

**LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
FRAMEWORK – CORE STRATEGY**

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (INCORPORATING A STRATEGIC
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT)
SCOPING REPORT**



May 2010

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1. Introduction

1.1 Lewes District Council has commenced work on preparing a Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD), which will form the integral part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) once it has been adopted. In accordance with European and national legislation, documents prepared under the Local Development Framework (LDF) must be subject to the Sustainability Appraisal process and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Therefore, the Sustainability Appraisal and SEA requirements will need to apply to the development of the Core Strategy. This report sets out the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating a SEA, for consultation with the relevant environmental bodies and other relevant stakeholders.

1.2 The report is structured as follows;

- **Section 2** summarises the purpose of the Core Strategy and how Lewes District Council has progressed the LDF to date. This section also presents an introduction to the Sustainability Appraisal and SEA process.
- **Section 3** sets out how the Core Strategy will be influenced by a number of other plans, programmes and objectives. This section is linked to Appendix A that contains a review of the plans, programmes and objectives.
- **Section 4** presents the current baseline information, setting out the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the District. Any difficulties in collecting this information have been documented.
- **Section 5** outlines the key sustainability issues the District faces.
- **Section 6** sets out the sustainability objectives and indicators as a basis on which to measure the effectiveness of the emerging Core Strategy and options considered in its development.
- **Section 7** presents a summary of the next stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process and the production of the Core Strategy. The structure and level of detail to be provided in subsequent Sustainability Appraisal reports is also identified.

How to comment on this report

1.3 This Scoping Report has been issued for consultation alongside the Core Strategy Issues and Emerging Options Topic Papers. In line with the consultation period on the Topic Papers comments on the Scoping Report can be made between the 21st May and 16th July 2010. At this stage we would welcome your views on the economic, social and environmental characteristics identified for the District, and the sustainability issues, objectives and indicators. We would also appreciate it if you are able to identify any additional plans, policies, programmes, strategies, guidance and initiatives that we have not identified in Appendix A of this report. Comments can be sent:

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By post: Planning Policy
Lewes District Council
Planning and Environmental Services
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2. Background

Lewes District Council Local Development Framework – Core Strategy

- 2.1 Following the introduction of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Lewes District Council began the process of preparing a Local Development Framework (LDF) for the district. The LDF consists of a number of Local Development Documents (LDDs) that would gradually replace the policies contained within the District Councils Local Plan.
- 2.2 The first part of the LDF that the District Council commenced work on was the Core Strategy. A Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy was published in March 2006 (this followed earlier consultation on the emerging Scoping Report in February 2005). In September 2006 the District Council published the Core Strategy – Preferred Options, which was accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal report.
- 2.3 Following extensive consultation on the Preferred Options document a number of significant concerns were raised by certain key respondents. Subsequently, progression of this Core Strategy document stalled as the Council sought to address the concerns that had been raised. During this time, the regulations that the production of the Core Strategy would have to adhere to were amended, as were a number of key Planning Policy Statements (PPS), which included PPS12 (Local Spatial Planning) and PPS3 (Housing). With new regulations and policy to take on board, as well as a number of fundamental issues to address, the District Council sought legal advice over whether or not the Preferred Options document from 2006 could be progressed. The advice provided was to start ‘afresh’ on the production of the Core Strategy and amend the Local Development Scheme (LDS).
- 2.4 The District Council commenced the early engagement process on the Core Strategy in Autumn 2009. Alongside the publication, for consultation, of this Scoping Report the District Council has also published a set of Issues and Emerging Options Topic Papers. Comments received on these documents will help inform the preparation of a Preferred Strategy document, which should be issued for consultation towards the end of 2010.
- 2.5 As previously mentioned, a Scoping Report was prepared and consulted upon in the stages leading to the publication of the Core Strategy Preferred Options document in 2006. Due to the time that has elapsed since this Scoping Report was prepared, which has seen a number of significant changes to the baseline situation of the District, it has been decided to also start the Sustainability Appraisal process (incorporating SEA) ‘afresh’. This Scoping Report sets out the first few stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process, which incorporates the requirements of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

What is Sustainable Development?

- 2.6 Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. It is about considering the long-term social,

economic and environmental issues and impacts in an integrated and balanced way. The UK Government has set five guiding principles to achieve the sustainable development purpose. These principles form the basis for policy in the UK and are as follows:

- **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 existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all.

- **Building a Strong, Stable and Sustainable Economy**

Providing 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 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.

- 2.7 The commitment to the achievement of sustainable development was set out in legislation introduced at both a European and national level; in 2004 the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was implemented in the UK, as was the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. This sets out the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal.

What is a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

- 2.8 A Sustainability Appraisal aims to predict and assess the economic, social and environmental effects that are likely to arise from Local Development Documents, such as a Core Strategy. It is a process for understanding whether policies, strategies or plans promote sustainable development, and for improving those policies etc to deliver more sustainable outcomes.
- 2.9 The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) aims to predict and assess the environmental effects that are likely to arise from plans, policies and strategies, such as Local Development Documents. It is a process for assessing and mitigating the negative environmental impacts of specific plans and programmes. The SEA process has been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal process. Therefore, where this report refers to the Sustainability Appraisal it can be assumed that this also means the SEA.

Compliance with Government Regulations and the SEA Directive

- 2.10 In undertaking the appraisal process, the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations), which transpose the Directive into English law, will be followed. In addition, this appraisal process will follow the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and PPS12 – Local Spatial Planning. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Plan Making Manual, which is contained on the Planning Advisory Service website, has and will guide the appraisal process. Of particular importance is the Sustainability Appraisal guidance, which has replaced the 2005 government guidance on ‘Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents’.

3. Plans, Programmes, Policies, Strategies, Guidance and Initiatives relevant to the Core Strategy

- 3.1 In order to establish a clear scope for the sustainability appraisal it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the wider range of plans, programmes, policies, strategies, guidance and initiatives (PPPSGIs) that are of relevance to the Core Strategy. The content of the Core Strategy will be influenced by a range of these PPPSGIs, which will range from documents produced at an international level to those at a local level. The content of these PPPSGIs have also been used to inform some of the key sustainability issues that are facing the district and in turn the sustainability objectives. Appendix A of this report sets out in detail these plans, etc that will inform and affect the emerging Core Strategy. In this appendix, the plans, programmes and objectives have been split into six different categories to cover general sustainable development principles and then the Government's five principles for achieving sustainable development;
- Living within environmental limits
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
 - Achieving a sustainable economy
 - Promoting good governance
 - Using sound science responsibly
- 3.2 There are a number of plans, programmes and objectives that cover one or more of the above headings and these have been placed in the general sustainable development category where it is clear that they can impact on all five principles for achieving sustainable development. For plans, programmes and objectives that could impact on two or three of the principles a decision has been made to include them in only one category.
- 3.3 There is a hierarchy of documents that affect the emerging Core Strategy. These start at an international level, moving down through national, regional and to a local level. One of the main plans that will influence the development of the Core Strategy is the South East Plan, which is the Regional Spatial Strategy that is applicable to Lewes District. There will be a requirement that the Core Strategy is in conformity with this plan and this will include addressing the districts housing requirements. Of particular influence to the Lewes District Core Strategy will be the sub-regional sections that cover parts of the district; namely the Gatwick and Sussex Coast sub-regions.
- 3.4 At the local level there are a number of key strategies and plans that will influence the Core Strategy. The district Local Strategic Partnership (Local Voices, Local Choices) has prepared a Sustainable Community Strategy, which aims to co-ordinate the activities of the public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations in trying to achieve an agreed vision and priorities for improving the economic, social and environmental well being of the district. The Core Strategy will need to provide a spatial expression of the elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.5 There are likely to be a number of conflicts between the different PPPSGIs that will impact upon the Core Strategy. It will be essential that the Core Strategy is able to identify such conflicts and resolve them where possible. One of the main conflicts that exists, which is a challenge that the Core Strategy will need to address, is the

