Sustainability Appraisal and SEA of North Hertfordshire Local Plan Preferred Options

Appendix 2: Key Sustainability Issues and Baseline Review

November 2014

Contents

Key Sustainability Issues	1
Economy	7
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	7
Land Use and Development Patterns	12
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value 2(b) Provide access to green spaces 2(c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	12 14 15
Environmental Protection	18
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	18
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	20
3(c) Conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment 3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	21 21
Climate Change	23
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	23
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	25
A Just Society	26
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	26
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	27
5(c) Promote community cohesion	28
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	28
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	30
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	31
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	32
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	32
Resource Use and Waste	34
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	34
6(b) Reduce waste	36
Town Centres	38
7 Promote sustainable urban living	38

Overview and document history

This appendix contains background material for the SA/SEA, produced to support the appraisal process.

The list of sustainability issues included below was developed from the review of plans, programmes and policies (Appendix 1). The list was then refined, based on discussions with the Officer Steering Group at a meeting on May 18th 2005, which included other sources of information. It was then updated in January 2009 along with the baseline review. It was also updated by the Council as part of the SA/SEA of the Core Strategy in May 2011. This was then further updated by CAG Consultants in June 2012 and reviewed with a minor update in September 2014.

The baseline review for North Hertfordshire was fully updated in January 2009 and reviewed and partly updated in December 2012 is included in Appendix 2. It summarises data for a series of indicators associated with each of the sustainability appraisal objectives.

Key Sustainability Issues

Issues	Source
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	
Difficulties in competing with large urban centres for provision of employment and facilities	Discussion with Officer Steering Group
Promotion of rural tourism. Visitors can be important to rural areas, but the District is not seen as a prime tourist location.	Discussion with Officer Steering Group
Need to provide more high quality employment in the District. This will help reduce the disparity between local income and that of commuters, and to reduce the environmental impacts of commuting. One cause of this is the high cost of housing; employers don't see the District as a location of choice. Recognises future growth likely to be in knowledge based economy and need for diversification of economy.	Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p30) Baseline data on average weekly earnings by place of work and residence Hertfordshire Strategic Employment Site Study (2011)
Recruitment of skilled workers: within rural Hertfordshire 15% of employers report difficulty in recruiting the skills they need. This compares with a 10% average for Hertfordshire and as little as 2% in the south of the County. Equally19% of Hertfordshire firms report that a lack of skilled labour is a limiting factor in increasing output.	Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p30)
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS	
The new National Planning Policy Framework sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development i.e. that new development can be a positive thing, but only when set within a sustainability framework. Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the Framework taken as a whole; or specific policies in the Framework indicate development should be restricted. It notes that planning should not just be about scrutiny but a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and	National Planning Policy Framework (2012) Growth Targets 2011-2031 consultation document 2012 and accompanying SA/SEA
	Difficulties in competing with large urban centres for provision of employment and facilities Promotion of rural tourism. Visitors can be important to rural areas, but the District is not seen as a prime tourist location. Need to provide more high quality employment in the District. This will help reduce the disparity between local income and that of commuters, and to reduce the environmental impacts of commuting. One cause of this is the high cost of housing; employers don't see the District as a location of choice. Recognises future growth likely to be in knowledge based economy and need for diversification of economy. Recruitment of skilled workers: within rural Hertfordshire 15% of employers report difficulty in recruiting the skills they need. This compares with a 10% average for Hertfordshire and as little as 2% in the south of the County. Equally19% of Hertfordshire firms report that a lack of skilled labour is a limiting factor in increasing output. LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS The new National Planning Policy Framework sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development i.e. that new development can be a positive thing, but only when set within a sustainability framework. Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the Framework taken as a whole; or specific policies in the Framework indicate development should be restricted. It notes that planning should

¹ Those relevant to the SEA Directive are shown underlined

SA Objective ¹	Issues	Source
	The need to provide additional housing for local needs, and the wider needs of the housing market which affects the District will require the use of greenfield sites and put significant pressure on the environment and quality of life in the District. The housing target for this plan is 14,200 dwellings, representing 12,100 as North Hertfordshire's own objectively assessed need for development and 2,100 dwellings towards the unmet need for housing from Luton.	
2 (c) deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the	Population and mobility factors have changed the function of villages from employment service centres to dormitory/residential functions reducing their social and physical diversity.	Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p31)
use of motor vehicles	The high levels of journeys and complex settlement pattern means that it is difficult to maintain a commercially viable passenger transport for journeys other than to London.	Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p31)
	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity 3(b) Protect and	Proposed housing developments discussed above, plus the proposed expansion of London Luton and Stansted airports will have a significant impact on District's environment.	Discussion with Officer Steering Group
enhance landscapes 3(c) Conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment	Pressures on locally significant habitats and species in the District. These include fragmentation of habitats, loss of corridors and the direct impacts of agriculture and new development, including waste water treatment and water extraction, discussed further below (see 3(d) and 6(a)	Discussion with Officer Steering Group North Herts Biodiversity Action Plan Consultation comments by
	The District's rich heritage of market towns and the Garden City certainly suggest that there are local issues which will arise over more detailed site selection.	Natural England 2012 Natural England consultation comment 2007 English Heritage consultation comment 2009
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	Quality of surface and ground water is threatened by the water supply needs and drainage from future developments. Adequate supply for future developments is also an issue: see below and 6a.	Rye Meads Scoping Report 2007 Rye Meads Water Cycle Study (2009)
	North Hertfordshire is in an area of groundwater sensitivity because of its location at the head of both the River Ouse and Thames catchments A large proportion the district is in a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone . Small parts of the district are also in a Groundwater Safeguard Zone (SgZ). These non-statutory zones are where action	Environment Agency website

SA Objective ¹	Issues	Source
	to address water contamination will be targeted, so that extra treatment by water companies can be avoided. Safeguard zones are one of the main tools for delivering the drinking water protection objectives of the Water Framework Directive.	
	There are identified constraints on sewerage infrastructure in Stevenage and possibly in Royston. Development of large sites in Royston and Stevenage should not proceed until specific solutions to STW capacity issues are determined and agreed by Anglian Water and the Environment Agency.	Consultation with Environment Agency and Anglian and Thames Water (2012)
	CLIMATE CHANGE	
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Transport use is a significant contributor to global warming. Journey lengths are above the county average for work and leisure journeys in North Hertfordshire//Stevenage, and there is a high car use for the school run.	North Herts Area Transport Plan (NHATP) Table 7 Issues and problems identified through consultation.
		North Herts Priorities for the District 2012-13
	Climate change is a major environmental issue. NHDC has signed the Nottingham Declaration and to committed itself to reducing the District's contribution to global warming and climate change	North Herts Priorities for the District 2012-13
	A JUST SOCIETY	
5(a) Share access to services and benefits of prosperity fairly	Whilst the District is relatively prosperous there are pockets of income and/ or multiple deprivation in relation to national standards. In the towns these occur in parts of Hitchin and Letchworth. In the rural areas specific issues are isolation and lack of access to services.	North Hertfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2021 SEA of Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan (key sustainability
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	There has been a reduction in village services and employment over the last 20 years. This particularly affects the elderly and young people. The number of households in the area with an elderly person in it is higher than the national average at 34%. This rises to 43% in some parts of the District. Some villages have high percentages of young people that have limited access to services. This is because of lack of planned recreational activities within villages and limited public transport to larger settlements. The same issue applies to elderly and young people living in some neighbourhood areas of our towns.	issues) Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p31)

SA Objective ¹	Issues	Source
5(d). Increase access to decent and affordable housing	There is a need to improve supply of high-quality affordable housing. The need for affordable housing has been exacerbated by insufficient development of affordable units over the last decade. Coupled with significant inflation in the housing market the gap has widened between the 'haves' and 'have-nots'. Specific issues on affordable housing include key worker housing, housing for young people and the disabled. Housing growth for the district is a key sustainability issue, in terms of meeting need	North Herts Priorities for the District 2012-13 Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p30) Housing Background Paper 2007
	and demand, but also in relation to environmental impacts of growth (e.g. water use, transport, CO2 emissions, impacts on local environmental quality etc).	Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2009), Strategic Land Availability Assessment (2011), Defining the Housing Requirement (2011)
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	NHDC is generally very safe, but fear of crime is an issue in the District. Consultation work undertaken by the North Hertfordshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) has identified the following priorities: 1. Reduce anti-social behaviour and criminal damage 2. Reduce alcohol related crime and disorder 3. Increase the awareness of domestic violence 4. Reduce dwelling burglary 5. Promote reassurance and increase feelings of safety 6. Reduce vehicle crime	North Herts Community Safety Plan 2008-2011
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	Generally speaking across all age groups the population of Hertfordshire enjoys good health compared with national averages. This however masks some areas at ward or sub-ward level of significant deprivation and poorer health status. The Public Health Annual Report 2007 notes the following key health issues: Smoking is the single greatest cause of premature illness and early death Demands on sexual health services are increasing Overall, child health in Hertfordshire is good, although obesity rates are of concern Levels of alcohol-related illness are rising The population of older and elderly people will grow over coming years and this will have an impact on both health and social care services. Accidents, in particular falls, are a major health problem in this age group.	Public Health Annual Reports 2007 and 2008, East and North Hertfordshire PCT Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Core Dataset: A Joint Report from Hertfordshire Primary Care Trusts and Hertfordshire County Council, April 2008 Housing Background Paper 2007
	Noise from air and road transport has a significant effect on quality of life in the District. Proposed developments will have significant additional impacts.	Discussion with Officer Steering Group

SA Objective ¹	Issues	Source								
	RESOURCE USE AND WASTE									
6 (a). Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	Hertfordshire has the highest domestic water use in the country. The Rye Meads Scoping Report notes that there are significant concerns for the availability of water resource in the Upper Lee catchment, which services the District. It notes that new water resources within the Upper Lee CAMS area are not available to meet any increased demand generated by the proposed new housing developments.	Rye Meads Scoping Report 2007, Transport and Utility Constraints Report								
	However, the water companies indicate that it is possible to meet the requirements of the housing growth targets, subject to measures outlined in the WCS, including high levels of water efficiency in development. The WCS also specifically includes measures to protect the sites of European importance. It is important that these measures are included in the requirements on developers.	Rye Meads Water Cycle Study (2009) (WCS) Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan								
	Sales of sand and gravel in South East England have almost halved since 1973. Sales of sand and gravel from extraction in Hertfordshire have decreased by 40% since 1990. The latest estimates for 2001 show sales at 1.67 million tonnes. However, the most recent figures available (1997) show that Hertfordshire was a net importer of sand and gravel with consumption exceeding sales by 0.356mt.	Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review2002-2016 Adopted 2007								
6(b) Reduce waste	The District has significantly improved its recycling performance in recent years. However, there is still a need for further improvement and a need to reduce overall waste arisings.	Discussion with Officer Steering Group								

