

**ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Sustainability Appraisal  
(Incorporating  
Strategic Environmental Assessment)**

**Scoping Report**

**For the**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

**Final Revision June 2008**



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**Section 1: 1.1 Introduction**

- 1.1.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that a Sustainability Appraisal must be undertaken for all Development Plan Documents (DPD), and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD).
- 1.1.3 Producing a Scoping Report is the first step in undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), of the Council's emerging Local Development Framework (LDF). This Scoping Report (final revision) is an updated Report produced in the spirit of the SA process being an iterative one designed to be revisited as new evidence emerges. This revision takes into account comments made by the statutory environmental consultees received during the first consultation on the Scoping Report in August 2006 and the consultation on the second revision December 2007 – February 2008. More information on the consultation can be found in Section 6.
- 1.1.4 The purpose of SA is:
- to ensure the sustainability of policies and plans
  - for it to be used to check the social, economic and environmental effects of policies and plans against wider sustainability objectives; to understand these
  - to effect a more sustainable policy or plan, ensuring against potential negative effects wherever possible
- 1.1.5 Authorities must also comply with the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC, which requires formal Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment, including Local Development Frameworks.
- 1.1.6 Whilst SA focuses on social, economic and environmental effects, SEA examines primarily environmental impacts. The objective of the 'SEA Directive' is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans, with a view to promoting sustainable development.
- 1.1.7 The SEA process can be integrated into the Sustainability Appraisal and this procedure will be undertaken in this document, ensuring that the requirements of the Directive are met.
- 1.1.8 This Scoping Report is a consultation document, which undertakes Stage A of the SA/SEA process. The specific tasks are identified in the ODPM Guidance 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents' and 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' as follows:
- A1 identify environmental, social and economic objectives contained in other relevant plans and programmes
  - A2 provide baseline information on environmental, social and economic characteristics of the District
  - A3 consider key sustainability issues facing the District

- A4 set out an appropriate framework for the SA including SA objectives, sub-objectives and indicators
- A5 Consult on the scope of the SA

1.1.9 The Council must seek the views of the statutory environmental consultation bodies designated in the SEA Regulations, (English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency), on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be included in the SA Report.

## **1.2 Background to Sustainability**

1.2.1 International, national and local strategies and policies show a commitment to pursuing a sustainable way of living. The issue of sustainability is now integral to policy and guidance at all levels and has become incorporated into many aspects of life.

1.2.2 Sustainable development is the core principle underpinning spatial planning.

1.2.3 The term “sustainable development” has been established for a number of years and there have been a number of definitions that seek to define this concept.

1.2.4 In 1987 the World Commission on Environment and Development (WECD) published ‘Our Common Future’, which is commonly referred to as the Bruntland Report. The report defined sustainable development as:

*“Development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”*

1.2.5 The Government set out its four primary objectives for sustainable development in ‘A Better Quality of Life – A Strategy for Sustainable development for the U.K’, published in 1999. The four broad aims of the 1999 strategy were:

- 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 and employment

1.2.6 In March 2005 the Government published its new sustainable development strategy ‘Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy’ including a new goal for sustainable development:

*‘to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations’.*

1.2.7 The Strategy states that sustainable development is to be pursued in an *‘integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment; and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well being. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible’.*

1.2.8 To achieve this, 5 guiding principles have been identified in the strategy, which build on and develop the earlier strategy, and show how Government will integrate these aims and evolve sustainable development policy. These are:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance, and
- Using sound science responsibly

### **1.3 The Local Development Framework (LDF)**

1.3.1 The Rother District Local Plan, which was adopted in July 2006, is to be replaced over time by the Rother District Local Development Framework (LDF).

1.3.2 The LDF will include a suite of documents (Local Development Documents) including Development Plan Documents that will form part of the statutory development plan for the District. This will have an advantage over the 'old' style plan making process in that the documents will be produced, reviewed and altered more quickly than before.

1.3.3 The various documents will be prepared at different times, in a phased manner. The Council's timetable for work on the LDF is set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out a three-year work programme. The LDS is updated annually and is available on the Council's website at [www.rother.gov.uk](http://www.rother.gov.uk).

### **1.4 The Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD)**

1.4.1 One of the first DPDs to be produced will be the Core Strategy, which will set out the long-term spatial vision for the Rother District, and the strategic policies to deliver that vision. It will be a pivotal document in that once adopted, all other DPDs must be in conformity with it. Planning Policy Statement 12 states that the Core Strategy should seek to implement the spatial and transport policies of the Regional Spatial Strategy and incorporate its housing requirement. It should also draw on any strategies of the Local Authority and other organisations that have implications for the development and use of land.

1.4.2 The Core Strategy should provide certainty for the future, and cover a time period of at least 10 years, or longer, if the Regional Spatial Strategy (in this case the South East Plan), has a longer time horizon. The profile for the Core Strategy document as outlined in the LDS (March 2007) is shown in the table below:

**Table 1 Core Strategy Profile**

<b>Core Strategy</b>	
<b>Document Details</b>	
• Role & Subject	• Statement of the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the District to include the scale, type and broad distribution of development.
• Geographical Coverage	• District-wide
• Status	• DPD

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• Conformity	• South East Plan
• Timeframe	• 2006 to 2026
<b>Key Milestones</b>	
• Early community involvement	• April – August 2006 - Completed
• Issues & options consultation	• October– November 2006 - Completed
• Preferred options & proposals consultation	• Mid April 2008
• Submission	• November 2008
• Pre-examination meeting	• April 2009
• Examination	• July 2009
• Adoption	• January 2010
<b>Production</b>	
• Management arrangements	• See Section 12
• Information requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing land supply assessment</li> <li>• Employment land review</li> <li>• Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Retail forecasting</li> </ul>

1.4.3 As can be seen from the above table there has been some slippage in the timetable for the delivery of the Core Strategy – the LDS is due to be updated in August 2008 and the Rother District Council website contains the most up-to-date information regarding this.

### **1.5 Scoping Report Methodology**

1.5.1 Officers within the Strategy and Environment section of the Council have compiled the Scoping Report. The Local Strategic Partnership and Action Group members at a workshop provided input as to the current and future issues in Rother.

1.5.2 Published government guidance on Sustainability Appraisal 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (November 2005)', has been followed in the structuring of this report.

1.5.3 This Scoping Report constitutes Stage A of the guidance. The remaining stages of the SA will be carried out in parallel with the preparation of documents in the Local Development Framework, in order to inform and help direct it. These remaining stages comprise:-

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing their effects

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

Stage D: Consulting on the Preferred Options of the DPD and SA Report

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD

1.5.4 The Government guidance on Sustainability Appraisal incorporates the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC and is consistent with 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM et al,

2005). The following table specifies the explicit requirements of the SEA Directive relating to this Scoping Report and how these requirements have been met within this Report.

**Table 2 Compliance with the SEA Directive**

<b>SEA Directive Requirement</b>	<b>Section of this Scoping Report</b>
Contents and main objectives of plans and programmes that may affect the plan	Section 2 and Appendix 1
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and its likely evolution without the implementation of the plan	Section 3 and Appendix 2
The environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected	Section 3 and Appendix 2
Any existing environmental problems (issues) in particular those relating to areas designated under the Habitats and Birds Directives	Section 1 Section 4
The environmental protection objectives which are relevant to the plan or programme, and the way those objectives have been taken into account in its preparation	Section 2 and Appendix 1
Consulting: Authorities with environmental responsibilities, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Article 5.4)	Section 1, Section 6 and Appendix 3

### ***Appropriate Assessment***

- 1.5.5 Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna - the 'Habitats Directive' requires that any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on sites of European importance such as Special Protection Areas (SPA) or Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), for example Rye Harbour within the Dungeness to Pett Level SPA, shall be subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of its environmental implications.
- 1.5.6 Planning Policy Statement 9 (August 2005) also states that potential SPAs and candidate SACs are to be considered in the same way as the sites above. In addition, Ramsar sites (e.g. Pevensey Levels) should receive the same protection. As such, it suggests that the Council will have to carry out in the first instance screening for Appropriate Assessment in relation to the potential for impacts of development proposed in the Core Strategy.
- 1.5.7 Appropriate assessment of policies and their potential impact upon European sites within the District, will be undertaken in accordance with the guidance published by the European Commission "Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting NATURA 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC" (November 2001), as described below. This assessment will be undertaken alongside and in addition to wider sustainability appraisal of LDDs and will be presented in a separate report.

- **Stage 1 Screening:** determining whether the plan either alone or 'in combination' with other plans and projects – is likely to have a significant effect on the interest features of a European site, either directly or indirectly
- **Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment:** determining whether in view of the site's conservation objectives, the plan 'in combination' with other plans and projects – would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site(s). If it doesn't or if any adverse impact can be adequately mitigated for such as modifying a policy or proposal, further to consulting Natural England and JNCC, the plan can proceed
- **Stage 3 Assessment of Alternative Solutions:** where the plan is assessed as having an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of a site(s) there should be an examination of alternatives
- **Stage 4 Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain:** the 'IROPI test' (imperative reasons of overriding public interest) and compensatory measures

### ***Strategic Flood Risk Assessment***

- 1.5.8 The release of Planning Policy Guidance Note 25: Development and Flood Risk in July 2001 (PPG25)(DTLR, 2001) introduced the responsibility that Local Authorities have to ensure that flood risk is understood and managed effectively using a risk-based approach as an integral part of the planning process.
- 1.5.9 PPG25 was superseded by Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk (PPS25) in December 2006 (Reference 2). PPS25 re-emphasises the active role Local Authorities should have in ensuring flood risk is considered in strategic land use planning. PPS25 encourages Local Planning Authorities to undertake Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs) and to use their findings to inform land use planning.
- 1.5.10 To assist local Authorities in their strategic land use planning SFRAs should present sufficient information to enable Local Authorities to apply the Sequential Test to their proposed development sites. The Sequential Test seeks to guide development to areas of low flood risk or where necessary to ensure development vulnerability is appropriate to the flooding probability of an area.
- 1.5.11 A Level 1 SFRA will be carried out for the whole District. This will also indicate where a Level 2 assessment is required. The Level 1 assessment will indicate what engineering solutions are feasible and which ones are being considered. The information gathered should be sufficient to allow application of the Sequential Test and inform the Sustainability Appraisal and subsequent plan policies. The Level 1 assessment will indicate where development is ruled out and where some areas may have potential and will require a Level 2 assessment.
- 1.5.12 Where proposed development cannot meet the requirements of the Sequential Test, it can exceptionally be tested using Sustainability Appraisal and detailed breach analysis to ensure the development meets other sustainability criteria and would be safe from flood risk whilst not increasing the risk of flooding elsewhere. Where the Exception Test is required the SFRA should present sufficient



information to demonstrate that development will be safe from the risks of flooding for the lifetime of the development.

- 1.5.13 The Draft SFRA is expected to be completed by June 2008 and will be used to inform the appraisal of the options coming forward for the Local Development Framework.

## **Section 2 – Task A1 of the SA Process**

<b>Task A1 – Identifying other relevant policies plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives and sustainable development objectives</b>
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- 2.1 Spatial Planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes that influence places. It is still concerned with the physical or environmental aspects of location but also takes account of economic and social matters.
- 2.2 With this in mind, the LDF SA/SEA Scoping Report must develop within the context of national, regional and local objectives and strategic planning, transport, environmental, social and economic policies. The SEA Directive specifically requires environmental protection objectives established at international, European Community or national levels to be taken into account.
- 2.3 The ODPM SA guidance states that Local Planning Authority (LPA) must take account of *'relationships between the DPD and other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives which may influence the options to be consider in preparation of the DPD'*.
- 2.4 Planning Policy Statement 12 states that the LDF should be a key component in the delivery of the Community Strategy, and Local Development Documents should express those elements of the Community Strategy, that relate to the development and use of land. The Community Strategy therefore plays a key role in determining the issues relating to the Core Strategy.
- 2.5 The ODPM guidance on SA states that identifying relationships with other policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives will help:
- to identify any external social, environmental or economic objectives that should be taken into account in the SA of the plan;
  - to identify other external factors, including sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the plan; and
  - to determine whether other policies, plans and programmes might give rise to cumulative effects when combined with the plan that is subject to the SA
- 2.6 The review of documents in Appendix 1 has been collated from the recommendations in the ODPM guidance, from Local Strategic Partnership stakeholders, from officer knowledge and from comments received during the consultation on the initial Scoping Report.
- 2.7 To comply with the SEA Directive, environmental protection objectives at every tier of Government have been identified in the review (highlighted in bold). The list is not exhaustive, but seeks to include the key environmental protection influences that will have a bearing on the likely significant effects of the Core Strategy.
- 2.8 The analysis of plans, programmes and policies has resulted in a number of key issues being identified that need to be taken into consideration in the Rother LDF.

For example, the need to promote social inclusion and community cohesion is made clear in the national Planning Policy Statement 1, the South East Region Social Inclusion Statement, as well as the local Rother Community Plan and Economic Regeneration Strategy (2004-2009). As such, ‘the promotion of social inclusion’ becomes one of the key messages to be taken through the scoping process and considered when preparing the Core Strategy.

- 2.9 Each key message is shown below, under three different headings – economic, social and environmental. Many of these “messages” are cross-cutting, and hence could be placed under any one of the headings. However, for ease of reference they have been placed under only one heading.

**Table 3 Key Messages from the Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes**

<b>Key Message</b>	<b>Source</b> (the lists for each message are not exhaustive, rather they give examples of documents carrying each message)
<b>Economic</b>	
Build a strong, stable and sustainable economy with a broad base	The UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005). PPG4 Industrial, commercial development and small firms (1992). Regional Economic Strategy (2001-2012). Rother Economic Strategy.
Promote sustainable tourism whilst protecting the environment	PPG21 Tourism (1992). Tourism and Related Sport and Recreation (2004). Rother Cultural and Leisure Strategy (2006). Regional Economic Strategy (2001-2012).
Promote sustainable transport choices and reduce need to travel	PPG13 Transport. RPG9 Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (2001). Regional Transport Strategy (2004). Regional Economic Strategy (2001-2012). East Sussex Local Transport Plan (LTP2) (2006).
<b>Social</b>	
Sufficient land to be allocated for sustainably constructed affordable housing	PPS3 Housing (2006). Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (2005). South East Regional Housing Strategy (2006-2009). Sustainable Communities in the South East (2003). East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Structure Plan (1991-2011). Rother Housing Strategy (2004-2009).
Improvement of the health and well-being of the population	Department of Health PSA (2004). Pride of Place an Integrated Community Strategy for East Sussex Consultation Draft (2007).
Reduce social exclusion, promote social inclusion	PPS1 Creating Sustainable Communities (2005). South East Regional Inclusion Statement (2002). Regional Transport Strategy (2004). Rother Community Plan. Rother Regeneration Strategy (2004-2009)
Raise educational achievement	Regional Planning Guidance for the South East RPG9 (2001). Regional Economic Strategy (2001-2012). Sussex Learning & Skills Council Annual Plan (2006-2007). Rother Community Plan (2004).
Reduce crime and the fear of crime	East Sussex Local Transport Plan (LTP2) (2006). Rother Community Plan (2004). Rother Corporate Plan (2006).

