



Levett-Therivel

SCOTT WILSON BUSINESS CONSULTANCY

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Dover and Sevenoaks Local Development Frameworks

SCOPING WORKSHOP - PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



November 2004



Scott Wilson Business Consultancy

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Levett-Therivel

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Dover and Sevenoaks Local Development Frameworks [Final Report]

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SEA / SA

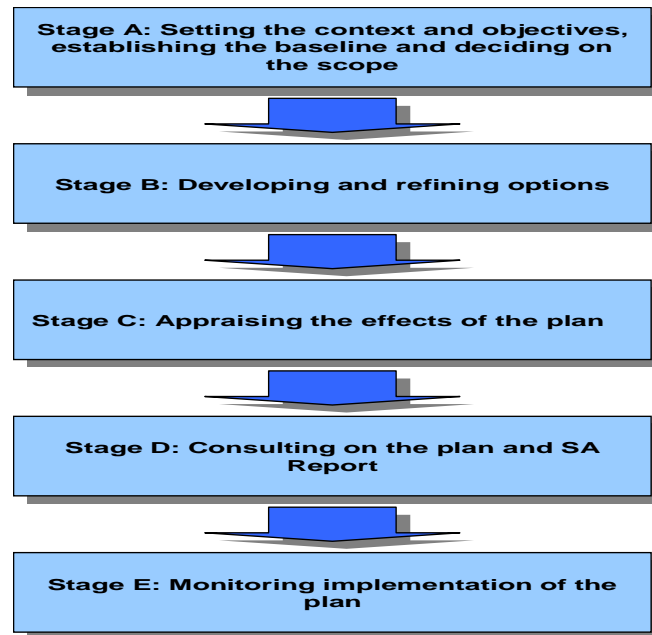
- 1.1.1 Scott Wilson and Levett-Therivel have been commissioned to undertake the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of both Dover and Sevenoaks' Local Development Frameworks (LDFs).
- 1.1.2 SEA involves the systematic identification and evaluation of the environmental impacts of a strategic action (e.g. a plan or programme). In 2001, the EU legislated for SEA with the adoption of Directive 2001/42/EC *on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment* (the 'SEA Directive'). The Directive entered into force in the UK on 21 July 2004 and applies to a range of English plans and programmes including Local Development Frameworks (LDFs).
- 1.1.3 SA extends the concept of SEA to fully encompass economic and social concerns. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA), Local Authorities must undertake SA for each of their Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – the constituent parts of the LDF. SA is therefore a statutory requirement for LDFs along with SEA.
- 1.1.4 The Government's approach is to combine SEA and SA into a single, unified assessment process and, in September 2004, published draft guidance on undertaking SA of LDFs incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive¹.

1.2 Stakeholder consultation

- 1.2.1 The new guidance sets out a five-stage approach to SEA / SA (see Figure 1). Stage A involves establishing:
- the **context** in which the LDF is being prepared – the influence of other plans and programmes on the LDF and vice-versa;
 - a series of **objectives** for sustainable development – these provide the 'benchmark' against which LDF components are assessed;
 - the economic, social and environmental **baseline** for the local authority area in question – this provides an evidence base to inform the SEA / SA; and
 - the economic, social and environmental **problems** facing the area in question – the identification of sustainability problems helps to determine the issues on which the LDF should concentrate and for which options should be developed.

¹ ODPM (2004). *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks* – Consultation Paper.

Figure 1. Five stage approach to SEA / SA



- 1.2.2 The guidance considers stakeholder consultation at Stage A particularly important: *“Consultation at this stage helps to ensure that the SA will be comprehensive and robust enough to support the DPD during the later stages of full public consultation and examination”*. In particular, the guidance suggests, *“Sustainability objectives and indicators and targets should be developed with input from key stakeholders and ideally should be open to wider comment and discussion”*.
- 1.2.3 In addition, under the SEA Directive and the associated regulations, Dover and Sevenoaks have a statutory duty to consult the four SEA Consultation Bodies – the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency – on the scope of the assessment. This complements Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 which sets out requirements for pre-submission consultation on DPDs.
- 1.2.4 In light of the above, Dover and Sevenoaks held a Scoping Workshop on 21st September 2004 for various stakeholders from Dover, Sevenoaks and Kent. The workshop was facilitated by Scott Wilson and Levett-Therivel and had three key aims:
- to raise awareness of the SEA / SA for Dover and Sevenoaks LDFs;
 - to invite proposals from the participants on their future involvement in the SEA / SA process; and
 - to ask the participants their opinion on various aspects of the work carried out to date (on context, objectives, baseline indicators and sustainability problems).