Economy

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
1 Achiev	e sustainab	le levels of	prosperity a	and econom	ic gro	wth		
Gross Value Added £ per head	The estimated GVA per head in NHDC in 2004 was £15,229* *This estimate should be treated with caution because of methodological difficulties making local area estimates.	Workplace based GVA £/head 2000 17,717 2001 18,605 2002 19,354 2003 20,351 2004 21,530 2005 22,153	Workplace based GVA £/head 2000 13,403 2001 13,067 2002 14,785 2003 15,684 2004 16,532 2005 17,084 2006 17,890 2007 18,857 Residence based GVA £/head 2001 16,147 2002 16,858 2003 17,700 2004 18,441 2005 18,862 2006 19,589 2007 20,524	Workplace based GVA £/head 2000 14,685 2001 15,409 2002 16,220 2003 17,153 2004 17,967 2005 18,551 2006 19,413 2007 20,463 Residence based GVA £/head 2001 15,409 2002 16,220 2003 17,153 2004 17,967 2005 18,551 2006 19,413 2007 20,463	No target identified	Annual average growth (%) 1995 – 2001 UK 5.0 England 5.1 EoE 4.9 Herts 7.6 Annual average growth (%) 2006 UK 2.8 England EoE 3.0 Herts 2.7 Recent GVA data shows a trend of continued growth up to and including 2007 However, the rate of annual average growth shows a significant drop since the late 1990s.	average. Residence and workplace based figures are shown In the January 2009 review of data , no update for the North	http://www.dtistats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm Source: Regional Accounts, ONS Hertfordshire Local Economy Assessment 2004 East of England Observatory web site http://www.eastofenglandobservatory.org.uk/view Resource.aspx?id=15918 http://enquire- hertscc.gov.uk/qol/2007/economy07.cfm http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp ?vlnk=14650 Source: NUTS tables 1.1 and 1.4 GVA at current basic prices by region: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_ec onomy/NUTS1-2-3.pdf
New (VAT registered) businesses surviving 3 years (percentage)		1993 65.1 1994 65.1 1995 68.8 1996 70.1 1997 69.7 1998 67.9 1999 68.2 2000 72.0 2001 76.0 2002 74.0	63.6 64.2 67.1 68.5 69.8 68.8 68.1 70.4 71.2 72.9	62.1 62.5 65.3 66.0 67.4 66.3 66.5 68.2 69.4 71.2		The data shows a gradual increase from 1993. Due to the time lag more recent data is not yet available	The percentage of VAT registered businesses in Herts. surviving for 3+ years was slightly above both regional and national averages. Note that the LAA includes NI 172, percentage of small businesses in an area showing employment growth. It is recommended that this indicator be used instead in future updates to the baseline review.	http://www.dtistats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm Source: Small Business Service, DTI Source: BERR Economic and Statistics DTI Small Business Service, February 2007 http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/survival
Employment rate	1999 76.5 2000 79.0	79.6 81.8	77.6 79.1	74.0 74.4	No target identified	No clear trend data available.	There were 59,600 people in employment	1999-2003 source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
Percentage of people of working age in employment (Residence- based)	2001 80.4 2002 80.2 2003 82.0 2004 83.2 2005 80.3 2006 78.3 2007 78.0 2008 74.8	80.4 80.3 81.0 80.4 80.2 77.2 78.8	79.0 78.8 78.3 78.6 78.3 77.4 77.0	74.6 74.3 74.2 74.3 74.7 74.3 74.4 74.5		(Note that National figures refer to GB rather than England.)	in North Herts 2007-8 (nomisweb)	(Note that 1999 figures are not ONS estimates and that 2001 figures are not consistent with Census totals) 2004- 09www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/20384317 97/report.aspx
Unemployed benefit claimants (rate)	2000 1.6 2001 1.2 2002 1.0 2003 1.3 2004 1.5 2005 1.4 2006 1.5 2007 1.5 2008 1.2	1.5 1.2 1.1 1.4 1.4 1.6 1.5 1.3	2.3 1.9 1.7 1.8 1.8 2.0 2.0 1.7	3.3 2.8 2.5 2.5 2.5 2.4 2.6 2.5 2.2		Although the figures have remained low for a long time, the last 2 quarters of 2008 have seen significant rises in employment.	The claimant rate in N Herts. is approximately the county average which is lower than both regional and national averages. Figures are percentages of working age resident population receiving JSA in the quarter ending March 31st for the year specified.	http://www.dtistats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm (Data to 2004) Source: Labour Market Division, ONS Quarterly Unemployment Bulletin, HCC http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qunemjan08.pdf
Employment Employee jobs – workplace based	1998 49,197 1999 46,389 2000 48,788 2001 51,361 2002 49,820 2003 50,100 2004 50,000 2005 51,400 2006 47,600 2007 46,000	495,646 473,030 494,041 502,267 487,617 488,500 487,700 502,000 487,800 491,500	2,188,185 2,147,063 2,241,651 2,271,254 2,277,763 2,304,700 2,303,000 2,360,700 2,382,100 2,377,600	21,158,389 21,602,111 21,914,852 22,057,115 22,175,255 25,710,600 26,067,500 26,496,600 26,351,600 26,599,200	No target identified	Nationally there was a rise of approximately 5% in the total number of jobs over the period 1998-2002.	NB From 2003 the national figures are for Great Britain	1998-02 data source: Annual Business Inquiry(Note that year-on-year variations for small areas should be treated with caution as they may not be statistically significant because of the sample size) 2003-7 data source: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/Imp/I a/2038431797/subreports/abi_time_series/report.aspx
Employee jobs by sector	Total employee jobs Full-time Part-time Manufacturing Construction Services Distribution, hotels & restaurants Transport & communications Finance, IT, other business activities Public admin, education & health Other services Tourism-related	47,300 33,100 69 14,200 6,500 13 3,200 637,200 78 13,200 27 1,700 3 10,000 23 8,900 18 3,500 7	EoE (%) (%)	GB (%) 68.9 31.1 10.9 4.8 82.9 23.5 5.9 21.2 26.9 5.3 8.3		Due to space restrictions previous years are not shown. On reviewing 2003 data, there has since been a drop in manufacturing jobs (15.1 down to 13.8%) and an increase in construction jobs (from 5.3 up to 6.7%)	There are slightly more jobs in manufacturing and construction than the national average and a lower proportion of service jobs, most notably in the public sector.	http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/20384 31797/report.aspx Source: Annual Business Inquiry Employee Analysis (2007)
Employment by occupation (residents) Percentages Soc 2000 major group 1-3		North Herts 57.6	EoE 43.8	GB 42.9	No target identified	Due to restrictions on space, data from previous years is not shown. Reviewing	Over half of residents of the district in employment work as	http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/20384 31797/report.aspx Source: local area labour force survey (Mar 2003-

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
	1 Managers and senior officials 2 Professional occupations 3 Associate professional & technical Soc 2000 major group 4-5 4 Administrative & secretarial 5 Skilled trades occupations Soc 2000 major	15.0 24.8 17.8 17.3 5.6 11.7	16.2 113.0 14.6 22.6 11.3	15.3 13.0 14.6 22.6 11.7 10.8		figures from 2003-4 it is not clear if any trends are emerging at this time. Changes 2003/4 to 2007 to note include: 1. Managers, up 6% 2. Prof. occupations, up 9% 4. Admin, down 5% 5. Skilled trades, up 5%	managers or professionals,	Feb 2004) https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1967 128592/subreports/empocc_time_series/report.as px?
	group 6-7 6 Personal service occupations 7 Sales and customer service occs Soc 2000 major group 8-9 8 Process plant & machine operatives 9 Elementary	9.4 5.0 8.7 15.1 5.8	14.7 7.7 7.0 18.6 6.9	15.6 8.0 7.6 18.6 7.2				
% of economically active population with NVQ3 or higher qualifications	2000 49.5 2001 53.6 2002 49.7 2003 51.6 2004 56.4 2005 48.9 2006 47.1 2007 57.1	9.3 50.2 50.3 46.2 46.9 49.7 51.7 50.0 52.6	43.0 43.4 39.4 39.5 40.5 42.5 41.8 43.4	44.2 44.4 41.0 42.0 43.1 44.4 45.5 46.4		No clear trend	A skilled workforce is a key requirement for attracting and supporting innovative businesses. North Herts residents of working age have qualification well above national and regional averagesand amongst the highest of any district in the country.	http://www.dtistats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics Source: Annual Business Enquiry 2007 https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038 431797/subreports/quals_time_series/report.aspx
Median gross full-time weekly earnings by place of work	Full-time workers Median £/head 2004	Full-time workers Median £/head 2004 469.1 2005 483.3 2006 486.6 2007 488.7 2008 514.7	Full-time workers Median £/head 2004 419.1 2005 427.7 2006 440.6 2007 450.5 2008 468.1	Full-time workers Median £/head 2004		The figures show an annual increase in gross weekly pay since 2000. Hertfordshire and North Herts both show earnings consistently above the national and regional averages.	Due to changes in methodology, figures up to 2006 are discontinuous with those since (ONS). Several data sets have been amended by ONS in recent years, thus past data may no longer tally.	http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=13101 Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) (Note that year-on-year variations for small areas should be treated with caution as they may not be statistically significant because of the sample size) 2004 data onwards: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=13101
Median gross full-time weekly	2002 458 2003 463 2004 488	481 492 499	411 429 447	401 415 429		As a general trend the data shows annual increases since 2002, with occasional	Average earnings by residents of the District are below the	http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.a sp?vlnk=13101 Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Indicator	North	Herts	Не	erts	East of	England	Nati	ional	Targets	Trer	nds	Comments	Data sources
earnings by place of residence	2005 2006 2007 2008	502 497 531 559	518 527 543 568		457 466 479 498		432 445 459 479			exceptions		Herts. average but significantly above the national average. The disparity between average earnings by workplace and residence suggests that a significant number of people are commuting out of District to obtain higher paid employment.	(ASHE) (Note that year-on-year variations for small areas should be treated with caution as they may not be statistically significant because of the sample size) http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15187 NB data also found on https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038 431797/report.aspx#tabearn
Average house prices by house type	1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 1st Q 2008 D'ached Semi Terrace Flat*	82,391 91,093 105,368 112,099 136,799 148,289 169,028 201,956 218,768 225,168 248,132 256,769 431,800 268,100 204,600 159,700	95,838 107,129 121,910 134,324 158,559 173,202 201,519 227,179 243,347 258,255 273,005 294,917 1st Q 2008 D'ached Semi Terrace Flat* Average	617,100 312,800 240,700 184,600 338,800	71,771 78,930 86,794 95,700 110,372 124,616 149,299 172,257 190,218 200,501 212,186 227,766 1st Q 2008 D'ached Semi Terrace Flat* Average	354,700 217,000 185,100 155,600 228,100	73,117 80,599 87,778 98,385 110,589 121,769 141,108 159,357 181,330 192,247 206,715 222,619 England an 1st Q 2008 D'ached Semi Terrace Flat* Average	343,100 197,500 174,100 200,300 228,750		Life 2007) From simple av. Registry 2008) that prices have Hertfordshire in Type Detached Semidetached Terraced	about 15% about 15% and average shire about erts Quality of erages (Land it is clear about 15% a	simple averages), thus the time series does not show the fall	http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=1575&l=3 Source: Land Registry http://www.landreg.gov.uk/ http://www.landreg.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housingmarket/livetables/ Source: Land Registry http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/ http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/ http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/living/housing_and_environmental_health_service/housing_services/housing_strategy/housing_market_in_north_hertfordshire.htm Data for 1st Q 2008 (except NHDC): http/:/www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/env/factsfigs/socio/hprices/
Average house price to earnings ratio	2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008	5.60 5.61 6.99 8.35 8.53 8.26 9.21 9.46 9.45 dian house		5.99 6.40 7.63 8.39 9.07 9.47 9.39 10.00 10.08	Ratio of low house price quartile ear 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 Ratio of me prices to mearnings	4.43 5.02 5.96 6.68 7.57 8.01 8.03 8.56 8.26 dian house	2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2008	3.98 4.22 4.72 5.23 6.27 6.82 7.12 7.25 6.98		Over the period 2004 house priod 2004 house priod 2004 house priod 2004 house priod 2004 house pearnings Hertfo well above nation regional averag North Herts closure 1008 the ration but it is too soo to be seen	ces in the ed pre than gs. atio of lower prices to rdshire is onal and les, with se behind. io dropped,	The house price to average earnings ratio has decreased to an estimated 4.44 in December 2008 from a peak of 5.84 in July 2007. The ratio is at its lowest level for over five and a half years (April 2003: 4.44). The long-term average is 4.0 The UK price/earnings ratio is at its lowest level for over 5 years (Halifax)	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/152924.xls Table 156 http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housingmarket/livetables/ Tables 576 and 577 www.hbosplc.com/economy/includes/02_01_09HousePriceIndexDecember2008.doc