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	Rother Crime and Disorder reduction Strategy (2005-2008).
Improve accessibility to services and facilities	PPS6 Planning for Town Centres. PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004). PPG13 Transport. PPG17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation. Regional Economic Strategy (2001-2012). East Sussex LTP2 (2006). Rother Community Plan (2004). Rother Culture & Leisure Strategy (2006).
Improve engagement in cultural and leisure activities	PPG17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation. Rother Cultural and Leisure Strategy (2006).
<b>Environmental (includes environmental protection objectives)</b>	
Ensure prudent use of natural resources, including land use	The UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005). State of the Environment Report (2006). PPS3 Housing (2006). PPG4 Industrial, commercial development and small firms (1992). PPS6 Planning for Town Centres. PPS23 Planning and Pollution Control (2004). RPG9 (2001). Regional Transport Strategy (2004). Regional Economic Strategy (2001-2012). East Sussex & Brighton & Hove Minerals Local Plan (1999).
Improve air quality and reduce road congestion	The Air Quality Framework & daughter Directives (1996/62/EC). The UK Air Quality Strategy (2000). The UK Climate Change Programme (2006). State of the Environment Report (2006). PPG4 Industrial, commercial development and small firms (1992). PPG13 Transport. East Sussex LTP2 (2006).
Address the causes of climate change, adapt to and mitigate the impacts	Kyoto Protocol (1997). Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002). The UK Climate Change Programme (2006). Biodiversity Strategy for England (2002). State of the Environment Report (2006). PPG20 Coastal Planning (1992). PPS22 Renewable Energy (2004). South East Strategy for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (2004). Rother Environmental Policy Statement.
Conserve and enhance biodiversity	Birds Directive (79/09/EEC). Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005). Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW). PPS9 Biodiversity & Geological Conservation (2005). Seeing the Wood for the Trees – Regional Forestry Framework (2004). Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan (1998). Rother Environmental Policy Statement.
Protect the historic environment and landscape	The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future (2001). PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004). PPG15 Planning for the Historic Environment (1994). PPG16 Planning and Archaeology (1990). High Weald AONB Management Plan (2004). Conservation Area Appraisals.
Reduce waste generation and achieve sustainable waste management	The Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC). Waste Strategy for England (2007). PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (2005). East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Waste Local Plan (2006). Rother Environmental Policy Statement.
Minimise the risk of	PPS25 Development and Flood Risk (2006). South Foreland

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flooding and resulting detriment to people and property	to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan (2006). EA CFMP Rother & Romney (2007 in progress)
Achieve sustainable water resources management	Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). State of the Environment Report (2006). PPS23 Planning and Pollution Control (2004). PPG20 Coastal Planning (1992). PPS25 Development and Flood Risk (2006). South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan (2006). EA CFMP Rother & Romney (2007 in progress). Rother Environmental Policy Statement.

**Section 3 – Task A2 of the SA Process**

**Task A2 – Collecting Baseline Information**

- 3.1 This task requires that sufficient information on the district be collated to form the baseline or basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of the LDF. The information collected can be quantitative or qualitative and helps to identify sustainability issues and alternative ways of dealing with them.
- 3.2 As the information collected will be used in support of the evolving Core Strategy, the focus of collection will need to be broad, to encapsulate the social, environmental and economic characteristics of Rother which relate to, and portray, the issues that will be addressed in this strategic document.
- 3.3 The baseline information collected to date has, in the main, come from existing appraisals and monitoring carried out by the authority, as well as the East Sussex County Council database 'East Sussex in Figures'.
- 3.4 It has been presented in the form of a 'spatial portrait', essentially a stand-alone document, which forms part of the LDF documentation. It aims to set out the main attributes of the District by the presentation of social, environmental and economic data. It is presented as Appendix 2 of this Report and is called 'Rother in Profile'.
- 3.5 The SA/SEA guidance recognises that it may be necessary to revisit the baseline data, to keep the information up-to-date and to identify new information and issues as they emerge. In light of this a new baseline table has been prepared (Appendix 2) in line with the indicators proposed in the SA Framework. This table will be completed over time and used to update the environmental baseline and sustainability issues at appropriate intervals in the LDF programme.
- 3.6 In addition it states that it is important to record those areas where indicators are not available. Data for some indicators have not been readily retrievable, such as information on new developments with renewable energy generation. It is anticipated that this information will be available in the future; in the meantime such data gaps are highlighted in the baseline table in Appendix 2.
- 3.7 The SEA Directive also requires at the scoping stage an examination of the likely future state of the environment without implementation of the LDF. This requirement is completed within the 'Drivers for Change' section of 'Rother in Profile' and is summarised by the bullet points below:
- House buildings rates will continue to fall short of Structure Plan targets
  - House prices could continue to rise faster than local incomes
  - The mix and type of housing may not necessarily be that required by the local population
  - With climate change there is the potential for increased surface run-off from the High Weald causing floods and impacts on the coastal areas from storms

- Decline in the business base locally as there is not a high proportion of companies in growth sectors
- Infrastructure particularly water and road infrastructure will continue to give rise for concern
- An increase in home working in the District
- Proportion of working age adults in the population is set to decline

3.8 During early June 2008 the baseline was revisited and the new baseline table referred to in paragraph 3.5 was completed. The baseline table presented in Appendix 2 is now with data. This baseline will be periodically revisited in the future as new and updated information is produced.

3.9 The results of the work so far on the SFRA and Appropriate Assessment can also now be inputted into the Scoping Report and the boxes below present a summary of the findings so far:

The Level 1 SFRA has been completed by the Council and verified by independent consultants. The Level 2 SFRA and sequential test are underway. The SFRA has provided useful baseline information for the SA and the flood zone mapping has been used to inform the assessment of the options.

The main sources of flooding are fluvial flooding along the River Rother (Robertsbridge and Etchingham), a combination of fluvial and tidal flooding in the lower catchment and in the Marshes and tidal flooding along the coast.

Some built up parts of Rother are susceptible to flooding caused by poor surface water drainage. This may be caused by a high water table. High tides and high river levels can influence the height of the water tables.

It is anticipated that the Level 2 SFRA will be applied to the following areas

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| • Camber                             | existing development boundary wholly in FRA    |
| • Rye Harbour                        | existing development boundary wholly in FRA    |
| • Winchelsea Beach                   | existing development boundary wholly in FRA    |
| • Pett Level and Marsham Flatlands   | existing development boundary wholly in FRA    |
| • Normans Bay                        | existing development boundary partially in FRA |
| • Rye (Dry Island)                   | existing development boundary partially in FRA |
| • Winchelsea (Dry Island)            | existing development boundary partially in FRA |
| • Robertsbridge & Northbridge Street | existing development boundary partially in FRA |
| • Etchingham                         | existing development boundary partially in FRA |
| • Crowhurst                          | existing development boundary partially in FRA |
| • Bodiam                             | village in countryside but wholly in FRA       |
| • Jurys Gap                          | settlement in countryside but wholly in FRA    |
| • East Guldeford                     | settlement in countryside but wholly in FRA    |

It is anticipated that a Level 2 SFRA will not be required for Bexhill as it is proposed that the strategic growth area (and any other proposed development) will avoid flood Zones 2 and 3.



The Council, as the relevant competent authority, has carried out the first stage of Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document in accordance with the Habitats Directive.

The Assessment provides a screening to examine whether the Core Strategy is likely to have any significant impacts on European designated conservation sites, either alone or in combination with other projects and plans, in view of the European site's conservation objectives. The Assessment:

- Provides details of the Plan and its proposals
- Identifies European sites within and outside the Plan area that may potentially be affected by the Core Strategy
- Identifies the characteristics of these European sites and their conservation objectives
- Identifies whether the Core Strategy, alone or in combination with other relevant plans or projects is likely to have a significant impact on the European sites

The Assessment has been undertaken following a precautionary approach in accordance with the Habitats Directive and examines all European sites within the District boundary and within 15km of the District boundary.

The following potential impacts have been identified and trigger the requirement to proceed to the next stage of Appropriate Assessment:

- Dungeness SAC:
  - Potential for impacts from housing provision and associated infrastructure on water quality and quantity that could affect the integrity of the site
  - Potential for impacts on species that forage outside the site's boundary
  - Potential for increased recreational pressure and disturbance that could affect the integrity of the site
  - Potential for changes in pollution levels from increased traffic levels related to housing provision and associated infrastructure
- Dungeness to Pett Level SPA and proposed Ramsar Site:
  - Potential for impacts from housing provision and associated infrastructure on water quality and quantity that could affect the integrity of the site
  - Potential for impacts on species that forage outside the site's boundary
  - Potential for increased recreational pressure and disturbance that could affect the integrity of the site
  - Potential for changes in pollution levels from increased traffic levels related to housing provision and associated infrastructure
- Pevensey Levels Ramsar Site :
  - Potential for impacts from housing provision and associated infrastructure on water quality and quantity that could affect the integrity of the site
  - Potential for changes in pollution levels from increased traffic levels related to housing provision and associated infrastructure
- Hastings Cliffs SAC:
  - Potential for increased recreational pressure and disturbance that could affect the integrity of the site

Natural England is the principal consultee for the Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy, they were consulted in February 2008 and their recommendations incorporated into the Screening Report.



## **Section 4 – Task A3 of the SA Process**

### **Task A3 – Identifying sustainability issues**

- 4.1 The SA guidance states “*The identification of sustainability issues (including environmental problems as required by the SEA Directive) is an opportunity to define key issues for the DPD and to develop sustainable plan objectives and options*”.
- 4.2 The identification of sustainability issues in Rother will be an on-going process rather than a single ‘event’. Views and information on the key issues for the District have been further informed through the Issues and Options stage of the Core Strategy’s preparation and will continue to be updated in light of the emerging suite of evidence based documents.
- 4.3 For the purposes of this Scoping Report, sustainability issues have been identified based upon:
- Key messages from the PPPSI review
  - The priorities in Rother Community Plan
  - The priorities in the Community Strategy for East Sussex
  - The baseline position as revealed by ‘Rother in Profile’ (Appendix 2)
  - The baseline position as updated (June 2008)
  - Knowledge gained through the preparation of the Rother District Local Plan
- 4.4 For simplicity, the issues have been categorised under environmental, social and economic headings although it is recognised that some issues will have implications across more than one of these broad categories.
- 4.5 The identified issues are reflected in the objectives set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework in the next section (Task A4).

## **ENVIRONMENT**

- 4.6 **Waste & Recycling** (Sustainability Appraisal Framework (SAF) Objectives 9, 16)  
One of the Rother Community Plan’s priorities relates to the need to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. The amount of household waste collected per person in Rother increased year on year between 2000 and 2004 but in 2005 the figure fell slightly to 407.6kg per person. The most recent figures as shown in the updated baseline table show a further reduction in household waste collected to 368.1kg per person for 2007/08 (unaudited). Recycling rates have been increasing steadily over the same period with 15.5% of the household waste collected in 2005 being recycled. Updated figures show a possible rise to 23.96% in 2007/08 (unaudited). A government target is for this to reach 33% by 2015.

- 4.7 **Landscape Quality** (SAF Objective 15) Over 80% of Rother District falls within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty reflecting its national landscape importance. A key issue is ensuring that this high landscape quality is maintained as well as enabling and encouraging people to value and enjoy the natural environment as a whole, an identified issue in the Community Strategy for East Sussex.
- 4.8 **Biodiversity** (SAF Objective 14) Biodiversity is, in short, the variety of life. The Biodiversity Action Plan for Sussex (July 1998) states, “conserving and enhancing biodiversity is now recognised as being a local, national and global responsibility.” Within Rother there are sites of European significance for nature conservation at the Pevensey Levels (Ramsar site) and in the Dungeness and Pett Level area (Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation). In addition there are nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest, principally around wetland areas near the coast and a number of more locally significant Sites of Nature Conservation Importance. A key issue is how overall biodiversity can be secured and enhanced and this is reflected as ‘an issue to be addressed’ in the Community Strategy for East Sussex.
- 4.9 **Built Environment** (SAF Objective 15) Rother benefits from a high quality built environment. The District has over 2,100 listed buildings and 10 Conservation Areas. Key considerations are, how such historic quality can be conserved and enhanced, and how good quality design including the efficient use of resources, can be incorporated into the design of future buildings and public spaces.
- 4.10 **Climate Change** (SAF Objectives 11, 12) Global climate change has been caused by the increase in greenhouse gases, particularly those released from fossil fuels. The climate change we expect in the next 30-40 years will be due to our past greenhouse gas emissions and climate change later this century will be determined by the emissions we allow now. Updated baseline information shows that CO<sub>2</sub> per capita is greater in the District than the county average, but lower than the average for the South East region.
- 4.11 In the South East we expect to see the greatest impact of climate change within the UK. Incidences of more extreme weather are expected with flash flooding, higher sea and air temperatures and the rising of sea levels. In Rother this may translate as increased surface run off from the High Weald causing flooding and impacts on the coastal areas from storms. The Community Strategy for East Sussex recognises that reducing our contribution to climate change and reducing the effects of flooding are key issues to be addressed.
- 4.12 Climate change will also have consequences on the environment, for example; “the character and composition of our woodland is likely to change, with new species assemblages developing, particularly in southern Britain where areas will become increasingly unsuitable for some woodland types such as acid oak birch woodland. In addition the climatic conditions for individual species will also change leading to the possible disappearance of some priority species (e.g. twinflower in native

pinewoods) and complex and unpredictable interactions developing amongst different species groups" (Forestry Commission 2007<sup>1</sup>).

- 4.13 **Water Quality** (SAF Objective 13) Bathing water quality at Rother's beaches has consistently met, and occasionally exceeded, European mandatory standards according to the Environment Agency's monitoring data. However the updated baseline shows that compared to neighbouring authority beaches such as Brighton, Eastbourne and Newhaven have superior bathing quality. The chemical and biological quality of river water in Rother is also monitored by the Environment Agency and in 2004, 89% of the samples taken were found to be of 'very good', 'good' or 'fairly good' quality. The updated baseline shows that the trend appears to be upward (2006 = 90.8%).
- 4.14 **Air Quality** (SAF Objective 10) An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) does not need to be designated in Rother at present however, the review and assessment process for air quality will continue.
- 4.15 **Prudent use of natural resources** (SA Objective 9) East Sussex has proportionally less Grade 1 and 2 classified agricultural land and this resource should be protected along with Grade 3a as this constitutes the best and most versatile agricultural land.