need to accommodate development to meet the needs of the community whilst ensuring that the highly valued character of the district is maintained and, where possible, enhanced.

- 3.6 Through consulting upon this Scoping Report the District Council wish to ensure that all the relevant plans, programmes and objectives are identified in Appendix A. If you are aware of any such documents that are not included in Appendix A, or that we have not identified some particular conflicts and challenges, the District Council will welcome any comments identifying such documents through the consultation on this document.

4. The baseline situation: A portrait of Lewes District

General characteristics

- 4.1 Lewes District is located within the county of East Sussex, in the South East region of England, around 60 miles south of London. The District covers an area of 292 sq km, extending from the English Channel coast through the South Downs and into the countryside of the Sussex Weald to the north.
- 4.2 The total population of the district is 95,615 (2009 mid-year estimate), 77% of whom live in the five urban areas of Lewes, Newhaven, Peacehaven, Seaford and Telscombe Cliffs/East Saltdean. The remainder of the population live in 23 predominantly rural parishes. Just over one half of the District lies within the South Downs National Park, which came into effect on the 1st April 2010. The population of this area is approximately 22,500.
- 4.3 The city of Brighton & Hove is located on the south-western boundary and exerts a strong influence on the life of the District, providing employment, shopping, leisure opportunities, together with other services and facilities. The towns of Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill in Mid Sussex District abut the north-western boundary, with the more rural district of Wealden located to the east, beyond which lies the coastal resort of Eastbourne.
- 4.4 The District benefits from good access to the trunk road network, with the A27/A26 linking Lewes and Newhaven to neighbouring Brighton and Eastbourne and the nearby A23/M23 providing access to London, Gatwick and the M25. Lewes, Seaford and Newhaven are linked by rail connections to London, Gatwick, and towns along the Sussex coast and beyond. The port of Newhaven provides cross channel passenger and freight services to Dieppe in Haute Normandie, France.

Environmental characteristics

- 4.5 The **landscape and historic environment** of the District is highly valued by both residents and visitors. There is a diverse and attractive countryside, including chalk cliffs, shingle beaches, downland, heathland, river valleys, flood plains and areas of ancient woodland. The District has two distinct landscape character areas, as identified in the National Character Assessment, which are the South Downs and the Low Weald. The East Sussex County Landscape Assessment has identified and defined the landscape character of the County, which includes Lewes District, in more detail (this includes more localised character areas). Problems, pressures and detracting features of the landscape areas are defined, such as the severe impact of the ring road (Newhaven), traffic and parking difficulties (Lewes), the removal of hedgerows and damage to ancient woodland (the Low Weald) and the scrub invasion of chalk grassland (various).
- 4.6 Lewes District is home to 16 **Sites of Special Scientific Interest** (SSSI's), 2 **National Nature Reserves** (NNR's), 5 **Local Nature Reserves** (LNR's) and 2 **Wildlife Trust Reserves**. In addition, over 55% of the District lies within the **South Downs National Park**. SSSI's are of national importance and are designated based on their nature conservation and/or geological value. Of the 2,437 hectares of land designated as SSSI in Lewes District, 91.7% has been

assessed to be in either a favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition. Approximately 1% of SSSI designated land within Lewes District is considered to be in an unfavourable and stable condition, whilst 7.4% of SSSI designated land in Lewes District has been found to be in an unfavourable and declining state. LNR's have wildlife and/or geological features that are of local importance and allow people the opportunity to learn and appreciate nature. In Lewes District, LNR's cover 353 hectares of land. There are two internationally important **Special Areas of Conservation** (SAC's); Castle Hill and Lewes Downs. SAC's are areas that have been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive, helping to increase the protection for a variety of animals, plants and habitats and are seen as a vital part of the global effort to conserve the world's biodiversity. There are no designated Ramsar sites or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the District. **Ancient Woodland** is an important ecological resource that deserves protection. Approximately one third of the District lies within 500 metres of Ancient Woodland. The District Council is currently updating the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Lewes District, which will provide a more accurate picture of the extent of this important biodiversity resource in the District.

- 4.7 The District is home to significant amounts of important species and habitats. There have been over 11,000 records of species that the **Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan** (BAP) has identified as important and are thus subject to protection under British and European legislation. There have also been 2,016 records of rare species and 483 records of protected species. Lewes District contains important BAP habitats, most notable of which is the large amount of lowland calcareous grassland.
- 4.8. Lewes District Council is a signatory of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and has thus pledged to tackle the causes of climate change and prepare for its consequences. The District's domestic consumption of energy contributes to climate change. Presently, annual **carbon dioxide emissions per capita** is slightly higher in Lewes District (2.4 tonnes) than the national average (2.3 tonnes), but is the same as both the East Sussex and the South East averages. On average, each domestic consumer in Lewes District used 4,503 Kilowatt Hours (kWh) of electricity in 2008. This is similar to the average for East Sussex (4,505 kWh) and the South East (4,543 kWh), but is a little higher than the average for Great Britain as a whole (4,198 kWh). In terms of domestic gas consumption, each consumer in Lewes District used 15,948 kWh of gas in 2008. This compares favourably with the national average (16,906 kWh) and the South East average (17,022 kWh) but is slightly higher than the East Sussex average (15,946 kWh). It should be noted that consumption of energy resources have been steadily decreasing since 2003.
- 4.9 The general and social characteristics sections identify some of the key characteristics associated with transport in the district. In addition to these characteristics, Rights of Way figure significantly in the movement of people in the District. Lewes District has a total of **361 miles of Rights of Way**, of which 234 miles are footpaths, 112 miles are bridleways, 6 miles of byways and 9 miles of restricted bridleways.
- 4.10 Lewes District benefits from a high quality built environment. There are 35 **Conservation Areas** in Lewes District, covering an area of 493 hectares. Lewes