Indicator	North Herts Herts		East of England		National		Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources		
	2000	5.43	2000	5.81	2000	4.49	2000	4.21				
	2001	5.71	2001	5.94	2001	4.75	2001	4.47				
	2002	6.15	2002	6.58	2002	5.61	2002	5.07				
	2003	7.47	2003	7.64	2003	6.58	2003	5.83				
	2004	7.71	2004	8.18	2004	7.22	2004	6.58				
	2005	7.52	2005	8.16	2005	7.48	2005	6.81				
	2006	8.34	2006	8.41	2006	7.43	2006	6.91				
	2007	8.63	2007	9.09	2007	7.88	2007	7.26				
	2008	8.23	2008	8.94	2008	7.78	2008	6.94				

Land Use and Development Patterns

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
2(a) Mir	imise the d	evelopment	of greenfie	ld land and	other	land with high	environme	ntal and amenity value
Proportion of new homes built on previously developed land (PDL)	% residential development on PDL 2001/2 34.1 2002/3 48.8 2003/4 57.8 2004/5 55.2 2005/6 54.0 2006/7 61.9 2007/8 66.2 NB NHDC data is from NHDC ANNUAL Monitoring Reports	% residential development on PDL 2000/1 64 2001/2 58 2002/3 77 2003/4 82 2004/5 78 2005/6 86 2006/7 87 NB HCC data is from HCC Quality of Life reports	Proportion of new dwellings on PDL 2000 54 2001 59 2002 58 2003 60 2004 63 2005 69 2006 65 2007 68	Proportion of new dwellings on PDL 2000 59 2001 61 2002 64 2003 67 2004 72 2005 74 2006 73 2007 73		residential development on PDL at all levels. Hertfordshire has consistently surpassed the national target, since its introduction in 2000.	homes built on brownfield sites in NHDC is significantly below the county and slightly below regional and national averages. This reflects the rural nature of the area. There is a national target to build 60 per cent of additional housing in on previously developed land and through the conversions of existing buildings. This was originally set for 2008, and has now been retained as an ongoing policy aim. NB Data from different sources were not found to be	http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_032255.pdf NHDC Housing Monitoring Report 2004-05 NHDC Housing Monitoring Report 2006-07 http://www.north- herts.gov.uk/housing monitoring report 20062007-2.pdf North Herts Local Development Framework: Annual Monitoring Report 2006-7 http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/qol/2007/landuse07.cfm www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/doc/1005536.doc http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/ Information on national policy on brownfield land can be found at: http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/briefings/snsc-01387.pdf
Stock of previously developed land.	36 hectares of which 16 hectares identified as suitable for housing. 58 hectares of which 42hectares identified as suitable for housing		7,930 hectares 6,890 hectares	65,760 hectares 62,130 hectares			Database identifies hectares of previously developed land (PDL) as potential sites for housing. However this figure is only a proportion of the total	http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_pl anning/documents/downloadable/odpm_plan_030 372.pdf Previously-Developed Land that may be available for Development in 2003 and 2007 Source: National Landuse Database. http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuildi ng/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/previouslyd

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
							District, as it is understood that only sites over 0.25 hectares are included.	evelopedbrownfield/
Loss of greenfield land to residential development	hectares 2001/2 6.19 2002/3 21.32 2003/4 3.68 2004/5 15.37 In 2006-7 251 dwellings were built on Greenfield sites in North Hertfordshire. Info collected appears to have changed to number of dwellings					No trend is yet clear but see comments.	82,000 new homes are to be provided across Hertfordshire in the period to 2021. "Significant development will be required on Greenfield land and with large tracts removed from the Green Belt to provide for this growth." (QOL 2007) North Hertfordshire may need to accommodate 6,200 new homes, though this number may increase further by up to 9,600 additional dwellings with the proposed expansion of Stevenage.	
Area of Green belt (ha)	N Herts 1997 14,060 2003 14,060 2007 14,250	Herts 2003 83,620 2007 84,730	London and SE 600,320 600,470 554,240	England 1,652,300 1,671,600 1,635,670		Although Green Belt land has remained fairly stable in Hertfordshire, even increasing slightly since 2003, the future trend may see a significant decrease in greenbelt area due to projected new housing plans - see comments above Percentage new dwellings built within green belt in East of England 1999 5 2000 6 2001 6 2002 3 2003 4 2004 3 2005 2 2006 3 2007 1	Belt (unchanged since 1997) In 2007 2% dwellings in England were built	Local Planning Authority Green Belt Statistics England 2007 http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuildi ng/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/localplannin gauthority/ http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/qol/2007/landuse07 .cfm http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/plann ingandbuilding/pdf/142688.pdf
Number of vacant properties	2.35% (2002 based on survey of 1000 properties) of which 0.37% (approx 200)		3.0% (2000-02) 2.5% (2004-05)	3.4% (April 2002) 3.9% (EHCS 1996) 3.5% (2004-05)		No long-term trend data available		North Hertfordshire Empty Homes Strategy 2004-2007 (Oct 2004). http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/disse

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
	were long-term vacant. July 2008: 934 vacant dwellings of which 410 have been vacant for more than 6 months Dwellings vacant up to 12 months % 2003		All vacant dwellings excluding second homes	All vacant dwellings excluding second homes				mination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=276994&c=h ertfordshire&d=13&e=7&g=455064&i=1001x1003 x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1232216146390&enc=1&dsF amilyId=1618
Density of new housing development	Average density per hectare 2001/2 23.2 2002/3 27.4 2003/4 43.7 2004/5 24.5 2005/6 23.5 2006/7 38.1	1997 22 1998 24 1999 24 2000 24 2001 24 2002 27 2003 29 2004 2005 2006 2004-7 39	22 22 22 22 22 25 28 34 32 28 36	25 25 25 25 25 27 33 39 40 39 44		The trend is increasing density for new housing, though this is not yet clear for North Herts.	The drop in density to 2005/6 appears to be due to the large number of replacement dwellings and conversions in rural areas in 2004/5 and 2005/6. NB average density varies according to whether the land was previously developed .	NHDC Housing Monitoring Reports, North Herts Local Development Framework: Annual Monitoring Report 2006-7 Source: Land Use Change Statistics: Table P231 Land Use Change: Density of new dwellings built, England 1989 to 2007 http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuildi ng/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/la ndusechange/ http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about/board/oc t07/101007-NEBP0728.pdf
2(b) Pro	vide access	to green sp	paces					
Amount of open space per 1000 population	Under investigation.							North Herts District Council : Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document, November 2006 North Herts `Green Space Strategy' – due in 2009 (ref above document)
Number of sports pitches per 1000 population	There was a total of 128.06 hectares of pitch space in NHDC (2003). This						The main shortfall in provision is for Baldock which had 37% shortfall in	Pavilions, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches Strategy NHDC 2005 -2010

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
	exceeded the minimum Sports Council standard of 1.2 hectares per 1000 residents. However, there was a 11% shortfall against the Sports Council standard of 1.6 hectares of outdoor play space per 1000 residents.						outdoor play space and was the only town to have a shortfall (16%) in pitch space. NHDC's Green Spaces Strategy is due to be published in 2009	
Public Rights of Way (km)	Rights of way Footpaths Bridleways Roads used as public paths Bridleway open to all traffic Total	y in NHDC No. Length km 811 447 43 151 19 19 42 46 663	Rights of Way and public paths Herts: more than 3,000km (over 5,200 paths) East of England: more than 24,000km plus 1,300km access routes					Source: Hertfordshire CC Source: www.hertsdirect.org Source: www.naturalengland.org.uk
Distance traveled to work (percentage people between 16 and 74 by distance range)	2001 From home 18 <2km 26 2<5km 15 5<10km 16 10<20km 13 20<30km 5 30<40km 3 40<60km 2	16 20 17 15 16 7 3 3 3	16 22 18 15 7 3 2 3	14 20 20 18 15 5 2 2 3	educe	There was a 10% reduction in the number of people resident in Herts travelling less than 5km to work between 1991 and 2001. The proportion travelling 5 to 10 km remained constant, whilst those travelling more than 10 km increased by around 10%.	Increases in the proportion of Herts workers travelling further to work suggests that county is increasingly becoming a dormitory for commuting with fewer local jobs. New data will be sourced from the next census	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/ Source: Census 2001, ONS
Mode of travel to work	People who work mainl Underground, Metro, Li Train Bus, Mini Bus or Coach Motorcycle, Scooter or Driving a Car or Van Passenger in a Car or V Taxi or Minicab Bicycle On foot	ly from home ight Rail or Tram Moped	% people between the state of t	en 16 and 74 EoE England 9 9 1 3 6 4 4 8 1 1 59 55 6 6 6 0 1 4 3 9 10		There was a 3% drop in the number of people travelling to work by car between 1991 and 2001, and 1% and 2% reductions in bus use and walking respectively. Other modes remained constant, but there was a 4% increase in people working from home, suggesting this was the main factor reducing car use.	New data will be sourced from the next census From the HCTS 2005 (based on 2,855 respondents who worked) there have been small increases in travel to work by car, bicycle and train/ underground, and a small decrease in use of buses, walking and working from home,	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/ Source: Census 2001, ONS http://www.hertsdirect.org/envroads/roadstrans/t ransplan/trafficandtransportdata/trafficandtranspo rtreports/ (contains data from HCTS – Hertfordshire County Travel Survey 2005)