## SOCIAL

- 4.16 **Community Safety** (SAF Objective 3) Although Rother has generally low rates of criminal offences compared with the South East and England and Wales, the Rother Community Plan identifies community safety as a key local concern. As well as actual crimes, the issue encompasses anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.
- 4.17 **Children & Young People** (SAF Objectives 3, 5, 7) The Rother Community Plan highlights that, in many cases, the services and facilities for young people are in need of improvement. The issue of encouraging their wider participation in community life is also identified. A potential link between young people's disaffection and increases in anti-social behaviour, crime and fear of crime is also acknowledged. In respect of child poverty specifically, parts of Bexhill and an area of Rye fall within the top 20% most deprived areas in the country.
- 4.18 **Culture & Leisure** (SAF Objective 8) Cultural and leisure opportunities can have a role in improving the quality of people's lives by promoting healthy lifestyles, supporting community cohesion, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, supporting the economy and regeneration and contributing to environmental protection (Rother Community Plan). The updated baseline shows a downward trend in resident's satisfaction with theatres and concert halls, a steady trend in satisfaction with museums and a rise in visits per 1000 population to museums between 2000 and 2006.

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<sup>1</sup> Forestry Commission website: <http://www.7stanes.gov.uk/forestry/infid-6vll3j>

- 4.19 **Health** (SAF Objective 2) The Community Plan recognises that an overall improvement in the health of Rother's residents and a reduction in health inequalities are important objectives. The Bexhill and Rother Health Improvement Action Plan (2004 – 2006) identifies particular local priorities as being the prevention of accidents, social inclusion, improved services for carers, tackling organisational barriers and communication and the promotion of healthy living.
- 4.20 In addition, 22% of Rother's residents have a limiting long-term illness (2001 figures). The Community Strategy for East Sussex highlights the importance of supporting older people to live independently for as long as possible.
- 4.21 **Housing** (SAF Objective 1) Over recent years increases in average household incomes in Rother have not kept pace with house price rises, with the consequence that houses are becoming less and less affordable for local people. A Housing Needs Survey undertaken in 2005 revealed that there is an annual need for some 250 new affordable homes in the District. The provision of more affordable housing is an identified priority in the Rother Community Plan.
- 4.22 The number of people per household in Rother is, on average, 2.17. This rate is one of the very lowest in the South East and may be reflective of the age profile of the District whereby 32% of the population are over pensionable age (2004 figures).
- 4.23 **Transport & Accessibility** (SAF Objectives 7, 10) The Rother Community Plan identifies the need for transport improvements, particularly to improve access to education, job opportunities and health services. Access to services in rural parts of the District is particularly constrained whilst public transport services are generally limited. The 2001 Census revealed that more than 64% of journeys to work in Rother are by car whereas less than 7% are by bus or train.
- 4.24 Similarly at the county level it is recognised that access to services is constrained, in part, by the overall lack of broadband facilities across East Sussex.
- 4.25 **Deprivation** (SAF Objective 4) The 2004 Indices of Multiple Deprivation rank Rother as the 181<sup>st</sup> most deprived local authority area out of the 354 in England. There are pockets of more severe deprivation in parts of Bexhill and in the eastern wards of the District. The updated baseline shows that the district is now ranked 191<sup>st</sup> in the 2006/07 figures – showing a declining trend and worsening of the situation.

## ECONOMIC

- 4.26 **Education & Skills** (SAF Objectives 5, 6) Whilst educational attainment at GCSE level in Rother is relatively high at 64%, compared to 57% for East Sussex and 58% for the South East, opportunities for post 16 education are, on the face of it, more limited. The Community Strategy for East Sussex recognises that there is a need to raise educational aspiration and achievement whilst increasing lifelong learning opportunities is identified as an objective in the Rother Community Plan.

- 4.27 **Jobs** (SAF Objective 6) Whilst unemployment rates in Rother are low (1.8% of working age population in May 2006), average earnings for people working locally are lower than for East Sussex and the South East and a substantial proportion (40%) of local jobs are part-time. Rural employment opportunities need to be strengthened to help ensure a sustainable future for local rural communities (Community Strategy for East Sussex). Updated baseline shows unemployment as a percentage of population is higher in Rother (3.8% in 2001) than for East Sussex as a whole (0.9% in 2001) and the South East (3.3% in 2001).
- 4.28 **Local Economy & Regeneration** (SAF Objective 6) The Community Strategy for East Sussex identified building a prosperous local economy as a priority in view of the generally low wage rates, significant levels of employment in lower paid sectors and the fact that the county GDP is less than two thirds of the national average. Firms in Rother are generally quite small with 53% having less than 25 employees compared to 44% for East Sussex and 35% in the South East. The relative peripherality of the District, compounded by constrained strategic transport links, serves to affect Rother's economic fortunes.

**Section 5 – Task A4 of the SA Process**

**Task A4 – Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework**

- 5.1 This task is central to the SA process. The SA framework consists of social economic and environmental objectives, which provide a way of checking whether the LDF objectives are the most sustainable, and can be seen as a methodological yardstick against which the effects of a plan can be tested.
- 5.2 The first iteration of this SA Scoping Report relied heavily upon the Integrated Regional Framework (produced by SEERA) objectives also used in the SA Scoping Report for the South East Plan to help ensure consistency with this higher tier plan.
- 5.3 The IRF objectives were adapted in the main by the deletion of the regional perspective, to take account of the particular circumstances and issues in Rother District. An Objective was also added to relate to the District's urban and rural communities specifically. As a consequence the number of objectives was increased by 1 to 26.
- 5.4 During the updating of this Scoping Report, the SA Framework has been revised in line with SA Guidance to ensure that the number of sustainability objectives is manageable in view of its intended purpose to appraise the Core Strategy. It has been determined that some of the objectives could be amalgamated and some worked better as sub-objectives or decision-aiding questions. The revised SA Framework can be viewed in Table 4 below.
- 5.5 The indicators, attached to each objective in the Framework, enable the objectives to be measured in terms of their success and appropriateness. Most objectives have a number of indicators to best allow for the objectives and Plan to be monitored over time.
- 5.6 In some cases there have been difficulties in gathering meaningful data. However most of the indicators exist within Rother District Council documents such as the Annual Monitoring Report and Annual Performance Plan, and to a lesser extent the Community Strategy. Where there have been gaps, in the main the County Council database 'East Sussex in Figures' has provided the information.

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**Table 4 Sustainability Appraisal Framework for the Assessment of the Rother Core Strategy**

(Explanatory Note: The SA Framework (the SA Objectives collectively) seeks to progress the development of vibrant sustainable communities and therefore there is no single objective to “create and sustain vibrant communities”, it is considered that all the objectives work together to deliver this vision.)

	SA Objective To:	Decision-Aiding Questions	Indicators	Data source
SEA Directive topics: Population, Human Health				
1	Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	Does the option/policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver affordable, sustainable housing in both urban and rural, in keeping with local character</li> <li>• Support sympathetic accommodation of housing growth in sustainable locations</li> <li>• Balance housing delivery with community facilities and environmental capacity</li> <li>• Provide for an appropriate mix and range of housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average property price : earnings ratio</li> <li>• Number of affordable units annually</li> <li>• Number of completions</li> <li>• Number households on housing register</li> <li>• Total homeless in priority need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APP &amp; AMR</li> <li>• APP &amp; AMR</li> <li>• AMR</li> <li>• Housing Services</li> <li>• ES in Figures</li> </ul>
SEA Directive topics: Human Health				
2	Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health	Does the option/policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase accessibility to health facilities</li> <li>• Protect &amp; increase provision of and access to leisure including natural green space and cultural activities</li> <li>• Increase or improve PRoW network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Death rates</li> <li>• Life expectancy</li> <li>• Percentage of people with limiting long term illness</li> <li>• % new development within 30 minutes public transport of a GP and Hospital</li> <li>• access to natural or semi-natural green space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ES in Figures</li> <li>• ES in Figures</li> <li>• ES in Figures</li> <li>• AMR</li> <li>• PPG17 Audit</li> </ul>
3	Reduce crime and the fear of crime	Does the option/policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce actual levels of crime</li> <li>• Reduce fear of crime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recorded crime rates(by type) in Rother</li> <li>• % residents that feel fairly or very safe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APP/AMR</li> <li>• Community Strategy</li> </ul>



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	SA Objective To:	Decision-Aiding Questions	Indicators	Data source
SEA Directive topics: Population, Human Health				
4	Reduce deprivation and social exclusion	Does the option/policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected</li> <li>Reduce the number of children living in poverty</li> <li>Reduce the number of households in fuel poverty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% households in fuel poverty</li> <li>% working population claiming benefits</li> <li>Indices of multiple deprivation</li> <li>% population in deprived areas</li> <li>average gross annual earnings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEERA</li> <li>ES in Figures</li> <li>ES in Figures</li> <li>ES in Figures</li> <li>ES in Figures</li> </ul>
5	Raise educational achievement levels and develop the opportunities for lifelong learning	Does the option/policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the numbers of school-leavers achieving GCSE passes</li> <li>Increase numbers undertaking further and higher education</li> <li>Enhance opportunities for adult education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Levels of educational attainment (achievements key stage 2 level 4 or above)</li> <li>Number of students 16+ in full time education</li> <li>Levels of educational attainment % attaining 5 Grade A-C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ES in Figures</li> <li>ES in Figures</li> <li>ES In Figures</li> </ul>
6	Sustain economic growth and competitiveness and encourage innovation in higher value, lower impact activities	Does the option/policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stimulate economic revival in priority regeneration areas</li> <li>Provide a diverse range of jobs that meets local needs</li> <li>Support the rural economy</li> <li>Ensure the correct mix of skills to meet the current and future needs of local employers</li> <li>Encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector</li> <li>Increase provision of better quality jobs / skilled employment?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% unemployed for more than 1yr</li> <li>unemployment as % of population</li> <li>GVA per person</li> <li>Number of VAT registered business</li> <li>Amount of land for employment</li> <li>Loss of employment land to retail</li> <li>Permissions for B class uses</li> <li>Tourism business turnover</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APP</li> <li>APP</li> <li>ES in Figures</li> <li>Community Plan</li> <li>AMR</li> <li>AMR</li> <li>AMR</li> <li>Tourism SE Survey</li> </ul>
SEA Directive Topics: Population, Material Assets, Air, Climate Factors				
7	Improve accessibility to services and facilities for	Does the option/policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improve accessibility in the rural areas of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% new development within 30 minutes public transport of:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMR</li> </ul>



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	SA Objective To:	Decision-Aiding Questions	Indicators	Data source
	all ages across the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the District</li> <li>Support delivery of quality public transport</li> <li>Enhance the PRoW and cycle network</li> <li>Support the timely delivery of infrastructure needs associated with new development</li> <li>Encourage the provision of services and facilities in accessible locations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GP</li> <li>Hospital</li> <li>Primary &amp; secondary school</li> <li>Employment</li> <li>Major retail centre</li> <li>% completed retail, office &amp; leisure development in town centres</li> <li>Access to natural and semi-natural green space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMR</li> <li>PPG17 Open space assessment / Future AMR</li> </ul>
SEA Directive topics: Human Health, Cultural Heritage				
8	Encourage and facilitate increased engagement in cultural and leisure activities	Does the option/policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve accessibility to cultural and leisure activities</li> <li>Increase the number of cultural enterprises / organisations in the District</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Satisfaction with sport &amp; leisure facilities?</li> <li>Satisfaction with theatres &amp; galleries</li> <li>Visits to museums in Rother per 1000 population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APP</li> <li>APP</li> <li>APP</li> </ul>
SEA Directive topics: Material Assets, Air, Climatic Factors, Biodiversity, Soil				
9	Improve efficiency in land use and encourage the prudent use of natural resources	Does the option policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use land that has been previously developed in preference to Greenfield</li> <li>Re-use buildings and materials</li> <li>Protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% development on previously developed land</li> <li>Vacant private sector dwellings returned to occupancy</li> <li>Agricultural land classification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APP</li> <li>APP</li> <li>ESCC</li> </ul>
SEA Directive Topics: Air, Climatic Factors, Material Assets, Human Health				
10	Reduce road congestion and pollution levels and ensure air quality continues to improve by	Does the option/policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve air quality</li> <li>Improve travel choice</li> <li>Reduce the need for travel by car / lorry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background levels of air pollutants</li> <li>Number of AQMAs</li> <li>Commuting patterns in/out District</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ES in Figures</li> <li>Environmental Health</li> <li>ES in Figures</li> </ul>

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	SA Objective To:	Decision-Aiding Questions	Indicators	Data source
	increasing travel choice and reducing car usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the need to travel for commuting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mode of travel to work</li> <li>% PRoW signposted &amp; easy to use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ES in Figures</li> <li>ES Council Plan</li> </ul>
SEA Directive Topics: Climatic Factors, Material Assets				
11	Reduce emissions of Greenhouse gases	Does the option/policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce emissions through reduced travel, energy consumption</li> <li>Promote renewable energy generation</li> <li>Promote community involvement, understanding &amp; action on climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emissions of greenhouse gases</li> <li>% new development with renewable energy generation</li> <li>Renewable Energy capacity installed by type</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ES in Figures</li> <li>Future AMR</li> <li>AMR</li> </ul>
SEA Directive Topics: Climatic Factors, Material Assets, Water, Human Health				
12	Minimise the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to people and property	Does the option/policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the proportion of properties at risk of flooding in the District</li> <li>Promote adoption and use of SuDS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Properties at risk from flooding</li> <li>Planning permissions granted contrary to EA advice on flood defence grounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SFRA / EA</li> <li>AMR</li> </ul>
SEA Directive Topics: Water, Human Health, Material Assets				
13	Maintain, improve and manage water resources in a sustainable way	Does the option/policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect &amp; improve water quality</li> <li>Require the use of water efficiency measures</li> <li>Minimise the risk of pollution to water sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water consumption per household</li> <li>Quality of river water</li> <li>Rivers of Good or Fair chemical and biological water quality</li> <li>Bathing quality at beaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future AMR</li> <li>ES in Figures</li> <li>EA website</li> <li>ES in Figures</li> </ul>
SEA Directive topics: Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna				
14	Conserve and enhance biodiversity	Does the option/policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and enhance designated and locally valued habitats and species</li> <li>Prevent and reverse habitat fragmentation</li> <li>Provide opportunities for provision &amp; enhancement of green space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number &amp; area designated sites</li> <li>Condition of designated sites including SSSI in favourable, unfavourable recovering, unfavourable declining and unfavourable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMR</li> <li>AMR</li> <li>AMR</li> <li>Natural England</li> </ul>

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	SA Objective To:	Decision-Aiding Questions	Indicators	Data source
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish or maintain a network of protected areas to maintain both the distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of SNCIs</li> <li>Area of ancient semi-natural woodland</li> <li>Loss of hedgerow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPG17 Audit / Natural England</li> <li>Development Control</li> </ul>
SEA Directive Topics: Landscape, Cultural Heritage, Soils				
15	Protect and enhance the high quality natural and built environment	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure protection and enhancement of the AONB</li> <li>Protect or enhance sites &amp; features of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest (including conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments)</li> <li>Minimise adverse impact on landscape setting of towns and rural settlements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of Conservation Areas</li> <li>Buildings of Grade I and II* at risk</li> <li>Number of listed buildings</li> <li>Landscape character assessment (qualitative, contextual)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMR</li> <li>EH Register</li> <li>AMR</li> <li>ESCC LCA</li> </ul>
SEA Directive Topics: Material Assets				
16	Reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help reduce waste and facilitate recycling in construction and operation</li> <li>Encourage composting</li> <li>Encourage development self-sufficient in waste management</li> <li>Support recovery of energy from waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tonnage &amp; % of recycled household waste</li> <li>Waste collected per person (kg)</li> <li>% change in household waste collected per year</li> <li>% household waste composted</li> <li>% household waste landfilled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APP</li> <li>APP</li> <li>APP</li> <li>ESCC Waste BVPI Report</li> <li>ESCC Waste BVPI Report</li> </ul>

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**Section 6 – Task A5 of the SA Process**

**Task A5 – Consulting on the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal**

- 6.1 Consultation at the scoping stage is to ensure that the Sustainability Appraisal will be sufficiently robust enough to support the rigorous process of applying Sustainability Appraisal to the LDF.
- 6.2 Rother District Council consulted the Environment Agency, the Countryside Agency, English Nature and English Heritage on the original Scoping Report and their comments were taken on board in the second revision of the Scoping Report and are presented in Appendix 3.
- 6.3 Comments received from Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency on revision two of the Scoping Report are documented in the table below and have been incorporated into this Scoping Report Final Revision.