- 1.2.5 The workshop was attended by a wide variety of stakeholders representing economic, social and environmental interests (see Appendix 1). The workshop involved an introductory presentation followed by four group sessions – one each on the context, objectives, baseline and sustainability problems. Each participant was given a workbook in which to record his or her views and these provided the basis for this report.
- 1.2.6 This report provides feedback on each of the group sessions together with an indication of what happens next and details of who to contact for further information.
- 1.2.7 Dover District Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Scott Wilson and Levett-Therivel would like to thank the workshop participants for giving up their time to attend and for providing an invaluable input to the SEA / SA process.

2 WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

2.1 Context review

- 2.1.1 LDFs may be influenced in various ways by other plans or programmes and by external sustainability objectives, such as those laid down in Government policies or legislation. According to Government guidance, these relationships should be identified to enable potential synergies to be exploited and any inconsistencies and constraints to be addressed.
- 2.1.2 In discussion with Dover and Sevenoaks, Scott Wilson and Levett-Therivel prepared a list of relevant policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives for review (see Appendix 2). During the first part of group session 1, participants were asked to consider the list and record any further policies, plans etc. that they thought should be candidates for review.
- 2.1.3 Table 1 lists the additional policies, plans etc. identified by the participants. This list will be discussed with Dover and Sevenoaks and the consultants will undertake any further review work considered necessary.

Table 1. Additional policies / plans / programmes / strategies / initiatives identified as candidates for review

Policy / plan / programme / strategy / initiative
UK Biodiversity Action Plan
England Biodiversity Strategy
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
Draft Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt)
Medway Catchment Flood Management Plan
RSS Sub Regional Strategy: London Fringe (in preparation) (Sevenoaks)
RSS Sub Regional Strategy: East Kent and Ashford (in preparation) (Dover)
The Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy (Sevenoaks)
Regional Minerals Strategy (Proposed Alterations to RPG9)
Workforce Development Strategy for Primary Care in Kent, Surrey and Sussex
Health Improvement and Modernisation Plan for East Kent (Dover)
Health Improvement and Modernisation Plan 2001 for West Kent (Sevenoaks)
Environment Agency Southern Region Local Contribution – Kent Area Office
Health White Paper (due Autumn 2004)
Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority Local Delivery Plan 2003 / 2006
The Strategy for Sustainable Food and Farming
England Rural Development Programme (South East Regional Chapter)
Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation Report
Kent Landscape Character Assessment
Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
Stour Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
Parish Plans
Active Lives: The Future of Social Care in Kent – a ten year vision
Kent School Organisation Plan 2003 / 4 – 2007 / 8 / Kent Single Education Plan
Kent County Council Annual Plan
North Kent Coastal Habitat Management Plan (CHaMP)
Urban White Paper (<i>Our towns and cities: the future</i>)
Rural White Paper (<i>Our Countryside: The Future - A Fair Deal for Rural England</i>)
<i>The Cultural Agenda: Realising the Cultural Strategy of the South East England Cultural Consortium</i>

- 2.1.4 Following the review of those policies, plans etc. listed in Appendix 2, the consultants identified a series of messages emerging from the review (see Appendix 3).
- 2.1.5 For the second part of group session 1, the participants were asked to review the messages emerging from the context and record any additional messages they considered important. Tables 2 and 3 records the additional messages highlighted by the participants for Dover and Sevenoaks, respectively. These messages will be reviewed by the Councils and the consultants and recorded in the Stage A Scoping Report where appropriate (for details of the Scoping Report see section 3).
- 2.1.6 More generally, participants pointed out that the messages for Dover identified by the consultants were generally more detailed than those for Sevenoaks. This is partly because Dover's relative deprivation means that it features more heavily than Sevenoaks in regional and Kent-wide strategies and is the focus of more detailed analysis.
- 2.1.7 Several participants also argued that the message in relation to the East Kent Coalfields needed to be updated.

Table 2. Additional messages recorded by the workshop participants - Dover

Key issues for Dover
Dover is home to internationally important wildlife sites
Kent Downs AONB is in Dover District
Although the coalfields are being regenerated they nonetheless have wildlife interest
Locally designated landscape and wildlife sites are also important
The importance of the environmental economy
The role of Europe and Dover as a 'gateway'
The value and importance of diversity in terms of people, environment and economy
Channel Tunnel Rail Link will provide quicker domestic services
The impact of growth in Ashford
The need to reduce road freight
Opportunities for environment-led regeneration (the draft proposal for an East Kent 'Regional Park' in the East Kent Area Investment Framework)
The environmental quality of former coal mining areas
The importance of coastal issues (including Heritage Coast)
The high quality of the environment and landscape (especially the Kent Downs AONB)
Water shortages in East Kent
The importance of local, efficient, green energy generation
Tourism as a key employer
The importance of population and demographic change (e.g. increase in the old and very old and the need for 'homes for life' and specialised accommodation)
Community diversity
Fuel poverty
Climate change and sea level rise
Access to services
Opportunities to utilise the natural landscape as a resource for tourism, environmental businesses etc.
The balance between employment and housing
Economic regeneration needs to take account of housing / jobs growth in Ashford and the Thames Gateway
Economic base too narrow (e.g. need for starter business units)
The need to reduce health inequalities
Large number of brownfield sites but many contaminated
Difficult to attract and retain health and social care workers
Accessibility to open space
Biodiversity enhancement and habitat 'de-fragmentation'

