

Scoping Report

Hertsmere Borough Council
Local Development Framework

Sustainability Appraisal
Including Strategic Environmental Assessment

Scoping Report



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Non-Technical Summary

The purpose of this document is to assess the key social, environmental and economic factors which may be affected by the implementation of Hertsmere Borough Council's Local Development Framework (LDF).

There are two key aims of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report:

- To identify the current state of the environment within Hertsmere by establishing a baseline of information; And
- To establish a Sustainability Framework through which the social, environmental and economic effects of the individual Local Development Documents (LDDs) which make up the LDF can be independently assessed.

This document identifies those LDDs to be appraised and sets out the steps which need to be followed to undertake a comprehensive sustainability appraisal of the LDF and relates these to the requirements of European and national legislation and government guidance.

The Scoping Report summarises the aims and objectives of relevant European, national, regional and local policy documents and uses these to identify a number of key environmental and sustainability themes to be taken into consideration in developing the Sustainability Framework.

A detailed baseline of Hertsmere's environment, society and economy is established through the collection of a variety of data. Key trends in this information are explored and future trends that could arise without the implementation of the LDF are predicted.

From the processes outlined above, thirteen key sustainability themes for the Borough are identified:

- Local skills shortage
- Motor vehicle usage
- Pressures on landscape character
- Pressures on urban character
- Increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy sources
- Air quality, especially on main transport routes
- Water supply and demand
- Reducing waste and increasing recycling
- High susceptibility of the chalk aquifer to pollution
- Existence of nationally and locally designated nature conservation sites
- Housing affordability
- Reducing inequality
- Reducing the fear of crime

These local themes, in combination with the objectives and aims of the policy documents discussed, are used to inform the Sustainability Framework. The Framework consists of 21 key objectives with associated targets, grouped under the three key headings of Economy, Environment and Society.

The consultation process used to inform the production of this Scoping Report is reported upon, including an explanation of how comments received have been incorporated into this final report. Future arrangements for monitoring the effects of the LDF are explained.

This report also contains an opinion as to whether further assessment is required to ascertain the effect of the LDF on sites of European conservation importance.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Scoping Report

- 1.1.1 This scoping report forms the first component of the sustainability appraisal (SA) of Hertsmere's emerging local development framework (LDF). The SA also incorporates the scoping for the need for Appropriate Assessment under Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and, in accordance with Government guidance, the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under EU Directive 2001/42/EC.
- 1.1.2 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.
- 1.1.3 This scoping report sets out the proposed framework for assessing the sustainability of the Local Development Documents (LDDs) which are presently expected to be prepared as part of Hertsmere's LDF, including those currently 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.
- 1.1.4 The Habitats Directive requires Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken where plans are likely to have a significant effect on designated European Sites. This Scoping report incorporates a screening opinion as to whether Appropriate Assessment of the LDF is required.

1.2 The Local Development Framework

- 1.2.1 The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced major changes to the development plan system in England. The existing development plan for Hertsmere, consisting of the Hertfordshire Structure Plan Review 1991-2011 and the Hertsmere Local Plan (adopted May 2003), is to be replaced by a Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England and a Local Development Framework (LDF) comprising a portfolio of Local Development Documents (LDDs).
- 1.2.2 LDDs consist of Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which deal with specific geographical areas, and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), which will provide additional information for the implementation of specific policies. The Hertsmere Borough Council Local Development Scheme (available separately) is a work programme for preparing the LDF and contains details regarding the types of documents the Council will produce.

1.2.3 The following DPDs are identified in the Local Development Scheme:

- Core Strategy
- Site Allocations
- Development Control Policies

1.2.4 The following SPDs are identified in the Local Development Scheme:

- Planning and Design Guide
- Planning Obligations
- Parking Standards
- Affordable Housing
- Gypsy and Traveller site provision in South and West Hertfordshire
- Wildlife Sites and Biodiversity

1.2.5 The timetable for the production and implementation of these documents is set out in the Local Development Scheme and subject to periodic review and update. The timetable for the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (first revision) as agreed with GO-EAST in September 2006, is reproduced in Figure 1.1 on the following page.

1.3 LDD Objectives

Core Strategy Objectives

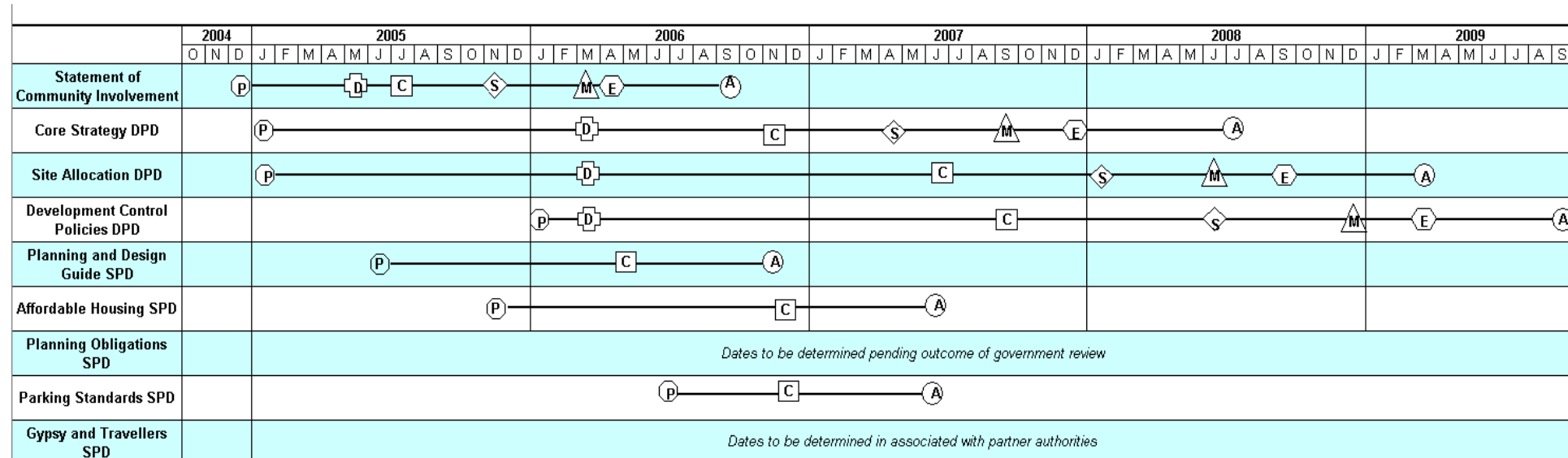
1.3.1 The proposed Core Strategy objectives set out below should shape the constituent Local Development Documents of the LDF. These objectives are also considered to be relevant and applicable to the related Proposals Map and Development Control Policies LDDs which flow from the Core Strategy.

1. To provide the spatial policies necessary to deliver the land use requirements of the Community Strategy.
2. To protect the Green Belt.
3. To maintain an adequate supply of suitable land, concentrated on brownfield sites within towns, to accommodate expected development needs and supporting community infrastructure.
4. To assist the community's need for affordable housing
5. To address issues arising from climate change and flooding and to take advantage of water and other natural resources responsibly.
6. To protect and enhance the built heritage of Hertsmere.
7. To protect and enhance the environment in Hertsmere by addressing local causes and impacts of pollution.
8. To raise levels of access by seeking development in locations not dependent on access by car and by requiring the provision of accessible buildings.

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Figure 1.1: Local Development Scheme Timetable



Key Milestones

- (P) Pre-production evidence gathering / survey (all LDDs)
- (D) Prepare draft SCI / DPD Issues and Options in consultation - Regulation 25
- (C) Public participation on preferred options (DPDs) / draft SCI - Regulation 26 / Public participation on draft SPD - Regulation 17
- (S) Submission of DPD / SCI to Secretary of State - Regulation 28
- (M) Pre-Examination Meeting (DPDs/SCI)
- (E) Independent Examination (DPDs/SCI) - Regulation 34
- (A) Adoption (all LDDs) - Regulations 19 and 36

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9. To promote safe, healthy and inclusive communities, respecting the diverse needs of the whole Borough.
10. To support businesses of all sizes and to help promote local skills.
11. To provide a planning framework which promotes sustainable and competitive economic performance.
12. To safeguard and enhance the role of the town and district centres in Hertsmere, steering commercial developments which attract a large number of people toward the most widely accessible centres.
13. To protect and enhance local biodiversity within both developed and undeveloped areas.
14. To secure efficient land use through well-designed development reflecting the size, pattern and character of settlements in Hertsmere.
15. To promote rural diversification and sustainable access to the wider countryside wherever possible.

Site Allocations Objectives

- 1.3.2 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

Supplementary Planning Document Objectives

- 1.3.3 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. Table 1.2 below identifies the linkages between Supplementary Planning Documents and Development Plan Documents.

Table 1.2: SPD Objectives

Supplementary Planning Document	Main 'Parent' Development Plan Document	Objective Comparison
Planning and Design Guide	Core Strategy/Development Control DPD	As for Core Strategy Objectives 1,6,9,13 & 14.
Planning Obligations	Core Strategy DPD	As for Core Strategy Objectives 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14.
Parking Standards	Core Strategy DPD	As for Core Strategy Objectives 1, 8, 9, 13 & 14.
Affordable Housing	Core Strategy DPD	As for Core Strategy Objectives 1, 3, 4 and 9.
Gypsy and Traveller site provision in South and West Hertfordshire	Core Strategy/Site Allocations DPDs	As for Core Strategy Objectives 1, 3, 4 and 9 and Site Allocations Objective 1.
Wildlife Sites and Biodiversity	Core Strategy/Development Control DPD	As for Core Strategy Objectives 2, 5, 7 and 13

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

- 1.4.1 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.
- 1.4.2 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.
- 1.4.3 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,
 - fauna,
 - population,
 - flora,
 - human health,
 - soil,

- water,
- air,
- climatic factors,
- material assets,
- cultural heritage,
- landscape, and
- the interrelationship between these factors.
-

1.4.4 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.