Comment	Response	Where in Report
<b>The Environment Agency – email response from Claerwyn Hughes (17.01.08)</b>		
The EA are happy with the revisions made	Duly noted	N / A
<b>English Heritage – email response from Alan Byrne Historic Areas &amp; Planning Adviser Kent &amp; East Sussex Team (08.02.08)</b>		
I can confirm that it provides a suitable framework for consideration of the historic environment aspects of the sustainability appraisal of the Rother LDF. All the appropriate sources of baseline data are included and that relevant documents are included; I am not aware of any others that may be included at this time	Duly noted	N / A
<b>Natural England – formal letter (emailed) response from Rebecca Pearson Environmental Planning Advisor (08.02.08)</b>		
Section 1.5.7 We note this section which applies to appropriate assessment and would advise that the following is incorporated such that it reads:  Stage 1 Screening: determining whether the plan either alone or ‘in combination’ with other plans and projects – is likely to have a significant effect on the interest features of a European site, either directly or	Amended accordingly	Section 1.5.7

indirectly.		
Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment: determining whether in view of the site's conservation objectives, the plan either alone 'in combination' with other plans and projects – would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site(s). If it doesn't or if any adverse impact can be adequately mitigated for such as modifying a policy or proposal, further to consulting Natural England and JNCC, the plan can proceed.	Amended accordingly	Section 1.5.7
We would advise that under the heading conserve and enhance biodiversity that reference is made to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the NERC Act 2007. We would also advise their inclusion into Appendix 1 with reference to statutorily protected sites and protected species.	Reference to CROW now made and CROW Act reviewed in context review	Table 3 and Appendix 1
Natural England would strongly advise that the Environmental section more clearly incorporates the protection of natural landscapes such as AONB's and that the provisions of PPG7 and the High Weald AONB management plan are clearly referenced. Throughout the document each section dealing with the natural and built environment concentrates strongly on the built environment leaving the natural environment lacking in detail. We note however that the Sustainability Appraisal Framework does include further detail regarding the natural environment. This is not echoed, however, throughout the document.	Duly noted. Key messages from context review now revised to read: "Protect the historic environment and landscape"	Table 3
We would welcome the incorporation of the following target as presented on page 28 to be implemented into the LDF. "To establish a network of protected areas to maintain both the distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats." Natural England would suggest that such a target would encompass the provisions of PPS9 and the protection of networks of natural habitats. We would welcome the provision of a policy to both identify and protect networks of natural habitats in Rother's LDF. We strongly support the recognition of this in the Framework Table (reiterated later).	Duly noted. Target added to table in Appendix 1 in "LDF implications" column and into SA Framework decision-aiding questions	Appendix 1  Table 4 – SA Framework
P30 For clarity the UKBAP identifies a suite of habitats and species to be conserved and enhanced. This does not relate to energy efficiency but calls for the identification of these habitats and species, and for the adoption of action plans to implement their	Amended accordingly	Appendix 1

## Rother District Council

conservation and enhancement, with a view to halting their decline. This section should be amended with appropriate wording for this legislation.		
<p>PPS9-we would advise that reference is made to protected species and key protected and BAP habitats within Rother's district e.g. ancient woodland. Reference should also be made to the protection of networks of natural habitats.</p> <p>Again no clear mention is made in this section of AONBs and landscape designations. Natural England advises that this is revised.</p>	<p>Amended accordingly</p> <p>PPS9 makes no reference to AONB or landscape Landscape picked up under CROW addition raised earlier</p>	<p>Appendix 1</p> <p>N / A</p>
<p>Appendix 2 Baseline</p> <p>Page 51 2 Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health PPG17- We would advise that reference is made to the benefits of access to a high quality natural environment for recreation and well being.</p> <p>Page 56 14 Conserve and enhance biodiversity This should include Local Nature Reserves within Rother District, BAP habitats and species, and protected species.</p> <p>15 Protect and enhance the high quality natural and built environment No reference is made to protection of the natural environment although it is referenced clearly in Rother in Profile. Once more landscape designations should be clearly included here.</p>	<p>Reference now made to access to natural and semi-natural open/green space</p> <p>Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre monitors BAP species and habitats</p> <p>Related indicators under biodiversity objective serve as proxy for AONB state of health e.g. stock of ancient woodland and loss of hedgerows</p>	<p>Appendix 2</p> <p>N / A</p> <p>N / A</p>
<p>Sustainability Appraisal Framework for the assessment of Rother Core Strategy.</p> <p>Natural England would suggest that the promotion of the enjoyment of the natural environment is strongly included. This could for example, have a decision aiding question such as does the option/policy improve access to natural green space? We would also advise that this is linked to the provision of green infrastructure and that appropriate policies are secured to this end. Such policies if appropriately designed can also adhere to the requirements of PPS9.</p>	<p>Noted. Decision aiding question already asks if option would improve access to open space – wording changed to read: natural and semi-natural green space.</p>	

<p>Indicators for this section could include Natural England's recommends that people living in towns and cities should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•An accessible natural green space less than 300 metres (in a straight line) from home</li> <li>•Statutory Local Nature Reserves provided at a minimum level of one ha per thousand people</li> <li>•At least one accessible 20 ha site within 2km of home; one accessible site within 5km of home; and one accessible site of 500 ha within 10km of home. This is also applicable to Objective 7</li> </ul> <p>Natural England would encourage the inclusion of the percentage of homes with SUDS as an indicator for sustainable development and water conservation. Such methods can also provide biodiversity benefits such as the creation of wildlife habitats and safeguarding water resources.</p> <p>Objective 14 Natural England welcomes the target to prevent and reverse habitat fragmentation. This is key to promoting viable natural habitats into the future, having clear parallels with the need to provide for climate change. Please find attached Natural England's supporting statement for the adoption of Green Infrastructure/multifunctional ecological network policies within LDFs.</p> <p>At present no clear indicators are presented to this end such as the area of habitat links secured. The provision of a multifunctional green network would contribute towards both the requirements of PPS9 and PPG17.</p> <p>Natural England would again advise that clear reference is made to key BAP habitats and species and statutorily protected species.</p> <p>We would also advise that targets such as no loss of ancient woodland are set and tied into strong policy.</p> <p>The indicator of Condition of designated sites should also include unfavourable declining and unfavourable.</p> <p>Objective 15 We note that this section provides the required detail</p>	<p>Monitoring in line with government core indicators and PPG17 Audit</p> <p>SuDS not always applicable/appropriate to every development. Notwithstanding this SuDS encouraged in new development. Monitoring maybe picked up through Code for Sustainable Homes monitoring.</p> <p>Duly noted. Statement received.</p> <p>Monitoring framework needs to be manageable and realistic.</p> <p>Duly noted.</p> <p>Duly noted.</p> <p>Amended accordingly</p>	<p>Table 4 SA Framework</p>
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for how the Sustainability Appraisal will account for Landscape designations and would advise that these are incorporated throughout the document and appendices.	Duly Noted and amendments through report as above	Various as above
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## Appendix 1

### List of relevant policies, plans, strategies and programmes

Those highlighted in yellow are additional documents identified during the updating

Title	Date
<b>International</b>	
Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change	1997
The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development	2002
<b>European Union</b>	
European Spatial Development Perspective	1999
European Strategy on Sustainable Development	2001
European Communities Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/09/EEC)	1979
EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC	1992
The Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)	1999
The Air Quality Directive Framework Directive (1996/62/EC)	1996
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	2000
<b>National</b>	
Securing the Future – The UK Sustainable Development Strategy	2005
UK Climate Change Programme	2006
UK Air Quality Strategy (DEFRA)	2000
The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future	2001
Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW)	2000
Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England	2002
Waste Strategy for England	2007
Making space for water Taking forward a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England	2005
State of the Environment Report	2006
PPS 1 Creating Sustainable Communities	2005
PPS 3 Housing	2006
PPG 4 Industrial Commercial Development and Small Firms	1992
PPS 6 Planning for Town Centre	2005
PPS 7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas	2004
PPG 8 Telecommunications	2001
PPS 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	2005
PPS 10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management	2005
PPS 12 Local Development Frameworks	2004
PPG 13 Transport	2001
PPG 15 Planning and the Historic Environment	1994
PPG 16 Planning and Archaeology	1990
PPG 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation	2002
PPG 20 Coastal Planning	1992
PPG 21 Tourism	1992
PPS 22 Renewable Energy	2004
PPS 23 Planning and Pollution Control	2004
PPG 24 Planning and Noise	1994

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PPS 25 Development and Flood Risk	2006
<b>Regional</b>	
Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9)	2001
Regional Transport Strategy	2004
Strategy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	2004
Tourism and Related Sport and Recreation	2004
Strategy for energy efficiency and renewable energy	2004
Sustainable Communities in the South East	2003
South East Regional Housing Strategy 2006-2009	2006
Regional Economic Strategy 2002-2012	2002
Action for Biodiversity in the South East	
Seeing the Woods for the Trees – Regional Forestry Framework	2004
South East Region Social Inclusion Statement (SEERA)	2002
Draft Regional Spatial Strategy – The South East Plan	2005
<b>Sub regional / County</b>	
Sussex Learning & Skills Council Annual Plan 2006 – 2007	2006
Pride of Place – a community strategy for East Sussex	2003
East Sussex & B/H Structure Plan 1991 – 2011	1999
East Sussex and B & Hove Waste Local Plan	2006
East Sussex and B & Hove Minerals Local Plan	1999
East Sussex Local Transport Plan (LTP2)	2006
Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan	1998
Hastings and Bexhill Area Investment Framework Annual Performance Plan 2007-2008	2007
South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan	2006
Environment Agency Catchment Flood Management Plan: Rother and Romney (in progress)	2007
Rother Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy	2006
High Weald AONB Management Plan	2004
<b>Local / District</b>	
Rother District Local Plan	2006
Rother Community Plan	2004
Rother Corporate Plan	2006
Rother Economic Regeneration Strategy 2004 – 2009	2004
Rother Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-2008	2005
Rother Cultural and Leisure Strategy	2006
Rother District Council Housing Strategy 2004-2009	2004
Rother Environmental Policy Statement	current
Rye Conservation Area Appraisal	2006
Battle Conservation Area Appraisal	2006
Bexhill Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal	2004
Sedlescombe Conservation Area Appraisal	2004
<b>Neighbouring Authority Local Plans</b>	
Hastings Local Plan	2004
Approved Non-Statutory Wealden District Local Plan	2005
Shepway Local Plan	2006
Ashford Borough Local Plan	2000
Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan	2006

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### Task A1 Identification of Other Relevant Plans, Policies, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives (PPPSI)

**Table Documenting the PPPSI Review**

Document	Relevant Objectives and/or targets and indicators	Implications for the LDF	Implications for the SA
<b>International</b>			
Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change (1997)	Limit the emissions of 6 greenhouse gases including: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulphur hexafluoride. <b>Target: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5% of 1990 levels by 2008-12. UK has an agreement to reduce emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008/12 and a national goal to a 20% reduction in CO2 emissions below 1990 levels by 2010.</b>	Policies to support overall objectives and requirements.	The causes of greenhouse gas emissions should be addressed and incorporated into the appraisal.  SA Objective 11
The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	Issues: Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production which include the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing corporate social responsibility</li> <li>Increase use of renewable energy resources, energy efficiency and advanced energy technologies</li> </ul> Protect and manage the natural resource base and particularly sustainable water resources management	Policies that encourage increased use of renewable energy resources and more efficient use of energy and water.	SA Objective to increase use of renewable energy resources and more efficient use of energy and water.  SA Objective 9 and 11
<b>European</b>			
European Spatial Development Perspective (May 1999)	Emphasises the importance of achieving, equally in all regions of the EU, the three fundamental goals of European policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>economic and social cohesion</li> <li>conservation and management of natural resources and the cultural heritage</li> <li>more balanced competitiveness of the European territory</li> </ul>	LDF should have a sustainable vision and provide sustainable spatial policies.	These goals must be pursued simultaneously and their interactions taken into account.  Applies to all SA Objectives
European Strategy on Sustainable Development (2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure a better quality of life for present and future generations</li> <li>Ensure future policy making is more coherent and cost effective</li> <li>Promote technological innovation and stronger involvement of</li> </ul>	LDF should have a sustainable vision and provide sustainable spatial policies supporting economic growth with social progress and protection of the environment.	Applies to all SA Objectives