Table 3. Additional messages recorded by the workshop participants - Sevenoaks

Key issues for Sevenoaks
Landscape and wildlife designations represent an opportunity and not just a constraint
Locally designated landscape and wildlife sites are also important
The importance of the environmental economy
The value and importance of diversity in terms of people, environment and economy
The impact of growth in Ashford
The importance of local, efficient, green energy generation
Tourism as a key employer
The importance of population and demographic change (e.g. increase in the old and very old and the need for 'homes for life' and specialised accommodation)
Community diversity
Fuel poverty
Climate change
Pockets of deprivation surrounded by affluence
Implications of the new Pembury Hospital
Potential for joined up land / building uses by large estate owners
Opportunities to utilise the natural landscape as a resource for tourism, environmental businesses etc.
Access to services (particularly in rural areas) (e.g. health)
The balance between employment and housing (e.g. lack of employment land in Sevenoaks leading to lack of employment choice for those living in Sevenoaks; those who work in service related industries cannot afford to live in Sevenoaks and often commute from further east)
Development in neighbouring authorities
Access to services
Accessibility to open space
Biodiversity enhancement and habitat 'de-fragmentation'

2.2 SEA / SA objectives

- 2.2.1 SEA / SA is based on an ‘objectives-led’ approach whereby the potential impacts of a plan are gauged in relation to a series of aspirational objectives for sustainable development. These objectives are distinct from the LDF objectives although they may overlap with them in some cases.
- 2.2.2 Scott Wilson and Levett-Therivel proposed a set of 14 draft SEA / SA objectives that could be used for both Dover and Sevenoaks LDFs (see Appendix 4). These were based primarily on the Integrated Regional Framework for the South East (IRF)². The IRF provides the high-level policy framework for the region and sets out 25 sustainable development objectives for the South East. Importantly, the IRF recommends that these objectives are used as the basis for SA of LDFs. However, it states that these *“objectives can be amended if they are not perceived to reflect specific priorities or needs”*. With this in mind, the consultants also considered the existing environmental appraisal of the adopted Dover Local Plan and the Sevenoaks Community Plan in formulating the SEA / SA objectives. In order to render the SEA / SA process more manageable, several of the IRF objectives were amalgamated in order to reduce the overall number.
- 2.2.3 Workshop participants were asked to consider the proposed objectives and discuss two questions:
- Are there any gaps in terms of the issues that should be addressed?
 - Is the balance between economic, social and environmental concerns broadly correct?
- 2.2.4 A wide range of additional objectives and proposed amendments were recorded in the workbooks and these are summarised in Table 4. The Councils and the consultants will discuss these and make any necessary amendments will be made.
- 2.2.5 In addition to specific comments, participants raised the following points:
- Would it be more appropriate for Dover and Sevenoaks to have separate sets of objectives?
 - Should the objectives should be organised around the Government’s four themes of sustainable development as set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and the IRF (social progress, natural resources, environment, economic growth). Furthermore, should steps be taken to ensure that each theme is adequately supported by appropriate objectives?
 - Should the objectives be linked to more detailed sustainability criteria?
 - Is it necessary to undertaken some analysis of the Councils’ capacity to contribute to the delivery of the objectives?

² See: http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/our_work/planning/sus_dev/irf.html

- The objectives are more of a ‘vision’ and are not sufficiently ‘smart’ (i.e. specific, measurable, achievable relevant and timely).
- Social concerns slightly dominate the list.