1.5 Overview of Sustainability Appraisal Process

1.5.1 The ODPM's 2005 guidance 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks' sets out the steps for undertaking SA in parallel with the LDF preparation process. Table 1.3 outlines five stages of SA and the component steps as set out in the guidance.

1.5.2 The ODPM guidance identifies twelve areas in relation to which the significant environmental effects of the plan need to be assessed: biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage and landscape. These themes have been a key consideration in the development of the SA Framework.

Table 1.3: The Sustainability Appraisal Process

Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
A1*	Identifying other relevant plans and programmes and sustainability objectives
A2*	Collecting baseline information
A3*	Identifying sustainability issues and problems
A4*	Developing the SA framework
A5*	Consulting on the scope of SA
Stage B	Developing and refining options
B1	Testing DPD objectives against the SA framework
B2	Developing the DPD options
B3	Predicting the effects of the DPD
B4	Evaluating the effects of the DPD
B5	Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B6	Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPDs
Stage C	Appraising the effects of the plan
C1	Preparing the SA report
Stage D	Consulting on the preferred options of the LDD and SA Report
D1	Public participation on the preferred options of the DPD and SA Report
D2 (i)	Appraising significant changes
D2 (ii)	Appraising significant changes resulting from representations
D3	Making decisions and providing information

Stage E	Monitoring and implementation of the LDD
E1	Finalising aims and methods for monitoring
E2	Responding to adverse effects

* Covered by this Scoping Report

- 1.5.3 The SEA Directive contains a number of specific stages and instructions that must be contained in the formal assessment of any plans. Table 1.4 on the following page outlines the key requirements of the SEA directive and illustrates, where applicable, these can be found within this scoping report.

Table 1.4: Requirements of the SEA Directive

Directive reference	Requirement	Where is this covered?
Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	
Annex I (a)	To demonstrate the relationship of the plan or programme with other relevant plans and programmes.	Section 2 & Appendix 1
Annex I (e)	To identify the environmental protection objectives, established at the international, Community or national level which are relevant to the programme and demonstrate the way those objectives and environmental considerations have been taken into account.	Tables 2.1 to 2.5, Appendix 1, Section 4, Section 5.1
Annex I (b) & (c)	To identify relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Section 3
Annex I (b) & (c)	To identify the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 4.3
Annex I (d)	To identify any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any area of a particular environmental importance.	Section 3.3, Section 4.3
Articles 5.4 & 6.3	To consult on the scope and level of detail in the environmental report those authorities who, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of plan implementation.	Section 1.7, Section 6
Stage B	Developing and refining options and assessing effects	
Article 5.1	To prepare a report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan, including reasonable alternatives, are identified, described and evaluated.	Sustainability Appraisal of alternative options is to be undertaken independently for individual LDDs.
Annex I (h)	To identify the reasons for selecting the alternatives discussed.	
Stage C	Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	
Article 5.2	The environmental report shall include information that may reasonably be required, taking into account [inter alia] the contents and level of detail in the plan and its stage in the decision making process.	This Scoping Report contains the necessary information to complete the tasks identified in Table 1.3

Directive reference	Requirement	Where is this covered?
Annex I (f)	To assess the likely significant effects on the environment.	Sustainability Appraisal of significant effects and the identification of mitigation measures will be undertaken independently for individual LDDs.
Annex I (g)	To identify measures to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse environmental effects that arise as a result of the implementation of the plan.	
Stage D	Consulting on the preferred options of the LDD and the Sustainability Appraisal Report	
Article 6.2	Relevant authorities and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity to express opinion on the draft plan or programme and accompanying environmental report.	Consultation will follow the preparation of the Preferred Options and accompanying appraisal for individual LDDs. Responses will be given due consideration and the final documents will be made publicly available.
Article 8	Opinions expressed in response to consultation shall be taken into account in the preparation of the plan or programme prior to adoption.	
Article 9.1	Once adopted, the plan, a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan (including the reasons for choosing the plan in light of other reasonable alternatives) and the measures for monitoring shall be made available to the public and interested authorities.	
Stage E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the LDD	
Article 10.1	To monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme in order to identify adverse effects and undertake appropriate remedial action.	Section 6.4 Specific monitoring measures to be included in the SA of individual LDDs.
Annex I (i)	To include a description of monitoring measures in the environmental report.	

n.b. The SEA Directive refers to the “environmental report”. This should be considered synonymous with the Sustainability Appraisal.

1.6 LDDs covered by this scoping report

1.6.1 This scoping report addresses stages A1, A2, A3, A4 & A5 of the SA/SEA process for the following development plan documents:

- Core strategy
- Generic development control policies
- Site specific allocations

and for the following supplementary planning documents:

- Planning and Design Guide
- Affordable Housing
- Planning Obligations
- Parking Standards
- Gypsy and Traveller site provision in South and West Hertfordshire
- Wildlife Sites and Biodiversity

1.6.2 As explained in the ODPM guidance, the adopted proposals map is **not** required to undergo SA/SEA as it is a visual representation of policies and documents that have already been appraised.

1.6.3 Stages B, C and D of the Sustainability Appraisal process, as set out in Table 1.3 will be undertaken independently for each Local Development Document. Those elements of Stage E that can be considered applicable to all of the LDDs named above are considered in Section 6.

1.7 Consultation

1.7.1 A draft scoping report was produced in September 2005 and, in accordance with statutory requirements, was made available for consultation for a period of five weeks from September 29th to November 3rd 2005.

1.7.2 Further details on the consultation process and the amendments made to the draft Scoping Report arising from the comments received are contained in Section 6.

1.8 Meeting the requirements of the Habitats Directive

1.8.1 Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive) requires the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Section 7 outlines the implications of this directive for the LDF.

2 Relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

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

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 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.
- 2.1.2 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.
- 2.1.3 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

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

Table 2.1: International plans, policies and programmes

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 Water Framework Directive (00/60/EC)
EU Sustainable Development Strategy
EU Spatial Development Perspective
EU Sixth Environmental Action Programme of the European Community 2002-2012
European Biodiversity Strategy

Table 2.2: National plans, policies and programmes

Securing the Future - UK Sustainable Development Strategy
Working with the grain of Nature – A biodiversity strategy for England
UK Climate Change Programme (2000)
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
The Future of Transport – White Paper
Sustainable Communities – Building for the Future (ODPM 2003)
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 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)
Good Practise Guidance on Planning for Tourism (DCLG, 2006)

Table 2.3 Regional plans, policies and programmes

East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England
East of England Plan – Report of the Panel – June 2006
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)
Creating Sustainable Communities In the East of England
Towns and Cities – Strategy and Action Plan: Urban Renaissance

Table 2.4: County plans, policies and programmes

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
Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan 2006/07 – 2010/11 Strategic Environmental Assessment Report
Hertfordshire Accessibility Planning Strategy 2006/07 – 2010/11
Hertfordshire Economic Development Strategy 2006-2010
A Community Strategy for Hertfordshire 2004-2010
The Hertfordshire Environmental Strategy (June 2001)
Hertfordshire Waste Strategy 2002-2024
Waste Development Plan Issues and Options Paper September 2004
Draft SEA Scoping Report for Hertfordshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy
Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Second Deposit Draft 2003
Enjoy! A cultural strategy for Hertfordshire 2002-2007
A 50 Year Vision for the Wildlife and Natural Habitats of Hertfordshire

Table 2.5: Local plans, policies and programmes

Hertsmere Together Community Strategy First Review 2006-2020
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 2004-2007
Hertsmere Supplementary Planning Guidance: Monitoring and Review – Sustainability Indicators (2003)
Hertsmere Air Quality Review

2.3 Implications of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

- 2.3.1 The plans, policies and programmes listed above contain several hundred different objectives, targets and indicators that contribute to shaping Hertsmere's LDF.
- 2.3.2 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.
- 2.3.3 From these documents and objectives, a number of key sustainability themes have been identified. These are documented in Table 2.6 on the following pages, which details the plans, policies and programmes which make reference to or

support these broad theme areas. The table also identifies, where applicable, how these themes link to the topic areas that need to be considered under the requirements of the SEA directive (as outlined in the ODPM Guidance).

- 2.3.4 The identification of these theme areas will help to inform the development of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives in the draft framework, discussed in Section 5 of this Scoping Report.
- 2.3.5 The more specific policy implications of each of the plans, policies and programmes 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.

