Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Draft Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Supplementary Planning Document

Scoping Report

August 2006

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Scoping Report

A report by North Hertfordshire District Council

August 2006

Planning Policy & Projects

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1. Introduction

1.1. What this report covers

This report describes the scope and methods that will be used in the sustainability appraisal of the Draft Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Supplementary Planning Document. Much of the report is similar to the Scoping Report for the initial development plan documents[1] as prepared by CAG consultants for North Herts District Council. The differences are summarised in the box below. A common baseline and methodology has been developed for all of the Local Planning Authority's Local Development Documents, however each will be subject to rigorously independent appraisal of the significant environmental issues raised by that document.

Summary of differences between this report (Scoping Report for draft Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy SPD) and Scoping Report for Appraisal of Core Strategy and Development Control Policies	
Process to be used	There are minor differences in the process.
Strategic Objectives	This report includes the proposed objectives for the SPD, with one additional sub-objective.
Strategic Options	This report includes the proposed strategic options for the SPD: see page 12.
Appraisal Framework	One additional sub-objective has been added to the appraisal framework in this report.
Sustainability Issues	Both reports have identified the same sustainability issues: see Appendix 1.
Review of Plans, Programmes and Policies	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Policies to this SPD are shown in the list on page 14 and included in Appendix 2 (See separate document containing appendices). This includes a number of new documents (including new or final versions of planning guidance) not contained in the Context Review for the Initial Development Plan Documents, which are shown in italics.
Baseline Review	This report includes four additional indicators: see page 22 and Appendix 3 (See separate document containing appendices).

[1] See http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/council/default.asp?step=4&pid=1074

1.2. Background

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 Guidance[2] (referred to as "the Guidance" in this report) on undertaking SA of the LDFs. The approach in the Guidance is to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into a wider Sustainability Appraisal process.

1.3. 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

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

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.

1.4. 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 fives stages (A to E) to the Appraisal, shown in the box below. The stages follow those indicated in the Guidance.

THE FIVE STAGES OF SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

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

⇩

B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

⇩

C: Preparing the SA report

⇩

D: Consulting on the Supplementary Planning Document and SA Report

⇩

E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Supplementary Planning Document

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 Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Supplementary Planning Document

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, and is in the process of revising, the 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 DPDs have already been produced[3].

The Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on a Town Centre Strategy for Letchworth Garden City is proposed in the draft revised Local Development Scheme to 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 plan[4]"). In this case, the Supplementary Planning Document will provide further guidance and policy on the existing policy on Letchworth Town Centre contained in the adopted North Hertfordshire District Local Plan no. 2 (with Alterations). Policy 58 Letchworth Garden City Design Principles - which requires that in Letchworth development takes into account Garden City design principles. This policy will be carried forward in amended form within a local development plan document. Secondly Policy 42 part (i) which seeks to support and maintain shopping as the main activity in town centres, providing it safeguards and enhances the environment of towns such as the World's first Garden City Letchworth. Structure plan policies 66, 67, 68 and 80 are also relevant. In due course these will be replaced by Regional Spatial Strategy policy SS5 which 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

[3] See http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/council/default.asp?step=4&pid=1074

[4] The policies of an existing Local Plan continue to have effect for a minimum of 3 years from the enactment of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (September 2004) or the adoption of replacement documents under the new system, whichever is sooner.

centres and allocation of sites for retail and other uses are proposed to be included in various development plan documents. An 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 these are changes which have significant environmental effects. This will not, in line 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, policy or policies which have not been subject to SA, then the authority will need to carry out a SA of that policy or policies and report on those*[5].

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''.

[5] *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents: Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities, November* 2005 ODPM.

2.3. Screening of the requirements for SEA

Responsible Authorities must carry out screening to determine whether plans or programmes of the types covered by Article 3(3) and 3(4) (see below) are likely to have significant environmental effects, and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive.

SEA is not required for plans or programmes which determine the use of small areas at a local level and which do not have significant environmental effects.

Annex II of the Directive lists criteria for determining the likely significance of the environmental effects of plans or programmes. The Responsible Authority must make its conclusions on a determination available to the public, including reasons for not requiring SEA. The SEA Regulations also detail publicity requirements for determinations, and make provision for a direction by the Secretary of State or devolved Ministers.

The European Commission guidance (paragraphs 3.33–3.35) suggests that plans or programmes which determine the use of small areas at local level might include

"*a building plan which, for a particular, limited area, outlines details of how buildings must be constructed, determining, for example, their height, width or design…. The complete phrase… makes it clear that the whole of a local authority area could not be excluded (unless it were itself small). …The key criterion for the application of the Directive, however, is not the size of area covered but whether the plan or programme would be likely to have significant environmental effects*".

The guidance for specific opportunity sites within the draft SPD contains a number of detailed design matters. Were these the sole content of the strategy, and these concerned buildings would not have a significant environmental effect, then assessment would not be required.

The strategy itself as a whole could have a significant environmental effect (positive or negative) due to the international importance of Letchworth as the World's First Garden City. Therefore the screening opinion is that SA/SEA is required.

Similarly, '*minor modifications' should be considered in the context of the plan or programme which is being modified and of the likelihood of their*

having significant environmental effects […] Article 3(3) clarifies the position by recognising that a modification may be of such small order that it is unlikely to have significant environmental effects, but requiring that where the modification … is likely to have significant environmental effects then an assessment should be carried out regardless of the scale of the modification" (European Commission guidance, paragraph 3.36).

The SPD may need to be reappraised in the future if it is changed, such as changes to bring it into general conformity to DPD policies and land allocations as they are progressed through the LDF. At each change the relevant authority (North Herts District Council) will need to determine if the minor modifications exemption applies. In which case the sustainability appraisal report can simply state the screening opinion.

As certain minor site specific changes might not in future require appraisal this reflects on the appropriate level of detail necessary in appraising the policies/guidance in the draft Town Centre Strategy and in particular the development opportunities. The SA/SEA should therefore focus on those matters with significant environmental effects, and at a site specific level the scoping of environmental issues suggests that these matters are mainly concerned with issues such as impact of traffic, impact on the streetscene and impact of the bulk, height of buildings on the conservation importance of the town.

2.4. The Appraisal Process to be used

The appraisal process will take account of the ODPM Guidance and, in doing so, will also meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

The steps of the process will be the same as used for the appraisal of the initial Development Plan Documents undertaken by CAG consultants, and will draw on the work already undertaken for the appraisal of the initial Development Plan Documents (contained in the Scoping Report for that appraisal[6]). The elements of this work are:

- The Appraisal Framework (step A4): the same framework will be used;
- Sustainability Issues (step A3): the same broad issues apply, however the scoping has revealed specific issues relevant to Letchworth, in particular its international importance;

[6] Available on http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/council/default.asp?step=4&pid=1074

- 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): four additional indicators have been used.

Each of these elements is described in subsequent sections of this report.

At Stage B2 of the process (developing options), four alternative options will be appraised. This includes the “business as usual” option of not having a SPD. In addition, as a consequence of the advice quoted above, existing ‘saved’ policies, which are the parent policy to the SPD, will be appraised at this stage.

3. Appraisal Documents

There are two formal documents required:

1. **This Scoping Report**

2. **The Sustainability Appraisal Report**

This 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 objectives of the plans to be appraised, the broad strategic options which will be considered, and the methodology that will be used. This report is the scoping report for the SPD on the Draft Town Centre Strategy for Letchworth Garden City.

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). It will include a non-technical summary, a summary of the results of each element of the appraisal process (including information on Stage A, amended to respond to consultation comments) and proposals for monitoring the impacts of the plan. The testing matrices from Stages B1–B5 will be made available in separate technical appendices.

The level of detail will be appropriate to an appraisal of a SPD. This means that the policy and guidance in the SPD will be tested in order to assess any significant environmental and sustainability impacts. 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
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
1. Summary and outcomes • Non-technical summary • A statement of the likely significant effects • Statement on the difference the process has made • How to comment on the report
2. Appraisal Methodology • 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 carrying out the assessment

3. Background • Purpose of the SA and the SA Report • Plan objectives and outline of contents • Compliance with the SEA Directive/Regulations
4. Sustainability objectives, baseline and context This section will be the information in the Scoping Report: • 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
5. Plan issues and options • 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 • Proposed mitigation measures (summary of testing matrices)
6. Plan policies • 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

3.1. Strategic Aims for the Draft SPD

The following spatial vision and aims have been proposed for the draft Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy SPD[7]. These are:

> 1. Letchworth Town Centre will be preserved and enhanced to protect its special character as the town centre of the world's first Garden City, with the quality buildings and facilities it deserves.

[7] They will be appraised using the SA Framework, in Stage B2 of the process

2. To promote the vitality and viability of Letchworth Garden City Town Centre through planning for its growth and development.

3. To develop the town centre's role as the focus for civic and social life and public transport networks in Letchworth Garden City and as a place which is pleasant, safe and inviting to visit and shop in.

Supporting these aims is a number of monitorable spatial objectives and themes.

3.2. Strategic Options for the Draft SPD

In developing the SPD, this SA/SEA considers four broad strategic options to deliver these aims. Each of these options for the overall strategic focus of the SPD will be appraised in stage B2. These are:

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

B) Produce a SPD based upon minimal change to the town centre;

C) Produce a SPD based upon improving the character and appearance of the town centre and a moderate increase in retail provision;

D) Produce a SPD based upon major change in the town centre and on maximising retail potential.

4. Context Review

Stage A1. Identify and review other relevant plans, programmes and policies, and sustainable development objectives that will affect or influence the SPD.

4.1. Purpose of the Context Review

The Context review is Stage A1 of the process outlined in the ODPM's Guidance on sustainability appraisal. The Guidance explains that[8]:

Identifying relationships with relevant policies, plans, programmes, and sustainability objectives will help:

- *to identify any external social, environmental or economic objectives that should be taken into account in the SA of the plan;*
- *to identify other external factors, including sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the plan; and*
- *to determine whether other policies, plans and programmes might give rise to cumulative effects when combined with the plan that is subject to the SA.*

The Context review meets the requirements of the SEA Directive to provide an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes[9]

4.2. Review of Plans Programmes and Policies relevant to North Hertfordshire

The Context Review draws on the work already undertaken for the appraisal of the initial development plan documents. The Scoping Report for that appraisal identified policies, plans and programmes relevant to the initial development plan documents. The list of documents previously reviewed, have been scoped, and those documents, which are relevant to this SPD are listed below. Any new documents that also needed appraising are listed below. These documents are shown in italics. The full review is included in Appendix 2 (See separate document containing appendices).