2.2.6 These issues will be subject to discussions between the Council and the consultants.

Table 4. Comments on the objectives (number in brackets refers to number of participants making the same or a very similar comment)

Proposed additional objectives
Additional objective: To reduce noise pollution and increase areas of tranquillity
Additional objective: To protect and enhance and increase access to important landscapes (6)
Additional objective: To protect and enhance distinctiveness
Additional objective: To protect and enhance and increase access to the countryside (5)
Additional objective: Climate change (3)
Additional objective: Rural community issues
Additional objective: Rural economy
Additional objective: Education
Additional objective: Recreation and access
Objective 1: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home
To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home that promotes independence
What does ‘sustainably constructed’ mean?
Refer to ‘homes for life’?
Not everyone can have a sustainably constructed home
Objective 2: To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment
To manage (rather than ‘reduce’) the risk of flooding...(6)
By working with natural systems and the natural environment to reduce the risk of flooding...
To reduce the risk of flooding and the potential resulting detriment to public well-being...
To reduce the risk of flooding and reduce the resulting detriment to public well-being...
Objective 5: To create and sustain vibrant communities
Should this be a separate objective or do the others cover it?
What are vibrant communities?
Objective 6: To improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational opportunities and employment
Remove reference to accessibility to ‘all’ services and consider the issue of availability (5)

To improve accessibility for everyone to...employment and the natural environment (2)
Should be reworded to reflect the situation in the two districts
Objective 8: To conserve and enhance biodiversity
Need to expand on biodiversity objective
To conserve and enhance biodiversity particularly by the protection, enhancement, restoration, recreation, reconnection and appropriate management of wildlife habitats
To conserve and enhance biodiversity to prevent further isolation and fragmentation of habitats, and reconnect and de-fragment existing natural habitats
To conserve and enhance biodiversity to deliver Biodiversity Action Plan objectives
Objective 9: To protect or enhance the historic environment
Include reference to 'access'
To protect and (rather than 'or') enhance the historic environment (2)
To protect or enhance the historic and natural environments
If objectives are made more detailed ('finer grained'), this objective could include reference to retaining character and distinctiveness across the historic environment, not just designated areas.
Objective 11: To create a quality environment in terms of design and amenity, and design out crime
Objective 11: To create a high quality environment...(3)
To create a locally distinctive (rather than 'quality') environment...
Objective 12: To promote sustainable forms of development, including efficient land use, use of sustainably produced and local products, reduced waste generation, sustainable waste management, improved energy efficiency, reduced energy use, increased production and use of renewable energy and sustainable water management
Break this down into separate objectives covering land use, waste, waste and energy (5)
Distinguish between objectives for new development and general energy and waste strategies
Emphasise the 'wiser sustainable use of natural resources'
Objective 13: To ensure high and stable levels of employment, and sustain economic competitiveness
To ensure high and stable levels of high quality employment...(2)
Objective 14: To encourage the development of skills
Skills must be 'useful'
To encourage life long learning and the development of skills (4)
To encourage the development of skills and aspirations
To encourage the development of skills to meet local needs (3)
What skills do we mean?

2.3 Baseline indicators

- 2.3.1 In relation to the baseline, the aim is to assemble sufficient data on the current and likely future state of the area to enable the plan's effects to be adequately predicted. In doing so, 'gaps' in data coverage will inevitably be identified. Ideally, each SEA / SA objective (see section 2.2) should be 'underwritten' with comprehensive and up-to-date baseline information.
- 2.3.2 The collection of baseline information is generally organised around a set of **indicators**. For each indicator selected, enough data should be collected to answer a series of questions including:
- How good or bad is the current situation? Do trends show that it is getting better or worse?
 - How far is the current situation from any established thresholds or targets?
- 2.3.3 Scott Wilson and Levett-Therivel have proposed a series of indicators to underpin the SEA / SA of Dover and Sevenoaks LDFs (see Appendix 5). Workshop participants were asked to consider the list of draft indicators and discuss the following questions:
- Are there any major gaps in the range of issues covered by the indicators?
 - What should be the priorities for indicator development / data collection?
- 2.3.4 Table 5 sets out the comments and recommendations put forward. In light of the workshop there is a clear need to investigate indicators for waste, energy, health and open space in particular.

Table 5. Comments and recommendations on the baseline indicators

Biodiversity
Number and extent of designated sites
What designated sites are being referred to? Should include Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs)
Does this indicator only demonstrate losses in designated sites?
% of SSSIs in good condition
Should be 'favourable' rather than 'good' (English Nature classification)
Not sure if SSSI condition is relevant to planning policy – can any change be attributed to the LDFs?
Need to clarify what 'good condition' means
Extent of key habitats
What does 'key' refer to? Should be BAP priority habitats – see the Kent Habitat Survey 2003
Data available from Kent Habitat Survey (GIS based) (Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre)
Key habitats need to be identified (from UK / Kent Biodiversity Action Plans)
Should be extent and condition of key habitats
Area of woodland cover
What about ancient woodland?
What proportion is ancient woodland?
Additional indicators / further comments
What about BAP species?
What about farmland bird populations?
Achievement of English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt)
Proportion of households with access to English Nature's ANGSt
Refer to Table 7 – Example biodiversity objectives and indicators – in <i>Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity – Guidance for Practitioners</i>
Could work with local Biological Records Centre
Protected species
Area of habitats / farmland subject to positive conservation management (e.g. Countryside Stewardship, Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA), Woodland Grant Scheme etc.)
It should be possible to use GIS to assess habitat block size and therefore habitat connectivity
Water quality resources
Chemical river water quality
Biological river water quality
Water pollution incidents
Abstraction of surface and groundwater
Number of Water Resource Management Units (WRMUs) with 'water available'