District is home to 1,710 **Listed Buildings**. **Grade I** buildings are considered to be of exceptional interest and there are 30 buildings within this classification in Lewes District. **Grade II*** are considered to be particularly important buildings of more than special interest and 63 buildings in Lewes District fall into this category. **Grade II** buildings are buildings of special interest, thus warranting every effort to preserve them. Lewes District has 1,617 Grade II buildings. In addition, there are 65 Locally Listed Buildings, which although do not have statutory protection are regarded as having some special local interest. There are 22 buildings in the District considered to be at risk. Of these, one is a Grade I listed building, three are Grade II* listed buildings and eleven are Grade II listed buildings. The remaining seven buildings at risk are not listed. The District also has four Historic Parks and Gardens and 120 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

- 4.11 With regards to characteristics on waste, on average, each person in Lewes District produces 343kg per of **domestic waste per annum**, which compares favourably to the East Sussex average (486kg). Approximately a quarter of waste collected in Lewes is either recycled, composted or has its energy recovered, whilst the rest is sent to landfill. This does not compare well to the East Sussex average, where approximately 56% is either recycled, composted or has its energy recovered, whilst the rest is sent to landfill. However, the soon to be completed Energy from Waste Incinerator in Newhaven will reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and increase the amount of energy that is recovered from waste in the district.
- 4.12 In general, **air quality** across the District is good. However, there does exist an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Lewes town centre, with motor vehicles comprising the main source of pollution. There is a possibility that the area beside the A259 in the centre of Newhaven will be designated an AQMA, as the levels of nitrogen dioxide found in this location is close to the national limit.
- 4.13 The **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment** (SFRA) identified that there is significant risk of flooding in Lewes District both from inundation by the sea and by the River Ouse. In total, 11.1% of the District lies within Flood Zone 2 (Medium Probability of Flooding¹) and a further 9.9% of land lies within Flood Zones 3a or 3b (High Probability of Flooding² or Functional Floodplain³). The high risk of flooding is highlighted by the large scale flooding of Lewes in October 2000. The likelihood of flooding is anticipated to increase due to climate change causing more extreme weather conditions, meaning that dealing with flooding in Lewes and elsewhere in the district is of high importance.
- 4.14 The whole of the South East of England, including Lewes District, is classed as a Water Stressed Area, meaning that prudent use of the District's water resources is sought. Despite this, water use in the Southern area is higher than the national level. 2006 statistics reveal that the river water quality in the District is high, with the entire length of the rivers being rated between 'fair' and 'very good' in terms of both biology and chemistry. This compares very well with other parts of the country, as nationally 4.6% of the length of rivers in terms of biology and 6.1% in

¹ Rivers: between 1% (1 in 100 years) and 0.1% (1 in 1000 years). Sea: between 0.5% (1 in 200 years) and 0.1% (1 in 1000 years)

² Rivers: greater than 1 % (1 in 100 years). Sea: greater than 0.5% (1 in 200 years)

³ Greater than 4% (1 in 25 years)

terms of chemistry are rated as being 'poor' or 'bad'. In the South East, 1.9% (biology) and 5.8% (chemistry) of the length of rivers are categorised as being 'poor' or 'bad'. The beach at Seaford is rated in the top category ('best') for bathing quality and has achieved this score consistently for around the last decade.

- 4.15 Lewes District has a high standard of soil, the majority of which is considered to be "Good to Moderate Quality" (Grade 3) agricultural land in the **Agricultural Land Classification**. There is some history of heavy industry in the District, particularly in Newhaven, and therefore there are some contaminated sites which can present problems to future development and degrade the soil quality. Government guidance states that 60% of new housing development should take place on brownfield land and thus, Lewes District Council seeks to redevelop a high proportion of previously developed land (PDL) and in the process remediate contaminated sites. Between 1st April 2008 and 31st March 2009, 57% of new and converted dwellings were built on PDL (in previous years this figure had been higher). Although the majority of these completions were not on contaminated land, it is indicative of the fact that the District Council is committed to protecting and improving soil quality throughout the District as well as avoiding agricultural land for new housing where feasible.
- 4.16 The protection from **erosion** of 9.7km of the District's 14.5km of coastline rests with Lewes District Council. Most of the District's coast consists of high chalk cliffs where the South Downs meet the sea. These cliffs are subject to erosion by wind, wave and tide. Erosion rates are typically 0.3 metres per year. This rate however is not regular, as significant cliff falls are often followed by several years of stability. The focus of the District's coastal defences is on the frontage from Saltdean to Peacehaven, where a 50 year strategy covering major renewal works for current defences exist. The cliffs between Peacehaven Heights and Newhaven, and at Seaford Head, do not have any coast defences, nor are any proposed. At these locations, as there is little or no development, the cliffs will continue to erode naturally.

Social characteristics

- 4.17 Lewes District has a significantly higher percentage of **residents over 65 years of age** (23.4%) when compared with the national average (16.4%) but is only slightly higher than the East Sussex average (23.0%). This represents a growing concern for Lewes District, in terms of planning to meet the needs of an ageing population, with future projections stating that the percentage of residents over 65 is likely to increase.
- 4.18 The **health** of the residents of Lewes District is good. Life expectancy from birth is 80.5 for males and 84.3 for females, which is higher than the national averages (77.8 and 82.0) and the East Sussex averages (79.2 and 83.0). Furthermore, only 8.5% of the population of Lewes District is categorised as being in not good health, lower than the national average (9.2%). There are however large variations across the District, with 12.8% of the residents of Peacehaven East being not in good health compared to the 4.3% of residents in the Plumpton, Streat, East Chillington and St. John (Without) ward being placed in this category.

- 4.19 The **Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)** measures levels of deprivation across a range of issues including income, skills and training and living environment. Levels of deprivation are calculated using small geographic areas known as Super Output Areas (SOAs). The IMD lists Lewes District as the 211th most deprived authority out of a total of 354 local authority areas and thus Lewes District should not be considered as a deprived area when compared to national statistics. Over a third of SOAs in Lewes rank in the top (least deprived) 20% of all SOAs. This is not to say that there is not deprivation in Lewes, as around a tenth of all SOAs in Lewes are considered to be in the bottom (most deprived) 30%.
- 4.20 **Crime** figures suggest that Lewes District should be considered a safe place to live. The 2008/09 statistics show that there were 55.3 crimes recorded per 1000 residents, which is far lower than the national average (84.5 crimes per 1000 residents) and slightly lower than the East Sussex average (61.7 crimes per 1000 residents). This is not to say that crime is not considered an important issue. Lewes District Council's Crime Reduction Partnership has highlighted priorities for action including tackling alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour, underage drinking, domestic violence, vehicle crime and dealing with dangerous and anti-social driving for the period between 2008 and 2011.
- 4.21 Lewes District is not considered an affordable district to buy a house when compared with national figures or county wide figures. According to July 2009 figures from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the **median house price** in Lewes District was £215,000, higher than the national (£174,995) and East Sussex averages (£195,000). Similarly, the **ratio of house prices to earnings** stood at 7.39 to 1 in 2009, which is higher than the national ratio of 5.49 to 1 and the East Sussex ratio of 6.78 to 1.
- 4.22 Estimates from 2009, state that there are 42,979 **households** in Lewes District. 78.2% of homes in Lewes District are owner occupied, which is around 10% higher than the national average and just over 3% higher than the East Sussex average. 2009 figures from the Empty Homes Agency reveal that there are 1,235 empty homes in the District, representing 2.89% of the total housing. This is slightly higher than the South East average of 2.32% (there is no national average to compare with). 2.3% of the housing within the district has been deemed to be unfit, which compares favourably with the national (4.4%) and East Sussex (4.7%) averages. 78.7% of households within the District own at least 1 car, higher than the national average (73.2%) and the East Sussex average (76.6%).
- 4.23 Based on 2009 figures, there are 1,724 **households** on the waiting lists for local authority housing in Lewes District, the majority (85.3%) of which is for accommodation up to 2 bedrooms. This, coupled with the fact that average household sizes in the district is decreasing (from 2.6 people per household in 1971 to 2.2 in 2001), suggests that there is a demand for smaller households such as one and two bedroom flats.
- 4.24 **Educational attainment** in 2006 within the District is slightly lower than the national and East Sussex average. On average, 54.5% of students achieved 5 or more A*-C passes at GCSE level compared to the national and regional average (both 56.2%). There are however high variations within the District, with 77.8% of

