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

Appendix 2: Review of Plans, Programmes and Policies

October 2006

Contents

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

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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.			

	Status: Government policy		
PPG4: Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms (2001)			
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

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		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;

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		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.	

		Status: Government policy	
PPG25: Development and Flood Risk (2000)			

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.

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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;

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 2

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

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 2

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.	

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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.

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		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	

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 2

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	

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		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.	

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 2

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:\n\nOverall Spatial Vision\n\n"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'.\nThe plan proposes 61 indicators relating to both specific targets and regional context.\nThe 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.\nThe indicators proposed in the plan and its SA will inform the indicators to be used for the baseline data for the LDF SA.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 2

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.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 2

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 threshold 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

October 2006

Contents

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.	

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

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 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001	11,989 12,903 14,327 15,732 16,540 17,696 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 1994 1995	65.1 65.1 68.8	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

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts		Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	1996	70.1	68.8	66.3						
	1997	69.7	68.1	66.5						
	1998	67.9								
	1999	68.2								
Employment rate **Percentage of people of working age in employment (Residence-based)**	1999	76.5				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)
			79.6	77.6	74.0					
	2000	79.0	81.8	79.1	74.4					
	2001	80.4	80.4	79.0	74.6					
	2002	80.2	80.3							
	2003	82.0	81.0							
Unemployed benefit claimants (rate) (Annual figures year ending March 31st)	2000	1.6				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
			1.5	2.3	3.3					
	2001	1.2	1.2	1.9	2.8					
	2002	1.0	1.1	1.7	2.5					
	2003	1.3	1.4	1.8	2.5					
	2004	1.5	1.4	1.8	2.5					
Investment in businesses (£m annual average 1998-				Mfg 1322 Service	13920 48726	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	http://www.dtistats.net/sd/bci/bciregionseast.htm Source: Figures for the years 1998 to 2002 were

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
2002)	),		4680 Other 852 Total 6854	8443 71089				investment for England, of which about 20% was foreign and 19% went into manufacturing industries.	derived from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), ONS
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 - - - Full-time 66.7 66.7 68.1 Part-time 33.3 33.3			49,998 33,369 16,629	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)

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
			31.9						
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**					

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
			6.6 7.8 8.1						
Employment by occupation (residents)	Percentages North Herts EoE GB **Soc 2000 major group 1-3**				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)
			50.7 **40.8** **40.5**						
	1 Managers and senior officials								
			19.1 16.2 14.6						
	2 Professional occupations								
			15.6 11.5 12.1						
	3 Associate professional & technical								
			15.9 13.0 13.8						
	Soc 2000 major group 4-5								
			17.3 **25.6** **24.4**						
	4 Administrative & secretarial								
			10.8 13.6 13.0						
	5 Skilled trades occupations								
			6.5 12.0 11.4						
	Soc 2000 major group 6-7								
			17.3 **15.3** **15.5**						
	6 Personal service occupations								

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
		8.6 7.5 7.5							
	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
		398
		
		416
		
		421
		
		441
			349
			
			366
			
			377
			
			396
				361
				
				382
				
				400
				
				412
						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)

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	2004 393	489	410	427					
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	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/

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	445,192 Semi 227,826 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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Stock of previously developed land.	36 hectares of which 16 hectares identified as suitable for housing.		7,930 hectares	65,760 hectares				The National Land Use Database identifies 36 hectares of previously developed land (PDL) in North Hertfordshire, of which 16 hectares has been identified as potential sites for housing. However this figure is only a proportion of the total amount of PDL in the District, as only sites over 0.25 hectares are included.	http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/downloadable/odpm_plan_030372.pdf Previously-Developed Land that may be available for Development in 2003 Source: National Landuse Database.
Loss of greenfield land to residential development	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	2.35% (2002 based			3.4% (April 202)		No trend data available			North Hertfordshire Empty Homes Strategy 2004-

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
vacant properties	on survey of 1000 properties) of which 0.37% (approx 200) were long-term vacant.			3.9% (EHCS 1996)					2007 (Oct 2004).
Density of new housing development		1993 25			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
			24	26					NHDC Housing Monitoring Reports
		1994 25	23	24					
			22	24					
		1995 24	22	25					
	Average density per hectare	1996 24	22	25					
	2001/2 23.2		22	25					
	2002/3 27.4	1997 22	22	25					
	2003/4 43.7		22	25					
	2004/5 24.5	1998 24	22	25					
			25	27					
		1999 24	28	33					
		2000 24							
		2001 24							

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
									Source: Hertfordshire CC
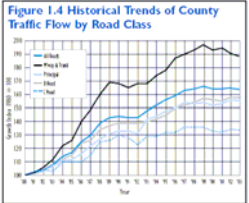
SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	Bridleways 43 151 Roads used as public paths 19 19 Bridleway open to all traffic 42 46								

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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
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**				Local targets 2021 Hitchin 62.2% Letchworth	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			http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/ Source: Census 2001, ONS

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
			England		/Baldock 66% Royston 63.5%	constant, but there was a 4% increase in people working from home, suggesting this was the main factor reducing car use.			
	People who work mainly from home		10 9 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								

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
		10 9 9 10							
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** 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)** Luton		**Thousands** 20	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%.			http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_control/documents/contentservertemplate/dft_index.hcst?n=11737&l=3 Source - Civil Aviation Authority

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
					15	For Stansted the figures were 256%, 620% and 700% respectively.			
					19				
					28				
					37				
					44				
					51				
					56				
					56				
					55				
					58				
					64				
	Stansted								
					48				
					54				
					63				
					75				
					82				
					102				
					132				
					144				
					151				
					152				
					169				
	All UK								
					1,181				
					1,200				
					1,251				
					1,317				
					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				

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
					6.1				
					6.6				
					6.5				
					6.8				
					7.5				
	Stansted								
					2.6				
					3.3				
					3.9				
					4.8				
					5.4				
					6.8				
					9.5				
					11.8				
					13.6				
					16.0				
					18.7				
	All UK								
					100.1				
					109.2				
					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				

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
					1.0 1.2 1.2 1.5 1.4 2.0 2.5 2.7				
	All UK				12.1 12.9 14.0 15.2 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 County 18 8 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	**Road freight by origin** **Million tonnes** 1993 170	**Road freight by origin** **Million tonnes** 1993 1277		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			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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts		East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
		B	350 360	1994 169	1994 1346		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.			on average daily flows, whereas Regional and National data are based on estimates of annual total freight lifted.
		C	200 215	1995 177	1995 1352					
		HGV MVKm/d Herts		1996 168	1996 1369					
		2002 **2003**		1997 186	1997 1380					
		M'w/T	1.38 1.38	1998 182	1998 1379					
		Prin.	0.72 0.69	1999 181	1999 1323					
		B	0.10 0.10	2000 179	2000 1347					
		C	0.16 0.18	2001 186	2001 1345					
				2002 187	2002 1390					
				2003 198	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	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						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	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
	40.86 Cty WS – County Wildlife Sites are termed 1941 Wildlife Sites in the County BAP.	17,215 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.						proportion 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	Currently, of the 1876 ha of SSSIs in Hertfordshire (excluding Ashridge), 68% are regarded as		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				The condition of SSSIs in N Herts is very poor compared to county and	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

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	favourable/recovering. 82% are assessed as unfavourable declining and 12% are unfavourable with no change. (2005 based on assessment over the period 2001-2004)	being in favourable/recovering condition, the remainder being generally unfavourable. No sites have been partly or wholly destroyed		7 per cent. Based on information available as at March 2003, just over half (57%) of English SSSIs were assessed as being in a "favourable/recovering" condition.				national averages. This appears to be primarily due to the lack of satisfactory management of several of the larger woodland and grassland sites in the District. At the county level, the condition of SSSI is above the national average.	Source: Quality of life counts: 2004
Implementation of BAP	See local BAP							No data at present but should become available in future as a result of monitoring BAP objectives.	NHDC Biological Action Plan (Draft Discussion Document) Some additional information on current workplan available from Agenda for Biodiversity Cabinet Meeting 25th July 2005.
Extent/p	See local BAP							The NH BAP	NHDC Biological Action Plan

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
opulations of important BAP habitats and species								provides extensive estimates of habitats present in the District, together with counts of species of UK priority and conservation concern (noting the lack of sufficient data to fully evaluate these). It is impractical to summarise these data as a single indicator.	(Draft Discussion Document)
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,	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
	covering some 634 Ha or 1.6% are designated as County Wildlife Sites								
% of land designated for particular quality or amenity value	Under investigation								