Indicator	North	Herts		He	rts	Ea	st of I	Englai	nd	Nati	onal	Ta	argets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
			·												but this data may not be sufficient to show trends	
Proportion of journeys by green modes of travel	Hertfordsh % all jour 19 Car/d 59 Car/p 11 Bus 7 Train 6 Cycle 2 Walk 12 Other 2 Car/d - car Car/p - car Other - other	7099 2 6 6 1 6 5 2 8 2 drivers passenge	6 0	2007 59 59 14 7 22 13 4		20 Ca Ca Bu Ot Wa	her pub	45 24 2 3 23 3 3		3 5	irneys	c tar to c c b line tar to c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c	original rget was double cycling etween 996 and	The percentage of journeys made by green modes in Herts dropped 6% between 1999 and 2002, however it is possible that at least in part this was due to differences in weather during the survey periods. Although modal categories for NTS differ slightly from the county survey, Herts shows significantly greater car usage and less walking than regional or national averages.		Hertfordshire's Traffic & Transport Data Report 2003 and 2007 Hertfordshire Transport Facts 2007 (Sept 2008) http://www.hertsdirect.org/envroads/roadstrans/transplan/trafficandtransportdata/trafficandtransportreports/
Air Transport Movements		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total UK air transport		Source - Civil Aviation Authority
	Air transpo	rt move	ments (a	ircraft la	ınding or	take-of	fs)				Tho	usands		movements have continued to increase rapidly:		Hertfordshire's Traffic and Transport Data Report 2007 (published August 2008) p.18
	Luton	19	28	37	44	51	56	56	55	58	64	75	79	up 56% 1995-06 (up 44% 1993-03)		http://www.hertsdirect.org/envroads/roadstrans/transplan/trafficandtransportdata/trafficandtransportda
	Stansted	63	75	82	102	132	144	151	152	169	177	178	190	Luton up 315%		rtreports/
	All UK	1,251	1,317	1,385	1,476	1,556	1,635	1,666	1,657	1,695	1,804	1905	1948	Stansted up 200%		
	Terminal pa	assenge	rs (arriv	als or de	partures))								Total terminal passengers increased by 82% 1995-06: Luton up 422%		
	Luton	1.8	2.5	3.2	4.2	5.2	6.1	6.6	6.5	6.8	7.5	9.1	9.4	Stansted up 500%		
	Stansted	3.9	4.8	5.4	6.8	9.5	11.8	13.6	16.0	18.7	20.9	22.0	23.7	These trends show that the two regional airports have		
	All UK	115.4	120.6	130.7	142.1	150.9	161.3	162.1	167.6	176.9	191.3	203.1	210.4	been growing much more rapidly than the national		
	Domestic													average but recent figures suggest this rate may be		
	Luton	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	starting to slow.		
	Stansted	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.4	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7		
	All UK	14.0	15.2	16.0	16.7	17.5	18.6	19.2	21.0	22.6	24.2	25.1	24.9	22.6		

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
Levels of traffic on main roads	All Ex mway All Ex mway All Atrunk A.1 3.0 Traffic concentration vkm/day x 1000 per km² All Ex mt NHerts 11 8 12 County 18 2007 Million vkm per day All Ex mway All Ex mway All A.4 3.4 Traffic concentration vkm/day x 1000 per km² All Ex mt NHerts County	Average daily vehicle flows by road class '000 vehicles per day 2003 Roads Urban Rural Mway N/A 94.5 A 19.3 22.7 B 11.2 8.1 C 8.9 7.6 Average daily vehicle flows by road class '000 vehicles per day 2006 Roads Urban Rural Mway N/A 87.9 A 19.7 67.0* B 11.6 8.1 C 9.3 7.5 NB *This figure includes Trunk(A) & Principal (A) Motorways are classified as rural roads	Average daily vehicle flows by road class '000 vehicles/day 2003 Motorway 82.8 Rural main 17.8 Urban minor 1.2 Urban minor 2.6 All roads 3.7 Average daily vehicle flows by road class '000 vehicles/day '06 Motorway 86.1 Rural minor 18.2 Urban main 18.2 Urban main 18.2 Urban main 3.8 All roads 3.8	Average daily vehicle flows by road class '000 vehicles/day '03 Motorway 78.0 Rural main 13.7 Urban main 20.7 Rural minor 2.4 All roads 3.9 Average daily vehicle flows by road class '000 vehicles/day '06 Motorway 81.4 Rural main 14.1 Urban main 20.7 Rural minor 1.0 Urban minor 3.3 All roads 3.9		Traffic Flow by Road Class Traffic Flow by Road Class Traffic in Herts grew 64% between 1980 and 2003, peaking in 1999 since when it has stabilised and reduced slightly. 2003-7 traffic levels remained fairly constant. However, between 2006 and 2007 there has been an overall increase in traffic levels of 1.2% across Hertfordshire. Hertfordshire motorway, trunk and principal road network experience average flows almost twice the national average. *The large growth in principal A traffic and reduction in motorway and trunk road traffic is due to the effect of the de-trunking of the A10.	Data on vehicle movements are published in different forms for different areas which make direct comparisons difficult. Although N Herts, together with E Herts and St Albans, have the highest traffic levels in Herts, allowing for the area of the District, traffic concentrations are the lowest in the county. Because of the settlement patterns in the district and county vehicle movements on rural roads tend to be higher than average. There was no count on urban trunk roads due to the de-trunking of A10	
Road freight movements	AAWD HGV flows Herts 2002 2003 M'w/T 8520 8540 Prin. 1160 1140 B 350 360 C 200 215 HGV MVKm/d Herts 2002 2003 M'w/T 1.38 1.38 Prin. 0.72 0.69 B 0.10 0.10 C 0.16 0.18	2007 12,646 1,139 340 212 2007 1.44 0.62 0.11	Road freight by origin Million tonnes 1998 182 1999 181 2000 179 2001 186 2002 187 2003 198 2004 197 2005 206 2006 217	Road freight by origin Million tonnes 1998 1379 1999 1323 2000 1347 2001 1345 2002 1390 2003 1404 2004 1483 2005 1490 2006 1551 2007 1869		Flow counts from 2002 to 2006 suggest that the volume of HGV traffic remained reasonably stable across the District and County over those years. Regional data shows an increase of 17% in the tonnage of road freight originating in East of England between 1993 and 2003 compared with a 9% rise for England as a whole. In 2003 63% of the road freight tonnage originating in EoE was transported within the Region, with the majority of the remainder going to London, SE and E. Midlands.	There was a 1% reduction of HGV flows in N. Herts between 2002 and 2003 and a 0.7% reduction in flows on roads excluding motorways and trunk roads. In 2007 there was a decrease of about -3% in HGV vehicle km. This was noticeable around Watford, perhaps due to the M1 roadworks in 2007 (Herts CC)	Statistics, DfT, Nov 2004 Source: National Travel Survey Hertfordshire's Traffic & Transport Data Report 2003 Note that data for District and County are based on average daily flows, whereas Regional and National data are based on estimates of annual total freight lifted. Source: Regional Transport Statistics 2007 (DFT) And Road Freight Statistics 2007, DFT http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespu blications/regionaldata/rts/regtranstats2007 http://hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/ttdr 2.pdf

Environmental Protection

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
3(a) Pro	otect and en	hance biodi	versity					
Populations of wild birds	Available data do not allow consistent estimates of bird populations at District level.	Skylark (representing farmland) showed a 13% increase in numbers in Herts 1999-2000. Nationally there was a 20% decline over the period 1994-2003, with a similar decline in the Eastern Region. Song Thrush (representing woodlands and mixed farmland) showed an 18% increase 1999-2000. Regionally the species declined by 19% 1994-2003 despite an increase of 15% nationally over the same period. Skylark Increase Song Decline thrush -6% House Decline sparrow -14% Starling Decline Dunnock Decline Yellow Decline Periods	Regionally the indicator for farmland birds declined by 10% over the period 1994 to 2003. Of the 19 species recorded 12 showed population declines whilst 7 species showed increases Regionally the indicator for woodland birds increased by 3% over the period 1994 to 2003. Of the 20 species recorded 10 showed population declines whilst 10 species showed increases. 1995-06 Farmland birds declined by 7% and woodland birds increased by 3% 1994-06 Skylark Decline -22% Song Decline thrush -22% House Decline sparrow -27%	birds declined by 5% over the period 1994 to 2003. Of the 19 species recorded 7 showed population declines whilst 8 species showed increases. Nationally the indicator for woodland birds declined by 4% over the period 1994 to 2003. Of the 33 species recorded 11 showed population declines whilst 15 species showed increases. The breeding		Historical data 1970-1994 show that Farmland birds in the East of England declined by 44% and Woodland birds declined by 19% Nationally, best trend estimates over 38 years show 22 species declined by 50% or more, and a further 13 species lost 25-50% of their population eg Turtle doves declined by 82% (BTO Breeding Birds In the Wider Countryside) Populations of farmland birds 1970-2007 Source: RSPB, BTO DEFRA (Nos in brackets show number of species) Populations of woodland birds 1970-2007		wildlife/research/download/wdbrds200503.pdf Source: Wild bird indicators for the English regions: 1994 – 2003 (Defra, March 2005) www.bto.org/bbs/results/bbsreport.htm Source: Breeding Bird Survey Reports (BTO/JNCC/RSPB) http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qol4.pdf Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005) Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre Source: North Herts District Council Annual
							respectively. The next national	

