survey</p> <p>35. % of residents satisfied with local authority cultural services:</p> <p>a) sports and leisure facilities</p> <p>b) libraries</p> <p>c) museums</p> <p>d) arts activities and venues</p> <p>e) parks and open spaces</p>
F) Heritage and landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance landscape character, historic buildings, archaeological sites and cultural features of importance to the community 	<p>36. Listed buildings:</p> <p>a) Good condition (number / %)</p> <p>b) At risk (number / %)</p> <p>c) Lost in previous year</p> <p>37. Ancient monuments:</p> <p>a) Good condition (number / %)</p> <p>b) At risk (number / %)</p> <p>c) Lost in previous year</p> <p>38. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty:</p> <p>a) Total ha</p> <p>b) Net change from previous year</p> <p>39. Green belt:</p> <p>a) Total ha</p> <p>b) Net change from previous year</p> <p>40. % of conservation areas with an up-to-date character appraisal*</p>
G) Land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make the most efficient use of built and open land resources that will not prejudice future land use options 	<p>41. Greenfield land:</p> <p>a) Total ha</p> <p>b) Net change from previous year</p> <p>42. % of new homes built on previously developed land</p> <p>43. Average density of new housing</p> <p>a) Borough</p> <p>b) By town</p>
H) Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce dependence on private transport and 	<p>44. Private car ownership</p> <p>a) % of households with 0, 1, or 2+ vehicles</p>

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	manage the effects of traffic on the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Average vehicles per household c) Change from previous survey <p>45. Modal split for journeys to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) work b) shopping c) school d) leisure <p>46. Mean average distances for journeys to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) work b) shopping c) school d) leisure <p>47. % population working from home</p> <p>48. Cycle journeys to work</p> <p>49. Cycleway usage counts (specified locations)</p> <p>50. Length of greenways/cycleways per head of population</p> <p>51. % of all journeys made on foot</p> <p>52. % of footpaths and right of way that are assessed as easy to use</p> <p>53. Trip-generating developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) % with green travel plans being implemented* b) % with cycle facilities* c) % located in high accessibility zone (see accessibility)*
I) Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management and conservation of wildlife and habitats representative of the borough and reverse those in decline 	<p>54. Farmland Bird Species Population</p> <p>55. Woodland Bird Species Population</p> <p>56. Bird numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Skylark (reflecting farmland) b) Song Thrush (reflecting woodlands and mixed farmland) c) House sparrow (reflecting urban environments) <p>57. Bat numbers</p> <p>58. Condition of SSSIs</p> <p>59. Wildlife sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) total ha b) area lost <p>60. Ecological quality of ponds</p>
J) Water and soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid the adverse effects of activities and development on soil and water, improving them wherever possible • To ensure efficient use of water and natural resources and minimise the production of waste 	<p>61. Chemical river quality</p> <p>62. Biological river quality</p> <p>63. Water use by sector</p> <p>64. Agricultural land resource (ha)</p> <p>65. Contaminated land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) amount (ha)* b) number of sites (BVPP – 'of potential concern to LA')
K) Air, climate and energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid the adverse effects of activities and development on air quality, improving it wherever possible • To reduce contributions towards, and vulnerability to, the effects of climate change 	<p>66. CO2 emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Total carbon emissions b) Emissions per capita <p>67. Air quality – number of days of air pollution poor / moderate</p> <p>68. Air quality – incidences where National objectives not met</p> <p>69. Energy produced by renewable sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) kWh

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		b) as % of total energy production 70. % of all homes with renewable energy sources eg. solar hot water, solar panels, wind turbines*
L) Resource use and waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable use of building materials and promotion of waste management, including minimising waste generation and waste disposal 	71. Waste collected per annum (all sources): a) Total tonnage b) Kg per head 72. Waste recycled per annum (all sources): a) Total tonnage b) Kg per head 73. Household waste: d) Total tonnage e) Kg per head f) Total sent for recycling/composting (tons) g) % sent for recycling/composting 74. Ecological footprint (global ha per person)
M) Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a prosperous, balanced and stable economy 	75. Number of people employed 76. Unemployed benefit claimants rate (%) 77. Average weekly earnings 78. Gross value added per head 79. VAT registered businesses: a) Total businesses b) Change from previous year c) New registrations pa as % of total d) New registrations surviving 3 years 80. Vacant employment land by Class (ha)*

*data currently being investigated / collected

6. Local Development Documents

6.1 LDD Objectives

In April 2005 the ODPM announced that Stage B will be revised to encapsulate the body of the appraisal work, including testing the draft plan objectives against the SA framework and the development and refinement of options. As a result, it is intended to include Stage A5 in the revised Stage B, along with much of Stages C & D, as part of the SA Report, rather than including Stage A5 in this draft scoping report. Nevertheless, this Scoping Report outlines the objectives of the LDDs as this will form the basis of the subsequent objectives testing in the SA Report.