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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
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	Currently 1 ancient monument at	The only ancient monument	Currently 38 ancient monuments						http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1424

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
monuments destroyed or at risk	risk in N Herts. This is included in the building at risk register.	currently at risk in Herts is the one in N Herts.	at risk in EoE.						Source: English Heritage – Buildings at Risk Register

<table>
<tr><td colspan="10" style="background:#cccccc"><strong style="color:teal">3(d) Reduce pollution from any source</td></tr>
</table>

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
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	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
			2000 46 93						
Air quality – number of days per year any parameter exceeds its Nation Standard	There are no monitoring sites in N Herts conforming to the standards required for this indicator. However, the monitoring within district suggests conditions similar to the county figures.	**No. of exceedences 2003** Rural 54 Urban backgrnd 46.5 Urban roadside 25.25				No clear trends can be identified from available data. There are significant differences year on year due primarily to differing weather conditions.		The dominant pollutant causing most exceedences is ozone which tends not to be localised and is highly sensitive to weather conditions.	Herts. and Beds. Air Pollution Monitoring Network Annual Report, 2003
Number of Air Quality Management 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

Indicator	North Herts		Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Access to services	**Banks and Building Societies** 0-2kms 79% 2-4kms 11% 4-6kms 8% 6-8kms 2%								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
	Cash Machines								
	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%								

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	Libraries								
	0-2kms 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%								

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	2-4kms 19%								
	4-6kms 6%								
	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								Source: NHDC

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	12 2003/4 4 2004/5 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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
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					**Recorded crime by type per 100,000 of population** EoE **Eng** **Vehicle** 1990 1936 2517		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

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
				11.0		**2002/3** 1482 1885			
	Oct-Dec 2003			7.7 9.0 8.8 10.4		**Change** -23% -25%			
	Jan-Mar 2004			6.5 9.5 8.5 10.3		**Burglary**			
	Burglary					**1990** 591 1073			
						2002/3 515 859			
	Apr-Jun 2003			2.1 2.9 3.0 4.2		**Change** -13% -20%			
	Jul-Sep 2003			3.0 3.2 3.0 4.0		**Robbery**			
						1990 29 75			
	Oct-Dec 2003			3.0 3.0 2.8 3.7		**2002/3** 91 217			
	Jan-Mar 2004			2.9 3.2 2.9 3.7		**Change** 215% 189%			
	Robbery								
	Apr-Jun 2003			0.2					

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

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	Apr-Jun 2003			18.2 21.7 23.7 29.0					
	Jul-Sep 2003			21.0 22.1 23.1 28.3					
	Oct-Dec 2003			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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
General level of health (self-stated)	**2001**								ONS Neighbourhood Statistics.

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
	Health %								
	Good 72.1	73.1	70.4	68.8					
	Fairly good 21.2	20.3	22.0	22.2					
	Not good 6.7	6.6	7.6	9.0					
Life expectancy by ward	Males								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
	1991-3 75.5		75.0	73.7 / 74.4					
	1994-6 76.0		75.7	75.1					
	1997-9 76.3		76.3	76.0					
	2000-2 76.8		77.0	2.3					
	Change 1.3		2.0	79.1					
				79.6					
				80.0					
				80.6					

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
			80.1						
	Females			1.5					
			80.4						
	1991-3 79.5		80.8						
	1994-6 80.2		81.4						
	1997-9 80.0		1.3						
	2000-2 80.7								
	Change 1.2								
Access to healthcare facilities	See access to services								▮ (yellow)
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 ▮ (green)
Deaths and serious injuries in	*Road accident casualties North Herts* Fatal Serious	*Road accident casualties Hertfordshire* Fatal Serious				No clear trends are identifiable from available data.		The rate of accidents per 1000 population is lower	Hertfordshire Highways 01707 356223

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
road accidents		**Slight** *Total*		**Slight** *Total*				for N Herts than the county as a whole.	
		1995 4 102 419 *525*	1995	45 1003 5454 *6502*					
		1996 10 91 512 *613*	1996	58 1099 5657 *6814*					
		1997 8 87 509 *604*	1997	58 1053 5660 *6771*					
		1998 9 119 591 *719*	1998	57 1103 5857 *7017*					
		1999 8 99 507 *614*	1999	53 895 5754 *6702*					
		2000 7 66 577 *650*	2000	54 858 6287 *7199*					
		2001 6 99 517 *622*	2001	49 845 5679 *6573*					
		2002 11 57 580 *648*	2002	58 756 5819 *6633*					
		2003 5 58 576 *639*	2003	38 650 5514 *6202*					
		2004 9 75 529 *613*	2004	51 640 5483 *6174*					

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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
Percentage of population by age band and	Insufficient data available to implement at present.								

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
educational qualification									

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

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
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	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.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Appendix 3

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							any supplier being approximately 20% above average.	
Margin between water supply resources and projected demand	No local data are available, nor would these be particularly meaningful given the extensive distribution network used to maintain security of supply. North Herts spans both the Anglian and Thames EA Regions.		In 1997 0.95 cubic km of water was abstracted in the Anglian Region. This represented 23% of the estimated Annual Internal renewable water resources of 4.14 cubic km. Figures for Thames Region were 1.82 cubic km representing 59% of AIRWR of 3.09 cubic km.	For England and Wales the annual extraction rate in 1997 was 15.26 cubic km representing 22% of AIRWR of 68.17 cubic km.		No trend data available.		The percentage extraction rate of 23% for Anglian Region was slightly above the national average of 22%, but the rate for Thames Region at 59% was more than double the National average. This is one of the highest rates in Europe.	Water Resources for the Future – A strategy for Anglian Region, EA, March 2001
State of groundwater resources	NHDC lies on the Ivel Chalk aquifer. This has a significant surplus above the currently licensed abstraction rate, but see comments.							Comments on the Ivel Chalk aquifer: 'Increases in abstraction from the Chalk are not acceptable despite the water balance showing a surplus. The surplus is viewed with caution because firstly, there is a large volume of effluent and it may not be wise to plan to rely on such high effluent flows in future and secondly, this unit overlaps with Thames Region which may rely on groundwater resources in this unit.'	Water Resources for the Future – A strategy for Anglian Region, EA, March 2001

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
6(b) Reduce waste									
Annual per capita production of household waste	**Waste per Capita (kg)** 2002/03 534 2003/04 524 **Waste per household (kg)** 2000/01 1271 2002/03 1227 2003/04 1205		1998/9 491 2002/3 520	482 521		Per capita household waste produced in N Herts is approximately the national average, but recent trend data suggests that it is falling in the District whereas the national trend is a continuing rise.			http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/qol4.pdf 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		77% (2000/01)						It is estimated that	Source: Hertfordshire Waste Strategy

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
waste landfilled		71% (2003/04)						current Herts. landfill options will be exhausted by 2008.	

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	% of new dwellings in town centres								Source: NHDC

Indicator	North Herts	Herts	East of England	National	Targets	Trends	Status	Comments	Data sources
which are within town centres	2001/2 45.3 2002/3 36.1 2003/4 23.4 2004/5 16.0								

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

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

Contents

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

√ positive, **X** negative, **?** uncertain, or **O** neutral.

SPD Aim 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, including providing, on appropriate sites, the quality buildings and facilities it deserves.		
SA Objectives	**Impact of DPD objective on SA objective:** **√ positive,** **X negative,** **? uncertain or neutral O.**	**How can the objective be made more compatible with the SA objectives and any conflict reduced?**
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
3(a) Protect and maintain biodiversity	O	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√√	
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	
CLIMATE CHANGE		
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	O	

SPD Aim 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, including providing, on appropriate sites, the quality buildings and facilities it deserves.

4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	
A JUST SOCIETY		
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	O	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	O	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	O	
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	Aim refers to facilities
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	√	Aim refers to facilities
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	Aim refers to facilities
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE		
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	O	
6(b) Reduce waste	O	
TOWN CENTRES		
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	

SPD Aim 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, including providing, on appropriate sites, the quality buildings and facilities it deserves.

Conclusions:

This objective does not conflict with any SA objectives and actively supports several of them.