students resident in Kingston achieving 5 or more A* - C passes compared to the 38.2% of students resident in Peacehaven North achieving the same results.

- 4.25 When considering all residents between 16 and 74, census figures show that 26.2% of people in the Lewes District have **no qualifications**. Whilst this percentage is lower than the averages of the nation (29.1%) and East Sussex (27.2%), it is higher than the South East average (23.9%). Similarly, a higher percentage of the residents of Lewes District (20.5%) have achieved at least a level 4 qualification (GCSE or equivalent), higher than both the national (19.8%) and East Sussex average (18%), but lower than the South East average (21.7%).
- 4.26 There are two key east to west **road routes** within the District. The A27 connects the central part of Lewes District to Brighton and Eastbourne, it runs to the south of Lewes town, exiting the District at Falmer Parish (West) and Firlie Parish (East). The A259 connects the coastal towns of Telscombe, Peacehaven, Newhaven and Seaford to both Brighton and Eastbourne. Both of these major routes are subject to congestion at peak times. The District also has two main north to south routes. The A26 runs from Newhaven, through the eastern side of the town of Lewes and north towards Uckfield and suffers from congestion around Lewes at peak times. The A275 runs north from Lewes town towards Chailey and beyond.
- 4.27 Lewes District is well served by **rail**. Lewes town has regular services to London Victoria, Gatwick Airport, Ashford International, Eastbourne and Hastings. Stations at Seaford, Bishopstone, Newhaven Harbour, Newhaven Town, Southease, as well as Lewes have regular services to Brighton. The stations at Cooksbridge, and Plumpton have rail connections to London Victoria, Eastbourne and Hastings, although outside peak hours the services from these stations tend to be infrequent.
- 4.28 The towns of the District generally have regular **bus** services both within the District and to neighbouring towns and cities such as Brighton, Burgess Hill, Eastbourne, Haywards Heath, Hastings and Uckfield. The population of Peacehaven and Telscombe are wholly reliant on bus services if they are to use public transport as they are not served by rail.
- 4.29 While the urban areas do have good public transport provision, Lewes District's rural settlements are known to have poor public transport links and thus the population is heavily dependant on private vehicles. This is of particular concern in settlements which are without basic services and facilities, such as village shops, schools, health centres etc. A **Rural Settlements Study** is being undertaken by the Council to identify such settlements within the District, which suffer from a lack of access to services.

Economic characteristics

- 4.30 There are 2,780 **VAT based enterprises** located within Lewes District, the vast majority of which employ up to 10 people. Using 2008 figures, it is estimated that 34.9% (national average 27%) of employment within Lewes District occurs in the public administration, education and health sector. The distribution, hotels and restaurants sector provides 22.4% of employment (national average 23.4%), whilst 14.6% are employed in the banking, finance and insurance sector, which is significantly less than the national average of 22%. The remaining amount of

workers are employed in manufacturing (10%), construction (5.9%) transport and communications (3.4%), whilst 1.6% are working in agriculture and fishing and the energy and water sector. 7.5% of the workforce are categorised as working in 'other services'.

- 4.31 According to 2009 estimates, the mean household income for the District (£35,671) is higher than the national average (£35,006) and the East Sussex average (£34,395) but lower than the South East average of (£39,231). The same figures state that the **unemployment** rate in Lewes District (4.8%) is lower than the national average (6.2%) and the East Sussex average (5.5%) but slightly higher than the South East average (4.7%).
- 4.32 An **Employment Land Review** (ELR) is underway, the purpose of which is to assess the provision of employment by checking whether existing employment sites are 'fit for purpose', identifying potential employment sites as well as current employment land that is no longer appropriate for such a use. The ELR will be completed in 2010 and will help to inform the forthcoming Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 4.33 Since the Lewes District Retail Study was undertaken in 2005, the global recession has occurred, increasing the amount of vacant retail units in the District's Coastal Strip, particularly in Newhaven, suggesting that the area's local economy is not performing well. In addition, some of the factories and industrial units are no longer in operation, a number that will be added to by the future closure of the Parker Pen factory. This information compliments the South East Plan, which identified the coastal towns as a priority for regeneration.
- 4.34 **Tourism** is of high importance to the regional economy. In 2008, tourism generated £149,310,000 worth of income for local businesses. It is thought that 3,037 people are employed in tourist and tourism-related businesses in Lewes District. Tourism is likely to increase within parts of the District, due to the creation of the South Downs National Park, which should provide additional income for the sector.

Difficulties in Collecting Data/ Data Limitations

- 4.35 As water consumption rates are not collected at a District level, it has not been possible to collect precise information relating to water use for the District. We have used the figures for the Southern region and thus have assumed that water consumption in the District is higher than the national average, whilst this may not be the case.
- 4.36 Some of the figures have been sourced from Census data. As the Census was last undertaken in 2001, some of the information may not be particularly accurate and therefore analysis from such figures may not fully represent the state of the District with regards to particular characteristics.
- 4.37 Lewes District Council is keen to obtain additional and more up-to-date sources of information relating to the baseline data for the District through consultation on this document. If more information is obtained then it is possible that changes to the key issues and sustainability objectives and indicators may be required.