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	<p>civil society and business in policy formulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies for sustained economic growth should support social progress and respect the local environment</li> <li>• <b>Target – by 2010 deterioration of EU's biodiversity should be stopped</b></li> </ul>		
European Communities Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/09/EEC)	<p>The long term protection and conservation of all bird species naturally living in the wild within the European territory of the Member States (except Greenland). Requires measures to preserve sufficient diversity of habitats for all species of wild birds and the conservation of habitats of certain particular rare species and migratory species. <b>Target – Reverse the long term decline in populations and farmland and woodland birds by 2020</b></p>	<p>Do not hinder the protection, management and control of species naturally occurring wild birds. Protect wildlife-designated areas e.g.: SPAs.</p>	<p>Include sustainability objectives to conserve sufficient of the habitats important to wild birds.</p> <p>SA Objective 14</p>
EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve fauna and flora and natural habitats of EU importance</li> <li>• Establish a network of protected areas to maintain both the distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats.</li> <li>• Ensure biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats of wild flora and fauna</li> <li>• Take into account economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics</li> </ul>	<p>Consider how the LDF can maintain and restore natural habitats to improve biodiversity. Adopt target to establish a network of protected areas to maintain both the distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats</p>	<p>Identify relevant habitats and consider appropriate measures to protect these species and habitats in the appraisal. Include SA Objectives to conserve important natural habitats to improve biodiversity.</p> <p>SA Objective 14.</p>
The Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)	<p>To prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular the pollution of surface water, groundwater, soil and air, and on the global environment, including the greenhouse effect, as well as any resulting risk to human health, from the landfilling of waste, during the whole life-cycle of the landfill.</p> <p><b>Targets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>By 2010 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 75% of that produced in 1995</b></li> <li>• <b>By 2013 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 50% of that produced in 1995</b></li> <li>• <b>By 2020 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 35% of that produced in 1995.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Consider how the LDF can contribute to reducing waste to landfill.</p>	<p>Include SA Objective to reduce waste generation and disposal and address the waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.</p> <p>SA Objective 16</p>
The Air Quality Directive Framework Directive (1996/62/EC)	<p>Sets a framework for how the UK must monitor and report ambient levels of air pollutants. The UK has been divided into zones and agglomerations within which the pollutants will be monitored. Daughter Directives:</p>	<p>Consider how the LDF can contribute to improving air quality and reducing air polluting activities.</p>	<p>Include SA Objective to address air quality. Monitor against targets.</p>

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	<p>Directive 99/30/EC sets <b>ambient air limit values for nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, lead and particulate matter.</b></p> <p>Directive 2000/69/EC sets <b>ambient air limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide.</b></p> <p>Directive 2002/3/EC sets ambient air limit values for ozone</p>		SA Objective 10
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<p>The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is the most substantial piece of EC water legislation to date. It requires <b>all inland and coastal waters to reach “good status” by 2015.</b> It will do this by establishing a river basin district structure within which demanding environmental objectives will be set, including ecological targets for surface waters.</p>	Develop policies that consider sustainable use of water and that mitigate the effects of floods and droughts.	<p>Ensure SA Objectives include those relevant to the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>SA Objective 13</p>
<b>National</b>			
Securing the Future – The UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	<p>Guiding Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Living Within Environmental Limits</b> Respecting the limits of the planet’s environment, resources and biodiversity</li> <li>• <b>Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society</b> Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities</li> <li>• <b>Achieving a Sustainable Economy</b> Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all</li> <li>• <b>Promoting Good Governance</b> Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society</li> <li>• <b>Using Sound Science Responsibly</b> Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence</li> </ul> <p>Priorities for Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable consumption and production</li> <li>• Climate change and energy</li> <li>• Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement</li> <li>• Sustainable Communities</li> </ul>	Consider policies that will lead to sustainable communities with a focus on the sustainable use of natural resources.	Consideration of these aims of sustainable development in policy making will help achieve all of the SA / SEA objectives.
UK Climate Change Programme (2006)	<p>To ensure that the UK is secure in its delivery of its international <b>target to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to 12.5% below 1990 levels over 2008-2012.</b></p>	The LDF should include policies to promote use of renewable energy resources and promote energy efficiency, to reduce congestion and traffic pollution	The SA objectives should include an objective to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

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		and promote sustainable alternatives to the car.	SA Objectives 10 & 11
UK Air Quality Strategy (2000)	<p>The National Air Quality Strategy sets air quality standards and objectives for eight key pollutants to be achieved between 2003 and 2008. For seven of these pollutants local authorities are charged with the task of working towards the achievement of the objectives in their areas in a cost effective way through the Local Air Quality Management Regime. The Air Quality Strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map out as far as possible future ambient air quality policy in the UK in the medium term</li> <li>• Provide best practicable protection to human health by setting health based objectives for air pollutants</li> <li>• Contribute to the protection of the natural environment through objectives for the protection of vegetation and ecosystems;</li> </ul>	These aims and objectives should be reflected in the overall objectives of the LDF.	<p>Potential impacts on air quality, noise and light pollution and congestion.</p> <p>SA Objective 10</p>
The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future (2001)	<p>The historic environment embraces the landscape as a whole, both urban and rural, and the marine archaeology sites around our shores. Heritage continues to be a massive draw for tourists. As such it makes a major contribution to the economy and underpins huge numbers of jobs, importantly in rural and deprived communities as well as in traditional economic centres.</p> <p>Vision:  <i>"Deliver more attractive towns and cities; a prosperous and sustainable countryside; world-class tourist attractions; new jobs; and learning, vibrant and self-confident communities."</i></p> <p>The Government looks to local authorities to adopt a positive approach to the management of the historic environment within their area and the monitoring of its condition.</p>	Consider the importance of the historic environment in the objectives and policies for the Plan. The LDF has the opportunity to make significant statement about the quality of the heritage in Rother District which is of particular national importance.	<p>SA objective should include the protection of the high quality historic landscapes and built environment.</p> <p>SA Objective 15</p>
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW)	Creates a new statutory right of access to open country and registered common land, modernising the rights of way system, giving greater protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), providing better management arrangements for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), and strengthening wildlife enforcement legislation	Acknowledge the importance of biodiversity and the protection of designated sites and protected species and ensure policies reflect the Act.	SA Objective to enhance and protect biodiversity in particular designated sites and landscape quality in particular the AONB.
Biodiversity strategy for England (2002)	The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) is the UK response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which was signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The plan describes the UK's biological resources and details how these resources may be	The LDF should include policies to conserve and enhance habitats and species.	The SA Objectives should include objectives to conserve and enhance biodiversity SA Objective 14

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	protected. The UKBAP identifies a suite of habitats and species to be conserved and enhanced and calls for the identification of these habitats and species and for the adoption of action plans to implement their conservation and enhancement, with a view to halting their decline		
Waste Strategy for England (2007)	<p>The new strategy builds on Waste Strategy 2000 (WS2000) and the progress since then but aims for greater ambition by addressing the key challenges for the future through additional steps. The Objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• decouple waste growth (in all sectors) from economic growth and put more emphasis on waste prevention and re-use</li> <li>• meet and exceed the Landfill Directive diversion targets for biodegradable municipal waste in 2010, 2013 and 2020</li> <li>• increase diversion from landfill of non-municipal waste and secure better integration of treatment for municipal and non municipal waste</li> <li>• secure the investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill and for the management of hazardous waste</li> <li>• get the most environmental benefit from that investment, through increased recycling of resources and recovery of energy from residual waste using a mix of technologies</li> </ul> <p><b>Targets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>recycling and composting of household waste – at least 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020</b></li> <li>• <b>recovery of municipal waste – 53% by 2010, 67% by 2015 and 75% by 2020</b></li> </ul>	Consider how the LDF can contribute to reducing waste arisings and waste to landfill and increase reuse, recycling and composting.	<p>Include SA Objective to reduce waste generation and disposal and address the waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.</p> <p>SA Objective 16</p>
Making space for water Taking forward a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England (2005)	<p>Aim: to manage risks by employing an integrated portfolio of approaches which reflect both national and local priorities, so as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce the threat to people and their property</li> <li>• deliver the greatest environmental, social and economic benefit, consistent with the Government's sustainable development principles</li> </ul>	Ensure the SFRA informs and guides policy formulation.	<p>Take account of the SFRA.</p> <p>SA Objective to minimise the risk of flooding.</p> <p>SA Objective 12</p>
State of the Environment Report (2006)	The state of the environment in the South East is fragile. Our energy use is increasing, the amount of total waste we produce is growing and we have seen more cases of illegal waste dumping. The population is growing and new development brings increasing	Include policies to require new development to take account of resource use, waste, pollution, wildlife, energy and water	Ensure there are SA Objectives to minimise the environmental impacts of developments, especially by



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	<p>demands on the environment. The EA through this report is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging new and existing development to include measures to reduce energy and water use</li> <li>• Reducing waste, increasing re-use and recycling and other waste management options that divert waste away from landfills</li> <li>• Ensuring that water resources availability and river water quality are properly considered in the South East Plan</li> <li>• Helping to reduce environmentally-damaging water demand through licensing and management of water abstraction</li> <li>• Continuing to ensure that emissions from regulated sources in the South East comply with set EU and UK standards</li> <li>• Devising methods to improve air quality monitoring techniques through work led by local authorities</li> <li>• Carrying out the Regional Transport Strategy as part of Regional Planning Guidance. This aims to shift the huge reliance on cars for our transport in the region, in the longer term</li> <li>• Using Air Quality Management Areas and their improvement plans to tackle local air quality hot-spots</li> <li>• Taking part in the Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership, Sussex Air Quality Steering Group, and the Air Quality Strategy Review and assessment process led by local authorities</li> </ul>	efficiency.	<p>ensuring efficient use of energy and water.</p> <p>SA Objectives 13, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16</p>
PPS1 Creating Sustainable Communities (2005)	<p>Planning in Rother District should facilitate and promote sustainable patterns of urban and rural development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve the quality of life</li> <li>• Contributing to sustainable economic growth</li> <li>• Protecting and where possible enhancing the natural and historic environment and the quality and character of the countryside, and existing successful communities</li> <li>• Ensuring high quality development through good design</li> <li>• Ensuring that development supports existing communities and contributes to the creation of safe, accessible, sustainable communities</li> </ul>	<p>Plans should pursue sustainable development in an integrated manner promoting outcomes in which environmental, economic and social objectives are achieved over time.</p> <p>Provide a sustainable vision which underpins the Spatial Objectives and include sustainable spatial policies</p>	Relevant to many of the SA Objectives.

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PPS 3 Housing (November 2006)	<p>This PPS reflects the Government's commitment to improving the affordability and supply of housing in all communities, including rural areas, informed by the findings of the Affordable Rural Housing Commission. The delivery of housing in rural areas should respect the key principles underpinning this PPS, providing high quality housing that contributes to the creation and maintenance of sustainable rural communities in market towns and villages. The Government is seeking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To achieve a wide choice of high quality homes, both affordable and market housing, to address the requirements of the community.</li> <li>• To widen opportunities for home ownership and ensure high quality housing for those who cannot afford market housing, in particular those who are vulnerable or in need.</li> <li>• To improve affordability across the housing market, including by increasing the supply of housing.</li> <li>• To create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas, both urban and rural.</li> </ul>	The LDF should ensure the delivery of decent affordable homes in sustainable communities where people want to live and work. This can be achieved by ensuring a wide choice of housing types, a better balance between housing demand and supply and sustainable communities.	<p>Include a SA Objective to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent sustainably constructed, affordable home.</p> <p>SA Objective 1</p>
PPG4 Industrial Commercial Development and Small Firms (1992)	<p>The aim is to encourage continued economic development compatible with governmental environmental objectives. New development can be encouraged in locations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise the length and number of trips by motor vehicle</li> <li>• Can be served by energy efficient modes of transport</li> <li>• Will not add unacceptably to congestion</li> <li>• Access roads appropriate to the length of journey</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic growth must be balanced with environmental quality.</li> <li>• Include objectives to support a diverse economy, to promote the vitality of urban centres, to reduce health inequalities and reduce the need to travel by motor vehicle.</li> </ul> <p>SA Objectives 2, 3, 4, 6, 7-11, 14, 15</p>
PPS6 Planning for Town Centres	<p>This PPS covers town centres and principal town centre uses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote vital and viable city, town and other centres</li> <li>• Plan for the growth of and promote / enhance existing centres, by focusing development in such centres and encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all.</li> </ul>	Policies should promote vital and viable town centres and other centres to enhance consumer choice to meet the needs of the whole community.	<p>Assess the overall approach to future retail development and specifically anticipated growth due to regeneration opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the implications of a sequential approach to</li> </ul>

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			<p>retail provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take account of the sequential approach in assessing proposals maps</li> </ul> <p>SA Objectives: 4, 6, 7, 9,</p>
PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)	<p>The policies in this PPS apply to country towns and villages, rural business development and rural services, and the wider, largely undeveloped countryside. Key national objectives are to raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas through the promotion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thriving, inclusive and sustainable rural communities</li> <li>Sustainable economic growth and diversification</li> <li>Local distinctiveness</li> <li>A high level of protection for the most valued environment such as AONB</li> </ul>	The LDF should address the needs of the rural communities whilst affording a high level of protection to the AONB and other areas under environmental designations.	<p>The appraisal should be informed by baseline data detailing the needs of rural communities and environmental protection areas.</p> <p>SA Objectives: 1, 2, 4, 7, 15</p>
PPG8 Telecommunications (2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum</li> <li>Protect public health</li> <li>Ensure the public has a wide range of choice for services</li> <li>Protect the countryside and urban areas</li> <li>Consider proposed applications for their significance as part of national network</li> <li>Authorities should not seek to limit competition between operators and should not question the need for the proposed development</li> </ul>	Policies should facilitate the growth of telecommunications systems while minimising environmental impact and protecting public health.	<p>Include SA Objective that will ensure environmental impact is minimised.</p> <p>SA Objectives: 14, 15</p>
PPS9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005)	<p>It applies to urban and rural areas, international and national sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and areas that may not have specific statutory protection but are deemed important wildlife habitats. Key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans and policies should integrate biodiversity and geological diversity with other considerations</li> <li>To conserve, restore and enhance the diversity of wildlife and geology. Ensure protection of protected species and key protected habitats such as ancient woodland</li> <li>To accommodate biodiversity within new development,</li> </ul>	LDF policies should aim to maintain, enhance or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including incorporating features into developments.	<p>Include SA Objective to maintain and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests.</p> <p>SA Objective 14</p>