Recommendations for changes to this objective:

None

SPD Aim 2

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

SA Objectives	Impact of DPD objective on SA objective: √ positive, X negative, ? uncertain or neutral 0.	How can the objective be made more compatible with the SA objectives and any conflict reduced?
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	The wording of this aim is essentially the key aim of national policy PPS6.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	The thrust of the government policy is to prioritise town centre sites over 'out-of-centre' locations which might be on Greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	More people in the town centre could mean more people visiting Broadway Gardens
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
3(a) Protect and maintain biodiversity	O	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	

SPD Aim 2

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

3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	O	This matter is dealt with in the first aim, potential conflict only if aims are not read and used concurrently.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport
CLIMATE CHANGE		
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport the use of which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	
A JUST SOCIETY		
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	?	Growth by itself does not imply shared benefits from prosperity, however 'vital' town centres typically have a range of businesses including lower rent local businesses as well as national chains.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	This is one of the key functions of town centres.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	?	Growth by itself does not imply community cohesion, however 'vital' town centres typically have a range of businesses and services that promote community cohesion.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	New housing is likely to be developed as part of mixed-use schemes.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	More vital and viable town centres can provide more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and less opportunities for crime.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	This objective would support provision of health facilities, recreational facilities and non-car access to facilities
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	√	This objective would support provision of educational facilities

SPD Aim 2

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

5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	This objective would support provision of facilities
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE		
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	O	
6(b) Reduce waste	O	
TOWN CENTRES		
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	

Conclusions:

This objective does not conflict with any of the SA objectives and supports several. Uncertainties surround a number of issues concerning a 'just society', this means that issues such as viability and viability must be pursued in parallel and not one to the expense of the other. The detailed elaboration of policies in support of this aim should ensure that this is picked up. The aim has no direct impact on resource use and a recommendation is made to the third aim to ensure that this issue is covered.

Recommendation for change to this objective:

None

SPD Aim 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.

SA Objectives	Impact of DPD objective on SA objective: √ positive, X negative, ? uncertain or neutral O.	How can the objective be made more compatible with the SA objectives and any conflict reduced?
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	

SPD Aim 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.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	Broadway Gardens is one of the town's key open spaces.
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	The town centre is an accessible location and this objective promotes public transport.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
3(a) Protect and maintain biodiversity	O	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	√	Public transport provision would help reduce air and noise pollution from cars
CLIMATE CHANGE		
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	Public transport provision would help reduce emissions.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	√	
A JUST SOCIETY		
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	√	Developing civic and social life, rather than just economic development, will help share the benefits of growth, in line with the garden city ideal.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	Could ensure provision of facilities
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	Could ensure provision of agreed amount of affordable housing
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	A busier town centre might create more opportunities for crime, but would see more natural surveillance and perhaps see less vandalism.

SPD Aim 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.

5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	Could ensure provision of health facilities
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	√	Could ensure provision of educational facilities
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	Could ensure provision of facilities
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE		
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	O	
6(b) Reduce waste	O	
TOWN CENTRES		
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	Could ensure provision of improvements to the public realm

Conclusions:

This objective does not conflict with any of the SA objectives and supports several. The aim has no direct impact on resource use and a recommendation is made to ensure that this issue is covered, through the use of 'sustainable' measures.

Recommendations for changes to this objective:

Amend to read '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 <u>sustainable</u>, pleasant, safe and inviting to visit, live and shop in.'

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

Appendix 5:
Matrices Appraising the Saved Policies and Strategic Options

October 2006

Contents

Appraisal of Saved Policies

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

Local Plan no. 2. Policy 58 Letchworth Garden City Design Principles

The Council will only consider development proposals in Letchworth if they are in sympathy with the traditional buildings of Letchworth and if they clearly show that the Garden City Design Principles below have been taken into account.

	What is predicted effect of the option on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the option could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	**Short term**	**Med term**	**Long term**	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	?	?	Garden City design principles has led to a good provision of industrial land and a good employment/housing balance, however the relatively small size of the town, and the availability of employment outside the town, lead to complex commuting patterns and high car use. This leads to a relatively prosperous area but not one that is sustainable in transport terms.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value*?*	?	?	?	This policy has both positive and negative effects on this objective. Whilst the development today at the '12 to the acre' standard typical of early garden cities and suburbs would likely lead to loss of greenfield land, it also proposed for the first time integrated protection of the countryside and the creation of greenbelts.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√ √	√ √	√ √	The provision of quality green spaces has been a major achievement of the early garden cities
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	X	X	X	Car use in Letchworth is well above the national average. This is probably due to poor public transport within the town and, because of the low densities and declining household size the town has had to spread over a much larger

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

1

				area than envisaged in the original masterplans to reach the target population of 38,000
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	√√	√√	√√	The management of greenspaces within and outside the town has enhanced biodiversity, in line with the principles of uniting town and country inherent in the garden city ideal.
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	√√	√√	√√	The management of landscapes within and outside the town has enhanced biodiversity, in line with the principles of uniting town and country inherent in the garden city ideal.
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√√	√√	√√	This is the major intent of the policy and in conservation terms its impacts are positive. Certain aspects of the policy are ambiguous however. For example 'will only consider' is not the same as requiring compliance with garden city design principles, nor does it ensure that these principles are adhered to. Planning applications cannot be considered. Also 'traditional buildings' in the strict sense of an architectural dictionary would only apply to old cottages in Willan and Norton, not the neo-vernacular or neo-Georgian buildings in the town and town centre. This aspect of the policy is confusing and conflicts with Cabe/EH advice on design in historic areas.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	√√	√	√	The segregation of polluting industry has been a major achievement of garden city design principles, but industry is getting cleaner so its impact will lessen over time.
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	?	?	?	Whilst deliberate planning around a transport node can potentially reduce emissions, as stated problems over commuting patterns and public transport provision mean that car use is high in Letchworth
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	?	?	?	Same issues as immediately above.
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	?	?	?	Some of the outer estates have pockets of deprivation, although some are arguably not developed to Garden City Principles.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal–
Appendix 5

2

5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	?	?	?	The provision of services, especially in the town centre, has historically lagged behind housing provision and some services, such as leisure facilities, are not located in accessible central locations. However the Morrisions supermarket and the town centre shops are accessible.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	?	?	?	Same point as on outer estates above.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	?	?	?	Application of the Policy has had no impact on the ability to develop affordable housing in the town.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	O	O	O	Crime levels are below the national average however there is relatively more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	√	√	The town has been developed on Victorian principles of openness, sunlight and public heath and performs admirably to those ideals. The provision of modern health facilities in the town however is more patchy.
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	√	√	√	Educational facilities were planned from the outset in the town and are good.
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	?	?	?	The provision of services, especially in the town centre, has historically lagged behind housing provision and some services, such as leisure facilities, are not located in accessible central locations.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	?	?	?	Use of local building materials has from the outset been a key garden city design principle. The text in the adopted local plan however does not make this fully clear, nor is encouragement of use of recycled materials.
6(b) Reduce waste	O	O	O	No direct impact
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	?	?	?	The provision of services, especially in the town centre, has historically lagged behind housing provision and some services, such as leisure facilities, are not located in accessible central locations. However the

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

3

| | | | | Morrisions supermarket and the town centre shops are accessible. Car use in Letchworth is well above the national average. This is probably due to the lack of integrated public transport provision within the town and because of the low densities and declining household size the fact had to spread over a much larger area than envisaged in the original masterplans to reach the target population of 38,000. |

Conclusions:
- The policy has mainly positive impacts, but could be improved in wording and the supporting text clarified, possibly in the form of an expanded SPD, which would elaborate on how Garden City Design Principles can be reconciled with sustainable principles of construction and design.

- Development of strategy in other areas than the town centre should be considered to improve public transport and social cohesion in the town and improve facilities in accessible locations to residents.

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

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

	What is predicted effect of the option on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the option could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	**Short term**	**Med term**	**Long term**	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	√	?	Provision of enhanced retail facilities is a key aspect of economic development as retail is an increasingly important component of the National Economy. Currently there is significant 'leakage' of consumer expenditure out of the district and out of Letchworth. This leads to loss of opportunities for jobs and business in the town.