Table 2.6: Links between plans, programmes and Sustainability Appraisal themes

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
Economic themes				
To promote economic development and business innovation	➤ The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002) ➤ EU Sustainable Development Strategy ➤ DETR (2000) Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England ➤ ODPM(2003) Sustainable Communities Plan ➤ PPS6: Planning for town centres ➤ PPS7: Sustainable development in rural areas	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ A Shared Vision: The regional economic strategy for the East of England ➤ Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England ➤ A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England ➤ Creating Sustainable Communities in the East of England ➤ 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: SEA Report ➤ Hertfordshire Economic Development Strategy 2006-2010	➤ Hertsmere Together Community Strategy first review 2006-2020 ➤ SMILE – A Cultural and leisure strategy for Hertsmere ➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011 ➤ Draft Corporate Plan 2006-2009 ➤ Hertsmere Borough Council Best Value Performance Plan 2005/2006	
To protect and enhance the role of town centres	➤ DETR(2000) Government White Paper: Our Towns and Cities: the future – Delivering an Urban Renaissance ➤ PPS6: Planning for town centres	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England ➤ Towns and Cities – Strategy and Action Plan: Urban Renaissance ➤ 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: SEA Report	➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011	

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
To balance economic growth with environmental protection and / or social justice	➤ EU Sustainable Development Strategy ➤ EU Spatial Development Perspective ➤ Securing the Future – UK Sustainable Development Strategy ➤ Energy White Paper: Our energy future – creating a low carbon economy ➤ ODPM(2003) Sustainable Communities Plan ➤ PPG4: Industrial, commercial development and small firms ➤ PPS1: Creating sustainable development ➤ PPS7: Sustainable development in rural areas	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England ➤ Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England ➤ A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England ➤ Creating Sustainable Communities in the East of England ➤ 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: SEA Report ➤ A community strategy for Hertfordshire 2004-10	➤ Hertsmere Together Community Strategy first review 2006-2020 ➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011	➤ Biodiversity ➤ Material Assets ➤ Population

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
Environmental Themes				
To promote energy and resource efficiency and the use of renewable energy	➤ The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002) ➤ EU Directive to Promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001/77/EC) ➤ EU Sustainable Development Strategy ➤ UK Climate Change Programme (2000) ➤ Environment Agency (2001) Water Resources for the Future – A Strategy for England and Wales ➤ Energy White Paper: Our energy future – creating a low carbon economy ➤ PPS22: Renewable energy	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England ➤ A Shared Vision: The regional economic strategy for the East of England ➤ Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England ➤ A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England ➤ 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: SEA Report ➤ Hertfordshire Economic Development Strategy 2006-2010 ➤ Hertfordshire Waste Strategy 2002-2024 ➤ Waste Development Plan Issues and Options Paper ➤ Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Second Deposit Draft	➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011 ➤ Hertsmere Environmental Strategy 2004	➤ Material assets ➤ Climatic factors

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
To limit and manage the effects of development on climate change	➤ Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) ➤ EU Sustainable Development Strategy ➤ UK Climate Change Programme (2000) ➤ Energy White Paper: Our energy future – creating a low carbon economy	➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England ➤ Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England ➤ A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England ➤ Living with climate change in the East of England ➤ Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011 ➤ Hertfordshire Waste Strategy 2002-2024 ➤ Waste Development Plan Issues and Options Paper	➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011	➤ Air ➤ Climatic factors
To minimise the risk of flooding	➤ DEFRA(2004) Making space for water: Developing a new Government Strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England ➤ PPG25: Development and flood risk	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011 ➤ Hertfordshire Structure Plan Alterations 2001-2016. Deposit Draft Version, February 2003	➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011	➤ Water ➤ Material assets

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
To protect and enhance the built environment and promote high quality of design in new development	➤ DETR(2000) Government White Paper: Our Towns and Cities: the future – Delivering an Urban Renaissance ➤ PPS1: Creating sustainable development ➤ PPS3: Housing	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ A Shared Vision: The regional economic strategy for the East of England ➤ A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England ➤ Towns and Cities – Strategy and Action Plan: Urban Renaissance ➤ Hertfordshire Structure Plan Alterations 2001-2016. Deposit Draft Version, February 2003 ➤ Hertfordshire Economic Development Strategy 2006-2010	➤ Hertsmere Together Community Strategy first review 2006-2020 ➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011 ➤ Draft Corporate Plan 2006-2009	➤ Material assets ➤ Cultural heritage
To protect the historic built environment and archaeological heritage	➤ EU Spatial Development Perspective ➤ PPG15: Planning and the historic environment ➤ PPG16: Archaeology and planning ➤ PPS1: Creating sustainable development	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England ➤ A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England ➤ Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011 ➤ Hertfordshire Structure Plan Alterations 2001-2016. Deposit Draft Version, February 2003	➤ Hertsmere Together Community Strategy first review 2006-2020 ➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011 ➤ Draft Corporate Plan 2006-2009	➤ Material assets ➤ Cultural heritage

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
To protect the Green Belt and landscape character	➤ DETR (2000) Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England ➤ PPG2: Green Belts ➤ PPS7: Sustainable development in rural areas	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England ➤ Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011 ➤ A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England ➤ Hertfordshire Structure Plan Alterations 2001-2016. Deposit Draft Version, February 2003 ➤ Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11: SEA Report ➤ A community strategy for Hertfordshire 2004-2010	➤ Hertsmere Together Community Strategy first review 2006-2020 ➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011	➤ Biodiversity ➤ Fauna ➤ Flora ➤ Soil ➤ Material assets ➤ Landscape

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
To improve air quality and manage sources of pollution	➤ Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) ➤ EU Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC) ➤ EU Water Framework Directive (00/60/EC) ➤ EU Sustainable Development Strategy ➤ UK Climate Change Programme (2000) ➤ Energy White Paper: Our energy future – creating a low carbon economy ➤ DETR (2000) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Working together for clean air ➤ PPG24: Planning and Noise ➤ PPS10: Planning for sustainable waste management ➤ PPS23: Planning and pollution control	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ 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 ➤ Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11: SEA Report	➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011 ➤ Hertsmere Contaminated Land Strategy ➤ Draft Corporate Plan 2006-2009 ➤ Hertsmere Air Quality Review	➤ Air ➤ Climatic factors ➤ Human health

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
To conserve and enhance natural habitats and biodiversity	➤ 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 Water Framework Directive (00/60/EC) ➤ EU Sustainable Development Strategy ➤ European Biodiversity Strategy ➤ Working with the grain of Nature – A biodiversity strategy for England ➤ DETR (2000) Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England ➤ DEFRA (2004) The First Soil Action Plan for England: 2004-2006 ➤ PPS1: Creating sustainable development ➤ PPS7: Sustainable development in rural areas ➤ PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation ➤ PPS23: Planning and pollution control	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England ➤ A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England ➤ 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: SEA Report ➤ A community strategy for Hertfordshire 2004-2010 ➤ A 50 Year Vision for the Wildlife and Natural Habitats of Hertfordshire ➤ Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Second Deposit Draft	➤ Hertsmere Together Community Strategy first review 2006-2020 ➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011 ➤ Draft Corporate Plan 2006-2009	➤ Biodiversity ➤ Fauna ➤ Flora

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
To reduce the adverse impact of transport and dependency on the private car and encourage modal shift towards alternatives	➤ EU Sustainable Development Strategy ➤ The Future of Transport White Paper ➤ DETR (2000) Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England ➤ PPG13: Transport	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England ➤ Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011 ➤ Creating Sustainable Communities in the East of England ➤ Towns and Cities – Strategy and Action Plan: Urban Renaissance ➤ Hertfordshire Structure Plan Alterations 2001-2016. Deposit Draft Version, February 2003 ➤ Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11 ➤ Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11: SEA Report ➤ Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Second Deposit Draft ➤ Waste Development Plan Issues and Options Paper	➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011	➤ Population ➤ Human health ➤ Air ➤ Climatic factors

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
To ensure the efficient use of land and focus development on previously developed sites and in sustainable locations	➤ DETR(2000) Government White Paper: Our Towns and Cities: the future – Delivering an Urban Renaissance ➤ ODPM(2003) Sustainable Communities Plan ➤ PPS3: Housing ➤ PPS7: Sustainable development in rural areas	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England ➤ Towns and Cities – Strategy and Action Plan: Urban Renaissance ➤ 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: SEA Report	➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011	➤ Material assets
To minimise waste production, maximise recycling and manage waste in a sustainable manner	➤ UK Waste Strategy ➤ PPS10: Planning for sustainable waste management ➤ PPS23: Planning and pollution control	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ 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: SEA Report ➤ Hertfordshire Waste Strategy 2002-2024 ➤ Waste Development Plan Issues and Options Paper	➤ Hertsmere Together Community Strategy first review 2006-2020 ➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011 ➤ Draft Corporate Plan 2006-2009	

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
Social Themes				
To combat poverty and social exclusion and ensure equality of opportunity	➤ EU Sustainable Development Strategy	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ Revised Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England 2005-2010 ➤ A Shared Vision: The regional economic strategy for the East of England ➤ Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England ➤ A Housing Strategy for the London Commuter Belt 2005-2008 ➤ A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England ➤ Regional Social Strategy: A Strategy to achieve a fair and inclusive society ➤ Creating Sustainable Communities in the East of England ➤ 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: SEA Report ➤ Hertfordshire Accessibility Planning Strategy 2006/07-2010/11 ➤ A community strategy for Hertfordshire 2004-2010 ➤ The Hertfordshire Environmental Strategy ➤ Hertfordshire Economic Development Strategy 2006-2010	➤ SMILE – A Cultural and leisure strategy for Hertsmere ➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011 ➤ Draft Corporate Plan 2006-2009 ➤ Hertsmere Housing Strategy 2004-2007	

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
To meet identified housing needs and allow everybody the opportunity of a good home	➤ DETR (2000) Government 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 ➤ ODPM (2003) Sustainable Communities Plan ➤ PPS3: Housing	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ Revised Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England 2005-2010 ➤ A Housing Strategy for the London Commuter Belt 2005-2008 ➤ Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England ➤ Creating Sustainable Communities in the East of England ➤ Towns and Cities – Strategy and Action Plan: Urban Renaissance ➤ 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: SEA Report ➤ A community strategy for Hertfordshire 2004-2010	➤ Hertsmere Together Community Strategy first review 2006-2020 ➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011 ➤ Draft Corporate Plan 2006-2009 ➤ Hertsmere Housing Strategy 2004-2007	

