



**Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic
Environmental Assessment of
Royston Town Centre Strategy
Revised Supplementary Planning
Document**

Main Report

June 2008

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Appraisal of North Hertfordshire Royston Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document

Main Report

**A report by North Hertfordshire District Council and
Building Design Partnership**

June 2008

Planning Policy & Projects
North Hertfordshire District Council
Council Offices
Gernon Road
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG6 3JF

Non-Technical Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal

This Report presents the findings of the sustainability appraisal for the Royston Town Centre Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The appraisal process began with a scoping report which set out the key aims to be addressed by the SPD and sustainability objectives by which the SPD should be tested. This was sent out for public consultation and comment under statutory consultation. A number of comments were received on the scoping report; these were incorporated into the appraisal process. The subsequent stage involved appraising the policies that were formulated and the proposed opportunity sites. The complete matrices of the appraisal are contained in appendices 4 – 6. The appraisal process involves assessing the policies against various sustainable objectives formulated in the scoping report. Policies and opportunity sites are then scored on whether they have met these objectives. This report presents the key findings of the appraisal process. All appendices (2 to 6) are separate to the Main Report.

1. Introduction	5
1.1. Background	5
1.2. What is Sustainability Appraisal?	6
1.3. The Five Stages of Appraisal	6
2. Appraising the Draft	9
2.1. How the Supplementary Planning Document fits into the Local Development Framework	9
2.2. Further Guidance on Appraisal of Supplementary Planning Documents	10
2.3. The Appraisal Process to be used	10
2.4. Appraisal Documents	12
3. Appraisal of Saved Royston and Town Centre Policy	15
3.1. Purpose of Appraising Saved Policy	15
3.2. Appraisal of Existing Policy	15
3.3. Results of the Appraisal	16
4. Testing the SPD Aims	17
4.1. Aims that do not conflict with SA objectives	17
4.2. Purpose of testing the SPD Aims	18
4.3. Results of the Appraisal	18
5. Appraisal of Strategic Options	19
5.1. Strategic Options for the SPD	19
5.2. Purpose of appraising the options	19
6. Appraisal of the Draft SPD	24
7. Appraisal of Opportunity Sites	28
8. Monitoring	31
8.1. Purpose of Monitoring	31
8.2. Monitoring Process	31

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Key Sustainability Issues

Appendix 2: Context Review

Appendix 3: Baseline Review

Appendix 4: Matrices Testing the SPD Vision and Aims against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Appendix 5: Matrices Appraising the Saved Policies and Strategic Options

Appendix 6: Matrices Appraising the Preferred Option Policies and Opportunity Sites

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

This report describes the results of the appraisal of the aims, strategic options, policies and opportunity sites for the Royston Town Centre Strategy draft Supplementary Planning Document.

Strategic Environmental Appraisal (SEA) is a process of identifying and evaluating the environmental impacts of a plan or programme. In 2001, the EU adopted Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (referred to as the 'SEA Directive' in this report).

The Directive came into force in the UK on 21 July 2004 and applies to a range of English plans and programmes including Local Development Frameworks (LDFs). In North Hertfordshire, the LDF will replace the existing Local Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) extends the concept of SEA to include economic and social concerns. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Local Authorities must undertake SA for each of their Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – the constituent parts of the LDF. SA is therefore a statutory requirement for all parts of the LDF along with SEA.

The Government has published Guidance¹ (referred to as "the Guidance" in this report) on undertaking SA of the Local Development Documents which comprise the Local Development Framework. The approach in the Guidance is to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into a wider Sustainability Appraisal process.

¹ *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents: Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities* November 2005 ODPM

1.2. What is Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability appraisal is a systematic and iterative appraisal process, incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. The main purpose of sustainability appraisal is to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of plan strategies and policies, from the outset of the preparation process, so that decisions can be made that accord with the objectives of sustainable development.

Planning Policy Statement 12 – Local Development Frameworks

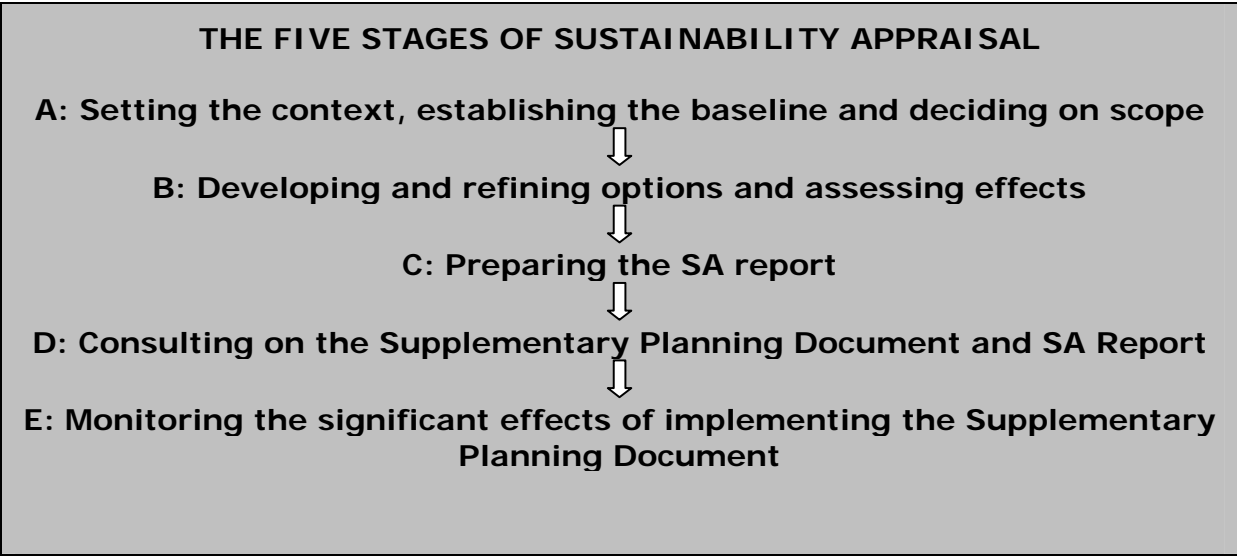
The aim of Sustainability Appraisal is to make sure that plans are doing as much as they can to support the delivery of social, economic and environmental objectives at the same time. Although planning authorities do their best to address these issues, it is easy to miss opportunities for better supporting social, economic and environmental objectives, and for reducing any conflicts. Sustainability Appraisal offers a systematic way for checking and improving on plans as they are being developed.

Ideally, as a result of the appraisal, conflicts with sustainability objectives will be removed, but this is not always possible. The conflicts and the decisions made must be explained in reports on the SA, and in consultations on the plan. As a result the public and other stakeholders will find it easier to appreciate the pros and cons of the plan and to make up their own minds about whether the planning authority has made the right decisions.

1.3. The Five Stages of Appraisal

The national planning guidance on preparing Local Development Frameworks (PPS12) says that to be effective sustainability appraisal should be fully integrated into the plan-making process. It should be started as soon as a new or revised local development document is first considered, and should provide input at each stage when decisions are taken.

There are five stages (A to E) to the Appraisal, shown in the box below. The stages follow those indicated in the Guidance.



The Guidance outlines the following steps to the first two parts of the process.

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

- A1. Identify and review other relevant plans, programmes and policies, and sustainable development objectives that will affect or influence the DPD/SPD. **(Context Review)**
- A2. Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information and produce a characterisation of North Hertfordshire **(Baseline)**
- A3. Identify key **sustainability issues** and problems for the SA to address.
- A4. Develop the **SA framework**, consisting of the sustainability objectives, indicators and targets.
- A5. Produce a **Scoping Report** and consult relevant authorities, the public and other key stakeholders on the scope of the appraisal and the key issues and possible options for solutions.

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

- B1. **Test the DPD or SPD** objectives against the SA framework.
- B2. **Develop the DPD or SPD options**
- B3. **Predict the effects of the draft DPD or SPD (preferred options)** against the sustainability objectives using any available research information
- B4. **Evaluate the effects of the draft DPD or SPD**
- B5. **Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects** of the draft DPD or SPD
- B6. Develop proposals for **monitoring** the significant effects of implementing the DPD or SPD.

2.Appraising the Draft

2.1. How the Supplementary Planning Document fits into the Local Development Framework

North Hertfordshire is in the process of developing its Local Development Framework (LDF). The Council has published its Local Development Scheme which describes the documents that will make up the LDF and when they will be developed. A Scoping report and a report on appraisal of options for the initial DPDs have already been produced².

A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on a Town Centre Strategy for Royston is included in the Local Development Scheme and will be one of the local development documents in the Local Development Framework. The purpose of SPDs is to provide further details of policies in a DPD, or policies in an existing development plan (called a “saved plan³”). In this case, the Supplementary Planning Document will provide further guidance and policy on the existing policy on Royston Town Centre contained in the adopted North Hertfordshire District Local Plan no. 2 with Alterations. Policy 42 part (i), which seeks to support and maintain shopping as the main activity in town centres. Regional Spatial Strategy policy SS6 in the East of England Plan published on 12th May 2008 requires town centre strategies to be prepared as local development documents.

Over time precisely what the town centre strategy will be supplementary to will change and the strategy may require amendment. For example the overall retail strategy, policies for change of use in town centres and allocation of sites for retail and other uses are proposed to be included in various development plan documents and examination of these documents may require changes to this strategy. These underlying development plan documents will in themselves require SA/SEA; the SA/SEA for this Supplementary Planning document may require amendment if there are any consequential amendments to the town centre strategy to maintain general conformity and if these have significant environmental effects. This will not, in line

² See http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/planning/local_development_framework/sustainability_appraisal.htm

³ Under the Planning and Compulsory Planning Act 2004, the policies of the local plan were saved for three years from September 2004. In September 2007, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government granted that certain polices be continued to be saved until the adoption of replacement documents.

with government advice on implementation of the directive, require re-appraisal of the higher level policies.

2.2. Further Guidance on Appraisal of Supplementary Planning Documents

The Guidance says that an appraisal of a SPD should follow the same steps as the appraisal of a DPD (listed in the previous section).

The Guidance recognises that where appraisals of the DPD have already been undertaken, the need for new work in appraising a SPD may be limited in some cases. However, it clarifies that in cases (such as this) where the SPD has been prepared on the basis of a DPD or saved plan, and where policy or policies have not been subject to a SA, then the authority will need to carry out a SA of that policy or policies and report on those⁴.

In reference to stage B2 (development of options) the Guidance states that it is essential for it to set out to improve on the situation which would exist if there were no SPD. It should also aim to improve on the effects of implementing the existing parent DPD policy or 'saved plan policy'. To test this, options considered often include scenarios termed 'no plan' and 'business as usual'.

2.3. The Appraisal Process to be used

The appraisal process has taken account of the CLG Guidance and, in doing so, also meets the requirements of the SEA Directive.

The steps of the process were the same as used for the appraisal of the initial Development Plan Documents. These are described on page 8 above. This appraisal drew on the work already undertaken for the appraisal of the Core Strategy and

⁴ *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents: Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities, November 2005 ODPM.*
SA and SEA of Royston Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Main Report

Development Control Policies (contained in the Scoping Report for that appraisal⁵). The elements of this work are:

- The Appraisal Framework (step A4): the same framework was used (apart from the addition of one sub-objective);
- Sustainability Issues (step A3): the same broad issues apply, although the scoping has revealed specific issues relevant to Royston;
- Context Review (A1): the documents previously reviewed for the Initial Development Plan documents have been scoped, and those relevant to this SPD have been retained in the review. In addition a number of additional new or area specific documents have been reviewed;
- Baseline Review (A2): three additional indicators have been used.

Each of these elements is described in the separate Scoping Report. However, details are also included in appendices to this report as follows:

- Sustainability Issues: Appendix 1
- Context Review: Appendix 2
- Baseline Review Appendix 3

In stage B2 of the process, three alternative options have been appraised. This includes the “business as usual” option of not having a SPD. In addition, as a consequence of the advice quoted above, existing policy 42, the parent policy to the draft SPD, has also been appraised at this stage.

⁵ Available on http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/planning/local_development_framework/sustainability_appraisal.htm

2.4 Appraisal Documents

There are two formal documents required:

1. **Scoping Report and a**
2. **Sustainability Appraisal Report**

The *Scoping Report* is the formal report on the first part (Stage A) of the process. It gives an overview of the scope of the appraisal process. It must also include the aims of the plans to be appraised, the broad strategic options, which will be considered, and the methodology that will be used. A Scoping Report for the Royston Town Centre Strategy draft SPD was produced in July 2007 and sent to a range of consultees, who were given a five week period to respond with comments. The comments of the consultees have been taken into account and have not resulted in the need to revise the Scoping report. The Scoping Report is available as a separate document and is available to view on the Council's website on: www.north-herts.gov.uk. The information from the Scoping report has also been incorporated in this document.

The *Sustainability Appraisal Report* will also meet the requirements of the SEA Directive to produce an Environmental Report. The report will describe the results of the second part of the appraisal process (Stage B, shown in the table in the previous section). The appraisal of the aims and options contained in this report forms part of the final Sustainability Appraisal Report. It includes a non-technical summary, a summary of the results of each element of the appraisal process (including information on Stage A) and proposals for monitoring the impacts of the plan. The testing matrices from Stages B1 –B5 are available in separate technical appendices 4 - 6.

The level of detail will be appropriate to an appraisal of a SPD. This means that the policy and guidance in the draft SPD will be tested in order to assess its significant environmental and sustainability impacts within the District. Of course some of these impacts, for example climate change, will relate to a wider area than just the District itself. A list of the contents of the SA report is shown in the table below.

Contents of the Sustainability Appraisal Report
<p>Components making up the Environmental Report Table sign-posting the components of the SA Report which make up the Environmental Report for the purposes of the SEA Directive</p>
<p>1. Summary and outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-technical summary • A statement of the likely significant effects • Statement on the difference the process has made • How to comment on the report •
<p>2. Appraisal Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach adopted to the SA • When the SA was carried out • Who carried out the SA • Who was consulted, when and how • Difficulties encountered in compiling information or in carrying out the assessment
<p>3. Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of the SA and the SA Report • Plan objectives and outline of contents • Compliance with the SEA Directive/Regulations
<p>4. Sustainability objectives, baseline and context This section will be the information in the Scoping Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to other policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives and how these have been taken into account • Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline (i.e. trend information, where it is available) • Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified • Limitations of the data, assumptions made etc. • The SA framework, including objectives, targets and indicators
<p>5. Plan issues and options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main strategic options considered and how they were identified • Comparison of the social, environmental and economic effects of the options (summary of testing matrices) • How social, environmental and economic issues were considered in choosing the preferred options • Other options considered, and why these were rejected <p>Proposed mitigation measures (summary of testing matrices)</p>
<p>6. Plan policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the preferred policies (summary of the information in the matrices) • How social, environmental and economic problems were considered in developing the policies and proposals • Proposed mitigation measures (summary of the information in the matrices) • Uncertainties and risks (summary of the information in the matrices relating to limitations in the assessment arising out of lack of information)

7. Implementation

- Links to other tiers of plans and programmes and the project level (EIA, design guidance etc.)
- Proposals for monitoring

3. Appraisal of Saved Royston and Town Centre Policy

3.1. Purpose of Appraising Saved Policy

This SPD is being prepared to provide details on the existing policy on design and development in Royston Town Centre contained in the adopted Local Plan.

The Guidance says that *the SA of the SPD of a saved plan will however need to set out the likely significant social, environmental and economic effects of the DPD policy or that saved policy it is helping to implement. This will provide the baseline against which the effects of the SPD itself can be considered*⁶.

The Guidance advises that this be undertaken in Stage B of the process. The Council has therefore undertaken an appraisal of existing policy 42(i), the parent policy to the draft SPD. The policy and conclusion from the appraisal are shown below:

3.2. Appraisal of Existing Policy

Local Plan no. 2. Policy 42 part (i) Town Centres:

***For retail uses, the Council will permit development proposals:
(i) which support and maintain shopping as the main activity in town centres, but only if these safeguard and enhance the environment of the three historic towns of Baldock, Hitchin and Royston and the World's First Garden City, Letchworth;...***

Conclusions:

- The assessment is positive overall but the policy does not meet all current requirements for town centre policy in its current wording in not promoting town centre development merely permitting them, and also not promoting residential and other uses as part of retail led mixed use schemes. These matters should be considered in drafting the LDF.

⁶ Para 4.1.11 of Sustainability Appraisal for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities

- Maintenance of the requirement for retail development in Royston to protect its character should be retained in any replacement policy.

3.3. Results of the Appraisal

The appraisal shows that the existing policy is likely to have a positive significant impact on a number of objectives, by leading to improved design and conservation in Royston and focussing on retail development in the town centre.

The detailed results and conclusions from the appraisal of the policies are contained in appendix 5. As noted above, there are no recommendations for changes to the policy because it is an historic saved policy which can not be changed.

4. Testing the SPD Aims

The SPD aims have been divided into three categories following the testing:

- Aims that do not conflict with any sustainability appraisal objectives and actively supports some of them. No changes recommended.
- Aims that do not conflict with any sustainability appraisal objectives, but could better support the objectives with some rephrasing.
- Aims that both support and potentially conflict with some sustainability appraisal objectives. No changes recommended.

The conclusions under each heading are summarised below.

4.1. Aims that do not conflict with SA objectives

The following aims were assessed as not conflicting with any sustainability appraisal objectives and actively supports some of them. No changes are recommended.

SPD Aim 1 To preserve and enhance the special character of Royston town centre
SPD Aim 2 To promote the vitality and viability of Royston town centre through planning for its growth and sustainable development.
SPD Aim 3 To promote a town centre that is accessible to all.
SPD Aim 4 To promote sustainable use of resources and protect the wider environment.
SPD Aim 5 To develop the Town Centre's role as the focus for civic and social life and as a place which is pleasant, safe and inviting to visit, live and shop in.
SPD Aim 6 To provide a mechanism for delivery and implementation of the strategy.

4.2. Purpose of testing the SPD Aims

The purpose of testing the draft SPD Aims is to determine if there are any significant conflicts between the SPD Aims and the appraisal objectives. The SPD Aims will inform the choice of options and the type of guidance provided in the draft SPD. Therefore, wherever possible any conflicts should be avoided between the SPD Aims and sustainability objectives. Reducing conflicts should improve the sustainability of the SPD. However, there are occasions when it is impossible to avoid conflict.

4.3. Results of the Appraisal

The aims for the SPD are compatible with the sustainability objectives and have not been amended.

The detailed results and conclusions from the appraisal of the SPD aims are contained in appendix 4.

5. Appraisal of Strategic Options

5.1. Strategic Options for the SPD

In developing the draft SPD, the Council has considered three broad strategic options to deliver these objectives. Each of these options has been appraised. These are:

- (a) Do not produce a SPD, but rely on the current policy (this is the 'business as usual option')
- (b) Produce an SPD based on minimal change to the town centre with some public realm enhancement and development of the civic centre site.
- (c) Produce a SPD based on preserving and enhancing the character and appearance of the town centre with a moderate increase in retail provision and social facilities. (This would include enhancements of certain areas within the town centre and other development opportunities as identified through the public workshops)

5.2. Purpose of appraising the options

The appraisal process:

The appraisal process for each option involves assessing the impact of the option against each of the sustainability objectives. This is done using a formal matrix. The impact of the option on SA objective is scored as follows: Major positive √√; positive √; major negative **XX**; negative **X**; uncertain?; or neutral **O**.

The SEA Directive requires the appraisal to identify significant impacts. In this appraisal, major positive, positive, major negative and negative impacts are all defined as "significant". Significance is assessed in terms of the **size** of the impact (e.g. whether a development would use a large or small amount of land) and the **importance** (e.g. will it take place on a site recognised as an important environmental resource). The third factor is the **cumulative** affect of a number of small impacts, which when taken together can produce a significant impact (e.g. the effect on a number of smaller developments on traffic levels).

The assessment of impacts is based on the current situation and trends for each objective, including where there are particular problems. This information is contained

in appendix 3 (baseline data) and appendix 1 (key sustainability issues), and has been referred to throughout the process of compiling the matrices.

For the appraisal of each option, the conclusions, concentrating on the significant impacts are summarised in the matrices, along with recommendations for changes (discussed further below). The full matrices with conclusions and recommendations are contained in appendix 5.

The purpose of appraising alternative options is *not* to identify which option is more sustainable. In almost every case options will have both positive and negative impacts on the sustainability objectives. Therefore it is not possible to be definitive about whether one option is more sustainable than another. However, sustainability impacts should be given greater weight where they impinge on the key sustainability issues that have been identified for North Hertfordshire.

Uncertainties in the appraisal:

The SEA Directive requires that the body undertaking the appraisal identify uncertainties in the appraisal. Where there was insufficient information to predict important sustainability impacts of an option, this has been noted in the matrices. (See appendix 5) In these cases the report specifies in the recommendations the additional data, or the need for more information on how the option would be applied, that would help to predict the impact of the option.

5.3 Summary of appraisal results for the options

The conclusions from the appraisal of the options are outlined below. The detailed results are available in appendix 5.

<p>Option A Do not produce a SPD, but rely on the current policy (this is the "business as usual option")</p>
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It should be noted that this is the same as appraising the saved policy and reference should be made to the appraisal tables in section 5 of this report and the matrices in appendix 5. The key issue is comparison with the other

scenarios. The 'business as usual' option has the disadvantage of lacking tailored and specific policy and guidance for the town centre. Each individual case would be negotiated on a site by site basis with no clear overall framework for how sites should relate to each other, be accessed or over how cumulative impacts will be assessed. It would be an example of development control without planning. It would have the disadvantage of not providing a clear framework over planning obligations or how or where facilities servicing the whole town centre or town would be provided. It would also share the disadvantages of the saved policy without providing an opportunity to provide clarification on how these disadvantages could be mitigated in the circumstances of this specific area. Key issues concerning the town centre would remain unresolved especially in relation to the potential for developing the opportunity sites.

Option B

Produce a SPD based upon minimal change to the town centre with some public realm enhancement and development on the Civic Centre Site.

Conclusions:

- This option performs poorly overall, with the only beneficial impacts being short term physical improvements to a limited area of the town, and even these are eroded over the medium to long term. The main problem with this option being 'no change' to the centre would occur alongside a pattern of expansion by competing centres, leading to the centre declining over time and people travelling further to shop. A town centre strategy provides the opportunity to provide a holistic approach to future development in the town and an integrated approach to planning.

Recommendations:

- This option performs poorly and should not be pursued.

Option C

Produce a SPD based on preserving and enhancing the character and appearance of the town centre with a moderate increase in retail provision and social facilities. (This would include enhancements of certain areas within the town centre and other development opportunities as identified through public workshops)

Conclusions:

- This option performs well overall in sustainability terms and is the best of the three options. It performs very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns. It may produce short term negative impacts on existing shopkeepers although these will be balanced by positive impacts in the longer term.
- There are a number of uncertainties over the impacts of these options and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. Firstly any demolition will need to be selective to avoid harm to the historic environment, and replacement buildings will need to be of outstanding quality appropriate to Royston town centre. Secondly, there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce car dependence. The provision of additional facilities in the town will help to increase social justice in the town. A further uncertainty occurs with the possibility of allowing development on car parking space. This is likely to decrease dependence on the car and allow value to be released in land but it is uncertain whether public transport can operate at a sufficient capacity to offset the movement of people into the town

5.4 Conclusions on the Preferred Option

Option C presents the best outcomes. The option B 'minimal change' option performs poorly and will not ensure long term development for the town centre. It is recommended that option C is pursued because it has the best outcomes in terms of the historic environment and will help to improve economic activity in the town.

There are a number of uncertainties over the impacts of these options and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. Firstly, any demolition will need to be selective to avoid harm to the historic environment, and replacement buildings will need to be of outstanding quality appropriate to Royston. Secondly, there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce its car dependence.

The provision of additional facilities in the town will help to increase social justice in the town. A further uncertainty occurs with the possibility of allowing development on car parking space. This is likely to decrease dependence on the car and allow value to be released in land but it is uncertain whether public transport can operate at a sufficient capacity to offset the movement of people into the town

5.5 The Preferred Option

Following appraisal of the strategic options the Council decided on its preferred option, option C, and this was developed as the Royston Town Centre Strategy draft Supplementary Planning Document.

5.6 Why this Option was chosen

This option has been chosen because it is the Council's view that it performed best in sustainability terms, producing economic development for the town, better retail choice for residents, improvements to the environment of the town centre and improvements to public transport, walking and cycling.

6. Appraisal of the Draft SPD

6.1. The Appraisal Process

The appraisal process was divided into two stages:

1. Appraising the policies and opportunity sites separately.
2. Appraising the cumulative impact of all of the policies and opportunity sites.

Each policy and opportunity site was appraised against each of the sustainability objectives. This was done using a formal matrix. The impact of the policies and opportunity sites on the SA objectives was scored as follows: Major positive √√; positive √; major negative **XX**; negative **X**; uncertain **?**; or neutral **O**. The SEA Directive requires the appraisal to identify significant impacts. In this appraisal, major positive, positive, major negative and negative impacts are all defined as “significant”.

The assessment of impacts is based on the current situation and trends for each objective, including where there are particular problems. This information is contained in appendix 3 (baseline data) and appendix 1 (key sustainability issues), and has been referred to throughout the process of compiling the matrices.

For the appraisal of each policy and opportunity site, the conclusions, concentrating on the significant impacts are summarised at the end of the formal matrix, along with recommendations for changes (discussed further below). The full matrices with conclusions and recommendations are contained in appendix 6.

Uncertainties in the appraisal

The SEA Directive requires that uncertainties in the appraisal be identified. Where there was insufficient information to predict important sustainability impacts of an option, these are noted in the matrices (See appendix 6). In these cases, the Council has usually specified in its recommendations the additional data, or the need for more information on how the option would be applied, that would help to predict the impact of the option.