In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6.   Failure to |

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

4

				take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in comparison to other centres.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value*?*	√	√	?	Town centre development will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on greenfield sites. In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in comparison to other centres, and lack of assembly of town centre sites makes these sites relatively less attractive.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	?	Letchworth Town centre has a significant greenspace and more people in the town centre will increase access to open space. In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in comparison to other centres and possibly less use of Broadway Gardens.
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√	?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

5

				continue to see the relative decline of the district's town centres in comparison to other centres and hence people travelling further to shop, likely by car with its associated sustainability impacts. In addition the current provision of buses in the town centre is confused and services are infrequent to some areas, transport interchange facilities are poor.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√√	√√	√√	The policy requires development to enhance the Garden City Heritage.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	O	O	No direct impact.
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√	?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in comparison to other centres and hence people travelling further to shop, likely by car with its associated sustainability impacts.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	O	O	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	?	?	?	Some of the outer estates have pockets of deprivation, although some are arguably not developed to Garden City Principles.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	?	?	?	The provision of services, especially in the town centre, has historically lagged behind housing provision and some services, such as leisure facilities, are not located in accessible central locations. However the Morrisions supermarket and the town centre shops are accessible.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal–
Appendix 5

5(c) Promote community cohesion	?	?	?	Same point as on outer estates above.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	?	?	?	Application of the policy has had no impact on the ability to develop affordable housing in the town.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	?	?	Town centres are usually higher crime areas because of the concentration of people and goods. Declining town centres however can attract vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	√	?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in comparison to other centres and hence people travelling further to shop, likely by car with its associated sustainability impacts.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	O	O	O	No direct impact
6(b) Reduce waste	O	O	O	No direct impact
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√	✔?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. In the long term the assessment is uncertain due to the fairly passive stance taken in the policy and the lack

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal–
Appendix 5

7

| | | | | of proactive measures to promote the growth of town centre retailing and the provision of town centre sites – as now required by PPS6. Failure to take a proactive approach could continue to see the relative decline of the districts town centres in comparison to other centres and hence people travelling further to shop, likely by car with its associated sustainability impacts.

In addition the current provision of buses in the town centre is confused and services are infrequent to some areas, transport interchange facilities are poor.

Finally the policy does not promote mixed use development in town centres and provision of housing on retail developments, to increase the amount of urban living at an accessible location. |
|---|---|---|---|---|

Conclusions:

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

- Maintenance of the requirement for retail development in Letchworth to protect its character as the world's first Garden City should be retained in any replacement policy.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

8

Appraisal of Strategic Options

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

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

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

Option B:
Produce a SPD based upon minimal change to the town centre.

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

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal–Appendix 5

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

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

10

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

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

11

				crime. A declining town centre, which minimal change is likely to see, might see less opportunities for crime, but would also see less natural surveillance and more opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	**O**	**X**	**XX**	Over the longer term lack of development activity could lead to lack of opportunity for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
6(b) Reduce waste	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact.
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	**O**	**X**	**XX**	The provision of services, especially in the town centre, has historically lagged behind housing provision and some services, such as leisure facilities, are not located in accessible central locations. However the Morrisions supermarket and the town centre shops are accessible. Car use in Letchworth is well above the national average. This is probably due to the lack of integrated public transport provision within the town and, because of the low densities and declining household size, the town had to spread over a much larger area than envisaged in the original masterplan to reach its target population of 38,000. Minimal change would see lack of opportunity for town centre living as part of development and reinforcement of travel to shop patterns to other centres, with increased car use.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

12

Conclusions:				
• This option performs poorly overall, with the only beneficial impacts being short term social equity gains, and even these are eroded over the medium to long term. The main problem with this option being 'no change' to the centre would occur alongside a pattern of expansion by competing centres, leading to the centre declining over time and people travelling further to shop.				
Recommendations:				
• This option performs poorly and should not be pursued.				

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

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

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

13

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	√√	√√	By definition a strategy based on demolition of buildings and areas detracting from the character and appearance of the conservation area and replacement with buildings enhancing the conservation area would enhance the historic environment.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	O	X	Over time a more popular town centre could attract more traffic. There is no air quality pollution problem at the moment however and traffic levels would have to rise very considerably for this to happen.
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport.

Growth in town centre retailing will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement.   However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport. |
| 4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change | O | O | O | No direct impact |
| A JUST SOCIETY | | | | |
| 5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly | X | √ | √√ | The main people in the short term who would be affected by this option would be the tenants and workers of existing units to be redeveloped.

Over the medium to long term however change would lead to economic development for retail and other town centre uses.   This would, particularly over time, see the town centre perform better, leading to growth of jobs and businesses. |
| 5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all | √ | √√ | √√ | Over the medium to long term this option would lead to economic development for retail and other town centre uses.   This would, particularly over time, see the town centre perform better, leading to growth of |

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

14

				jobs and businesses. A better performing centre will become a more visited one, leading to greater incentive to bus companies to run a regular service and making the town centre more accessible.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	**X**	**O**	√	The main people not benefiting in the short term of this option would be the tenants and workers of existing units. Over the medium to long term however appropriate change would lead to economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would lead to a lessening social divide between residents of the town who shop within it and those that do not. This could see the town centre becoming more the centre of social activity.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	√√	√√	Development will lead to opportunities to create more affordable housing.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	**?**	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is relatively more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this option is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	**O**	√	√√	Over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	**?**	**?**	**?**	Uncertain impact as depends on implementation of other policies outside the scope of this SPD.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal–
Appendix 5

15

6(b) Reduce waste	?	?	?	Uncertain impact as depends on implementation of other policies outside the scope of this SPD.
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people living in and visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.

Conclusions:
- This option performs well overall in sustainability terms and is the best of the four options.   It performs very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns. It does produce short term negative impacts on social justice issues because of impacts on existing shopkeepers, these are balanced buy positive impacts in the longer term. These impacts might be mitigated by a balanced approach to development, which saw development of units for lower rent and specialist tenants occurring alongside growth for higher rent tenants.

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

Option D:

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

	What is predicted effect of the option on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the option could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	√√	√√	A major increase in retail provision would enable the retail economic base of the town to grow over time and compete more effectively with other town centres.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

16

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√√	√√	Town centre development will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on Greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√√	√√	More people visiting the town centre would provide more opportunities for use of Broadway Gardens.
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√√?	√√?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre retailing will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport. The risks associated would be greatest in this option.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	? X	? X	? X	A strategy based on large scale demolition of buildings and areas holds a risk of detracting from the character and appearance of the conservation area. Even replacement with buildings enhancing the conservation area could lose part of the original architectural and historical character of the town. The key is how selective the demolition is and whether the buildings/areas being demolished detract from the character/appearance of Letchworth Conservation Area.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	X	X	Over time a more popular town centre could attract more traffic. There is no air quality pollution problem at the moment however and traffic levels would have to rise very considerably for this to happen. The risks of this happening are greatest in this option.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

17

CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre retailing will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	O	O	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	X	√	√√	The main people in the short term who would be affected by this option would be the tenants and workers of existing units to be redeveloped. Over the medium to long term this option would lead to economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre perform better, leading to growth of jobs and businesses.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√√	√√	Over the medium to long term this option would lead to economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre perform better, leading to growth of jobs and businesses. A better performing centre will become a more visited one, leading to greater incentive to bus companies to run a regular service and making the town centre more accessible.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	X	O	√	The main people not benefiting in the short term of this option would be the tenants and workers of existing units. Over the medium to long term however appropriate change would lead to economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would lead to a lessening social divide between residents of the town who shop within it and those that do not. This could see the town centre becoming more the centre of social activity.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

18

5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	√√	√√	Development will lead to opportunities to create more affordable housing. The opportunities would be greatest in this option.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is relatively more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this option is likely to see in economic terms, might see more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	O	√	√√	Over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities. The opportunities are greatest in this option.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	?	?	?	Uncertain impact as depends on implementation of other policies outside the scope of this SPD.
6(b) Reduce waste	?	?	?	Uncertain impact as depends on implementation of other policies outside the scope of this SPD.
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people living in and visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.

Conclusions:
- This option performs relatively well in many regards in sustainability terms and has similar outcomes to option C. It performs very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns. It similarly produces short term negative impacts on social justice issues because of impacts on existing shopkeepers, these are balanced by positive impacts in the longer term. These impacts might be

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal– Appendix 5

19

mitigated by a balanced approach to development, which saw development of units for lower rent and specialist tenants occurring alongside growth for higher rent tenants.

- The main negative impact with this option is that potentially on the historic environment in that demolition is nothighly selective and carefully controlled. Replacement buildings will need to be of outstanding quality appropriate to the Garden City.