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
Number and extent of designated and other sites	Identified County Wildlife Sites, of all categories, account for about 6.5% of the District and, within this, those areas with some form of statutory nature conservation protection, excepting AONB, occupy only 652.6 Ha or 1.7%. Area hectares Total Cty WS Woodland 2295.7 1286.3 Grassland 4559.5 602.9 Tall Herb & Scrub 195.3 192.3 Wetlands 47.36 40.86 Cty WS - County Wildlife Sites are termed 1941 Wildlife Sites in the County BAP.	In 2002 it was estimated that 11% of Herts represented important wildlife habitats. In 2007 there were 1,192 wildlife sites covering about 10% of the county (QOL). Designated and other habitats: No. Area % * (ha) Ramsar 1 372 0.73 SAC 1 336 0.21 1911 Wildlife sites 119 17,215 10.67 2 National Nature Reserves 1 23 799 0.49 HMWT Nature Reserves 23 799 0.49 HMWT Nature Reserves 24 661 0.41 Woodland Trust Sites 7 460 0.29 Butterfly Conservation 1 1.5 0.001 * % of total area of Herts. Note that some sites are included in more	East of England	National	Targets	No trend information is available for North Herts	breeding birds atlas work is due to start in 2007 and will run until 2011, and the publication of new national and county breeding birds atlases will take some years to complete after the survey work ends Data for N. Herts shows estimates of the areas of different habitat types identified in the District, together with the area of each identified as County Wildlife Sites. The County data shows the areas of various designations together with the proportion of the total area of the county each represents.	NHDC Biodiversity Plan (adopted July 2005) The State of Biodiversity in 1992-2002 (HEF, 2003) State of the Natural Environment: www.naturalengland.org.uk/sone/resourcedocs.ht m NHDC Annual Monitoring Report 2006-7 http://www.north- herts.gov.uk/index/planning/local_development_f ramework/annual_monitoring_report.htm
% of SSSIs in	The 16 SSSIs in N	that one category. Percentage favourable/	As at 1 August 2006,	Since 1999, the		The trend throughout is of	The condition of	Individual, County, Regional and National
good condition	Herts extend to approximately 300 ha. Only 6% by area are assessed as favourable/recovering. 82% are assessed as unfavourable declining and 12% are unfavourable with no change. (2005 based on assessment over the period 2001-2004)	Year %	79% of SSSI's in the East of England were classed as being in favourable/recovering condition 2008 77.9% SSSIs are meeting the required condition 13.66% are declining, and 0.02% has been partly or completely	number of SSSIs in the UK has increased by 2%, from 6,625 to 6,782 in 2003. The total area of land designated as SSSIs has risen from 2,263 thousand hectares in 1999 to 2,427 thousand hectares in 2003, an increase of 7 % Based on information available as at		improving condition of SSSIs.	SSSIs in N Herts is very poor compared to county and national averages. This appears to be primarily due to the lack of satisfactory management of several of the larger woodland and grassland sites in the District. At the county level, the condition of SSSI is	condition summaries available at www.english-nature.org.uk wrt=sdrt13&Category=C&Reference=1021 http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qol4.pdf www.sustairable-development.gov.uk/sustairable-quality04/maind

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
Indicator	Of the seven SSSIs that have been reassessed in 2007, all have improved or remained favourable	or wholly destroyed	destroyed.	August 2006, 73% of English SSSIs were assessed as being in "favourable/recoverin g" condition. 2008 84% England's SSSIs are meeting the target condition, 5% are declining and 0.06% have been partly or wholly destroyed	rangets	rrenus	above the national average.	/04s06.htm Source: Quality of life counts: 2004 North Herts Annual Monitoring Report 2007 http://www.north- herts.gov.uk/index/planning/local_development_f ramework/annual_monitoring_report.htm 2008 data: www.english- nature.org.uk/special/sssi/reportIndex.cfm
Implementati on of BAP	See local BAP						No data at present but should become available in future as a result of monitoring BAP objectives. Under investigation	NHDC Biodiversity Plan (adopted July 2005) Some additional information on current workplan available from Agenda for Biodiversity Cabinet Meeting 25 th July 2005.
Extent/popul ations of important BAP habitats and species	See local BAP						The NH BAP provides extensive estimates of habitats present in the District, together with counts of species of UK priority and conservation concern (noting the lack of sufficient data to fully evaluate these). It is impractical to summarise these data as a single indicator.	NHDC Biodiversity Plan (adopted July 2005)
3(b) Pro	otect and en	hance lands	scapes				,	
Area of ancient semi- natural woodland (ASNW)	The total area of woodland in NH is 2296 Ha representing approx. 6% of total area of the District. Of which 1226 Ha covering 3.3% of the District is ASNW. Most extant larger ancient semi-natural woods of the district, covering some 634 Ha or 1.6% are designated as County Wildlife Sites	Total of 12,612 Ha of woodland representing 7.7% of county area.	Total of 115,256 Ha of woodland representing 6 % of Regional area.	Approximately 7% of England is covered by woodland of which about 40% (331,000ha) is ASNW.				NHDC Biodiversity Plan (adopted July 2005) http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/docs/eastchapter/east12/wildlife.htm www.naturalengland.org.uk/sone/resources.htm

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
% of land designated for particular quality or amenity value	Under investigation							
3(c) Cor	nserve and,	where appr	opriate, enl	nance the hi	storic	environment		
Number and extent of conservation areas	41 conservation areas hectares 2005 1198.19 2009 1195.18	There is no valid basis	for comparative data.				There was a small decrease of 5ha from 2005 to 2009.	Source: NHDC Planning Department
Grade I and II* buildings at risk	There are currently 3 buildings in N Herts on the at risk register. One of these is Grade I and two are Grade II*	There are currently 8 buildings in Herts on the at risk register. One of these is Grade I and 7 are Grade II* (includes N Herts)	There are currently 123 buildings and structural monuments in EoE on the at risk register (or 1.8%).	Nationally 3.2% of Grade I and II* buildings were considered at risk in 2008 (977 out of a total of 30,687).		Nationally the proportion of Grade I and II* considered at risk dropped from 3.8% in 1999 to 3.2% in 2008. The East of England region has the lowest proportion of buildings at risk.	The EoE has the lowest percentage (2%) of buildings at risk of any English region and only 3 buildings are at risk within N Herts.	http://www.english- heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1424 Source: English Heritage – Buildings at Risk Register Heritage At Risk in Hertfordshire: July 2008 (English Heritage news release www.nds.coi.gov.uk)
Number of ancient monuments destroyed or at risk	Currently 1 ancient monument at high risk in N Herts. This is included in the building at risk register. 39 Scheduled monuments are at medium risk out of a total of 65	Of the 176 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Hertfordshire, 90 are at medium risk	Currently 39 ancient monuments at risk in EoE. Of the region's 1,706 scheduled monuments 17% are at high risk and a further 43% at medium risk.	Nationally there are 19,709 scheduled monuments, of which 21% are at high risk and a further 33% at medium risk			The only ancient monument currently at risk in Herts is the one in N Herts.	http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1424 Source: English Heritage – Buildings at Risk Register Monuments At Risk 2008: East of England http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/localauthoritiesstatistics.pdf http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/hc/upload/pdf/HC_2008_EE_DAT A_report_web.pdf
3(d) Rec	duce polluti	on from any		In 2002, 94 per cent			RQO = River Quality	
or fair quality	EA monitors the various rivers and streams in the District – for which detailed data are available, but not collated as indices of quality at a district level.	approximately 62% of county rivers were classified as good and 95% as good or fair by chemical standards. In 2006 the chemical quality of river water deteriorated, from 61% to 57% in the 'very good' or 'good' category. 9.6% of river lengths failed to reach their RQOs, an increase of 7% from	Year Good/ Good/ Fairly Good/ Good/ Fairly Good/ Good/ Fairly Good/ Fairly Good/ Fairly Good/ Fairly Good/ Fairly Good/ Fairly Fairly Good/ Fairly Fairly Good/ Fairly Good/ Fairly Fairly Good/ Fairly	of English rivers were of good or fair chemical quality, compared with 89 per cent in 1998. In 2007 the figure was 96percent English river length Very Good to Fair chemical quality, and 95percent Very Good to Fair biological quality. (Environment Agency)		The chemical quality of rivers in England has improved annually since 2004 Data for the East of England is for Anglian Water.	Objective Data refers to percentage length of rivers. Figures for Fairly Good or Fair also include Very Good and Good. North Hertfordshire is covered by Anglian Water and Thames Water. Three Valleys Water serves most of Hertfordshire.	Source: Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005) Source: Quality of Life Report 2007 http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/qol/ Source: Environment Agency website: River Quality: Anglian Region http://www.environment- agency.gov.uk/research/library/data/34389.aspx www.anglianwater.co.uk/index.php?sectionid=82 &parentid=30

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
		2005.						
Air quality – number of days per year any parameter exceeds its Nation Standard	There are no monitoring sites in N Herts conforming to the standards required for this indicator. However, the monitoring within district suggests conditions similar to the county figures.	No. of exceedences 2003 Rural 54.0 Urban 46.5 backgrnd Urban 25.25 No. of exceedences 2007 Rural ozone 33.0 Urban 2.0 backgrnd Urban 15.5 In 2007 the number of exceedences was more than the target			2007 Hertforshi re target is 35 exceeden ces for the year.	No clear trends can be identified from available data. There are significant differences year on year due primarily to differing weather conditions.	The dominant pollutant causing most exceedences is ozone which tends not to be localised and is highly sensitive to weather conditions.	Herts. and Beds. Air Pollution Monitoring Network Annual Report, 2003 and 2007 http://hertsbedsair.org.uk/reports.asp http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/qol/2007/airquality 07.cfm
Number of Air Quality Management Areas	The Council has completed the first round of the air quality review and assessment process did not declare any Air Quality Management Areas. 2007: see comments	33 AQMAs were declared in Hertfordshire in 2007					There were outstanding concerns regarding nitrogen dioxide, particularly in Hitchin and Baldock and further investigation was required (Herts and Bedfordshire Air Pollution Monitoring Network Report (2007)	Herts. and Beds. Air Pollution Monitoring Network Annual Report, 2003 and 2007 http://hertsbedsair.org.uk/reports.asp