6.1.1 Core Strategy Objectives

The proposed Core Strategy objectives set out below should shape the constituent Local Development Documents of the LDF. These objectives are also considered to be relevant and applicable to the related Proposals Map and Development Control Policies LDDs which flow from the Core Strategy.

1. To provide the spatial context for delivering the Community Strategy and other Council objectives, to promote safe, healthy, attractive and inclusive communities, which respect the diverse needs of the whole borough
2. To maintain an adequate supply of suitable land, concentrated on brownfield sites within towns, to meet expected development needs, along with supporting community infrastructure.
3. To secure integrated and efficient patterns of land use through well designed development at a scale and density reflecting the size, pattern and character of settlements in Hertsmere
4. To raise the level of access for all by reducing the need to travel further, siting new development wherever possible in locations which are not dependent on access by car and by requiring the provision of accessible buildings
5. To help ensure that the community's need for affordable housing is met, by providing such units through the planning system wherever possible
6. To provide a planning framework in Hertsmere for sustainable and competitive economic performance which supports businesses of all sizes and reflects local skills
7. To safeguard and enhance the role of town and district centres in Hertsmere, focusing commercial developments which attract a large number of people, towards the most widely accessible centres
8. To protect the Green Belt whilst promoting and enhancing sustainable access to the wider countryside wherever possible
9. To protect and enhance local biodiversity within both developed areas and areas which have not previously been developed

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10. To protect and promote the environment in Hertsmere by addressing local causes and impacts of pollution
11. To protect and enhance the built heritage of Hertsmere
12. To address issues arising from climate change, increase flood protection and take advantage of water and other natural resources in a responsible manner

6.1.2 Site Allocations Objectives

The objectives of the Site Allocations LDD are considered to be largely consistent with the Core Strategy Objectives although four further objectives have been identified:

1. The promotion and identification of land and buildings to help ensure the timely delivery of development to meet the Borough's needs
2. To work with key partners to identify pressure areas and subsequent requirements for healthcare, education and other community facilities and identify single use and mixed use sites to accommodate these requirements
3. To work with key partners to identify specific s106 funding opportunities on identified sites for development
4. To set the parameters for known development proposals within identified Major Developed Sites in the Green Belt

6.1.3 Supplementary Planning Document Objectives

The objectives for Supplementary Planning Documents are considered to be the same as those for the main, 'parent' Development Plan Document upon which they expand. The table below identifies the linkages between Supplementary Planning Documents and Development Plan Documents.

Supplementary Planning Document	Main 'Parent' Development Plan Document	Objective Comparison
Planning and Design Guide	Core Strategy/Development Control DPD	As for Core Strategy Objectives 1, 3, 7 and 11
Affordable Housing	Core Strategy DPD	As for Core Strategy Objectives 1, 2 and 5
Planning Obligations	Core Strategy DPD	As for Core Strategy Objectives 3, 6 and 7
Gypsy and Traveller site provision in South and West Hertfordshire	Core Strategy/Site Allocation DPDs	As for Core Strategy Objectives 1,2, 5 and Site Allocations Objective 1

7. Next stages

7.1 Consultation

Stage A6: Consulting on the scope of SA

This draft scoping report is currently being circulated to statutory consultees and placed on the Council's website.

Responses are being sought to the following questions:

1. Are there other relevant policies, plans or programmes relevant to the SA of Hertsmere's LDF that have not been considered in Appendix 1?
2. Is there any further relevant baseline data that is not included in Appendix 2? Are you aware of any inaccuracies in the data presented?
3. Do you agree that these are the key sustainability issues for Hertsmere? Are there any that should be added or removed?
4. Do the sustainability objectives set out in Section 5 provide an appropriate framework for assessing the sustainability and environmental effects of Hertsmere's LDF? If not, please suggest any modifications.
5. Is the number of objectives and indicators: too many, about right, or not enough?
6. It might be necessary to prioritise the objectives to help assess options at a later stage. Are there any that you consider should be a priority?
7. Do the indicators provide a useful measure for the sustainability framework objectives? If not, please suggest additional indicators.

Comments should be sent to:

Planning Policy and Transport Team
Hertsmere Borough Council
Civic Centre
Elstree Way
Borehamwood
Herts
WD6 1 WA

7.2 Finalising the Scoping Report

Once comments have been received, the document will be amended if necessary and a final scoping report issued. The final scoping report will set the framework against which the sustainability and environmental effects of Hertsmere's LDF will be considered, as each component is prepared. The results of each stage of sustainability appraisal will be released for public consultation.

The final SA report will build upon this scoping report and set out impact prediction, evaluation mitigation and monitoring of the sustainability effects of the LDF both positive and negative. The report will be of interest to a variety of readers including the public, statutory consultees and decision makers, and therefore will be prepared with this range of users in mind. A non-technical summary will provide readers with a clear description of the process and main outcomes in non-technical language.

The SA report will build on the SA framework of objectives, targets and indicators detailed in this scoping study and the key issues identified, and the comments received during the consultation process of this document.