

Appendix IV: Sustainability Appraisal of Local Development Framework Vision & Strategic Objectives

Appendix IV provides a record of the Sustainability Appraisal process as has been applied to the development of the Core Strategy Vision and Objectives at varying stages during their development.

Since the Preferred Options SA report was prepared in June 2006, The Vision has been amended to include the phrase 'The principal components of this will be strong communities, a high quality of life and a prosperous local economy'. In December 2007, a compatibility analysis of this revised vision was undertaken against the SA Objectives; this is provided below.

The Strategic Objectives have undergone a number of iterations throughout the process, and the SA of these stages is contained in the second part of this appendix.

Key:

++	Positive Compatible
+	Compatible
~	Neutral / Not Relevant
?	Uncertain, dependant on other factors
-	Incompatible
--	Potential Conflict

		Vision
SA Objectives		To make Dartford the place of quality and choice, a place where people choose to live, work and enjoy their leisure time. The principal components of this will be strong communities, a high quality of life and a prosperous local economy.
1	Balanced Communities	++
2	Integrated Communities	+
3	Accessibility	+
4	Public Health	+
5	Phasing of Supporting Infrastructure	~
6	Housing	+
7	Sustainable Design and Construction	~
8	Environmental Health	+
9	Economy and Employment	++
10	Landscape	?
11	Land and Soil Quality	~
12	Biodiversity	?
13	Cultural Heritage	?

14	Minerals	~
15	Climate Change and Energy	?
16	Air Quality	+
17	Waste	?
18	Water	?
19	Flooding	?
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The vision positively progresses the majority of SA objectives, especially against those relating to communities and the economy. It is acknowledged that is difficult for a vision to cover all 19 SA objectives, rather the core aim of the compatibility analysis is to highlight any conflicts. No conflicts arose as a result of the analysis, although the vision could benefit from a reference to not only a 'high quality of life' but a high quality environment. This would strengthen the vision against SA objectives relating to sustainable design and the environment.</p>		

Sustainability Appraisal of Core Strategy Draft and Revised Objectives

- Further minor amendments were made to the Revised Objectives in December 2007, and additional Sustainability Appraisal comments are included in the table below in italicised text.

LDF Strategic Objective	SA Objectives Progressed	Comments / Other Aspects which could be Progressed	Suggested Amendments to LDF Strategic Objective
<p><u>DRAFT OBJECTIVE SO 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A balanced inclusive community where people are satisfied with their quality of life Mixed tenure housing Accessible facilities for those without access to cars 	<p>1, 2, 3, 6</p>	<p>This LDF Objective is proactive in the progression of several different SA Objectives.</p> <p>Consider referring to mixed use development and accessible employment</p> <p>Important to integrate existing and new communities</p> <p>To promote a balanced community, a mix of housing types (as well as mixed tenure) is important. (It is recommended that this sub-objective is moved from SO5)</p> <p>Important to provide for a range of housing to meet the needs of specific groups, e.g. the elderly and disabled – although this may be too detailed for the strategic objective</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A balanced inclusive community where people are satisfied with their quality of life Mixed tenure housing <i>A range of available house types</i> <i>Mixed use development</i> Accessible <i>shops, services and employment including</i> for those without access to cars

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<p>REVISED SO 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A well-integrated community living in attractive and safe neighbourhoods, not dominated by traffic, whose residents enjoy easy access to local everyday facilities (convenience shops, healthcare, schools, community centres, etc) as well as easy access to green spaces. 	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>The new Strategic Objective covers the same policy areas, apart from mixed tenure housing.</p> <p><i>In December 2007 further amendments were made to this objective as part of revisions to the Core Strategy Preferred Options. A section at the end of the objective has been removed relating to access to green spaces. This is unlikely to have an adverse effect as this issue is covered in Strategic Option 4.</i></p>	<p>The new Strategic Objective could be expanded to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A range of available house types Mixed use development