Climate Change

Indicator	North	Herts	Не	erts	East of England	Nati	onal	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
4(a) Red	duce g	reenh	ouse	gas e	missions						
total CO ₂ emissions by source (kT)	Domestic 308 Road trans 199 Total 788	312 sport 197	2005 Industrial commerc 2,555 Domestic 2,673 Road trar 1,510 Total 6,738	2,557 2,718	2005 2006 Industrial and commercial 15,557 15,792 Domestic 13,646 13,912 Road transport 11,336 11,172 Total 40,539 40,876	Total 447,583	153,605 sport 102,840 451,305		The current economic recession is reducing the demand for energy, particularly from industry, but it is too soon to show any long-term trend.	NB National figures are for UK It is useful to understand the sources of these emissions to aid plans to reduce them. A more detailed breakdown of sources is available on the DEFRA web site.	Emissions by local authority by source: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/galocalghg.htm
CO ₂ emissions per capita	2005: 7.2 to 2006: 7.34 t		2005: 6.7	connes	2005: 8.11 2006: 8.09	UK figures: 2005: 8.84 2006: 8.78		LAA target is to achieve a 4.2% reduction on 2005 baseline in 08/09, a 6.6% reduction on baseline in 109/10 and a 9.1% on baseline in 10/11.See comments re District target.		The figures included here were published by Defra on 18th September 2008. At that stage, figures for 2005 were revised so that they are directly comparable to the new 2006 figures. These estimates are now classified as full National Statistics having now met more rigorous data quality requirements since the previous version of the 2005 estimates was published as Experimental National Statistics in November 2007. They are not comparable with estimates produced in earlier years, so they are not included here. The 2005 figure is the baseline for NI 186 which measures per capita reduction in emissions. The LAA	Emissions by local authority: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/galocalghg.htm

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
							notes that District targets will be defined when the County's Climate Change Strategy is produced.	
Energy use per household	Total energy used for domestic use for the district: 1,184.5 GWh (2005) 1,151.5 GWh (2006) Total population in 2007 was 122,500 Total households 51,000, so energy use was approx. 0.02GWh per household		Total energy used for domestic use for the region: 51,118.5 GWh (2005) 50,138.4 GWh (2006) Total population in 2007 was 5,661,000 Total number of households in 2004 was 2.30 million ,so energy use in 2006 was about 0.02GWh per household	Household estimates were approx. 25	2010 for homes to be 20% more energy efficient than they were in 2000; also to save 3.5Mt carbon by 2010. No new targets	Insufficient data for long-term trends. Energy use by households grew by 19% 1990-2004. Despite some improvements in efficiency, there was also an increase in the number of households, homes were being warmed more, and there was greater use of energy-using appliances. Since 2004 energy consumption has been falling each year. Household energy use fell by 2% in 2006 (DTI Energy Trends March 2007) and by 1% in 2007 (DECC Energy Trends 2008)	,	http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0708/household_energy_consumption.aspx http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/householdestimates/livetables-households/
% of energy from renewable sources			In 2005 4.5% of the East of England's electricity consumption came from its own renewable sources, in particular wind	In 2007 5% UK electricity supply came from renewable sources 5.17 million tonnes of oil equivalent came from renewables	East of England: (including offshore wind) By 2010 14% By 2020 44% UK: by 2020 target is 15% of energy consumpti on to be from renewable s;(itis currently about 1.5%) BERR		grew by 8.4% in 2007 and is now over five times the level it was at in 1990. (BERR) Most of the East of England's renewable energy target will be met from offshore wind (Renewables East)	http://www.sustainability-east.com/assets/Renewables%20Report.pdf www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/sources/rene wables Reform of Renewables Obligation June 2008: http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46838.pdf http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/page46710. html http://www.renewableseast.org.uk/uploads/2006-3-1_EofERenewableEnergyStatistics.pdf
Road freight movements							See Objective 2 (b)	

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
4(b) Im	prove the D	istrict's abil	ity to adapt	to climate	change	•		
Area at risk from flooding	NHDC completed a risk assessment and maps areavailable showing areas of greatest risk	18,000 properties are at risk from flooding						Source: Environment Agency web site: 'Hertfordshire Floodline' North Herts District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (July 2008) http://www.north- herts.gov.uk/sfra main report july 2008.pdf
Planning to adapt to climate change	Not yet available						NI 188 will be reported on for all local authorities in 2008/9. This measures the level of preparedness they have reached against the 5 levels of performance, graded 0 to 4. The higher the number, the better the performance.	

A Just Society

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
5(a) Sha	re benefits	of prosperi	ty fairly					
Index of multiple deprivation	See trends/comments		See trends/comments			Super Output Areas (SOA) ar average populations of aroun 32,482 in England and 79 in I multiple deprivation(IMD) is a deprivation based on 7 differe deprivation. IMD data is usus order. North Hertfordshire is prospeiranks North Hertfordshire as Council areas in England. Tha 20% least deprived in the county as the Sustainable Comm North Hertfordshire is a distritution of its 79 SOAs are amondeprived in the whole of Englamong the 20% most deprive England and one of those is in East of England. Detail from the same index slamong the most 10% deprive sub domain for older people. The most deprived for children. One are lists. The most deprived SOAs are amondeprived for children. One are lists. The most deprived SOAs are in Hitchin which is in the in the East of England, and we significantly worsened since the SOAs in the 20% most deprive total are parts of the follow Letchworth: Letchworth South Easouth West.	d 1500. There are NHDC. Index of a measure of ent domains of eally presented in rank rous. The 2007 IMD 289th out of the 354 at places it amongst the untry and compares munity Strategy notes, ct of contrasts. While g the 1% least and, six of its areas are ed in the East of n the top 10% in the hows one area which is ed in the country in the A total of ten SOAs are ed for older people. A nig the 25% most ea appears in both A is part of Oughton e 10% most deprived whose position has the 2004 IMD. Other wed in the East of wing wards in urry; Letchworth	http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/nei ghbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/ North Hertfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy: http://www.north- herts.gov.uk/nhp_sustainable_community_strateg yfinal.pdf
Percentage of People Claiming the Jobseeker's Allowance Benefit for a Year or More	2003 6.9 2004 7.8 2005 9.8 2006 8.3 2007 11.1 2008 10.0	2003 9.7 2004 10.3 2005 9.8 2006 12.2 2007 14.3 2008 9.6	2003 11.1 2004 12.4 2005 11.4 2006 12.7 2007 15.3 2008 12.2	14.3 14.9 13.9 14.0 16.3 12.8	No target identified		Note that the indicator refers to the percentage of JSA claimants who have been receiving the benefit for more than a year.	http://www.dtistats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm Source: Labour Market Division, ONS Source: Office for National Statistics (JSA Claimants time series) https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
								431797/report.aspx
% of children living in low- income households	11.4% of under 16s were living in income deprived households in 2006-7 (NHDC Children's and Young Adults' Plan). Percentage of children 0-18 living in families on key benefits	Proportion of under 16s who live in families in receipt of out of work benefits 12.1% (from LAA) Percentage of children 0-18 living in families on key benefits			children in poverty 1998/99 to 2010/11 on the way to	2006-7 3.9 million children in the UK were in income deprived households (after housing costs). This is a 12% increase since 1998-9 (3.4 million) www.poverty.org.uk The data for North Herts shows that it is similar to the county average. There is no clear trend.	although North Herts is prosperous, there	North Herts data 2006/7: www.north- herts.gov.uk/5.nh children s and young people s plan 08.pdf Herts CC: Quality of Life 2007 http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/qol/2007/socialexcl usion07.cfm http://www.cpag.org.uk/publications/extracts/Pth eF5summary.pdf http://www.poverty.org.uk/16/index.shtml
5(b) Pro	vide access	to services	and facilitie	es for all				
Access to services	Banks and Building Societies 0-2kms 79% 2-4kms 11% 4-6kms 8% 6-8kms 2% Cash Machines 0-2kms 90% 2-4kms 7% 4-6kms 3% Doctors Surgeries 0-2kms 12% 4-6kms 12% 4-6kms 3% Job Centres 0-2kms 52% 2-4kms 18% 4-6kms 11% 6-8kms 2% 8-10kms 3% 14-16kms 3% 16-18kms 10% 18-20kms 1% Libraries 0-2kms 74% 2-4kms 15% 4-6kms 9% 6-8kms 2% Petrol Stations 0-2kms 90% 2-4kms 7%			(July 2008) In England, 2005-7 Accessibility to supermarkets increased in 58% of neighbourhoods, but deteriorated in 17%. Accessibility of primary schools improved in 56% neighbourhoods and of secondary schools in 55%. Accessibility of centres of employment improved in 84% neighbourhoods (DEFRA) Perceptions of accessibility for households with or without a car 1997/8 to 2006/7: - Little change in accessing key services including corner shops, supermarkets, doctor or hospital Increase in perceived difficulty accessing a post office			These data are estimated on the basis of 'crows flying' distances from GIS maps and so may not reflect true access distances. Despite the rural nature of much of the district over 90% of the population are within 4kms of most services with the exception of Job Centres.	Source: The Countryside Agency, 2001 July 2008: Sustainable Development: Accessibility www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress Sustainability Indicators: Progress http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress/documents/SDIYP2008_a6.pdf

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
	4-6kms 3% Post Offices 0-2kms 96% 2-4kms 4% Primary Schools 0-2kms 98% 2-4kms 2% Secondary Schools 0-2kms 19% 4-6kms 6% 6-8kms 3% Supermarkets 0-2kms 7% 4-6kms 8% 6-8kms 8% 6-8kms 8%			(for those without a car the increase was 10 to 17%) (DEFRA Sustainability Indicators)				
Access to services (rural areas)								
5(c) Pro	mote comm	unity cohes	ion		LAA sets a		This indicator is NI 1,	Information from LAA2 targets:
people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area		data from BVPI survey)			target of a "statistical ly significant "increase by 2009		which will be reported on for all local authorities in 2008/9. Information will come from the Place Survey undertaken in October 2008	http://www.hertslink.org/portal/Hertfordshire%20 Forward 2/laa/LAA2%20Targets.pdf
5(d) Inc	rease acces	s to decent	and afforda	ıble housing				
Homelessness	Households accepted as homeless 2002-3 202 2003-4 160 2004-5 141 2006-7 93 Source: Stevenage BC and NHDC Homelessness Strategy 2008-13		Households accepted as homeless 2004-5 10,131	Households accepted as homeless 2004-5 121,179 2007 100,000		NHDC: The number of households accepted as homeless is falling and has shown a 56% drop since 2002 (Stevenage and NHDC Homelessness Strategy). Nationally, in 2007 100,000 households were officially recognised as homeless by their local authority. After rising 2000-03 numbers fell sharply from 2004-07 to below the levels of the late	The East of England has the third lowest number of officially recognised homeless households by region, at just under 0.4% of all households (Crisis)	North Herts Homeless Strategy Stevenage BC and North Herts DC Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/housing/housingadv iceandhomelessness/homelessness/dnld_homeless ness/homelessness-strategy-july08.pdf www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/disse mination/LeadDatasetList.do?a=7&b=276994&c=n orth+hertfordshire&d=13&g=455064&i=1001x100 3&m=0&r=1&s=1232456878765&enc=1&domainI