- This option would require a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce its car dependence.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document Options Appraisal–Appendix 5

20

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

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

October 2006

Contents

Appraisal of Preferred Option Policies

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

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

Section 5: The Town Centre Strategy Boundary

- Policy 1 - defines the Town Centre Strategy Boundary

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	O	O	O	
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value*?*	O	O	O	
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	O	O	O	
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	O	O	O	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	O	O	O	
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	O	O	
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	O	O	O	
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	O	O	

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Appendix 6

CLIMATE CHANGE			
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√	√	
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	O	O	
A JUST SOCIETY			
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	O	O	O	
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	O	O	O	
5(c) Promote community cohesion	O	O	O	
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	O	O	O	
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	O	O	O	
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	O	O	O	
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O	O	O	
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	O	O	O	
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE			
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	O	O	O	
6(b) Reduce waste	O	O	O	
TOWN CENTRES			
7 Promote sustainable urban living	O	O	O	

Conclusions:

- This policy simply defines a boundary within which other policies in the draft strategy apply – it is not therefore meaningful to appraise it by itself as its impact is neutral.

Section 6: Garden City Conservation and Urban Design

- Policy 2 - Protects the Letchworth Conservation Area

- Policy 3 - Sets down Garden City Urban Design Principles

- Policy 4 - Defines a series of character areas

- Policy 5 - Covers urban design principles around Broadway Gardens/ the Town Square

- Policy 6 - Covers urban design principles around the northern part of the Broadway

- Policy 7 - Covers urban design principles around the classical part of the retail area.

- Policy 8 - Covers urban design principles around the village type shopping streets.

- Policy 9 - Covers urban design principles around the late 20th Century part of the retail area.

- Policy 10 -Covers shopfront design

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√	√	√	The quality of the environment in Letchworth is a key component of its economic offer. Protection of the town heritage and promotion of good urban design should boost the town economically. In particular the improvements sort by policy 9 should see a better circulation pattern for pedestrian boosting retailing in the town centre.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Protects land with high amenity value such as Broadway gardens and its setting.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	O	O	O	No direct impact, other than protects Broadway Gardens which will have some biodiversity gain.
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	O	√	√	An attractive town centre that is easier for the pedestrian to move around in will see less traffic.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Appendix 6

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	O	O	O	No direct impact.
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√√	√√	√√	These policies set down strict controls on protecting the historic environment.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	O	O	No direct impact
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	O	√	√	In the longer term an attractive town centre, focussed on pedestrians will reduce car use.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	O	O	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√	√	Implementation of the policies would provide opportunities for improved services and facilities for the town.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	√	√	The policies promote services and facilities for the town.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	√	√	√	Improved design may reduce opportunities for crime.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	√	√	The policies promote services and facilities for the town.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	O	O	O	No direct impact
6(b) Reduce waste	O	O	O	No direct impact

TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√	√	The quality of the environment in Letchworth is a key component of its environment. Protection of the town heritage and promotion of good urban design principles should boost the town centre as a location for sustainable urban living.

Conclusions:

• The impacts are generally positive, especially on the historic environment.

Uncertainties:

• The policies do not cover issues such as resource use – hence the neutral impact.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

• Either issues such as sustainable design and construction are covered within the policy, or more practically, these matters are dealt with in the LDF framework core policies and or/SPD so they do not have to be repeated within individual SPDs.

Section 7: Retail and Change of Use – Development principles – Retail Policies

• Policy 11 - Sets down the priority sites for meeting retail need.

• Policy 12 – Provides for additional convenience goods retailing.

• Policy 13 - Sets down the strategy for linking up retail areas.

• Policy 14 - Sets down principles for the primary shopping frontage

• Policy 15 - Sets down principles for the secondary shopping frontage

• Policy 16 - Sets down principles for the sites outside the primary and secondary areas shopping frontage

• Policy 17 - Sets down principals over Evening and Nightime Economy uses

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	√√	√√	A moderate increase in retail provision would enable the retail economic base of the town to grow over time and compete more effectively with other town centres.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value*?*	√	√	√	Town centre development will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on Greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√√	√√	More people visiting the town centre would provide more opportunities for use of Broadway Gardens.
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√√?	√√?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre retailing will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	√√	√√	By definition a retail strategy proposing the demolition of buildings and areas detracting from the character and appearance of the conservation area and replacement with buildings enhancing the conservation area would enhance the historic environment.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	O	X	Over time a more popular town centre could attract more traffic. There is no air quality pollution problem at the moment however and traffic level would have to rise very considerably for this to happen.
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Appendix 6

				Growth in town centre retailing will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	O	O	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	X	√	√√	The main people in the short term who would be affected by this strategy would be the tenants and workers of existing units to be redeveloped. Over the medium to long term however change would lead to economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would, particularly over time, see the town centres performance improve; leading to growth of jobs and businesses.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√√	√√	Over the medium to long term this strategy would lead to economic development for retail and other town centre uses. This would, particularly over time, see the town centres performance improve; leading to growth of jobs and businesses. A better performing centre will be a more visited one, leading to greater incentive to bus companies to run a regular service and making the town centre more accessible.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	X	O	√	The main people not benefiting in the short term from this strategy would be the tenants and workers of existing units. This would, particularly over time, see the town centres performance improve; leading to growth of jobs and businesses. This would lead to a lessening social divide between residents of the town who shop within it and those that do not. This could see the town centre becoming more a centre of social activity.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	√√	√√	Development will lead to opportunities to create more affordable housing.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Appendix 6

5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this strategy is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	O	√	√√	Over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	O	O	O	No direct impact
6(b) Reduce waste	O	O	O	No direct impact
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people living in and visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.

Conclusions:

- These policies perform well overall in sustainability terms. They perform very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns. It does produce short term negative impacts on social justice issues because of impacts on existing shopkeepers, these are balanced by positive impacts in the longer term. These impacts might be mitigated by a balanced approach to development ,which saw development of units for lower rent and specialist tenants occurring alongside growth for higher rent tenants.

Uncertainties:

- There are a number of uncertainties over the impacts of these policies and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. Firstly any demolition will need to be selective to avoid harm to the historic environment, and replacement buildings will need to be of outstanding architectural quality appropriate

to the Garden City. Secondly there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce its car dependence. Thirdly there needs to be implementation of wider policies concerning matters such as sustainable construction and use of renewable energy facilities on buildings.

Recommendations

- No suggested changes as these matters are covered in other policy areas.

Section 7: Retail and Change of Use – Development principles – Other Policies

- Policy 18 - Concerns arts, culture and assembly uses in and around the town centre
- Policy 19 - Concerns Library, Museum and Heritage Provision
- Policy 20 - Concerns Office and Business uses
- Policy 21 - Concerns Residential uses
- Policy 22 - Covers Civic Accommodation
- Policy 23 - Covers Youth and other Community Facilities

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	√√	√√	Policies promote economic development
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value*?*	√	√	√	Town centre development will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on Greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	Additional visitors to the town centre might make use of Broadway Gardens
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√√?	√√?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre services and employment will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Appendix 6

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

5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√√	√√	Over the medium to long term however change would lead to economic development. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre's economic performance improve; leading to growth of jobs and businesses. A more competitive centre will become a more visited one, leading to greater incentive to bus companies to run a regular service and making the town centre more accessible.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	X	O	√	The main people not benefiting in the short term from this strategy would be the tenants and workers of existing units. Over the medium to long term however change would lead to economic development. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre's economic performance improve; leading to growth of jobs and businesses, as well as associated development of community facilities in the town centre befitting the whole community. This would lead to a lessening social divide between residents of the town who shop within it and those that do not. This could see the town centre becoming more the centre of social activity.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	√√	√√	Development will lead to opportunities to create more affordable housing.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this strategy is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	√	√	Strategy supports improvements to primary health facilities
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	√	√	√	Strategy supports improvements for library facilities.

5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	√	√√	Improvements to youth facilities proposed and over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
6(b) Reduce waste	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people living in and visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.

Conclusions:

- These policies perform well overall in sustainability terms.   They perform very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns. It does produce short term negative impacts on social justice issues because of impacts on existing tenants, these are balanced by positive impacts in the medium-longer term. These impacts might be mitigated by a balanced approach to development, which saw development of units for lower rent and specialist tenants occurring alongside growth for higher rent tenants.   There are also positive benefits to youth facilities, education and health facilities.