6.2 Appraisal of the Preferred Option

Note: In order to make the appraisal process more manageable and to ensure it focuses on the strategic issues rather than minor points of detail the preferred option has been appraised in sections consisting of similar policies, with a very similar impact.

6.3 Summary of the Appraisal Results

<h3>Land Use</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retail• Other town centre uses• Residential Development• Commercial / Office uses
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The policies relating to land-use in Royston town centre will meet the objectives of providing sustainable development. <p>Uncertainties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The short-term impact of improvements to the town centre is uncertain on existing shop-keepers as it may promote competition and have a negative impact on their revenues. However, a more viable town centre will also attract more people meaning more revenue for town centre shops and businesses. Any negative effects should diminish in the medium-long term. There are similar uncertainties relating to the short-term impacts of crime in the town centre. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No change recommended

<h3>Promotion and Marketing</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a niche role for Royston town centre in terms of uses and functions• Partnership Working to be encouraged in the town centre
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The policies in this section largely refer to implementation and aspirations for the town centre. As such they are fairly neutral in delivering sustainable outcomes but should result in greater dialogue between groups which should help to facilitate other policies which will fulfil sustainable objectives. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No change recommended

Design and Conservation

- Conservation and Heritage in Royston town centre
- Urban Design in Royston town centre
- Public open space
- Public Realm improvements

Conclusions:

- The impact of these policies will produce sustainable outcomes for the town centre

Uncertainties:

- Although the policies do not cover issues such as resource use this is tackled later on in the sustainability section.

Recommendations:

- No change recommended

Community, Leisure, Recreational and Cultural Facilities

- Policy on protecting and providing community facilities in Royston town centre

Conclusions:

- This policy achieves broadly sustainable outcomes for the town centre. it performs especially well on aspirations for creating a just society.

Recommendations:

- No change recommended

Safety and Security

- Aims to encourage safety and security in Royston town centre

Conclusions:

- This policy achieves a neutral affect in many areas and seeks to reduction in crime rates in providing a more environment for users of the town centre. The neutral objectives are broadly met in other sections.

Recommendations:

- No change recommended as sustainable objectives can be met through other policies

Movement

- Road network
- Buses
- Walking and cycling
- Vehicle parking

Conclusions:

- These policies have an almost wholly positive impact.

Uncertainties:

- There are a number of uncertainties over the impacts of these policies and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. Firstly there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce its car dependence. Secondly the amount and cost of parking should not make it an overly attractive alternative to public transport to adversely affect modal shift. However, it is recognised in this section that there is a greater dependence on the private car in rural areas.

Recommendations:

- No change recommended – however the impact of additional off street parking should be carefully monitored and the price/control regime for parking altered accordingly over time.

Sustainability

- Sustainability
- Sustainable design

Conclusions:

- These policies perform very well in environmental sustainability terms.

Uncertainties:

- The main uncertainties exist over how easy it is to provide micro-generation and embedded renewable energy that fits into the context of new design.

Recommendations:

- The suitability of sustainability measures in small market towns should be assessed.

7. Appraisal of Opportunity Sites

Note: In order to make the appraisal process more manageable and to ensure it focuses on the strategic issues rather than minor points of detail the Opportunity Sites have been sifted to remove the smallest sites not making a significant impact on the environment. These sites are likely to fall under the principles of the ‘small sites and areas’ exemption. Only those aspects of each opportunity site likely to have a significant environmental impact have been appraised – not localised aspects of design guidance. Finally where sites are adjoining/linked and likely to have similar impacts these have been appraised together.

The impact of the opportunity sites in the draft SPD on the SA objectives is scored as follows: Major positive √√; positive √; major negative **XX**; negative **X**; uncertain **?**; or neutral **O**.

The assessment is based on the current situation and trends for each objective, including where there are particular problems. This information is contained in appendix 3 (baseline data) and appendix 1 (key sustainability issues), and has been referred to throughout the process of compiling the matrices.

Opportunity RTC 1: Civic Centre

- Development for a mix of uses including residential, community facilities, extended car parking and new public square

Conclusions:

- This development opportunity performs well on sustainability indicators specifically in regards to improving access to community and cultural facilities.

Uncertainties:

- Bringing the site forward for development will need to be discussed carefully with existing landholders. The idea of removing car parking space will need to be carefully assessed. It is also uncertain on what the commercial threshold for sustaining community and leisure facilities is. New development will have to respect the historic context of the conservation area in term of height, scale and massing of any new buildings. Ensuring that adequate public open space will also be key to achieving sustainable outcomes for this site.

Recommendations:

- No alterations are suggested for this site although careful attention must be paid to constraints. Further discussions with key stakeholders will be essential. This is recognised through the recommendation for a development brief for the site.

Opportunity RTC 3: Angel Pavement

- Redevelopment of the existing retail with the possibility of providing larger floorplate stores with residential uses above.

Conclusions:

- The outcomes of redeveloping this site are sustainable and desirable and broadly involve ensuring that uses within the town centre are accessible to all. A focus on promoting the retail offer will help to create a more vital and viable town centre.

Uncertainties:

- The ease of which this site can be developed will to some extent rely on achieving consensus between the various landholders. Another issue involves the potential of increasing the height of existing premises - this would need to be done sensitively.

Recommendations:

- The outcomes of redeveloping this site are sustainable and desirable and broadly involve ensuring that uses within the town centre are accessible to all. A focus on promoting the retail offer will help to create a more vital and viable town centre. The opportunity to refurbish this site will also help to enhance its setting within the conservation area.

Opportunity RTC 4: Market Place, Old Cattle Market Site, and Royston Corn Exchange

- Opening up of the Corn Exchange to improve its vitality. The use of the Old Cattle Market Site for mixed-use development. Market Place redeveloped to improve the public realm.

Conclusions:

- This opportunity site performs well in terms of meeting sustainability objectives

Uncertainties:

- It is uncertain how easy it will be to bring the Old Cattle Market Site forward for redevelopment as it is under private ownership.

Recommendations:

- No alterations are suggested for this site although careful attention must be paid to the constraints. It is recommended that dialogue is opened with English Heritage to discuss the possibility of redeveloping this site.

Opportunity RTC 6: Fish Hill Square

Improvements to the public realm to provide an additional market for the town

Conclusions:

- Redevelopment of this site helps to meet sustainable objectives,
- This site is owned by the Council and should be relatively easy to bring forward for development.

Uncertainties:

- Careful consideration will need to be given to the proposed loss of car parking space.

Recommendations:

- No alterations are recommended for this opportunity site

Opportunity RTC 7: Princes Mews East and West

- Redevelopment of Princes Mews West car Park to provide decked parking and the possibility of providing residential use above Sommerfield. Access provided from Princes Mews.

Conclusions:

- The addition of housing in this part of the town centre is unlikely to have a significant effect as it will be fairly small scale. Positive effects do occur because proposed development will be in the town centre and reduce the need for people to travel to access services.

Uncertainties:

- This site is in private ownership and may not be brought forward for redevelopment. Furthermore, any new development is likely to increase traffic entering the site. This will need to be taken into account when considering the width of the existing access from Baldock Street. Any new development will also need ensure that the residential amenity of surrounding residential properties is preserved.

Recommendations:

- No alterations are recommended for this site.

8. Monitoring

8.1. Purpose of Monitoring

Task B6 is to propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Royston Town Centre Strategy. This is an important part of the appraisal and development plan process. The Guidance⁷ notes that it has a number of benefits:

- It allows the actual significant effects of the implementation of the Strategy and Policies be tested against those predicted in the SA;
- It helps to ensure that issues that arise, including unexpected problems, can be identified and tackled;
- It helps further predictions to be made more accurately;
- It can contribute to baseline information for future plans.

8.2. Monitoring Process

The Good Practice Guide on Local Development Frameworks advises that⁸ the monitoring of significant sustainability effects should be integrated with other monitoring of Local Development Frameworks. For this reason, North Hertfordshire District Council will include significant sustainability effects in future Annual Monitoring Reports. Where necessary, the Reports will also propose measures for addressing adverse effects, including unexpected problems. The significant sustainability effects indicators have been drawn from the indicators in the baseline data of this sustainability appraisal (which are linked to the sustainability objectives used in the appraisal). They aim to:

- Concentrate on the key sustainability issues identified in the appraisal;
- Provide information to identify when problems, including unexpected ones, arise;
- Contribute to addressing deficiencies in data availability identified in this appraisal.

An initial list of significant sustainability effects indicators are included in the 2006/7 Annual Monitoring Report published in December 2007.

⁷ Para 3.3.22

⁸ Para 2.4

Appendix 1 Key Sustainability Issues

SA Objective ⁹	Issues	Source
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	<p>Difficulties in competing with large urban centres for provision of employment, shopping and other facilities</p> <p>Promotion of tourism. Visitors can be important, but the District is not seen as a prime tourist location.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. Equally 19% of Hertfordshire firms report that a lack of skilled labour is a limiting factor in increasing output.</p> <p>Competition more locally from Tesco and poor variety of retail shops within the town centre that do not meet people's everyday needs, also encourages people to shop elsewhere.</p> <p>Parking charges are considered a reason why people don't come into the town centre to shop – which has an impact on local retailers.</p> <p>Difficult to attract new shops due to lack of footfall within the town centre and limited size of units given historic nature of buildings.</p> <p>Town centre is dominated by charity shops, banks and building societies with a few specialist shops.</p>	Discussion with Officer Steering Group
		Discussion with Officer Steering Group
		Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p30) North Herts Learning Forum Action Plan LSC Action Plan
		NHDC Corporate Plan (p6) Discussion with Officer Steering Group
		Issues identified in workshops with public
		Issues identified in workshops with public
		Issues identified in workshops with public
		Issues identified in workshops with public

⁹ Those relevant to the SEA Directive are shown underlined

SA Objective ⁹	Issues	Source
	<p>Strengths of the town centre need to be identified in terms promoting inward investment and tourism</p> <p>Different types of market need promotion along with improved facilities.</p>	<p>Issues identified in workshops with public</p> <p>Issues identified in workshops with public</p>
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
<p><u>2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value</u></p>	<p>The need to provide additional housing for local needs and to meet additional regional requirements will require the use of greenfield sites and put significant pressure on the environment and quality of life in the District. Although no strategic review of greenbelt is proposed for around Royston. In the regional spatial strategy the more capacity that can be found within the town including the town centre will reduce pressure for greenfield development throughout the district.</p>	<p>NHDC corporate Plan (p6) Key issue</p> <p>'We will protect the environment by vigorously challenging airport and greenfield housing development'</p> <p>East of England Regional Spatial Strategy and associated Panel Report</p>
<p><u>2(b) Provide access to green spaces</u></p>	<p>Priory Gardens is valued as an important open space contributing to the layout of the town centre and is considered as environmental asset to the town centre.</p>	<p>Issues identified in workshops with public</p>
<p><u>2(c) deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles</u></p>	<p>Population and mobility factors have changed the function of villages and small towns from employment service centres increasingly towards dormitory/residential functions reducing their social and physical diversity. An increasing proportion of retail expenditure is going out of the town.</p> <p>The complex settlement pattern and distribution of shopping and employment facilities means that it is sometimes difficult to maintain commercially viable passenger transport for journeys other than to London.</p>	<p>Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p31)</p> <p>Discussion with Officer Steering Group</p> <p>NLP Retail and Town Centre Study</p> <p>Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p31)</p> <p>Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan</p>
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
<p><u>3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment</u></p>	<p>Any new development/regeneration should enhance and complement the historic character of the town and be of good quality design.</p>	<p>Issues identified in workshops with public</p>
<p><u>3(d) Reduce pollution from any source</u></p>	<p>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 6a below.</p>	<p>Herts Environmental Forum Strategy</p> <p>Discussion with Officer Steering</p>

SA Objective ⁹	Issues	Source
CLIMATE CHANGE		
4(a) <u>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions</u>	<p>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.</p> <p>Improvements required to public transport facilities and bus services.</p> <p>Domestic and commercial energy use is also a significant contributor to global warming.</p>	<p>North Herts Area Transport Plan (NHATP) Table 7 Issues and problems identified through consultation. Draft Letchworth and Baldock Urban Transport Plan. NHDC Rural Strategy (Annex 4 – Priority 7 – transport) HCC Local Transport Plan</p> <p>Issues identified in workshops with public</p> <p>Discussion with Officer Steering Group</p>
A JUST SOCIETY		
5(a) Share access to services and benefits of prosperity fairly	<p>Whilst the District is relatively prosperous there are pockets of income and/ or multiple deprivation in relation to national standards.</p>	<p>NHDC Corporate Plan (p4) Anti-Poverty Strategy 1998, summarised in Appendix to NHDC Social Inclusion Strategy. Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p31) Community Legal Service Strategy 2003</p>
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	<p>The number of households in the district with an elderly person in it is higher than the national average at 34%. There is a lack of facilities for young people in the town.</p>	<p>Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p31) Older Peoples Strategy</p>

SA Objective ⁹	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.	<p>NHDC Corporate Plan (p6)</p> <p>Housing Strategy 2004</p> <p>Affordable housing programme</p> <p>East of England Regional Spatial Strategy and associated Panel Report</p> <p>ODPM Sustainable Communities Plan (2003)</p>
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	NHDC is generally very safe, but fear of crime is an issue in the District. The crime survey showed that areas of concern about crime and disorder are spread throughout the District. A particular issue is street crime, theft from cars and antisocial behaviour in the town centre.	<p>NHDC Corporate Plan (p7)</p> <p>North Herts CDRP Strategy 2005-08</p> <p>Crime Audit 2004</p> <p>Fear of Crime Survey 2004</p> <p>Discussion with Officer Steering Group</p>
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	Improved lighting and CCTV coverage required in certain parts of the town centre to improve safety.	<p>Issues identified in workshops with public</p>
	Generally speaking across all age groups the population of North Hertfordshire and Stevenage 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 incidence of age-related poor health, including fuel poverty (hypothermia related) and senility are higher in North Hertfordshire.	<p>Health Improvement and Modernisation Programme, North Herts and Stevenage PCT 2005 (p6)</p> <p>Director of Public Health Report 2005</p> <p>Discussion with Officer Steering Group.</p>
	Noise from air and road transport has a significant effect on quality of life in the District. Some proposed developments may have significant additional impacts.	<p>Discussion with Officer Steering Group</p>

SA Objective ⁹	Issues	Source
	There are also important local issues regarding the need to integrate and co-ordinate transport services and arrangements to improve access to health facilities.	Health Improvement and Modernisation Programme, North Herts and Stevenage PCT. (p35) Health Scrutiny report
	Cycling considered dangerous in the town centre given the narrow streets and high volumes of traffic.	Issues identified in workshops with public
	Pedestrian access in terms of safety and accessibility considered an issue in terms of links within and into the town centre at certain crossing points i.e. along Melbourn Road and the A10 and the narrow pavements along certain shopping streets such as Kneesworth Street. Opportunity to create pedestrian friendly streets.	Issues identified in workshops with public
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	Royston Town Centre is the main cultural area for the town.	Discussion with Officer Steering Group
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 proposed new developments will put some pressure on water supply infrastructure, and may require water to be piped in from outside the District, further abstraction with associated environmental impacts and/or water conservation measures in new developments	East of England Regional Spatial Strategy and associated Panel Report
6(b) Reduce waste	The most recent figures available (1997) show that Hertfordshire was a net importer of sand and gravel with consumption exceeding sales by 0.356mt. Need to reduce waste and increase recycling rates, particularly because waste sites within the County will be full by 2008.	Herts Minerals Local Plan Second Deposit Draft (para 1.4.3) NHDC Corporate Plan (p6) Herts Waste Strategy (p5) Discussion with Officer Steering Group
TOWN CENTRES		
7, Promote sustainable urban living	Main footfall areas are along main shopping streets, however linkages need to be strengthened along other streets towards the Civic Centre site, Somerfield and northwards.	Issues identified in workshops with public

SA Objective ⁹	Issues	Source
	<p>Opportunity to encourage more footfall through redevelopment of certain sites such as Angel Pavement for mixed use and the Civic Centre Site for civic, conference, health and possible residential uses.</p>	<p>Issues identified in workshops with public</p>
	<p>Links between station and town centre need to be improved.</p>	<p>Issues identified in workshops with public</p>
	<p>Better and more appropriate use and management of car parking within the town centre needs to be addressed.</p>	<p>Issues identified in workshops with public</p>

Sustainability Appraisal and SEA of Royston
Town Centre Strategy Supplementary
Planning Document

**Appendix 2: Review of Plans, Programmes and
Policies**

June 2008

Contents

National Plans, Programmes and Policies	43
ODPM Circular 05/2005 Planning Obligations	43
Securing the Future - UK Government sustainable development strategy (March 2005)	43
Sustainable communities: building for the future (ODPM Feb 2003)	44
PPS3: Housing (CLG 2006)	44
PPG4: Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms (2001)	46
PPG13: Transport (2001)	48
PPG15: Planning and the Historic Environment (2001)	51
PPG16: Archaeology and Planning (2001)	53
PPG17: Planning for Sport, Open Space and Recreation (1991)	53
PPS25 Development and Flood Risk (2006)	55
PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM 2005)	56
PPS6: Planning for Town Centres (ODPM 2005)	57
PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (OMDP 2004)	59
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM 2005)	61
PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (2005)	65
PPS12: Local Development Frameworks (ODPM September 2004)	67
PPS 22: Renewable Energy (ODPM August 2004)	68
PPS 23 Planning and Pollution Control	70
Draft Supplement to PPS1 – Planning and Climate Change (December 2006)	72
Planning for a Sustainable Future – White Paper 2007	73
English Heritage: Retail Development in Historic Areas	76
English Heritage: Regeneration and the Historic Environment	76
English Heritage: Streets for All	77
Regional and Sub-Regional Plans, Programmes and Policies	78
East of England Plan: RSS (May 2008)	78
East of England Plan: Sustainability Appraisal Report (November 2004)	81
Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England (Feb 2005)	81

A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (Oct 2001)	83
County Plans, Programmes and Policies	85
Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 - 2010/11	85
SEA of Local Transport Plan 2006/7- 2010-2011	86
Northern Hertfordshire Area Transport Plan	87
A 50 Year Vision for the Wildlife and Natural Habitats of Hertfordshire BAP (April 1998)	88
The Hertfordshire Environmental Strategy (June 2001)	89
Economic Development Strategy for Hertfordshire 2000-2005 (Oct 2000)	90
Hertfordshire Town Renaissance Campaign	90
Hertfordshire Waste Strategy 2002-2024	90
Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan 1995-2005 (1999)	91
Hertfordshire Sustainability Guide (March 2003)	92
Enjoy! A cultural strategy for Hertfordshire	93
Rural Hertfordshire – an agenda for action 2001 – 2005 Hertfordshire Rural Forum	94
Rural Innovation Strategy – Hertfordshire Rural Forum (Apr 2003)	95
Hertfordshire Renewable Energy Study (Jan 2005)	96
Local Plans, Programmes and Policies	97
North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No.2 with Alterations	97
Corporate Plan North Hertfordshire District Council 2005-2015 (March 2005)	97
North Hertfordshire Housing Strategy 2004-2007	98
North Hertfordshire Housing Needs Study 2002	98
Home Energy Conservation Act (H.E.C.A) Progress Report (June 2001)	99
Biodiversity Action Plan	100
Rural Strategy for North Hertfordshire 2005 – 2010 (March 2005)	102
Pavilions, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches Strategy	103
Play Area and Outdoor Youth Provision Strategy 2004 - 2010	104
Aims and objectives of the Play Area & Youth Provision Strategy are:.....	104
Community Strategy for North Hertfordshire (Nov 2003)	104
Community Safety Strategy April 2005 – March 2008	105
Social Inclusion Strategy	105

Health Improvement and Modernisation Programme	107
North Hertfordshire District Council Car Parking Strategy 2004 – 2009	107
North Hertfordshire Cycling Strategy (1999) and North Hertfordshire Towns Cycle Network (2000)	108
Review of Voluntary Managed Community Centres and Village Halls	109
Supplementary Planning Document Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development	110
Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document	111
Hitchin Town Centre Strategy (Final Version Nov 2004)	113
Baldock Town Centre Strategy (Final Version Jan 2006)	114
Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy (Jan 2007)	114
Royston Conservation Area Review	115
Royston Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report	115
North Hertfordshire Urban Design Assessment – District Assessment/North	
Hertfordshire Urban Design Assessment – Royston (Draft Reports June 2007)	116

National Plans, Programmes and Policies

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p align="center">ODPM Circular 05/2005 Planning Obligations</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_039133.pdf</p> <p>The purpose of the Circular is to lay out Government policy and give advice on how to implement it. It lays out the tests that planning obligations must meet, and gives examples of different ways they can be used. It does not include specific objectives.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Plan should confirm to the requirements of the Circular.</p>	<p>In undertaking the SA, it is necessary to understand the legal limits to planning obligations (the five tests described in the document)</p>
<p align="center">Securing the Future - UK Government sustainable development strategy (March 2005)</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy/uk-strategy-2005.htm</p> <p>Living Within Environmental Limits</p> <p>Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.</p> <p>Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society</p> <p>Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all.</p> <p>Achieving a Sustainable Economy</p> <p>Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is</p>	<p>Introduces a new set of high-level indicators: the UK Framework Indicators to give an overview of sustainable development and the priority areas in the UK.</p> <p>Consists of a set of 64 indicators (including some still to be developed e.g. well-being index) related to relevant PSA targets and other policies.</p>	<p>Plan should conform to the requirements of the strategy.</p>	<p>Ensure that the key policy requirements are reflected in the SA Framework objectives and appraisal criteria.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>incentivised.</p> <p>Promoting Good Governance</p> <p>Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people’s creativity, energy, and diversity.</p> <p>Using Sound Science Responsibly</p> <p>Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.</p>			
<p align="center">Sustainable communities: building for the future (ODPM Feb 2003)</p> <p align="center">Status: UK Government Action Plan (with financial commitments 2003-2006)</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_communities/documents/divisionhomepage/034686.hcsp</p>			
<p>This is an action programme that allocates almost £2.2bn over a 4-year period to a range of policy areas affecting the sustainability of communities, primarily housing and regeneration. It is intended to mark a step change in actions to tackle community problems. It is divided into 6 themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decent homes, decent places • Low demand and abandonment • A step change in housing supply • Land, countryside and rural communities • Sustainable growth • Reforming the delivery 	<p>The programme is mainly concerned with the allocation of funding rather than the setting of targets, although there are some quantified descriptions of what the funding is intended to achieve. There are no specific indicators proposed, although some of the outcomes will be monitored via BV and CPA indicators with the proposal to develop these to include liveability issues.</p>	<p>The objectives of this programme intimately related to planning issues and should be considered in LDF policies. The theme Reforming the delivery deals directly with changes to the planning system.</p>	<p>The plan identifies some of the key requirements of sustainable communities. The SA should ensure that the relevant issues are covered by the SA objectives.</p>
<p align="center">PPS3: Housing (CLG 2006)</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1162097</p>			
<p>Strategic housing policy objectives</p> <p>The Government’s key housing policy goal is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent home, which</p>	<p>The national annual target is that at least 60% of new housing should be provided on previously developed land</p>	<p>The PPS gives guidance for addressing housing provision in the LDF. With regard to planning obligations, advice on this</p>	<p>The SA should take account of affordable housing objectives.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>they can afford, in a community where they want to live. To achieve this, the Government is seeking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To achieve a wide choice of high quality homes, both affordable and market housing, to address the requirements of the community. – To widen opportunities for home ownership and ensure high quality housing for those who cannot afford market housing, in particular those who are vulnerable or in need. – To improve affordability across the housing market, including by increasing the supply of housing. – To create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas, both urban and rural. <p>Planning for housing policy objectives</p> <p>These housing policy objectives provide the context for planning for housing through development plans and planning decisions. The specific outcomes that the planning system should deliver are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High quality housing that is well-designed and built to a high standard. – A mix of housing, both market and affordable, particularly in terms of tenure and price, to support a wide variety of households in all areas, both urban and rural. – A sufficient quantity of housing taking into account need and demand and seeking to improve choice. – Housing developments in suitable locations, which offer a good range of community 		<p>will be included in the Companion Guide, to be published in the future.</p>	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure.</p> <p>– A flexible, responsive supply of land – managed in a way that makes efficient and effective use of land, including re-use of previously-developed land, where appropriate.</p>			
<p>Status: Government policy</p>			
<p>PPG4: Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms (2001)</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=3386&l=3</p> <p>The aim of this policy is to encourage continued economic development that is compatible with governmental environmental objectives. Government policies require economic growth and a high quality environment to be pursued together.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Up-to-date and relevant plans are essential if the development needs of commerce and industry are to be met, and reconciled with demands for other forms of development and for the protection of the environment. Development plans should give industrial and commercial developers and local communities greater certainty about the types of development that will or will not be permitted in a given location.</p> <p>Development plan policies must take account of the locational demands of businesses while seeking to achieve wider objectives in the public interest. They offer the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage new 	<p>Ensuring that the economic growth necessary to provide Quality of Life improvements is compatible with environmental constraints is fundamental to UK sustainable development policy.</p> <p>The issues arising are some of the most important factors to be considered in drawing up the SA framework and undertaking the SA.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		<p>development in locations which minimise the length and number of trips, especially by motor vehicles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage new development in locations that can be served by more energy efficient modes of transport, particularly for developments likely to have large numbers of employees; • discourage new development where it would be likely to add unacceptably to congestion; • locate development requiring access mainly to local roads away from trunk roads, to avoid unnecessary congestion on roads designed for longer distance movement. • give reference for users that will benefit from increased rail freight in localities close to rail nodes. • ensure that developments that are detrimental to amenity or a potential source of pollution should be separated from sensitive land uses. 	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
PPG13: Transport (2001)			
Source:			
<p>Land use planning has a key role in delivering the Governments integrated transport strategy. By shaping the pattern of development and influencing the location, scale, density, design and mix of land uses, planning can help to reduce the need to travel, reduce the length of journeys and make it safer and easier for people to access jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking, and cycling.</p> <p>The objectives of PPG13 are to integrate planning and transport at the national, regional, strategic and local level to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight; • promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling, and • reduce the need to travel, especially by car. 	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>In order to deliver the objectives of PPG13, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. actively manage the pattern of urban growth to make the fullest use of public transport, and focus major generators of travel demand in city, town and district centres and near to major public transport interchanges; 2. locate day to day facilities which need to be near their clients in local centres so that they are accessible by walking and cycling; 3. accommodate housing principally within existing urban areas, planning for increased intensity of development for both housing and other uses at locations which are highly accessible by public transport, walking and cycling; 4. ensure that development 	<p>The issues surrounding access and travel are important considerations for the SA. Effective access to employment, education and services is vital to improving Quality of Life and contributes to social inclusion. But transport, and the infrastructure to support, it has large environmental impacts, including contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The SA must consider these issues, and in particular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the need to travel by private car; • Reducing the volume of freight traffic; and • Improving accessibility of key services to local communities
Status: Government policy			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		<p>comprising jobs, shopping, leisure and services offers a realistic choice of access by public transport, walking, and cycling, recognising that this may be less achievable in some rural areas;</p> <p>5. in rural areas, locate most development for housing, jobs, shopping, leisure and services in local service centres which are designated in the development plan to act as focal points for housing, transport and other services, and encourage better transport provision in the countryside;</p> <p>6. ensure that strategies in the development and local transport plan complement each other and that consideration of development plan allocations and local transport investment and priorities are closely linked;</p> <p>7. use parking policies, alongside other planning and transport measures, to promote sustainable transport choices and reduce</p>	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		<p>reliance on the car for work and other journeys;</p> <p>8. give priority to people over ease of traffic movement and plan to provide more road space to pedestrians, cyclists and public transport in town centres, local neighbourhoods and other areas with a mixture of land uses;</p> <p>9. ensure that the needs of disabled people as pedestrians, public transport users and motorists - are taken into account in the implementation of planning policies and traffic management schemes, and in the design of individual developments; consider how best to reduce crime and the fear of crime, and seek by the design and layout of developments and areas, to secure community safety and road safety; and</p> <p>10. protect sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choices for both passenger and</p>	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		<p>freight movements.</p> <p>With regard to planning obligations, the guidance says that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning obligations should be used to achieve improvements to public transport, walking and cycling, where such measures would be likely to influence travel patterns to the site involved, either on their own, or as part of a package of measures. Examples might include improvements to a bus service or cycle route which goes near the site, or pedestrian improvements which make it easier and safer to walk to the site from other developments or from public transport. 	
PPG15: Planning and the Historic Environment (2001)			
Source:			
PPG 15 provides a full statement of Government policies for the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas, and other elements of the historic environment.	Not applicable	<p>Local plans (the LDF) should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out more detailed development control policies for an authority's area: they should include both the policies which will apply 	Conserving the historic environment is important to sustainable development. The District's cultural heritage is an irreplaceable resource. An SEA/ SA objective should aim to