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
						1990s (Crisis).		<u>d=7</u>
								http://www.crisis.org.uk/policywatch/pages/engla nd_trends_over_time.html
Number of new affordable homes	No. 2001/2 0 2002/3 12 2003/4 4 2004/5 77 2005/6 120 2006/7 132 NHDC Annual Monitoring Report 2007-8			No. 2001/2 21,740 2002/3 21,000 2003/4 23,890 2004/5 26,930 2005/6 33,260 200677 36,260 2007/8 43,560 Additional affordable new build in England	homes per annum by 2010/11, including new build and	The trend for NHDC shows a significant increase from 2000 to 2007. This is likely to continue due to policies in the Core Strategy. This trend is also seen at a national level. NB The minimum percentage of affordable new homes per site may vary according to size of site and whether it is rural or urban.	national supply was in London and the South	Source: NHDC http://www.north- herts.gov.uk/index/planning/local_development_fr amework/annual_monitoring_report.htm http://www.north- herts.gov.uk/index/planning/local_development_fr amework/core_strategy.htm Affordable Housing Survey 2007-8 Statistical Release http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statis tics/pdf/1102058.pdf National data http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingr esearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affor dablehousingsupply/livetables/ For other relevant documents: http://www.north- herts.gov.uk/index/planning/local_development_fr amework/background_papers.htm
% of new homes that are affordable	2001/2 0 2002/3 1.7 2003/4 0.8 2004/5 17.1 2005/6 18.2 2006/7 20.0			18% (2006-7)		The future trend is likely to be an increase in new homes that are affordable – see NHDC Housing Background Paper 2007).		Source: NHDC http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/env/yo u/raiseaware/quallife/qol/housing/ http://www.north- herts.gov.uk/housing_background_paper_august_ 2007.pdf North Herts Housing Monitoring Report 2006-7 North Herts Annual Monitoring Report 2007-8 http://www.north- herts.gov.uk/index/planning/local_development_fr amework/annual_monitoring_report.htm (Evidence for affordable housing policy) http://www.north- herts.gov.uk/housing_background_paper_august_ 2007.pdf
Proportion of	6% of homes were		28% (2001)	33% (2001)	National	Since 1996 there has been a	In 2006 a new	Regional Quality of Life Counts 2003

ssessed as 2003 37% (2006) social all tenures in the proportion monitoring housing http://www.north-	Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
	ousing ssessed as on-decent	2003 5.3% in 2006 (Neighbourhood stats) In 2007 (HHSRS) 19.61% non-decent 12.1% homes estimated to have at least one Category 1 hazard - about 6,400 dwellings (based on a sample- see comments) NHDC Stock Condition Survey	tes and fe	27% (2003)	31% (2003) 37% (2006) (about 8 million	social rented housing to meet the decent homes standard by 2010. Since 2002 this includes vulnerable household s in the private sector. From 2006 HHSRS is the statutory	all tenures in the proportion of homes failing the decent homes standard under the original definition (Housing Surveys Bulletin - 2 Jan 08). 1996: 44.7% non-decent 2006: 26.8% non-decent (Decent Homes Trend 96-06 www.communities.gov.uk)* Social housing was more likely to be decent than owner-occupied or private rented housing. (English Housing Condition Survey - 2006 Annual Report) The 2006 figure for England increased due to the added requirements of the HHSRS. However, housing stock as a whole improved from 2005-	monitoring housing condition was introduced – Housing Health and Safety Rating (HHSRS) – which includes energy efficiency. A decent home should be above the current statutory minimum for housing, be in a reasonable state of repair, have modern facilities and services, and provide a reasonable degree of thermal comfort. In 2007 in North Herts the new HHSRS system was used to assess condition from a sample of 2,000 homes, out of a total of 54,000 in the district. Most Category 1 Hazard data related	http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/living/housing_and_environmental_health_service/housing_services/private_sion_housing/housing_stock_condition_survey.htm.http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dismination/LeadKeyFigures.do?a=78b=2769948corth+hertfordshire&d=13&e=78g=4550648i=11x1003x10048m=0&r=1&s=1232456891375&e=12003 data for England and East of England: http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/governmeprogress/regional/documents/east_england_faceet.pdf English Housing Condition Survey - 2006 Annua Report (based on survey of 16,670 dwellings) http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housinesearch/housingsurveys/englishhousingsurvey/lusingsurveysbulletin/ http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housinesearch/housingsurveys/englishhousecondition/csdatasupporting/ehcsstandardtables/summarystistics/ Housing Surveys Bulletin :_Issue 2 January 200 www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/

Recorded crime by type per 1,000 of population	Recorded crime per 1,000 pop. Domestic burglaries per 1,000 pop. Robberies per 1,000 pop.	2005/6 78.3 8.0 0.9	North Herts 2006/7 75.0 7.3 0.60	2007/8 63.7 8.06 0.63	All England Average 2006/7 n/a 10.4	Sustaina Strategy NHDC sl recordec 2006/7a district l crime th	Sustainable Community Strategy : NHDC shows a drop in total recorded crime 2005/6 to	Figures for recorded crime in N Herts are significantly below county, regional and national averages for all classes of crime.	North Herts Sustainable Communities Strategy 2009-21 http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/scs_10_nov_2008.pdf
	Vehicle crimes per 1,000 pop. Violent crimes per 1,000 pop.	9.5	8.6	8.04 12.59	11.0				
Perception of antisocial behavior						interviev to Decer	rime Survey vs during 12 months nber 2007 showed els of worry about	included in the LAA	Crime and Disorder Audit Report for NHDC Dec 2004. Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources			
							from the place survey which was carried out in Oct 2008	April 2008 (National Statistics) http://www.north- herts.gov.uk/scs_10_nov_2008.pdf http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/qol/2007/crime07.cfm			
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities											

General level of health (self- stated)	2001 Health Good Fairly good Not good	% 72.1 21.2 6.7	200 Health 73.1 20.3 6.6)1 %	200: Health 70 22 7	% .4 .0	Healti	001 h % 68.8 22.2 9.0	In England (2006) 74% of both men and women self- assessed their health as very good or good. This s a drop from 1993 levels: 77% men and 76% women (DEFRA).	ONS Neighbourhood Statistics. http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress/national/50WB.htm Source Department of Health
Life expectancy by ward	Male life expectancy at birth 1999-03 (ONS experiment al tables)Arbur y Baldock East Baldock Town Cadwell Codicote Ermine Gravely & Wymondley Hitchin Bearton Hitchin Highbury Hitchin Oughton Hitchin Priory Hitchin Walsworth Hitchin Oughton Letchworth Etechworth Letchworth Grange Letchworth W Letchworth Wilbury Offa Royston Heath Royston	78.5 90.8 75.3 79.9 80.9 78.5 76.4 75.2 78.4 75.6 74.2 79.5 77.0 76.4 78.0 75.9 80.0 75.5 76.6 77.4	Males 2007 Females 2007	78.3 81.9	Males 75.0 75.7 76.3 77.0 78.7 Females 80.1 80.4 80.8 81.4 82.6	Year 91-3 94-6 97-9 00-2 2007 91-3 94-6 97-9 00-2 2007	73.7 74.4 75.1 76.0 77.5 79.1 79.6 80.0 80.6 81.7		The trend is towards longer life expectancy. North Herts is slightly above the national average.	http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/indicators/regional/2003/h04.htm Regional Quality of Life Counts 2003 Source: ONS http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272 Herts Quality of Life 2007 http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/qol/2007/health07.cfm Office for National Statistics News Release 30 October 2008 www.statistics.gov.uk

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
Access to	Meridian Royston 77.7 Palace Weston & Sandon See access to services							
healthcare facilities	See access to services							
Number of households effected by ambient noise	London Luton Airport received 147 complaints from 63 residents of NHDC in 2003. 303 complaints received in 2006-7	680 from 338 complain noise from aircraft. Noise complaints from population, This was m (11.8). Complaints fror	27 1,527	total of 1522 events of average 5.6 per 1,000 ers (12) and Watford were the lowest at 2.5.		There was a drop in total aircraft noise complaints in recent years from a maximum of 1,342 in 2001. CPRE have calculated the loss of undisturbed area in England since 1960s, when 45% of Hertfordshire was said to be undisturbed; it is currently calculated to be 24% of the county.	Noise complaints received by NHDC do not show any pattern of ambient noise problems. Aircraft noise seems to be the primary ambient noise issue for residents of NHDC.	http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/Transport_and_streets/Public_transport/Air_services/London%20L_uton%20airport%20annual%20monitoring%20rep_ort Quality of Life Report 2007 www.enquire.hertscc.gov.uk Developing and Intrusion Map of England: August 2007. www.cpre.org.uk
Deaths and serious injuries in road accidents		sualties North Herts rious Slight Total 102 419 525 91 512 613 87 509 604 119 591 719 99 507 614 66 577 650 99 517 622 57 580 648 58 576 639 75 529 613 65 541 618 56 567 625 53 490 550	Road accident casu Fatal Seri 1995 58 1 1996 58 1 1997 58 1 1998 57 1 1999 53 2000 54 2001 49 2002 58 2003 38 2004 51 2005 59	alties Hertfordshire		In Hertfordshire 'serious' casualty figures show a decrease of about 50% from 1995 to 2007, but other figures remain fairly consistent.	The rate of accidents per 1000 population is lower for N Herts than the county as a whole.	Hertfordshire Highways 01707 356223
5(g) Inc	rease partic	cipation in e	ducation an	d life-long	learni	ng		
Percentage of population by age band and educational qualification	Insufficient data regarding age, but see Indicator 1 above.							
5(h) Mai	intain and ir	mprove cult	ure, leisure	and recreat	tional	activities that	are availabl	e to all
Adult participation		05/06 21.9%			See comments		This indicator is NI 8, which will be reported	LAA can be found at: http://www.hertslink.org/portal/Hertfordshire%20

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
in sport and active recreation							on for all local authorities in 2008/9. The LAA has set the following targets for the County: 2008/9 23.2% 2009/10 24.6% 2010/2011 25.9%	Forward_2/laa
Percentage of adult pop. (16+)who have used their library in the last 12 months					National: A year on year increase		NI 9 This will be reported on in the future (The measure will be a percentage of the total adult resident population for the area)	http://communities.gov.uk/publications/localgover nment/indicators/definitions
Percentage of adult pop. who have attended a museum or gallery in the local area at least once in the preceding 12 months					National: A year on year increase		NI10 This will be reported on in the future (The measure will be a percentage of the total adult resident population for the area	http://communities.gov.uk/publications/localgover nment/indicators/definitions
Percentage of adult pop. who have engaged in arts at least three times in the last 12 months					National: A year on year increase		NI11 This will be reported on in the future (The measure will be a percentage of the total adult resident population for the area	http://communities.gov.uk/publications/localgover nment/indicators/definitions