Additional indicators / further comments
Reduction in culverted water course length (e.g. River Dour in Dover)
Uptake of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) in new development
Proportion of water courses in each quality class
Bathing water quality (Dover only)
Household water consumption per capita
SEERA and the Environment Agency can provide data on areas of water stress under different housing and climate scenarios (contact David Payne at SEERA)
Soil quality and resources
Agricultural land resources
Agri-environment / organic farming schemes
Hectares lost to development by designation
Proportion of development on previously developed land
Additional indicators / further comments
Greenfield land vs. previously developed land
Air quality
Background levels of main air quality pollutants and forecasts
NO _x / NO ₂ levels
PM ₁₀ levels
Number of moderate or poor quality air days
Properties at risk from flooding
Greenhouse gas emissions
Target: Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
Proportion of travel by car
Additional indicators / further comments
Kilowatts of green generation (recorded through planning applications and Kent Energy Centre)
Kilowatts of local generation (recorded through planning applications and Kent Energy Centre)
Refer to Regional Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Strategy
Kilowatt energy use per household
Percentage of new homes meeting Ecohomes standards
Proportion of energy generated from renewables
Number of flood risk objections sustained by the Environment Agency (plus number leading to refusal) (data from planning departments) (measured by the Environment Agency for DEFRA)
Volume of travel by car
Absolute car mileage
Total absolute car mileage per head
Growth in road traffic

Contact Kent County Council highways department for information on transport indicators
Cultural heritage, landscape and access
Number and extent of designated sites (landscape)
Percentage of landscape classed as tranquil
CPRE may be of help
Number and extent of designated sites (heritage)
Number of excavations in advance of development
Conservation Area Appraisals adopted by local authority
Additional indicators / further comments
Number of agricultural land holdings (available from DEFRA through the farm census)
Number of part-time / full-time farmers (available from DEFRA through the farm census)
Availability of public open space
Amount of public open space available
Amount of land available for public use?
Listed buildings
Conservation Areas
Registered historic parks and gardens and their settings
Local lists of historic buildings, parks and gardens
Population and human health
Percentage of people describing their health as good
Recorded crime per 100,000 population
Life expectancy
Percentage worried about crime
Number of noise complaints
Additional indicators / further comments
Morbidity – cancers, coronary heart disease, chronic pulmonary infection (morbidity rate = the rate of disease or proportion of diseased people in a population)
Indices of deprivation
Teenage pregnancy
Breast screening rates
Findings from Health Needs Assessment
Access to exercise facilities
Material assets
Property values
What does this indicator prove?
Additional indicators / further comments

Data on property values available from annual Kent Property Market Report prepared by Kent County Council / Locate in Kent
Social inclusion
Proportion of working households unable to purchase at lower quartile house prices
Households on the housing register
Shortfall between mortgage (average earnings x 3.5) and average price of dwelling
Unfit dwellings
Percentage of population with qualifications
Not specific enough
Qualifications need to be disaggregated
People visiting country parks
Why visiting country parks? Why not other venues?
Replace with proportion of people living within xxx m of accessible green space
Percentage of top 5% earners who are women
Percentage of top 5% earners from black and ethnic minorities
Additional indicators / further comments
Percentage of households without central heating (see census and home energy surveys as well as Kent Energy Centre and the Energy Savings Trust)
Percentage of households without insulation (see census and home energy surveys as well as Kent Energy Centre and the Energy Savings Trust)
Percentage of homes meeting the Decent Homes Standard (Government targets are associated with this)
Percentage of homes that meet the highest standards for energy conservation
Number / percentage of affordable key worker homes
Levels of fuel poverty
Number of falls (presumably of elderly people)
Proportion of children living in poverty
Vulnerable adults helped to live at home
Levels of volunteering (measure of social capital)
Kent County Council has 100s of indicators and targets which may be of use
Housing diversity
People living within a specified distance of accessible green space
Access to public open space / playing fields – Sport England
Access to leisure facilities – Sport England
Number of affordable houses built each year
Number of affordable houses built vs. identified need
Economic activity
Employment level