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		<p>over the area as a whole, and any policies and proposals which will apply to particular neighbourhoods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> set out clearly the planning authority's policies for the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment in their area, and the factors which will be taken into account in assessing different types of planning application - for example, proposals for the change of use of particular types of historic building or for new development which would affect their setting. include a strategy for the economic regeneration of rundown areas, and in particular seek to identify the opportunities which the historic fabric of an area can offer as a focus for regeneration. Excessively detailed or inflexible policies concerning individual buildings or groups of buildings should be avoided. 	<p>protect or enhance the historic environment.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
PPG16: Archaeology and Planning (2001)			
Source:			
<p>PPG16 sets out the Secretary of State's policy on archaeological remains on land, and how they should be preserved or recorded both in an urban setting and in the countryside. It gives advice on the handling of archaeological remains and discoveries under the development plan and control systems, including the weight to be given to them in planning decisions and the use of planning conditions.</p>	Not applicable	<p>Development plans should reconcile the need for development with the interests of conservation including archaeology and should include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and of their settings.</p>	<p>In general one of the SEA/ SA objectives should aim to protect or enhance the historic environment, including archaeology.</p>
PPG17: Planning for Sport, Open Space and Recreation (1991)			
Source:			
<p>Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting an urban renaissance. • supporting a rural renewal. • promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion • health and well being • promoting more sustainable development 	Not applicable	<p>Planning for open spaces should be based on local standards established by the assessment of local needs and an audit of existing provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space or the buildings and land to be surplus to requirements. • Open space and sports and recreational 	<p>The objectives of this PPG conform with many sustainability objectives. The SA should ensure that NHDC SDP meets these requirements.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		<p>facilities that are of high quality, or of particular value to a local community, should be recognised and given protection by local authorities through appropriate policies in plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, recreation grounds, playing fields and allotments must not be regarded as 'previously developed land', as defined in annex C of PPG3. Even where land does fall within the definition of 'previously-developed', its existing and potential value for recreation and other purposes should be properly assessed before development is considered. • The location of new areas of open space, sports and recreational facilities, should promote objectives including accessibility, regeneration and social inclusion. 	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>PPS25 Development and Flood Risk (2006)</p> <p>Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1162060</p> <p>The statement says that local planning authorities (LPAs) should prepare and implement planning strategies that help to deliver sustainable development by:</p> <p>Appraising risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifying land at risk and the degree of risk of flooding from river, sea and other sources in their areas; preparing Regional Flood Risk Appraisals (RFRAs) or Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs) as appropriate, as freestanding assessments that contribute to the Sustainability Appraisal 3 of their plans; <p>Managing risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> framing policies for the location of development which avoid flood risk to people and property where possible, and manage any residual risk, taking account of the impacts of climate change; only permitting development in areas of flood risk when there are no reasonably available sites in areas of lower flood risk and benefits of the development outweigh the risks from flooding; <p>Reducing risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> safeguarding land from development that is required for current and future flood management e.g. conveyance and storage of flood water, and flood defences; reducing flood risk to and from new development through location, layout and design, incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SUDS); 		<p>The statement says that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPAs should prepare LDDs that set out policies for the allocation of sites and the control of development which avoid flood risk to people and property where possible and manage it elsewhere, reflecting the approach to managing flood risk in this PPS and in the RSS for their region. Where climate change is expected to increase flood risk so that some existing development may not be sustainable in the long-term, LPAs should take this into account in the preparation of LDDs, as there may be opportunities to relocate development to more sustainable locations; flood risk should be considered alongside other spatial planning concerns such as transport, housing, economic growth, natural resources, regeneration and the management of other hazards. Policies should recognise the positive contribution that avoidance and management of flood risk can make to the development of sustainable communities. They should be integrated effectively with other strategies of material significance. 	<p>The SA should ensure that flood risks are adequately considered in the SDP. There is currently no RFRA or SFRA in place.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding e.g. surface water management plans; making the most of the benefits of green infrastructure for flood storage, conveyance and SUDS; re-creating functional floodplain; and setting back defences; <p>A partnership approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> working effectively with the Environment Agency, other operating authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that best use is made of their expertise and information so that plans are effective and decisions on planning applications can be delivered expeditiously; and ensuring spatial planning supports flood risk management policies and plans, River Basin Management Plans and emergency planning. 			
<p>PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM 2005)</p> <p>Status: Government policy</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_0355506.hcsp</p> <p>Sustainable development is identified as the key principle underlying planning. Planning is charged with addressing sustainable development through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve people's quality of life; contributing to sustainable economic development; 	<p>No specific targets</p>	<p>Key policy context.</p>	<p>Ensure that the key policy requirements are reflected in the SA Framework objectives and appraisal criteria.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities; ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design, and the efficient use of resources; and, ensuring that development supports existing communities and contributes to the creation of safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community. 			
PPS6: Planning for Town Centres (ODPM 2005)			
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_036805.pdf			
<p>The Government's key objective for town centres is to promote their vitality and viability by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> planning for the growth and development of existing centres; and promoting and enhancing existing centres, by focusing development in such centres and encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all. <p>These key objectives must also take into account other Government objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enhancing consumer choice by making provision for a range of shopping, leisure and local services, which allow genuine choice to meet the needs of the entire community, and particularly socially-excluded groups; supporting efficient, competitive and innovative retail, leisure, tourism and other sectors, with improving productivity; and 	<p>No specific targets</p>	<p>Planning authorities are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> actively promote growth and manage change in town centres; define a network and a hierarchy of centres each performing their appropriate role to meet the needs of their catchments; and adopt a proactive, planned approach to planning for town centres, through regional and local planning. <p>Within a regional planning context, local planning authorities should actively</p>	<p>The PPS notes that the Government's wider policy objectives are also relevant, insofar as they would not be inconsistent with the key objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote social inclusion, ensuring that communities have access to a range of main town centre uses, and that deficiencies in provision in areas with poor access to facilities are remedied; to encourage investment to regenerate deprived
Status: Government policy			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving accessibility, ensuring that existing or new development is, or will be, accessible and well-served by a choice of means of transport. 		<p>plan for growth and manage change in town centres over the period of their development plan documents by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> selecting appropriate existing centres to accommodate the identified need for growth by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> making better use of existing land and buildings, including, where appropriate, redevelopment; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> where necessary, extending the centre. managing the role and function of existing centres by, for example, promoting and developing a specialist or new role and encouraging specific types of uses in some centres; and planning for new centres of an appropriate scale in areas of significant growth or where there are deficiencies in the existing network of centres. 	<p>areas, creating additional employment opportunities and an improved physical environment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote economic growth of regional, sub-regional and local economies; to deliver more sustainable patterns of development, ensuring that locations are fully exploited through high-density, mixed-use development and promoting sustainable transport choices, including reducing the need to travel and providing alternatives to car use; and to promote high quality and inclusive design, improve the quality of the public realm and open spaces, protect and enhance the architectural and historic heritage of centres, provide a sense of place and a focus for the community and for civic activity and ensure that town centres provide an attractive, accessible

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>Sets planning policy in the context of Government objectives to:</p> <p>(i) To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas through the promotion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thriving, inclusive and sustainable rural communities, ensuring people have decent places to live by improving the quality and sustainability of local environments and neighbourhoods; • sustainable economic growth and diversification; • good quality, sustainable development that respects and, where possible, enhances local distinctiveness and the intrinsic qualities of the countryside; and • continued protection of the open countryside for the benefit of all, with the highest level of protection for our most valued landscapes and environmental resources. <p>(ii) To promote more sustainable patterns of development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focusing most development in, or next to, existing towns and villages; • preventing urban sprawl; • discouraging the development of 'greenfield' 	<p>No specific targets.</p>	<p>Status: Government policy</p>	<p>and safe environment for businesses, shoppers and residents.</p> <p>The SA should consider potential synergies and conflicts between the range of policy objectives.</p>
<p>PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (OMDP 2004)</p> <p>Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_030148.hcsp</p>			
<p>Within the broader context of the Government's sustainable development policy the PPS suggests: Good quality, carefully-sited accessible development within existing towns and villages should be allowed where it benefits the local economy and/or community (e.g. affordable housing for identified local needs); maintains or enhances the local environment; and does not conflict with other planning policies.</p> <p>Accessibility should be a key consideration in all development decisions. Most developments which are likely to generate large numbers of trips should be located in or next to towns or other service centres that are accessible by</p> <p>The SA objectives and appraisal should take account of the specific issues affecting rural areas.</p> <p>There are potential conflicts between the aim of protecting the countryside and economic development required to maintain and enhance thriving rural communities.</p>			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>land, and, where such land must be used, ensuring it is not used wastefully;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting a range of uses to maximise the potential benefits of the countryside fringing urban areas; and • providing appropriate leisure opportunities to enable urban and rural dwellers to enjoy the wider countryside. <p>(iii) Promoting the development of the English regions by improving their economic performance so that all are able to reach their full potential - by developing competitive, diverse and thriving rural enterprise that provides a range of jobs and underpins strong economies.</p> <p>(iv) To promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors where farming achieves high environmental standards, minimising impact on natural resources, and manages valued landscapes and biodiversity; contributes both directly and indirectly to rural economic diversity; is itself competitive and profitable; and provides high quality products that the public wants.</p>		<p>public transport, walking and cycling, in line with the policies set out in PPG13, Transport. Decisions on the location of other developments in rural areas should, where possible, give people the greatest opportunity to access them by public transport, walking and cycling, consistent with achieving the primary purpose of the development.</p> <p>New building development in the open countryside away from existing settlements, or outside areas allocated for development in development plans, should be strictly controlled; the Government's overall aim is to protect the countryside for the sake of its intrinsic character and beauty, the diversity of its landscapes, heritage and wildlife, the wealth of its natural resources and so it may be enjoyed by all.</p> <p>Priority should be given to the re-use of previously-developed ('brownfield') sites in preference to the development of greenfield sites, except in cases where there are no brownfield</p>	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>Within the context of the Government's vision for conserving and enhancing biological diversity in England set out in Working with the grain of nature: a biodiversity strategy for England the key objectives are:</p> <p>To promote sustainable development - by ensuring that biodiversity is conserved and enhanced as an integral part of economic, social and environmental development, so that policies and decisions about the development and use of land integrate biodiversity with other considerations.</p> <p>To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology - by sustaining, and where possible improving, the</p>		<p>sites available, or these brownfield sites perform so poorly in terms of sustainability considerations (for example, in their remoteness from settlements and services) in comparison with greenfield sites.</p> <p>All development in rural areas should be well designed and inclusive, in keeping and scale with its location, and sensitive to the character of the countryside and local distinctiveness.</p>	
<p>PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM 2005)</p> <p>http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143832</p>			
<p>Within the context of the Government's vision for conserving and enhancing biological diversity in England set out in Working with the grain of nature: a biodiversity strategy for England the key objectives are:</p> <p>To promote sustainable development - by ensuring that biodiversity is conserved and enhanced as an integral part of economic, social and environmental development, so that policies and decisions about the development and use of land integrate biodiversity with other considerations.</p> <p>To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology - by sustaining, and where possible improving, the</p>	<p>No specific targets.</p>	<p>The PPS states that local planning authorities should adhere to the following key principles to ensure that the potential impacts of planning decisions on biodiversity and geological conservation are fully considered:</p> <p>(i) Development plan policies and planning decisions should be based upon up-to-date information about the environmental</p>	<p>Nature conservation is a central tenet of sustainable development. The SA objectives will include an objective to maintain and enhance biodiversity against which to evaluate the degree to which the LDF seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>quality and extent of natural habitat and geological and geomorphological sites; the natural physical processes on which they depend; and the populations of naturally occurring species which they support.</p> <p>to contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and among developments so that they are used by wildlife and valued by people, recognising that healthy functional ecosystems can contribute to a better quality of life and to people's sense of well-being; and – ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment. 		<p>characteristics of their areas. These characteristics should include the relevant biodiversity and geological resources of the area. In reviewing environmental characteristics local authorities should assess the potential to sustain and enhance those resources.</p> <p>(ii) Plan policies and planning decisions should aim to maintain, and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests. In taking decisions, local planning authorities should ensure that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national and local importance; protected species; and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment.</p> <p>(iii) Plan policies on the form and location of development should take a strategic</p>	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		<p>approach to the conservation, enhancement and restoration of biodiversity and geology, and recognise the contributions that sites, areas and features, both individually and in combination, make to conserving these resources.</p> <p>(iv) Plan policies should promote opportunities for the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity and geological features within the design of development.</p> <p>(v) Development proposals where the principal objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests should be permitted.</p> <p>(vi) The aim of planning decisions should be to prevent harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests. Where granting planning permission would result in significant</p>	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		<p>harm to those interests, local planning authorities will need to be satisfied that the development cannot reasonably be located on any alternative sites that would result in less or no harm. In the absence of any such alternatives, local planning authorities should ensure that, before planning permission is granted, adequate mitigation measures are put in place. Where a planning decision would result in significant harm to biodiversity and geological interests which cannot be prevented or adequately mitigated against, appropriate compensation measures should be sought. If that significant harm cannot be prevented, adequately mitigated against, or compensated for, then planning permission should be refused.</p>	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>Key objectives relevant to plan and SA</p>	<p>Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA</p>	<p>With respect to Local Development Documents it states that they should:</p> <p>(i) indicate the location of designated sites of importance for biodiversity and geodiversity, making clear distinctions between the hierarchy of international, national, regional and locally designated sites; and</p> <p>(ii) identify any areas or sites for the restoration or creation of new priority habitats which contribute to regional targets, and support this restoration or creation through appropriate policies.</p>	<p>Implications for SA</p>
<p>PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (2005)</p>			
<p>http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143834</p> <p>The land-use planning system has an important role to play in achieving sustainable waste management. It should meet the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy, addressing waste as a resource and looking to disposal as the last option, but one which must be adequately 	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>The core strategy should set out policies and proposals for waste management in line with the RSS and ensure sufficient opportunities for the provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations including for waste</p>	<p>The SA objectives should include objectives devoted to waste minimisation and appropriate waste management.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>catered for;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste, and enable sufficient and timely provision of waste management facilities to meet the needs of their communities; help implement the national waste strategy, and supporting targets, are consistent with obligations required under European legislation and support and complement other guidance and legal controls such as those set out in the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994; help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment, and enable waste to be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations; reflect the concerns and interests of communities, the needs of waste collection authorities, waste disposal authorities and business, and encourage competitiveness; protect green belts but recognise the particular locational needs of some types of waste management facilities when defining detailed green belt boundaries and, in determining planning applications, that these locational needs, together with the wider environmental and economic benefits of sustainable waste management, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be given planning permission; ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste 		<p>disposal. The core strategy should both inform and in turn be informed by any relevant municipal waste management strategy.</p> <p>The Planning Obligations SPD should support the provision of waste management facilities.</p>	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
management.			
PPS12: Local Development Frameworks (ODPM September 2004)			
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_031155.hcsp			
<p>This PPS sets out the Government's policy on the preparation of local development documents which will comprise the local development framework.</p> <p>The key aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. flexibility. Local planning authorities can respond to changing local circumstances and ensure that spatial plans are prepared and reviewed more quickly than development plans under the old system; ii. strengthening community and stakeholder involvement in the development of local communities. Local communities and all stakeholders will be involved from the outset and throughout the preparation of local development documents; iii. front loading. Local planning authorities should take key decisions early in the preparation of local development documents. The aim will be to seek consensus on essential issues early in the preparation of local development documents and so avoid late changes being made; iv. sustainability appraisal. To ensure that local development documents are prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development; v. programme management. The efficient management of the programme for the 	<p>No specific targets.</p>	<p>This PPS provides the key policy framework for the plan.</p>	<p>This PPS provides the key policy framework for the SA. Supplementary guidance provides the methodological framework for undertaking the SA.</p>
Status: Government policy			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>preparation of a range of local development documents in accordance with the local development scheme; and</p> <p>vi. soundness. Local development documents must be soundly based in terms of their content and the process by which they are produced. They must also be based upon a robust, credible evidence base.</p>			
<p>PPS 22: Renewable Energy (ODPM August 2004)</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_030334_hcsp</p>			
<p>Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should adhere to the following key principles in their approach to planning for renewable energy:</p> <p>(i) Renewable energy developments should be capable of being accommodated throughout England in locations where the technology is viable and environmental, economic, and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily.</p> <p>(ii) Regional spatial strategies and local development documents should contain policies designed to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the development of renewable energy resources. Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should recognise the full range of renewable energy sources, their differing characteristics, locational requirements and the potential for exploiting them subject to appropriate environmental safeguards.</p> <p>(iii) At the local level, planning authorities</p>	<p>No specific targets, but there is a requirement for regional authorities to establish regional targets for renewable energy generation as follows:</p> <p>The Regional Spatial Strategy should include the target for renewable energy capacity in the region, derived from assessments of the region's renewable energy resource potential, and taking into account the regional environmental, economic and social impacts (either positive or negative) that may result from exploitation of that resource potential.</p> <p>Targets should be expressed as the minimum amount of installed capacity for renewable energy in the region, expressed in megawatts, and may also be expressed in terms of the percentage of electricity consumed or supplied.</p> <p>Targets should be set for achievement by 2010 and by 2020. Progress towards achieving these targets should be monitored by regional planning bodies. Targets should be reviewed on a regular basis and revised upwards (if they are met) subject to the region's renewable energy</p>	<p>The plan should consider renewable energy requirements against Regional targets, noting that:</p> <p>Local planning authorities should only allocate specific sites for renewable energy in plans where a developer has already indicated an interest in the site, has confirmed that the site is viable, and that it will be brought forward during the plan period. Planning applications for renewable energy projects should be assessed against specific criteria set out in regional spatial strategies and local development documents. Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should ensure that such criteria-based</p>	<p>Climate change is one of the most pressing sustainability issues and the SA will include the objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including by increasing renewable energy usage. There are potential conflicts with other objectives for some types of renewable energy developments.</p>
<p>Status: Government policy</p>			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>should set out the criteria that will be applied in assessing applications for planning permission for renewable energy projects. Planning policies that rule out or place constraints on the development of all, or specific types of, renewable energy technologies should not be included in regional spatial strategies or local development documents without sufficient reasoned justification. The Government may intervene in the plan making process where it considers that the constraints being proposed by local authorities are too great or have been poorly justified.</p> <p>(iv) The wider environmental and economic benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects, whatever their scale, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be granted planning permission.</p> <p>(v) Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should not make assumptions about the technical and commercial feasibility of renewable energy projects (e.g. identifying generalised locations for development based on mean wind speeds). Technological change can mean that sites currently excluded as locations for particular types of renewable energy development may in future be suitable.</p> <p>(vi) Small-scale projects can provide a limited but valuable contribution to overall outputs of renewable energy and to meeting energy needs both locally and nationally. Planning authorities should not therefore</p>	<p>resource potential and the capacity of the environment in the region for further renewable energy developments. The fact that a target has been reached should not be used in itself as a reason for refusing planning permission for further renewable energy projects. (Note the PPS also refers to offshore sources which are not relevant for NHDC)</p>	<p>policies are consistent with, or reinforced by, policies in plans on other issues against which renewable energy applications could be assessed.</p>	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>reject planning applications simply because the level of output is small.</p> <p>(vii) Local planning authorities, regional stakeholders and Local Strategic Partnerships should foster community involvement in renewable energy projects³ and seek to promote knowledge of and greater acceptance by the public of prospective renewable energy developments that are appropriately located. Developers of renewable energy projects should engage in active consultation and discussion with local communities at an early stage in the planning process, and before any planning application is formally submitted.</p> <p>(viii) Development proposals should demonstrate any environmental, economic and social benefits as well as how any environmental and social impacts have been minimised through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures.</p>			
<p>PPS 23 Planning and Pollution Control</p> <p>Source - http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505140</p>			
<p>Sets out the Government's advice on planning and pollution control and is intended to complement the new pollution control framework Prevention and Control Act 1999 and the PPC regulations. The following key principles apply to planning for pollution control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – any consideration of the quality of land, air or water and potential impacts arising from development, possibly leading to impacts on 	<p>Monitoring of carbon emissions</p> <p>assessment of contamination reports submitted for planning applications</p> <p>Ensuring that pollution control is submitted to the LPA</p>	<p>Planning applications should require the relevant pollution assessments</p>	<p>Objectives relating to brownfield sites especially the need to ensure that pollution on previously contaminated brownfield land is not spread</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>health, is capable of being a material planning consideration, in so far as it arises or may arise from or may affect any land use;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the planning system plays a key role in determining the location of development which may give rise to pollution, either directly or indirectly, and in ensuring that other uses and developments are not, as far as possible, affected by major existing or potential sources of pollution; – the controls under the planning and pollution control regimes should complement rather than duplicate each other; – the presence of contamination in land can present risks to human health and the environment, which adversely affect or restrict the beneficial use of land but development presents an opportunity to deal with these risks successfully; – contamination is not restricted to land with previous industrial uses, it can occur on greenfield as well as previously developed land and it can arise from natural sources as well as from human activities; – where pollution issues are likely to arise, intending developers should hold informal pre-application discussions with the LPA, the relevant pollution control authority and/or the environmental health departments of local authorities (LAs), and other authorities and stakeholders with a legitimate interest; and – where it will save time and money, consideration should be given to submitting applications for planning permission and pollution control permits in parallel and co-ordinating their consideration by the relevant authorities. 			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p align="center">Draft Supplement to PPS1 – Planning and Climate Change (December 2006)</p> <p>Source - http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505140</p>			
<p>Regional planning bodies and all planning authorities should adhere to the following principles in preparing and delivering spatial strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the planned provision for new development and its spatial distribution should contribute to mitigating climate change through improvements in carbon performance. - In turn, planning authorities should prepare local development documents consistent with the regional spatial strategy (RSS); new development should be located and designed to optimise its carbon performance and limit its likely contribution to carbon emissions. Specifically, substantial new development⁵ should be expected to consider and take into account the potential of decentralised energy supply systems based on renewable and low-carbon energy; - new development should be located and designed for the climate, and impacts, it is likely to experience over its intended lifetime; - climate change considerations should be integrated into all spatial planning concerns, including transport, housing, economic growth and regeneration, water supply and waste management, and not considered separately; - mitigation and adaptation should not be considered in isolation of each other, and 	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Regional planning bodies, and all planning authorities should prepare and deliver spatial strategies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - make a full contribution to delivering the Government's Climate Change Programme and energy policies, and in doing so contribute to global sustainability; - in enabling the provision of new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure and shaping the places where people live and work, secure the highest viable standards of resource and energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions; - deliver patterns of urban growth that help secure the fullest possible use of sustainable transport for moving freight, public transport, cycling and 	<p>The SA/SEA should take account of the effect of all policies on climate change and the ability to deal with the impacts of climate change.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>opportunities for their integration in the development of spatial strategies, and their delivery, should be maximised;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sustainability appraisal (incorporating strategic environmental assessment) should be applied so as to shape planning strategies and policies that support the Key Planning Objectives set out in this PPS. Weight should be given to securing benefits which, although not immediately available, would help deliver longer term sustainability; and, - appropriate indicators should be selected and monitored and reported on in regional planning bodies' and planning authorities' annual monitoring reports. Such monitoring should be the basis on which regional planning bodies and planning authorities periodically review and roll forward their planning strategies. Reviews should reflect future updates to the national Climate Change Programme, be sensitive to scientific and technological developments, and be carried out at least every five years, or sooner where there are signs that the spatial strategy in its implementation is insufficiently contributing to the delivery of the Key Planning Objectives set out in this PPS. 		<p>walking; and, overall, reduce the need to travel, especially by car;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - secure new development and shape places resilient to the effects of climate change in ways consistent with social cohesion and inclusion; sustain biodiversity, and in doing so recognise that the distribution of habitats and species will be affected by climate change; - reflect the development needs and interests of communities and enable them to contribute effectively to tackling climate change; and, - respond to the concerns of business and encourage competitiveness and technological innovation. 	
Planning for a Sustainable Future – White Paper 2007			
Source - http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1510502			
For the town and country planning system, the	Not applicable	The White Paper sets out a wide-ranging package of reforms to streamline	There are no implications for the SA at this time.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>White Paper propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> produce a more strategic, clearer and more focused national planning policy framework with PPS1 – Delivering Sustainable Development at its heart, to provide the context for plan-making and decision-taking; publish a new Planning Policy Statement, Planning for Economic Development, which will further reinforce the Government’s commitment set out in PPS1 to promoting a strong, stable and productive economy with access for all to jobs, improve the effectiveness of the town centre planning policy by replacing the need and impact tests with a new test which has a strong focus on our town centre first policy, and which promotes competition and improves consumer choice, avoiding the unintended effects of the current need test; finalise the Planning Policy Statement on climate change and introduce legislation to set out clearly the role of local planning authorities in tackling energy efficiency and climate change; work with industry to set in place a timetable and action plan to deliver substantial reductions in carbon emissions from new commercial buildings within the next 10 years; review and wherever possible extend permitted development rights on microgeneration to non residential types of land use including commercial and agricultural development; 		<p>further the process in the town and country planning system, improve the ability of local authorities to shape their local communities, and ensure that there is a stronger approach to supporting sustainable economic development alongside work to tackle climate change in a way that is integrated with the delivery of other sustainable development objectives.</p> <p>There are no implications for the plan at this time.</p>	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> place planning at the heart of local government by aligning the Sustainable Community Strategy and the local development framework core strategy. We will also work with the Local Government Association and others to continue building capacity, promoting culture change in planning and we will issue 'place shaping' guidance; introduce changes to local development frameworks to ensure a more streamlined and tailored process with more flexibility about the number and type of plans, how they are produced and a more meaningful, engaged level of community involvement; introduce Planning Performance Agreements, which will help streamline the processing of major applications, and support a properly resourced planning service with changes to planning fees and consult on devolving the setting of planning fees to local authorities; introduce a new impact approach to householder development which will reduce the number of minor applications whilst protecting the interests of neighbours, the wider community and the environment, and then extend this approach to other types of development; and streamline the <u>planning application</u> 			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>process, reduce the number of applications called in by ministers and introduce a range of measures to substantially improve the appeals process.</p>			
English Heritage: Retail Development in Historic Areas			
Source : www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Retail_Development_in_Historic_Areas.pdf			
<p>This report provides an overview of the challenge facing retail development in historic areas, trends in retailing and a series of case studies and guidance for achieving high quality new retail development within an historic context. Given the concerns of the SPD that the historic environment is limiting retail development within Royston.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>The implications for retail development in an historic environment</p>	<p>Conserving the historic environment is important to sustainable development. The District's cultural heritage is an irreplaceable resource. An SEA/ SA objective should aim to protect or enhance the historic environment.</p>
English Heritage: Regeneration and the Historic Environment			
Source: www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Regeneration_and_the_Historic_Environment_2005.pdf			
<p>This report sets out clear principles which English Heritage would like to be applied in the case of regeneration opportunities, which would include identified sites within Royston town centre.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>The need for conservation to be a key priority as part of the town centre strategy.</p>	<p>Conserving the historic environment is important to sustainable development. The District's cultural heritage is an irreplaceable resource. An SEA/ SA objective should aim to protect or enhance the</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
English Heritage: Streets for All			
Source : www.helm.org.uk			
Provides advice to improve public realm and streetscapes within historic areas.	Not applicable	The need for conservation to be a key priority as part of the town centre strategy.	Conserving the historic environment is important to sustainable development. The District's cultural heritage is an irreplaceable resource. An SEA/ SA objective should aim to protect or enhance the historic environment.