Uncertainties:

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

Recommendations:

- No suggested changes as these matters are covered in other policy areas.

Section 8: Transport and The Public Realm

- Policy 24 - Covers the transport impact of development proposals
- Policy 25 - Covers the road network
- Policy 26 - Covers the cycle network
- Policy 27 - Covers public transport and interchange
- Policy 28 - Covers pedestrian priority
- Policy 29 - Covers disabled access
- Policy 30 - Covers off street car parking
- Policy 31 - Covers on street car parking
- Policy 32 - Concerns protection of open space
- Policy 33 - Concerns public realm improvements
- Policy 34 - Concerns community safety

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

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	√	√	Reducing the impact of the private car will enhance the historic environment
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	**O?**	**O?**	**O?**	Less car use should result in less pollution, however a shift in traffic from Station Road to Icknield Road as suggested will lead to a small shift in those residents impacted upon by noise and air pollutions.
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√√?	√√?	√√?	This section of the strategy is focussed on improving public transport and pedestrian access. It also proposes some increase in off street parking, balanced by some restrictions on off – street parking. The increase in off-street parking would not necessarily lead to more car use if it led to people not driving to other centres much further away. This issue is a carefully balanced one though and making parking excessively cheap or plentiful could lead to an adverse modal shift.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	√	√	√	Improved public transport will benefit those without a car.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√	√	Improved public transport will benefit those without a car.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	√	√	√	Improved public transport will help community cohesion.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	√	√	√	Covers improvements to community safety
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	√	√	Improved public transport will improve access to town centre health facilities.
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	√	√	√	Improved public transport will improve access to town centre educational facilities.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Appendix 6

5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	√	√	Improved public transport will improve access to town centre recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact.
6(b) Reduce waste	√√	√√	√√	By providing for recycling facilities and household composting this will help to reduce the amount of waste sent for disposal.
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√√	√√	√√	Improved public transport, walking and cycling will aid sustainable urban living

Conclusions:

- These policies have an almost wholly positive impact.

Uncertainties:

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

Recommendations:

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

- Whether it is practical or feasible to mitigate the impacts on Icknield Way should also be investigated.

Section 9: Opportunity Sites

- Policy 35 Covers delivery issues

Note as this policy covers delivery of all of the other policies it is not meaningful to appraise it by itself.

Appraisal of Opportunity Sites

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

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

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

Opportunity Site LTC 1: Arena Parade, Eastcheap/ Broadway, Old Town Hall and yard adjoining the Post Office

Development of new retail, residential and other town centre uses, with a focus on larger retail uses for comparison goods shopping. Development should incorporate additional residential units at first floor level and above.

It also sets down a series of urban design principles for the site.

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	√√	√√	Opportunity Site promotes economic development
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Town centre development on such a site will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	Additional visitors to the town centre might make use of Broadway Gardens

2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√√?	√√?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre retail, services and employment will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√√	√√	√√	By definition a strategy and associated opportunity sites proposing the demolition of buildings and areas detracting from the character and appearance of the conservation area and replacement with buildings enhancing the conservation area would enhance the historic environment. It should be noted that Arena Parade itself has already been assessed as making a negative contribution in the Conservation Area Character Appraisal, The opportunity site seeks to protect certain key aspects of the conservation area such as the Broadway vista.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	**O**	**O**	**X**	Over time a more popular town centre could attract more traffic. There is no air quality pollution problem at the moment however and traffic level would have to rise very considerably for this to happen.
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre employment and retailing will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.

4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	O	O	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	X	√	√√	The main people in the short term who would be affected by this opportunity site proposal would be the tenants and workers of existing units on Arena Parade if it were to be redeveloped. Over the medium to long term however change would lead to economic development. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre become more competitive compared to other town centres; leading to growth of jobs and businesses.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√√	√√	Over the medium to long term this proposal would lead to economic development This would, particularly over time, see the town centre's economic performance increase with a growth of jobs and businesses. A better performing centre will be a more visited one, leading to greater incentive to bus companies to run a regular service and making the town centre more accessible.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	X	O	√	The main people not benefiting in the short term from this opportunity site proposal would be the tenants and workers of existing units. Over the medium to long term however appropriate change would lead to economic development. This would lead to a lessening social divide between residents of the town who shop within it and those that do not. This could see the town centre becoming more a centre of social activity.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	√√	√√	Development will lead to opportunities to create more affordable housing.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this strategy is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but

				would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O?	O?	O?	Opportunity for inclusion of Library
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√?	√	√√	Opportunity for inclusion of youth/other social facilities. Over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	?	?	?	Depends upon the implementation of higher level policies.
6(b) Reduce waste	?	?	?	Depends upon the implementation of higher level policies.
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people living in and visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.

Conclusions

- This opportunity site performs well overall in sustainability terms. It performs very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns. It does produce short term negative impacts on social justice issues because of impacts on existing shop tenants, these are balanced by positive impacts in the longer term. These impacts might be mitigated by a balanced approach to development which saw development of units for lower rent and specialist tenants occurring elsewhere alongside growth for higher rent tenants.

Uncertainties

- There are a number of uncertainties over the impacts of this proposal and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. Firstly any demolition will need to be selective to avoid harm to the historic environment. It should be noted that Arena Parade itself has already been assessed as making a negative contribution in the Conservation Area Character Statement, and replacement buildings will need to be of outstanding quality appropriate to the Garden City. Secondly there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce its car dependence. Issues such as resource use and waste depend upon the implementation of upper level policies within the local development framework.

Recommendations
• No suggested changes as these matters are covered elsewhere.

Opportunity Site LTC2: The Wynd, Openshaw Way and adjoining lands, and St Michael's House, Norton Way South

Development of new retail, residential and other town centre uses, enclosing a public courtyard or courtyards. Focus on smaller unit comparison goods retailing and a small food supermarket. Development should incorporate additional/replacement residential units.

Redevelopment of 39-41 (odd) Station Road, 32-34 (evens) Leys Avenue and buildings in the rear yard of existing shops may be acceptable where this aids access to the site for pedestrians, better integrates with the remainder of the town centre, and enhances the conservation area overall.

34/36 and 38 Leys Avenue should be retained and integrated in to the development.

Site of St Michael's House is suitable for redevelopment for housing/offices/healthcare or other town centre uses and should be of a design more in keeping with conservation area, and may be integrated with the Wynd developments where this achieves a more successful scheme.

Opportunity site sets down a series of urban design principles.

	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	√√	√√	Opportunity Site promotes economic development
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value*?*	√	√	√	Town centre development on such a site will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	Additional visitors to the town centre might make use of Broadway Gardens and Howard Park Gardens.
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√√**?**	√√**?**	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre retail, services and employment will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as

				not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√√	√√	√√	By definition a strategy and associated opportunity sites allowing for the demolition of buildings and areas detracting from the character and appearance of the conservation area and replacement with buildings enhancing the conservation area would enhance the historic environment. It should be noted that parts of the Wynd itself has already been assessed as making a negative contribution in the Conservation Area Character Statement.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	**O**	**O**	**X**	Over time a more popular town centre could attract more traffic. There is no air quality pollution problem at the moment however and traffic level would have to rise very considerably for this to happen.
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre employment and retailing will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	**O**	**O**	**O**	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	**X**	√	√√	The main people in the short term who would be affected by this opportunity site proposal would be the tenants and workers of existing units on the Wynd to be redeveloped. Over the medium to long term however change would lead to

				economic development. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre become more competitive compared to other town centres; leading to growth of jobs and businesses.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√√	√√	Over the medium to long term this proposal would lead to economic development This would, particularly over time lead to growth of jobs and businesses. A better performing centre will be a more visited one, leading to greater incentive to bus companies to run a regular service and making the town centre more accessible.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	X	O	√	The main people not benefiting in the short term from this opportunity site proposal would be the tenants and workers of existing units. Over the medium to long term however appropriate change would lead to economic development. This would lead to a lessening social divide between residents of the town who shop within it and those that do not. This could see the town centre becoming more the centre of social activity.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	√√	√√	Development will lead to opportunities to create more affordable housing.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this strategy is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	√	√	√	Opportunity for improved health facilities
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O	O	O	No direct impact

5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	√	√	√√	Opportunity for improved youth facilities. Over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	?	?	?	Depends upon the implementation of higher level policies.
6(b) Reduce waste	?	?	?	Depends upon the implementation of higher level policies.
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people living in and visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.