5. Key Sustainability Issues Affecting Lewes District

5.1 Identifying the key sustainability issues facing Lewes District is an important part of the Sustainability Appraisal process. These issues were gathered from a variety of sources, such as;

- A review of the plans, programmes, policies strategies, guidance and initiatives affecting development in the District (found in Appendix A).
- Collection and analysis of the baseline information (found in section 4)
- Work undertaken on compiling the Issues and Emerging Options Topic Papers

5.2 The key sustainability issues are summarised as follows;

- There is pressure to supply additional housing within Lewes District, particularly in the affordable housing sector, whilst there is also a need to provide housing suitable for smaller households.
- There is a need to protect and enhance the District's important landscapes, areas of biodiversity and other protected areas.
- The recent designation of the South Downs National Park, of which Lewes District is a part, is likely to increase the attractiveness of the area as a place to visit. A key issue will be ensuring that the economic benefits to be gained from this are realised without being to the detriment of the National Park or surrounding area.
- It is important to ensure that the District's Historic Buildings and features are conserved and enhanced.
- The amount of waste that goes to landfill is comparatively high, however this is likely to be addressed by the Energy from Waste Incinerator being built in Newhaven. Despite this, there is a need to further promote prudent use of resources, including water, energy and waste materials by increasing the amount of recycling of waste and, where possible, the re-use of waste materials in new developments.
- There is pressure from Government to build as much new housing development on previously developed land, thus avoiding the unnecessary loss of greenfield land and valuable agricultural land.
- Flooding presents a clear risk to many parts of the district, including significant areas of many of the settlements. Along the coast there are also areas that are at a significant risk from coastal erosion.
- There are clear disparities between the most deprived areas and more prosperous parts of the District. Accessibility to important services and facilities is also a significant issue in parts of the District, particularly some rural areas.
- The ageing population of Lewes District, which is already high, is likely to increase further, resulting in an additional strain on health and social care, particularly residential nursing care and intensive home care.

- It is forecasted that the population of Lewes District will grow which will provide an additional strain on the current infrastructure.
- A high proportion of adults in Lewes District have no recognised qualifications, impacting on their ability to secure employment.
- Industry and business are suffering in parts of Lewes District, partly because of the recession, causing damage to local economies. This is particularly evident in areas along the coastal strip.
- Car ownership in the District is comparatively high and a number of key highway routes often suffer from congestion during peak hours including the A259, A27 and the A26.

6. Sustainability Objectives and Indicators

- 6.1 As one of the main aims of the current planning system is to bring about sustainable development, the sustainability appraisal will need to assess the ability of the Core Strategy to contribute towards sustainable development. The Scoping Report set out in section 2.1 an agreed definition of what sustainable development is. The definition has been used, along with the key sustainability issues identified in the previous section of this report, to create the objectives and indicators that will be used to test the Core Strategy.
- 6.2 The majority of objectives match or are in accordance with the Regional Sustainability Framework for the South East, which the Core Strategy should be in conformity with.
- 6.3 In addition, to be in accordance with European and national legislation, documents prepared under the LDF, of which the Core Strategy is a key part, must be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA process aims to predict and assess economic, social and environmental effects that are likely to arise from Local Development Documents, such as the Core Strategy. The SEA process has been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal and thus, where the proposed sustainability objectives relate to characteristic areas that are associated with the Strategic Environmental Assessment, they are suffixed with SEA.

Number	Objective	Indicator(s)
1	To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home and maintain a good supply of affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing completions per annum (Net) • Affordable housing completions per annum (net) • House prices to earnings ratio • Households on waiting list for local authority housing • Number of unfit homes per 1000 dwellings • Financial contributions towards affordable housing provision • Number of key worker (homebuy) households delivered per annum
2	To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment (SEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of properties at risk from flooding • Number of new developments with sustainable drainage systems • Number of planning applications approved contrary to advice given by the EA on flood risk/flood defence grounds
3	To ensure that the District is prepared for the impacts of coastal erosion, thereby minimising the risk of the loss of property and ensuring that existing infrastructure is not adversely impacted upon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of agreed actions to implement long term flood and coast erosion risk management plans that are being undertaken satisfactorily.
4	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in rank of deprived areas (Index of Multiple Deprivation)

	areas and the rest of the district	
5	To create and sustain vibrant, safe, distinctive and healthy communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of people satisfied with their local area as a place to live • Change in number of community meeting facilities • Change in public open space • Number of vacant units in town centres • Levels of crime
6	To increase travel choice and accessibility to all services and facilities, and to reduce pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new developments built within 800 metres of a railway station and 400 metres of a bus stop • Percentage of new residential developments located within 30 minutes public transport time of key services and facilities and employment • Number of new footpaths/cycle routes and public transport infrastructure • Number of Air Quality Management Areas • Number of days when air pollution levels are high • Carbon Dioxide emissions per sector
7	To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and minimising the loss of valuable greenfield land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land • Number of empty homes • Number of vacant commercial units • Average density of new development • Amount of Grade 1, 2 and 3 Agricultural Land lost to new development
8	To conserve and enhance the District's biodiversity (SEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and condition of internationally and nationally important wildlife and geological sites (SSSI, SPA, SAC & Ramsar) • Number and extent of SNCIs and LNRs • Area of ancient woodland • Number of planning applications approved contrary to advice given by the Environment Agency on biodiversity matters
9	To protect, enhance and make accessible the District's countryside and historic environment (SEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Listed Buildings on the Buildings at Risk Register • Number of major planning applications approved in the SDNP and Conservation Areas • Net change of Rights of Way • Percentage of new homes built within 300 metres of accessible greenspace
10	To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic waste produced per head of population • Percentage of waste that is recycled or reused • Number of households covered by kerbside

		recycling
11	To maintain and improve water quality and encourage its conservation, and to achieve sustainable water resources management (SEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological water quality • Chemical water quality • Bathing water quality • Number of planning applications approved contrary to advice given by the Environment Agency on water quality grounds • Consumption of water per head of population • Incidents of major and significant water pollution • Number of properties with water meters
12	To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure that the district is prepared for its impacts (SEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average amount of erosion to coastal areas • Number of properties at risk from flooding • Proportion of journeys to work by public transport, on foot or cycle • Renewable energy installations within Lewes District
13	To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy use per head • Percentage of waste which is converted into energy • Renewable energy installations within Lewes District
14	To promote and sustain economic growth in successful areas, and to revive the economies of the most deprived areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage change in unit vacancy rates • Unemployment rate • Percentage of population who are long - term unemployed or who have never worked, by ward • Percentage change in total number of VAT registered businesses in the area
15	To encourage the growth of a buoyant and sustainable tourism sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of jobs in the tourism sector • Contribution to the District's economy made by visitors
16	To improve the employability of the population, and to increase levels of educational attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students achieving 5 or more GCSEs grade A*-C • Numbers of Adult Learners • Percentage of adults without any qualifications

7. Next Stages for the Sustainability Appraisal and Core Strategy

Introduction:

- 7.1 This document has set out Lewes District's baseline information, has highlighted the Plans, Programmes, Policies, Strategies, Guidance and Initiatives (PPPSGIs) influencing the production of the Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal, has identified the key sustainability issues facing Lewes District, and has set out the proposed sustainability objectives and indicators that the Core Strategy, and options considered for it, will be appraised against.
- 7.2 This following section of the document explains the next steps in the process of preparing and appraising the emerging Core Strategy document.