Regional and Sub-Regional Plans, Programmes and Policies

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>East of England Plan: Revision to the RSS for the East of England (May 2008)</p> <p>Source: http://www.gos.gov.uk/goeast/planning/regional_planning/</p>			
<p>As agreed by the Secretary of State are:</p> <p>Overall Spatial Vision</p> <p>“By 2021 the East of England will be realising its economic potential and providing a high quality of life for its people by meeting their housing needs in sustainable and inclusive communities. At the same time it will reduce its impact on climate change and the environment through savings in energy and water use and by strengthening its stock of environmental assets.”</p> <p>objectives:</p> <p>(i): To reduce the region’s impact on, and exposure to, the effects of</p>	<p>EERA’s proposals for implementing and monitoring the East of England Plan are set out in its Implementation and Monitoring Framework . EERA will be revising the implementation and monitoring framework to ensure it is in line with the final Plan.</p> <p>The plan sets targets in respect of its own key objectives and other regional policies. Most key targets are quantified, but some are set as general aims, such as ‘to reduce unemployment’.</p> <p>The plan proposes a number of indicators relating to both specific targets and regional context. These fall into a number of different groups: output/outcome indicators, contextual indicators, significant effects indicators and process indicators.</p> <p>.The process of developing the plan</p>	<p>Provides key regional policy framework for the LDF.</p>	<p>The regional issues and objectives outlined in the plan, and its SA, will inform the development of the LDF SA framework.</p> <p>The indicators proposed in the plan and its SA will inform the indicators to be used for the baseline data for the LDF SA.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>climate change by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • locating development so as to reduce the need to travel; • effecting a major shift in travel away from car use towards public transport, walking and cycling; • maximising the energy efficiency of development and promoting the use of renewable and low carbon energy sources; and • reducing the risk of adverse impact of flooding on people, property and wildlife habitats. <p>(ii): To address housing shortages in the region by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • securing a step change in the delivery of additional housing throughout the region, particularly the key centres for development and change; and • giving priority to the provision of affordable housing to meet identified needs. <p>(iii): To realise the economic potential of the region and its people by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating the development needed to support the region's business sectors and clusters, improving skills and widening opportunities in line with the Regional Economic Strategy; • providing for job growth broadly matching increases in housing provision and improving the alignment between the locations of workplaces and homes; • maintaining and strengthening the East of England's inter-regional 	<p>has been subject to a thorough SA, which includes consideration of 138 indicators, although not all have been quantified in the baseline because of lack of available relevant data.</p>		

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>connections by improving access to economic opportunities in London; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring adequate and sustainable transport infrastructure. <p>(iv): To improve the quality of life for the people of the region by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring new development fulfils the principles of sustainable communities, providing a well designed living environment adequately supported by social and green infrastructure; • promoting social cohesion by improving access to work, services and other facilities, especially for those who are disadvantaged; • maintaining cultural diversity while addressing the distinctive needs of each part of the region; • promoting regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas; and • increasing community involvement in the implementation of the strategy at the local level. <p>(v): To improve and conserve the region's environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring the protection and enhancement of the region's environmental assets, including the built and historic environment, landscape and water; • re-using previously developed land and seeking environmental as well as development gains from the use of previously undeveloped land; • protecting and, where appropriate, 			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>enhancing biodiversity through the protection of habitats and species and creating new habitats through development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing a network of accessible multi-functional greenspace; and reducing the demand for and use of water and other natural resources and reducing waste, whilst increasing the sustainable management of waste. 			
<p>East of England Plan: Sustainability Appraisal Report (November 2004)</p> <p>Source: http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=382</p>			
<p>Appraisal Framework contains a set of sustainable development objectives</p>	<p>Comprehensive set of targets and indicators contained in baseline review</p>	<p>The appraisal should be read in conjunction with the East of England Plan: it gives additional information on how to apply the Plan in a sustainable way.</p>	<p>This is a key document to consider when developing the appraisal framework. The results of the appraisal of policies relevant to the District should also inform the appraisal process.</p>
<p>Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England (Feb 2005)</p> <p>Source: http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=47 and</p>			
<p>The Strategy states its key objectives as the following high level outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> an exceptional knowledge base and a dynamic economy in the region opportunities for everyone to contribute to – and benefit from – the region's economic dynamism 	<p>The IRS includes no specific targets, although it does note 'the need for a set of PSA targets that are much more closely attuned to the needs of this region'. The IRS expresses reluctance to suggest a new set of performance indicators, but suggests, that once</p>	<p>The IRS draws on existing regional strategies to present a 'Vision and a series of high level outcomes' for the region in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a joined-up statement of regional priorities To flag any areas in which existing regional strategies are 	<p>The regional Vision, high level outcomes and priorities identified in the IRS will inform the SA framework and the issues to be considered in the SA.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>3. strong, inclusive, healthy and culturally rich communities</p> <p>4. a high quality and diverse natural and built environment</p> <p>5. a more resource-efficient region</p> <p>It identifies the following 8 Crucial Regional Issues that must be confronted and resolved, noting that all are complex and include elements that are contradictory:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing supply, growth and sustainability 2. Transport, travel and infrastructure 3. Building the knowledge economy 4. Skills and labour supply 5. Deprivation and access to services 6. Health and well being 7. Rural issues 8. Resource issues <p>From the above 5 Priorities are identified for the region:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Achieve high quality and sustainable solutions in Growth Areas and other parts of the region facing growth and regeneration pressures 2. Harness fully the region's strengths in science, research and development, and in surrounding commercialisation processes 3. Address the causes and implications of persistent deprivation and social exclusion wherever it exists in the region 4. Effect a step-change in the efficiency of resource use and the 	<p>the current review of the performance management framework for RDAs is completed, the EERA should review the performance management systems behind the other regional strategies, particularly in relation to the current set of indicators for the Regional Sustainable Development Framework, which are included as an Annex. It suggests that should be possible to identify a 'modest number of headline indicators on which progress towards the Vision, high level outcomes and priorities might be assessed.'</p>	<p>actually or potentially conflicting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To suggest processes through which tensions between regional strategies might be mitigated and resolved • To provide an overarching context for the development of regional strategies in the future, building on the current Regional SDF • To provide a clear statement to central government of priorities for the East of England at a regional level. <p>The IRS is intended to integrate the regional Environmental, Economic, Spatial, Housing, Social, Cultural and Health Strategies, within the context of the Regional Sustainable Development Framework, in order to provide the regional strategic context for the development of sub-regional and local strategies and plans.</p>	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>management of the region's distinctive natural and built environmental assets</p> <p>5. Capture the benefits from – and manage the impacts of – the region's international gateways and national transport corridors</p>			
<p>A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (Oct 2001)</p> <p>Source: http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Sustainable%20Development/SDF.pdf Trends supplement: http://www.sustainability-east.com/Reports/Trends%20Supplement.pdf</p>			
<p>To plan for an improving quality of life for the people of the East of England which is sustainable for the long-term future and, in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enable its potential for economic growth to be achieved in a balanced way, in the interests of all the people of the region and the UK and beyond. 2. Spread the benefits of growth more equally, so as to reduce poverty, crime, ill health and social exclusion and reduce inequalities. 3. Foster a sense of well-being and self-worth by enabling people to achieve their full potential, and providing for rewarding employment, learning and leisure. 4. Protect and enhance the quality of the region's natural and built environment. 5. Manage the use of resources 	<p>The framework does not contain quantified targets, but does include 84 indicators under the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth • To deliver more sustainable patterns of location of development, including employment and housing • To protect and maintain our most valuable regional assets such as designated habitats, landscapes of natural beauty, and our historic built heritage, and to improve the wider environment by means of adequate investment and management • To reduce our consumption of fossil fuels • To achieve a more equitable sharing of the benefits of 	<p>Provides key regional policy framework for sustainable development.</p>	<p>The regional issues and objectives outlined in the SDF will inform the development of the LDF SA framework.</p> <p>The indicators proposed will inform the indicators to be used for the baseline data for the LDF SA.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>sustainably and innovatively, in order to minimise the region's global environmental impact.</p> <p>The framework identifies the following 21 key sustainability issues for the region:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The economy 2. Location of growth 3. Transport 4. Rural issues 5. Agriculture, food and forestry 6. Poverty and deprivation 7. Health 8. Crime 9. Culture 10. Tourism 11. Community participation 12. Learning and skills 13. Natural environment 14. Historic and built environment 15. Global impact 16. Living with climate change 17. Energy 18. Local environmental quality 19. Waste 20. Water resources and quality 21. Minerals <p>It sets out key objectives, together with context, regional strengths and challenges for each issue.</p>	<p>prosperity across all sectors of society and fairer access to services, focusing on deprived areas in the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To use natural resources, both finite and renewable, as efficiently as possible, and re-use finite resources or recycled alternatives wherever possible • To minimise our production of by-products or wastes, aiming for 'closed systems' where possible • To avoid using the global environment to underwrite our own unsustainable way of life (e.g. dependence on unsustainably produced and/or transported food imports or timber) <p>The values and interpretation of these indicators are presented in a separate supplement to the SDF which was most recently updated in July 2003 (see source reference above).</p>		

County Plans, Programmes and Policies

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 - 2010/11</p> <p>Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrcouncil/hcc/env/plan/transplan/loctranspln/</p>			
<p>The 9 key objective of the LTP are:</p> <p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve safety for all by giving the highest priority to minimising the number of collisions and injuries occurring as a result of the transport system. <p>Congestion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To obtain the best use of the existing network through effective design, maintenance and management. To manage the growth of transport and travel volumes across the county, and thereby secure improvements in the predictability of travel time. To develop an efficient, safe, affordable and enhanced transport system which is attractive, reliable, integrated and makes best use of resources. <p>Accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a transport system 	<p>The plan includes targets and indicators, primarily the 17 mandatory indicators required by the DfT, supplemented with 5 local ones.</p>	<p>The LDF should include policies that promote the sustainable transport aims of the LTP.</p>	<p>Access and transport are key aspects of sustainable development that need to be considered in the SA. Transport-related issues will be relevant to many SA objectives.</p> <p>Traffic flows in Hertfordshire are 35% above the national average posing a threat to Quality of Life in terms of safety, congestion, access and environmental impacts. The LTP attributes high levels of traffic to many interacting factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> over 1 million residents spread amongst a dozen medium sized towns (more than 25,000 population) and many more smaller towns; villages are generally no more than 5 to 10 miles from a town creating complex journey patterns. neighbouring London attracts large commuting flows; rail services do not provide for east-west movements; the county sits astride three of the most important national routes (M25, M1 and A1(M));

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>that provides access to employment, shopping, education, leisure and health facilities for all, including those without a car and those with impaired mobility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the transport system contributes towards improving the efficiency of commerce and industry and the provision of sustainable economic development in appropriate locations. <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mitigate the effect of the transport system on the built and natural environment and on personal health. To raise awareness and encourage use of more sustainable modes of transport through effective promotion, publicity, information and education. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce the need for the movement of people and goods through integrated land use planning, the promotion of sustainable distribution and the use of telecommunications. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> car ownership is the sixth highest in the country. 40% of households have 2 or more cars. Access to key services, particularly healthcare, is difficult by sustainable transport.
<p>SEA of Local Transport Plan 2006/7 - 2010-2011</p> <p>http://www.hertsdirect.co.uk/infobase/docs/pdfstore/ltpsea.pdf</p>			
Appraisal Framework contains a set of sustainable development	Comprehensive set of targets and indicators contained in baseline review	The appraisal should be read in conjunction with the LTP: it gives	The results of the appraisal of policies relevant to the District should also
<p>Status: Formal SEA undertaken by Hertfordshire County Council</p>			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA objectives	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Northern Hertfordshire Area Transport Plan			
Source:			
<p>District Transport Plan conforming to the objectives of the County LTP, with the following local objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 To reduce transport impacts on health, safety and environment of the community. 2 To improve personal security and safety to promote the use of other modes. 3 To promote a safe and sustainable means of movement. 4 To minimise the need to travel. 5 To improve access to services and facilities by passenger transport, cycling and walking. 6 To improve the connectivity of transport modes and enhance interchanges. 7 To promote the vitality of towns and local facilities. 8 To ensure adequate accessibility for all people to facilities. 9 To reduce community severance. 10 To reduce casualties on the transport network. <p>These are categorised under the</p>	<p>The plan sets out the following targets derived from the LTP for each theme:</p> <p>ENVIRONMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To not exceed the recommended level of nitrogen dioxide by more than 18 times per year. • To reduce the distance travelled per person by 5% by 2021. • To reduce the car use modal share from 72.07% to 65.5% by 2021. <p>ECONOMIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the car use modal share from 72.07% to 65.5% by 2021. • To increase footfall by 5% in our towns by 2021. <p>ACCESSIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the car use modal share from 72.07% to 65.5% by 2021 <p>SAFETY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the distance travelled per person by 5% by 2021. • To contribute to the countywide target to reduce the number of killed and seriously injured casualties <p>INTEGRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the distance travelled per person by 5% by 2021. 	<p>The LDF should include policies that promote the sustainable transport aims of the LTP and the ATP.</p>	<p>Access and transport are key aspects of sustainable development that need to be considered in the SA. Transport-related issues will be relevant to many SA objectives.</p>
Status: Adopted 2004			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment: 1, 3, 4, 5 • Economic 2, 6, 7 • Accessibility 8, 9, 10 • Safety 2, 3, 10 • Integration 4 			
<p>A 50 Year Vision for the Wildlife and Natural Habitats of Hertfordshire BAP (April 1998)</p>			
<p>Source: http://hef.org.uk/nature/biodiversity/</p>			
<p>The Herts BAP was drawn up in response to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan published in January 1994 and the detailed report, Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report, published December 1995 which includes detailed action plans for threatened habitats and species. It aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that national targets for species and habitats, as specified in the UK Action Plan, are translated into effective action at the local level. • To identify targets for species and habitats appropriate to the local area, and reflecting the values of people locally. • To develop effective local partnerships to ensure that programmes for biodiversity conservation are maintained in the long-term. • To raise awareness of the need for biodiversity conservation in the local 	<p>The plan evaluates the status of habitats and species in the county and identifies key habitats and species of national and local significance and High Biodiversity Areas. The plan contains targets in respect of its planned actions, many of which are specific and detailed. The plan stresses that a BAP is both a product and on-going process. The agreed objectives for the BAP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a plan partnership through identifying and consulting key partners in the process. • To produce an overview of our present knowledge of the biodiversity resource in the county. • To prepare a series of prioritised habitat action plans to guide work on protecting, restoring and re-creating a sustainable level of biodiversity in the county. • Within each habitat action plan to identify detailed targets reflecting both national and local importance for the first ten years. • To identify a list of priority species for the preparation of action plans. Concise target statements should be 	<p>In considering the relations with other plans the BAP states: 'Local Biodiversity Action Plans link to the statutory planning process in two ways. Information generated by the local biodiversity plans can provide detailed information for revision of development plans, for example, the identification of High Biodiversity Areas. In addition, the statutory planning process can make a major contribution to achievement of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets, in particular through policies for site protection and enhancement and the creation of new habitats in appropriate locations.'</p>	<p>Biodiversity is a key aspect of sustainable development that needs to be included within the SA framework. The baseline review should include indicators of biodiversity.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that opportunities for conservation and enhancement of the whole biodiversity resource are fully considered. To provide a basis for monitoring progress in biodiversity conservation, at both local and national level. Within each habitat and species action plan to identify delivery mechanisms and sources of finance and advice. To publish the plan and implement the agreed programme of action. To establish a long term monitoring programme to measure the effectiveness of the Plan in achieving national and local targets. 	<p>prepared for all chosen species.</p> <p>Relevant information is held at the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre: http://enquire.hertsc.gov.uk/hbrc/default.html</p>		
<p>The Hertfordshire Environmental Strategy (June 2001)</p> <p>Status: adopted June 2001</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/vrccouncil/hcc/env/plan/issues/envstrat/</p> <p>The HES is intended as a framework for other actions rather than a separate strategy. As set out at the above link it appears to be a standard statement of sustainability principles with little addition detail or specific consideration of environmental issues.</p>	<p>No targets or indicators are suggested at the above link.</p>	<p>As set out, the HES has little or no direct relevance to the NHDC LDF. The general principles of sustainability will be considered in relation to other more comprehensive strategies.</p>	<p>The general principles will be included in the SA framework, but the HES appears to add nothing to these.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Economic Development Strategy for Hertfordshire 2000-2005 (Oct 2000)			
<p>Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrcouncil/hcc/env/you/ECDU/publist/edstrategy</p> <p>The key objectives of the EDS are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a learning environment for all 2. Develop a business friendly environment (and actively promote economic growth in selected activities) 3. Strike a balance between the built and natural environment 4. Promote social inclusion 	<p>The strategy includes targets within its action plans. Many of these are expressed in general terms, some are specific to detailed actions and some of quantified, generally in relation to existing targets, for instance, the Herts Learning Targets are set slightly above National Targets (for 2002). The strategy does not contain any specific indicators, but at the time of publication these were being developed in conjunction with the University of Reading.</p>	<p>The key objectives of the EDS need to be considered in relation to the NHDC LDF, but few of the detailed planned actions are directly relevant.</p>	<p>See previous column.</p>
Hertfordshire Town Renaissance Campaign			
<p>Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrcouncil/hcc/env/plan/homes/campaignreport/</p> <p>Report of consultation exercise on urban development issues in Hertfordshire, and particularly attitudes and issues associated with brownfield development</p>	<p>Not applicable – reports findings of consultation exercise.</p>	<p>Not a policy document, but the findings should be considered as context to aspects of the LDF.</p>	<p>Context for SA</p>
Hertfordshire Waste Strategy 2002-2024			
<p>Source: http://www.wasteaware.org.uk/strategy/fullversion2.pdf</p>			
<p>A Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Hertfordshire setting out how waste problems are to be addressed over the next 2</p>	<p>The strategy includes detailed targets, mainly based on PSA and other existing targets. It does not contain any indicators as such, but they are implicit for many of the targets.</p>	<p>This strategy is only marginally relevant to the LDF to the extent that planning policies may effect the delivery of the waste strategy.</p>	<p>Management of waste is an important SD issue that needs to be considered in the SA.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
decades.			
Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan 1995-2005 (1999) Status: Adopted Jan 1999			
<p>Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/wlp.pdf</p> <p>The aims and objectives of the Waste Local Plan are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate the provision of sufficient waste management facilities in Hertfordshire to accommodate the equivalent of the County's own arisings; • To recognise that waste management generates employment and is part of the infrastructure which supports business in general; • To locate waste recycling, handling and reduction facilities as close as practicable to the origin of waste; • To promote the development of waste management facilities which increase the proportion of waste managed further up the waste hierarchy; • To minimise the traffic generating effects of waste management development; • To mitigate against the possible effects of greenhouse gases; • To reduce the overall demand for resources (including land); • To involve the wider community in the waste 	<p>The plan includes detailed targets. It does not contain any indicators as such, but they are implicit for many of the targets.</p>	<p>Relevant, now extended to 2007 to allow for transition to MWDF (see below).</p>	<p>Management of waste is an important SD issue that needs to be considered in the SA.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>management debate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the increased use of recycled waste materials as aggregate in Hertfordshire; To facilitate a shift away from road transport as the principal means of transporting waste; To minimise the impact of waste management development on the natural and built environment; To maximise the recovery of value (including energy) from waste, where this represents the Best Practicable Environmental Option; To adopt the Best Practicable Environmental Option when considering alternative forms of waste management development. 			
<p>Hertfordshire Sustainability Guide (March 2003)</p> <p>Status: Guidance note</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/susguide.pdf</p> <p>The guidance is set out under 3 key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable communities (SC) Economic vitality (EV) Healthy environment (HE) <p>Each theme is divided into a number of topics with aims and more detailed guidance as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC1 Ensuring that everyone has a Decent Home SC2 Tackling the Causes of Poverty and Social Exclusion SC3 Creating Safe Communities 	<p>The guidance does not suggest specific targets or indicators, but does include a checklist for each topic subdivided by detailed guidance aims.</p>	<p>This guidance is directly relevant to sustainability issues in the NHDC LDF.</p>	<p>The document provides detailed guidance on many issues relevant to the SA of NHDC LDF, in particular the checklists are set out similarly to an SA framework and should be used to inform the SA framework for the NHDC LDF.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>SC4 Promoting Healthier Lifestyles</p> <p>SC5 Improving Access to Culture and the Arts</p> <p>SC6 Making Travel and Access more Sustainable</p> <p>SC7 Engaging the Community</p> <p>EV1 Enhancing Town Centre and Market Town Vitality</p> <p>EV2 Sustaining a Vibrant Local Economy</p> <p>EV3 Ensuring Employment and Lifelong Learning</p> <p>HE1 Supplying and Using Energy Sustainably</p> <p>HE2 Reducing Pollution</p> <p>HE3 Dealing with Resources more Sustainably</p> <p>HE4 Safeguarding Water Resources and Minimising Flood Risk</p> <p>HE5 Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity</p> <p>HE6 Protecting, Providing and Improving Open Spaces</p> <p>HE7 Making Efficient Use of Land, Buildings and Materials</p> <p>HE8 Protecting and Enhancing Landscape and Townscape</p> <p>Character and Cultural Heritage</p> <p>The main text provides detailed guidance for each theme and topic illustrated with case studies.</p>			
<p>Enjoy! A cultural strategy for Hertfordshire</p> <p>Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/hertsultstrat.pdf</p>			Status:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making Hertfordshire a more prosperous and attractive 	<p>The strategy contains no specific targets or indicators.</p>	<p>Of little direct relevance to the NHDC LDF, except to the extent that LDF</p>	<p>Access to leisure and culture is an important to Quality of Life and needs</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • place to live, work or visit • Offering children, young people and adults the opportunity to reach their full potential through access to learning and information • Encouraging children and young people to access and enjoy cultural and leisure activities • Enabling all members of the community to have more and easier access to different cultural and leisure pursuits • Valuing and supporting the diverse range of cultural and leisure activities enjoyed across the county • Working in partnership with national, regional and local agencies to deliver a range of cultural and leisure activities effectively 		<p>policies may effect access to cultural and leisure activities.</p>	<p>to be considered in the SA.</p>
<p>Rural Hertfordshire – an agenda for action 2001 – 2005 Hertfordshire Rural Forum</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/ruralforum.pdf</p>			
<p>The agenda identifies key issues within 9 'Rural Strands':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Transport/traffic • Rural Economy • Social Exclusion • Biodiversity/landscape • Access to services 	<p>The agenda does not include specific targets or indicators. The aim of the agenda is seen as highlighting issues and problems that need to be addressed rather than a detailed strategy or action plan.</p>	<p>The particular issues affecting rural areas need to be considered in the NHDC LDF.</p>	<p>The particular issues affecting rural areas need to be considered in the SA framework for the NHDC LDF.</p>
<p>Status:</p>			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community identity and involvement Needs of young people Recreational pressures and opportunities 			
Rural Innovation Strategy – Hertfordshire Rural Forum (Apr 2003)			
Status:			
<p>Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/finalrural.pdf</p> <p>In addition to the 'strands' identified in an Agenda for Action (see above) to strategy has the following objectives based on an analysis of strength and weaknesses of rural areas in the county:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To build capacity in local rural communities to encourage them to think about the longer-term potential of their area and to work together to address, in sustainable ways, the needs and issues identified. To facilitate the development of competitive and sustainable rural economies that will help to create jobs and increase economic opportunities. To improve the quality of life for people living or working in rural communities by enhancing access to services and helping everyone to achieve their full potential. 	<p>The strategy was prepared primarily as an action plan to secure funding from EEDA. The strategy does not contain specific targets or indicators, but does suggest means of monitoring supported projects and actions.</p>	<p>The particular issues affecting rural areas need to be considered in the NHDC LDF. Little in this strategy is directly relevant to the LDF, but the strength and weaknesses analysis in Appendix 4 provides a useful summary of issues affecting rural areas in the county.</p>	<p>The particular issues affecting rural areas need to be considered in the SA framework for the NHDC LDF. Appendix 4 highlights issues that may need to be considered in the SA.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>4. To protect and enhance the natural and historic rural environment, including extending access to the countryside and developing quality rural leisure opportunities.</p>			
<p>Hertfordshire Renewable Energy Study (Jan 2005)</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/restudy.pdf</p>			
<p>Interim study of the renewable energy potential of Hertfordshire. It concludes that the county has the technical potential to meet renewable energy production targets proposed in the East of England Sustainable Development Round Table Study, but that there are many factors, including planning issues, that will effect the achievements of the targets in practice (many of which are beyond the control of local stakeholders).</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>It is intended that, following consultation, the final report will inform the development of future renewable energy policy and planning policy framework in the county.</p>	<p>Increasing the proportion of energy obtained from renewable sources is a key requirement of sustainability. The reduction greenhouse gas emissions will need to be an objective within the SA framework.</p>