Conclusions

- This opportunity site performs well overall in sustainability terms.   It performs very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns. It does produce short term negative impacts on social justice issues because of impacts on existing Wynd tenants, these are balanced by positive impacts in the longer term. These impacts might be mitigated by a balanced approach to development which saw development of units for lower rent and specialist tenants occurring elsewhere alongside growth for higher rent tenants.

Uncertainties

- There are a number of uncertainties over the impacts of this proposal and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. Firstly any demolition will need to be selective to avoid harm to the historic environment. It should be noted that parts of the Wynd itself has already been assessed as making a negative contribution in the Conservation Area Character Statement, and replacement buildings will need to be of outstanding quality appropriate to the Garden City. Secondly there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce its car dependence. Issues such as resource use and waste depend upon the implementation of upper level policies within the local development framework.

Recommendations

- No suggested changes as these matters are covered elsewhere.

Opportunity Site LTC3: Garden Square Shopping Centre, adjoining car-park. Council Offices and public house Gernon Road and 28-74 (evens) Eastcheap

Redevelopment and/or partial refurbishment to provide a wide mix of town centre uses with retail use on ground floor units and incorporating additional residential units.

Sets down a series of conservation, urban design and access principles.

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	√√	√√	Opportunity Site promotes economic development
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Town centre development on such a site will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	Additional visitors to the town centre might make use of Broadway Gardens
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√√?	√√?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre retail, services and employment will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√√	√√	√√	By definition a strategy and associated opportunity sites allowing for demolition of buildings and areas detracting from the character and appearance of the conservation area and replacement with buildings enhancing the conservation area would enhance the historic environment. It should be noted that Garden Square itself has already been

				assessed as making a negative contribution in the Conservation Area Character Statement.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	O	X	Over time a more popular town centre could attract more traffic. There is no air quality pollution problem at the moment however and traffic level would have to rise very considerably for this to happen.
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre employment and retailing will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	O	O	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	X	√	√√	The main people in the short term who would be affected by this opportunity site proposal would be the tenants and workers of existing units on Garden Square to be redeveloped. Over the medium to long term however change would lead to economic development. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre perform better economically; leading to growth of jobs and businesses.
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	√	√√	√√	Over the medium to long term however change would lead to economic development. This would, particularly over time, see the town centre perform better economically; leading to growth of jobs and businesses. A better performing centre will be more visited one, leading to greater incentive to bus companies to run a regular service and making the town centre more accessible.
5(c) Promote community cohesion	X	O	√	The main people not benefiting in the short term from this opportunity site proposal would be the tenants and workers of existing units.

				Over the medium to long term however appropriate change would lead to economic development. This would lead to a lessening social divide between residents of the town who shop within it and those that do not. This could see the town centre becoming more the centre of social activity.
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	√√	√√	Development will lead to opportunities to create more affordable housing, which on this site has significant opportunities.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this strategy is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	O	√	√√	Over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	O	O	O	No direct impact
6(b) Reduce waste	O	O	O	No direct impact
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people living in and visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.

Conclusions

- This opportunity site performs well overall in sustainability terms. It performs very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns. It does produce short term negative impacts on social justice issues because of impacts on existing Garden Square tenants, these are balanced by positive impacts in the longer term. These impacts might be mitigated by a balanced approach to development, which saw development of units for lower rent and specialist tenants occurring elsewhere alongside growth for higher rent tenants.

Uncertainties

- There are a number of uncertainties over the impacts of this proposal and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. Firstly any demolition will need to be selective to avoid harm to the historic environment. It should be noted that Garden Square itself has already been assessed as making a negative or neutral contribution in the Conservation Area Character Statement, and replacement buildings will need to be of outstanding architectural quality appropriate to the Garden City. Secondly there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce its car dependence. Issues such as resource use and waste depend upon the implementation of upper level policies within the local development framework.

Recommendations

- No suggested changes as these matters are covered elsewhere.

Opportunity Site LTC4: Site at Junction of Gernon Road/Broadway

Development should provide an appropriate mix of active frontage and town centre uses with non-residential town centre uses on most of the street frontage and residential units on upper floors/remainder of site. Any retail should complement that provided in the rest of the town centre and not provide a competing attraction.

Redevelopment of 29 Gernon Road, the Town Lodge and other buildings on site will only be acceptable where it is part of an integrated scheme to enhance this key corner site within the conservation area.

Preservation or enhancement of setting of listed museum building, will be required as will in an appropriate new use if current use ceases.

Sets down a series of urban design principles.\

	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	√√	√√	Opportunity Site promotes economic development

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Town centre development on such a site will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	Additional visitors to the town centre might make use of Broadway Gardens
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√√?	√√?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre retail, services and employment will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√√	√√	√√	By definition a strategy and associated development sites based on demolition of buildings and areas detracting from or making a neutral contribution to the character and appearance of the conservation area and replacement with buildings enhancing the conservation area would enhance the historic environment.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	O	X	Over time a more popular town centre could attract more traffic. There is no air quality pollution problem at the moment however and traffic level would have to rise very considerably for this to happen.
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre employment and retailing will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Appendix 6

4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	O	O	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(c) Promote community cohesion	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√	√√	√√	Development will lead to opportunities to create more affordable housing.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this strategy is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	O	√	√√	Over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	?	?	?	Depends upon the implementation of higher level policies.
6(b) Reduce waste	?	?	?	Depends upon the implementation of higher level policies.
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people living in and visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.

Conclusions

- This opportunity site performs well overall in sustainability terms.   It performs very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns.

Uncertainties

- There are a number of uncertainties over the impacts of this proposal and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. Firstly any proposed demolition will need to be selective in terms of not demolishing buildings making a positive contribution to the character or appearance of the conservation area to avoid harm to the historic environment. Any replacement buildings will need to be of outstanding architectural quality appropriate to the Garden City. Secondly there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce its car dependence. Issues such as resource use and waste depend upon the implementation of upper level policies within the local development framework.

Recommendations

- No suggested changes as these matters are covered elsewhere.

Opportunity Site LTC5: Former Grammar School, and medical centre and Plinston Hall, Broadway/Town Square

Preservation/re-use of former Grammar School if practicable in a civic/educational business or community use. If redevelopment in whole or part is judged acceptable against the tests set down in national policy PPG15 then any replacement or part of building must:

i, have a new design incorporating a feature of equivalent landmark value to the existing cupola.

ii, have a form and design which enhances the setting of the Town Square/Broadway Gardens and the Conservation Area.

Any wider related programme including redevelopment of buildings elsewhere that detract from the Conservation Area, will be material to these considerations.

Potential, if practicable given constraints above, for new 'Town Hall'/Civic centre replacing existing District Council Offices, and complementary civic or community facilities. Any new design/extended should rise to the challenge of being the main civic building in Letchworth Garden City.

Business re-use and use considered acceptable on any part of site not needed for above purposes.

The site of the health centre may be included, or potentially separately developed if the Grammar school is converted, as part of the wider programme for improved health and associated facilities in Letchworth Garden City which focussing facilities on a new facility in or near the town centre. Development at the corner with West View must

appropriately 'turn the corner' in line with Garden City design principles.

The site of Plinston Hall may be included, or separately developed if the Grammar School building is converted. This would be subject to arts/assembly hall facilities being re-provided on site or elsewhere, providing it is part of a wider programme for improved arts facilities in Letchworth Garden City and it enables enhancement of the Town Square/Broadway Gardens setting with a more appropriate building line and design.

Opportunity site contains a number or urban design principles.

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	√√	√√	Opportunity Site promotes economic development
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√	√	√	Town centre development on such a site will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	Additional visitors to the town centre might make use of Broadway Gardens
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√√?	√√?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre services and employment will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√?	√?	√?	This opportunity site has considerable uncertainties associated without it, particularly when one considers the alternative proposal put forward. Protection of a building making a positive contribution to the character or appearance of the conservation area achieves a positive rating.

				However the overall impact on the conservation area may be negative if as a consequence a large extension for civic facilities is provided at Gernon Road. This might be mitigated however by appropriate design.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	O	X	Over time a more popular town centre could attract more traffic. There is no air quality pollution problem at the moment however and traffic levels would have to rise very considerably for this to happen.
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre employment will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	O	O	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(c) Promote community cohesion	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	X	X	X	Housing not listed as an appropriate use.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this strategy is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	O	O	O	No direct impact

5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	O	√	√√	Over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	?	?	?	Depends upon the implementation of higher level policies.
6(b) Reduce waste	?	?	?	Depends upon the implementation of higher level policies.
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.