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	<p>recognising the link between nature conservation and a sense of wellbeing in the community. This corresponds with biodiversity's role in supporting economic diversification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The protection of ancient woods and veteran trees from further loss and damage</li> <li>• To seek ways of reversing fragmentation of habitats.</li> </ul>		
PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (2005)	<p>Promote sustainable waste management by providing facilities for the re-use, recovery and disposal of waste and ensuring that opportunities for incorporating re-use/recycling facilities in new developments are properly considered. Minimise adverse environmental impacts resulting from the handling, processing, transport and disposal of waste by driving waste management up the waste hierarchy addressing waste as a resource and looking to disposal as a last option but one that must be adequately catered for.</p>	<p>Ensure policies do not conflict with ESCC Waste Local Plan; manage economic growth while promoting / implementing the waste hierarchy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct policy influence upon LDF to provide for economic growth in jobs, space and output</li> <li>• Balance economic growth with environmental quality.</li> <li>• Include objectives to support sustainable waste management, a diverse economy, to reduce health inequalities and reduce the need to travel by motor vehicle.</li> </ul> <p>SA Objectives: 2, 10, 11, 16</p>
PPS12 Local Development Frameworks (2004)	<p>PPS12 sets out the Government's policy on the preparation of local development frameworks. The key aims of the system are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexibility</li> <li>• Strengthening community and stakeholder involvement</li> <li>• Front loading</li> <li>• Sustainability Appraisal</li> <li>• Programme Management</li> <li>• Soundness</li> </ul>	<p>Produce policy that is flexible with early stakeholder / community engagement.</p>	
PPG13 Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote more sustainable transport choices by shaping the pattern of development and influencing the location, scale, density, design and mix of land uses</li> <li>• Reduce the need to travel and the length of journeys</li> <li>• Make it safer and easier for people to access jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling</li> </ul>		<p>Reducing the need to travel and especially the use of the private car, while promoting social inclusion will help achieve sustainable objectives. The SA / SEA objectives should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing the need to travel by private car</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving accessibility of key services to local communities</li> <li>Reducing air pollution</li> <li>Improving health</li> <li>SA Objectives: 2, 7, 10, 11</li> </ul>
PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment (1994)	Historic remains are to be valued and protected for their own sake, as a central part of our cultural heritage and sense of national identity. This includes listed buildings, conservation areas, designated historic parks and gardens.	LDF should try to reconcile the need for economic growth with the need to protect the natural and historic environment.	SA / SEA objective to preserve and enhance the historic environment. Identify and map key areas or designated sites to be included in the appraisal. SA Objective 15
PPG16 Planning and Archaeology (1990)	Archaeological remains should be considered a finite resource and planned for accordingly.	LDF should try to reconcile the need for development with the interests of conservation including archaeology.	Identify archaeological remains in the Borough. SEA/ SA objective to protect or enhance the historic environment. SA Objective 15
PPG17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create local networks of high quality and well managed and maintained open spaces, sports and recreation facilities to help create urban environments that are attractive, clean and safe</li> <li>Promote social inclusion and community cohesion through well planned and maintained open spaces and good quality sports and recreational facilities</li> <li>Promote health and well being through open spaces and sports and recreational facilities</li> <li>Promote sustainable development by ensuring that open space, sports and recreational facilities are easily accessible by foot and cycle and larger facilities by public transport</li> </ul>	LDF should try to create local networks of high quality, well maintained open spaces, sports and recreational facilities that are accessible by sustainable modes of transport.	SA Objective to include ensuring the community has access to well maintained open space and sports and recreation facilities.  SA Objectives: 2, 7, 8
PPG20 Coastal Planning (1992)	Local planning authorities will need to consider how best to define the coastal zone for their areas. This should be based on local circumstances and the key coast-related planning issues to be covered in their planning policies. Local planning authorities should recognise that on-shore development can often have an impact off-shore. Policies should seek to minimise development in areas at risk from flooding, erosion and land instability. The degree	The LDF should protect, conserve and, where appropriate, improve the landscape, environmental quality, wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities of the coast.	SA Objectives to manage water resources in a sustainable way; protect and enhance biodiversity and landscape and adapt to effects of climate change.

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	<p>of risk involved will have to be carefully considered and policies will specifically be needed to control or restrict development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in low-lying coastal areas;</li> <li>• on land close to eroding cliffs or other eroding coastlines; and</li> <li>• on land in coastal areas subject to instability</li> </ul>		Sa Objectives: 11, 13, 14, 15
PPG21 Tourism (1992)	<p>The tourism industry should flourish in response to the market, whilst respecting the environment that attracts visitors but also has far wider and enduring value.</p> <p>To achieve sustainable development that serves the interests of both economic growth and conservation.</p> <p>Facilitate and encourage development and improvement in tourist provision, while tackling any adverse effects of existing tourist attractions and activity.</p>	The LDF should develop policies that allow tourist industry to respond to the market and also respect the environment.	<p>Include SA Objective to encourage the development of a buoyant sustainable tourism sector.</p> <p>SA Objective 6</p>
PPS22 Renewable Energy (2004)	<p>Policies should promote and encourage, rather than restrict the development of renewable energy resources.</p> <p><b>UK target to generate 10% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010, and 20% by 2020.</b></p>	LDF should encourage the use of renewable energy resources.	<p>Include SA Objective to promote the use of renewable energy.</p> <p>SA Objective: 11</p>
PPS23 Planning and Pollution Control (2004)	<p>Prevent harmful development and mitigate the impact of potentially polluting developments over the medium to long term. Reduce air and water pollution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use brownfield / contaminated land sites to maintain or enhance biodiversity</li> <li>• Ensure pollution and planning control remains distinct but complementary and encourage joined up working</li> <li>• Use the precautionary principle approach when there is a lack of certainty as to the effects of a decision or action</li> </ul>	LDF policies should prevent harmful development and try to mitigate the impact of potentially polluting developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include water and air quality in SA / SEA objectives.</li> <li>• Consider the pathway and receptor links in the pollution chain</li> <li>• Consider pollution control through the planning system at a strategic level</li> </ul> <p>SA Objective: 13, 9, 10</p>
PPG24 Planning and Noise (1994)	<p>Provides advice on how the planning system can be used to minimise the adverse impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development or adding unduly to the costs and administrative burdens of business.</p>	The LDF should minimise the impacts of noise as far as possible without unreasonably restricting development or burdening business. Ensure that, where practicable, noise-sensitive developments are separated from major sources of noise. Where this is not possible, to control or reduce noise levels, or to mitigate the	<p>Mitigation measures that might be used in the SEA / SA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engineering: reduction of noise at point of generation and protection of surrounding noise-sensitive</li> <li>• Lay-out: adequate distance between source and noise-sensitive building or area; screening by natural barriers, other buildings, or</li> </ul>

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		impact of noise.	<p>non-critical rooms in a building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative: limiting operating time of source; restricting activities allowed on the site; specifying an acceptable noise limit.</li> </ul>
PPS25 Development and Flood Risk (2006)	<p>All forms of flooding and their impact on the natural and built environment are material planning considerations. Avoid, reduce and manage flood risk by taking full account in decisions on plans and applications of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>present and future flood risk, involving both the statistical probability of a flood occurring and the scale of its potential consequences, whether inland or on the coast</li> <li>the wider implications for flood risk of development located outside flood risk areas</li> </ul> <p>Prepare Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), as freestanding assessment that contributes to the Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan.</p>	<p>Frame policies for the location of development that avoids flood risk to people and property where possible, and manage any residual risk, taking account of the impacts of climate change. Only permit development in areas of flood risk when there are no reasonably available sites in areas of lower flood risk and benefits of the development outweigh the risks from flooding</p>	<p>Take account of the SFRA in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy. Include SA Objective to minimise risk of flooding and promote adaptation measures.</p> <p>SA Objective: 12</p>
<b>Regional</b>			
Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9) (2001)	<p>The main principles that should govern the continuing development of the Region are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban areas should become the main focus for development through making them more attractive, accessible and better able to attract investment</li> <li>Greenfield development (namely, on previously undeveloped land) should normally take place only after other alternatives have been considered, and should have regard to the full social, environmental and transport costs of location</li> <li>The pattern of development should be less dispersed with more sustainable patterns of activity, allowing home, work, leisure, green spaces, cultural facilities and community services to be in closer proximity</li> <li>Economic opportunities should be increased by raising skills levels and reducing the disparities between different parts of the Region</li> </ul>	<p>Development should be concentrated in accessible urban areas. Policies should aim to provide sufficient housing and affordable housing and ensure the right mix of size and tenure and sustainability in terms of social, environmental and economic issues.</p>	<p>SA Objectives should encompass the objectives of RPG9.</p> <p>SA Objectives: 1-16</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient housing, and in particular affordable housing, should be provided for all who need to live and work in the Region, to encourage social inclusion and avoid pressure for housing in adjoining regions</li> <li>• The development of housing should be more sustainable, providing a better mix of sizes, types and tenures, having regard to the structure of households and people's ability to access homes and jobs</li> <li>• Development should be located and designed to enable more sustainable use of the Region's natural resources, in the supply of food, water, energy, minerals and timber, in the effective management of waste, the promotion of renewable energy sources and to assist in reducing pollution of air, land and water;</li> <li>• There should be continued protection and enhancement of the Region's biodiversity, internationally and nationally important nature conservation areas, and enhancement of its landscape and built and historic heritage;</li> <li>• The life of the countryside and rural communities should be sustained through economic diversification which respects the character of different parts of the Region and enables sustainable agriculture and forestry;</li> <li>• Access to jobs, services, leisure and cultural facilities should be less dependent on longer distance movement and there should be increased ability to meet normal travel needs through safe walking, cycling and public transport with reduced reliance on the car</li> <li>• Transport investment should support the spatial strategy, maintaining the existing network, enhancing access as part of more concentrated forms of development, overcoming bottlenecks and supporting higher capacity and less polluting modes of transport</li> </ul>		
Regional Transport Strategy (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate urban renaissance and foster social inclusion.</li> <li>• Reduce the wider environment, health and community impacts associated with the transport system</li> <li>• To improve strategic road and rail links</li> <li>• To support economic development</li> <li>• To take forward transport infrastructure proposals required</li> </ul>	LDF should conform to policies and proposals in the Transport Plan.	Possible SA/SEA monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mode of travel to work</li> <li>• Freight mode share per tonne</li> <li>• Growth rate of road traffic volume</li> </ul>



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	<p>too support development in the growth areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop road and rail links that improve inter and intra-regional connectivity</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement in rural transport</li> </ul> <p>SA Objectives: 4, 6, 9, 10</p>
Strategy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (2004)	<p>The strategy sets out a vision for the South East that includes a target that, “<b>by 2026, at least 16% of the region’s electricity generation will be provided from renewable resources.</b> This will be achieved through well-designed development that reflects the tenets of sustainable development and encourages new business and employment’.”</p>	<p>LDF should encourage the use of renewable energy resources.</p>	<p>The issue of energy efficiency and renewable energy should be reflected in the SA / SEA objectives, targets and indicators.</p> <p>SA Objective: 11</p>
Tourism and Related Sport and Recreation (2004)	<p>Sets out seven policies, with the overall objective of promoting a more sustainable pattern of tourism development through integrated tourism planning and management.</p>	<p>LDF should consider of particular relevance the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TSR1 Coastal Resorts</li> <li>TSR2 Rural Tourism</li> <li>TSR4 Tourism attractions</li> <li>TSR5 Tourism Accommodation</li> <li>TSR6 Visitor Management</li> </ul>	<p>The performance of the Strategy will be monitored using the following tourism indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visits to tourist info centre</li> <li>Visits to 1066.com website</li> <li>Tourist accommodation rates</li> </ul> <p>SA Objective: 6</p>
Sustainable Communities in the South East (2003)	<p>The document identifies the key issues for communities in the South East as housing supply, affordability of housing and transport. Key actions to be pursued in the region include: reverse the trend of falling housing completions; accelerate the level of new completions in growth areas; and develop the South East Regional Housing Strategy.</p>	<p>Include policies that lead to an increase in housing completions.</p>	<p>The right of everyone to have a decent home could be reflected in the SA objectives and the issues raised by the document will inform the appraisal. SA Objective: 1</p>
South East Regional Housing Strategy (2006-2009)	<p>Sets out a vision that everyone should have the right to a decent home and that people should have a choice in the home they wish to live in. It sets out three aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality and choice in housing for everyone in the South East</li> <li>Sustainability in terms of quality of life and the local environment</li> <li>Continuity in the positive work, which is already taking place in local authorities, social landlords and house builders in the South East</li> </ul>	<p>LDF policies should aim to give choice in housing that is sustainable in terms of quality of life and the local environment.</p>	<p>SA Objectives should ensure that new housing promotes quality of life and sustainable communities giving consideration to the local environment. SA Objective should also ensure sufficient choice and quantity of housing. SA Objective 1</p>
Regional Economic Strategy (2001-2012)	<p>The RES sets out a 10-year framework for delivering the region’s economic aspirations based on the vision of “A prosperous region delivering high quality of life and environment for everyone, now and in the future”. The strategy promotes ‘smart growth’ and this comprises five objectives: competitive business; successful</p>	<p>The LDF should aim to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an overall strategic policy to promote economic growth</li> </ul>	<p>Five overall objectives should be reflected in the SA Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitive business</li> </ul>

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	people; vibrant communities; effective infrastructure; and sustainable use of natural resources. The introduction to the RES identifies three key problems facing the South East – argued to be symptomatic of the region's success – transport congestion, skills shortage and lack of affordable housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a policy to promote economic 'smart' growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successful people</li> <li>Vibrant communities</li> <li>Effective infrastructure</li> <li>Sustainable use of natural resources</li> <li>Look to balancing the South East targets with economic growth objectives for Rother District</li> </ul> SA Objectives: 5, 6, 7, 9, 10,
Action for Biodiversity in the South East	It provides a framework that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets the objectives and targets which are needed as a first step to achieving sustainable biodiversity, including the region's share of national targets endorsed under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>Seeks to engage and develop joint working with regional organisations, planners and decision-makers to enable them to play a full part in achieving these targets by integrating biodiversity into their policies, plans and actions</li> <li>Provides a regional context for local biodiversity conservation planning</li> <li>Provides full details of the biodiversity indicators, targets and opportunities for delivery</li> </ul>	The LDF should recognise the importance of the designations within its boundaries and in the wider regional, national and international context. LDF policies should aim to maintain, enhance or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including incorporating features into developments.	The conservation and enhancement of biodiversity could be reflected in the SA / SEA objectives and indicators could relate to the number and condition of designated sites and also to habitats in the wider countryside. SA Objective: 14
Seeing the Wood for the Trees – Regional Forestry Framework (2004)	The framework describes a series of 10 outcomes where woodlands and forestry can make a real contribution to sustainable development in the region.	The LDF should protect ancient woodland from damaging development and land uses. Promote the effective management, and where appropriate, extension and creation of new woodland areas including, in association with areas of major development.	The conservation and enhancement of biodiversity could be reflected in the SA / SEA objectives and indicators could relate to the extent of woodland cover. SA Objective: 14
South East Regional Inclusion Statement (2002)	Long-term aim is the eradication of social exclusion in the region. <b>Targets:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Reducing the numbers of people within the region facing deprivation, in rural and urban areas alike</b></li> <li><b>By 2010, the gap between the 119 most deprived wards and the regional average will have narrowed by 10% as</b></li> </ul>	Develop the LDF in consultation with the LSP and in particular consider the engagement of hard to reach groups in the consultation process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young people in need –</li> </ul>	Include SA Objective to reduce social exclusion. SA Objectives: 2, 4