Local Plans, Programmes and Policies

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Local			
North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No.2 with Alterations			
Source: http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/PDFs/planning/localplan.PDF			
This local plan is still current because the deposit draft Local Plan No. 3, published Feb. 2000 conflicted with PPG3, published a month later, and was withdrawn.	N/A	The LDF will replace this Local Plan	No specific implications.
Corporate Plan North Hertfordshire District Council 2005-2015 (March 2005)			
Source:			
The plan outlines short, medium and long term actions to achieve the vision of: Making North Hertfordshire a vibrant place to live, work and prosper It identifies the following strategic objectives: 1. Sustainable Communities 2. Safer Communities 3. Healthier Communities 4. Equal Communities 5. Prosperous Communities 6. Listening To You	The plan includes 'measures of success' for each strategic objective, but these are stated in broad terms rather than as quantified targets. It does not include any specific indicators, but these are implicit in most of the measures proposed.	Most of the actions under the objective of Sustainable Communities are directly relevant to the NHDC LDF.	All, or most, of the actions proposed are relevant to sustainable development, but it is probable that they will also be considered in relation to other relevant PPPs. The SA framework should be checked against the plan to ensure that all relevant issues have been considered.
Status: adopted with modifications on 23rd April 1996			
Status: Adopted			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
North Hertfordshire Housing Strategy 2004-2007			
Source:			
<p>1. To meet the community's needs for affordable housing.</p> <p>2. To improve the quality and choice of homes available to those in need of affordable housing.</p> <p>3. To prevent homelessness by ensuring clear and effective housing advice and to provide good quality services and support to homeless households.</p> <p>4. To ensure that all housing in the District is of a decent standard and contributes to the good health of the community.</p> <p>5. To ensure that high quality supported housing is available for those who need it most and where it is needed most within North Hertfordshire.</p> <p>6. To deliver services that reflect the diversity of the local community.</p>	<p>Priority 1 Deliver a minimum of 500 affordable homes in 5 years from April 2003. Detailed targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a minimum of 60% of housing on brownfield sites. • Delivering a minimum of 16 affordable homes on exception sites to meet rural needs. • Fund the purchasing of 20 existing homes. • Re-launch a Cash Incentive Scheme providing 10 units in 2003/04 and 15 units in 2004/05. • Obtain 30% affordable housing through the planning system. <p>The Action Plan also includes proposals for a large number of improvements to systems and information.</p>	Directly relevant to LDF	The provision of decent, affordable housing is an essential element of sustainability that needs to be considered in the SA.
North Hertfordshire Housing Needs Study 2002			
Source:			
<p>The report examines future housing needs for the District. It does not contain list objectives as such, but it makes the following recommendations to the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In its enabling role support 	<p>The report recommends the following planning targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate with prospective developers towards achieving 35% subsidised affordable homes from the total of all suitable sites coming forward for 	SPD needs to address affordable housing and housing for older people.	This report contains detailed information on housing needs which will inform the SA.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>delivery agencies, mainly RSL's working in the area to provide a mix of types but mainly flats to meet the needs of single adults and couples and address the shortages in the stock;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a comprehensive older persons delivery strategy to address the current and future growth in elderly and frail elderly households across all tenures, and their related care and support needs to: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess and prioritise the need for support services and adaptation required to keep people in their own home; re-assess existing sheltered stock in meeting today's housing standards and preferences; develop 'extra care' accommodation for the frail elderly population. Consider adopting Lifetime Homes standards for new housing. 	<p>planning consent over the period of the Local Plan. Each site will need to be assessed individually, targets being subject to wider planning, economic priority, regeneration and sustainability considerations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the additional delivery of 25 unsubsidised "starter" market units a year, 125 in the period to 2007 to meet the needs of new forming households with income levels adequate to access the local market for new units. 		
Home Energy Conservation Act (H.E.C.A) Progress Report (June 2001)			
Source:			
<p>Aims of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create housing conditions which provide affordable warmth. To reduce air pollution caused 	<p>Target as per Home Energy Conservation Act (H.E.C.A) 1995 – 30% reduction in energy consumption over 15 year period.</p>	<p>Mainly relevant to LDF for new build only.</p>	<p>Improvement in the efficiency of energy use is fundamental to sustainability. Needs to be considered in the SA.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by the production and consumption of energy. • To reduce the consumption of non-renewable fuel resources. • To increase public awareness of energy use and its effect on the environment. • To foster and facilitate the installation of energy efficiency measures in private sector properties. • To operate positive policies for improving the energy efficiency of the Council's own housing stock. • To promote changes in behaviour to reduce unnecessary energy consumption. • To encourage the incorporation of energy efficiency measures in new build and refurbishment projects. • To develop corporate working arrangements within the council, with landlords and other agencies to implement the strategy. • To take account of financial and other personal circumstances when implementing this strategy and, further, by the creation of a Fuel Poverty Strategy. 			
<p>Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Source:</p>			<p>Status:</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>This local Biodiversity Action Plan is aimed at promoting integrated approaches towards effective biodiversity conservation and planning for sustainable development both within N.H.D.C. and in liaison with various partners. It should also help fulfil the role of the Council towards conserving the district's natural heritage as set out in measures such as The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Local Government Act 2000, and Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) 1994.</p> <p>It sets out a series of actions that are intended to enable the Council to identify priorities for biodiversity conservation; to establish resources and responsibilities for programmes of action, review and monitoring. Implicit within these actions is a requirement for promotion of enhanced awareness and education in biodiversity issues and opportunities for involvement for all levels of society.</p>	<p>The plan sets out currently known information and detailed actions in relation to habitats and species relevant to the District. Many of the actions are directed at improving the accuracy of data. It includes detailed targets for particular habitats as appendices. These are mainly stated in broad, rather than quantified terms.</p>	<p>Local Biodiversity Action Plans link to the statutory planning process in two ways. Information generated by the local biodiversity plans can provide detailed information for revision of development plans, for example, the identification of High Biodiversity Areas. In addition, the statutory planning process can make a major contribution to achievement of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets, in particular through policies for site protection and enhancement and the creation of new habitats in appropriate locations.'</p> <p>A 50 Year Vision for the Wildlife and Natural Habitats of Hertfordshire: BAP (April 1998)</p>	<p>Biodiversity is a key aspect of sustainable development that needs to be included within the SA framework. The baseline review should include indicators of biodiversity.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Rural Strategy for North Hertfordshire 2005 – 2010 (March 2005)			
Source:			
<p>No stated objectives, but the expected outcomes of this strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a coherent, consistent and comprehensive approach to identifying and responding to rural issues • Ensuring that there are clear planning policies in place to preserve the greenbelt wherever possible and retain community facilities • Having a clear set of priorities for supporting the diverse needs of our rural communities • Developing an increased awareness amongst officers, partners and members of the issues specific to our rural areas and a belief among those rural communities that local agencies are working concertedly on their behalf. • Having an increased awareness and understanding of what the difficult issues are, the constraints, and what we have done collectively to address them. This will include developing methods of sharing information in order that all 	<p>Following consultations to identify issues of public concern, the strategy includes priority actions, and a detailed action plan under the themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Community safety B. Education and Life-long learning C. Health D. Housing E. Leisure and community development F. Planning and environment G. Transport, and H. Young people 	<p>Many of the issues raised are directly relevant to the LDF, particularly under the themes of Housing; Planning and environment; and Transport.</p>	<p>Ensure that all relevant issues raised are considered in the SA.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>sections of rural communities can remain fully engaged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating an increased sense of well-being amongst our rural communities. 			
<p>Status: adopted 2005</p>			
<p>Pavilions, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches Strategy</p>			
<p>Source: The purpose of the Pavilions, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches Strategy is to form a strategic and holistic plan for organised sports on public green space in North Hertfordshire.</p>	<p>The adopted Local Plan states that 1.6 hectares of sports space should be provided per 1,000 population. This conforms to the NPFA's "Six Acre Standard" sets a minimum standard for outdoor playing space of 2.4 hectares (6 acres) for 1000 people, comprising 1.6 hectares (4 acres) for outdoor sport and 0.8 hectares (2 acres) for children's play. The audit undertaken indicates that there is an 11% short-fall across the district, but that the only significant under provision is in Baldock (37%).</p>	<p>Adequate provision in sports facilities needs to be considered in the LDF.</p>	<p>Access to sports facilities is an important Quality of Life issue, both as a leisure activity and for health benefits. This should be considered in the SA framework.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Play Area and Outdoor Youth Provision Strategy 2004 - 2010 Status: adopted 2004			
Source:			
<p>Aims and objectives of the Play Area & Youth Provision Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide safe interesting and accessible outdoor playing space for children. To provide outdoor local facilities for youth. To ensure existing and future play facilities comply with current legislation and guidelines. To integrate existing and future provision with planning policy. To reduce future maintenance costs by standardising certain items of provision i.e. fencing and safety surfacing. 	<p>No specific targets, but the strategy includes a detailed audit of existing provision and an action plan. Analysis against the NPFA's "Six Acre Standard" shows under-provision in all 4 urban areas, with Baldock having less than 25% of target provision.</p>	<p>Adequate provision in sports facilities needs to be considered in the LDF.</p>	<p>Access to sports facilities is an important Quality of Life issue, both as a leisure activity and for health benefits. This should be considered in the SA framework.</p>
Community Strategy for North Hertfordshire (Nov 2003) Status:			
Source:			
<p>Under the Local Government Act 2000, LAs are required to develop community strategies. Their aim is to improve the efficiency of public service provision via public consultation and a joined-up</p>	<p>The strategy includes detailed action plans for addressing issues raised during the consultation process, under the themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety Education & Lifelong Learning 	<p>A number of action points are directly relevant to the LDF, particularly under the themes of Housing; Planning, Town Centres and Environment; and Transport.</p>	<p>The SA should consider issues raised in the strategy.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>approach to partnership. The NHCS involved a 3-year Area Visioning consultation process. It is implemented via the North Hertfordshire Local Strategic Partnership (NHLSP) which has about 30 public and voluntary sector member organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Housing • Leisure and Community Development • Planning, Town Centres and Environment • Transport • Young People <p>These include both district-wide and local area actions. The strategy outlines monitoring processes and will use 8 of the 38 Audit Commission Quality of Life indicators for measurement purposes.</p>		
<p>Community Safety Strategy April 2005 – March 2008</p>			
<p>Source:</p>			
<p>Under Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by Sections 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships are required to develop three year community safety strategies. The strategy is put together following an audit of crime and disorder that provides a picture of the major issues within the district.</p>	<p>The strategy contains a baseline audit and targeted actions.</p>	<p>Not directly relevant, although planning may have a role in mitigating certain types of crime, such as street crime, graffiti, or anti-social behaviour. This is not explicitly considered in the strategy.</p>	<p>Crime and fear of crime are important Quality of Life issues that need to be considered in the SA.</p>
<p>Social Inclusion Strategy</p>			
<p>Source:</p>			
<p>The strategy does not include an explicit statement of objectives but does state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's purpose for developing a Social Inclusion 	<p>The approach was not to develop a separate strategy but '...at a strategic level, existing policies and service delivery already happening should be reviewed, refreshed and more clearly set</p>	<p>Issues relating to social exclusion should be considered in the LDF, but this strategy does not specifically consider planning policies.</p>	<p>Social exclusion needs to be considered in the SA.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>Strategy is to ensure that the collective policies and functions of the Council are directed to alleviating disadvantage, deprivation and inequality within our communities and to optimise their life opportunities and experiences as set out in the Strategic Objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council aims to ensure that there is fairness, respect and dignity given to all North Herts residents, employees and visitors but that there is targeted support to those most in need. In delivering a socially inclusive way of working, the Council recognises that it will need to work with and through our communities in partnership with other statutory and voluntary/community based agencies, e.g.: the Local Strategic Partnership, the Compact. At the same time, any Social Inclusion Strategy must reflect a balance between the needs of the urban and rural context of North Hertfordshire. 	<p>within a social inclusion context.’ There are no explicit targets, but the strategy is intended to address national targets at a local level. It also mentions Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs) being developed with the County. No indicators are specified, but Action Plans are to be monitored and evaluated on an annual basis. It also states that ‘...there will need to be a much more detailed analysis of the demographic and statistical data for North Hertfordshire to ensure that there is more particular objective evidence to support the social inclusion approach.’</p>		

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Health Improvement and Modernisation Programme			
Source:			
<p>This is the second Health Improvement Programme (HIMP) published by North Herts and Stevenage PCT. The HIMP is an agreed way of working for everyone involved with improving health and sets out actions for, among others, local authorities, NHS Trusts, the newly established Primary Care Groups, the Health Authority and other partner organizations. The aim is to take forward the key national strategies and policies for health at a local level.</p> <p>The HIMP reflects the priorities arising from national and political requirements; advice from professional groups; and the views of the local population.</p>	<p>The HIMP sets out a prioritised work plan under the themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people • Adults • Older people • Other priorities. <p>The HIMP stresses prevention and considers health inequalities. The HIMP does not suggest quantified local targets, but is intended to address national targets. The HIMP does not include indicators explicitly, but makes extensive use of available data to provide context and support its priorities.</p>	<p>Ensure that the LDF includes policies to improve public health (e.g. through walking and cycling initiatives and better homes) and combat social exclusion.</p>	<p>The SA objectives should reflect the need to promote better public health and combat social exclusion. The SA directive refers explicitly to the need to consider 'human health' as an issue.</p>
North Hertfordshire District Council Car Parking Strategy 2004 – 2009			
Source:			
<p>This document sets out the Council's agreed approach to parking issues in North Hertfordshire, providing a local strategy that meets relevant national, regional and County</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>Car parking needs to be considered in the LDF, particularly with regard to new development. A good practice guide has been prepared (Harrison Webb Associates 2002). This report examined practical</p>	<p>Although sustainable development aims to reduce car use, it is important to car parking is managed to enable effective access to services and to minimise negative impacts. Car parking issues should be consider in</p>
Status: Adopted July 2004			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>policies. As such this strategy covers all aspects of parking, including on-street, off-street (both charged for and free), standards for town centres and residential areas, the opportunities for park and ride and using private non-residential parking, enforcement and monitoring. The strategy also proposes a zonal approach to parking standards for new development in accordance with guidance from the County Council and in line with a number of other Hertfordshire authorities.</p>		<p>issues, such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determining which developer contributions could and should be sought • the production of zonal maps (including defining and scoring parking zones) • how the standards could be applied • how to incorporate travel plans • how to set and apply accessibility charges • how the parking assessment fits in with the issue of a Transport Assessment 	<p>the SA.</p>
<p>North Hertfordshire Cycling Strategy (1999) and North Hertfordshire Towns Cycle Network (2000)</p>			
<p>The Strategy sets out the Council's vision, aims and policies to promote cycling. The overall aim is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the development of a safe, convenient and coherent network of facilities so that cycling can be viewed as a realistic form of transport. <p>The Strategy contains a number of policies for developing cycling infrastructure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHDC may require a financial contribution where a developer is unable to provide cycling 	<p>To increase the level of bicycle use to 4% of all trips by 2002 and to double this to 8% by 2012.</p>	<p>The plan needs to address contributions for cycling facilities, taking account of the networks planned for the four towns.</p>	<p>Promoting cycling needs to be considered when appraising transport impacts. The target needs to be included in the baseline data.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>facilities directly.</p> <p>1. The Network document gives details of planned networks in the four towns.</p>			
<p>Status: Council policy</p>			
<p>Review of Voluntary Managed Community Centres and Village Halls</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.hertslink.org/portal/A_Z/C/eDemocracy/Civic%20Calendar/NHDC/items/Community%20Centres%20and%20Village%20Halls_3/reports</p> <p>The purpose of the document is to establish the Council's policy towards community centres, village halls and public halls. It describes aspirations on the future management and support of public halls. It then lays out policies to be considered as part of the LDF process. These should aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain existing viable community facilities that continue to be required. For example: the Council will not permit developments that would result in the loss or reduction of, or have an adverse impact on a social or community facility unless it can be demonstrated that the facility is no longer required, or arrangements are made to replace it. Facilitate the provision for social and community facilities to meet future needs in an acceptable form. 	<p>The following minimum standards are adopted for the provision of community centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In urban settings, there should be a community centre to provide for a local population of between a range of 7,500 to 10,000 persons who can access the centre by foot within a twenty-minute period. For rural areas, there should be a village hall to provide for a population in the range of 750-1,000 persons who can access the hall by foot within a twenty-minute period. <p>In addition, in certain areas and for specific schemes, the council may specify the provision of specialist facilities to meet the needs of specific groups, e.g. children and young people.</p>	<p>The replacement of existing facilities and provision of additional facilities would be achieved through the use of section 106 agreements. The standards therefore need to be included in the SPD.</p>	<p>Community facilities need to be considered when appraising access to services and facilities.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p align="center">Supplementary Planning Document Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development</p>			
<p>Source: http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/planning/local_development_framework/car_parking_zones_spd.htm</p> <p>This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) supplements Policy 55 in the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan Number 2 with Alterations, and accords with guidance in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12: Local Development Frameworks. It is also consistent with North Hertfordshire District Council's (NHDC) Car Parking Strategy 2004 – 2009 (adopted 27 July 2004).</p> <p>The Parking Strategy is compatible with the SPG on Parking Provision at New Development adopted by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) on 18 December 2000. The HCC Guidance supplements Policy 25: Car Parking, as set out in the Hertfordshire Structure Plan Review 1991 – 2011 (adopted April 1998) and is accompanied by a Best Practice Guide (published March 2003).</p> <p>The purpose of the SPD is to explain the Council's policy on vehicle parking provision at new development. Its intention is to provide clear guidance and more certainty for developers.</p>	<p>The SPD does not provide car-parking standards. Standards already exist in a number of documents and the SPD sets out guidance on how to interpret and apply these standards in North Hertfordshire.</p>	<p>Car parking needs to be considered in the LDF, particularly with regard to new development.</p> <p>The SPD provides guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determining which developer contributions could and should be sought • the production of zonal maps (including defining and scoring parking zones) • how the standards could be applied • how to incorporate travel plans • how to set and apply accessibility charges • how the parking assessment fits in with the issue of a Transport Assessment 	<p>Although sustainable development aims to reduce car use, it is important that car parking is managed to enable effective access to services and to minimise negative impacts. Car parking issues should be considered in the SA.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>The SPD explains two new, important differences to previous policy on parking at new development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firstly the Draft SPD explains how the concept of ‘maximum’ rather than ‘minimum’ standards; and • Secondly introduces a zonal approach to parking restraint within the four towns of Baldock, Letchworth Garden City, Hitchin and Royston as well as Knebworth. 			
<h3>Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document</h3>			
<p>Source: http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/planning/local_development_framework/planning_obligations_spd.htm</p>			
<p>The SPD is concerned with four towns of Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth Garden City and Royston as well as the rural areas within North Hertfordshire District. It outlines the Council's approach to planning obligations in relation to planning applications and reflects the Council's corporate priorities and objectives. It will enable developers and landowners to be aware at an early stage what infrastructure and services may be sought to cope with additional demands brought on by new development and offset any harmful impacts to the natural,</p>	<p>The SPD sets certain standard charges and threshold requirements for developments. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community centre and halls • leisure • open space, outdoor sport and recreation • public realm • sustainable transport • waste collection and recycling • education • libraries 	<p>Status: Adopted Nov 2006 Associated SA/SEA prepared of the draft SPD in line with national and European legislation.</p> <p>The provision of additional facilities, services and infrastructure would be achieved through the use of section 106 agreements. The standards therefore need to be included in the SPD.</p>	<p>Planning obligations need to be considered when appraising access to services and facilities.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<p>historic or built environment.</p> <p>The SPD takes into account the latest Government advice contained in Circular 05/2005 on Planning Obligations and will supplement Policy 51 – Development Effects and Planning Gain of the 'saved Local Plan' North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No.2 with Alterations. The SPD will eventually accompany relevant policies in the merging Local Development Framework (LDF).</p> <p>The cumulative impact of development is recognised as an important issue within the draft SPD, where it is considered that collectively new development, through incremental growth, creates additional demands.</p> <p>The SPD uses a 'standard charge' approach to address some of the likely impacts on infrastructure, services and facilities within an area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • youth and child care • affordable housing <p>Guidance is also provided on other types of contributions, although no set target is provided. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental issues • Economic development • Development an flood risk • Sustainable construction methods • Community safety. 		