[8] Appendix 5
[9] Directive Annex 1 a

Plan, Programme or Policy
National
ODPM Circular 05/2005 Planning Obligations
UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005
Sustainable communities: building for the future (2003)
PPG3: Housing (2000)
Draft PPS3 Housing (2005)
PPG4: Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms (2001)
PPG13: Transport (2001)
PPG15: Planning and the Historic Environment (2001)
PPG16: Archaeology and Planning (2001)
PPG17: Planning for Sport, Open Space and Recreation (1991)
PPG25 Development and Flood Risk (2000)
Draft PPS25 Development and Flood Risk (2005)
PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)
PPS6: Planning for Town Centres (2005)
ODPM Planning for Town Centres - Implementation Tools (2005)
PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005)
PPS10: Planning and Sustainable Waste Management (2005)
PPS12: Local Development Frameworks, (2004)
PPS22: Renewable Energy (2004)
Regional
East of England Plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England (Dec 2004) and *associated EIP Panel Report (June 2006)*
East of England Plan: Sustainability Appraisal Report (November 2004)
Sustainable futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for East of England (Feb 2005)
A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (Oct 2001)
County
Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011
Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/7-2010-2011
SEA of Local Transport Plan 2006/7- 2010-2011
Draft Letchworth and Baldock Urban Transport Plan (July 2006)
A 50 Year Vision for the Wildlife and Natural Habitats of Hertfordshire: BAP (1998)
The Hertfordshire Environmental Strategy (June 2001)
An Economic Development Strategy for Hertfordshire 2000-2005 (Oct 2000)
Hertfordshire Town Renaissance Campaign
Hertfordshire Waste Strategy
Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan 1995-2005 (1999)
Hertfordshire Sustainability Guide
Enjoy! A cultural strategy for Hertfordshire
Rural Hertfordshire – an agenda for action 2001 – 2005 Hertfordshire Rural Forum
Rural Innovation Strategy – Hertfordshire Forum (Apr 2003)
Hertfordshire Renewable Energy Study (Jan 2005)

Local (District wide)
North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No.2 with Alterations
North Hertfordshire District Council Corporate Plan (2005)
North Hertfordshire Housing Strategy 2004-2007
North Hertfordshire Housing Needs Study (2002)
Home Energy Conservation Act (H.E.C.A) Progress Report
Rural Strategy for North Hertfordshire 2005 – 2010 (March 2005)
Biodiversity Action Plan
Pavilions, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches Strategy
Play Area and Outdoor Youth Provision Strategy 2004-2010
Community Strategy for North Hertfordshire
Community Safety Strategy
Social Inclusion Strategy
Health Improvement and Modernisation Programme
Northern Hertfordshire Area Transport Plan
North Hertfordshire District Council Car Parking Strategy
North Hertfordshire Cycling Strategy (1999)
North Hertfordshire Towns Cycle Route Network (2000)
Letchworth Conservation Area Character Appraisal (2001)
Hitchin Town Centre Strategy (Final Version Nov 2004)
Baldock Town Centre Strategy 9Final Version Jan 2006)
NHDC Planning Obligations SPD (consultation Draft April 2006)
NHDC Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development SPD (March 2006)

5. Sustainability Issues

Stage A3. Identify key sustainability issues and problems for the SA to address.

5.1. Purpose of identifying sustainability issues

The Guidance comments that the identification of sustainability issues (including environmental problems as required by the SEA Directive) is an opportunity to define key issues for the SPD[10] and develop sustainable plan objectives and options.

The identification of sustainability issues also provides useful information for the sustainability appraisal process itself. It will inform stage B of the process (not covered in this report) where options and polices will be tested against the appraisal objectives. For example when testing options for development in the town centre, transport available to those without a car is a sustainability problem will inform the judgements made in the testing process and influence the choice of options.

The identification of sustainability issues meets the requirements of the SEA Directive to identify any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance[11].

5.2. Key Sustainability Issues for North Hertfordshire

A list of issues was developed for the appraisal of the initial development plan documents, and Officers from the Council are of the view that there are no additional issues relevant to the SPD. The list will therefore be used for the appraisal of this SPD. It is shown in Appendix 1.

[10] Supplementary Planning Document
[11] Annex 1(d)

6. Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Stage A4 Develop the SA framework, consisting of the sustainability objectives, indicators and targets

6.1. Purpose of the SA Objectives

Sustainability Appraisal is an objectives-led process. This means that the potential impacts of a plan are tested against a series of objectives for sustainable development (e.g. an objective *to use resources efficiently*).

Along with their associated indicators and any targets (which are shown in the baseline review in Appendix 3 - See separate document containing appendices), the objectives form the Appraisal Framework. The Guidance notes that particularly relevant sources for SA objectives include *the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, the Regional Sustainable Development Frameworks, and at the local level Community Strategies or Plans. Baseline information collected and sustainability issues (and environmental problems as required by the SEA Directive) identified at earlier stages in the SA can also be especially useful in identifying objectives and indicators*[12].

The Guidance also comments that *planning authorities may also choose to include more detailed decision making criteria and related indicators in their SA Framework. Detailed decision making criteria can help to ensure that all the key issues to be considered in the SA are incorporated in the SA Framework.* An example of a more detailed decision making criterion for resource efficiency could be *reduce water use*.

It should be noted that the SA objectives are distinct from the LDF objectives though they may in some cases overlap with them. This is because the SA objectives provide a neutral set of principles, which can be modified according to the topic covered or the area in question, against which significant environmental and sustainability effects can be appraised. LDF objectives on the other hand set out the kind of outcomes that the plan seeks to achieve, such as increasing housing provision/affordability, provision of retailing to meet growing needs etc. which require an accompanying set of monitoring indicators to monitor the progress of the plan against its key objectives, which may have a variety of positive and/or negative environmental and other sustainability impacts. For this reason it is important that LDF objectives and sustainability objectives are sufficiently different to avoid the risk of apprising sustainability indicators against

[12] Appendix 9

themselves, a process that can only have a meaningless positive outcome. Monitoring against sustainability objectives has a different purpose, to see the impact of an approach both positive and negative, in order to determine if that planning approach needs to be varied.

6.2. Objectives for appraising the SPD

An objectives framework was developed for the appraisal of initial development plan documents, and when undertaking the SA/SEA of the Planning Obligations SPD, it was decided that there was one additional sub-objective relevant to that SPD. That is:

- Protect or improve the quality of the public realm in towns

This sub-objective is equally important for this SPD. The revised framework is shown in the table below. The objectives which address the issues which are required to be covered by the SEA Directive[13] are shown underlined.

SA Objective (those relevant to the SEA Directive are shown underlined)	**SA Sub Objective:** *will the policy or proposal help to…*
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	• maintain a diversified economy, with increased resilience to external shocks? • encourage new business to start-up and thrive in the District? • support and encourage the rural economy and diversification? • support and promote sustainable tourism in towns and rural areas? • improve the quality of local jobs available to people in the District? • increase the skills base? • make the cost of housing more affordable to those employed in the District?
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS	
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	• promote the use of brownfield sites and if brownfield sites are not available, land of low environmental and amenity value? • maximise reuse of vacant buildings and derelict land? • minimise the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land? • reduce quantity of unremediated contaminated land?

[13] listed in Annex 1(f)

2(b) Provide access to green spaces	• provide/improve access for all residents of the District to green spaces? • provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places? • maintain/improve the public right of way network?
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	• locate development so as to reduce the need to travel? • reduce car reliance, encourage walking, cycle, bus, and train use? • reduce road freight movements? • avoid exacerbating local traffic congestion? • provide affordable, accessible public transport in towns and in rural areas?
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	• protect habitats and species, especially those designated as being of importance, and provide opportunities for creation of new habitats? • support and maintain extent of wetland habitat and river habitats?
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	• protect and enhance landscapes, especially those of historic, recreational or amenity value, and within the Chilterns AONB?
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	• conserve and enhance the historic built character of the District's town's and villages? • protect sites of archaeological and historic importance, whether designated or not?
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	• improve the water quality of rivers and groundwater supplies? • achieve good air quality? • reduce ambient noise, especially from traffic? • reduce light pollution in the District? • protect soil quality?
CLIMATE CHANGE	
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	• minimise energy consumption by transport and in buildings? • increase proportion of energy generated by renewable sources? • encourage use of local suppliers and the consumption of local produce?

4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	• reduce vulnerability to climate change, exploit any benefits? • avoid development in areas at risk from flooding?
A JUST SOCIETY	
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	• reduce disparities in income levels? • contribute to regeneration of deprived areas (estates in Letchworth and Hitchin)? • provide employment and other opportunities for unemployed, especially long term unemployed and the disabled? • encourage entrepreneurial activity in deprived areas?
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	• provide access to services and facilities without need to use a car? • retain rural services, especially shops, post offices, schools, health centres and bus services? • recognise the needs of specific groups such as minority ethnic groups, the young, the elderly and the disabled?
5(c) Promote community cohesion	• support development of voluntary sector? • encourage development of community run business? • encourage people's feelings of belonging, for example by providing community meeting places? • recognise and value cultural and ethnic diversity?
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	• help improve the quality of the housing stock and reduce the number of unfit homes? • increase access to affordable housing, particularly for the young, the disabled and key workers?
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	• encourage crime reduction, particularly through the appropriate design of new development? • help reduce the fear of crime?
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	• help promote healthy lifestyles? • improve access to health services by means other than private cars? • reduce ambient noise near residential and amenity areas? • reduce road accidents? • reduce accidents and damage from fires?
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	• improve access to skills learning by young people? • improve access to skills learning by adults?
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	• increase access to culture, leisure and recreational activities?

RESOURCE USE AND WASTE	
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	• minimise the demand for raw materials? • encourage sustainable design, use of sustainable building materials and minimise wastage caused by construction methods? • limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural process and storage systems? • protect groundwater resources? • promote sustainable drainage systems? • reduce minerals extracted and imported?
6(b) Reduce waste	• reduce, reuse or recycle waste generated?
TOWN CENTRES	
7 Promote sustainable urban living	• encourage wider range of shops and services in town centres? • encourage more people to live in town centres? • encourage mixed use developments in town centres? • improve transport connections in, and to, town centres? • encourage synergy in land uses, which supports the continued and enhanced viability of a wide range of shops and services? • protect or improve the quality of the public realm in towns?

7. Baseline review

Stage A2. Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information and produce a characterisation of North Hertfordshire

7.1. Purpose of baseline review

As its name implies the baseline review describes the current social, economic and environmental conditions in the District. The Guidance notes that *baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.*

Collecting baseline information therefore contributes to the effectiveness of the appraisal. The aim is to collect information relating to each of the sustainability objectives. However, in reality there will be gaps in data availability. The Guidance notes that *The SA team should consider whether improvements are needed to current information collection to fill existing gaps. Ways of improving the availability of information can be included in proposals for monitoring the implementation of the plan*[14].

The baseline review meets the requirements of the SEA Directive to provide information on *the environmental characteristics of the area likely to be affected*[15].

A baseline review was undertaken for the appraisal of the Initial Development Plan Documents. Three additional indicators relevant to the SPD have been identified. These are:

- Footfall of shoppers in the Town Centre (as measured on Eastcheap).
- The proportion of residents within Letchworth doing their main weekly shop in Letchworth Town Centre
- Quality of the public realm in the town centre (under investigation)

The Baseline data is included in Appendix 3 (See separate document containing appendices).