LDF Strategic Objective	SA Objectives Progressed	Comments / Other Aspects which could be Progressed	Suggested Amendments to LDF Strategic Objective
<p>DRAFT OBJECTIVE SO 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous local economy, with a wide range of job opportunities available locally, and an outgoing business community taking full advantage of regional, national and international linkages ○ A balance between jobs and resident workforce (qualitative and quantitative) ○ Sites for businesses in appropriate locations ○ Mixed use developments with employment opportunities 	<p>9</p>	<p>Whilst this LDF Objective only progresses one SA Objective, it is considered to be well-worded and appropriate for the local context – especially the recognition of the need to balance economic and residential opportunities.</p> <p>Whilst we agree with the principle of achieving 'qualitative and quantitative' balance – this could perhaps be communicated more clearly.</p> <p>To encourage a diverse economic base, it is desirable to provide for a range of different sites for businesses in recognition of their different needs, and this could be specified within the objective</p> <p>'Appropriate locations' is somewhat ambiguous – but this may be difficult to avoid in the strategic objective. What is meant by 'appropriate' will need to be elaborated by Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous local economy, with a wide range of job opportunities available locally, and an outgoing business community taking full advantage of regional, national and international linkages ○ A balance between jobs and resident workforce (in terms of number and type of employment opportunities) ○ A range of sites for businesses in appropriate locations ○ Mixed use developments with employment opportunities
<p>REVISED OBJECTIVE SO 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous and entrepreneurial local economy, with a sufficient range of jobs, and with appropriate education and skills training opportunities to enable residents to access a wide range of jobs and professions, and with an infrastructure and culture that welcomes entrepreneurs 	<p>9</p>	<p>The new Strategic Objective no longer makes provision for mixed use development, or a balance between jobs and resident workforce.</p> <p><i>In December 2007 further amendments were made to this objective as part of revisions to the Core Strategy Preferred Options. A section at the end of the objective has been removed, though it is unlikely to have any adverse effects on sustainability issues in the Borough as infrastructure and culture are covered in other strategic objectives.</i></p>	<p>It is recommended that the Strategic Objectives reference the need for mixed use development, and a balance between jobs and resident workforce to further progress SA Objectives 7 (Sustainable Design and Construction), 15 (Energy) and 16 (Air Quality).</p>

LDF Strategic Objective	SA Objectives Progressed	Comments / Other Aspects which could be Progressed	Suggested Amendments to LDF Strategic Objective
<p>DRAFT OBJECTIVE SO 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A safe, attractive, efficient public transport system, which reduces the need for most car travel, focussed on <i>Fastrack</i> and rail connections providing excellent accessibility between destinations near and far ○ Layouts that prioritise public transport, above private motorised transport ○ Layouts that ensure convenient public transport is close at hand ○ Restriction on non-residential parking 	<p>3, 7, 15, 16</p>	<p>The LDF Objective should help deliver viable alternatives to car travel, thereby enhancing equality of accessibility, and helping improve quality and reduce emissions.</p> <p>The Objective could usefully mention enhanced capacity and integration of public transport</p> <p>It is important that public transport is close at hand not just in Dartford, but also the outlying areas – although this can be elaborated by policy.</p> <p>The type of layouts that prioritise public transport should also be detailed by policy – such as compact form of new development, especially along public transport routes and nodes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A safe, attractive, efficient public transport system <u>with increased capacity and network quality</u> which reduces the need for most car travel. <u>Enhancements to be focussed particularly</u> on <i>Fastrack</i> and rail <u>services to</u> provide excellent accessibility between destinations near and far ○ Layouts that prioritise public transport, above private motorised transport ○ Layouts that ensure convenient public transport is close at hand ○ Restriction on non-residential parking
<p>REVISED OBJECTIVE SO 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A realistic choice of travel options, with public transport able to cater conveniently for most <u>local</u> journeys <u>as well to Central London and local areas</u> and providing good access to the rest of Kent and Europe 	<p>3, 7, 15, 16</p>	<p>The new Strategic Objective no longer references the importance of integrating transport and landuse through urban layout.</p> <p><i>In December 2007 further amendments were made to this objective as part of revisions to the Core Strategy Preferred Options. These amendments are minor and make no significant change to the focus of the previous strategic objective.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of planning and design in influencing travel patterns and car usage could be further addressed in the Strategic Objectives.