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
To promote access to local services and / or green spaces	➤ DETR(2000) Government 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 ➤ PPG13: Transport ➤ PPG17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation ➤ PPS1: Creating sustainable development ➤ PPS6: Planning for town centres ➤ PPS9: Biodiversity and geological conservation	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ Regional Social Strategy: A Strategy to achieve a fair and inclusive society ➤ Towns and Cities – Strategy and Action Plan: Urban Renaissance ➤ 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 ➤ Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11: SEA Report	➤ SMILE – A Cultural and leisure strategy for Hertsmere ➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011 ➤ Hertsmere Borough Council Best Value Performance Plan 2005/2006	

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
To improve health and safety and create opportunities for leisure and recreation	➤ Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation White Paper ➤ DETR (2000) Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England ➤ PPG2: Green Belts ➤ PPG17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation ➤ PPS7: Sustainable development in rural areas	➤ East of England plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England ➤ East of England plan: Sustainability Appraisal report ➤ East of England plan: Examination in public. Report of the Panel ➤ Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England ➤ Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011 ➤ Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11: SEA Report ➤ A community strategy for Hertfordshire 2004-2010 ➤ The Hertfordshire Environmental Strategy ➤ Enjoy! A cultural strategy for Hertfordshire 2002-2007	➤ Hertsmere Together Community Strategy first review 2006-2020 ➤ SMILE – A Cultural and leisure strategy for Hertsmere ➤ Hertsmere Local Plan through to 2011 ➤ Draft Corporate Plan 2006-2009 ➤ Crime, disorder and drugs reduction strategy for Hertsmere ➤ Hertsmere Borough Council Best Value Performance Plan 2005/2006	➤ Human health

Environmental / Sustainability Theme	Source		Relevance to Appraisal	
	National/International	Regional	Local	SEA Topics
To develop skills and knowledge	➤ EU Sustainable Development Strategy	➤ A Shared Vision: The regional economic strategy for the East of England ➤ Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England ➤ Regional Social Strategy: A Strategy to achieve a fair and inclusive society ➤ Creating Sustainable Communities in the East of England ➤ Towns and Cities – Strategy and Action Plan: Urban Renaissance ➤ Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011 ➤ Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11: SEA Report ➤ A community strategy for Hertfordshire 2004-2010 ➤ Hertfordshire Economic Development Strategy 2006-2010 ➤ Enjoy! A cultural strategy for Hertfordshire 2002-2007	➤ Hertsmere Together Community Strategy first review 2006-2020 ➤ SMILE – A Cultural and leisure strategy for Hertsmere ➤ Hertsmere Borough Council Best Value Performance Plan 2005/2006	

3 Baseline information

Stage A2: Collecting baseline information

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 The collection of baseline information forms a major part of the first stage of Hertsmere's LDF. In addition to desktop research, Hertsmere Borough Council 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.
- 3.1.2 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.
- 3.1.3 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 further detail in Appendix 2. Section 3.4 explores the current baseline trends and predicted future trends describing the likely future baseline without the implementation of the LDF.

3.2 General characteristics of Hertsmere

Location and accessibility

- 3.2.1 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: Aldenham, Letchmore Heath, South Mimms, Ridge and Shenley.
 - 3.2.2 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.
 - 3.2.3 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 urban centres 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.
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Historical Context

- 3.2.4 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.
- 3.2.5 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.
- 3.2.6 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.
- 3.2.7 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.
- 3.2.8 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.

3.3 Detailed baseline data

- 3.3.1 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.
- 3.3.2 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.
- 3.3.3 The baseline that has been collected where currently available is outlined under each of the three key headings of Economy, Environment and Society:

Economy

- 3.3.4 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.
- 3.3.5 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.
- 3.3.6 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.

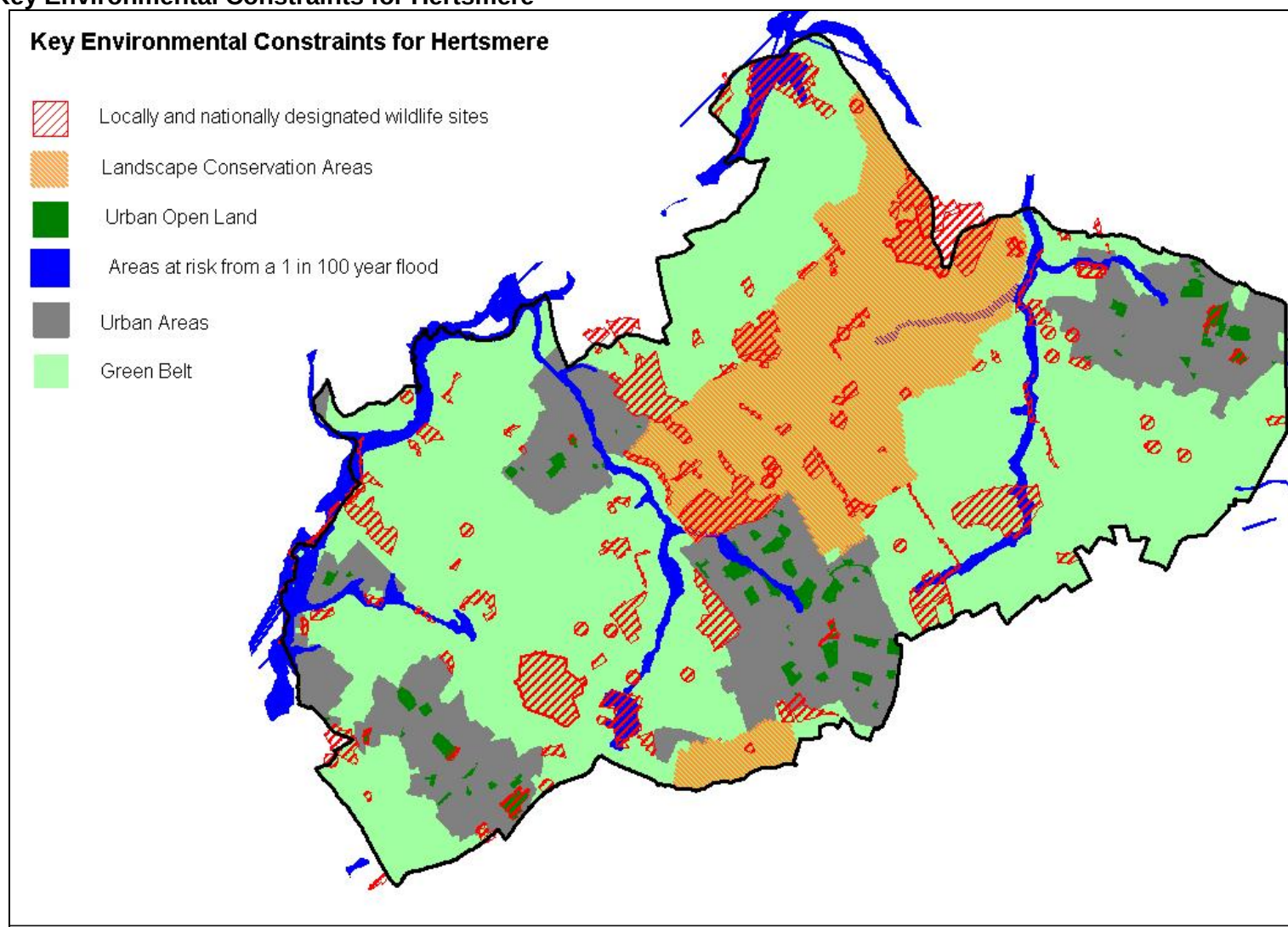
Table 3.1: Economic baseline data collected (where currently available):

Economy	➤ Number of people employed ➤ Unemployed benefit claimants rate (%) ➤ Average weekly earnings ➤ Gross value added per head ➤ VAT registered businesses: a) Total number b) Change from previous year c) New registrations per annum as % of total d) New registrations surviving 3 years ➤ Vacant employment land by Class (ha) ➤ Vacant town centre shopping units (by % of total)
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Environment

- 3.3.7 The key environmental constraints in the Borough are shown in a map on the following page.
- 3.3.8 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.

Map 3.2: Key Environmental Constraints for Hertsmere



- 3.3.9 There are two sites of special scientific interest within the district at Redwell Woods, and at a former quarry site near South Mimms Castle. In addition there are three nature reserves, three important geological sites and four prescribed ancient monuments.
- 3.3.10 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.
- 3.3.11 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.
- 3.3.12 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.
- 3.3.13 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.