Next Steps:

- 7.3 Consultation on this Scoping Report, along with the Issues and Emerging Options Topic Papers constitutes the first formal consultation stage for the Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal process. At this stage, we would welcome any views and data that could be used to improve the baseline information, the sustainability issues and the objectives and indicators. Furthermore, we would welcome any relevant PPPSGIs that have not been included in the Scoping Report.
- 7.4 Following the consultation on the Scoping Report, changes will be made to the sustainability objectives and indicators, where appropriate. Consultation on the Issues and Emerging Options Topic Papers will help identify all suitable options that will be considered for inclusion in the Core Strategy. These options will then be tested against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives and indicators (also known as the sustainability framework), enabling a preferred strategy and policies to be identified. Also at this stage, the strategic objectives of the Core Strategy will be tested against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives, enabling to see where both set of objectives conform and where there are tensions. These processes will thus inform the content of the Core Strategy - Preferred Strategy document, which is due to be consulted upon in late 2010/early 2011. This consultation document will be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal report.
- 7.5 Comments received at the Preferred Strategy consultation stage will be assessed, with amendments being made to the appraisal of options, where this is considered necessary, and any further options that have been identified through this consultation being appraised. The Sustainability Appraisal will be used to assess the potential impacts of the strategy and policies that are set out in the Proposed Submission document. The appraisal will also consider ways of mitigating the potential adverse impacts of these policies and maximising beneficial effects. The Proposed Submission Document and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal will be put out for consultation in Summer 2011. Immediately prior to this, it is likely that the Sustainability Appraisal will be audited, to ensure that it complies with European Directive 2001/42/EC, PPS 12 - Local Spatial Planning and relevant guidance documents. The Sustainability Appraisal process will be undertaken 'in house' with one of the Planning Policy Officers taking the lead on this piece of

work, but seeking the input of other officers, including those who work in other relevant Council departments (i.e. Sustainability and Housing).

- 7.6 Following consultation on the Proposed Submission document, any necessary minor amendments will be made and the Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal will be formally submitted for examination. This is likely to take place in the Autumn of 2011.
- 7.7 The Examination of the Core Strategy is due to take place in early 2012, with the hope that the Core Strategy will be adopted by the District Council in Summer 2012.

Appendix A: Review of Plans, Programmes, Policies, Strategies, Guidance and Initiatives (PPPSGs) that are expected to influence the production of the Core Strategy – Development Plan Document

Introduction:

- 1.1 In line with Article 5 (1) Annex 1 (a) and (e) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, this appendix sets out the plans, policies, programmes, strategies, guidance and initiatives (PPPSGs), which are likely to inform the content of the Core Strategy.
- 1.2 The appendix is set out in six tables, one detailing PPPSGs that cover General Sustainable Development principles, and then one table for each of the UK Government's five guiding sustainable development principles.
- Living Within Environmental Limits
 - Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society
 - Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy
 - Promoting Good Governance
 - Using Sound Science Responsibly
- 1.3 Some of the PPPSGs that cover one or more of the five headings have been placed in the 'General Sustainable Development' grouping where it has been identified that they can impact on all 5 of the guiding principles. For the PPPSGs could impact more than one category (but not all) a decision has been made to include them only in one category.

General Sustainable Development

Document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Implications on Core Strategy / Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
International		
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development	Commitment to sustainability principles and the sustainable development agenda agreed at Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992.	Interpreted into national policies and guidance which are used to inform the Local Development Framework, of which the Core Strategy forms a key part.
European Spatial Development Perspective	Seeks to create the sustainable development of the EU, by balancing competitiveness with economic and social cohesion, conservation and management of natural resources and the cultural heritage.	
Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change	Declaration stating signatories' intent to systematically address the causes of climate change and to prepare their community for its impacts.	As a signatory to the document, Lewes District Council has agreed to the aims and the Core Strategy will reflect this.
European Directive	Sets out detailed requirements of	The Sustainability

2001/42/EC (SEA Directive) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	environmental assessment required for plans such as Development Plan Documents.	Appraisal incorporates the requirements of this Directive.
National		
A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	Provides guidance about how to comply with Directive 2001/42/EC.	The SA must fully integrate the SEA requirements.
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	Clause 38 places a duty on Local Authorities to the achievement of sustainable development.	Lewes District Council is required to produce a Sustainability Appraisal in conjunction with the Core Strategy.
Planning Act 2008	Paragraph 10 restates that the planning system must contribute to delivering sustainable development.	
'A Better Quality of Life' – A Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK (1999)	Set out the four key objectives to achieving sustainable development which have been used to influence some of the planning policy documents still in circulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone • Effective protection of the environment • Prudent use of natural resources • Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth. 	Documents have been interpreted into regional guidance and objectives and will be used to inform the sustainability objectives and indicators used to appraise the Core Strategy.
'Securing the Future' - the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	Superseded and updated 'A Better Quality of Life' Document, creating five sustainable development principles, which are used to guide policy documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Within Environmental Limits • Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society • Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy • Promoting Good Governance • Using Sound Science Responsibly. 	
Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) - Delivering Sustainable Development	Sets out how the planning system can be used to deliver sustainable development and sets out key principles and policies that Local Development Documents should adhere to help deliver sustainable development.	The Core Strategy will need to take into account the principles and policies, helping to deliver sustainable development.

Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12) – Local Spatial Planning	Highlights the importance of spatial planning to delivering sustainable communities by bringing together a wide range of factors, such as infrastructure, housing and a strong economy.	The Core Strategy is the key document to bring about sustainable communities through spatial planning in Lewes District and will take account of this document.
Regional		
Regional Spatial Strategy – The South East Plan	Sets out the planning framework and strategy for the South East until 2026, of which Lewes District is a part.	The Core Strategy must conform with the RSS but should not replicate its policies.
East Sussex Sustainable Community Strategy – ‘Pride of Place’	The document sets out a long term vision for improving people’s quality of life and creating strong communities within and across East Sussex. To achieve this, there are three main objectives to create and sustain; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a vibrant, diverse and sustainable economy • great places to live in, visit and enjoy, and • safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. 	The issues raised by this document will help to inform the production of the Core Strategy. The delivery of the objectives can be aided by the content of the Core Strategy.
The South East Regional Sustainability Framework	The documents sets out a vision and objectives that will help guide the South East towards sustainable development. It sets out four key priorities to achieve this aim; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieving sustainable levels of resource use • reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the region • ensuring that the South East is prepared for the inevitable impacts of climate change • ensuring that the most deprived people also have an equal opportunity to benefit from and contribute to a better quality of life. 	The objectives and priorities will be used to inform the Core Strategy.
Local		
Lewes District Sustainable Community Strategy – ‘Local Voices, Local Choices’	Sets out policies under shared community themes and priorities that will help create Sustainable communities in Lewes District. The shared community themes and priorities are;	The priorities set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy should aim to be achieved through the Core Strategy as far as

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a valued environment • decent, affordable housing for all • safer, stronger communities • access to good local facilities • healthier communities • a vibrant and sustainable local economy. 	possible.
Lewes District Council: The Council Plan 2009/2010	<p>Sets out the three key aims for Lewes District Council, which are to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support and promote a diverse and prosperous local economy • support the housing health and social needs of everyone in the community • protect and enhance the quality of the environment. 	The Core Strategy will reflect the aims of this document.