Resource Use and Waste

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
6(a) Use	e natural res	sources effic	ciently; reus	se, use recy	cled w	here possible		
Consumption/ recycling of aggregates				400mt materials are used each year. Consumption of aggregates: 2001 182million t 2005 159million t Estimated recycling of construction and	use of alternative s of primary aggregate s is 60 million tonnes per	From the available data the trend is a small increase in the recycling of aggregates. Consumption has been declining over recent years. The 2007 monitoring exercise indicates a modest decline (5.2%) in the forecast national demand 2001-2016 for total aggregates, compared with that made in 2003. *	statistics available regarding mineral waste. The quantity of mineral waste produced by the extractive industry in the UK fluctuates yearly, depending on	http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/waste/kf/wrkf09.htm Construction and Demolition Waste Management 1999 to 2005 http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/strategy07/pdf/waste07-annex-c4.pdf Source: Aggregate Minerals survey data * As reported in the Hertfordshire CC Planning and External Relations Panel, Tuesday 10 June 2008 – http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/civic_calendar/archive/Planning%20&%20External%20Relations%20Cabinet%20Panel_4/080610.doc
Construction and demolition waste going to landfill				Landfill: 2001 26% 2003 32% 2005 31% About 90mt inert waste has been produced annually 2001-05. Of this, about 45million tonnes is recycled, 15mt spread on exempt sites and about 28mt to landfill (DEFRA)	target: To halve constructi on waste	From the available data the trend is a small increase in waste going to landfill. The amount going to exempt sites fell from 25% in 2001 to 17% in 2005	mining and quarrying waste was produced in 2004 in the UK. This was a small decrease from 96.9 million tonnes in 2003. (Based on the	http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/sectors/construction/sustainability/sustainablestrategy/page487 79.html http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/waste/kf/wrkf09.htm http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/strategy07/index.htm Construction and Demolition Waste Management 1999 to 2005
Number of dwellings created by re-	No. 2001/2 11 2002/3 23					No clear trend is available		Source: NHDC

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
use of existing buildings (conversion or change of use)	2003/4 40 2004/5 56 2005/6 38 2006/7 53 2007/8 41							
Number of buildings designed to sustainability principles	Under investigation						2009: NHDC will be putting systems in place to start monitoring this in the future	
Average household water use per capita	Litres/person/day Anglian Three Valleys 99/00 150 170 00/01 155 175 01/02 150 181 02/03 159 178 03/04 163 191 04/05 160 182 05/06 160 182	33		2003/04 average estimate for all unmetered users across all supply companies was 158 l/p/d. 2007/8 average 153I /day unmetered (148I/day metered)			supply companies. Anglian supplies most of the District with Three Valleys supplying predominantly rural areas in the south. Anglian consumption is approximately the national average,	Data from Three Valleys report Serving the community, protecting the environment 2004. http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/aptrix/ofwat/publish.nsf/ AttachmentsByTitle/leakage_03- 04.pdf/\$FILE/leakage_03-04.pdf Security of supply, leakage and efficient use of water 2003 – 2004, Ofwat Dec 2004 Note that companies make estimates for their whole supply areas and cannot break this down to smaller areas. http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO1208BPAS-e-e.pdf
Margin between water supply resources and projected demand	No local data are available, nor would these be particularly meaningful given the extensive distribution network used to maintain security of supply. North Herts spans both the Anglian and Thames EA Regions. See comments under Herts, as the river catchments areas cover the whole county	Daily abstraction rates in the two Catchment Abstraction Management (CAM) areas covering Hertfordshire are: Upper Lee 465Ml/day (2006) Colne 701.0Ml/day (2007) Both areas are said to be 'over-abstracted' (unacceptable damage is being done to the environment at low flows)	The eastern part of England has a large proportion of areas that are over-licensed or over-abstracted. This means there is no water available for abstraction at low flows or unacceptable damage is being done to the environment at low flows(Environment Agency)	mega litres (M) per day. This amount has changed little since 2001 an is about half	abstracted	No trend data available. Many areas of England are currently below their target headroom, thus may need to impose supply restrictions in dry years. However, some of these areas may be adjacent to areas with a healthy surplus (Environment Agency)	and lifting of the hosepipe ban by Three Valleys Water (from April 2006), demand for water grows and sustainability could become a major issue, particularly given the projected increase in housing by 2021 (see Indicator 2). Some sub regions of	Water Resources for the Future – A strategy for Anglian Region, EA, March 2001 Herts County Council: Planning and External Relations Cabinet Panel (12 February 2008) An Assessment of the Impacts of Household Growth Proposals on the Water Resources Supply Balance for the East of England: A Report to Inform the Environment Agency's Response to RS14 Consultations (July 2005): www.eastofenglandobservatory.org.uk www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33420.aspx and 33440.aspx http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO1208BPAS-e-e.pdf

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
State of groundwater resources	Chalk aquifer. This has a significant surplus above the currently licensed abstraction rate, but	In their CAM reports the Upper Lee and River Colne areas are described as being over-abstracted and resource recovery plans have been set				currently below their target headroom. Climate change may bring changes to trends in the water supply, for example through altered rainfall patterns. However, there is no clear trend as yet.	Chalk aquifer: 'Increases in abstraction from the Chalk are not acceptable despite the water balance showing a surplus. The surplus is viewed with caution because firstly, there is a large volume of effluent and it may not be wise to plan to rely on such high effluent flows in	Water Resources for the Future – A strategy for Anglian Region, EA, March 2001 Quality of Life Report 2007 www.enquire.hertscc.gov.uk www.environment- agency.qov.uk/research/planning/33420.aspx and 33440.aspx http://publications.environment- agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO1208BPAS-e-e.pdf A new 5 year strategy is due to be published in 2009 by the Environment Agency

6(b) Reduce waste

Annual per capita production of household waste	Waste per Capita (kg) 2002/03 534 2003/04 524 2004/05 544 2005/06 556 2006/07 574	Waste per capita (kg) 2002/3 506 2003/4 496 2004/5 508 2005/6 517 2006/7 527	Waste per capita (kg) 1998/9 491 2002/3 520	Waste per Capita (kg) 1998/99 482 2002/03 521 2003/04 510 2004/05 512 2005/06 505		produced in N Herts is well above the national average and continuing to rise, whereas the national average may be starting to fall.	Over the last 6 years to 2007 there has been a reduction in waste produced across Hertfordshire (-113kg per household) though some districts including North Herts	http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qol4.pdf Source: Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005) Municipal Waste Management Survey 2007 http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/wastats/bulletin08.htm
	Waste per household (kg) 2000/01 1271 2002/03 1227 2003/04 1205 2004/05 1247 2005/06 1272 2006/07 1309	Waste per household (kg) 2001/2 1229 2002/3 1196 2003/4 1168 2004/5 1191 2005/6 1201		2006/07 508 2007/08 495			have shown a large increase	http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/qol/2007/waste07.cfm
Percentage of household waste recycled or composted	1998-99 8 1999-00 10 2000-01 9.6 2001-02 8.8 2002-03 11.5 2003/04 17.7 2004/05 19.9 2005/06 26.7 2006/07 33.2	2000/01 14.8 2001/02 15.1 2002/03 18.5 2003/04 21.9 2004/05 26.6 2005/06 33.1 2006/07 35.8	1996/97 9.3 1997/98 10.5 1998/99 11.9 1999/00 14.1 2000/01 15.2 2001/02 17.3 2002/03 19.4 2003/04 23.4 2004/05 29.8 2005/06 34.1 2006/07 38.3 2007/08 41.2	2004/05	England 1 40% 2010 1 45% 2015 2 50% 2020 2	Local and regional recycling rates are slightly above the national averages, but NHDC 2is5performing slightly below 4a5erage for the county. 7x8 all levels the trend is one 2o5 increasing rates of 6c7cycling, with rates up by 0.290 to 300%.	This is NI 192	http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/in dex.htm Source: Municipal Waste Management Survey, Published August 2004 http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qol4.pdf Source: Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005) http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/qol/2007/waste07.cfm East of England: Regional Sustsainable

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
								Development Indicators Factsheet www.defra.gov.uk http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/w astats/index.htm http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/w astats/index.htm
Percentage of municipal waste landfilled		2000/01 77 2003/04 71 2005/06 61 2006/07 58 2007/08 56	2001/02 80 2002/03 79 2003/04 75 2004/05 69 2005/06 65 2006/07 62 2007/08 58	2001/02 78 2002/03 75 2003/04 72 2004/05 67 2005/06 62 2006/07 58 2007/08 54	Government targets for recovery of municipal waste are: 53% by 2010 67% by 2015 75% by 2020 - DEFRA 2008		It is calculated that there is little space in Hertfordshire beyond 2010 (Quality of Life Report 2007)	Source: Hertfordshire Waste Strategy http://www.defra.qov.uk/environment/statistics/wastats/bulletin08.htm Hertfordshire waste data and govt. targets: http://www.wasteaware.org.uk/strategy/corestrategy1107.pdf DEFRA: Municipal Waste Arisings 2007/8 http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/statistics/index.htm http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/waste/kf/wrkf06.htm Waste Strategy Annual Progress Report 2007/8 http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/strategy07/pdf/waste-strategy-report-07-08.pdf

Town Centres

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Comments	Data sources
7 Promo	te sustainal	ole urban	living					
Vacant units in main town centres	North Herts 2004 2005 Hitchin 10 9 Letchworth 21 26 Baldock 8 6 Royston 13 16	2006 200 23 20 23 27 5 10 14 18	37 31 15			No clear trends are evident from this data. Hitchin, Letchworth and Baldock may be showing an increase in vacant units, Royston a decrease, but a longer time series is needed.		Source: NHDC Town Centre and Retail AMR 2008
Percentage of new retail (A1) in town centers versus out-of-town	% of new retail in town centres 2001/02 97.0 2002/03 23.5 2003/04 95.0 2004/05 100.0 2005/06 82.0 2006/07 16.0 2007/08 15.2					No clear trends are evident from this data, although the rate has been falling for three consecutive years		Source: NHDC Town Centre and Retail AMR 2008
% of all dwellings completed which are within town centres	% of new dwellings in town centres 2001/02 45.3 2002/03 36.1 2003/04 23.4 2004/05 16.0 2005/06 5.4 2006/07 16.0 2007/08 18.8					No clear trends are evident from this data		Source: NHDC Town Centre and Retail AMR 2008