Table 3.3: Environmental baseline data collected (where currently available):

Heritage and landscape	➤ Listed buildings: - Good condition (number / %) - At risk (number / %) - Lost in previous year ➤ Ancient monuments: - Good condition (number / %) - At risk (number / %) - Lost in previous year ➤ Green belt: - Total hectares - Net change ➤ % of conservation areas with an up-to-date character appraisal ➤ Landscape Conservation Areas - Total hectares - Net change
Land use	➤ Greenfield land: - Total hectares - Net change ➤ % of new homes built on previously developed land ➤ Average density of new housing - All development - Major developments ➤ % of new housing built at 30 dwellings per hectare or higher

Biodiversity	➤ Farmland Bird Species Population ➤ Woodland Bird Species Population ➤ Bird numbers: - Skylark (reflecting farmland) - Song Thrush (reflecting woodlands and mixed farmland) - House sparrow (reflecting urban environments) ➤ Wildlife sites: - Total hectares - Net change ➤ Ecological quality of ponds ➤ Sites of Special Scientific Interest: - Total hectares - Net change - Condition ➤ Local Nature Reserves - Total hectares - Net change - Condition ➤ BAP Habitats - Number - Total Hectares - Condition
Water and soil	➤ Chemical river quality ➤ Biological river quality ➤ River quality objectives: % passed/failed ➤ Water use by sector ➤ Water consumption per capita (litres per head per day) ➤ Agricultural land resource ➤ Planning permissions granted resulting in loss of grades 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land - Number of permissions granted - Hectares lost ➤ Contaminated land: - amount (ha) - number of sites (BVPP – 'of potential concern to LA')
Air, climate and energy	➤ CO2 emissions: - Total CO2 carbon emissions - per capita ➤ Air quality – number of days of air pollution poor / moderate ➤ Energy produced by renewable sources: - kWh - as % of total energy production ➤ % all homes with renewable energy sources eg. solar hot water, solar panels, wind turbines

Resource use and waste	➤ Total waste collected per annum: total tonnage kg per head ➤ Total waste recycled per annum: total tonnage kg per head ➤ Household waste: Total tonnage Total sent for recycling/composting % recycled / composted ➤ Total household waste per head ➤ Total recycling per head ➤ Ecological footprint (global ha per person)
Travel	➤ Private car ownership % of households with 0, 1, or 2+ vehicles Average vehicles per household ➤ Modal split for journeys to: work shopping school ➤ Mean average distances for journeys to: work shopping leisure ➤ Greenway/cycleway usage (counts) ➤ Length of greenways/cycleways per head of population ➤ Trip-generating developments: % with green travel plans being implemented % with secure cycle storage facilities % located in high accessibility zone

Society

3.3.14 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.

3.3.15 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.

3.3.16 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 one of the special output areas in Aldenham West ward is one of the least deprived areas in the Country.

3.3.17 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 around 4%. Unemployment in Hertsmere in February 2006 was 1.8% compared with the East of England rate of 4.6% and the National rate of 5%

3.3.18 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.

3.3.19 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.

Table 3.4: Social baseline data collected (where currently available):

Population and household	➤ Total population ➤ Population density ➤ Average household size ➤ Population distribution: - Males - Females - Aged 0 to 15 - Aged 16 to 74 - Aged 75 and over ➤ Housing tenure: - 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 ➤ Housing Type: - 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	➤ Index of multiple deprivation: - Overall rank - Income - Employment - Education - Barriers to housing and services - Health deprivation and disability ➤ Resident participation ➤ Long-term unemployment ➤ % of 18-24 year olds claiming unemployment related benefits ➤ % of economically active population with no qualifications ➤ % of economically active population with NVQ3 or higher qualifications ➤ % of adults with basic numeracy and literacy skills ➤ % population in household with no wage earner ➤ Child care centre waiting lists / availability by location

Accessibility	➤ Public transport accessibility - % of all uses within accessibility zones: - Primary schools - Secondary schools - Child care centres - Other education facilities - Retail - Offices over 1,000 sq m - Industrial premises over 1,000 sq m - Open space (various types) - Leisure centres (gyms, swimming pools etc) - Cinema - Residential - Hospitals - Doctors - Pharmacies - Banks - Post offices - Job centres ➤ Proximity of services to population - % of population within identified threshold distance of services: - Train station - Bus stop (with min frequency) - Primary school (1500m) - Secondary school (3000m) - Child care centre (1500m) - Doctor (1500m) - Pharmacy (1500m) - Bank (1500m) - Post office (1500m) - Job centre (3000m) - Local open space (800m) - District open space (1500m) - Town centre (1500m) - Supermarket (1500m) - Library (1500m) ➤ % of buildings open to the public that are suitable & accessible to disabled people ➤ % of new development within 1km of good public transport links
Housing need	➤ % of dwellings not meeting the 'decent homes' standard ➤ Housing affordability ➤ Proportion of families accepted as statutorily homeless within the last 2 years ➤ Homeless households in Bed and Breakfast Accommodation ➤ Affordable housing ➤ Number of people on housing waiting list and average time on list ➤ Number of abandoned homes ➤ Number of unauthorised travellers encampments

Well being	➤ Total crime per 1000 population ➤ Violent offences per 1000 population ➤ Domestic burglaries per 1000 population ➤ Fear of crime ➤ Life expectancy at birth ➤ General health ➤ People of working age with a limiting long-term illness ➤ Road accidents ➤ Properties affected by flood risk ➤ Deaths per 1000 population as a result of - Coronary heart disease - Cancer - Suicide - Accidents
Liveable communities	➤ Resident perceptions of town centres (survey) ➤ Resident perceptions of neighbourhoods (survey) ➤ Number of empty shops in town centres ➤ Proportion of local ('non-clone') shops in high streets (by centre) ➤ Retail floorspace in centre vs out-of-centre ➤ % of highways that are of an unacceptable standard of cleanliness ➤ % of Borough deficient in various types of open space, as per needs survey ➤ % of residents satisfied with LA cultural services: - sports and leisure facilities - libraries - museums - arts activities and venues - parks and open spaces

3.4 Future trends without the LDF

- 3.4.1 The baseline information gathered, and detailed in Appendix 2, helps to create a picture of the current state of the Borough, and places this in context against County, Regional and National trends.
- 3.4.2 Although it cannot always directly impact on the baseline indicators, the LDF provides an opportunity to exert a positive influence across all of these areas. Without the LDF, performance against many of these indicators would be likely to deteriorate.
- 3.4.3 This section identifies a number of broad areas of concern should the proposed plans not be implemented, and the potential effects on the baseline data. A number of these effects are interrelated (or synergistic) and these in turn have informed the identification of the key sustainability issues for Hertsmere in the following section of this report.

Ensuring an appropriate mix of land uses

Potential effects on the baseline without the LDF:

- Increased local unemployment

- Declining VAT registration and survival rates
- Deteriorating performance against the Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Increased town centre vacancies

3.4.4 Without the Local Development Framework, there would be no means of securing an appropriate mix of land uses, potentially leading to a loss of land to higher value uses such as residential.

3.4.5 This could lead to a loss of employment land resulting in increased local unemployment and a lower level of economic and entrepreneurial activity in the Borough. Average weekly earnings could rise as increased housebuilding draws in higher earners from outside the Borough. However, this could lead to the creation of 'dormitory settlements' to the detriment of retail vitality and local services as well as increased polarisation and inequality amongst the Borough's population.

Affordability and Need

Potential effects on the baseline without the LDF:

- Increased private house ownership
- Decline in affordable housing completions
- Increased number of people on housing waiting list (and waiting times)
- Increased homelessness

3.4.6 The majority of new affordable housing in the Borough is secured through section 106 legal agreements on private development sites. Without the plan, this mechanism would be removed exacerbating housing need.

3.4.7 Affordable housing completions would fall with a likely commensurate rise in numbers on the housing waiting list, and a growing proportion of the overall stock in private ownership.

Protection of the Green Belt and other environmental assets

Potential effects on the baseline without the LDF:

- Loss of greenfield land
- Decline in bird species populations
- Loss of SSSIs and locally designated sites
- Declining ecological, biological and chemical quality of rivers and ponds

3.4.8 Without LDF policies, there would be no means by which to direct development into existing towns and onto previously developed sites. There would be a resultant loss of greenfield sites and Green Belt land as these are often cheaper to obtain and develop than PDL sites, which can have associated remedial and infrastructure costs.

- 3.4.9 This would have a detrimental impact upon nationally and locally designated sites and wildlife species with no mechanisms to ensure the protection of habitats and features of importance such as trees and hedgerows.

Protection of historic built assets

Potential effects on the baseline without the LDF:

- Increased losses of Listed Buildings and ancient monuments
- Increase % of Listed Buildings and ancient monuments at risk

- 3.4.10 Local and national planning policies afford protection to the Borough's historic built assets and preclude developments which would result in damage or loss.

- 3.4.11 Without the plan, this protection would be removed. The loss of any historic built assets would be permanent.

Air quality and climate change

Potential effects on the baseline without the LDF:

- Increased car use for work, school, shopping and leisure journeys
- Increased CO2 emissions
- Declining air quality
- Increased number of properties affected by flood risk
-

- 3.4.12 With no means to encourage and promote alternative modes of transport, the use of the private car as the preferred mode of the transport in the Borough would be consolidated or increased.

- 3.4.13 Without the LDF, there would be no means to ensure that housing, jobs and services were located in close proximity to one another and / or public transport links necessitating further journeys, leading to increased carbon emissions and lower air quality.

- 3.4.14 There would be no means to control development in flood plains. This could lead to properties being built in areas currently at risk and placing further existing properties at risk from flooding by increasing areas of hardstanding leading to increased runoff.

Human health and well being

Potential effects on the baseline without the LDF:

- Declining life expectancy
- Increased % of the population in poor health or with limiting illness
- Declining Greenway / cycleway usage
- Increased dissatisfaction with the local area

- 3.4.15 This area of concern is closely interlinked with the impacts on air quality and climate change discussed above. The decline in air quality associated with increased car use would be detrimental to human health.
- 3.4.16 This impact would be further heightened by the removal of mechanisms to encourage cycling and walking as alternative modes of transport and to promote the provision of Rights of Way and Greenways and access to the countryside.

Resource efficiency

Potential effects on the baseline without the LDF:

- Increased waste and lower recycling
 - Little or no progress towards renewable energy targets
 - Little or no reduction in carbon emissions per capita
- 3.4.17 Without the LDF there would be no means to ensure sustainable design in new developments or to encourage the recycling of building materials in schemes.
- 3.4.18 The market may yield some additional renewable energy resources however, the incorporation of additional energy saving / renewable energy measures in new build could not be required.