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Sub-District			
Hitchin Town Centre Strategy (Final Version Nov 2004) Status: Adopted as the Council's Statement of Policy –Nov 2004			
Source: http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/planning/planning_policy_and_projects/planning_for_town_centres.htm This is the first Town Centre Strategy prepared under the Town Centre Template adopted by NHDC in May 2001. It sets out 54 detailed policies under the themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use Activities • Community Facilities • Accessibility • Community Safety • Built Environment and Public Spaces • Promotion and Marketing 	No specific quantified targets. Proposals for monitoring but no specific indicators included.	Many of the issues and policies are relevant to the LDF and should be considered. The Hitchin Town Centre Strategy was developed in the context of current planning policies and may require amending to be compatible with the LDF once adopted.	Many of the issues raised should be considered in the SA framework, particularly in respect of the built environment, town centres and accessibility.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Baldock Town Centre Strategy (Final Version Jan 2006)			
<p>Source: http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/planning/planning_policy_and_projects/planning_for_town_centres/baldock_town_centre_strategy.htm</p> <p>This is the second Town Centre Strategy prepared under the Town Centre Template adopted by NHDC in May 2001.</p> <p>It sets out 39 detailed policies under the themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built environment • Public spaces • The Street Scene • Enhancement Opportunities • Land Use Activities • Community Facilities • Transport and Access • Community Safety • Promotion and Marketing 	<p>No specific quantified targets.</p> <p>Proposals for monitoring as part of an Action Plan but no specific indicators included.</p>	<p>Many of the issues and policies are relevant to the LDF and should be considered.</p> <p>The Baldock Town Centre Strategy was developed in the context of current planning policies and may require amending to be compatible with the LDF once adopted.</p>	<p>Status: Adopted as the Council's Statement of Policy in January 2006</p> <p>Many of the issues raised should be considered in the SA framework, particularly in respect of the built environment, town centres and accessibility.</p>
Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy (Jan 2007)			
<p>Source: http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/planning/planning_policy_and_projects/planning_for_town_centres/letchworth_town_centre_strategy.htm</p> <p>This is the third Town Centre Strategy prepared under the Town Centre Template adopted by NHDC in May 2001.</p> <p>It sets out 34 detailed policies under the themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built & historic environment • Public spaces • The Street Scene • Enhancement Opportunities 	<p>No specific quantified targets.</p> <p>Proposals for monitoring as part of an Action Plan but no specific indicators included.</p>	<p>Many of the issues and policies are relevant to the LDF and should be considered.</p> <p>The Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy was developed in the context of current planning policies and may require amending to be compatible with the LDF once adopted.</p>	<p>Status: Adopted as Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in January 2007</p> <p>Many of the issues raised should be considered in the SA framework, particularly in respect of the built environment, town centres and accessibility.</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Use Activities Community Facilities Transport and Access Community Safety Promotion and Marketing 			
Royston Conservation Area Review			
Source: http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/planning/planning_control_and_conservation/the_conservation_and_heritage_team/royston_conservation_area_review.htm			
<p>The boundaries of the Royston Conservation Area were drawn up in 1969 and no review has taken place since 1974.</p> <p>The Character Statement is a means of ensuring that the importance and special interest of the conservation area are recognised and understood. It will play a key role in ensuring that changes within the conservation area preserve or enhance its special character or appearance.</p>	No specific quantified targets.	<p>Many of the issues and guidance are relevant to the SPD and should be considered, particularly in the sections on the built and historic environment.</p>	<p>Many of the issues raised should be considered in the SA , particularly in respect of the historic built and environment.</p>
Royston Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report			
Source: http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/projArch/EJS/herts_eus_2005/index.cfm			
<p>This report provides a detailed analysis of the archaeological and historical development of Royston and outlines recommendations for management priorities</p>	No specific quantified targets.	<p>The need to place an emphasis on archaeology in addition to historic and conservation objectives.</p>	<p>Many of the issues raised should be considered in the SA , particularly in respect of the historic built and environment.</p>
		Status: Published Document (2001)	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
North Hertfordshire Urban Design Assessment – District Assessment/North Hertfordshire Urban Design Assessment – Royston (September 2007)			
<p>Source:</p> <p>The document provides a set of urban design criteria against which development, conservation and change can be assessed. They are divided into the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making places; • Continuity and enclosure; • Making connections; • Quality of the public realm; • Settlement-wide criteria. 	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>Many of the issues and guidance are relevant to the SPD and should be considered, particularly in the sections on the built and historic environment.</p>	<p>Many of the issues raised should be considered in the SA , particularly in respect of the historic built and environment.</p>

Status: Adopted as a background paper to the LDF in Sept 2007

Sustainability Appraisal and SEA of
Royston Town Centre Strategy
Supplementary Planning Document

Appendix 3: Baseline Data

June 2008

Additional data relevant to this SPD

120

A Just Society

120

- 5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all

120

Town Centres

120

- 7 Promote sustainable urban living

Data relating to all DPDs and SPDs

121

Economy

121

- 1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth

Land Use and Development Patterns

129

- 2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value

129

- 2(b) Provide access to green spaces

131

- 2(c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles

132

Environmental Protection

140

- 3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity

140

- 3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes

142

- 3(c) Conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment

143

- 3(d) Reduce pollution from any source

143

Climate Change

146

- 4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

146

- 4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change

146

A Just Society

147

- 5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly

147

- 5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all

148

- 5(c) Promote community cohesion

151

- 5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing

151

- 5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime

152

- 5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities

155

- 5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning

158

- 5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all

158

Resource Use and Waste

159

- 6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible

159

6 (b) Reduce waste

161

Town Centres

162

7 Promote sustainable urban living

162

Additional data relevant to this SPD

A Just Society

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all									
Footfall of shoppers in the town centre	under investigation								
The proportion of residents within Royston doing their main food shop in Royston Town Centre	20% (2004)								NLPP Retail Study

Town Centres

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
7 Promote sustainable urban living									
Quality of the public realm in towns	Under investigation								

Data relating to all DPDs and SPDs

Economy

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth									
Gross Value Added £ per head	1995	11,989	10,443	10,996	No target identified	Annual average growth 1995 – 2001 UK 5.0 England 5.1 EoE 4.9 Herts 7.6		Noting the difficulties with small area estimates, the GVA per head in NHDC appears lower than the county average, but above the regional average.	http://www.dti1stats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm Source: Regional Accounts, ONS http://enquire.hertscg.gov.uk/lea/lea6final.pdf Hertfordshire Local Economy Assessment 2004
	1996	12,903	10,961	11,625					
	1997	14,327	11,726	12,375					
	1998	15,732	12,372	13,148					
	1999	16,540	12,698	13,691					
	2000	17,696	13,340	14,260					
	2001	18,578	13,909	14,781					
New (VAT registered) businesses surviving 3 years (percentage)	1993	65.1	63.6	62.1	No target identified	No clear trends are identifiable from these data.		The percentage of VAT registered businesses in Herts, surviving for 3+ years was slightly above both regional and national averages.	http://www.dti1stats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm Source: Small Business Service, DTI
	1994	65.1	64.2	62.5					
	1995	68.8	67.1	65.3					
	1996								

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
		70.1	68.5	66.0					
		1997	69.8	67.4					
		1998	68.8	66.3					
		1999	68.1	66.5					
Employment rate	1999	79.6	77.6	74.0	No target identified	No clear trend data available. LFS estimates 28,000 employed people in N. Herts in 2001.		The employment rates in the district and county are similar and significantly above the national average.	http://www.dtiStats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm
Percentage of working age in employment (Residence-based)	2000	81.8	79.1	74.4		(Note that National figures refer to GB rather than England.)			Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics (Note that 1999 figures are not ONS estimates and that 2001 figures are not consistent with Census totals)
	2001	80.4	79.0	74.6					
	2002	80.2							
	2003	81.0							
Unemployed benefit claimants (rate)	2000	1.5	2.3	3.3	No target identified			The claimant rate in N Herts is approximately the county average which is lower than both regional and national averages.	http://www.dtiStats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm
(Annual figures year ending March 31st)	2001	1.2	1.9	2.8					Source: Labour Market Division, ONS
	2002	1.0	1.7	2.5					
	2003	1.4	1.8	2.5					
	2004	1.4	1.8	2.5					
Investment in businesses (£m annual average 1998-2002)		Mfg	1322	13920	No target identified	No clear trends are identifiable for regional or national figures over the period.		Investment in the Eastern region represented about 10% of total investment for England, of which	http://www.dtiStats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm
		Service	4680	48726					Source: Figures for the years 1998 to 2002 were derived from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), ONS

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
			Other 852 Total 6854	8443 71089				about 20% was foreign and 19% went into manufacturing industries.	
Employment Employee Jobs – workplace based	1998	49,197	2,188,185	21,158,389	No target identified	Nationally there was a rise of approximately 5% in the total number of jobs over the period 1998-2002. There are about 50,000 jobs in N Herts, with no clear trend over the period			http://www.dtiStats.net/sd/bci/bcirregionseast.htm 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)
	1999	46,389	2,147,063	21,602,111					
	2000	48,788	2,241,651	21,914,852					
	2001	51,361	2,271,254	22,057,115					
	2002	49,820	2,277,763	22,175,255					
Employee jobs by sector					No target identified				http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/imp/ia/2038431797/report.aspx Source: annual business inquiry employee analysis (2003)
		2003 North Herts EoE GB							
		Number							
		(%)							
		(%)							
		(%)							
	Total employee jobs	-	-	49,998					
	Full-time	66.7	66.7	33,369					
	Part-time	68.1	68.1	16,629					
		33.3	33.3						
		31.9	31.9						

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Manufacturing		15.1 12.8 12.6		7,532					
Construction		5.3 5.1 4.4		2,650					
Services		78.7 80.2 81.4		39,334					
Distribution, hotels & restaurants		27.7 26.2 24.7		13,836					
Transport & communications		3.0 6.2 6.0		1,508					
Finance, IT, other business activities		22.5 19.8 19.8		11,249					
Public admin, education & health		16.6 22.9 25.8		8,310					
Other services		8.9 5.1 5.2		4,431					
Tourism-related		6.6 7.8 8.1		3,286					

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Employment by occupation (residents)	Percentages			North Herts EoE GB	No target identified			Over half of residents of the district in employment work as managers or professionals, significantly above the national average of 40%. A lower proportion work in administration and skilled trades than the national average and a higher proportion work in services. Less than 15% work in low skilled occupations compared to the national average of almost 20%.	http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431797/report.aspx Source: local area labour force survey (Mar 2003-Feb 2004)
	Soc 2000 major group 1-3			50.7 40.8 40.5					
	1 Managers and senior officials			19.1 16.2 14.6					
	2 Professional occupations			15.6 11.5 12.1					
	3 Associate professional & technical			15.9 13.0 13.8					
	Soc 2000 major group 4-5			17.3 25.6 24.4					
4 Administrative & secretarial			10.8 13.6 13.0						
5 Skilled trades occupations			6.5 12.0 11.4						
Soc 2000 major group 6-7			17.3 15.3 15.5						
6 Personal service occupations			8.6 7.5 7.5						

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	7 Sales and customer service occs	8.7 7.7 8.0							
	Soc 2000 major group 8-9	14.8 18.3 19.6							
	8 Process plant & machine operatives	4.3 7.1 7.7							
	9 Elementary occupations	10.5 11.2 11.8							
% of economically active population with NVQ3 or higher qualifications	2000	49.5	50.2	44.2				A skilled workforce is a key requirement for attracting and supporting innovative businesses. N Herts residents of working age have qualification well above national and regional averages, and 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
	2001	53.6	50.3	44.4					
Average weekly earnings by place of work	2000	339	398	361		Nationally, the annual rise in earnings was over 4% over this period. The figure for N Herts appears to be slightly lower, but this is probably not statistically significant. (Note that estimates of annual earnings are slightly higher than suggested by weekly earnings due to surveying effects.)		Jobs in N Herts are significantly lower paid than the national average, whilst those in the county as a whole are above average. This points to the need to improve the quality of employment within the District.	http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?link=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)
	2001	362	416	382					
	2002	383	421	400					
	2003	384	441	412					
	2004	393	489	427					

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Average weekly earnings by place of residence	2002	458	481	411	401	The data are not sufficiently robust to identify clear trends over this period. They suggest that the rate of increase in N Herts, has been below the national average, but differences are not statistically significant. (See note on annual earnings above)		Average earnings by residents of the District are below the 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.	http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlink=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)
	2003	463	505	429	415				
	2004	473	519	447	429				
Average house prices by house type	1996	82,391	95,838	71,771	73,117	Average house prices in N Herts are 20% above the national average and increased slightly more over the period 1996-2004.		* Flat includes maisonettes. 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/	
	1997	91,093	107,129	78,930	80,599				
	1998	105,368	121,910	86,794	87,778				
	1999	112,099	134,324	95,700	98,385				
	2000	136,799	158,559	110,372	110,589				
	2001	148,289	173,202	124,616	121,769				
	2002	169,028	201,519	149,299	141,108				
	2003	201,956	227,179	172,257	159,357				
	2004	218,768	243,347	190,218	181,330				
	1 st Q 2005								
	D'ached	445,192							
	Semi	227,826							
	Terrace	177,898							
Flat*									

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	137,303 Average 220,884								
Average house price to earnings ratio	10.7 (2004)	9.6	8.9	8.2		Over the period 2000 to 2004 house prices in the District increased significantly more than average earnings with the price/earnings ratio increasing from 7.8 to 10.7		The price/earnings ratio for N Herts is one of the highest for any district in the UK.	Calculated from above data.

Land Use and Development Patterns

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
<h3>2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value</h3>									
Proportion of new homes built on previously developed land		1993	63	52	53	By 2008, 60 per cent of additional housing in England should be provided on previously developed land and through the conversions of existing buildings.		The proportion of new homes built on brownfield sites in NHDC is significantly below the county and slightly below regional and national averages.	http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_032255.pdf NHDC Housing Monitoring Report 2004-05
		1994	69	56	51				
		1995	67	56	54				
		1996	73	53	54				
		1997	86	53	53				
		1998	78	54	55				
		1999	80	58	56				
		2000	65	53	58				
		2001	74	58	60				
		2002	84	58	64				
		2003		59	65				
		Average	76	57	61				

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources																		
Stock of previously developed land.	36 hectares of which 16 hectares identified as suitable for housing.		7,930 hectares	65,760 hectares				The National Land Use Database identifies 36 hectares of previously developed land (PDL) in North Hertfordshire, of which 16 hectares has been identified as potential sites for housing. However this figure is only a proportion of the total amount of PDL in the District, as only sites over 0.25 hectares are included.	http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/downloadable/odpm_plan_030372.pdf Previously-Developed Land that may be available for Development in 2003 Source: National Landuse Database.																		
Loss of greenfield land to residential development	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>hectares</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2001/2</td> <td>6.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2002/3</td> <td>21.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2003/4</td> <td>3.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004/5</td> <td>15.37</td> </tr> </table>	hectares		2001/2	6.19	2002/3	21.32	2003/4	3.68	2004/5	15.37								Source: NHDC								
hectares																											
2001/2	6.19																										
2002/3	21.32																										
2003/4	3.68																										
2004/5	15.37																										
Area of Green belt	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>N Herts</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1997</td> <td>14,060</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2003</td> <td>14,060</td> </tr> </table>	N Herts		1997	14,060	2003	14,060		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>London and SE</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>600,320</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>600,470</td> </tr> </table>	London and SE			600,320		600,470	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>England</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1,652,300</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1,671,600</td> </tr> </table>	England			1,652,300		1,671,600				37% GB	http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_031125.hcsp
N Herts																											
1997	14,060																										
2003	14,060																										
London and SE																											
	600,320																										
	600,470																										
England																											
	1,652,300																										
	1,671,600																										
Number of vacant properties	2.35% (2002 based on survey of 1000 properties) of which 0.37% (approx 200) were long-term			<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3.4% (April 202)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3.9% (EHCS 1996)</td> </tr> </table>				3.4% (April 202)		3.9% (EHCS 1996)		No trend data available			North Hertfordshire Empty Homes Strategy 2004-2007 (Oct 2004).												
	3.4% (April 202)																										
	3.9% (EHCS 1996)																										

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Density of new housing development	vacant.				Target range 30-50				http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_032255.pdf NHDC Housing Monitoring Reports
	1993	25	24	26				The drop in density for the most recent year appears to be due to the large number of replacement dwellings and conversions in rural areas in 2004-5.	
	1994	25	23	24					
	1995	24	22	24					
	1996	24	22	25					
	1997	22	22	25					
Average density per hectare									
2001/2	23.2	24	22	25					
2002/3	27.4	24	22	25					
2003/4	43.7	24	22	25					
2004/5	24.5	24	22	25					
	2001	24	22	25					
	2002	27	25	27					
	2003								
	Average	25	28	33					

2(b) Provide access to green spaces

Amount of open space per 1000 population	Under investigation.								
Number of sports pitched per 1000 population	There was a total of 128.06 hectares of pitch space in NHDC (2003). This exceeded the								Pavilions: Playing Fields and Sports Pitches Strategy NHDC 2005 -2010

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	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.							and was the only town to have a shortfall (16%) in pitch space.	
Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places	Rights of way in NHDC								Source: Hertfordshire CC
	No. Length km	811 447							
	Footpaths								
	Bridleways	43 151							
	Roads used as public paths	19 19							
	Bridleway open to all traffic	42 46							

2(c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles

Distance traveled to work (percentage people between 16 and 74 by distance range)	2001								
	From home	18	16	16	14	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.	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/ Source: Census 2001, ONS
	<2km	26	20	22	20				
	2<5km	15	17	18	20				
	5<10km	16	15	15	18				
	10<20km	13	16	15	15				
	20<30km	5	7	7	5				

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	30 < 40km	3	3	2					
	40 < 60km	2	2	2					
	60km <	3	3	3					
Mode of travel to work	2001	% people between 16 and 74			Local targets 2021 Hitchin 62.2% Letchworth/Baldock 66% Royston 63.5%	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.			http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/ Source: Census 2001, ONS
	People who work mainly from home		N Herts Herts EoE England	10 9 9 9					
	Underground, Metro, Light Rail or Tram			0 2 1 1 3					
	Train			8 9 6 4					
	Bus, Mini Bus or Coach			2 3 4 8					
	Motorcycle, Scooter or Moped			1 1 1 1					
	Driving a Car or Van			60 59 59 55					
	Passenger in a Car or Van			5					

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources	
Air Transport Movements		Car/d – car drivers Car/p – car passengers Other – other private vehicles								
			1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004							
						There was a growth of 44% in air transport movements for all UK airports over the period 1993 to 2003, with a growth in total terminal passenger numbers of 77% including a growth of domestic passengers of 87%. Both Regional airports showed a much higher growth over the same period.				
						Luton air transport movements grew by almost 200% with terminal passengers growing by almost 270% and domestic passengers by over 800%.				
						For Stansted the figures were 256%, 620% and 700% respectively.				
						Thousands				
		Luton				20 15 19 28 37 44 51 56 56 55 58 64				
		Stansted				48 54 63 75 82 102 132 144 151 152 169				
		All UK				1,181 1,200 1,251 1,317				

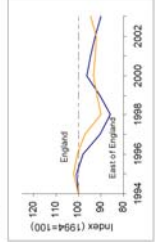
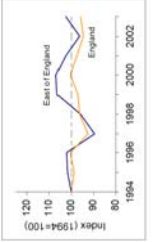
Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
					1,385 1,476 1,556 1,635 1,666 1,657 1,695				
					Terminal passengers (arrivals or departures)				
					Millions				
					All				
					Luton	1.8 1.8 1.8 2.5 3.2 4.2 5.2 6.1 6.6 6.5 6.8 7.5			
					Stansted	2.6 3.3 3.9 4.8 5.4 6.8 9.5 11.8 13.6 16.0 18.7			
					All UK	100.1 109.2			

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
					115.4 120.6 130.7 142.1 150.9 161.3 162.1 167.6 176.9				
Domestic									
Luton					0.2 0.1 0.1 0.5 0.7 0.9 1.3 1.7 1.8 1.7 1.7				
Stansted					0.3 0.5 0.8 1.0 1.2 1.2 1.5 1.4 2.0 2.5 2.7				
All UK					12.1 12.9 14.0 15.2				

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Levels of traffic on main roads	2003 Million vkm per day All Ex mway /trunk 4.1 3.0 Traffic concentration vkm/day x 1000 per km ² A 19.3 22.7 B 11.2 8.1 C 8.9 7.6 County 18 12	Average daily vehicle flows by road class 2003 Roads Urban Rural Mways N/A 94.5 A 19.3 22.7 B 11.2 8.1 C 8.9 7.6	Average daily vehicle road class Thousand vehicles Motorway 82.8 Rural main 17.8 Urban main 18.1 Rural minor 1.2 Urban minor 2.6 Total 3.7	flows by 2003 Per day 78.0 13.7 20.7 1.0 2.4 3.9	16.0 16.7 17.5 18.6 19.2 21.0 22.6	<p>Figure 1.4 Historical Trends of County Traffic Flow by Road Class</p> <p>Traffic in Herts grew 64% between 1980 and 2003, peaking in 1999 since when it has stabilised and reduced slightly.</p>	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.	http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_control/documents/contentservertemplate/dft_index.html?n=12589&l=4 Regional Transport Statistics, DfT, Nov 2004 Source: National Travel Survey http://www.hertsdirect.org/infoibase/docs/pdfstor/e/ttdr03.pdf Hertfordshire's Traffic & Transport Data Report 2003	
	Road freight movements	AAWD HGV flows Herts 2002 2003 M'w/T 8520 8540 Prin. 1160 1140 B 350 360 C	Road freight by origin Million tonnes 1993 170 1994 169 1995 177 1996 168 1997 186 1998	Road freight by origin Million tonnes 1993 1277 1994 1346 1995 1352 1996 1369 1997 1380 1998	Flow counts for 2002 and 2003 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 4% rise for England as a whole. In 2003 63% of the road freight tonnage originating in EoE was transported	http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_control/documents/contentservertemplate/dft_index.html?n=12589&l=4 Regional Transport Statistics, DfT, Nov 2004 Source: National Travel Survey http://www.hertsdirect.org/infoibase/docs/pdfstor/e/ttdr03.pdf 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.			

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
		200 215	182	1379					
		1999	181	1323					
	HGV MVKm/d Herts	2000	179	1347					
	2002 2003	2001	186	1345					
	M ¹ w/T	1.38 1.38	187	1390					
	Prin.	0.72 0.69	198	1404					
	B	0.10 0.10							
	C	0.16 0.18							

Environmental Protection

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity									
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 between 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.	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 4 species showed increases. Regionally the indicator for woodland birds increased by 3% over the period 1994 to 2003. Of the 26 species recorded 7 showed population declines whilst 13 species showed increases.	Nationally the indicator for farmland 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.		 <p>Chart 4.32 - Farmland species: 1994 - 2003</p>  <p>Chart 4.34 - Woodland species: 1994 - 2003</p>		<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/wildlife/research/download/wdbrds200503.pdf</p> <p>Source: Wild bird indicators for the English regions: 1994 - 2003 (Defra, March 2005)</p> <p>http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qo14.pdf</p> <p>Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005)</p>	
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%.	In 2002 it was estimated that 11% of Herts represented important wildlife habitats. Designated and other sites in Herts: No Area(ha) %* Ramsar 1 SAC 372 0.23						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 Biological Action Plan (Draft Discussion Document) The State of Biodiversity in 1992-2002 (HEF, 2003?)
	Total City WS Woodland 2295.7								
	1286.3	1							

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	Grassland 4559.5	336 0.21							
	602.9	SSSI 43							
	Tall Herb & Scrub 195.3	2,211 1.4							
	192.3	1941 Wildlife Sites							
	Wetlands 47.36	17,215 10.67							
	40.86	National Nature Reserves							
	Cty WS – County Wildlife Sites are termed 1941 Wildlife Sites in the County BAP.	1							
		238 0.15							
		Local Nature Reserves							
		23							
		799 0.49							
		HMWT Nature Reserves							
		42							
		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 than one category.							

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
% of SSSIs in good condition	The SSSIs in N Herts extend to approximately 300 ha. Only 6% by area are assessed as favourable/recoverin g. 82% are assessed as unfavourable, declining and 12% are unfavourable with no change. (2005 based on assessment over the period 2001 -2004)	Currently, of the 1876 ha of SSSIs in Hertfordshire (excluding Ashridge), 68% are regarded as being in favourable/recoverin g condition, the remainder being generally unfavourable. No sites have been partly or wholly destroyed		Since 1999, the number of SSSIs in the UK has increased by 2 per cent, 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 per cent. Based on information available as at March 2003, just over half (57%) of English SSSIs were assessed as being in a "favourable/recoverin g" condition.				The condition of 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 above the national average.	http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/sssireportAction.cfm?Report=sdr113&Category=C&Reference=1021 http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qoi4.pdf Source: Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005) http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/sustainable/quality04/mainhd/04s06.htm Source: Quality of life counts: 2004
Implementation of BAP	See local BAP							No data at present but should become available in future as a result of monitoring BAP objectives.	NHDC Biological Action Plan (Draft Discussion Document) Some additional information on current workplan available from Agenda for Biodiversity Cabinet Meeting 25 th July 2005.
Extent/populations 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 Biological Action Plan (Draft Discussion Document)
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes									
Area of ancient semi-natural	The total area of woodland in NH is 2296 Ha representing	Total of 12,612 Ha of woodland representing 7.7% of	Total of 115,256 Ha of woodland representing 6 % of	Approximately 7% of England is covered by woodland of which					NHDC Biological Action Plan (Draft Discussion Document)

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
woodland (ASNW)	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	county area.	Regional area.	about 40% is ASNW.					http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/docs/ea_schapter/east12/wildlife.htm
% of land designated for particular quality or amenity value	Under investigation								

3(c) Conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment

Number and extent of conservation areas	41 conservation areas with a total area of 1198.19 hectares. (June 2005)	There is no valid basis for comparative data.							Source: NHDC
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 124 buildings in EoE on the at risk register.	Nationally 3.6% of Grade I and II* were considered at risk in 2003.		Nationally the proportion of Grade I and II* considered at risk dropped from 3.8% in 1999 to 3.6% in 2003. Over this period the number at risk in the EoE increased slightly but the Region still 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
Number of ancient monuments destroyed or at risk	Currently 1 ancient monument at risk in N Herts. This is included in the building at risk register.	The only ancient monument currently at risk in Herts is the one in N Herts.	Currently 38 ancient monuments at risk in EoE.						http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1424 Source: English Heritage – Buildings at Risk Register

3(d) Reduce pollution from any source

Rivers in good 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	For period 2001-03 approximately 62% of county rivers were classified as good and 95% as good or fair by chemical standards.	Year Good Good/ Fair Biological	In 2002, 94 per cent of English rivers were of good or fair chemical quality, compared with 89 per cent in 1998.					http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qo14.pdf Source: Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005)
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Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	quality at a district level. Under further investigation.		1990 45 92 1995 65 98 2000 81 99 Chemical 1990 21 82 1995 40 87 1997 26 80 1998 24 80 1999 28 84 2000 46 93						
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 Urban backgrnd 46.5 Urban roadside 25.25				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
Number of Air Quality Management	The Council has completed the first round of the air								Herts. and Beds. Air Pollution Monitoring Network Annual Report, 2003

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Areas	quality review and assessment process did not declare any Air Quality Management Areas.								