Living Within Environmental Limits

Document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Implications on Core Strategy / Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
International		
Kyoto Protocol (1997)	Sets out that the UK (and 37 other industrial countries) should cut the emissions of greenhouse gases between 2008 and 2012 to levels that are 5.2% below 1990 levels.	The agreements, plans and Directives have influenced national guidance.
European Union Sixth Environmental Action Plan	High level of protection of the environment and a general improvement in the environment and quality of life.	
European Directive 79/409/EEC	Preservation, maintenance or restoration of sufficient diversity and area of habitats in order to conserve all species of birds.	
European Directive 92/43/EEC (as amended by 97/62EC), known as the Habitats Directive	<p>Set out two aims of relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conserve natural habitats and threatened species • To protect natural heritage. 	The Sustainability Appraisal for the Core Strategy must be in compliance with the requirements of this legislation.
National		
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Serves to protect the most important examples of habitats and species in Britain.	These Acts have been interpreted into national guidance which the Core Strategy must
Countryside and Rights	Tightens the provisions of the above	

of Way Act 2000	mentioned Act by making it an offence to recklessly damage protected habitats and fauna.	reflect.
The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	National interpretation of the SEA Directive and Habitats Directive.	The Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy will have to comply with the requirements.
Planning Policy Statement 23 (PPS23) – Planning and Pollution Control	States that the planning system should protect the environment from harm caused by development and aims to reduce the conflicts of interest between planning and pollution control authorities.	The guidelines of this PPS must be reflected by the Core Strategy
Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS 22) – Renewable Energy	<p>The document promotes the planning system as something that can help reach the Government's targets for renewable energy generation.</p> <p>The DCLG have published a consultation draft of 'Planning Policy Statement (PPS) Supplement: Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate'. This PPS is eventually expected to replace PPS22.</p>	The Core Strategy should assist in promoting the creation of renewable energy resources.
Supplement to PPS1 – Planning and Climate Change	<p>Identifies that climate change should be integrated with planning policy as it is of high importance. The document states that planning should help with the adaptation to climate change and the mitigation of its effects.</p> <p>The DCLG have published a consultation draft of 'Planning Policy Statement (PPS) Supplement: Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate'. This PPS is eventually expected to replace the current supplement to PPS1.</p>	The Core Strategy must be in accordance to the document.
Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) – Planning for the Historic Environment	States that the historic environment is a very important resource that the planning system should help to protect in order for the environments to be enjoyed in the future.	The Core Strategy should be in conformity with the policies in this document, but without repeating them. Given the wealth of historical assets in Lewes District, this PPS is of significance in

		considering many development proposals in the district.
Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG 24) – Planning and Noise	Sets out that noise can have a significant impact on local communities and therefore, when determining planning applications for noise-sensitive developments, local authorities should consider noise mitigation measures.	The Core Strategy must consider the guidelines of this PPG.
Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS 25) – Development and Flood Risk & PPS 25 Supplement – Development and Coastal Change	<p>Sets out that planning should appraise, manage and reduce the risk of flooding to developments and that areas with a low probability of flooding should be preferred for new developments.</p> <p>The supplement states that planning policies and decisions are based on an understanding of coastal change and that plans are in place to secure the long-term sustainability of coastal areas. In addition, it states that new development, except those that require a coastal location, should be directed away from areas vulnerable to coastal change and that any development that adds to the impacts of physical changes to the coast should be avoided.</p>	The Core Strategy will take into account the policies of this document. With flood risk being one of the key issues for the Core Strategy it will be of utmost importance that this policy document is adhered to. The Council has already prepared a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with PPS25.
Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS 9) – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS 7) – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas	<p>PPS 9 states three planning aims to ensure that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced. These aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to promote sustainable development • to conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England’s wildlife and geology • to contribute to the rural renewal and urban renaissance <p>PPS 7 aims to deliver, through planning, four Government objectives. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas • to promote more sustainable patterns of development • to promote the development of the English regions by 	The Core Strategy should maintain and enhance the biodiversity and geological resources, wherever possible. The Core Strategy should take a strategic approach to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geology and also seek to promote, and add to, biodiversity and geological features through new development. Given the rural nature of the district the content of PPS7 will be

	<p>improving their economic performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors. <p>PPS9 and parts of PPS7 will eventually be replaced by Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment, currently in the Consultation period.</p>	<p>pertinent to the content of the Core Strategy. In this regard the Council is preparing a Rural Settlement Study that will inform a strategy for the rural areas of the district.</p>
<p>Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS 10) – Planning for Sustainable Waste Management</p>	<p>States that planning system has an important role in delivering sustainable waste management.</p>	<p>Although this document is of greater relevance to the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (prepared by ESCC), the Core Strategy should still conform with this document.</p>
<p>Planning Policy Guidance Note 13 (PPG 13) – Transport</p>	<p>States that planning should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and moving freight promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling help to reduce the need to travel, especially by car. 	<p>The Core Strategy will need to consider the guidance in this document, in particular in promoting more sustainable transport patterns and improving access to jobs, community services and facilities through the appropriate location for new housing.</p>
<p>BREEAM/ Code for Sustainable Homes</p>	<p>Both programmes state that the design of new buildings can reduce their environmental impacts. The Code for Sustainable Homes sets out minimum sustainability standards that all new homes should achieve; by 2016 all new homes should be zero carbon.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy could set out a strategy for enabling the Code and BREEAM standards, to be implemented through Building Regulations, to be met.</p>
<p>EU Directive 2000/60/EC (The Water Framework Directive) and the production of River Basin Management Plans</p>	<p>The aim of the directive and plans is to ensure that water bodies are improved and protected and that water resources are used sustainably.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy should promote the sustainable use of water resources and seek to improve water quality.</p>
<p>Regional</p>		
<p>Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>The document sets out how the biological diversity of Sussex should be conserved and enhanced, taking</p>	<p>The Core Strategy will aim to protect and enhance the biological</p>

	into account local and national priorities.	diversity of Lewes District.
East Sussex Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2)	<p>The document recognises that there are challenges to transport in the region, which this plans help to overcome by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tackling congestion • delivering accessibility to key services • improving road safety • improving air quality • improving quality of life <p>LTP 2 will be updated by LTP3 in 2011.</p>	The Core Strategy could help to deliver the goals of this document.
East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Waste Local Plan 2006	<p>This document sets out the strategy for waste management and planning in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, of which Lewes District is a part.</p> <p>This plan will be replaced by the forthcoming Waste and Minerals Core Strategy and a Waste Sites Development Plan Document, being jointly prepared by East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council.</p>	The Core Strategy should complement this plan.
The South Downs AONB Management Plan 2008	The document sets out the area's (now incorporated into the South Downs National Park) important features and states how the features can be protected, restored and enhanced.	The Core Strategy should consider the management issues highlighted in the document.
Asset Management Plans by Southern Water and South East Water	States what improvements will be made to water and sewerage infrastructure in a five year period.	Development proposals set out in the Core Strategy should complement the planned water and sewerage infrastructure improvements that are set out in this document.
The Adur and Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy	In this document, the Environment Agency sets out how water abstraction should be managed in the Adur and Ouse Catchment Area, an area which covers a part of Lewes District	The content of these strategies has and will inform the plans and programmes prepared by water companies, which in turn inform the Core Strategy.
Water Resource	States how both companies will	Proposals set out in