4 Sustainability issues

Stage A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems

4.1 Key sustainability issues for Hertsmere

- 4.1.1 The following section identifies the key sustainability issues affecting Hertsmere, as drawn from the current collection of baseline information presented in Appendix 2 and the identified programmes in Appendix 1. As with previous sections, these are presented under the three key headings of Economy, Environment and Society.
- 4.1.2 In each instance, relating the issue to the key topic areas identified in Government guidance identifies the relevance to the SEA. The manner in which the issue has implications for the LDF and how the LDF can influence their outcome is also discussed.

4.2 Economic issues

Local skills shortage

- 4.2.1 Developing skills is recognised as a key priority at the regional level, to prevent the formation of a two-tier economy. At a local level, the need to develop skills and knowledge is recognised in a number of policy documents, including the Community Strategy.
- 4.2.2 Although unemployment remains low relative the national average, it has been slowly rising since the start of the plan period, with the benefit claimant rate rising by approximately 0.1% a year from 1.2% in 2001 to 1.7% in 2006.
- 4.2.3 The baseline data shows that the proportion of the economically active population with no qualifications is higher than the county, regional and national figures. At the same time, in 2001 (the last year for which a full set of comparable statistics is available), the proportion of the economically active population in Hertsmere with NVQ3 or higher qualifications was 38.2%, compared to a Hertfordshire figure of 50% and a national average of 47.5%.
- 4.2.4 If the skills of the local population are poorly matched to the available job opportunities a number of detrimental impacts, including increased unemployment, poor performance against the Index of Multiple Deprivation and increased journey lengths to reach suitable employment opportunities can arise.
- 4.2.5 Employment land is likely to come under pressure from other land uses over the plan period. Although policies cannot influence the types of job that are made available, the LDF can help prevent undue loss of employment land to other, higher value, uses such as residential, helping to maintain job opportunities available in the Borough. The LDF can also afford policy protection to prevent educational buildings and uses being lost.

4.3 Environmental issues

Motor vehicle usage

Relevance to SEA: Human health, air, climatic factors

- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2 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.
- 4.3.3 Reducing reliance on the private motor car as the preferred mode of transport is a national priority, with the commitment to promoting alternative modes contained in the Transport White Paper echoed in PPG13: Transport. This theme is echoed in regional policy documents and permeates through to the local level in the Local Plan.
- 4.3.4 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.

Table 4.1: Vehicle Ownership

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

Data Source: 2001 Census. Crown Copyright.

- 4.3.5 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. A sample survey undertaken by the Borough Council in 2006 indicated that average ownership had risen to 1.6 cars per household.
- 4.3.6 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.
- 4.3.7 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.

- 4.3.8 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%).
- 4.3.9 Without the LDF to promote alternative modes, the role of the private car as the preferred mode of transport in the Borough is likely to be consolidated. Through promoting alternative uses and locating new development so as to minimise the need to travel, the LDF can help to stabilise or reduce the number of car journeys bringing resultant benefits in terms of reducing congestion, improving air quality and controlling carbon emissions and promoting healthier lifestyle choices.

Pressures on landscape character

Relevance to SEA: Material assets, landscape

- 4.3.10 Approximately 80% of the Borough is Green Belt, much of it high quality landscape area, which provides Hertsmere with a high quality living environment. PPG2 recognises the importance of Green Belts, and is echoed as a priority in the Community Strategy, whilst the Rural White Paper demanded continued protection of landscapes.
- 4.3.11 The Panel Report into the East of England Plan, published in June 2006, proposes a target for Hertsmere to provide 5,000 new homes between 2001 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.
- 4.3.12 The LDF can help to ensure that, wherever possible, the integrity of the existing landscape character is upheld and, where development is deemed necessary, ensure that any detrimental impacts are prevented, minimised or mitigated so far as is possible.

Pressures on urban character

Relevance to SEA: Material assets, cultural heritage

- 4.3.13 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. Table 2.6 identified the protection and enhancement of the built environment, both historic and contemporary, as key themes arising in numerous policy documents.
- 4.3.14 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.
- 4.3.15 The LDF can protect urban character by demanding that new developments incorporate the highest quality of design and, especially in relation to Conservation Areas and listed buildings, ensure that the character of surrounding areas is respected and maintained or enhanced.

Increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy sources

Relevance to SEA: Air, climatic factors

- 4.3.16 Energy and resource efficiency is a distinct priority at the international level, reflected in a number of EU directives and national policy documents and recognised as a key theme of the policy documents studied.
- 4.3.17 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.
- 4.3.18 With the exception of some Housing Condition Surveys, the Council does not have detailed statistics on energy efficiency in existing buildings. Anecdotal evidence suggests that new buildings are not optimising energy efficiency opportunities. However, the County Council has recently published its sustainable design guide, Building Futures, for public consultation. This document includes guidance on a number of key themes including energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- 4.3.19 A key sustainability challenge for Hertsmere will be to encourage designs that use less energy, and proposals that provide renewable energy sources. Without the LDF this goal is unlikely to be achieved.

Air quality, especially on main transport routes

Relevance to SEA: Air, human health, climatic factors

- 4.3.20 The need to prevent the deterioration of air quality is closely intertwined with the key issue of improving health and well being and, as such, is widely quoted as an objective in international, national and regional policy. 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.
- 4.3.21 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.
- 4.3.22 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.
- 4.3.23 The Council, as required by the National Air Quality Strategy, has therefore established six AQMAS. An updated screening exercise in 2006 confirmed that the levels of nitrogen dioxide had continued to exceed air quality objectives, however this remained contained within the existing AQMAS and no further detailed assessments are recommended.

- 4.3.24 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.
- 4.3.25 At the local level, encouraging the use of alternative modes and reducing the need to travel can help improve air quality through the reduction of car journeys with the LDF one potential vehicle through which this can be promoted.
- 4.3.26 In terms of environmental impact, there are clearly overlaps between the identified key sustainability issues of air quality, energy efficiency and motor vehicle use as all impact upon the key areas of human health, air and climatic factors.

Water supply and demand

Relevance to SEA: water, material assets

- 4.3.27 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. The need to improve water quality and supply is reflected in the EU Water Framework Directive.
- 4.3.28 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.
- 4.3.29 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.
- 4.3.30 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.

Reducing waste and increasing recycling

Relevance to SEA: water, material assets

- 4.3.31 Waste reduction and recycling was identified in Section 2 as a key environmental theme, with a number of national and regional policy objectives identified.
- 4.3.32 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. The Government's recycling target 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%. In 2005/06 10.8% of waste was recycled.

- 4.3.33 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).
- 4.3.34 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.
- 4.3.35 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 (including through the recycling of materials in new development), and potentially accommodating new recycling and composting facilities within the Borough.

High susceptibility of the chalk aquifer to pollution

Relevance to SEA: Human health, water

- 4.3.36 Much of the Borough's groundwater drinking resource is held within the chalk aquifer which, although protected in places by clay strata, is permeable and, as such, susceptible to pollution. The EU Water Directive identifies maintenance of drinking water supply as a key priority while numerous documents seek to limit sources of pollution.
- 4.3.37 The LDF can assist in the aquifers protection by introducing sustainable measures and precluding development likely to have a detrimental impact upon water quality.

Existence of nationally and locally designated nature conservation sites

Relevance to SEA: Biodiversity, fauna, flora, material assets, landscape

- 4.3.38 The baseline data has identified 31 hectares of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 86 hectares of Local Nature Reserves and 953 hectares of Wildlife Sites in the Borough. These sites have been designated for their nature conservation value and provide valuable habitat for numerous species.
- 4.3.39 Surveys of a number of key bird species has revealed falling numbers at the regional and national level, partly a reflection of loss of suitable habitat to other uses. Consequently, to need conserve and enhance natural habitats and biodiversity emerges as a key theme in a number of international, national, regional and local policy documents.
- 4.3.40 Development pressure can pose a threat to these designated areas, particularly where they occur within built up areas. The LDF can assist in securing the continued protection of such sites through the provision of suitable policy protection and, where development is required, ensuring that suitable mitigation or replacement measures are put in place to minimise impact.

4.4 Social Issues

Housing affordability

Relevance to SEA: Population

- 4.4.1 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. This places pressure on the desire to meet identified housing needs and allow everybody the opportunity of a good home, as expressed in the documents identified under this theme in Table 2.6.
- 4.4.2 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.

Table 4.2: House price to income ratios

	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

- 4.4.3 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.
- 4.4.4 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.
- 4.4.5 These factors have clear implications for the development of policies in the LDF. High demand for housing in the Borough is likely to continue to fuel rising house prices leading to a further widening of the income / house price gap.
- 4.4.6 The LDF can play a key role in ensuring the delivery of additional housing provision to help satisfy both new and latent demand for housing in the Borough. Clear policies relating to housing mix and affordable housing can help to provide a range of appropriate accommodation in terms of both unit size and tenure, including additional provision for social rented, shared ownership and key worker housing.

Reducing inequality

Relevance to SEA: Population, human health

- 4.4.7 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 one of the super output areas in Aldenham West ward is one of the least deprived areas in the Country. There are also some smaller pockets of deprivation in North Bushey, Potters Bar and the Battlers Green area of Radlett.
- 4.4.8 Combating poverty and social exclusion and ensuring equality of opportunity is a key objective of numerous regional policy documents in recognition of the fact that the region as a whole is largely affluent though contains significant pockets of deprivation.
- 4.4.9 As with housing affordability, ensuring the delivery of new housing and a suitable mix of tenures and accommodation types is one means of reducing inequality and there are clear synergies between the two issues.
- 4.4.10 Through detailed design considerations, LDF documents can help to design out crime in new developments and create integrated communities in line with Government aspirations whilst there are also potential overlaps with economic indicators, notably through ensuring the provision of local employment opportunities and services.