Conclusions:

- This opportunity site performs well overall in sustainability terms. It performs very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns. The potential negative impact is the lost opportunity to provide housing/affordable housing.

Uncertainties:

- There are a number of uncertainties over the impacts of this proposal and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. In particular, related to any consequential impact if the Gernon Road Council office site is chosen as the civic accommodation option and the impact of any (as yet unknown) design on the conservation area. Firstly any demolition will need to be selective to avoid harm to the historic environment. It should be noted that some of these buildings have been assessed as making a negative or neutral contribution to the character of the conservation area, and replacement buildings will need to be of outstanding quality appropriate to the Garden City. Secondly there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce its car dependence. Issues such as resource use and waste depend upon the implementation of upper level policies within the local development framework.

Recommendations:

- The Council should consider whether or not the opportunity costs of not providing housing are outweighed by other environmental/planning matters.

Opportunity Site LTC6: Site at corner of South View and Town Square/Broadway and
Site LTC7: at corner of South View/Meadow Way and Town Square/Broadway Gardens

Both sites reserved for civic/business and/or community uses to complete town square.

Opportunity sites also set down a number of urban design principles.

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	√√	√√	Opportunity Site promotes economic development
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√?	√?	√?	Town centre development on such a site will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on greenfield sites. However the vacant corner lots do have amenity value and the impact on the area will depend on the design and site coverage of any development.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	Additional visitors to the town centre might make use of Broadway Gardens
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√√?	√√?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre services and employment will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√?	√?	√?	The vacant corner lots do have amenity value and the impact on the conservation area will depend on the design and site coverage of any development.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Appendix 6

3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	O	O	No direct impact

CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre employment and services will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	O	O	No direct impact

A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(c) Promote community cohesion	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	X	X	X	Housing not listed as an appropriate use.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this strategy is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	O	√	√√	Over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.

SA/SEA of the Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Appendix 6

RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	O	O	O	No direct impact
6(b) Reduce waste	O	O	O	No direct impact
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.

Conclusions

- These opportunity sites perform fairly well in sustainability terms.   They perform very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns. The potential negative impact is the lost opportunity to provide housing/affordable housing.

Uncertainties

- There are a number of uncertainties over the impacts of this proposal and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. Firstly the impact on the conservation area will depend on the final design. Secondly there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce its car dependence. Issues such as resource use and waste depend upon the implementation of upper level policies within the local development framework.

Recommendations

- The Council should consider whether or not the opportunity costs of not providing housing are outweighed by other environmental/planning matters.

Opportunity Site LTC8: Letchworth Garden City Station, Station Forecourt, car parks and war memorial area, Station Parade/Dorchester House

New bus/rail interchange incorporating taxi rank, short term car drop off facilities and some charged short term station parking.

Improvements to the Station, in particular disabled access, whilst protecting its special character as a listed building. Setting of station must be preserved or enhanced.

Redevelopment of Station Parade/Dorchester House with retail uses and other town centre uses above. Loss of car park to rear will only be acceptable if it is essential to this opportunity.

Opportunity Site sets down a number of urban design principles.

SA Objectives	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	√√	√√	Opportunity Site promotes economic development
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√?	√?	√?	Town centre development on such a site will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	√	√	√	Additional visitors to the town centre might make use of Broadway Gardens
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre services and employment will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√?	√?	√?	Dorechester house has been assessed as detracting from conservation area. Uncertain impacts from replacement buildings spaces in area of cenotaph/war memorial.

3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	O	O	O	No direct impact
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport which this opportunity site proposal would improve. Growth in town centre services will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	O	O	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(c) Promote community cohesion	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	X	X	X	Housing not listed as an appropriate use, given proximity to a bus interchange.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this strategy is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational	O	√	√√	Over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might

activities that are available to all				include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	?	?	?	Depends upon the implementation of higher level policies.
6(b) Reduce waste	?	?	?	Depends upon the implementation of higher level policies.
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.

Conclusions:

- This opportunity site performs well in sustainability terms. It performs very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns.

Uncertainties:

- There is an uncertainty over the impact on the conservation area of the loss of the war memorial, and the design of the transport interchange. Issues such as resource use and waste depend upon the implementation of upper level policies within the local development framework.

Recommendations:

- No changes proposed, however at application stage the design issues will need careful consideration.

Opportunity Site LTC9: Garage 20 Station Road (Bennetts Garage - Ford Dealership) and Site LTC11: Railway land to the north of Station Road

LTC9 - Redevelopment for non-residential town centre uses on ground floor and town centre uses/resodential above.

Development to west sets an appropriate context for massing and building height.

Development should allow for unimpeded access through to site LTC11.

Building line must be such as to retain the view of the return frontage and setting of Silver Birch Cottages to east.

LTC11 - Residential development, height restrained to respect setting of cottages to south given elevated position. Access via site LTC9.

Layout should be designed to minimise impact of noise from railway and loss of privacy to silver Birch cottages on Station Road.

	What is the predicted effect on each SA objective?			Explanation and suggestions for how the SPD could be made more compatible with the SA objectives.
SA Objectives	Short term	Med term	Long term	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY				
1 Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	√√	√√	√√	Opportunity Site promotes economic development
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS				
2(a) Minimise the development of greenfield land and other land with high environmental and amenity value?	√?	√?	√?	Town centre development on such a site will minimise pressure for development of out-of-centre sites which might be on greenfield sites.
2(b) Provide access to green spaces	O	O	O	No Direct Impact
2 (c) Deliver more sustainable location patterns and reduce the use of motor vehicles	√	√√?	√√?	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre services and employment will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3(a) Protect and enhance biodiversity	O	O	O	No direct impact

3(b) Protect and enhance landscapes	O	O	O	No direct impact
3(c) Conserve and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	√	√	√	Buildings have been assessed as making a negative impact on conservation area. Text refers to conservation issues.
3(d) Reduce pollution from any source	√	√	√	Reference to reducing noise pollution.
CLIMATE CHANGE				
4(a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport. Growth in town centre employment and services will lead to less need for town residents to travel (likely as not by car) elsewhere, producing a more sustainable pattern of movement. However a very successful town centre could lead to an increase in car use without a balanced approach to ensuring improved public transport.
4(b) Improve the District's ability to adapt to climate change	O	O	O	No direct impact
A JUST SOCIETY				
5(a) Share benefits of prosperity fairly	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(b) Provide access to services and facilities for all	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(c) Promote community cohesion	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(d) Increase access to decent and affordable housing	√√	√√	√√	Housing listed as an appropriate use.
5(e) Reduce crime rates and fear of crime	?	√	√	Crime levels are below the national average however there is more crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre due in part to more people and more opportunities for crime. A reviving town centre, which this strategy is likely to see, might see more opportunities for crime, but would also see more natural surveillance and perhaps less opportunities for vandalism.
5(f) Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce health inequalities	O	O	O	No direct impact

5(g) Increase participation in education and life-long learning	O	O	O	No direct impact
5(h) Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	O	√	√√	Over the longer term development activity would lead to opportunities for mixed use development which might include improved culture, leisure and recreational facilities.
RESOURCE USE AND WASTE				
6(a) Use natural resources efficiently; reuse, use recycled where possible	?	?	?	Depends upon the implementation of higher level policies.
6(b) Reduce waste	?	?	?	Depends upon the implementation of higher level policies.
TOWN CENTRES				
7 Promote sustainable urban living	√	√√	√√	Letchworth Town Centre has good accessibility to public transport and potentially good sustainability credentials. Development leading to more people visiting the town centre will be more sustainable.

Conclusions:

- This opportunity site performs well in sustainability terms.   It performs very well in terms of economic activity and land use and transport patterns.

Uncertainties:

- There are some uncertainties over the impacts of this proposal and how sustainability gains can be achieved and negative impacts mitigated. Te impact on the conservation area will depend on the final design. Secondly there needs to be a step change in the use and quality of public transport in the town to reduce its car dependence. Issues such as resource use and waste depend upon the implementation of upper level policies within the local development framework.

Recommendations:

- No changes proposed.

Section 10 Delivery

No policies to appraise.