[14] Appendix 6
[15] Annex1 (c)

8. Appendix 1 Key Sustainability Issues

SA Objective [16]	Issues	Source
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	Difficulties in competing with large urban centres for provision of employment, shopping and other facilities	Discussion with Officer Steering Group
	Promotion of tourism. Visitors can be important, but the District is not seen as a prime tourist location.	Discussion with Officer Steering Group
	Need to provide more high quality employment in the District. This will help reduce the disparity between local income and that of commuters, and to reduce the environmental impacts of commuting. One cause of this is the high cost of housing; employers don't see the District as a location of choice.	Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p30) North Herts Learning Forum Action Plan LSC Action Plan
	Recruitment of skilled workers: within rural Hertfordshire 15% of employers report difficulty in recruiting the skills they need. This compares with a 10% average for Hertfordshire and as little as 2% in the south of the County. Equally19% of Hertfordshire firms report that a lack of skilled labour is a limiting factor in increasing output.	NHDC Corporate Plan (p6) Discussion with Officer Steering Group
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value	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 Letchworth (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.	NHDC corporate Plan (p6) Key issue 'We will protect the environment by vigorously challenging airport and greenfield housing development' Draft East of England Regional Spatial Strategy and associated Panel Report

[16] Those relevant to the SEA Directive are shown underlined

SA Objective [16]	Issues	Source
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	The inclusion of open spaces was a key part of the Parker/Unwin masterplan for the town, notably within Letchworth Town Centre Broadway Gardens/Town Square	Letchworth Conservation Area Character Statement Discussion with Officer Steering Group
2 (c) deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	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.	Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p31) Discussion with Officer Steering Group NLP Retail and Town Centre Study
	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.	Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p31) Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	Letchworth is the world's first Garden City. It is being put forward for inclusion on the Unesco list of World Heritage sites. Most of the town development before 1918, and some high quality areas developed since that date, have been declared a conservation area. The town has many listed buildings but only 6 listed buildings in the town centre itself.	Letchworth Conservation Area Character Statement Discussion with Officer Steering Group
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	Quality of surface and ground water is threatened by the water supply needs and drainage from future developments. Adequate supply for future developments is also an issue: see 6a below.	Herts Environmental Forum Strategy Discussion with Officer Steering Group
CLIMATE CHANGE		
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Transport use is a significant contributor to global warming. Journey lengths are above the county average for work and leisure journeys in North Hertfordshire//Stevenage, and there is a high car use for the school run. Car use is above the National Average in Letchworth.	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

SA Objective [16]	Issues	Source
	Domestic and commercial energy use is also a significant contributor to global warming.	Discussion with Officer Steering Group
A JUST SOCIETY		
5(a) Share access to services and benefits of prosperity fairly	Whilst the District is relatively prosperous there are pockets of income and/ or multiple deprivation in relation to national standards. This occurs in Letchworth (South East).	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
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	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.	Herts Rural Innovation Strategy (p31) Older Peoples Strategy
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.	NHDC Corporate Plan (p6) Housing Strategy 2004 Affordable housing programme Draft East of England Regional Spatial Strategy and associated Panel Report ODPM Sustainable Communities Plan (2003)
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.	NHDC Corporate Plan (p7) North Herts CDRP Strategy 2005-08 Crime Audit 2004 Fear of Crime Survey 2004 Discussion with Officer Steering Group

SA Objective [16]	Issues	Source
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	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.	Health Improvement and Modernisation Programme, North Herts and Stevenage PCT 2005 (p6) Director of Public Health Report 2005 Discussion with Officer Steering Group.
	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.	Discussion with Officer Steering Group
	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
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	Letchworth 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	Draft East of England Regional Spatial Strategy and associated Panel Report
	The most recent figures available (1997) show that Hertfordshire was a net importer of sand and gravel with consumption exceeding sales by 0.356mt.	Herts Minerals Local Plan Second Deposit Draft (para 1.4.3)
6(b) Reduce waste	Need to reduce waste and increase recycling rates, particularly because waste sites within the County will be full by 2008.	NHDC Corporate Plan (p6) Herts Waste Strategy (p5) Discussion with Officer Steering Group

Sustainability Appraisal and SEA of Draft Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Supplementary Planning Document

Appendix 2: Review of Plans, Programmes and Policies

August 2006

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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
ODPM Circular 05/2005 Planning Obligations		Status: Guidance on implementing Government policy	
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_039133.pdf			
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.	None	Plan should confirm to the requirements of the Circular.	In undertaking the SA, it is necessary to understand the legal limits to planning obligations (the five tests described in the document)
Securing the Future - UK Government sustainable development strategy (March 2005)		Status:UK government policy for England and framework for devolved administrations.	
Source: http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy/uk-strategy-2005.htm			
Living Within Environmental Limits 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. Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society 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. Achieving a Sustainable Economy 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	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. 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.	Plan should conform to the requirements of the strategy.	Ensure that the key policy requirements are reflected in the SA Framework objectives and appraisal criteria.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
incentivised. Promoting Good Governance Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people's creativity, energy, and diversity. Using Sound Science Responsibly 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.			
Sustainable communities: building for the future (OMDP Feb 2003)		Status: UK Government Action Plan (with financial commitments 2003-2006)	
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_communities/documents/divisionhomepage/034686.hcsp			
This is an action programme that allocates almost £22bn 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: • Decent homes, decent places • Low demand and abandonment • A step change in housing supply • Land, countryside and rural communities • Sustainable growth • Reforming the delivery	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.	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.	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.
PPG3: Housing (2000)		Status: Government policy	
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/divisionhomepage/036667.hcsp			
PPG3 sets out the Government's objectives for housing which include: • everyone should have the opportunity of a decent home; • there should be greater choice of housing	Not applicable	PPG3 requires local planning authorities to: • plan to meet the housing requirements of the whole	Providing everyone with the opportunity of a decent home is a fundamental component of sustainable

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
and housing should not reinforce social distinctions; • the housing needs of all in the community should be recognised, including those in need of affordable or special housing in both urban and rural areas; • additional housing should be focused in towns and cities; and • new housing and residential environments should be well designed.		community, including those in need of affordable and special needs housing; • provide wider housing opportunity and choice and a better mix in the size, type and location of housing than is currently available, and seek to create mixed communities; • provide sufficient housing land but give priority to re-using previously-developed land within urban areas, bringing empty homes back into use and converting existing buildings, in preference to the development of greenfield sites; • create more sustainable patterns of development by building in ways which exploit and deliver accessibility by public transport to jobs, education and health facilities, shopping, leisure and local services; • make more efficient use of land by reviewing planning policies and standards; • place the needs of	development. Housing policies and land allocations for housing should be a key aspect of the SA.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		people before ease of traffic movement in designing the layout of residential developments; • seek to reduce car dependence by facilitating more walking and cycling, by improving linkages by public transport between housing, jobs, local services and local amenity, and by planning for mixed use; and • promote good design in new housing developments in order to create attractive, high-quality living environments in which people will choose to live.	
Draft PPS3 Housing Consultation Draft ODPM 2005			
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1162097			
The Draft says that the Government's key objective for planning for housing is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent home, which they can afford, in a community where they want to live. To achieve this objective, the Government is seeking to: (a) ensure that a wide choice of housing types is available, for both affordable and market		The Draft gives guidance for addressing housing provision in the LDF. With regard to planning obligations, advice on this will be included in the Companion Guide, to be published later in 2006.	The SA should take account of affordable housing objectives.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
housing, to meet the needs of all members of the community; (b) deliver a better balance between housing demand and supply in every housing marketand to improve affordability where necessary; and (c) create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas. Developments should be attractive, safe and designed and built to a high quality. They should be located in areas with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure. It says that: Sustainability appraisal should inform plan policies in order to ensure that housing is distributed and located in a way which contributes to sustainable development.			
PPG4: Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms (2001)		Status: Government policy	
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=3386&l=3			
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.	Not applicable	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	Ensuring that the economic growth necessary to provide QoL improvements is compatible with environmental constraints is fundamental to UK sustainable development policy. The issues arising are some of the most important factors to be

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		types of development that will or will not be permitted in a given location. 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: • encourage new development in locations which minimise the length and number of trips, especially by motor vehicles; • 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	considered in drawing up the SA framework and undertaking the SA.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		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.	
PPG13: Transport (2001)		Status: Government policy	
Source:			
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. The objectives of PPG13 are to integrate planning and transport at the national, regional, strategic and local level to: • 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.	Not applicable	In order to deliver the objectives of PPG13, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should: 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	The issues surrounding access and travel are important considerations for the SA. Effective access to employment, education and services is vital to improving QoL and contributes to social inclusion. But transport, and the infrastructure to support, it has large environmental impacts, including contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. The SA must consider these issues, and in particular • Reducing the need to travel by private car;

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		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 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; 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; 6. ensure that strategies	• Reducing the volume of freight traffic; and • Improving accessibility of key services to local communities

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		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; 7. use parking policies, alongside other planning and transport measures, to promote sustainable transport choices and reduce reliance on the car for work and other journeys; 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; 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	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		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 10. protect sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choices for both passenger and freight movements. With regard to planning obligations, the guidance says that: • Planning obligations should be used to achieve improvements to public transport, walking and cycling, were 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	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		make it easier and safer to walk to the site from other developments or from public transport.	
PPG15: Planning and the Historic Environment (2001)		Status: Government policy	
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	Local plans (the LDF) should: • set out more detailed development control policies for an authority's area: they should include both the policies which will apply over the area as a whole, and any policies and proposals which will apply to particular neighbourhoods. • 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	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.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		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.	
PPG16: Archaeology and Planning (2001)		Status: Government policy	
Source:			
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.	Not applicable	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.	In general one of the SEA/ SA objectives should aim to protect or enhance the historic environment, including archaeology.
PPG17: Planning for Sport, Open Space and Recreation (1991)		Status: Government policy	
Source:			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
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: • 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	Planning for open spaces should be based on local standards established by the assessment of local needs and an audit of existing provision. • 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 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. • Parks, recreation grounds, playing fields and allotments must not be regarded as 'previouslydeveloped land', as defined in annex C of PPG3. Even where land does fall within the definition of 'previously-developed', its existing and	The objectives of this PPG conform with many sustainability objectives. The SA should ensure that NHDC SDP meets these requirements.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		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.	
PPG25: Development and Flood Risk (2000)		Status: Government policy	
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144113			
This guidance explains how flood risk should be considered at all stages of the planning and development process in order to reduce future damage to property and loss of life. It sets out the importance the Government attaches to the management and reduction of flood risk in the land-use planning process, to acting on a precautionary basis and to taking account of climate change.	Not applicable	The Guidance states that: • the susceptibility of land to flooding is a material planning consideration; • the Environment Agency has the lead role in providing advice on flood issues, at a strategic level and in relation to planning applications; • policies in development plans should outline the consideration which will be given to flood issues, • recognising the uncertainties that are inherent in the prediction of flooding and that flood risk is expected to increase as a result of climate change; • planning authorities should apply the precautionary principle to the issue of flood risk, using a riskbased search sequence to avoid such risk where possible and managing it elsewhere; • planning authorities should recognise the importance of functional flood plains, where water	The SA should ensure that flood risks are adequately considered in the SDP.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		flows or is held at times of flood, and avoid inappropriate development on undeveloped and undefended flood plains developers should fund the provision and maintenance of flood defences that are required because of the development; and • planning policies and decisions should recognise that the consideration of flood risk and its management needs to be applied on a whole-catchment basis and not be restricted to flood plains	
Draft PPS25 Development and Flood Risk (Consultation Draft ODPM 2005)			
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1162060			
The Draft says that local planning authorities (LPAs) should prepare and implement planning strategies that help to deliver sustainable development by: – identifying land at risk and the degree of risk of flooding from river, sea and other sources in their areas; – preparing Regional or Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (RFRAs/SFRAs) as appropriate, either as part of the Sustainability Appraisal of their plans or as a freestanding assessment that contributes to that Appraisal; – 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; – reducing flood risk to and from new development through location, layout and		The Draft says that: • 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	The SA should ensure that flood risks are adequately considered in the SDP. There is currently no RFRA or SFRA in place.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
design, including the application of a sustainable approach to drainage; – using opportunities offered by new development to reduce flood risk to communities; – only permitting development in areas of flood risk when there are no suitable alternative sites in areas of lower flood risk and the benefits of the development outweigh the risks from flooding; – working effectively with the Environment Agency and other stakeholders to ensure that best use is made of their expertise and information so that decisions on planning applications can be delivered expeditiously; and – ensuring spatial planning supports flood risk management and emergency planning.		sustainable communities. They should be integrated effectively with other strategies of material significance.	
PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM 2005)		Status: Government policy	
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_035506.hcsp			
Sustainable development is identified as the key principle underlying planning. Planning is charged with addressing sustainable development through: • 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;	No specific targets	Key policy context.	Ensure that the key policy requirements are reflected in the SA Framework objectives and appraisal criteria.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
• 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)		Status: Government policy	
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_036805.pdf			
The Government's key objective for town centres is to promote their vitality and viability by: • 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. These key objectives must also take into account other Government objectives: • 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	No specific targets	Planning authorities are required to: • 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, plan-led approach to planning for town centres, through regional and local planning.	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: • 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;