Reducing the fear of crime

Relevance to SEA: Human health

- 4.4.11 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.
- 4.4.12 Further work is therefore required to help make sure that Hertsmere's residents feel safe and secure in their homes and in public places with LDF policies one potential means of achieving this through positive planning and design.

5 Sustainability appraisal framework

Stage A4: Developing the SA framework

5.1 Sustainability appraisal framework for Hertsmere

- 5.1.1 The Sustainability Framework is central to the Sustainability Appraisal process as it identifies the key social, economic and environmental objectives to be pursued through the documents of the Local Development Framework and establishes a structure through which the sustainability effects of DPDs and SPDs can be monitored and reviewed.
- 5.1.2 Sustainability Appraisal is intended as an iterative purpose and the proposed sustainability framework therefore draws heavily on the themes, objectives and requirements of other relevant plans, programmes and policies identified in Stage A1 of the process.
- 5.1.3 It is also informed by Stages A2 and A3 of the Sustainability Appraisal process, set out in the preceding chapters, which established trends from baseline data and used these to identify key sustainability issues for the Borough.
- 5.1.4 From the information gathered at these stages, 21 sustainability objectives have been identified for Hertsmere:
1. To improve educational achievement, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability
 2. To ensure ready access to essential services and facilities for all residents
 3. To improve the quality and affordability of housing
 4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion and promote equality of opportunities
 5. To reduce and prevent crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
 6. To improve population's health and reduce inequalities both geographically and demographically
 7. To make the most efficient use of previously land developed land and existing buildings before Greenfield sites
 8. To reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity
 9. To protect and enhance landscape character, historic buildings, archaeological sites and cultural features of importance to the community
 10. To maintain and enhance the quality of countryside and landscape
 11. To reduce dependence on private car and achieve modal shift to more sustainable transport modes
 12. To protect and enhance wildlife and habitats which are important on an international, national and local scale
 13. To improve the quality of surface and ground waters

(continued)

14. To minimise water consumption
 15. To minimise the risk of flooding taking account of climate change
 16. To improve local air quality
 17. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 18. To minimise the need for energy, increase energy efficiency, and to increase the use of renewable energy
 19. To reduce the generation of waste and encourage re-use and recycling of waste
 20. To provide a prosperous, balanced and stable economy
 21. To sustain and enhance the viability and vitality of town centres
- 5.1.5 These objectives will form the framework against which all DPDs and SPDs arising from Hertsmere's Local Development Framework will be assessed to evaluate whether or not they are likely to have a significant positive or negative effect and to ensure that the impact of plan documents on social, economic and environmental factors are given due consideration in the plan making process.
- 5.1.6 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 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.
- 5.1.7 Table 5.1, on the following page, sets out Hertsmere's proposed sustainability appraisal framework under the broad headings of social, environmental and economic objectives. As well as the identified objectives, the table sets out the indicators that will be monitored to see whether the objectives and any relevant targets are being achieved.
- 5.1.8 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.
- 5.1.9 A specific target or broad target direction has been established against each indicator. Future monitoring and updating of the baseline information will help to establish progress against these targets and determine whether plan documents are producing the desired impact.
- 5.1.10 The right-hand column of the table relates each objective to the relevant topics that the SEA Directive requires to be addressed.

Table 5.1 Hertsmere's Sustainability Appraisal Framework

No	SA Objective	Potential Indicators	Target	SEA Topics
Social				
1	To improve educational achievement, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability	% of economically active population with no qualifications	Decrease during plan period	Population
		% of economically active population with NVQ3 or higher qualifications	Increase during plan period	
		% of adults with basic numeracy and literacy skills	Decrease during plan period	
2	To ensure ready access to essential services and facilities for all residents	Proximity of services to population - % of population within threshold distance from services- H	Increase year on year	Population, Human Health
		% of Borough deficient in various types of open space	Decrease during plan period	
		% of new development within 1 km of good public transport links	Increase year on year	
3	To improve the quality and affordability of housing	% of dwellings not meeting the 'decent homes' standard	Decrease year on year	Population, Material Assets, Human Health
		House price to income ratio	Decrease year on year	
		Number of people on housing waiting list and average time on list	Decrease year on year	
		% of affordable housing	? % year on year	
4	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and promote equality of opportunities	% of people claiming job seekers allowance who have done so for a year or more	Decrease during plan period	Population
		% of under 16s living in income deprived families	Decrease during plan period	
5	To reduce and prevent crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour	Total crime per 1000 population	Decrease year on year	Population, Human Health
		Crime by type (vehicle, burglary, violent) per 1000 population	Decrease year on year	
		Fear of crime: % of residents that feel safe/very safe living in Hertsmere	Increase year on year	
6	To improve population's health and reduce inequalities both geographically and demographically	Life expectancy (by gender)	Increase during plan period	Population, Human Health
		General health: % of people describing their health as a) Good, b) Fairly Good, c) Not Good	Increase % describing their health as good during plan period	
		Death rate by type (CHD, cancer, suicide, accidents) per 1000 population	Decrease during plan period	
Environmental				
7	To make the most efficient use of previously land developed land and existing buildings before Greenfield sites	Total ha of Greenfield land	Target not appropriate	Soil, Biodiversity
		Net change of ha of Greenfield land from previous year	Zero change year on year	
		% of new development built on previously developed land	100% during plan period	
		Number of empty properties	Decrease	

No	SA Objective	Potential Indicators	Target	SEA Topics
		Average density of new housing	To achieve a Borough-wide average of at least 30 dwellings per hectare (dph); At least the same density as previous year	
8	To reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity	Agricultural land by grade (ha) % of planning permissions granted resulting in loss of grades 1,2 and 3a agricultural land	Target not appropriate Zero during plan period	Soil
9	To protect and enhance landscape character, historic buildings, archaeological sites and cultural features of importance to the community	Number and % of listed buildings in good condition, at risk or lost Number and % of ancient monuments in good condition, at risk or lost Total ha of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Net change of ha of Outstanding Natural Beauty from previous year	Increase % in good condition, Zero loss Increase % in good condition, Zero loss Target not appropriate Zero change year on year	Landscape, Heritage
10	To maintain and enhance the quality of countryside and landscape	Area and type of landscape character areas Landscape character areas (quality/quantity) affected by proposals/policies (using LCA tool) Total ha of Green Belt Net change of ha of Green Belt from previous year	Target not appropriate No net loss in area of landscape character areas Target not appropriate Zero change year on year	
11	To reduce dependence on private car and achieve modal shift to more sustainable transport modes	% of households with 0, 1 or 2+ vehicles Average number of vehicles per household Modal split for journeys to work, shopping, school and leisure % population working from home Length of greenways/cycleways per head of population % of footways and cycleways that are assessed as easy to use Number of green travel plans	Decrease % of households with 2+ vehicles Decrease during plan period To increase the percentage of journeys to work by non –car modes year on year Increase year on year Increase year on year Increase year on year Increase during plan period	Air, Climatic Factors
12	To protect and enhance wildlife and habitats which are important on an international, national and local scale	Number, area and condition of international, national, regional and locally designated sites	No loss of sites and improve condition during plan period	Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora

No	SA Objective	Potential Indicators	Target	SEA Topics
		Population of protected species including wild and farmland birds	Increase during plan period	
		Number, area and condition of all BAP habitats	No loss of sites and improve condition during plan period	
		Number of proposals which provide opportunities for building-in beneficial features as part of good design	100% year on year	
		Number of proposals resulting in the potential loss or damage to designated sites	Zero year on year	
13	To improve the quality of surface and ground waters	River biological and chemical water quality classification	Good quality status to be achieved by 2010 Source: Water Framework Directive	Water, Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora
		Number of developments incorporating Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	100%	
14	To minimise water consumption	Water consumption per capita (l/head/day)	Decrease during plan period	Water
		Number of planning applications promoting water saving devices or recycling of greywater	100% during plan period	
15	To minimise the risk of flooding taking account of climate change	Number of properties affected by flood risk	Decrease during plan period	Water
		% of new development in flood risk areas	Zero During plan period	
16	To improve local air quality	Number of days when air pollution is moderate or high for PM ₁₀	Urban 9 – 19 days per annum, rural 42 days per annum	Air
		Levels of main air pollutants	To meet National Air Quality Standards	
		Number and area of Air Quality Management Areas	Decrease year on year	
17	To reduce greenhouse gas emissions	CO ₂ emissions per sector	To help contribute towards the UK target of 20% reduction in CO ₂ emissions by 2010	Air, Climatic Factors
		CO ₂ emissions per capita		
18	To minimise the need for energy, increase energy efficiency, and to increase the use of renewable energy	% of energy generated from renewable sources	To help contribute towards the UK target of 10% renewable energy target by 2010	Climatic Factors, Material Assets

