



**12. Housing:** To make suitable housing available and affordable to everyone.



**13. Quality of Life:** To improve the quality of life for those living and working in the District.



**14. Natural and Built Assets:** To protect and maintain vulnerable regional assets (natural, built & historic environmental).



**15. Use of Land:** To deliver more sustainable use of land.



**16. Locational Patterns:** To deliver more sustainable location patterns.



**17. Natural Resources:** To ensure the prudent use of natural resources and the sustainable management of existing resources.



**18. Waste:** To reduce generation and disposal of waste, and achieve sustainable management of waste.

### Next steps

We would welcome your views on the Scoping Report. Comments should be received by 5pm, 30th June 2006. All comments received by this date will be considered and the scope and level of information provided within the report amended, as appropriate.

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### How to comment

We hope that you have found the information in this non-technical summary useful. To obtain a full copy of the scoping report, please visit or write to the address or email below.

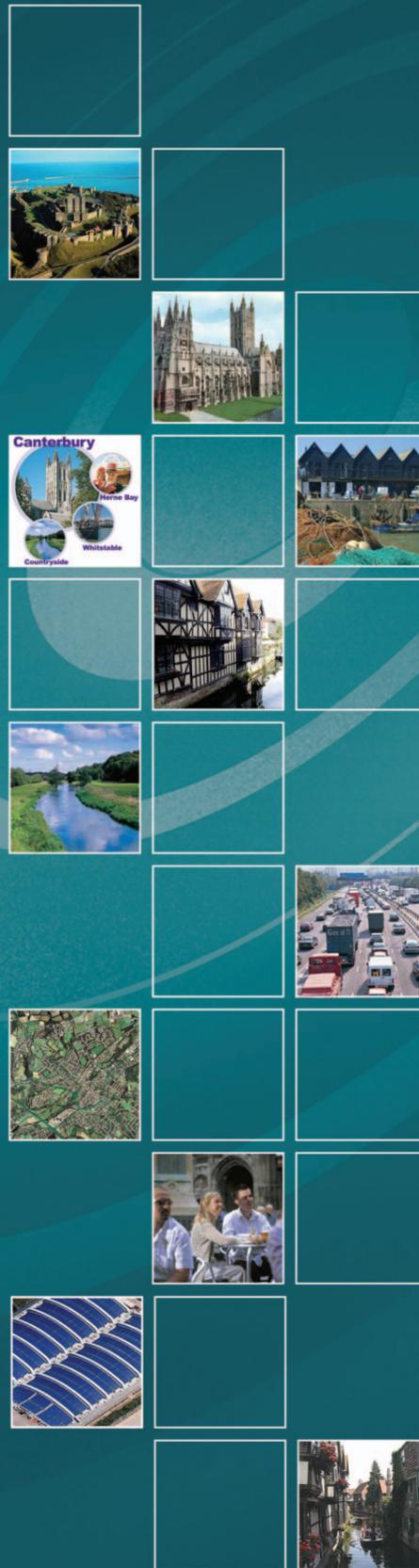
We would like to know what you think about the scoping report. All of your comments are welcome, although we would be particularly interested in hearing your answers to the following questions:

- Do you agree with the main sustainability issues identified?
- Do you know of any key baseline evidence which will help to inform the SA process?
- Do you agree that the 18 SA objectives cover the breadth of sustainability issues appropriate for Canterbury District?
- Do you agree that it is too early in the development of the LDDs to say for certain whether any European designated sites will be significantly affected?

Please provide comments by 5 p.m. on the 30th June 2006. Comments should be sent to:

Adrian Verrall, Planning Policy Manager, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW.

# Canterbury Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal of the



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## Sustainability Appraisal of the Canterbury Local Development Framework Non Technical Summary

### Overview

This document is the non-technical summary of the scoping report for the sustainability appraisal of Canterbury Districts' Local Development Framework. It describes the major issues for sustainable development in the District and describes how the appraisal will be undertaken.

### The Local Development Framework

The Local Development Framework is a portfolio of documents that will provide the spatial planning strategy for Canterbury District for the next ten years. It will include the Council's vision and strategy for the District, where new housing, employment and community facilities will be located, and guidance on what sorts of development will be permitted. The Local Development Framework will replace the Local Plan and is a statutory requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

### Sustainability Appraisal

It is very important to ensure that the policies and proposals contained in the Local Development Framework contribute to the aims of sustainable development. This means making sure that there is a better quality of life for everyone, now and in the future. To help achieve this, the documents in the Local Development Framework are subject to a process called sustainability appraisal, which considers their environmental, social and economic effects. Sustainability appraisal is a legal requirement.

The sustainability appraisal also incorporates the requirements of a process called Strategic Environmental Assessment. This is controlled by European law and specifically sets out to improve the environmental performance of the Local Development Framework. The sustainability appraisal is an ongoing process that is taking place in parallel with production of the Local Development Framework. The diagram below illustrates the key stages in the process.