LDF Strategic Objective	SA Objectives Progressed	Comments / Other Aspects which could be Progressed	Suggested Amendments to LDF Strategic Objective
<p>DRAFT OBJECTIVE SO 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thriving accessible town centre (also Bluewater and Ebbsfleet) providing a wide range of shops, services, employment cultural and leisure opportunities ○ Encouragement for those uses that enhance the shopping, leisure and commercial functions of these centres ○ Creation of pleasant pedestrian environment ○ Ensure good public transport accessibility ○ Encourage more town centre living – including living over the shop – to enhance the evening economy 	<p>2, 3</p>	<p>The objective sets out a clear strategic message that there will be three main centres within the Borough, where appropriate functions and an improved local environment will be fostered.</p> <p>This focused approach will help promote viability and vitality. It is considered that individual identity should be fostered in each of the centres – and policy should elaborate distinct roles for the three centres.</p> <p>New development should be located in a way which is compatible with the development of the centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thriving accessible town centre (also Bluewater and Ebbsfleet) providing a wide range of shops, services, employment cultural and leisure opportunities ○ Encouragement for those uses that enhance the shopping, leisure and commercial functions of these centres ○ Creation of pleasant pedestrian environment ○ Ensure good public transport accessibility ○ Encourage more town centre living – including living over the shop – to enhance the evening economy ○ <u>Locate new development so as to enhance the viability and vitality of the Centres</u>
<p>REVISED OBJECTIVE SO 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vibrant town centre with a flourishing evening economy and a strong cultural and leisure offer alongside a strong retail core, set in an attractive public realm 	<p>2, 3, 7</p>	<p>The new objective has a stronger focus on the Town Centre, which is supported. The objective no longer refers to public transport (addressed under new objective 6), or 'living over the shop' (more appropriately addressed in detailed policy within the Core Strategy).</p>	

LDF Strategic Objective	SA Objectives Progressed	Comments / Other Aspects which could be Progressed	Suggested Amendments to LDF Strategic Objective
<p>DRAFT OBJECTIVE SO 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive residential neighbourhoods with a wide range of high quality housing and easy access for people to local shops services employment and public transport ○ Promote the urban village concept ○ Mixed tenure housing ○ A range of available house types ○ More attention to public spaces ○ Safe pleasant routes for walking and cycling 	<p>1, 3, 7, 9</p>	<p>The Objective deals with a wide range of sustainability issues. However, it is considered that there is some overlap with SO1 and SO7. It is recommended that this Objective focuses on the quality of the living environment.</p> <p>Reference to 'residential' neighbourhoods might encourage single use development. 'Residential' could be replaced with 'living' in order to address this issue.</p> <p>It is important to insist upon high design quality and respect for local character. SO7 addresses this issue to an extent, but it is considered that it can be more appropriately addressed within this Objective.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive living neighbourhoods with a wide range of high quality housing and good design which reinforces local distinctiveness ○ Promote the urban village concept ○ A high quality public realm ○ Safe pleasant routes for walking and cycling ○ Proactive application of design codes and design strategies such as Kent Design Guide
<p>REVISED OBJECTIVE SO 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A well-integrated community living in attractive and safe neighbourhoods, not dominated by traffic, whose residents enjoy easy access to local everyday facilities (convenience shops, healthcare, schools, community centres, etc) as well as easy access to green spaces. 	<p>1, 3, 7, 9</p>		<p>It is recommended that employment be added to the Strategic Objective, i.e: 'residents enjoy easy access to local everyday facilities (convenience shops, healthcare, schools, community centres, etc) <u>and employment.</u>'</p>

LDF Strategic Objective	SA Objectives Progressed	Comments / Other Aspects which could be Progressed	Suggested Amendments to LDF Strategic Objective
<p>DRAFT OBJECTIVE SO 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pleasant urban environment, The Green Grid (a network of paths, cycle routes and open spaces throughout the urban area) plays a major part in people's enjoyment of their everyday lives and provides an attractive alternative to car travel; and the Rivers Thames and Darent are accessible and enjoyable Promote expansion of the green grid, explore ways of filling the missing links Provide for riverside facilities (slipways, pubs etc) 	<p>4, 5, 8</p>	<p>This Objective is proactive in progressing green and blue infrastructure as an integral component of a good quality living environment.</p> <p>The potential for multi-functional benefits (such as amenity, biodiversity, flood storage capacity) of the green grid could be referred to</p> <p>It is important that developers are aware of the Green Infrastructure network and priorities for its enhancement, in order that new development can incorporate links and enhancements. This can be elaborated by policy.</p> <p>The reference to the urban environment is somewhat broader than the content of the Objective, and it is suggested that it could be removed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Green Grid (a network of paths, cycle routes and open spaces throughout the urban area) plays a major part in people's enjoyment of their everyday lives and provides an attractive alternative to car travel; and the Rivers Thames and Darent are accessible and enjoyable Promote expansion of the green grid, explore ways of filling the missing links Achieve the multifunctional potential of the Green Grid (eg sites and routes delivering benefits for amenity, biodiversity, flood storage capacity) Provide for riverside facilities (slipways, pubs etc)
<p>REVISED OBJECTIVE SO 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A green borough, with a widespread network of natural and landscaped paths, cycle routes and open spaces, giving easy access to the River Thames and unspoilt countryside south of the A2, especially the River Darent 	<p>4, 5, 8,10</p>	<p>The new Strategic Objective does not use the term 'Green Grid', nor provide for riverside facilities.</p> <p><i>In December 2007 further amendments were made to this objective as part of revisions to the Core Strategy Preferred Options. A section at the end of the objective has been removed, though it is unlikely to have any adverse effects as the strategic objective still promotes a widespread network of landscaped paths and cycle routes across the Borough.</i></p>	<p>It is recommended that the new Strategic Objective includes the term 'Green Grid'. The regeneration / opening-up of the riverfront could be included as part of this, or another Strategic Objective.</p>