No	SA Objective	Potential Indicators	Target	SEA Topics
		Number of planning applications promoting energy efficient design and/or renewable energy	100%	
		Percentage of new build and retrofit homes meeting EcoHomes very good standard	100%	
		Percentage of commercial buildings meeting BREEAM very good standard	100%	
19	To reduce the generation of waste and encourage re-use and recycling of waste	Household, commercial, construction, demolition and industrial tonnage per year	Reduce tonnages year on year	Climatic Factors, Material Assets
		% of waste arisings by type recycled	To recycle or compost at least 30 % of municipal waste by 2010 and 33% of municipal waste by 2015 Source: UK Waste Strategy, 2000	
		% of waste arisings by type composted	To recycle or compost at least 30 % of municipal waste by 2010 and 33% of municipal waste by 2015 Source: UK Waste Strategy, 2000	
		% of waste arisings by type landfilled	By 2010 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 75% of that produced in 1995; by 2013 50% and 2020 35%. Source: UK Waste Strategy, 2000	
Economic				
20	To provide a prosperous, balanced and stable economy	Breakdown by employment sector	Target not appropriate	Population, Material Assets
		Number of new VAT registrations per year	Increase year on year	
		Net change in VAT registered businesses from previous year	Increase year on year	
		Gross Value Added per worker	Increase year on year	
		Unemployment rate (%)	Decrease year on year	
21	To sustain and enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Vacant floorspace	Decrease during plan period	Population
		Net loss of retail floorspace	Zero during plan period	

No	SA Objective	Potential Indicators	Target	SEA Topics
		Number and type of planning permissions in town centres	Target not appropriate	
		% retail floorspace in centre vs out-of-centre	Increase	

6 Consultation outcomes and next stages

Stage A5: Consulting on the scope of SA

6.1 Consultation

- 6.1.1 This draft scoping report is currently being circulated to statutory consultees and placed on the Council's website for a five week period.
- 6.1.2 The consultation specifically seeks responses to specific questions, which are replicated in the table below, and also invites any additional comments which respondents wished to make.

Table 6.1: Consultation 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.

6.2 Finalising the Scoping Report

- 6.2.1 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.
- 6.1.3 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.

- 6.2.3 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.

7 Appropriate Assessment

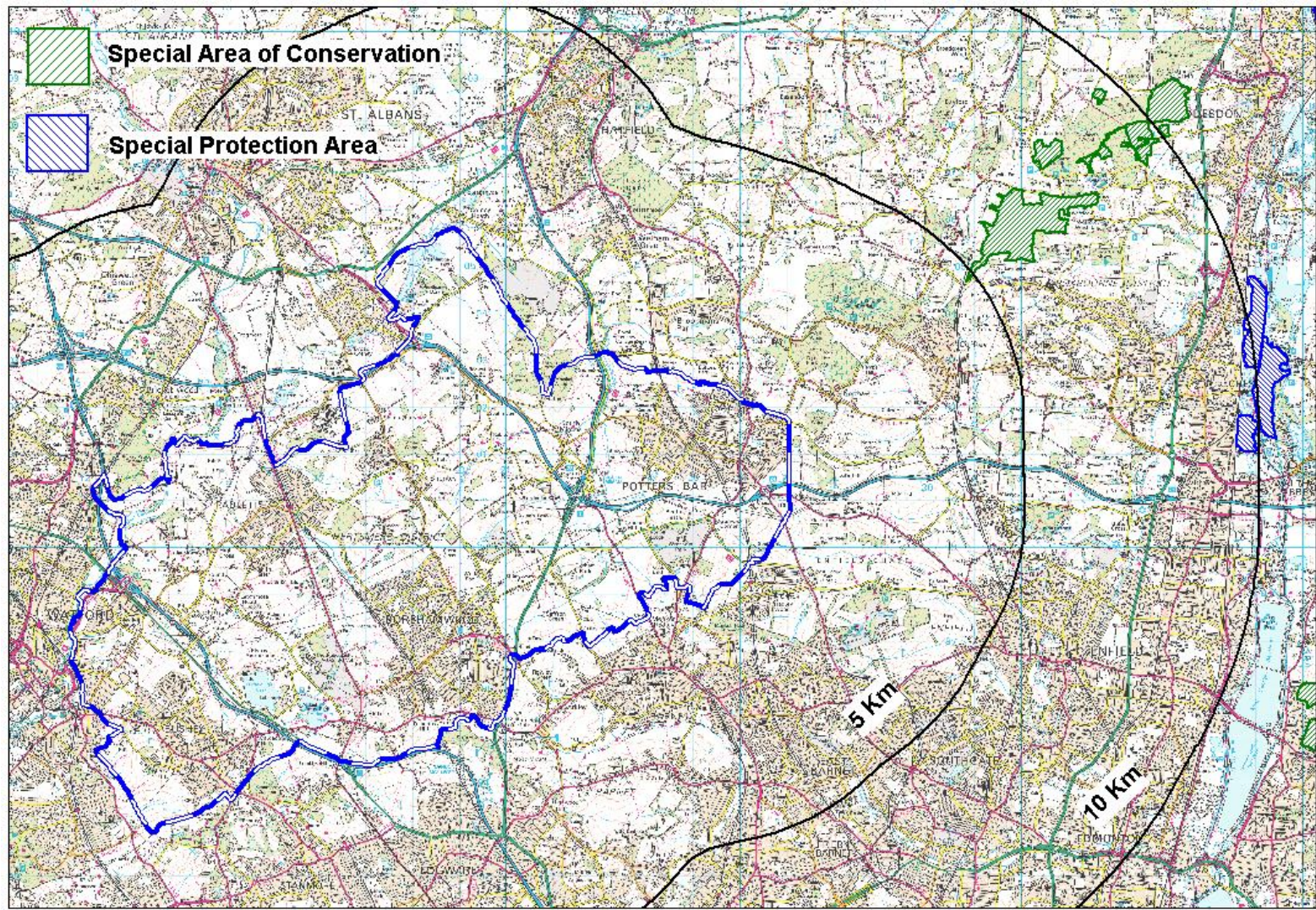
7.1 The European Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations

- 7.1.1 Under Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive), local planning authorities are required to assess the effects of land-use plans against the conservation objectives of designated European Sites and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site.
- 7.1.2 Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states that: "Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment."
- 7.1.3 This requirement has been transcribed into UK legislation through regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended). Under regulation 48, any plan or project that is likely to have a *significant* effect on a European Site in Great Britain must be subject to Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the site in view of that sites' conservation objectives.
- 7.1.4 European Sites consist of Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and sites on draft lists for protection. SPAs often incorporate wetland sites of international conservation importance known as RAMSARs. Assessment more likely to be required where SPAs or SACs or RAMSAR sites lie within or near the planning authority's boundaries.
- 7.1.5 This scoping report makes a screening opinion as to whether the LDF is likely to have a significant effect on any European sites.

7.2 European Sites in and adjoining Hertsmere

- 7.2.1 There are no SPAs or SACs within Hertsmere.
- 7.2.2 The nearest Special Area of Conservation is at Wormley Hoddesdonpark Woods SAC which, at its nearest point, lies 4.8km north-east of the Borough boundary. This SAC has been primarily designated for its Annex I habitat of Oak-hornbeam forest of the *Carpinion betuli*.
- 7.2.3 The nearest Special Protection Area lies is the Lee Valley SPA at Cheshunt. At its nearest point this SPA is 9.5km east of the Borough boundary. This SPA has been designated due to the presence of internationally significant populations of Annex I birds *Anas clypeata* (Shoveler), *Anas strepera* (Gadwall) and *Botaurus stellaris* (Great Bittern).
- 7.2.4 These sites are detailed on Map 7.1 on the following page.

Map 7.1: Designated European Sites



7.3 Determining the effect

7.3.1 It is considered that a *significant* effect upon a European Site would consist of one or more of the following:

- Loss of or damage to habitat
- Adverse changes in water quality or water levels
- Disturbance to key species
- Significant adverse impact on the habitat or species arising as a result of climate change, deterioration in air quality or any other pollutant.

7.3.2 *Loss or damage to habitat:* As the designated sites lie some distance outside of the Borough, it is not considered that implementation of the plan would directly affect the size or quality of either identified habitat.

7.3.3 *Adverse changes in water quality or water levels:* No watercourses from within the Borough flow into the River Lee upriver from the designated SPA. As such, it is not considered that implementation of the plan would adversely effect water quality.

7.3.4 *Disturbance to key species:* Due to the distance from the Borough boundary, it is not considered that implementation of the plan is likely to have any significant effect on key species within the Special Protection Area.

7.3.5 *Significant adverse impact on the habitat or species arising as a result of climate change, deterioration in air quality or any other pollutant:* Although there may be some minor secondary impacts upon air quality and CO² emissions as a result of plan implementation, it is not considered that these would amount to a significant effect on the designated sites due to their distance from the Borough's boundaries though this will be kept under review.

7.4 Screening Opinion

7.4.1 There are no SPAs or SACs either within Hertsmere or in immediate proximity to the Borough boundaries. Based upon the assessment undertaken in the preceding sections, it is considered that the LDF would not be likely to have a *significant* effect upon any designated European site.

7.4.2 Hertsmere Borough Council does not consider that the LDF requires Appropriate Assessment under Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora and regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

7.5 Review and monitoring

7.5.1 The Borough Council will review the need for Appropriate Assessment of its plans if, through the Sustainability Appraisal of any of the LDDs cited in paragraph 1.4, any significant adverse effects are considered likely to arise against any of the following SEA objectives as a result of implementation:

8. To reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity

- 10. To maintain and enhance the quality of countryside and landscape
- 12. To protect and enhance wildlife and habitats which are important on an international, national and local scale
- 13. To improve the quality of surface and ground waters
- 14. To minimise water consumption
- 15. To minimise the risk of flooding taking account of climate change
- 16. To improve local air quality
- 17. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions

7.5.2 Through monitoring of its LDDs, the Borough Council will identify any unforeseen, significant adverse changes which may effect the European sites, with particular regard to indicators monitoring species populations, river quality, water consumption, flood risk, air quality and CO² Emissions.