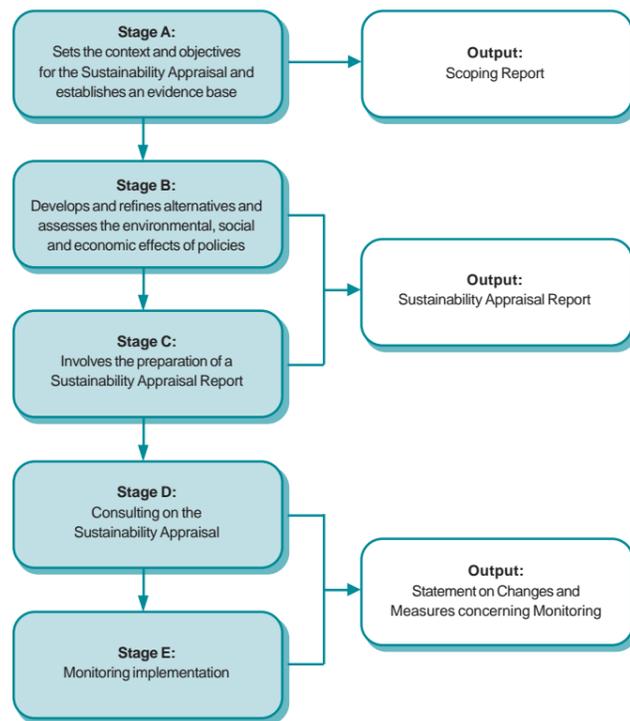
## The Local Development Framework in context

The Local Development Framework is just one of many policies, plans and programmes that will affect sustainable development in Canterbury District. It is important to ensure that the objectives of these other policies, plans and programmes are taken into account in the preparation of the Local Development Framework, and that the relationships between them are understood.

The other policies, plans and programmes also contain environmental, social and economic objectives that highlight the important sustainability issues in the District that should be considered in the sustainability appraisal.

The diagram (right) illustrates the relationship between the Local Development Framework and other plans, programmes and strategies.

The diagram (below) shows the stages of sustainability appraisal.



## Sustainability issues in Canterbury

The Scoping Report provides information on environmental, social and economic issues in Canterbury. This information will be used as a basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of the Local Development Framework. It also helps to identify key issues which should be considered by the Local Development Framework.

**A. Climate Change:** The urgent need to address the causes of climate change to reduce the current and future threat to Canterbury District's population, wildlife, natural resources, archaeological and cultural heritage and material assets (including flood risk).

**B. Biodiversity and Geological diversity:** The need to conserve and enhance biodiversity and protect sites important for their geological resource across the District. In particular, the need to enhance Canterbury District's environment as the green heart of East Kent, taking the lead on environmental protection and enhancement.

**C. Waste:** The need for an integrated sustainable approach to managing waste from reduction through to re-use, recycling and reprocessing. The need to continue to increase the amount of domestic, commercial and industrial materials recycled.

**D. Water Quality and Resources:** The need to manage and protect water resources in response to climate change, population growth and lifestyle choices - which are all placing increasing demands on Canterbury District's water supplies.

**E. Air Quality:** The primary source of air pollution in the District is from road traffic, especially in the city centre. This may be a particular problem for human health and the conservation and preservation of buildings and there is a need to address this.

**F. Historic Environment:** Canterbury District has an exceptionally rich urban and rural heritage. However, the quality of the historic environment is coming under increasing pressure from competing land uses.

**G. Housing:** The need to focus housing development within urban areas and on previously developed land so as to respect the extensive environmental constraints prevalent in the District. There is also the need to maximise the supply of appropriate, well designed and affordable housing (in all tenures) to meet the needs of the District.

**H. Employment and the Economy:** Canterbury is one of the largest economies in Kent and has low levels of unemployment. However, there is a need to broaden the local economy and to increase the knowledge based industry by drawing on links with the Higher Education Institutions and reducing reliance on tourism and retail.

**I. Transport:** There is the need to encourage investment in transport infrastructure, to increase transport choice and reduce to congestion (especially in the town centre). There is also the need to improve rural bus services and to improve train services to London.

**J. Skills and Education:** The level of economic and social polarisation within the area has had an impact on educational achievement in some areas. The District is, however, an important focus for higher and further education and there is a need to strengthen the links between secondary and further education.

**K. Quality of Life:** Quality of life for the community in Canterbury District can be positively promoted by improving the quality of the physical environment, social well-being and economic and environmental improvements and by recognising the interconnectivity of the above issues.

## Sustainability objectives

The effects of the Local Development Framework will be appraised against eighteen sustainability objectives. The objectives are derived from sources such as the Government's UK sustainable development strategy and encompass the range of important sustainability issues for Canterbury District.

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**1. Economic Growth and Opportunities:** Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity, economic growth and opportunities (including learning and skills).
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**2. Employment:** To offer everyone the opportunity for rewarding and well-located employment.
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**3. Rural Communities:** To sustain vibrant rural communities.
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**4. Water Quality:** To protect and improve the quality of inland and coastal waters.
- 
**5. Transport:** Reduce road traffic and its impacts, promoting more sustainable modes of transport.
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**6. Landscape:** To protect and improve landscapes and provide access for recreation.
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**7. Biodiversity and Geological Diversity:** To avoid damage to, and improve biodiversity in the area.
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**8. Flood Risk, Environmental Pollution and Climate Change:** To limit flood risk, environmental pollution, and reduce the causes and impacts of climate change.
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**9. Access to Services:** Share access to services and benefits to prosperity fairly.
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**10. Sustainable Living:** To revitalise town centres to promote sustainable urban living.
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**11. Sustainable Design:** To encourage sustainable design and practice.