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
productivity; and • improving accessibility, ensuring that existing or new development is, or will be, accessible and well-served by a choice of means of transport.		Within a regional planning context, local planning authorities should actively plan for growth and manage change in town centres over the period of their development plan documents by: • selecting appropriate existing centres to accommodate the identified need for growth by: o making better use of existing land and buildings, including, where appropriate, redevelopment; o 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	• to encourage investment to regenerate deprived areas, creating additional employment opportunities and an improved physical environment; • 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

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		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.	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 and safe environment for businesses, shoppers and residents. The SA should consider potential synergies and conflicts between the range of policy objectives.
PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (OMDP 2004)		Status: Government policy	
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_030148.hcsp			
Sets planning policy in the context of Government objectives to: **(i) To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas through the promotion of:** • thriving, inclusive and sustainable rural communities, ensuring people have decent places to live by improving the quality and	No specific targets.	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	The SA objectives and appraisal should take account of the specific issues affecting rural areas. There are potential conflicts between the aim

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
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. **(ii) To promote more sustainable patterns of development:** • focusing most development in, or next to, existing towns and villages; • preventing urban sprawl; • discouraging the development of 'greenfield' land, and, where such land must be used, ensuring it is not used wastefully; • 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. **(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. **(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		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. 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 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. New building development in the open countryside away from existing settlements, or outside areas allocated for development in development plans, should	of protecting the countryside and economic development required to maintain and enhance thriving rural communities.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
economic diversity; is itself competitive and profitable; and provides high quality products that the public wants.		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. 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 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. 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.	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM 2005)		Status: Government policy	
http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143832			
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: **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. **To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology** - by sustaining, and where possible improving, the 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. **to contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance by:** **–** 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**.**	No specific targets.	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: (i)Development plan policies and planning decisions should be based upon up-to-date information about the environmental 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. (ii) Plan policies and planning decisions should aim to maintain, and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation	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.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		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. (iii) Plan policies on the form and location of development should take a strategic 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. (iv) Plan policies should promote opportunities for the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity and geological features within the design of development. (v) Development proposals where the principal objective is to conserve or	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests should be permitted. (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 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	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
		mitigated against, or compensated for, then planning permission should be refused. With respect to Local Development Documents it states that they should: (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 (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.	
PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (2005)		Status: Government policy	
http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143834			
The land-use planning system has an important role to play in achieving sustainable waste management. It should meet the following objectives: • help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy, addressing waste as a	Not applicable.	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	The SA objectives should include objectives devoted to waste minimisation and appropriate waste management.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
resource and looking to disposal as the last option, but one which must be adequately catered for; • 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;		management facilities in appropriate locations including for waste disposal. The core strategy should both inform and in turn be informed by any relevant municipal waste management strategy. The Planning Obligations SPD should support the provision of waste management facilities.	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
• ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management.			
PPS12: Local Development Frameworks (ODPM September 2004)		Status: Government policy	
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_031155.hcsp			
This PPS sets out the Government's policy on the preparation of local development documents which will comprise the local development framework. The key aims are: 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;	No specific targets.	This PPS provides the key policy framework for the plan.	This PPS provides the key policy framework for the SA. Supplementary guidance provides the methodological framework for undertaking the SA.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
v. programme management. The efficient management of the programme for the preparation of a range of local development documents in accordance with the local development scheme; and 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.			
PPS 22: Renewable Energy (ODPM August 2004)		Status: Government policy	
Source: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_030334.hcsp			
Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should adhere to the following key principles in their approach to planning for renewable energy: **(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. **(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. **(iii)** At the local level, planning authorities should set out the criteria that will be applied in	No specific targets, but there is a requirement for regional authorities to establish regional targets for renewable energy generation as follows: 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. 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. 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	The plan should consider renewable energy requirements against Regional targets, noting that: 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.	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.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
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. **(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. **(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. **(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 reject planning applications simply because the level of output is small. **(vii)** Local planning authorities, regional stakeholders and Local Strategic Partnerships should foster community involvement in renewable energy projects[3] and seek to promote knowledge of and greater acceptance by the public of prospective renewable energy	basis and revised upwards (if they are met) subject to the region's renewable energy 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)	Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should ensure that such criteria-based policies are consistent with, or reinforced by, policies in plans on other issues against which renewable energy applications could be assessed.	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
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. **(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.			

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
East of England Plan: Draft revision to the RSS for the East of England (Dec 2004) and Associated Panel Report (June 2006)		Status: Draft Regional policy – endorsement of the Draft by the EERA was suspended in Dec 2004, because of lack of Government funding for infrastructure improvements. The Panel issued its recommendations in June 2006 and the Secretary of State is due to deliver her response in late 2006.	
Source: http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=452 http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/EiP%20Report/2006-06-20%20EoE%20Panel%20Report%20Vol%20I%20PPMv5.pdf			
As proposed by the panel are: Overall Spatial Vision "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."	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'. The plan proposes 61 indicators relating to both specific targets and regional context. The process of developing the plan 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.	Provides key regional policy framework for the LDF.	The regional issues and objectives outlined in the plan, and its SA, will inform the development of the LDF SA framework. The indicators proposed in the plan and its SA will inform the indicators to be used for the baseline data for the LDF SA.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
objectives: **Objective 1**: To reduce the region's impact on and exposure to the effects of climate change by: • locating development so as to reduce the need to travel; • effecting a major shift in travel towards public transport, walking and cycling and away • from car use; • maximising the energy efficiency of development and promoting renewable energy • generation; and • minimising the risk of flooding. **Objective 2**: To increase housing opportunities for people in the region by: • securing a step change in the delivery of additional housing throughout the region, and • especially in the Growth Areas; and • recognising a priority for the provision of affordable housing to meet identified needs, particularly in rural areas. **Objective 3**: To realise the economic potential of the region and its people by: • facilitating the development needed to support the region's			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
business sectors and clusters • and improvement of skills and the widening of opportunities in line with the Regional • Economic Strategy; • providing for job growth broadly to match increases in housing and to improve the • alignment between workplaces and homes; • maintaining and strengthening the region's inter-regional connections particularly by • improving connections to economic opportunities in London; and • ensuring adequate and sustainable provision of transport infrastructure. **Objective 4**: To improve the quality of life for the region's people by: • 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;			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
• regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas; and • increasing community involvement in the implementation of the strategy at the local level. **Objective 5**: to improve and conserve the region's environment by: • 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 enhancing biodiversity through the protection of habitats and species, and new habitat creation through development; • provision of a network of multi-function greenspace accessible to the region's people; and • minimising the demand and use of water and other natural resources and reducing waste and increasing sustainable management of waste.			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
East of England Plan: Sustainability Appraisal Report (November 2004)		Status : Formal report on SEA and SA of East of England Plan commissioned by EERA	
Source: http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=382			
Appraisal Framework contains a set of sustainable development objectives	Comprehensive set of targets and indicators contained in baseline review	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.	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.
Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England (Feb 2005)		Status:	
Source: http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=47 and			
The Strategy states its key objectives as the following high level outcomes: 1. an exceptional knowledge base and a dynamic economy in the region 2. opportunities for everyone to contribute to – and benefit from – the region's economic dynamism 3. strong, inclusive, healthy and culturally rich communities 4. a high quality and diverse natural and built environment 5. a more resource-efficient region 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: 1. Housing supply, growth and sustainability 2. Transport, travel and	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 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	The IRS draws on existing regional strategies to present a 'Vision and a series of high level outcomes' for the region in order to: • To provide a joined-up statement of regional priorities • To flag any areas in which existing regional strategies are actually or potentially conflicting • 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	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.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
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 From the above 5 *Priorities* are identified for the region: 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 management of the region's distinctive natural and built environmental assets 5. Capture the benefits from – and manage the impacts of – the region's international gateways and national transport corridors	level outcomes and priorities might be assessed.'	for the East of England at a regional level. 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.	

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (Oct 2001)		Status: Regional policy guidance	
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			
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: 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 sustainably and innovatively, in order to minimise the region's global environmental impact. The framework identifies the following 21 key sustainability issues for the region: 1. The economy 2. Location of growth	The framework does not contain quantified targets, but does include 84 indicators under the following themes: • 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 prosperity across all sectors of society and fairer access to services, focusing on deprived areas in the region • To use natural resources, both finite and renewable, as efficiently as possible, and re-use	Provides key regional policy framework for sustainable development.	The regional issues and objectives outlined in the SDF will inform the development of the LDF SA framework. The indicators proposed will inform the indicators to be used for the baseline data for the LDF SA.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
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 It sets out key objectives, together with context, regional strengths and challenges for each issue.	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) 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).		