Climate Change

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions									
Output of greenhouse gas and particularly CO ₂			11 million tonnes carbon (2001)	114 million tonnes of carbon (2001)					http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/indicators/regional/index.htm Regional quality of life counts: 2003 Source: NETCEN
CO ₂ emissions per capita (Kg C)			2,000 kg carbon per capita per year. (2001)	2,300 kg carbon per capita per year. (2001)					http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/indicators/regional/index.htm Regional quality of life counts: 2003 Source: NETCEN
Energy use per household	Under investigation							It is difficult to obtain data on household energy use because the privatised utilities treat these data as commercially confidential.	
% of energy from renewable sources			0.45% (600 GWh)	<2%					http://www.sustainability-east.com/assets/Renewables%20Report.pdf
Road freight movements								See Objective 2 (b)	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change									
Area at risk from flooding	Investigating mapping at local level							EA flood risk maps indicate that only land immediately around rivers and streams are at risk in the District.	

A Just Society

5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Index of multiple deprivation	Percentage of SOAs by quintiles of SOAs in England (2004)							Super Output Areas (SOA) are sub-ward areas, with average populations of around 1500. There are 32,482 in England and 79 in NHDG. Index of multiple deprivation(IMD) is a measure of deprivation based on 7 different domains of deprivation. IMD data is usually presented in rank order. Data indicate that NHDG has much lower deprivation than national and regional averages. No SOAs are in the most deprived quintile, and 43% of SOAs fall into the least deprived quintile. Although data indicate that deprivation in not a significant issue in the District as a whole, LDF policies should be monitored to ensure that they do not have a negative impact on the more deprived areas. The most deprived SOAs are concentrated in Letchworth and Hitchin.	
	Most deprived	0.0							
	<20%	5.1	Percentage of SOAs in the most and least deprived 20% of SOAs in England						
	20%-40%	22.8	Most deprived						
	40%-60%	29.1	<20%						
60%-80%	43.0	>80%	6.2						
Least deprived		Least deprived	30.5						
Percentage of People Claiming the Jobseeker's Allowance Benefit for a Year or More			1999	22.6	No target identified				http://www.dtiStats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm
			2000	20.2					Source: Labour Market Division, ONS
			2001	16.1					
			2002	12.4					
			2003	12.3	15.2				

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
% of children living in low-income households (below 60% of contemporary median)			2004 13.2	15.7					http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/indicators/regional/2003/h04.htm Regional Quality of Life Counts 2003 Source: DWP
			2002-3 Before HC* 14 After HC 23 *housing costs	20 29					
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all									
Access to services	Banks and Building Societies								http://www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Landscape/RandE/dataHub/rural_services_series_dataarea/RS2004data.asp Source: The Countryside Agency, 2001
	0-2kms	79%						These data are estimated on the basis of 'crows flying' distances from GIS maps and so may not reflect true access distances.	
	2-4kms	11%						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.	
	4-6kms	8%							
	6-8kms	2%							
	Cash Machines								
	0-2kms	90%							
	2-4kms	7%							
	4-6kms	3%							

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	Doctors Surgeries								
	0-2kms	85%							
	2-4kms	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								

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	2%								
Petrol Stations									
0-2kms	90%								
2-4kms	7%								
4-6kms	3%								
Post Offices									
0-2kms	96%								
2-4kms	4%								
Primary Schools									
0-2kms	98%								
2-4kms	2%								
Secondary Schools									
0-2kms	72%								
2-4kms	19%								
4-6kms	6%								
6-8kms	3%								
Supermarkets									
0-2kms	83%								

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	2-4kms 7%								
	4-6kms 8%								
	6-8kms 2%								
Access to services (rural areas)	See above.								
5(c) Promote community cohesion									
No indicators identified	Under investigation								
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing									
Homelessness	160 households were accepted as in priority need in 2003/04					An annual average of approximately 170 households were accepted as in priority need over the past 6 years. This figure peaked at 210 for 2002/03 but has since drop to 160 for 2003/04.			North Herts Homeless Strategy
Number of new affordable homes	2001/2 0	No.							Source: NHDC
	2002/3 12								
	2003/4 4								
	2004/5 77								
% of new homes that are affordable	2001/2 0	% 17% (2001)			47%				Source: NHDC http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/env/yo/raiseaware/qualife/qol/housing/
	2002/3 1.7								

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	2003/4 0.8 2004/5 17.1								
Proportion of housing unfit or lacking appropriate insulation	6% of homes were statutorily unfit in 2003		28% (2001)	33% (2001)					http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/indicators/regional/2003/h04.htm Regional Quality of Life Counts 2003 Source: ODPM
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime									
Recorded crime by type per 1,000 of population		N Herts Herts EoE E & W				Recorded crime by type per 100,000 of population		Figures for N Herts are significantly below county, regional and national averages for all classes of crime.	http://www.crimestatistics.org.uk/output/page1.asp Source: Home Office http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/indicators/regional/2003/h04.htm Regional Quality of Life Counts 2003 Source: Home Office
Vehicle and other theft									
Apr-Jun 2003				7.8 9.1 9.3 11.3		1990 2002/3 Change	1936 2517 1482 1885 -23% -25%		
Jul-Sep 2003				9.2 9.0 9.1 11.0		Burglary			
Oct-Dec 2003				7.7 9.0 8.8 10.4		1990 2002/3 Change	591 1073 515 859 -13% -20%		
Jan-Mar 2004				6.5 9.5 8.5 10.3		Robbery			
Burglary									

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
					1990				
	Apr-Jun 2003			2.1 2.9 3.0 4.2	2002/3	29 75 91 217			
	Jul-Sep 2003			3.0 3.2 3.0 4.0	Change	215% 189%			
	Oct-Dec 2003			3.0 3.0 2.8 3.7					
	Jan-Mar 2004			2.9 3.2 2.9 3.7					
	Robbery								
	Apr-Jun 2003			0.2 0.2 0.2 0.5					
	Jul-Sep 2003			0.2 0.2 0.2 0.5					
	Oct-Dec 2003			0.2 0.2 0.2 0.5					
	Jan-Mar 2004								

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
				0.3 0.2 0.2 0.5					
Violence against the person									
	Apr-Jun 2003			2.0 2.5 3.7 4.4					
	Jul-Sep 2003			2.5 2.9 3.9 4.8					
	Oct-Dec 2003			2.4 3.0 3.7 4.5					
	Jan-Mar 2004			2.8 3.5 3.8 4.5					
All crime									
	Apr-Jun 2003			18.2 21.7 23.7 29.0					
	Jul-Sep 2003			21.0 22.1 23.1 28.3					
	Oct-Dec 2003								

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	Jan-Mar 2004			20.8 22.9 22.9 27.6 20.3 25.1 23.4 27.8					
Number of alcohol-related crimes and anti-social behaviour	100 arrests for drunkenness in 2003/04 143 cases of violence against the person, 96 driving and 113 other offences. Where alcohol was considered a factor	No data located	No data located	No data located				The report notes that the recording of alcohol-related crimes is very unreliable.	Crime and Disorder Audit Report for NHDC Dec 2004.
Fear of crime	Fear of crime survey responses % of respondents worried or very worried about: Burglary 65% Theft from vehicle: 55%	County-wide figure on the same basis for theft from vehicle was 52%							Crime and Disorder Audit Report for NHDC Dec 2004.

5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities

General level of health (self-stated)	2001 Health %								ONS Neighbourhood Statistics.
	Good 72.1	73.1	70.4	68.8					
	Fairly good 21.2	20.3	22.0	22.2					
	Not good 6.7	6.6	7.6	9.0					
Life expectancy by ward	Males 1991-3		75.0	73.7					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.as

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	1994-6 76.0		75.7	74.4					p?vink=8841&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272
	1997-9 76.3		76.3	75.1					
	2000-2 76.8		77.0	76.0					
	Change 1.3		2.0	2.3					
Females									
	1991-3 79.5		80.1	79.1					
	1994-6 80.2		80.4	79.6					
	1997-9 80.0		80.8	80.0					
	2000-2 80.7		81.4	80.6					
	Change 1.2		1.3	1.5					
Access to 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.	The total number of complaints to Luton London Airport in 2003 was 680 from 338 complainants which related to a total of 1522 events of noise from aircraft.				There was a drop in total aircraft noise complaints in recent years from a maximum of 1,342 in 2001.		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/interne/Transport_and_streets/Public_transport/Air_services/London%20Luton%20airport%20annual%20monitoring%20report

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Deaths and serious injuries in road accidents	Road accident casualties North Herts	Road accident casualties North Herts	Road accident casualties East of England	Road accident casualties National		No clear trends are identifiable from available data.		The rate of accidents per 1000 population is lower for N Herts than the county as a whole.	Hertfordshire Highways 01707 356223
	1995	Fatal Serious Slight Total	1995	Fatal Serious Slight Total					
		4		45					
		102		1003					
		419		5454					
		525		6502					
	1996	Fatal Serious Slight Total	1996	Fatal Serious Slight Total					
		10		58					
		91		1099					
		512		5657					
		613		6814					
	1997	Fatal Serious Slight Total	1997	Fatal Serious Slight Total					
		8		58					
	87		1053						
	509		5660						
	604		6771						
1998	Fatal Serious Slight Total	1998	Fatal Serious Slight Total						
	9		57						
	119		1103						
	591		5857						
	719		7017						
1999	Fatal Serious Slight Total	1999	Fatal Serious Slight Total						
	8		53						
	99		895						
	507		5754						
	614		6702						
2000	Fatal Serious Slight Total	2000	Fatal Serious Slight Total						
	7		54						
	66		858						
	577		6287						
	650		7199						
2001	Fatal Serious Slight Total	2001	Fatal Serious Slight Total						
	6		49						
	99		845						
	517		5679						
	622		6573						
2002	Fatal Serious Slight Total	2002	Fatal Serious Slight Total						
	11		58						
	57		756						
	580		5819						
	648		6633						
2003	Fatal Serious Slight Total	2003	Fatal Serious Slight Total						
	5		38						

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
		58 576 639		650 5514 6202					
	2004	2004							
		9 75 529 613		51 640 5483 6174					
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning									
Percentage of population by age band and educational qualification	Insufficient data available to implement at present.								
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all									
No indicators identified	Under investigation								

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	175 01/02 150 181 02/03 159 178 03/04 163 191							approximately 20% above average.	
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.		In 1997 0.95 cubic km of water was abstracted in the Anglian Region. This represented 23% of the estimated Annual Internal renewable water resources of 4.14 cubic km. Figures for Thames Region were 1.82 cubic km representing 59% of AIRWR of 3.09 cubic km.	For England and Wales the annual extraction rate in 1997 was 15.26 cubic km representing 22% of AIRWR of 68.17 cubic km.		No trend data available.		The percentage extraction rate of 23% for Anglian Region was slightly above the national average of 22%, but the rate for Thames Region at 59% was more than double the National average. This is one of the highest rates in Europe.	Water Resources for the Future – A strategy for Anglian Region, EA, March 2001
State of groundwater resources	NHDC lies on the Ivel Chalk aquifer. This has a significant surplus above the currently licensed abstraction rate, but see comments.							Comments on the Ivel 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 future and secondly, this unit overlaps with Thames Region which may rely on groundwater resources in this unit.'	Water Resources for the Future – A strategy for Anglian Region, EA, March 2001

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources	
6(b) Reduce waste										
Annual per capita production of household waste	Waste per Capita (kg)									
	2002/03	534								
	2003/04	524	1998/9	491	482	Per capita household waste produced in N Herts is approximately the national average, but recent trend data suggests that it is falling in the District whereas the national trend is a continuing rise.			http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfs/tore/qol4.pdf Source: Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005)	
	Waste per household (kg)									
2000/01	1271									
2002/03	1227									
2003/04	1205									
Percentage of household waste recycled or composted	1998-99	8	1996/97	9.3	7.5	HHC target is to increase average recycling to more than 30% by 2005/6 which is above the national target of 25%			http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/index.htm Source: Municipal Waste Management Survey, Published August 2004 http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfs/tore/qol4.pdf Source: Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005)	
	1999-00	10	1997/98	10.5	8.2					
	2000-01	9	1998/99	11.9	9.0					
	2001-02	10	1999/00	14.1	10.3					
	2002-03	11	2000/01	15.2	11.2					
	2003/04	17.7	2001/02	17.3	12.5					
			2002/03	19.4	14.5					
Percentage of waste landfilled		77% (2000/01) 71% (2003/04)						It is estimated that current Herts. landfill options will be exhausted by 2008.	Source: Hertfordshire Waste Strategy	

Town Centres

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
7 Promote sustainable urban living									
Vacant units in main town centres	2004								Source: NHDC
	2005								
	Hitchin								
	10 9								
	Letchworth								
	21 26								
	Baldock								
	8 6								
	Royston								
	13 16								
Percentage of new retail (A1) in town centers versus out-of-town	% of new retail in town centres								Source: NHDC
	2001/2	97.0							
	2002/3	23.5							
	2003/4	95.0							
	2004/5	100.0							
% of all dwellings completed which are	% of new dwellings in town centres								Source: NHDC
	2001/2								

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
within town centres	45.3								
	2002/3								
	2003/4								
	2004/5								
	16.0								

Sustainability Appraisal and SEA of the
Royston Town Centre Strategy
Supplementary Planning Document

**Appendix 4:
Matrices Testing the SPD Vision
and Aims against the
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives**

June 2008

The impact of the draft SPD aims on the SA objectives is scored as follows:

√ positive, X negative, ? uncertain, or 0 neutral.

SPD Aim 1		
To preserve and enhance the special character of Royston Town Centre		
SA Objectives	Impact of SPD aim on SA objective: √ positive, X negative, ? uncertain or neutral 0.	How can the objective be made more compatible with the SA objectives and any conflict reduced?
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	0	
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	0	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
3(a) Protect and maintain biodiversity	0	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√√	
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	0	
CLIMATE CHANGE		
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	0	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	
A JUST SOCIETY		
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	0	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities	√	

SPD Aim 1

To preserve and enhance the special character of Royston Town Centre

for all		
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	0	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	0	
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	√	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√√	
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE		
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	
TOWN CENTRES		
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	
<p>Conclusions: Aim 1 results in a number of positive sustainable outcomes and places an emphasis on ensuring that Royston's character is protected</p> <p>Recommendations for changes to this objective: None</p>		

SPD Aim 2

To promote the vitality and viability of Royston Town Centre through planning for its growth and sustainable development.

SA Objectives	Impact of SPD aim on SA objective: √ positive, X negative, ? uncertain or neutral O.	How can the objective be made more compatible with the SA objectives and any conflict reduced?
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
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	√√	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
3(a) Protect and maintain biodiversity	O	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	O	
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	√	
CLIMATE CHANGE		
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	√	
A JUST SOCIETY		
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	√	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	

SPD Aim 2

To promote the vitality and viability of Royston Town Centre through planning for its growth and sustainable development.

5(c) Promote community cohesion	?	
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	√	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE		
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	
TOWN CENTRES		
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	

Conclusions: Aim 2 also results in a number of sustainable outcomes for the town centre. Possible uncertainties arise as to whether growth and sustainable development would result in increase community cohesion as growth on its own does not promote this but can have various positive spin-off effects. It is also uncertain as to whether crime rates would necessarily be reduced. A more vital and viable town centre could present more opportunities for crime but could mean more civic pride. It may also result in more natural surveillance reducing the opportunities for crime.

Recommendation for change to this objective: None

SPD Aim 3

To promote a town centre that is accessible to all.

SA Objectives	Impact of SPD objective on SA objective: √ positive, X negative, ? uncertain or neutral O.	How can the objective be made more compatible with the SA objectives and any conflict reduced?
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	O	
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
3(a) Protect and maintain biodiversity	O	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	√	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	
CLIMATE CHANGE		
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	O	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	
A JUST SOCIETY		
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	√	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√√	
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	

SPD Aim 3

To promote a town centre that is accessible to all.

5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	0	
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	√	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE		
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	√	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	
TOWN CENTRES		
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	
<p>Conclusions: Aim 3 produces a number of sustainable outcomes for Royston town centre. It should improve social equality within the town by taking account of the needs of the broad range of society.</p> <p>Recommendations for changes to this objective: None</p>		

SPD Aim 4

To promote sustainable use of resources and protect the wider environment.

SA Objectives	Impact of SPD aim on SA objective: √ positive, X negative, ? uncertain or neutral 0.	How can the objective be made more compatible with the SA objectives and any conflict reduced?
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	0	
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
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	√	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
3(a) Protect and maintain biodiversity	√	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	√	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	0	
CLIMATE CHANGE		
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	√	
A JUST SOCIETY		
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	0	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	0 √	
5(c) Promote community cohesion	0	

SPD Aim 4

To promote sustainable use of resources and protect the wider environment.

5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	0	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	0	
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	0	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	0	
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE		
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	√	
6(b) Reduce waste	√	
TOWN CENTRES		
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	
<p>Conclusions: Aim 4 produces a number of sustainable outcomes for Royston town centre. It should ensure that resources are used in a sustainable manner and where possible protect the amenity and wildlife value of open spaces as part of the wider environment.</p> <p>Recommendations for changes to this objective: None</p>		

SPD Aim 5

To develop the town centre's role as the focus for civic and social life and as a place which is pleasant, safe and inviting to visit, live and shop in.

SA Objectives	Impact of SPD aim on SA objective: √ positive, X negative, ? uncertain or neutral O.	How can the objective be made more compatible with the SA objectives and any conflict reduced?
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
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	√	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
3(a) Protect and maintain biodiversity	O	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	√	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	√	
CLIMATE CHANGE		
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	√	
A JUST SOCIETY		
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	√	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	

SPD Aim 5

To develop the town centre's role as the focus for civic and social life and as a place which is pleasant, safe and inviting to visit, live and shop in.

5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	√	
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	√	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE		
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	
TOWN CENTRES		
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√√	
<p>Conclusions: Aim 5 results in a number of positive outcomes for the town centre and will help the town centre contribute to overarching goals for achieving sustainable communities.</p> <p>Recommendations for changes to this objective: None</p>		

SPD Aim 6

To provide a mechanism for delivery and implementation of the strategy

SA Objectives	Impact of SPD aim on SA objective: √ positive, X negative, ? uncertain or neutral 0.	How can the objective be made more compatible with the SA objectives and any conflict reduced?
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	0	
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	0	
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	0	
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
3(a) Protect and maintain biodiversity	0	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	0	
CLIMATE CHANGE		
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	0	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	
A JUST SOCIETY		
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	0	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	0	
5(c) Promote community cohesion	0	

SPD Aim 6

To provide a mechanism for delivery and implementation of the strategy

5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	0	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	0	
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE		
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	
TOWN CENTRES		
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	
<p>Conclusions: Aim 6 is largely neutral as it relates to delivery of the strategy contained in the SPD. However, implementing the policies should in itself help to achieve sustainable outcomes for Royston town centre.</p> <p>Recommendations for changes to this objective: None</p>		

Sustainability Appraisal and SEA of the
Royston Town Centre Strategy
Supplementary Planning Document

**Appendix 5:
Matrices Appraising the Saved
Policies and Strategic Options**

June 2008

Appraisal of Saved Policies

The impact of each policy on the SA objectives is scored as follows: Major positive √√; positive √; major negative **XX**; negative **X**; uncertain **?**; or neutral **O**.

The assessment is based on the current situation and trends for each objective, including where there are particular problems. This information is contained in appendix 3 (baseline data) and appendix 1 (key sustainability issues), and has been referred to throughout the process of compiling the matrices.

Local Plan no. 2. Policy 42 part (i) Town Centres				
<i>For retail uses, the Council will permit development proposals: (i) which support and maintain shopping as the main activity in town centres, but only if these safeguard and enhance the environment of the three historic towns of Baldock, Hitchin and Royston and the World's First Garden City, Letchworth;...</i>				
	What is predicted effect of the option on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the option could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	√	?	<p>Provision of enhanced retail facilities is a key aspect of economic development as retail is an increasingly important component of the National Economy. Currently there is significant 'leakage' of consumer expenditure out of the district and out of Royston. This leads to loss of opportunities for jobs and business in the town.</p> <p>In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in comparison to other centres.</p>
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	?	<p>Town centre development will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on greenfield sites.</p> <p>In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive</p>

				stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in comparison to other centres, and lack of assembly of town centre sites makes these sites relatively less attractive.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	?	<p>Royston Town centre has a some attractive areas of greenspace and more people in the town centre will increase access to open space.</p> <p>In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in comparison to other centres and possibly less use of Priory Memorial Gardens.</p>
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√	?	<p>Royston Town Centre has fairly good accessibility by public transport.</p> <p>In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the district's town centres in comparison to other centres and hence people travelling further to shop, likely by car with its associated sustainability impacts.</p> <p>In addition the current provision of bus services are infrequent to some areas and transport interchange facilities are poor.</p>
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	No direct impact

3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√ √	√ √	√ √	The policy requires development to enhance the historic character of Royston town Centre.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	√	√	?	<p>A vital and viable town centre that is easily accessible by public transport should help to reduce dependence on the private car, reducing the contributions the car makes to pollution.</p> <p>In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the district's town centres in comparison to other centres and hence people travelling further to shop, likely by car with its associated sustainability impacts.</p>
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√	?	<p>Royston Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport.</p> <p>In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in comparison to other centres and hence people travelling further to shop, likely by car with its associated sustainability impacts.</p>
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	?	?	?	<p>Some of the outer areas of Royston have pockets of deprivation. Investment in the town centre may be traded for investment to areas outside of the town centre. Alternatively, positive spin-off effects may accrue to</p>

				these areas.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	?	?	?	The provision of services, especially in the town centre, has historically lagged behind housing provision and some services, such as leisure facilities, are not located in accessible central locations. However the Somerfield supermarket and the town centre shops are accessible.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	?	?	?	Unsure how support for town centre shops will affect community cohesion, could result in increased investment for the town centre and associated positive spin-off effects. But growth does not necessarily result in an increase in cohesion.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	?	?	?	Application of the policy has had no impact on the ability to develop affordable housing in the town.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	?	?	Town centres are usually higher crime areas because of the concentration of people and goods. Declining town centres however can attract vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	0	0	0	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	0	0	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	√	?	<p>Royston Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials.</p> <p>In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in comparison to other centres and hence people travelling further to shop, likely by car with its associated sustainability impacts.</p>
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural				

resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	No direct impact
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	No direct impact
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√	?	<p>Royston Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials.</p> <p>In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in comparison to other centres and hence people travelling further to shop, likely by car with its associated sustainability impacts.</p> <p>In addition the current provision of bus services are infrequent to some areas and transport interchange facilities are poor.</p> <p>Finally the policy does not promote mixed use development in town centres and provision of housing on retail developments, to increase the amount of urban living at an accessible location.</p>
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment is positive overall but the policy does not meet all current requirements for town centre policy in its wording in not promoting town centre development merely permitting them, and also not promoting residential and other uses as part of retail led mixed use schemes. These matters should be considered in drafting the LDF. Maintenance of the requirement for retail development in Royston to protect its character should be retained in any replacement policy. 				

Appraisal of Strategic Options

The impact of each option on the SA objective is scored as follows: Major positive √√; positive √; major negative **XX**; negative **X**; uncertain **?**; or neutral **O**. The assessment is based on the current situation and trends for each objective, including where there are particular problems. This information is contained in appendix 3 (baseline data) and appendix 1 (key sustainability issues), and has been referred to throughout the process of compiling the matrices.

Option A:

Do not produce a SPD, but rely on the current policy (this is the "business as usual option")

Conclusions:

- It should be noted that this is the same as appraising the saved policy above and reference should be made to the appraisal tables in the previous section. The 'business as usual' option has the disadvantage of lacking tailored and specific policy and guidance for the town centre. Each individual case would be negotiated on a site by site basis with no clear overall framework for how sites should relate to each other, be accessed or over how cumulative impacts will be assessed. It would be an example of development control without planning. It would have the disadvantage of not providing a clear framework over planning obligations or how or where facilities servicing the whole town centre, or town would be provided. It would also share the disadvantages of the saved policy without providing an opportunity to provide clarification on how these disadvantages could be mitigated in the circumstances of this specific area. Key issues concerning the town centre would remain unresolved especially in relation to the potential for developing the Opportunity Sites.

Option B:

Produce an SPD based on minimal change to the town centre with some public realm enhancement and development of the civic centre site.

	What is predicted effect of the option on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the option could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	X	XX	XX	Minimal change would lead to lack of economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre become less competitive

				compared to other town centres; leading to loss of growth of jobs and businesses.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	X	X	X	Lack of opportunity for new town centre uses would lead to more pressure for 'out of-centre' development in line with the government's 'sequential approach'. This could lead to more pressure to develop on greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	X	X	X	If the town centre is less competitive less people are likely to visit and make use of open spaces in the town.
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	X	XX	XX	Lack of opportunity for new town centre uses would lead to more pressure for 'out of-centre' development in line with the government's 'sequential approach'. These sites are less accessible and could lead to more car use. In addition more shoppers are likely to shop in other centres further way and lead to more car use.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	0	X	X	Minimal change would cause no harm to the historic environment in the short-term, but in the medium to long term a declining town centre, with lack of investment as other more competitive centres overtook it, could lead to a loss of land value and loss of reinvestment in maintaining the historic fabric.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	0	0	0	No direct impact
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√	?	<p>Royston Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport.</p> <p>In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in</p>

				comparison to other centres and hence people travelling further to shop, likely by car with its associated sustainability impacts.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	√	X	XX	<p>The main beneficiaries in the short term of a minimal change option would be the tenants and workers of existing units.</p> <p>Over the medium to long term however minimal change would lead to lack of economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre become less competitive compared to other town centres; leading to loss of growth of jobs and businesses.</p>
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	0	X	XX	Over the medium to long term minimal change would lead to lack of economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre become less competitive compared to other town centres; leading to loss of growth of jobs and businesses. A less competitive centre will become a less visited one, leading to less incentive to bus companies to run a regular service and making the town centre less accessible.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	0	X	<p>The main beneficiaries in the short term of a minimal change option would be the tenants and workers of existing units.</p> <p>Over the medium to long term however minimal change would lead to lack of economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would lead to an increasing social divide between residents of the town who shop within it and those that do not. This could see the town centre becoming less of a centre of social activity.</p>
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	0	X	XX	Over the longer term lack of development activity would lead to lack of opportunity for mixed use development including housing.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	0	0	?	Crime levels are below the national

				average however there is relatively more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A declining town centre, which minimal change is likely to see, might see less opportunities for crime, but would also see less natural surveillance and more opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	0	0	0	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	0	0	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	0	X	XX	Over the longer term lack of development activity could lead to lack of opportunity for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	No direct impact
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	No direct impact.
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	0	X	XX	The provision of services, especially in the town centre, has historically lagged behind housing provision and some services, such as leisure facilities, are not located in accessible central locations. However the Somerfield supermarket and the town centre shops are accessible. Car use in Royston is well above the national average. This is probably due to the lack of integrated public transport provision within the town. Minimal change would see lack of opportunity for town centre living as part of development and reinforcement of travel to shop patterns to other centres, with increased car use.
Conclusions:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This option performs poorly overall, with the only beneficial impacts being short term 				

physical improvements to a limited area of the town, and even these are eroded over the medium to long term. The main problem with this option being 'no change' to the centre would occur alongside a pattern of expansion by competing centres, leading to the centre declining over time and people travelling further to shop. A town centre strategy will present the opportunity to provide a holistic approach to future development in the town and an integrated approach to planning.