Average weekly earnings
Business use of the internet
Cross channel rail freight and HGV flows
Employment in 'information economy' sector
GDP per capita
Gross Value Added (GVA) – measured by Business Link Kent
Additional indicators / further comments
Business formation
Skills levels
Business space availability
Commuting levels?
Availability of employment sites
Refer to Kent Economic Report for annual district figures
Contact Kent SPAIT – Strategic Planning Analysis Intelligence Team – for district level economic, demographic and some social data
Environmental Management System (EMS) accreditation
Other suggested indicators
Use of recycled materials
Amount of recycled materials used in development by type (future planning conditions could require data on this)
Percentage of domestic and commercial waste recycled
Quantity of household waste arisings
Proportion of household and commercial waste going to landfill
Facilities / amenities secured through Section 106 agreements
Indicators for development quality – Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)

2.4 Sustainability problems

- 2.4.1 The SEA Directive requires the identification of “*any existing environmental **problems** which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC [Natura 2000 sites]*”.
- 2.4.2 Since SA focuses on economic and social as well as environmental impacts, the focus in the Government’s guidance is on the identification of **sustainability** problems.

- 2.4.3 The identification of sustainability problems provides an opportunity to define key issues for the LDF and develop sustainable plan objectives and options for resolving these.
- 2.4.4 In the final session, workshop participants were simply asked to brainstorm the sustainability problems facing both Dover and Sevenoaks. Tables 6 and 7 provide a summary of the problems identified for Dover and Sevenoaks, respectively.

Table 6. Sustainability problems facing Dover identified by the participants

Sustainability Problems facing Dover
Poorly performing local economy relative to region
Low skills and aspirations
Transport connections need to be improved to counteract peripheral location
Dover town under performs in its role as major urban area
Poor air quality around the port and certain parts of the town centre
Lack of investor interest
Climate change / coastal squeeze
Poor delivery of higher and further education
Traffic impacts
Water resources
House building in East Kent could push deprivation / inequalities eastwards
Lack of employment sites free of constraints
Lack of business start-up space
Decline in sustainable land management (particularly in relation to agriculture and woodland industries)
Reconciling the scale and pace of development to be accommodated in and around towns while retaining character and distinctiveness

Table 7. Sustainability problems facing Sevenoaks identified by the participants

Sustainability Problems facing Sevenoaks
Levels of commuting
Pressure for housing
Housing affordability / provision of affordable housing / key worker housing
The rural economy
Lack of / inappropriate investment
Traffic impacts / congestion
Ease of access to London (undermines mixed use developments)
Lack of employment sites
AONB and landscape designations
Proportion of land use designations (e.g. Green Belt) makes identifying development land more problematic
Lack of employment choice
Large areas of affluence with pockets of deprivation (consequent difficulties in securing funding)
Recruitment and retention of public sector staff
Impact of development in the Thames Gateway ('people drain')
Reconciling the scale and pace of development to be accommodated in and around towns while retaining character and distinctiveness

3 NEXT STEPS

3.1 Scoping Report

3.1.1 The workshop provided a useful means to engage stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds and professions and was invaluable in identifying:

- Potential policies / plans / programmes / strategies / initiatives for review;
- Issues surrounding the proposed SEA / SA objectives;
- Additional baseline indicators and sources of baseline information; and
- Sustainability problems facing Dover and Sevenoaks.

3.1.2 The next step in the SEA / SA process involves completing the context review; revisiting the SEA / SA objectives; adding to the baseline indicators and collecting data for these; and comprehensively describing the sustainability problems facing Dover and Sevenoaks. The Councils and the consultants will ensure that the findings of the workshop are taken into account in completing these tasks (bearing in mind that the SEA Directive requires only 'reasonable' information to be included).

3.1.3 Once these tasks are completed, the work done so far will be brought together in the form of a Scoping Report, as required by the Government's draft guidance on SEA / SA for LDFs. The draft guidance states that consultation on Stage A "*should be based on a preliminary scoping report that summarises Stage A and the outputs of it*". The Scoping Report should be available by the end of 2004 and will be distributed to key stakeholders including the workshop participants and the four SEA Consultation Bodies.

3.2 Issues and options

3.2.1 Stage B in the SEA / SA involves assessing the broad issues and options put forward by both Dover and Sevenoaks against the agreed SEA / SA objectives and supported by the context review, the baseline information and knowledge of the sustainability problems.

3.2.2 Various policy options will be developed to achieve the objectives of the Dover and Sevenoaks LDFs. Each reasonable plan option, including the 'do nothing' or the 'business as usual' option will be subject to SEA / SA. Dover and Sevenoaks' intend to publish issues and options for consultation in Spring 2005.