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
Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011		Status: Adopted March 1998	
Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/env/plan/homes/hertstructureplan/planfuture/moreinfo/			
The Hertfordshire Structure Plan, covering the period to 2011, was adopted in March 1998. This is currently under review - with policies being 'rolled forward' to 2016. Consultation on the Structure Plan took place in the summer of 2002 and the "deposit stage" of draft policy alterations arising from that consultation occurred between the 5th March and the 16th April 2003. The subsequent stages of rolling forward the Structure Plan to 2016 are currently on hold.	Key policies for NHDC: • The current plan requires NHDC to make provision for 10,400 including 2,600 west of the A1(M) at Stevenage, over the period 1991-2011.	Provides the county-level strategic framework for the NHDC SDF.	Plan policies need to be considered in the SA.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 - 2010/11		Status: Currently out for public consultation (3/6/2005)	
Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/env/plan/transplan/loctranspln/			
The 9 key objective of the LTP are: **Safety** • 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. **Congestion** • 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. **Accessibility** • To develop a transport system that provides access to employment, shopping, education, leisure and health facilities for all, including	The plan includes targets and indicators, primarily the 17 mandatory indicators required by the DfT, supplemented with 5 local ones.	The LDF should include policies that promote the sustainable transport aims of the LTP.	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. Traffic flows in Hertfordshire are 35% above the national average posing a threat to QoL in terms of safety, congestion, access and environmental impacts. The LTP attributes high levels of traffic to many interacting factors including: • 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)); • car ownership is the sixth highest in the country. • 40% of households have 2 or more cars.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
those without a car and those with impaired mobility. • 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. **Environmental** • 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. **Other** • 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.			• Access to key services, particularly healthcare, is difficult by sustainable transport.
SEA of Local Transport Plan 2006/7- 2010-2011		Status: Formal SEA undertaken by Hertfordshire County Council	
http://www.hertsdirect.co.uk/infobase/docs/pdfstore/ltpsea.pdf			
Appraisal Framework contains a set of sustainable development objectives	Comprehensive set of targets and indicators contained in baseline review	The appraisal should be read in conjunction with the LTP: it gives additional information on the Sustainability implications of the Plan.	The results of the appraisal of policies relevant to the District should also inform the appraisal process.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Northern Hertfordshire Area Transport Plan		Status: Adopted 2004	
Source:			
District Transport Plan conforming to the objectives of the County LTP, with the following local objectives: 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. These are categorised under the	The plan sets out the following targets derived from the LTP for each theme: **ENVIRONMENT** • 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. **ECONOMIC** • 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. **ACCESSIBLITY** • To reduce the car use modal share from 72.07% to 65.5% by 2021 **SAFETY** • 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 **INTEGRATION** • To reduce the distance travelled per person by 5% by 2021.	The LDF should include policies that promote the sustainable transport aims of the LTP and the ATP.	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.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
following themes: • Environment: 1, 3, 4, 5 • Economic 2, 6,7 • Accessibility 8, 9, 10 • Safety 2, 3, 10 • Integration 4			
Letchworth and Baldock Draft Urban Transport Plan 2006		Status: Formal SEA undertaken by Hertfordshire County Council. Consultation Draft June 2006	
http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/letchworthbaldockutp.pdf			
Hertfordshire Highways has been working to develop an Urban Transport Plan to deal with transport problems in the two towns of Letchworth and Baldock. It is part of a hierarchy of Plans and sits under the Area Transport Plan for North Hertfordshire. All the area plans feed into the Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan which is the way the county council is allocated funding for transport schemes from national government. The objectives are the same as that for the Local Transport Plan.	Same as the Countywide Local Transport Plan targets	May propose a number of specific schemes/projects in final form, affecting the town centre	The results of the appraisal of policies/programmes relevant to the District should also inform the appraisal process.
A 50 Year Vision for the Wildlife and Natural Habitats of Hertfordshire: BAP (April 1998)		Status:	
Source: http://hef.org.uk/nature/biodiversity/			
The Herts BAP was drawn up in response to the *UK Biodiversity Action Plan* published in January	The plan evaluates the status of habitats and species in the county and identifies key habitats and species of national and	In considering the relations with other plans the BAP states: 'Local Biodiversity Action Plans link to	Biodiversity is a key aspect of sustainable development that needs to be included within the SA framework.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
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: • 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 context. • 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.	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: • 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 prepared for all chosen species. Relevant information is held at the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre: http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/hbrc/default.html	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.'	The baseline review should include indicators of biodiversity.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
• 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.			
The Hertfordshire Environmental Strategy (June 2001)		Status: adopted June 2001	
Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/env/plan/issues/envstrat/			
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.	No targets or indicators are suggested at the above link.	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.	The general principles will be included in the SA framework, but the HES appears to add nothing to these.
Economic Development Strategy for Hertfordshire 2000-2005 (Oct 2000)		Status:	
Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/env/you/ECDU/publist/edstrategy			
The key objectives of the EDS are: 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	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	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.	See previous column.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
4. Promote social inclusion	publication these were being developed in conjunction with the University of Reading.		
Hertfordshire Town Renaissance Campaign		Status: Campaign report	
Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/env/plan/homes/campaignreport/			
Report of consultation exercise on urban development issues in Hertfordshire, and particularly attitudes and issues associated with brownfield development	Not applicable – reports findings of consultation exercise.	Not a policy document, but the findings should be considered as context to aspects of the LDF.	Context for SA
Hertfordshire Waste Strategy 2002-2024		Status:	
Source: http://www.wasteaware.org.uk/strategy/fullversion2.pdf			
A Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Hertfordshire setting out how waste problems are to be addresses over the next 2 decades.	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.	This strategy is only marginally relevant to the LDF to the extent that planning policies may effect the delivery of the waste strategy.	Management of waste is an important SD issue that needs to be considered in the SA.
Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan 1995-2005 (1999)		Status: Adopted Jan 1999	
Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/wlp.pdf			
The aims and objectives of the Waste Local Plan are:- • 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	The plan includes detailed targets. It does not contain any indicators as such, but they are implicit for many of the targets.	Relevant, now extended to 2007 to allow for transition to MWDF (see below).	Management of waste is an important SD issue that needs to be considered in the SA.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
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 management debate; • 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			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Environmental Option; • To adopt the Best Practicable Environmental Option when considering alternative forms of waste management development.			
Hertfordshire Sustainability Guide (March 2003)		Status: Guidance note	
Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/susguide.pdf			
The guidance is set out under 3 key themes: Sustainable communities (SC) Economic vitality (EV) Healthy environment (HE) Each theme is divided into a number of topics with aims and more detailed guidance as follows: SC1 Ensuring that everyone has a Decent Home SC2 Tackling the Causes of Poverty and Social Exclusion SC3 Creating Safe Communities SC4 Promoting Healthier Lifestyles SC5 Improving Access to Culture and the Arts SC6 Making Travel and Access more Sustainable SC7 Engaging the Community EV1 Enhancing Town Centre and Market Town Vitality EV2 Sustaining a Vibrant Local Economy EV3 Ensuring Employment and Lifelong Learning HE1 Supplying and Using Energy	The guidance does not suggest specific targets or indicators, but does include a checklist for each topic subdivided by detailed guidance aims.	This guidance is directly relevant to sustainability issues in the NHDC LDF.	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.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Sustainably HE2 Reducing Pollution HE3 Dealing with Resources more Sustainably HE4 Safeguarding Water Resources and Minimising Flood Risk HE5 Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity HE6 Protecting, Providing and Improving Open Spaces HE7 Making Efficient Use of Land, Buildings and Materials HE8 Protecting and Enhancing Landscape and Townscape Character and Cultural Heritage The main text provides detailed guidance for each theme and topic illustrated with case studies.			
Enjoy! A cultural strategy for Hertfordshire		Status:	
Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/hertscultstrat.pdf			
• Making Hertfordshire a more prosperous and attractive 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	The strategy contains no specific targets or indicators.	Of little direct relevance to the NHDC LDF, except to the extent that LDF policies may effect access to cultural and leisure activities.	Access to leisure and culture is an important to QoL and needs to be considered in the SA.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
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			
Rural Hertfordshire – an agenda for action 2001 – 2005 Hertfordshire Rural Forum		Status:	
Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/ruralforum.pdf			
The agenda identifies key issues within 9 'Rural Strands': • Housing • Transport/traffic • Rural Economy • Social Exclusion • Biodiversity/landscape • Access to services • Community identity and involvement • Needs of young people • Recreational pressures and opportunities	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.	The particular issues affecting rural areas need to be considered in the NHDC LDF.	The particular issues affecting rural areas need to be considered in the SA framework for the NHDC LDF.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Rural Innovation Strategy – Hertfordshire Rural Forum (Apr 2003)		Status:	
Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/finalrural.pdf			
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: 1. 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. 2. To facilitate the development of competitive and sustainable rural economies that will help to create jobs and increase economic opportunities. 3. 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. 4. To protect and enhance	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.	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.	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.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
the natural and historic rural environment, including extending access to the countryside and developing quality rural leisure opportunities.			
Hertfordshire Renewable Energy Study (Jan 2005)		Status: Interim study report	
Source: http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/restudy.pdf			
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).	Not applicable	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.	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.

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		Status: adopted with modifications on 23rd April 1996	
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)		Status: Adopted	
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.

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		Status:	
Source:			
1. To meet the community's needs for affordable housing. 2. To improve the quality and choice of homes available to those in need of affordable housing. 3. To prevent homelessness by ensuring clear and effective housing advice and to provide good quality services and support to homeless households. 4. To ensure that all housing in the District is of a decent standard and contributes to the good health of the community. 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. 6. To deliver services that reflect the diversity of the local community.	Priority 1 Deliver a minimum of 500 affordable homes in 5 years from April 2003. Detailed targets: • 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. The Action Plan also includes proposals for a large number of improvements to systems and information.	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		Status:	
Source:			
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: • In its enabling role support delivery agencies, mainly RSL's working in the area to provide	The report recommends the following planning targets: • Negotiate with prospective developers towards achieving 35% subsidised affordable homes from the total of all suitable sites coming forward for planning consent over the period of the Local Plan. Each site will need to	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
a mix of types but mainly flats to meet the needs of single adults and couples and address the shortages in the stock; • 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:- o - assess and prioritise the need for support services and adaptation required to keep people in their own home; o - re-assess existing sheltered stock in meeting today's housing standards and preferences; o develop 'extra care' accommodation for the frail elderly population. • Consider adopting Lifetime Homes standards for new housing.	be assessed individually, targets being subject to wider planning, economic priority,regeneration and sustainability considerations; • 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)		Status:	
Source:			
Aims of the strategy are: • To create housing conditions which provide affordable warmth. • To reduce air pollution caused by the production and consumption of energy.	Target as per Home Energy Conservation Act (H.E.C.A) 1995 – 30% reduction in energy consumption over 15 year period.	Mainly relevant to LDF for new build only.	Improvement in the efficiency of energy use is fundamental to sustainability. Needs to be considered in the SA.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
• 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.			
Biodiversity Action Plan		Status:	
Source:			
This local Biodiversity Action Plan is aimed at promoting integrated	The plan sets out currently known information and detailed actions in	'Local Biodiversity Action Plans link to the statutory planning process in two	Biodiversity is a key aspect of sustainable development that needs

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
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. 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.	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.	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.' *A 50 Year Vision for the Wildlife and Natural Habitats of Hertfordshire: BAP (April 1998)*	to be included within the SA framework. The baseline review should include indicators of biodiversity.
Rural Strategy for North Hertfordshire 2005 – 2010 (March 2005)		Status: Final Report	
Source:			
No stated objectives, but the expected outcomes of this strategy include: • Having a coherent,	Following consultations to identify issues of public concern, the strategy includes priority actions, and a detailed action plan under the themes:	Many of the issues raised are directly relevant to the LDF, particularly under the themes of Housing; Planning and environment; and Transport.	Ensure that all relevant issues raised are considered in the SA.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
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 sections of rural communities can remain fully engaged. • Creating an increased sense	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		

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
of well-being amongst our rural communities.			
Pavilions, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches Strategy		Status: adopted 2005	
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.	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%).	Adequate provision in sports facilities needs to be considered in the LDF.	Access to sports facilities is an important QoL issue, both as a leisure activity and for health benefits. This should be considered in the SA framework.