LDF Strategic Objective	SA Objectives Progressed	Comments / Other Aspects which could be Progressed	Suggested Amendments to LDF Strategic Objective
<p>DRAFT OBJECTIVE SO 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development in Dartford leading the way with design quality, sustainability and energy efficiency ○ Promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency ○ The need for design codes and design strategies. Kent Design 	<p>5, 7, 15, 16</p>	<p>With the extensive new development proposed, it is extremely important that Dartford Borough Council requires that major new development incorporates sustainable design measures</p> <p>It is considered that this Objective should focus on sustainable design and construction, with design quality incorporated in SO5.</p> <p>Other sustainable design and construction measures include water efficiency measures, sustainable drainage systems, sustainable waste management, and reuse and local sourcing of construction materials</p> <p>It is important to monitor the sustainability performance of development, for example using the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology (BREEAM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development in Dartford leading the way with <u>sustainable construction and</u> design ○ <u>Provision for renewable energy, including micro-generation, included within new development</u> ○ <u>Development incorporating water and energy efficiency measures</u> ○ <u>Development incorporating sustainable drainage systems</u> ○ <u>Development incorporating sustainable waste management facilities including energy from waste</u> ○ <u>Reuse and/or local sourcing of construction materials</u> ○ <u>Development meeting established targets using a quality assured rating scheme like BREEAM</u>
<p>REVISED OBJECTIVE SO 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustainable borough with energy efficient buildings, and a reduced amount of car travel within the Borough. <u>widespread use of renewable energy and well-adapted to climate change.</u> 	<p>5, 7, 15, 16</p>	<p>The new Strategic Objective makes no reference to renewable energy, and no longer has the reference 'leading the way'.</p> <p><i>In December 2007 further amendments were made to this objective as part of revisions to the Core Strategy Preferred Options. The new strategic objective now makes reference to widespread use of renewable energy and a well-adapted Borough to climate change. This will have positive impacts on infrastructure and air quality in the Borough. Reference to reducing car travel has been removed though it is unlikely to have adverse impacts as this issue is covered in other strategic objectives.</i></p>	<p>Whilst previous recommendations may be too detailed for a singular objective, the new Strategic Objective could be strengthened and better support the SA Objectives through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstating the term 'leading the way' • Including reference to renewable energy • Including reference to energy and water efficiency.

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<p>DRAFT OBJECTIVE SO 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attractive tranquil countryside that people can get to easily for leisure pursuits and passive enjoyment of the scenery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain green belt controls ○ Planning decisions sensitive to landscape character ○ Promote adequate green grid links to the countryside 	<p>10, 4, 8</p>	<p>The Objective sets a positive context for the protection and enhancement of landscape character and enjoyment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attractive tranquil countryside that people can get to easily for leisure pursuits and passive enjoyment of the scenery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain Green Belt controls ○ Planning decisions sensitive to landscape character ○ Promote adequate Green Grid links to the countryside
<p>REVISED OBJECTIVE SO 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A green borough, with a widespread network of natural and landscaped paths, cycle routes and open spaces, giving easy access to the River Thames and unspoilt countryside south of the A2, especially the River Darent 	<p>10, 4, 8</p>	<p>The new Strategic Objective has lost reference to landscape character and maintaining Green Belt controls, but is otherwise similar to draft SO8.</p>	<p>Consideration could be given to reinstating the use of the term 'landscape character' to better progress SA Objective 10 (Landscape). SA Objective 11 (Land and Soil Quality) would be better progressed if reference were made to preserving the Green Belt and /or prioritising development on previously developed land.</p>