4 FURTHER INFORMATION

We would like to extend our thanks once again to those who attended the workshop and we hope that you will continue to take an interest in the SEA / SA process. We will make sure to keep you informed of developments. In the meantime, further information on the LDF preparation process and the SEA / SA process can be obtained from:

Dover LDF

<http://www.dover.gov.uk/localplanreview/home.asp>

Adrian Fox

Telephone: 01304 872474

Email: Adrian.Fox@DOVER.GOV.UK

Sevenoaks LDF

<http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk> (under 'Planning and Building Control')

Andrew Steen

Telephone: 01732 227494

Email: andrew.steen@sevenoaks.gov.uk

SEA / SA

Steven Smith

Telephone: 0207 798 5121

Email: steve.smith@scottwilson.com

APPENDIX 1 – WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Organisation
Creative Environmental Networks
Dover District Council
East Kent Primary Care Trust
English Nature
Environment Agency
High Weald AONB Unit
High Weald AONB Unit
Kent County Council
Kent County Council
Kent County Council
Kent Downs AONB Unit
Kent Social Services
Kent Wildlife Trust
Locate in Kent
SEEDA
Sevenoaks District Council
South West Kent Primary Care Trust

NB Copies of the workbook were sent to representatives from the Countryside Agency and English Heritage for comment / completion and this report includes their views where these were provided.

APPENDIX 2 – POLICIES, PLANS ETC. FOR THE CONTEXT REVIEW

National
National sustainable development strategy
PPG2: Green belts (Sevenoaks only)
PPG3: Housing
PPG4: Industrial, commercial development and small firms
PPG8: Telecommunications
PPG9: Nature conservation
PPG10: Planning and waste management
PPG13: Transport
PPG14: Development on unstable land
PPG15: Planning and the historic environment
PPG16: Archaeology and planning
PPG17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation
PPG19: Outdoor advertisement control
PPG20: Coastal planning
PPG21: Tourism
PPG23: Planning and pollution control
PPG24: Planning and noise
PPG25: Development and flood risk
PPS1: Creating sustainable communities
PPS6: Planning for town centres
PPS7: Sustainable development in rural areas
PPS12: Local Development Frameworks
PPS22: Renewable energy
Regional
RPG 9
Regional Transport Strategy
Regional Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Strategy
Regional Tourism and Related Sport and Recreation Strategy
Regional Waste Management Strategy
Sustainable Communities in the South East
Regional Housing Strategy
Regional Economic Strategy

Regional Economic Strategy Action Plans
Integrated Regional Framework
Social Inclusion Statement
Regional Forestry Framework
Action for Biodiversity in the South East
County
Kent Structure Plan
Kent and Medway Structure Plan (deposit draft)
Kent Local Transport Plan
Kent Environmental Strategy
Kent Biodiversity Action Plan
Kent Community Strategy
Kent Prospects
Kent Minerals Plan
Kent Waste Plan
Kent Design
Kent Health and Affordable Warmth Strategy
Integrated Kent Rail Franchise Train Service Specification
Sub-county
Dover
Area Investment Framework for East Kent
Shoreline Management Plan
Deal to Kingsdown Coastal Strategy 2001 - 2006
Sevenoaks
Area Investment Framework for West Kent
Local
Dover
Community Strategy
Corporate Plan
Existing Local Plan
Housing Strategy
Tourism Strategy
Crime Reduction Strategy
Sevenoaks
Community Plan
Sustainable Development Action Plan



Existing Local Plan
Housing Strategy
High Weald and Kent Downs AONB Management Plans
Countryside Character Assessment
Air Quality Strategy

APPENDIX 3 – KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CONTEXT REVIEW

Key issues for Dover
Dover is generally considered a priority area for regeneration
RPG 9 classifies Dover as a Priority Area for Economic Regeneration (PAER)
Part of Thanet, with one of the highest levels of unemployment in the UK and the Sandwich ward of Dover are designated Objective 2 areas (for the purposes of European Structural Funds)
The Kent coalfields have been left with a legacy of derelict land, redundant and dilapidated buildings, low educational and skills levels and long-term male unemployment of over 50%
The district's economy needs to be diversified, including the promotion of strategic sites in Dover and an innovation hub based on the pharmaceutical sector (KMSP)
The district needs to accommodate 5,500 new houses between 2001 – 2021; 30% of new housing should be 'affordable'
The transport network requires improvement with minimal harm / disruption to environment / economy. Priority will be given to plans that enhance the role of Dover as a gateway port (RTS). The A2 and A256 routes should be improved. Rail access to the port of Dover and between Dover and neighbouring towns should be improved
Provision is needed for adult training to meet the skills gap