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:			
Aims and objectives of the Play Area & Youth Provision Strategy are: • 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.	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.	Adequate provision in sports facilities needs to be considered in the LDF.	Access to sports facilities is an important QoL issue, both as a leisure activity and for health benefits. This should be considered in the SA framework.
Community Strategy for North Hertfordshire (Nov 2003)		Status:	
Source:			
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	The strategy includes detailed action plans for addressing issues raised during the consultation process, under the themes: • Community Safety	A number of action points are directly relevant to the LDF, particularly under the themes of Housing; Planning, Town Centres and Environment; and Transport.	The SA should consider issues raised in the strategy.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
consultation and a joined-up 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.	• Education & Lifelong Learning • Health • Housing • Leisure and Community Development • Planning, Town Centres and Environment • Transport • Young People These include both district-wide and local area actions. The strategy outlines monitoring processes and will use 8 of the 38 Audit Commission QoL indicators for measurement purposes.		
Community Safety Strategy April 2005 – March 2008		Status: adopted 2005	
Source:			
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.	The strategy contains a baseline audit and targeted actions.	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.	Crime and fear of crime are important QoL issues that need to be considered in the SA.
Social Inclusion Strategy		Status: adopted 2005	
Source:			
The strategy does not include an explicit statement of objectives but does state that:	The approach was not to develop a separate strategy but '…at a strategic level, existing policies and service	Issues relating to social exclusion should be considered in the LDF, but this strategy does not specifically	Social exclusion needs to be considered in the SA.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
• The Council's purpose for developing a Social Inclusion 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. • 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.	delivery already happening should be reviewed, refreshed and more clearly set 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.'	consider planning policies.	

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		Status:	
Source:			
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 organisations. The aim is to take forward the key national strategies and policies for health at a local level. The HIMP reflects the priorities arising from national and political requirements; advice from professional groups; and the views of the local population.	The HIMP sets out a prioritised work plan under the themes: • Children and young people • Adults • Older people • Other priorities. 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.	Ensure that the LDF includes policies to improve public health (e.g. through walking and cycling initiatives and better homes) and combat social exclusion.	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.
North Hertfordshire District Council Car Parking Strategy 2004 – 2009		Status: Adopted July 2004	
Source:			
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	Not applicable.	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	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

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
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.		issues, such as; • 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	the SA.
North Hertfordshire Cycling Strategy (1999) and North Hertfordshire Towns Cycle Network (2000)		Status: Council policy	
The Strategy sets out the Council's vision, aims and policies to promote cycling. The overall aim is to: • Facilitate the development of a safe, convenient and coherent network of facilities so that cycling can be viewed as a realistic form of transport. The Strategy contains a number of policies for developing cycling infrastructure, including: • NHDC may require a financial contribution where a developer	To increase the level of bicycle use to 4% of al trips by 2002 and to double this to 8% by 2012.	The plan needs to address contributions for cycling facilities, taking account of the networks planned for the four towns.	Promoting cycling needs to be considered when appraising transport impacts. The target needs to be included in the baseline data.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
is unable to provide cycling facilities directly. 1. The Network document gives details of planned networks in the four towns.			
Review of Voluntary Managed Community Centres and Village Halls		Status: Council policy	
Source: http://www.hertslink.org/portal/A_Z/C/eDemocracy/Civic%20Calendar/NHDC/items/Community%20Centres%20and%20Village%20Halls_3/reports			
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: • 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	The following minimum standards are adopted for the provision of community centres: • 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. 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, eg children and young people.	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.	Community facilities need to be considered when appraising access to services and facilities.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
acceptable form.			
Supplementary Planning Document Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development		Status: Adopted as SPD March 2006 Associated SA/SEA prepared off the SPD in line with national and European legislation.	
Source: http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/planning/local_development_framework/car_parking_zones_spd.htm			
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). 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). The purpose of the SPD is to explain the Council's policy on vehicle parking provision at new development. Its intention is to	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.	Car parking needs to be considered in the LDF, particularly with regard to new development. The SPD provides guidance on: • 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	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.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
provide clear guidance and more certainty for developers. The SPD explains two new, important differences to previous policy on parking at new development. • Firstly the Draft SPD explains how the concept of 'maximum' rather than 'minimum' standards; and • Secondlyintroduces a zonal approach to parking restraint within the four towns of Baldock, Letchworth Garden City, Hitchin and Royston as well as Knebworth.			
Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document Consultation Draft		Status: consultation Draft April 2006 Associated SA/SEA prepared of the draft SPD in line with national and European legislation.	
Source: http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/planning/local_development_framework/planning_obligations_spd.htm			
The draft 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	The draft SPD sets certain standard charges and threashold requirements for developments. These include: • community centre and halls • leisure • open space, outdoor sport and recreation • public realm • sustainable transport • waste collection and recycling	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.	Planning obligations need to be considered when appraising access to services and facilities.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
be sought to cope with additional demands brought on by new development and offset any harmful impacts to the natural, historic or built environment. The Draft 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). 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. The draft SPD uses a 'standard charge' approach to address some of the likely impacts on infrastructure, services and facilities within an area.	• education • libraries • youth and child care • affordable housing Guidance is also provided on other types of contributions, although no set target is provided. These include: • 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:			
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: • 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.
Hitchin Transportation Plan (1998)		Status: Approved by HCC Environment Committee 13/01/98	
Source:			
Long-term transportation strategy for Hitchin based on the principles: • The transportation system for Hitchin should be developed to provide an integrated, sustainable system that will serve both current and future needs of the wider community, while supporting the economic well-being of the town • The components of the transportation system for Hitchin	The proposed schemes and measures are set out under the themes: • Cycling • Parking • Passenger Transport • Control of Traffic • Pedestrians • Education, Information and Training Implementation is considered in the short, medium and longer term.	Compatibility with the objectives and measures set out in the plan should be considered during the development of the LDF.	Access and transportation are key sustainability issues that should be considered in the SA framework.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
should be in keeping with and promote the quality of the town's environment. • The transportation system within Hitchin should give priority to local needs, including links to surrounding villages. However, it must also take account of wider transportation needs in the County and the town's position within the County transportation network. • A shift from cars to alternative modes of transport such as walking, cycling and passenger transport will be encouraged where appropriate, to assist in reducing pollution; the need for new roads and the general emphasis on the car as a primary choice for all journeys in Hitchin. • The transportation system for Hitchin should promote opportunities for safe and secure journeys for all sectors of the community.	No explicit quantified targets are set, although implementation of many of the specific schemes could be considered as targets of the plan. Monitoring of the plan is considered only very briefly and no indicators are proposed.		

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
Draft Hitchin Town Centre Public Transport Strategy (Aug 2004)		Status:	
Source:			
A strategy for improving public transport in Hitchin in the context of relevant local and national policy objectives. The strategy focuses primarily on bus provision and utilisation.	The draft strategy contains detailed recommendations for improvements to buses serving the town, but no quantified targets or indicators.	Little of direct relevance to the LDF, however the LDF should be checked to ensure that policies are compatible with the objective to improve provision and utilisation of public transport.	Access and transportation are key sustainability issues that should be considered in the SA framework.
Baldock Town Centre Strategy (Final Version Jan 2006)		Status: Adopted as the Council's Statement of Policy in January 2006	
Source:			
This is the second Town Centre Strategy prepared under the Town Centre Template adopted by NHDC in May 2001. It sets out 39 detailed policies under the themes: • Built environment • Public spaces • The Street Scene • Enhancement Opportunities • Land Use Activities • Community Facilities • Transport and Access • Community Safety • Promotion and Marketing	No specific quantified targets. Proposals for monitoring as part of an Action Plan but no specific indicators included.	Many of the issues and policies are relevant to the LDF and should be considered. 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.	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
NHDC Character Statement for Letchworth conservation Area		Status: Adopted 2001	
Source:			
The Letchworth Character Statement provides a key role in ensuring that changes within the Conservation Area preserve or enhance its special character or appearance. The Character Statement forms essential guidance in itself. It is designed not to be prescriptive but to enable flexibility and creativity. It achieves this by identifying and describing the special characteristics of the Garden City that will need to be taken into account when considering changes. The Character Statement is divided into sections: and provides an important overview of the special interest and essential character and appearance of the whole conservation area. This includes: • Its history and development, • Its landscape setting, • Archaeology, • Evidence of past uses, • Layout and historic street pattern, • The relationship of buildings to each other and the spaces they create,	No specific quantified targets.	Many of the issues and guidance are relevant to the LDF and should be considered. The Character Statement 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 historic built environment.

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for plan	Implications for SA
• The architectural and historic quality of buildings, • Local details, • Prevalent and traditional materials, • The contribution of trees, hedges and open spaces. Of relevance to this SPD is the description of the special interest, character and appearance of the town centre. The character statement is used by the local planning authority when considering planning applications and refers to the current saved Local Plan (Policy 58) - Garden City design principles of Letchworth.			

Sustainability Appraisal and SEA of Draft Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Supplementary Planning Document

Appendix 3: Baseline Data

August 2006

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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 (as measured on Eastcheap)	Data held by town centre manager – under investigation								
The proportion of residents within Letchworth doing their main weekly shop in Letchworth Town Centre	17 % 2005 30% 1989								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							A Fundamental Service Review of the Street Scene is currently being undertaken. It may identify a suitable indicator.	