Management Plans by Southern Water (adopted) and South East Water (in production)	ensure that the future demands for water is met.	these plans should be reflected in the Core Strategy.
Strategic Direction Statements prepared by Southern Water and South East Water	Sets out each companies' 25 year strategy for dealing with both customers and the environment.	The Core Strategy with take account of these statements.
Local		
East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment	The documents describe the area, of which Lewes District forms a part, and identifies problems and pressures that should be overcome.	The Core Strategy should reflect the findings of the document and look to overcome the problems and pressures.
Lewes District Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	This document identified both the areas and the levels of flood risk in Lewes District and assessed the District's current flood defences, helping to avoid development from occurring in unsuitable locations.	This is a key piece of evidence that will be used to inform and support the policies of the Core Strategy.
River Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP)	The CFMP is produced by the Environment Agency and sets out policies for managing flood risk in the River Ouse Catchment.	The Core Strategy will reflect the findings of the CFMP to ensure it is in conformity with its policies.
Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Development Study (in production)	The document will identify sustainable energy resources in Lewes District and will explain how the planning system can be used to deliver new renewable and low-carbon resources in the future.	The document will support and inform policies/a strategy on renewable energy and low carbon development in the Core Strategy
Conservation Area Appraisals	<p>These appraisals give an overview of the history and development of each Conservation area within the District. They also describe what makes each area special, by identifying unique area features, such as historic buildings and trees as well as highlighting the problems, pressures and capacity for change of each area.</p> <p>Lewes District Council has completed 27 Conservation Area Appraisals and a further 4 are in progress.</p>	These appraisals will support and inform policies in the Core Strategy.
Extensive Urban Surveys	These surveys aid the understanding, exploration and	These documents will be support and inform

	management of the historic qualities of 41 of the most significant towns in the historical county of Sussex, of which five are located in Lewes District (Ditchling, Lewes, Newhaven, Peacehaven and Seaford).	policies in the Core Strategy.
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Ensuring a Strong Healthy and Just Society

Document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Implications on Core Strategy / Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
National		
Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS 3) – Housing	Sets out that the planning system should ensure that everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent home, which they can afford, in a community where they want to live. This will be achieved by delivering a sufficient quantity of high quality housing in suitable locations, which incorporate an appropriate mix (affordable and market).	The Core Strategy will take into account the policies of the document and will aim to help achieve the Government’s housing objectives. The SHLAA and SHMA are being prepared as evidence to inform the Core Strategy due to the content of PPS3.
Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG 17) – Sport , Open Space and Recreation	State that open spaces, sport and recreation are very important and can affect the quality of people’s lives and that planning policies can help achieve well – designed spaces. DCLG have issued a consultation on the proposed ‘Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment’, which Once adopted this will replace PPG17.	The Core Strategy should ensure that well utilised leisure and community facilities are not lost to new developments. Deficiencies in sport, open space and recreational facilities will need to be addressed by the Core Strategy.
Local		
East Sussex Downs and Wealds Primary Care Trust - Investing in Life	This document sets a strategic aim of reducing health inequalities in their area, of which Lewes District forms a part, by targeting geographical locations with the lowest life expectancy.	The Core Strategy aims to help achieve the strategic aim of the document.
Lewes District Council Housing Strategy	Sets out that it is the aim of the Council to improve the quality, availability and affordability of homes for people in the District.	The Core Strategy will need to assist in meeting the aims of the strategy by providing

		affordable and open market housing.
Town and Parish Council Plans	These plans set out the aims and priorities for the each town/parish who have a plan and how they will achieve the aims.	The priorities and aims of each plan can be used to inform the Core Strategy so that certain aims and priorities of these communities are addressed.
Lewes District Council Older Persons Housing and Support Strategy (in consultation)	Sets out the strategy for providing housing and support to older persons within the district from 2010 to 2013, whilst also looking at long-term needs for the elderly population in relation to demographic change.	The strategy will help inform and support policies of the Core Strategy.
Lewes District Council Rural Settlement Study (in production)	The study will identify the major issues surrounding the District's rural settlements.	These documents are key pieces of evidence that will inform and support the Core Strategy.
Lewes District Council Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (in production)	Identifies potential housing sites for development in the District.	

Building a Strong, Stable and Sustainable Economy

Document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Implications on Core Strategy / Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
National		
Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS 4) – Planning for a Sustainable Economic Growth	Sets out that the planning system should help the Government achieve its objectives on sustainable economic growth.	The Core Strategy will need to plan for sustainable economic development in urban and rural areas
Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism	States that tourism plays a valuable role in the economy and that planners should aim to encourage that the industry can sustain itself and grow.	Tourism is of vital importance to Lewes District and this will be reflected in the Core Strategy.
Regional		
Regional Economic Strategy for South East England 2006 - 2016	The document sets out the vision of making the South East, of which Lewes District is a part, a world class region that achieves sustainable prosperity by identifying solutions to the existing challenges that are needed to be overcome. This Economic Strategy will eventually be replaced by a Regional	The Core Strategy will aid in attempting to achieve the vision of this document.

	Strategy, which will include the regional planning strategy.	
Local		
Local Economic Assessment (in production by East Sussex County Council)	An assessment of the local economy is being produced for East Sussex, of which Lewes District is a part.	The findings of the assessment will help inform the Core Strategy
Lewes District Employment Land Review (in production)	The document will assess existing employment land, identify sites that should be safeguarded and those that are no longer fit for purpose for employment land and therefore should be released for other uses	The document is a key piece of evidence that will inform and support the economic strategy and policies that are to be contained within the Core Strategy.
Lewes District Council Retail Study 2005	The study identified retail patterns and capacity of the towns in Lewes District and found that they were struggling in comparison to areas beyond its boundaries.	Although due to be updated, some of the findings could be used to inform the Core Strategy.

Promoting Good Governance

Document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Implications on Core Strategy / Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
Local		
Lewes District Council's Statement for Community Involvement (SCI)	This document sets out how the community will be involved in the planning process in Lewes District. An updated version of this document is in production.	Consultation regarding the Core Strategy will have to be done in conformity with the SCI.

Using Sound Science Responsibly

Document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Implications on Core Strategy / Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
International		
Rio Declaration on Environment and Development – Principle 15: Precautionary Principle (1992)	Stipulated that to ensure that the environment is protected, a precautionary approach should be taken, so that a lack of scientific knowledge should not be used as a reason for postponing appropriate action to be taken that would prevent serious or irreversible damage from occurring.	The Core Strategy will take into account the precautionary principle, ensuring that irreversible damage to the District's environment does not take place.