Key issues for Sevenoaks
All of Sevenoaks District lies within the Green Belt and the latter needs to be effectively maintained
Sevenoaks also has AONB and NNR designations that need to be maintained
Because of the closeness of London, there is considerable pressure for development
Environmental factors could potentially impose constraints on further economic development in the rural area.
The proximity to new road schemes, road widening and the lack of public transport serving transport movements will exacerbate traffic related social and environmental problems and do little to promote rural vitality.
Sevenoaks and west Kent are a key focus for service sector growth
Sevenoaks has a challenge to maintain successful business growth and offer new housing in the current urban area
House prices are generally high with affordability implications
Combating relatively high levels of air pollution (partly originating from the M25)

APPENDIX 4 – PROPOSED SEA / SA OBJECTIVES

1.	To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home
2.	To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment
3.	To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health
4.	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest
5.	To create and sustain vibrant communities
6.	To improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational opportunities and employment
7.	To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and ensure air quality continues to improve
8.	To conserve and enhance biodiversity
9.	To protect or enhance the historic environment
10.	To reduce the need to travel, encourage alternatives to the car, and make best use of existing transport infrastructure
11.	To create a quality environment in terms of design and amenity, and design out crime
12.	To promote sustainable forms of development, including efficient land use, use of sustainably produced and local products, reduced waste generation, sustainable waste management, improved energy efficiency, reduced energy use, increased production and use of renewable energy and sustainable water management
13.	To ensure high and stable levels of employment, and sustain economic competitiveness
14.	To encourage the development of skills

APPENDIX 5 – PROPOSED BASELINE INDICATORS

Biodiversity
Number and extent of designated sites
% of SSSIs in good condition
Extent of key habitats
Area of woodland cover
Water quality resources
Chemical river water quality
Biological river water quality
Water pollution incidents
Abstraction of surface and ground water
Soil quality and resources
Agricultural land resources
Agri-environment / organic farming schemes
Hectares lost to development by designation
Proportion of development on previously developed land
Air quality
Background levels of main air quality pollutants and forecasts
NO _x / NO ₂ levels
PM ₁₀ levels
Number of moderate or poor air quality days
Properties at risk from flooding
Greenhouse gas emissions
Proportion of travel by car
Cultural, heritage, landscape and access
Number and extent of designated sites (landscape)
Percentage of landscape classed as tranquil
Number and extent of designated sites (heritage)
Number of excavations in advance of development
Conservation Area Appraisals adopted by local authority
Population and human health
Percentage of people describing their health as good
Recorded crime per 100,000 population
Life expectancy
Percentage worried about crime
Number of noise complaints
Material assets
Property values
Social inclusion
Proportion of working households unable to purchase at lower quartile house prices

Households on the housing register
Shortfall between mortgage (average earnings x 3.5) and average price of dwelling
Unfit dwellings
Percentage of population with qualifications
People visiting country parks
Percentage of top 5% of earners who are women
Percentage of top 5% of earners from black and ethnic minorities
Economic activity
Employment level
Average weekly earnings
Business use of the internet
Cross channel rail freight and HGV flows
Employment in 'information economy' sector
GDP per capita

NB not all data available for Dover and Sevenoaks

GLOSSARY

Area Action Plan (AAP)	A type of Development Plan Document focusing on implementation, providing an important mechanism for ensuring development of an appropriate scale, mix and quality for key areas of opportunity, change or conservation.
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	Assesses the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies in Local Development Documents are being achieved.
Consultation Body	An authority which because of its environmental responsibilities is likely to be concerned by the effects of implementing plans and programmes and must be consulted under the SEA Directive. The Consultation Bodies in England are the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency.
Core Strategy	Should set out the key elements of the planning framework for the area. It should comprise: a spatial vision and strategic objectives for the area; a spatial strategy; core policies; and a monitoring and implementation framework with clear objectives for achieving delivery.
Development Plan Documents (DPD)	A type of Local Development Document. DPDs include the Core Strategy, site specific allocations of land and Area Action Plans (where needed).
Local Development Document (LDD)	There are two types of Local Development Document: Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.
Local Development Framework (LDF)	Sets out, in the form of a 'portfolio', the Local Development Documents which collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for the area in question. The LDF also includes the Statement of Community Involvement, the Local Development Scheme and the Annual Monitoring Report.
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	Sets out the local authority's programme for preparing the Local Development Documents.
SEA Directive	European Directive 2001/42/EC <i>on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment</i>
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	Document explaining to stakeholders and the community how and when they will be involved in the preparation of the Local Development Framework, and the steps that will be taken to facilitate this involvement.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. In the UK, SEA is increasingly used to refer to an environmental assessment in compliance with the 'SEA Directive'.
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	A type of Local Development Document. Supplementary Planning Documents are intended to elaborate on DPD policies and proposals but do not have their statutory status.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

Generic term used to describe a form of assessment which considers the economic, social and environmental effects of an initiative. SA, as applied to Local Development Documents, incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.