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	The estimated GVA per head in NHDC in 2004 was £15,229* *This estimate should be treated with caution because of methodological difficulties making local area estimates.	1995 11,989 1996 12,903 1997 14,327 1998 15,732 1999 16,540 2000 17,696 2001 18,578	10,443 10,961 11,726 12,372 12,698 13,340 13,909	10,996 11,625 12,375 13,148 13,691 14,260 14,781	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.dtistats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm Source: Regional Accounts, ONS http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/lea/lea6final.pdf Hertfordshire Local Economy Assessment 2004
New (VAT registered) businesses surviving 3 years (percentage)		1993 65.1 1994 65.1 1995 68.8 1996	63.6 64.2 67.1 68.5 69.8	62.1 62.5 65.3 66.0 67.4	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.dtistats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm Source: Small Business Service, DTI

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
		70.1 1997 69.7 1998 67.9 1999 68.2	68.8 68.1	66.3 66.5					
Employment rate **Percentage of people of working age in employment (Residence-based)**	1999 76.5 2000 79.0 2001 80.4 2002 80.2 2003 82.0	79.6 81.8 80.4 80.3 81.0	77.6 79.1 79.0	74.0 74.4 74.6	No target identified	No clear trend data available. LFS estimates 28,000 employed people in N. Herts in 2001. (Note that National figures refer to GB rather than England.)		The employment rates in the district and county are similar and significantly above the national average.	http://www.dtistats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm 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)
Unemployed benefit claimants (rate) (Annual figures year ending March 31st)	2000 1.6 2001 1.2 2002 1.0 2003 1.3 2004 1.5	1.5 1.2 1.1 1.4 1.4	2.3 1.9 1.7 1.8 1.8	3.3 2.8 2.5 2.5 2.5	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 Source: Labour Market Division, ONS
Investment in businesses (£m annual average 1998-2002)			Mfg 1322 Service 4680	13920 48726 8443	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 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	71089				about 20% was foreign and 19% went into manufacturing industries.	
Employment Employee jobs – workplace based	1998 49,197 1999 46,389 2000 48,788 2001 51,361 2002 49,820	495,646 473,030 494,041 502,267 487,617	2,188,185 2,147,063 2,241,651 2,271,254 2,277,763	21,158,389 21,602,111 21,914,852 22,057,115 22,175,255	No target identified	Nationally there was a rise of approximately 5% in the total number of jobs over the period 1998-2002. There about 50,000 jobs in N Herts. with no clear trend over the period			http://www.dtistats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.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)
Employee jobs by sector	**2003** **North Herts** **EoE** **GB** **Number** **(%)** **(%)** **(%)** Total employee jobs 49,998 - - - Full-time 33,369 66.7 66.7 68.1 Part-time 16,629 33.3 33.3 31.9				No target identified			There are slightly more jobs in manufacturing and construction than the national average and a lower proportion of service jobs, most notably in the public sector.	http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431797/report.aspx Source: annual business inquiry employee analysis (2003)

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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Employment by occupation (residents)	**Percentages** **Soc 2000 major group 1-3** 1 Managers and senior officials 2 Professional occupations 3 Associate professional & technical **Soc 2000 major group 4-5** 4 Administrative & secretarial 5 Skilled trades occupations **Soc 2000 major group 6-7** 6 Personal service occupations	**North Herts** **50.7** 19.1 15.6 15.9 **17.3** 10.8 6.5 **17.3** 8.6	**EoE** **40.8** 16.2 11.5 13.0 **25.6** 13.6 12.0 **15.3** 7.5	**GB** **40.5** 14.6 12.1 13.8 **24.4** 13.0 11.4 **15.5** 7.5	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)

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 2001 53.6	50.2 50.3	43.0 43.4	44.2 44.4				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
Average weekly earnings by place of work	2000 339 2001 362 2002 383 2003 384 2004 393	398 416 421 441 489	349 366 377 396 410	361 382 400 412 427		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?vlnk=13101 Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) (Note that year-on-year variations for small areas should be treated with caution as they may not be statistically significant because of the sample size)

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Average weekly earnings by place of residence	2002 458 2003 463 2004 473	481 505 519	411 429 447	401 415 429		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?vlnk=13101 Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) (Note that year-on-year variations for small areas should be treated with caution as they may not be statistically significant because of the sample size)
Average house prices by house type	1996 82,391 1997 91,093 1998 105,368 1999 112,099 2000 136,799 2001 148,289 2002 169,028 2003 201,956 2004 218,768 1st Q 2005 D'ached 445,192 Semi 227,826	95,838 107,129 121,910 134,324 158,559 173,202 201,519 227,179 243,347	71,771 78,930 86,794 95,700 110,372 124,616 149,299 172,257 190,218	73,117 80,599 87,778 98,385 110,589 121,769 141,108 159,357 181,330		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/

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	Terrace 177,898 Flat* 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
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value									
Proportion of new homes built on previously developed land	% built on brownfield sites 2001/2 25.0 2002/3 50.8 2003/4 57.6 2004/5 53.6	1993 63 1994 69 1995 67 1996 73 1997 86 1998 78 1999 80 2000 65 2001 74 2002 84 2003 Average 76	52 56 56 53 53 54 58 53 58 58 59 57	53 51 54 54 53 55 56 58 60 64 65 61	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
Stock of	36 hectares of which		7,930 hectares	65,760 hectares				The National Land	http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
previously developed land.	16 hectares identified as suitable for housing.							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.	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	hectares 2001/2 6.19 2002/3 21.32 2003/4 3.68 2004/5 15.37								Source: NHDC
Area of Green belt	N Herts 1997 14,060 2003 14,060		London and SE 600,320 600,470	England 1,652,300 1,671,600				37% GB	http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_031125.hcsp
Number of vacant properties	2.35% (2002 based on survey of 1000 properties) of which			3.4% (April 202) 3.9% (EHCS 1996)		No trend data available			North Hertfordshire Empty Homes Strategy 2004-2007 (Oct 2004).

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	0.37% (approx 200) were long-term vacant.								
Density of new housing development	Average density per hectare 2001/2 23.2 2002/3 27.4 2003/4 43.7 2004/5 24.5	1993 25 1994 25 1995 24 1996 24 1997 22 1998 24 1999 24 2000 24 2001 24	24 23 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 25 28	**26** **24** **24** **25** **25** **25** **25** **25** **27** **33**	Target range 30-50			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.	http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_032255.pdf NHDC Housing Monitoring Reports

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
		2002 27 2003 Average 25							
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 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.							The main shortfall in provision is for Baldock which had 37% shortfall in outdoor play space and was the only town to have a shortfall (16%) in pitch space.	Pavilions, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches Strategy NHDC 2005 -2010
Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places	**Rights of way in NHDC** No. Length km Footpaths 811 447 Bridleways 43 151								Source: Hertfordshire CC

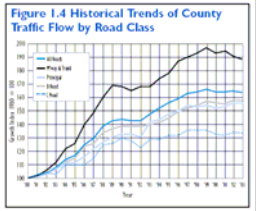
Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	Roads used as public paths 19 19 Bridleway open to all traffic 42 46								
2(c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles									
Distance traveled to work (percentage people between 16 and 74 by distance range)	**2001** From home 18 <2km 26 2<5km 15 5<10km 16 10<20km 13 20<30km 5 30<40km 3 40<60km 2 60km< 3	16 20 17 15 16 7 3 3 3	16 22 18 15 15 7 3 2 3	14 20 20 18 15 5 2 2 3		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
Mode of travel to work	**2001** **% people between 16 and 74** **N Herts** **Herts** **EoE** **England** People who work mainly from home 10 9				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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
			9						
			9						
	Underground, Metro, Light Rail or Tram								
			0						
			2						
			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						
			5						
			6						
			6						
	Taxi or Minicab								
			0						
			1						
			0						
			1						
	Bicycle								
			2						
			2						
			4						
			3						
	On foot								
			10						
			9						
			9						
			10						

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Proportion of journeys by green modes of travel		**% all journeys** **1999** **2002** Car/d 59 66 Car/p 11 10 Bus 7 6 Train 6 5 Cycle 2 2 Walk 12 8 Other 2 2 Car/d – car drivers Car/p – car passengers Other – other private vehicles	**% all journeys** **2003** Car/d 45 Car/p 24 Bus 2 Other pub 3 Walk 23 Other 3	**2003** 40 23 6 4 25 3	The North Herts target was to increase the level of cycling to 4% by 2002 and 8% by 2012. Current national target to triple cycling between 2000 and 2010.	The percentage of journeys made by green modes in Herts dropped 6% between 1999 and 2002, however it is possible that at least in part this was due to differences in weather during the survey periods. Although modal categories for NTS differ slightly from the county survey, Herts shows significantly greater car usage and less walking than regional or national averages.			http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/ttdr03.pdf Hertfordshire's Traffic & Transport Data Report 2003
Air Transport Movements	**1993** **1994** **1995** **1996** **1997** **1998** **1999** **2000** **2001** **2002** **2003** **2004** **Air transport movements (aircraft landing or take-offs)** **Thousands** Luton 20 15 19 28 37 44 51 56 56					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.			http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_control/documents/contentservertemplate/dft_index.hcst?n=11737&l=3 Source - Civil Aviation Authority

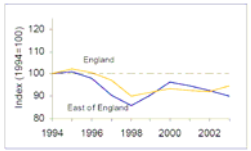
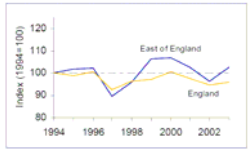
Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
					55				
					58				
					64				
	Stansted								
					48				
					54				
					63				
					75				
					82				
					102				
					132				
					144				
					151				
					152				
					169				
	All UK								
					1,181				
					1,200				
					1,251				
					1,317				
					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				

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
					3.9				
					4.8				
					5.4				
					6.8				
					9.5				
					11.8				
					13.6				
					16.0				
					18.7				
	All UK								
					100.1				
					109.2				
					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				

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	All UK				12.1 12.9 14.0 15.2 16.0 16.7 17.5 18.6 19.2 21.0 22.6				
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 All Ex mt NHerts 11 8 County 18 12	**Average daily vehicle flows by road class '000 vehicles per day 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		 Traffic in Herts grew 64% between 1980 and 2003, peaking in 1999 since when it has stabilised and reduced slightly.		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.hcst?n=12589&l=4 Regional Transport Statistics, DfT, Nov 2004 Source: National Travel Survey http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/ttdr03.pdf Hertfordshire's Traffic & Transport Data Report 2003
Road freight movements	There was a 1% reduction of HGV flows in N. Herts between 2002 and 2003 and a 0.7% reduction in flows on roads excluding motorways and trunk roads.	**AAWD HGV flows Herts** **2002** **2003** M'w/T 8520 8540 Prin. 1160 1140 B 350 360 C 200 215 **HGV MVKm/d Herts**	**Road freight by origin** **Million tonnes** 1993 170 1994 169 1995 177 1996 168	**Road freight by origin** **Million tonnes** 1993 1277 1994 1346 1995 1352 1996 1369		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 within the Region, with the majority of the remainder going to London, SE and E. Midlands.			http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_control/documents/contentservertemplate/dft_index.hcst?n=12589&l=4 Regional Transport Statistics, DfT, Nov 2004 Source: National Travel Survey http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/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
		2002 **2003** M'w/T 1.38 1.38 Prin. 0.72 0.69 B 0.10 0.10 C 0.16 0.18	1997 186 1998 182 1999 181 2000 179 2001 186 2002 187 2003 198	1997 1380 1998 1379 1999 1323 2000 1347 2001 1345 2002 1390 2003 1404					

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 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	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		Chart 4.32 - Farmland species: 1994 – 2003  Chart 4.34 - Woodland species: 1994 – 2003  			http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/wildlife/research/download/wdbrds200503.pdf Source: Wild bird indicators for the English regions: 1994 – 2003 (Defra, March 2005) http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qol4.pdf Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005)

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
		Regionally the species declined by 19% 1994-2003 despite an increase of 15% nationally over the same period.	recorded 7 showed population declines whilst 13 species showed increases.	showed population declines whilst 15 species showed increases.					
Number and extent of designated and other sites	Identified County Wildlife Sites, of all categories, account for about 6.5% of the District and, within this, those areas with some form of statutory nature conservation protection, excepting AONB, occupy only 652.6 Ha or 1.7%. Area hectares Total Cty WS Woodland 2295.7 1286.3 Grassland 4559.5 602.9 Tall Herb & Scrub 195.3 192.3 Wetlands 47.36 40.86	In 2002 it was estimated that 11% of Herts represented important wildlife habitats. Designated and other sites in Herts: No Area(ha) %* Ramsar 1 372 0.23 SAC 1 336 0.21 SSSI 43 2,211 1.4 1941 Wildlife Sites 17,215						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	NHDC Biological Action Plan (Draft Discussion Document) The State of Biodiversity in 1992-2002 (HEF, 2003?)