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<p>DRAFT OBJECTIVE SO 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A network of sustainable villages where residents are not disadvantaged by their location in smaller communities ○ Resist loss of village shops ○ Resist further development in unsustainable locations 	<p>1, 2</p>	<p>This Objective will help ensure that the needs of smaller communities are not neglected.</p> <p>There may be an opportunity to make the Objective more positive, eg not just resisting the loss of shops and resisting inappropriate development, but promoting the provision of additional local services, and accommodating limited development in appropriate locations to meet local needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A network of sustainable villages where residents are not disadvantaged by their location in smaller communities ○ Resist loss <u>and encourage provision</u> of village shops, <u>services and facilities</u> ○ Resist further development in unsustainable locations ○ <u>Accommodate limited development in appropriate locations to meet local needs</u>
<p>Objective SO 9 has not been progressed in the drafting of new objectives.</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Issues relating to sustainable villages, the rural economy and resisting development in unsustainable locations are no longer considered to be adequately addressed in the Strategic Objectives.</p>	<p>It is recommended that an additional Strategic Objective be included in support of 'sustainable villages and the rural economy'; to better progress SA Objectives 1 (Balanced Communities), 2 (Integrated Communities) and 9 (Employment).</p>

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<p>DRAFT OBJECTIVE SO 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community infrastructure networks support the level of development that has occurred and no adverse effects have been sustained by the environment ○ Ensure timely provision of infrastructure through s106 agreements and negotiations with agencies ○ Major developments to include adequate community infrastructure at their heart 	<p>2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 18</p>	<p>This Objective progresses an extensive array of sustainability objectives, demonstrating the importance of securing appropriately phased infrastructure to accompany new development</p> <p>It is not clear exactly what is intended by 'community' infrastructure. It is recommended that 'community' is removed from the beginning of the objective. The meaning of 'Community infrastructure' in major developments should be elaborated by policy.</p> <p>In consideration of the extensive development proposed, it may be difficult to ensure all adverse effects on the environment are avoided. However, this remains an appropriate aspiration, and mitigation can help avoid/offset predicted adverse effects</p> <p>Reference could be made to ensuring infrastructure accompanying new development is well integrated with existing development and infrastructure</p> <p>The word 'adequate' in the second sub objective implies it is sufficient to provide the minimum. 'Ample' could send a more positive message.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Good quality infrastructure networks to support existing and proposed development</u>, and no adverse effects have been sustained by the environment ○ Ensure timely provision of infrastructure through s106 agreements and negotiations with agencies ○ Major developments to include <u>adequate</u> community infrastructure at their heart ○ Ensure infrastructure accompanying new development is well integrated with existing development and infrastructure
<p>REVISED OBJECTIVE SO 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full range of opportunities to participate in <u>first class</u> cultural and leisure pursuits as well as sport and recreation, <u>in attractive surroundings and with access to first class facilities</u> 	<p>1, 2, 4, 5(partial),8</p>	<p>The new Strategic Objective only partially covers the material covered by Draft SO10. The reference to sustainable infrastructure is no longer included, and the need for the timely provision and funding of infrastructure has been removed.</p> <p><i>In December 2007 further amendments were made to this objective as part of revisions to the Core Strategy Preferred Options. These amendments are minor and make no significant change to the focus of the previous strategic objective.</i></p>	<p>Whilst the new Strategic Objective is supported, it could be expanded to include all infrastructure, and include a need for infrastructure to be sustainable. It is recommended the Strategic Objectives refer to the timely provision of infrastructure to ensure SA Objective 5 (Phasing of Supporting Infrastructure) is covered.</p>

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<p>DRAFT OBJECTIVE SO 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural and natural assets have been protected and enhanced and new environmental capital has been gained ○ Wildlife sites protected ○ Listed buildings and conservation areas protected 	<p>10, 12, 13</p>	<p>The intention of the Objective – to protect <i>and enhance</i> cultural and natural assets could be more proactively progressed by the sub-objectives – which only protect (and don't seek to enhance) a limited range of cultural and natural assets</p> <p>What is meant by 'environmental capital' could be clarified and elaborated by policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural and natural assets have been protected and enhanced and new environmental capital has been gained ○ Wildlife sites protected <u>and extended</u> ○ <u>Protect and enhance valued architecture, including</u> Listed buildings and <u>their settings, and</u> conservation areas ○ <u>Protect and enhance the historic environment</u> ○ <u>Encourage local cultural activities</u>
<p>Objective SO 11 has not been progressed in the drafting of new objectives.</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>The Strategic Objectives no longer include a reference relating to the protection of the environment or cultural heritage. Whilst one of the Strategic Objectives contains a reference to a 'green borough', there is nothing that specifically addresses either issue.</p>	<p>In order to progress SA Objective 12 (Biodiversity) and 13 (Cultural heritage), it is strongly recommended that an additional Strategic Objective relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment (particularly biodiversity) and the Borough's cultural heritage be included.</p> <p>Such an objective could also include consideration of the water environment (and hence progress SA Objective 18 Water).</p>