Recommendations:

- This option performs poorly and should not be pursued.

Option C:

Produce a SPD based on preserving and enhancing the character and appearance of the town centre with a moderate increase in retail provision and social facilities. (This would include enhancements of certain areas within the town centre and other development opportunities as identified through the public workshops)

	What is predicted effect of the option on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the option could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	√√	√√	A moderate increase in retail provision would enable the retail economic base of the town to grow over time and compete more effectively with other town centres and out-of town stores like Tesco.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√√	√√	Town centre development will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on Greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√√	√√	More people visiting the town centre would provide more opportunities for use of Memorial Gardens.
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√√?	√√?	Royston Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre retailing will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport. This would need to be carefully managed and integrated with a parking

				strategy.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	√√	√√	By definition, a strategy based on demolition of buildings and areas detracting from the character and appearance of the conservation area and replacement with buildings enhancing the conservation area would enhance the historic environment.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	0	0	?	Over time a more popular town centre could attract more traffic. There is no air quality pollution problem at the moment however and traffic levels would have to rise very considerably for this to happen. A more vital town centre may mean higher densities which are capable of supporting a more viable public transport system
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√√	√√	Royston Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre retailing will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	X	√	√√	The main people in the short term who would be affected by this option would be the tenants and workers of existing units to be redeveloped. Over the medium to long term however change would lead to economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre perform better, leading to growth of jobs and businesses.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√√	√√	Over the medium to long term this option would lead to economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre perform better, leading to growth of

				jobs and businesses. A better performing centre will become a more visited one, leading to greater incentive to bus companies to run a regular service and making the town centre more accessible.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	?	√	√	It is uncertain whether existing tenants would benefit in the short term due to trade leakage to other units. However, they would potentially benefit from increased footfall and greater revenue. Over the medium to long term appropriate change would lead to economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would lead to a lessening social divide between residents of the town who shop within it and those that do not. This could see the town centre becoming more the centre of social activity.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	√√	√√	Development will lead to opportunities to create more affordable housing.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	?	?	Crime levels are below the national average however there is relatively more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due, in part, to more people and more opportunities for crime. A more vibrant town centre, which this option is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	?	?	?	A popular town centre could lead to more people and an associated strain on services. Alternatively, it could lead to greater investment which could be used to finance social infrastructure.
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	?	?	?	A popular town centre could lead to more people and an associated strain on services. Alternatively, it could lead to greater investment which could be used to finance education and life-long learning facilities in the town.
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	0	√	√√	Over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	?	?	?	Uncertain impact as depends on implementation of other policies outside the scope of this SPD.
6(b) Reduce waste	?	?	?	Uncertain impact as depends on

				implementation of other policies outside the scope of this SPD.
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Royston Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people living in and visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option performs well overall in sustainability terms and is the best of the three options. It performs very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns. It may produce short term negative impacts on existing shopkeepers, these are balanced buy positive impacts in the longer term. • There are a number of uncertainties over the impacts of these options and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. Firstly any demolition will need to be selective to avoid harm to the historic environment, and replacement buildings will need to be of outstanding quality appropriate to Royston town centre. Secondly there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce car dependence. The provision of additional facilities in the town will help to increase social justice in the town. A further uncertainty occurs with the possibility of allowing development on car parking space. This is likely to decrease dependence on the car and allow value to be released in land but it is uncertain whether public transport can operate at a sufficient capacity to offset the movement of people into the town. 				

Sustainability Appraisal and SEA of the
Royston Town Centre Strategy
Supplementary Planning Document

Appendix 6:
**Matrices Appraising the Preferred
Option Policies and Opportunity Sites**

June 2008

Appraisal of Preferred Option Policies

Note: In order to make the appraisal process more manageable and to ensure it focuses on the strategic issues rather than minor points of detail the preferred option has been appraised in sections consisting of similar policies, with a very similar impact.

The impact of the policies of the SPD on the SA objectives is scored as follows: Major positive √√; positive √; major negative **XX**; negative **X**; uncertain **?**; or neutral **O**. The assessment is based on the current situation and trends for each objective, including where there are particular problems. This information is contained in appendix 3 (baseline data) and appendix 1 (key sustainability issues), and has been referred to throughout the process of compiling the matrices.

Land Use				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail • Other town centre uses • Residential Development • Commercial / Office uses 				
	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	√√	√√	A moderate increase in retail provision would enable the retail economic base of the town to grow over time and compete more effectively with other town centres.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value	√	√	√	Town centre development will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on Greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	More people visiting the town centre would provide more opportunities for use of Priory Memorial Gardens
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√√?	√√?	Royston Town Centre has adequate accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre retailing will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	√	√	Ensuring that uses are appropriate to the historic nature of the town centre will preserve the historic environment
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	?	?	?	A more successful town centre may result in increased traffic as people are drawn to the town centre for shopping. However, as a result of policies on public transport and sustainability there will be more opportunities for the use of public transport.
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√	√	A more successful town centre may result in increased traffic as people are drawn to the town centre for shopping. However, as a result of policies on public transport and sustainability there will be more opportunities for the use of public transport
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	?	√	√	An improvement in the town centre retailing may lead to increased competition for existing retailers, however it could also attract more people to the town centre, leading to higher revenues for existing shopkeepers. Any potential negative effects should diminish in the long-term.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√	√	Improvements to the town centre retail environment will ensure that development takes place in a sustainable and accessible location for all members of society
5(c) Promote community cohesion	?	?	?	Improving the town centre and creating a more lively area may help to promote civic pride.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	√	√	Development will lead to opportunities to create more affordable housing.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this strategy is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but

				would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	√	√	Creating an attractive town centre with a strong retail environment should help to increase activity in Royston.
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	0	0	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	0	√	√√	In the medium-long term, as opportunity sites are developed, the opportunity to provide mixed-use development will occur. This will provide a range of other uses that are accessible to all.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Royston Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people living in and visiting the town centre will be more sustainable
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policies relating to land-use in Royston town centre will meet the objectives of providing sustainable development. <p>Uncertainties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short-term impact of improvements to the town centre is uncertain on existing shop-keepers as it may promote competition and have a negative impact on their revenues. However, a more viable town centre will also attract more people meaning more revenue for town centre shops and businesses. Any negative effects should diminish in the medium-long term. There are similar uncertainties relating to the short-term impacts of crime in the town centre. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change recommended 				

Community, Leisure, Recreational and Cultural Facilities

- Policy on protecting and providing community facilities in Royston town centre

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	√	√	Community, leisure , recreational and cultural facilities provide employment and supplement commercial and retail uses in a town centre
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	0	0	0	
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	0	0	0	
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√	√	Will encourage and preserve the location of essential facilities in sustainable locations that are accessible to all
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	0	0	0	
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	√	√	√	Providing essential uses in sustainable locations that are accessible by public transport will help to reduce reliance on the private car
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	0	√	√	Providing essential uses in sustainable locations that are accessible by public transport will help to reduce reliance on the private car
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of	√√	√√	√√	Providing essential uses in sustainable

prosperity fairly				locations that are accessible to all groups in society will help distribute benefits more equally
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√√	√√	√√	The very nature of this policy ensures that this objective is met
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	√	√	The policies promote services and facilities for the town which should be of benefit to all people in the town centre.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	0	0	0	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	√	√	√	Promoting community facilities will provide activities for young people and reduce antisocial behaviour
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√√	√√	√√	The policy specifically looks to address health care and should help to meet this objective
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	√	√	√	Community facilities often provide opportunities for education and lifelong learning
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√√	√√	√√	The very nature of this policy fulfils this objective
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√	√	Ensuring a mix of uses in the town centre will help to achieve this objective by reducing the need for private car use and ensuring that peoples needs are met in an accessible location
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy achieves broadly sustainable outcomes for the town centre. it performs especially well on aspirations for creating a just society <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change recommended 				

Promotion and Marketing

- develop a niche role for Royston town centre in terms of uses and functions
- Partnership Working to be encouraged in the town centre

	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	√	√	The promotion and marketing of the town centre will help to maintain economic prosperity in the town
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Encouraging improvements to the town centre will help to reduce pressure in greenfield areas
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	Maintaining the character of the town centre involves ensuring that assets such as Priory Memorial Gardens is maintained
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	0	0	0	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	√	√	√	Maintaining the character of the town centre involves protecting landscape assets
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√√	√√	√√	Protecting the built environment of Royston town centre as one of its unique selling points involves preserving and enhancing the historic character
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	0	0	0	
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	0	0	0	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	0	0	0	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	0	0	0	
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√√	√√	√√	Encouraging dialogue between various groups should help to encourage

				cohesion
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	0	0	0	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	0	0	0	
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	0	0	0	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	0	0	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	0	0	0	
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√	√	
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policies in this section largely refer to implementation and aspirations for the town centre. As such they are fairly neutral in delivering sustainable outcomes but should result in greater dialogue between groups which should help to facilitate other policies which will fulfil sustainable objectives <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change recommended 				

Design and Conservation

- Conservation and Heritage in Royston town centre
- Urban Design in Royston town centre
- public open space
- Public Realm improvements

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	√	√	The quality of the environment in Royston is a key component of its economic offer. Protection of the town heritage and promotion of good urban design should boost the town economically.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Protects land with high amenity value such as St John the Baptist's Church and Priory Memorial Gardens
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√√	√√	√√	By preserving and enhancing open space in Royston. This section seeks to ensure that access to green spaces is maintained and improved
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	0	√	√	An attractive town centre that is easier for the pedestrian to move around in will see less traffic.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	√√	√√	√√	The protection and enhancement of open space will help to protect and diversify biodiversity in the town centre.
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	√√	√√	√√	The protection and enhancement of open space will help to diversify and protect biodiversity in the town centre
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√√	√√	√√	These policies set down strict controls on protecting the historic environment in Royston
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	0	0	0	
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	0	?	?	In the longer term an attractive town centre, focussed on pedestrians should reduce car use. However, an attractive town centre could lead to more people travelling to the town by private car

4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	0	0	0	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√	√	Implementation of the policies would provide opportunities for improved services and facilities for the town that can be appreciated by all.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	√	√	Improvements to open space and the public realm should promote civic pride and provide opportunities for people to meet and socialise
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	0	0	0	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	√	√	√	Improved design should provide opportunities to design out crime
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	√	√	Improving access and quality of greenspace will help to improve opportunities for recreation and sport.
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	0	0	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	√	√	The policies promote services and facilities in the town.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√	√	The quality of the environment in Royston is a key component of its environment. Protection of the town heritage and promotion of good urban design principles should boost the town centre as a location for sustainable urban living.
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of these policies will produce sustainable outcomes for the town centre 				

Uncertainties:

- Although the policies do not cover issues such as resource use this is tackled later on in the sustainability section

Recommendations:

- No change recommended

Safety and Security

- aims to encourage safety and security in Royston town centre

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	√	√	Reducing crime will help to provide a more pleasant living environment and provide a prosperous town centre
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	0	0	0	
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	0	0	0	
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	0	0	0	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	√	√	Reducing crime will help to enhance the historic environment in Royston town centre
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	0	0	0	
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	0	0	0	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	

A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	0	0	0	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	0	0	0	
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	√	√	A reduction in crime-levels should provide a more attractive town centre and promote civic pride and community cohesion
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	0			
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	√√	√√	√√	The nature of this policy should help meet the objective of reducing crime rates and fear of crime
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	0	0	0	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	0	0	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	0	√	√	A reduction in crime rates will help to maintain and enhance facilities that are available to all
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√	√	A reduction in crime rates and fear of crime will provide a more pleasant living environment for residents
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy achieves a neutral affect in many areas and seeks to reduction in crime rates in providing a more environment for users of the town centre. The neutral objectives are broadly met in other sections. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change recommended as sustainable objectives can be met through other policies 				

Movement

- road network
- buses
- walking and cycling
- vehicle parking

II	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	√	√	Improved transport should lead to economic growth
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Improved access to the town centre should lead to less pressure to develop greenfield sites
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	Improved access to the town centre should lead to improved access to Priory Memorial Gardens
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√√?	√√?	√√?	This section of the strategy is focussed on improving public transport and pedestrian access. It also proposes some increase in off street parking, balanced by some restrictions on off – street parking. The increase in off-street parking would not necessarily lead to more car use if it led to people not driving to other centres much further away. This issue is a carefully balanced one though and making parking excessively cheap or plentiful could lead to an adverse modal shift.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	√	√	Reducing the impact of the private car will enhance the historic environment
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	0	0	0	

CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√√?	√√?	√√?	This section of the strategy is focussed on improving public transport and alternative modes of transport, although it is recognised that there is a greater dependence on the private car in rural areas . It also proposes some increase in off street parking, balanced by some restrictions on off – street parking. The increase in off-street parking would not necessarily lead to more car use if it led to people not driving to other centres much further away. This issue is a carefully balanced one though and making parking excessively cheap or plentiful could lead to an adverse modal shift.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	√	√	√	Improved public transport will benefit those without a car.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√	√	Improved public transport will benefit those without a car.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	√	√	Improved public transport will help community cohesion.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	0	0	0	No direct impact
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	√	√	√	Covers improvements to community safety
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	√	√	Improved public transport will improve access to town centre health facilities.
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	√	√	√	Improved public transport will improve access to town centre educational facilities.
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	√	√	Improved public transport will improve access to town centre recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	No direct impact.
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	

TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√√	√√	√√	Improved public transport, walking and cycling will aid sustainable urban living
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These policies have an almost wholly positive impact. <p>Uncertainties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of uncertainties over the impacts of these policies and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. Firstly there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce its car dependence. Secondly the amount and cost of parking should not make it an overly attractive alternative to public transport to adversely affect modal shift. However, it is recognised in this section that there is a greater dependence on the private car in rural areas. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change recommended – however the impact of additional off street parking should be carefully monitored and the price/control regime for parking altered accordingly over time. 				

Sustainability				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability • Sustainable design 				
	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	0	0	0	Promoting environmentally sustainable policies is unlikely to have any impact on economic growth
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	0	0	0	
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	0	0	0	
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location	0	0	0	

patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles				
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	Promoting green roofs where appropriate will help to protect and enhance biodiversity
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	?	?	?	Providing micro-generation facilities in new development may not maintain or enhance the historic character if it is not done sensitively. the wording of the policy does contain criteria which should be used to carefully assess any proposed development
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	√√	√√	√√	Promoting sustainable development policies should reduce the need for energy
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√√	√√	√√	Targets to reduce CO2 emissions will help to reduce greenhouse gas emission as will reducing demand for energy
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	√√	√√	√√	Providing sustainable housing will support the District's long term ability to adapt to climate change
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	0	0	0	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	0	0	0	
5(c) Promote community cohesion	0	0	0	
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	0	0	0	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	0	0	0	
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	√	√	Reducing pollution should improve health for town centre residents
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	0	0	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	0	0	0	

RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	?√	?√	?√	Policies encourage prudent use of natural resources by reducing energy demand. This section recognises the benefits of promoting SUDS and the efficient use of water.
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√√	√√	√√	Encouraging environmental sustainability will help to promote sustainable urban living
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These policies perform very well in environmental sustainability terms <p>Uncertainties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main uncertainties exist over how easy it is to provide micro-generation and embedded renewable energy that fits into the context of new design. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The suitability of sustainability measures in small market towns should be assessed 				

Appraisal of Opportunity Sites

Note: In order to make the appraisal process more manageable and to ensure it focuses on the strategic issues rather than minor points of detail the Opportunity Sites have sifted to remove the smallest sites not making a significant impact on the environment. These sites are likely to fall under the principles of the ‘small sites and areas’ exemption. Only those aspects of each opportunity site likely to have a significant environmental impact have been appraised – not localised aspects of design guidance. Finally where sites are adjoining/linked and likely to have similar impacts these have been appraised together.

The impact of the opportunity sites in the draft SPD on the SA objectives is scored as follows: Major positive √√; positive √; major negative **XX**; negative **X**; uncertain **?**; or neutral **O**.

The assessment is based on the current situation and trends for each objective, including where there are particular problems. This information is contained in appendix 3 (baseline data) and appendix 1 (key sustainability issues), and has been referred to throughout the process of compiling the matrices.

Opportunity RTC 1: Civic Centre				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development for a mix of uses including residential, community facilities, extended car parking and a new public square 				
SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	√	√	Providing mixed use development in favour with a bias on community and civic uses in an accessible location will benefit the town economically
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Development on brownfield land will take pressure off developing greenfield land.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	New development should provide areas of green space on-site and improve access to Priory Memorial Gardens
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√√	√√	√√	Development close to the town centre will ensure easy access to and from the site which is easily accessible by public transport

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	√	√	Development on this site should retain the Town Hall which is locally listed
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	√	√	√	Providing development will ensure that town centre amenities are accessible. Conversely, providing services on the Civic Centre site will mean they are more accessible to town centre residents
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	0	0	0	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	√	√?	√?	A mix of uses including residential development should provide a proportion of affordable housing. Providing community and civic facilities in a central location will help to provide equal access to services
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√?	√?	√?	The provision of accessible services in a central location will ensure that people can access services easily. If car parking is reduced on the site access to services and facilities may prove more difficult for certain groups but the reductions in car-parking space could be absorbed by other off-street car parks
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	√	√	The provision of community facilities will provide facilities for the whole community
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√?	√?	√?	A mix of uses including residential development should provide a proportion of affordable housing
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	√	√	√	Redevelopment of the site to adhere to Secure By Design Principles will improve overlooking and increase safety and security on the site
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	√	√	Improvements to the design of the site will ensure that healthcare facilities are more accessible for residents
5(g) Increase participation in	0	0	0	

education and life-long learning				
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	√	√	Enhancing community facilities will help to meet this objective
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√	√	Development is in an accessible location to and from the town centre
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This development opportunity performs well on sustainability indicators specifically in regards to improving access to community and cultural facilities. <p>Uncertainties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bringing the site forward for development will need to be discussed carefully with existing landholders. The idea of removing car parking space will need to be carefully assessed. It is also uncertain on what the commercial threshold for sustaining community and leisure facilities is. New development will have to respect the historic context of the conservation area in term of height, scale and massing of any new buildings. Ensuring that adequate public open space will also be key to achieving sustainable outcomes for this site. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No alterations are suggested for this site although careful attention must be paid to constraints. Further discussions with key stakeholders will be essential. This is recognised through the recommendation for a development brief for the site. 				

Opportunity RTC 3: Angel Pavement

- Redevelopment of the existing retail with the possibility of providing larger floorplate stores with residential and commercial uses above.

	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√?	√?	√?	Increasing the retail offer in the town centre will ensure more people use the town centre. There are uncertainties over the ease of which this site can be redeveloped due to the fragmented ownership. Refurbishment is also considered a possibility.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Promoting development in the town centre will reduce the pressure to develop on greenfield land
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	0	0	0	
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√√	√√	√√	Town centre retail development will help to ensure that services are accessible to all in a sustainable location.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√√	√√	√√	Improving the existing environment in Angel Pavement will add to the character of the Conservation Area, as will the opportunity to remove visually unappealing buildings
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	√	√	√	Providing retail in a centrally accessible environment will allow people to travel by more sustainable modes of transport
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	0	0	0	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	

A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	√	√	√	Centrally accessible services will be more accessible by all groups
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√	√	Centrally accessible services will be more accessible by all groups
5(c) Promote community cohesion	0	0	0	
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	?	?	?	If part of the site is redeveloped for housing a proportion could be allocated as affordable
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	?	?	Providing active frontages and a livelier environment will provide natural surveillance and overlooking of the public realm
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	0	0	0	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	0	0	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	0	0	0	
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√√	√√	√√	Providing services in a central and accessible location will help to produce more sustainable living
Conclusions:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The outcomes of redeveloping this site are sustainable and desirable and broadly involve ensuring that uses within the town centre are accessible to all. A focus on promoting the retail offer will help to create a more vital and viable town centre. The opportunity to refurbish this site will also help to enhance its setting within the conservation area. 				
Uncertainties:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ease of which this site can be developed will to some extent rely on achieving consensus between the various landholders. Another issue involves the potential of increasing the height of existing premises - this would need to be done sensitively. 				
Recommendations:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposals for this site produce sustainable outcomes but in-depth discussions will be required to bring the site forward for successful redevelopment. 				

Opportunity RTC 4: Market Place, Old Cattle Market Site, and Royston Corn Exchange

- Opening up of the Corn Exchange to improve its vitality. The use of the Old Cattle Market Site for mixed-use development. Market Place redeveloped to improve the public realm.

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√?	√	√	Redevelopment of this site for town centre uses will help to increase commercial activity in the town centre. Uncertainties exist in the short-term over the ease of which the Old Cattle Market Site can be brought forward for redevelopment
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Promoting development in the town centre will reduce the pressure to develop on greenfield land
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	The redevelopment of this site will help to improve views and access to Priory Memorial Gardens
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√	√	Redevelopment of this site will help to promote services in a location easily accessible by public transport
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√?	√?	√?	The redevelopment of the Old Cattle Market Site will need to be undertaken sensitively with careful attention paid to the scale and layout of existing buildings.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	0	0	0	
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	0	0	0	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	

A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	√	√	√	Improvements to the public realm can be appreciated by all
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√	√	Improvements to the public realm can be appreciated by all
5(c) Promote community cohesion	0	0	0	
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	0	0	0	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	√	√	√	Improving the public realm and increasing natural surveillance will help to reduce opportunities for crime
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	0	0	0	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	0	0	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	√	√	Improvement of the Royston Market involves the improvement of a recreational service that is inclusive as it is free to use
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√	√	This objective will be achieved by providing a mix of uses in an easily accessible location
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This opportunity site performs well in terms of meeting sustainability objectives <p>Uncertainties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is uncertain how easy it will be to bring the Old Cattle Market Site forward for redevelopment as it is under private ownership. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No alterations are suggested for this site although careful attention must be paid to the constraints. It is recommended that dialogue is opened with English Heritage to discuss the possibility of redeveloping this site. 				

Opportunity RTC 6: Fish Hill Square

- Improvements to the public realm to provide an additional market for the town

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	√	√	Redevelopment will provide the opportunity to provide a new market which will have an economic function for the town centre
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Redevelopment of the town centre will reduce the need to develop on greenfield locations
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	0	0	0	
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√	√	Improvements will be provided in an accessible location. The removal of car parking will help to improve access by foot
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	√	√	The redevelopment will help to enhance the character of the area and improve the siting of the Old Court House
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	0	0	0	
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	0	0	0	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	√	√	√	A market is a free event that can be attended by anyone
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√	√	Improvements to the public realm will be to the benefit of everybody in the town centre

5(c) Promote community cohesion	?√	?√	?√	Redevelopment of the public realm and surrounding area could act to increase civic pride
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	0	0	0	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	√	√	√	Improvements to the public realm and the promotion of active frontages will increase natural surveillance and reduce opportunities for crime
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	0	0	0	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	0	0	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	√	√	The provision of a market will provide a recreational activity that is accessible to all
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√	√	Promoting uses that create a vital and viable town centre will help to promote sustainable urban living
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redevelopment of this site helps to meet sustainable objectives, This site is owned by the Council and should be relatively easy to bring forward for development. <p>Uncertainties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful consideration will need to be given to the proposed loss of car parking space. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No alterations are recommended for this opportunity site 				

Opportunity RTC 7: Princes Mews East and West

- Redevelopment of Princes Mews West car Park to provide decked parking and the

possibility of providing residential use above Sommerfield. Access provided from Princes Mews.				
	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	√	√	Increasing the supply of residential accommodation in the town centre will help to cater for sustainable growth
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Providing space for development in the town centre will reduce the need to build on greenfield land
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	0	0	0	
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√	√	Providing housing in the town centre will reduce reliance on the private car
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	0	0	0	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	0	0	0	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	0	0	0	
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	0	0	0	
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	0	0	0	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	0	0	0	
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	0	0	0	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	0	0	0	
5(c) Promote community cohesion	0	0	0	

5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	√	√	A proportion of any housing should be allocated as affordable
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	√	√	√	By providing active frontages and natural surveillance the opportunities for crime will be reduced
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	0	0	0	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	0	0	0	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	0	0	0	
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	0	0	0	
6(b) Reduce waste	0	0	0	
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√	√	Providing housing in a town centre location reduces the need for travel and is considered sustainable
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The addition of housing in this part of the town centre is unlikely to have a significant effect as it will be fairly small scale. Positive effects do occur because proposed development will be in the town centre and reduce the need for people to travel to access services. <p>Uncertainties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This site is in private ownership and may not be brought forward for redevelopment. Furthermore, any new development is likely to increase traffic entering the site. This will need to be taken into account when considering the width of the existing access from Baldock Street. Any new development will also need ensure that the residential amenity of surrounding residential properties is preserved. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No alterations are recommended for this site. 				

Section 8 Delivery

No policies to appraise.