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	Cty WS – County Wildlife Sites are termed 1941 Wildlife Sites in the County BAP.	10.67 National Nature Reserves 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 that one category.						of the total area of the county each represents.	
% of SSSIs in good condition	The SSSIs in N Herts extend to approximately 300 ha. Only 6% by area are assessed as favourable/re	Currently, of the 1876 ha of SSSIs in Hertfordshire (excluding Ashridge), 68% are regarded as being in		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				The condition of SSSIs in N Herts is very poor compared to county and national	http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/sssi/reportAction.cfm?Report=sdrt13&Category=C&Reference=1021 http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qol4.pdf Source: Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005) http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/sustainable/quality04/maind/04s06.htm Source: Quality of life counts: 2004

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	covering. 82% are assessed as unfavourable declining and 12% are unfavourable with no change. (2005 based on assessment over the period 2001-2004)	favourable/recovering condition, the remainder being generally unfavourable. No sites have been partly or wholly destroyed		available as at March 2003, just over half (57%) of English SSSIs were assessed as being in a "favourable/recovering" condition.				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.	
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 25th July 2005.
Extent/populations of	See local BAP							The NH BAP provides extensive	NHDC Biological Action Plan (Draft Discussion Document)

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
important BAP habitats and species								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.	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes									
Area of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)	The total area of woodland in NH is 2296 Ha representing approx. 6% of total area of the District. Of which 1226 Ha covering 3.3% of the District is ASNW. Most extant larger ancient semi-natural woods of the district, covering some 634 Ha or 1.6% are designated as County Wildlife Sites	Total of 12,612 Ha of woodland representing 7.7% of county area.	Total of 115,256 Ha of woodland representing 6 % of Regional area.	Approximately 7% of England is covered by woodland of which about 40% is ASNW.					NHDC Biological Action Plan (Draft Discussion Document) http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/docs/eastchapter/east12/wildlife.htm

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
% 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 destroye	Currently 1 ancient monument at risk in N Herts. This is included in	The only ancient monument currently at risk in Herts is the one in	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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
d or at risk	the building at risk register.	N Herts.							
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 quality at a district level. Under further investigation.	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 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	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/qol4.pdf Source: Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005)

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
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 Areas	The Council has completed the first round of the air quality review and assessment process did not declare any Air Quality Management Areas.								Herts. and Beds. Air Pollution Monitoring Network Annual Report, 2003

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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly									
Index of multiple deprivation	Percentage of SOAs by quintiles of SOAs in England (2004) Most deprived <20% 0.0 20%-40% 5.1 40%-60% 22.8 60%-80% 29.1 >80% 43.0 Least deprived		Percentage of SOAs in the most and least deprived 20% of SOAs in England Most deprived <20% 6.2 >80% 30.5 Least deprived			Super Output Areas (SOA) are sub-ward areas, with average populations of around 1500. There are 32,482 in England and 79 in NHDC. 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 NHDC 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.			
Percentage of People Claiming the Jobseeker's Allowance Benefit for a Year or More			1999 22.6 2000 20.2 2001 16.1 2002 12.4	24.5 22.1 19.2 16.1 15.2 15.7	No target identified				http://www.dtistats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm Source: Labour Market Division, ONS

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
			2003 12.3 2004 13.2						
% of children living in low-income households (below 60% of contemporary median)			**2002-3** Before HC* 14 After HC 23 *housing costs	20 29					http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/indicators/regional/2003/h04.htm Regional Quality of Life Counts 2003 Source: DWP
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all									
Access to services	**Banks and Building Societies** 0-2kms 79% 2-4kms 11% 4-6kms 8% 6-8kms 2% **Cash Machines**							These data are estimated on the basis of 'crows flying' distances from GIS maps and so may not reflect true access distances. Despite the rural nature of much of the district over 90% of the population are within 4kms of most services with the exception of Job Centres.	http://www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Landscape/RandE/dataHub/rural_services_series_dataarea/RSS2004data.asp Source: The Countryside Agency, 2001

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	0-2kms 90% 2-4kms 7% 4-6kms 3% **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								

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	74%								
	2-4kms								
	15%								
	4-6kms								
	9%								
	6-8kms								
	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%								

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	6-8kms 3% **Supermarkets** 0-2kms 83% 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	No. 2001/2 0 2002/3 12 2003/4 4 2004/5								Source: NHDC

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	77								
% of new homes that are affordable	% 2001/2 0 2002/3 1.7 2003/4 0.8 2004/5 17.1	17% (2001)			47%				Source: NHDC http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/env/you/raiseaware/quallife/qol/housing/
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** **Vehicle and other theft** Apr-Jun 2003 7.8 9.1 9.3 11.3 Jul-Sep 2003 9.2 9.0 9.1 11.0 Oct-Dec 2003 7.7 9.0 8.8					**Recorded crime by type per 100,000 of population** **EoE** **Eng** **Vehicle** 1990 1936 2517 2002/3 1482 1885 Change -23%		Figures for recorded crime in 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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
				10.4		-25%			
	Jan-Mar 2004					**Burglary**			
				6.5					
				9.5					
				8.5					
				10.3		1990			
						591			
	Burglary					1073			
						2002/3			
						515			
						859			
	Apr-Jun 2003								
				2.1		Change			
				2.9		-13%			
				3.0		-20%			
				4.2					
						Robbery			
	Jul-Sep 2003								
				3.0					
				3.2					
				3.0		1990			
				4.0		29			
						75			
	Oct-Dec 2003								
				3.0		2002/3			
				3.0					
				2.8		91			
				3.7		217			
	Jan-Mar 2004					Change			
				2.9		215%			
				3.2		189%			
				2.9					
				3.7					
	Robbery								
	Apr-Jun 2003								
				0.2					
				0.2					
				0.2					
				0.5					
	Jul-Sep 2003								
				0.2					
				0.2					

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
				0.2					
				0.5					
	Oct-Dec 2003								
				0.2					
				0.2					
				0.2					
				0.5					
	Jan-Mar 2004								
				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					

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
				23.7 29.0 Jul-Sep 2003 21.0 22.1 23.1 28.3 Oct-Dec 2003 20.8 22.9 22.9 27.6 Jan-Mar 2004 20.3 25.1 23.4 27.8				
Number of alcohol-related crimes and incidents of 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 %** Good 72.1 Fairly good 21.2	73.1 20.3 6.6	70.4 22.0 7.6	68.8 22.2 9.0					ONS Neighbourhood Statistics.

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	Not good 6.7								
Life expectancy by ward	**Males** 1991-3 75.5 1994-6 76.0 1997-9 76.3 2000-2 76.8 Change 1.3 **Females** 1991-3 79.5		75.0 75.7 76.3 77.0 2.0 80.1 80.4 80.8	73.7 74.4 75.1 76.0 2.3 79.1 79.6 80.0 80.6 1.5					http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/indicators/regional/2003/h04.htm Regional Quality of Life Counts 2003 Source: ONS http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	1994-6 80.2 1997-9 80.0 2000-2 80.7 Change 1.2		81.4 1.3						
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/internet/Transport_and_streets/Public_transport/Air_services/London%20Luton%20airport%20annual%20monitoring%20report
Deaths and serious injuries in road accidents	***Road accident casualties North Herts*** **Fatal / Serious / Slight / *Total*** 1995: 4 / 102 / 419 / *525* 1996: 10 / 91 / 512 / *613* 1997: 8	***Road accident casualties Hertfordshire*** **Fatal / Serious / Slight / *Total*** 1995: 45 / 1003 / 5454 / *6502* 1996: 58 / 1099 / 5657 / *6814* 1997: 58				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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
		87 509 *604* 1998 9 119 591 *719* 1999 8 99 507 *614* 2000 7 66 577 *650* 2001 6 99 517 *622* 2002 11 57 580 *648* 2003 5 58 576 *639* 2004 9 75 529 *613*		1053 5660 *6771* 1998 57 1103 5857 *7017* 1999 53 895 5754 *6702* 2000 54 858 6287 *7199* 2001 49 845 5679 *6573* 2002 58 756 5819 *6633* 2003 38 650 5514 *6202* 2004 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								

Resource Use and Waste

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible									
Consumption / recycling of aggregates	No data currently available								
Construction and demolition waste going to landfill	No data currently available								
Number of dwellings created by re-use of existing buildings (conversion or change of use)	No. 2001/2 11 2002/3 23 2003/4 40 2004/5 56								Source: NHDC
Number of buildings designed to sustainability principles	Under investigation								
Average household water use per capita	Litres/person/day Anglian Three Valleys 99/00 150 170 00/01 155 175			2003/04 average estimate for all unmetered users across all supply companies was 158 l/p/d.				NHDC is covered by 2 supply companies. Anglian supplies most of the District with Three Valleys supplying predominantly rural areas in the south. Anglian consumption is approximately the national average, whereas 3 Valleys are the highest for any supplier being	Data from Three Valleys report *Serving the community, protecting the environment 2004*. http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/aptrix/ofwat/publish.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/leakage_03-04.pdf/$FILE/leakage_03-04.pdf Security of supply, leakage and efficient use of water 2003 – 2004, Ofwat Dec 2004 Note that companies make estimates for their whole supply areas and cannot break this down to smaller areas.

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	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
6(b) Reduce waste									
Annual per capita	**Waste per Capita (kg)**		1998/9 491	482		Per capita household waste produced in N Herts is			http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qol4.pdf

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
production of household waste	2002/03 534 2003/04 524 **Waste per household (kg)** 2000/01 1271 2002/03 1227 2003/04 1205		2002/3 520	521		approximately the national average, but recent trend data suggests that it is falling in the District whereas the national trend is a continuing rise.			Source: Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005)
Percentage of household waste recycled or composted	1998-99 8 1999-00 10 2000-01 9 2001-02 10 2002-03 11 2003/04 17.7	2002/03 18.5 2003/04 21.9	1996/97 9.3 1997/98 10.5 1998/99 11.9 1999/00 14.1 2000/01 15.2 2001/02 17.3 2002/03 19.4	7.5 8.2 9.0 10.3 11.2 12.5 14.5	HHC target is to increase average recycling to more than 30% by 2005/6 which is above the national target of 25%	Local and regional recycling rates are above the national averages, but NHDC is performing below average for the county.			http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/index.htm Source: Municipal Waste Management Survey, Published August 2004 http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qol4.pdf Source: Quality of Life Report 2004, (HEF, 2005)
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 2005 Hitchin 10 9 Letchworth 21 26 Baldock 8 6 Royston 13 16								Source: NHDC
Percentage of new retail (A1) in town centers versus out-of-town	% of new retail in town centres 2001/2 97.0 2002/3 23.5 2003/4 95.0 2004/5 100.0								Source: NHDC
% of all dwellings completed which are	% of new dwellings in town centres 2001/2								Source: NHDC

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
within town centres	45.3 2002/3 36.1 2003/4 23.4 2004/5 16.0								