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	<b>measured by the Index of Local Deprivation</b>	<p>particularly those in public care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older people</li> <li>• Black and minority ethnic communities</li> <li>• Disabled people and issues of rural exclusion</li> </ul>	
Draft Regional Spatial Strategy – South East Plan (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for further measures to reduce economic and social disparities in the region</li> <li>• The need to plan positively for a reasonable level of housing development</li> <li>• The need for a substantial increase in the supply of appropriate affordable housing</li> <li>• The need to place increased emphasis on natural resource management and efficiency</li> <li>• The need to incorporate measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation</li> <li>• The need to protect and improve the best of the regions natural environment</li> <li>• The need to promote a sustainable balance between economic prosperity, environmental quality, social well-being and high quality of life</li> <li>• Need to ensure high quality development</li> </ul> <p>Regeneration Priority for the Sussex Coast - Sub-section E2</p>	LDF policies should aim to increase the supply of housing, including affordable and ensure efficient use of natural resources, mitigation for climate change, protection and improvement of natural environment and high quality development. The LDF should particularly take note of Sussex Coast sub-section E2 which identifies the sub-region as in need of extensive regeneration.	SA Objectives should encompass the aims of the RSS. SA Objectives 1-16
<b>Sub-regional / County</b>			
Sussex Learning & Skills Council Annual Plan 2006-2007	<p>Key priorities for the South East:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop the number, range and quality of Apprenticeships and other vocational opportunities – in skill centres and elsewhere – to increase the number of young people reaching Level 2 qualifications and above by the age of 19</li> <li>• To build a network of 30 accredited Action for Business Colleges as the core network of high quality, flexible providers of choice for delivering ‘Train to Gain’ and meeting employers’ needs</li> <li>• To implement a £1.4 billion capital improvement strategy to ensure that further education takes place in buildings fit for</li> </ul>	The LDF should recognise the importance in the region of improving the skills and qualifications levels of its residents.	<p>The following targets have been identified in the Plan and can be monitored through the AMR and SA/SEA monitoring framework.</p> <p>Reduce by at least 40 per cent the number of adults in the workforce who lack an NVQ Level 2 or equivalent qualifications by 2010.</p>

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	<p>the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to improve quality and levels of participation and achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With a view to 2007-08 and beyond, to develop the South East Action for Communities model with providers and other partners to ensure that there is a wide range of accessible learning provision in the community and that LSC funding reaches those most in need, including economically inactive people who wish to work.</li> </ul>		<p>Increase the proportion of young people and adults achieving a Level 3 qualification.</p> <p>SA Objective: 5, 6</p>
<p>Pride of Place An Integrated Community Strategy for East Sussex – Consultation Draft (Nov 2007)</p>	<p>Demonstrates how local organisations and agencies will work together to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area whilst safeguarding the prospects of future generations. To sustain communities that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vibrant, inclusive and safe: fair, tolerant and cohesive with a thriving culture and low crime</li> <li>• Well run: effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership</li> <li>• Healthy: promoting healthy lifestyles, good health and well-being and independence</li> <li>• Environmentally sensitive: protecting and enhancing our natural and built environment</li> <li>• Well designed and built: providing high quality places and spaces for people to live, work and spend their leisure time</li> <li>• Well connected: good transport services and communications linking people to jobs, health and other services</li> <li>• Prosperous: a thriving, diverse and sustainable economy</li> <li>• Well served: public, private and voluntary services that meet people's needs and are accessible to all, and</li> <li>• Fair for everyone: equality of opportunity for all, including new communities, now and in the future.</li> </ul>	<p>The LDF objectives and policies should provide the spatial element to implementing the community strategy. The Integrated Community Strategy has topic based chapters as well as area based chapters for each Local Authority area.</p>	<p>Key issues to be taken forward in the SA.</p> <p>SA Objectives: 1-16</p>
<p>East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Structure Plan (1991-2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To protect and enhance the environment</li> <li>• To achieve economic prosperity</li> <li>• To provide for local housing requirements and contribute to meeting regional demand</li> <li>• To regenerate urban areas</li> <li>• To achieve prosperous and attractive rural areas</li> <li>• To achieve better integration with mainland Europe</li> <li>• To seek integration of transport and reduce the need to</li> </ul>	<p>The Structure Plan will be replaced by the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (The South East Plan) under the changes enforced by the Planning &amp; Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</p>	<p>SA should encompass the aims of the Structure Plan.</p> <p>SA Objectives 1-16</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• travel</li> <li>• To match infrastructure and services to need</li> <li>• To match policies, priorities, resources and programmes</li> </ul>		
East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Waste Local Plan (2006)	The Waste Local Plan sets out a strategy for the management and disposal for all types of waste generated in the plan area; guidance for developers on the type and location of waste facilities required to achieve this strategy and a policy framework to assess acceptability of applications for planning permission.	<p>The LDF should consider in relation to waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Self Sufficiency</li> <li>• The Waste Hierarchy</li> <li>• The Proximity Principle</li> <li>• Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO)</li> <li>• The Precautionary Principle</li> </ul>	<p>Include SA Objectives to support sustainable waste management.</p> <p>SA Objective: 16</p>
East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Minerals Local Plan (1999)	The key issue in the Local Plan is to balance, through its proposals, the essential need for minerals against the protection of the environment and local amenity. Plan inset areas or relevance to the Rother District LDF: Bexhill; Rye Harbour and Winchelsea Beach; North East of Camber.	<p>The LDF should consider that development proposals should specify actions to be taken to compensate for any environmental losses; that the use of alternative materials and the reduction and recycling of wastes should be encouraged; and that greater controls should be sought on the use of high quality or scarce raw materials.</p>	<p>Include SA objectives to make prudent use of natural resources; protect the environment and social fabric of the Plan area and drive waste up the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>SA Objectives: 4, 6, 9-11, 14-16</p>
East Sussex Local Transport Plan (LTP2) (2006)	<p>Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve transport systems and services to facilitate business growth</li> <li>• widen sustainable transport choices and reduce harmful impacts on the environment</li> <li>• offer more accessible transport</li> <li>• reduce crime and the fear of crime, so that people feel safe when out walking or using public transport</li> <li>• provide for a healthier community by tackling pollution</li> <li>• provide safe, sustainable access to education</li> </ul>	The LDF should where possible seek to implement the policies and proposal in the LTP.	<p>Include SA Objectives and indicators relating to access to services, distances, mode of travel.</p> <p>SA Objectives: 3, 7 and 10</p>
Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan (1998)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain, and where practicable enhance, the wildlife and habitats that give Sussex its character and natural diversity.</li> <li>• To identify priority habitats and species which are important</li> </ul>	Ensure sites and policies do not detract from BAP objectives and make positive contributions	Include biodiversity objectives and indicators in the SA Framework.

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	<p>to us in Sussex and/or where we have a special responsibility to care for something which, is important on a national or international scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To set realistic, but ambitious, targets and timescales for priority habitats and species and to monitor progress of action plans against those targets</li> <li>• To ensure that biodiversity action continues as a joint initiative, evolving a dynamic framework for nature conservation</li> <li>• To raise public awareness and encourage involvement in biodiversity action</li> </ul>	towards BAP targets.	SA Objective: 14
Hastings and Bexhill area Investment Framework Annual Performance Plan 2007-2008	<p>The Hastings and Bexhill Economic Alliance is an unincorporated partnership whose objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drive forward strategic priorities for economic regeneration and economic inclusion in Hastings and Bexhill</li> <li>• to facilitate the co-ordination of all regeneration funding and to oversee the development and delivery of all economic regeneration action plans across the area, excluding those funded and delivered through the Hastings and Bexhill Task force</li> <li>• to develop programmes which underpin the delivery of objectives in, and actions arising from, the Hastings and Bexhill Task force's Five Point Plan</li> <li>• to make decisions on funding priorities</li> <li>• to co-ordinate the delivery and monitoring of economic targets contained within the Rother Community Strategy</li> </ul>	<p>LDF policies should support the delivery of the Economic Alliance objectives and provide the spatial dimension for this ongoing work.</p>	<p>SA Objectives should include the promotion of economic growth and inclusion; learning and skills; jobs and business growth; physical regeneration.</p> <p>SA Objectives: 4, 5, 6</p>
South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan (2006)	<p>The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale and long-term assessment of the risks associated with coastal flooding and erosion and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>The recommended present-day policies for this SMP provide a high degree of compliance with objectives to protect existing communities against flooding and erosion. The recommended long-term policies promote greater sustainability for parts of the shoreline where natural process and evolution provide a practical means of managing the coastline. However, the protection of the significant assets present along much of the shoreline remains a</p>	<p>The SMP should inform wider strategic planning. Sections 4 and 5 present location specific information relevant to the Rother coastline.</p>	<p>SFRA will inform the SA.</p> <p>SA Objective 12</p>

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	strong focus for the long-term sustainability of the economy and communities of this area.		
Environment Agency Catchment Flood Management Plan: Rother and Romney (2007 in progress)	The aim of the CFMP is to identify long-term, sustainable policies to manage flood risk within the catchment. These policies will form the basis for development of Strategy Plans, covering all or part of the overall catchment area, which will identify in more detail appropriate flood defence measures.	Carry out SFRA as part of SA. Policies and proposals to reflect results where appropriate. Flood zones identified on map. Consider inclusion of Sustainable Urban Drainage policy.	SFRA to be carried out And results taken account of in SA/SEA.  SA Objective 12
Rother Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2006)	The aim of this document is twofold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to present the abstraction licensing strategy for the Rother CAMS area for the next six years</li> <li>to outline the actions that the Environment Agency will complete during the next six years</li> </ul> <b>Target: 8 to 21% of current levels of per capita water consumption may be saved in new houses and up to 80% water savings can be made from businesses.</b>	Proposals and policies to improve efficiency of water use particularly in light of potential issues of climate change on water resources management: rainfall is becoming both more seasonal and of increasing intensity, so this could lead to higher runoff and less water being able to percolate into the aquifers which supply the bulk of public water supply in this area and saline intrusion of the Denge Gravels aquifer.	SA Objectives should include an objective to achieve sustainable water resources management.  SA Objective 13
High Weald AONB Management Plan (2004)	The primary purpose of the plan is to conserve and enhance the AONB, taking account of the needs of agriculture, forestry, rural industries and other economic and social needs of the community such as meeting the demand for recreation.	Conservation and enhancement of AONBs in the district through the LDF.	Indicator to assess impact of on AONBs – Landscape Character Assessment. SA Objective: 15
<b>Local / District</b>			
Rother District Local Plan (2006)	A summary of the key aims of the Plan are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that the environment is conserved and enhanced and that new development contributes to local character, cultural identity and amenities</li> <li>To ensure that there is adequate infrastructure and services to support thriving communities and facilitate new development</li> <li>To meet housing needs in the most sustainable manner, with particular regard to affordability and quality of housing</li> </ul>	The Rother District Local Plan is saved in its entirety upon adoption for at least a three-year period. Elements of it will subsequently be reviewed and updated with the preparation of DPDs. If policies are to be saved for a longer period, there will need to be a formal	Encompasses the full SA Framework.  SA Objectives 1-16



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To secure a more prosperous and diverse economy</li> <li>To promote a safe, efficient and sustainable transport system</li> </ul>	assessment as part of the Annual Monitoring Report in December 2008, and a request made for a 'direction' by the Secretary of State.	
Rother Community Plan (2004)	States the vision, which is concerned with achieving sustainable communities properly informed and engaged as part of effective local partnerships. Identifies priority areas for action and has associated outcomes that are the priority to achieve.	The LDF should provide the spatial element to delivering the Community Plan. Need to ensure alignment with this Plan and its goals.	Identifies 5 issues for local residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of traffic congestion</li> <li>Level of crime</li> <li>Road and pavement repairs</li> <li>Wage levels and cost of living</li> <li>The level of pollution</li> </ul> SA Objectives 1-16
Rother Corporate Plan (2006)	<p>The Corporate Plan will be the means by which the aspirations and needs of the District's residents, as described in the Community Plan, shape the District Council services. It will guide and influence the way in which the services are both planned and delivered. Council aims as stated in this Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Putting Customers First</li> <li>Delivering Value for Money</li> <li>Building Stronger, Safer Communities</li> <li>Working in Partnership</li> </ul>	Ensure the LDF is consistent with the Corporate Plan.	Opportunity to test and scope the objectives for their synergies and potential conflict in the production of the SEA / SA Objectives. SA Objectives 1-16
Rother Economic Regeneration Strategy (2004-2009)	<p>Service aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to broaden the base of the local economy by addressing town centre vitality, market town revival and rural isolation in a way that stimulates improvements in crime detection and prevention, health, housing and public space issues,</li> <li>to foster an economic environment that enables local businesses to thrive and expand, particularly in the sectors of high technology and tourism,</li> <li>to encourage overall business investment and growth in the district,</li> <li>to develop the appropriate structures for the delivery of regeneration projects,</li> <li>to lobby for support to under-performing areas of the district and to work with partners in programmes for the regeneration</li> </ul>	Consider land use recommendations in production of LDF including availability of new employment sites and training facilities to meet need. Carry out employment land availability assessment.	Identifies economic / employment performance indicators for each aim. Consider social and environmental issues related to economic issues. SA Objectives: 2, 4, 5, 6



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	<p>of these areas,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to improve the capacity of local communities in order that they can better solve their specific economic and social problems,</li> <li>to ensure the development of the local economy is carried out at a sustainable level and which balances the need for growth and development with the needs of the environment</li> </ul>		
Rother Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (2005-2008)	<p>The scope of this strategy is to undertake a local audit of crime and produce the strategy to reduce crime and disorder. This Strategy establishes both the National and Local Priorities; what quality of life issues to address and improve; and ways of measuring its success. Focuses on tackling a wide range of community safety issues through proactive planning, prevention, risk management and emergency response. Includes national and local targets for crime reduction</p>	Consider crime and disorder reducing factors in LDF.	Indicators monitoring levels of crime and disorder. SA Objective: 3
Rother Cultural and Leisure Strategy (2006)	<p>The purpose of this strategy is to set out a vision for cultural provision across the District and to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore what culture and leisure opportunities exist across Rother</li> <li>Understand local views on this provision</li> <li>Analyse what is done well and where improvement is needed</li> <li>Develop an action plan for the future</li> </ul> <p>Sets out the action plan under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access &amp; Transport.</li> <li>Information &amp; Learning.</li> <li>Community Well-being.</li> <li>Coast &amp; Countryside.</li> <li>Regeneration and tourism.</li> </ul>	Encourage accessibility to Cultural and leisure activities in LDF.	Ensure culture and leisure are covered by SA Objectives.  SA Objectives: 7, 8
Rother Housing Strategy (2004-2009)	<p>The purpose of the Council's Housing Strategy 2004/2009 is to show the results of research into the housing needs of Rother residents and to show how it is planned to meet those needs. Research has led to the development of three Objectives: Private Sector Housing Renewal, Providing Affordable Homes and Prevention of Homelessness. Each objective has associated targets.</p>	Seek to allocate new housing in sustainable locations and policies for appropriate mix and types of housing including affordable, incorporating good design.	Objectives/indicators to consider sustainable locations, use of previously developed land and appropriate mix and type of housing.  SA Objectives: 1, 2, 7, 9, 13
Rother Environmental Policy Statement	<p>Rother District Council is committed to the long term protection and continuous improvement of the environment, and the quality of life for its local community now and in the future.</p>	The LDF should aim to address these objectives for quality of life for the community and	Opportunity to test and scope the objectives for their synergies and potential

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	<p>In all the Council does, through the management of land, water and buildings and the services it provides and uses, it will use its best endeavours to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise waste and make the best use of resources by reducing, re-using, repairing and recycling.</li> <li>• Prevent and reduce pollution.</li> <li>• Reduce energy use and encourage energy efficiency.</li> <li>• Reduce water consumption.</li> <li>• Reduce the adverse environmental impacts of transport.</li> <li>• Purchase environmentally friendly products and services which are effective and consistent with our demands for quality at a reasonable price.</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance natural habitats and open spaces.</li> <li>• Provide safe and healthy working and living conditions.</li> <li>• Raise environmental awareness and promote local community action.</li> <li>• Influence decision making on environmental issues.</li> </ul>	continuous environmental protection.	conflict in the production of the SEA / SA Objectives. SA Objectives 2-5, 7-16
Rye Conservation Area Appraisal (2006)	A written and pictorial, factual and objective assessment of the special interest, character and appearance of Rye Conservation Area. Rye is an ancient citadel town of national historic importance and high architectural value. The assessment identifies and describes character areas including architectural detail, archaeology, streetscape and public realm, advertisements and shop fronts and landscape features. Overriding policy for Rye Conservation Area should be to preserve and enhance the existing qualities but not to inhibit development.	Serves as a basis for the formulation and evaluation of Development Plan policies	Ensure Objective to preserve and enhance the historical and architectural qualities of Rye.  SA Objective 15
Battle Conservation Area Appraisal (2006)	The initial development of the town of Battle may be attributed to the foundation of the Abbey by William I on the site of the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The town is rich in medieval history; of great significance in townscape terms is the survival of the original medieval property or 'burghage' plots. Overriding policy for Battle Conservation Area should be to preserve and enhance the existing qualities but not to inhibit development.	Serves as a basis for the formulation and evaluation of Development Plan policies	Ensure Objective to preserve and enhance the historical and architectural qualities of Battle.  SA Objective 15
Bexhill Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal (2004)	The appraisal has identified the key components which provide the Town Centre with its special identity. The features which combine to create its sense of place have survived the passage of time and	States intention to restore lost character. Serves as a basis for the formulation and evaluation	Issue: to reverse the erosion in character which has occurred

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	some thoughtless alterations remarkably well. This is especially so since an area like Bexhill Town Centre has not until quite recently been recognised as being special in any way.	of Development Plan policies	SA Objective 15
Sedlescombe Conservation Area Appraisal (2004)	A written and pictorial, factual and objective assessment of the special interest, character and appearance of Sedlescombe Conservation Area. Sedlescombe was an important Roman settlement for people winning and transporting iron. Post Roman a renewed dependence on river transport which was to last into the 18th century and provided a means of access during the second period of development of the Wealden iron industry. Strong possibility of good archaeological deposits being present.	Serves as a basis for the formulation and evaluation of Development Plan policies	Ensure Objective to preserve and enhance the historical and architectural qualities of Sedlescombe.  SA Objective 15
<b>Neighbouring Authority Local Plans</b>			
Hastings Local Plan (2004)	<p>The Local Plan concentrates on making the most of opportunities for change which can be identified within the existing urban framework, whilst at the same time protecting those areas which should be conserved for the benefit of Hastings' people now and in the future.</p> <p>Plan Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic regeneration – Town Centre</li> <li>• Economic regeneration – employment</li> <li>• Social regeneration – housing</li> <li>• Physical regeneration – environment</li> <li>• Integrated transport</li> <li>• Working with the community</li> <li>• Area policies for: town centre, seafront, central St Leonards, Old Town, West St Leonards, Broomgrove, Holmhurst St Mary</li> </ul>	LDF objectives and policies to be consistent with our neighbours.	Ensure cross-boundary issues considered in cumulative / synergistic assessment in Stage C.
Approved Non-Statutory Wealden District Local Plan (Dec 2005)	<p>A summary of the key aims of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve quality of life and equality of opportunities</li> <li>• Achieve a balance between development and conservation/ enhancement of the District's environment</li> <li>• Provide new housing, business and associated growth, looking to achieve the efficient use of land with good design and better accessibility</li> <li>• Meet the housing needs of the whole community, including affordable housing</li> <li>• Promote a healthy and diverse local economy</li> </ul>	LDF objectives and policies to be consistent with our neighbours.	Ensure cross-boundary issues considered in cumulative / synergistic assessment in Stage C.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote an efficient and sustainable transport system</li> <li>Ensure the provision for a full range of community facilities and services</li> </ul>		
Shepway Local Plan (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To move towards more sustainable patterns of development</li> <li>To concentrate new development in or adjoining the main urban areas, wherever possible, whilst protecting identified areas of open and undeveloped space with recreational or amenity value</li> <li>To improve people's employment opportunities and support the local economy</li> <li>To maintain an adequate supply of suitable housing and meet the challenges of affordability, dereliction and decay</li> <li>To support the vitality and viability of Folkestone Town Centre as the main retail, commercial and cultural centre</li> <li>To protect the countryside from inappropriate development and to safeguard areas with particular importance for landscape and nature conservation</li> <li>To enhance people's quality of life through meeting economic and social needs in a way that ensures the protection and enhancement of the environment and of resources for leisure, arts, recreation and sporting activities</li> </ul>	LDF objectives and policies to be consistent with our neighbours.	Ensure cross-boundary issues considered in cumulative / synergistic assessment in Stage C.
Ashford Borough Local Plan (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing development to make the best use of resources Borough-wide</li> <li>Protecting and improving the environment Borough-wide</li> <li>Responding to travel needs Borough-wide</li> <li>Limiting the impact of development Borough-wide</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of community facilities and infrastructure Borough-wide</li> <li>Encouraging high design quality Borough-wide</li> </ul> <p>Geographical policies for: Ashford, Tenterden, and the villages and rural areas.</p>	LDF objectives and policies to be consistent with our neighbours.	Ensure cross-boundary issues considered in cumulative / synergistic assessment in Stage C.
Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan (2006)	<p>The Planning Strategy relies on locating development appropriately within a hierarchy of settlements.</p> <p>3 Strategic Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect the unique, high-quality environmental character of the area and to promote enhancement by encouraging excellence in the quality of all development;</li> </ul>	LDF objectives and policies to be consistent with our neighbours.	Ensure cross-boundary issues considered in cumulative / synergistic assessment in Stage C.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To conserve finite, non-renewable resources such as land, energy, water, soil and air quality; and</li><li>• To retain and provide an appropriate level and distribution of development to meet identified housing, economic and community needs.</li></ul>		
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## Rother District Council

### Appendix 2 Baseline Data

The following table is the updated baseline, supplying monitoring information, trends and comparisons with other local authorities and nationally, for the indicators identified in the SA Framework. The traffic light colour coding indicates the relative performance of the indicator where green is performing well and red is underperforming.

Indicator	District Data	Regional / sub-regional Data	National data	Trend / Target	Data Source
<b>1. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</b>					
Average property price compared with average earnings	8.1 in 2006 8.93 in 2007	East Sussex: 7.54 in 2006 8.18 in 2007  South East: 6.55 in 2006 6.95 in 2007	England and Wales: 5.64 in 2006 5.96 in 2007	(2000) 4.3 district figure District has one of the higher ratios of average house prices to earnings and has increased over last 5 years. Increasing numbers of households in the District will find it difficult to afford to purchase a home	ESiF
% of affordable houses built annually	24% in 2006/2007	12% in 2006/2007	On average, more than 150,000 affordable homes were built each year in the 1950s and more than 100,000 in the 1960s and 1970s. This fell to 44,000 in the 1980s and 26,000 in the 1990s. Just 13,000 were built in 2003 and 17,500 in 2005. (CPRE)	District is performing better than the County as a whole, though still below the Government target of 40%.	ESiF
Number of housing completions	395 in 2006/2007	East Sussex: 1,514 in 2006/2007	Total number of new homes in 2006/7 = 185,000 (CPRE)	House building since 1991 has averaged 229 dwellings per year. Most of this in rural areas although present plans should shift the balance towards the towns and especially Bexhill.	ESiF
Number of	2,387 in 2004	East Sussex	No data	District numbers have been	ESiF

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Indicator	District Data	Regional / sub-regional Data	National data	Trend / Target	Data Source
households on housing register	1,362 in 2007	10,026 in 2005 12,416 in 2007		decreasing since 2004, whilst numbers in East Sussex generally have been increasing.	
Total homeless in priority need	47 in 2006/2007	East Sussex 648 in 2006/2007 South East 6,660 in 2006/2007	England 73,360 in 2006/2007	District numbers have significantly decreased since 2004 following the trend in the South East and England as a whole.	ESiF
<b>2. Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health</b>					
Life expectancy	2004 - 2006 Male: 78.2 Female 82.5	South East: 2004 - 2006 Male: 78.5 Female: 82.4	England and Wales: 2004 - 2006 Male: 77.3 Female: 81.6	Life expectancy in Rother District is above the national averages for males and females.	ESiF
Percentage of people with limiting long term illness	20.5% in 2001	East Sussex: 18.6% in 2001	England: 17.6% in 2001	Rother District has a greater percentage of people with limiting long term illness; this may be due to the proportion of elderly that reside in the District.	ESiF
Population within 20 minutes of sports facilities	27.3% in Dec 2006 25.7 in June 2007	East Sussex: 30.9% in Dec 2006 34.4% in June 2007 South East: 28% in Dec 2006 28.8% in June 2007	England: 32.2% in Dec 2006 33.6% in June 2007	Unlike nationally, regionally and for the county as a whole the population in Rother within 20 minutes of sports facilities is decreasing and falls well below national averages.	ESiF
<b>3. Reduce crime and the fear of crime</b>					
Recorded crime in Rother (all types) rate per 1,000 population	2003/04 – 2006/07 Violence against the person: 13.7 Sexual offences: 0.9 Robbery: 0.3 Burglary dwelling: 2.9 Theft of motor vehicle: 1.8 Theft from motor vehicle: 6.2	2003/04 – 2006/07 East Sussex: Violence against the person: 18.7 Sexual offences: 1.1 Robbery: 0.6 Burglary dwelling: 3.4 Theft of motor vehicle: 2.1	2003/04 – 2006/07 England and Wales: Violence against the person: 19.3 Sexual offences: 1.1 Robbery: 1.9 Burglary dwelling: 5.4 Theft of motor vehicle: 3.6 Theft from motor vehicle: 9.3	Rother District has significantly lower rates of crime than East Sussex for most types of crime and England and Wales for all types of crime	ESiF

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Indicator	District Data	Regional / sub-regional Data	National data	Trend / Target	Data Source
		Theft from motor vehicle: 6.2			
Percentage of residents who feel fairly or very safe	Sussex Police Authority: During day 97.3% after dark 70.4% in 2003/04 During day 98.6% after dark 72.6% in 2004/05 During day 98.1% after dark 71.6% in 2005/06		England average: During day 97.5% after dark 70.6% in 2003/04 During day 97.6% after dark 72.3% in 2004/05 During day 97.2% after dark 70.2% in 2005/06	Results from the Sussex Police Authority are generally comparable to the England average. There was a decrease in the percentage of residents who feel safe between 2004/05 and 2005/06.	ESiF
<b>4. Reduce deprivation and social exclusion</b>					
% Households in fuel poverty	Private Sector House Condition Survey 2007 estimated that there are 2,050 dwellings (5.5% of the private stock) where the household is in fuel poverty	No data	England: 5.1 million in 1996 1.7 million in 2001 1.5 million in 2005 (DEFRA Fuel Poverty Monitoring – Indicators 2007 Report) Over 4 million households in 2008 (according to the Citizens' Advice Bureaux (CAB))	District figure is lower than the national average (10%), but issue remains a priority because the number households in fuel poverty in the Rother district will increase in correlation with low incomes and the ageing population and the dramatic rise in energy bills. Government target of eradicating fuel poverty in vulnerable homes by 2010 and in all homes by 2016	RDC DEFRA CAB
Percentage of population of working age claiming key benefits	13.3% in Nov 2004 13% in May 2005 13.2% in Nov 2005 13.3% in May 2006 13.3% Nov 2006 12.9% in May 2007	East Sussex: 13% in Nov 2004 13% in May 2005 13.1% in Nov 2005 13.2% in May 2006 13.2% in Nov 2006 12.9% in May 2007	Great Britain: 14.6% in Nov 2004 14.6% in May 2005 14.6% in Nov 2005 14.6% in May 2006 14.5% in Nov 2006 14.2% in May 2007	The percentage of population claiming key benefits has remained relatively constant with a slight decrease between Nov 2006 and May 2007. District figures are well below figures for Great Britain and comparable with county figures	ESiF
Indices of multiple deprivation	Ranked 163 from a total of 354 districts in 2006/07 Ranked 181 <sup>st</sup> in 2004	East Sussex 101 out of 149 counties	No data	District ranking has worsened	ESiF
Mean household income	£28,400 in 2004	East Sussex: £29,400 in 2004	Great Britain: £29,400 in 2004	Mean household income is lower in the District than for the county as a	ESiF



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Indicator	District Data	Regional / sub-regional Data	National data	Trend / Target	Data Source
	£29,987 in 2006 £31,500 in 2007	£31,551 in 2006 £32,900 in 2007	£32,353 in 2006 £33,700 in 2007	whole and the average for Great Britain, furthermore the increase since 2004 in Rother (£3,100) is below the increase for East Sussex (£3,500) and more substantially below the National increase (£4,300).	
<b>5. Raise educational achievement levels and develop the opportunities for lifelong learning</b>					
Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 at Key Stage 2	77.5% in 2005 80.4% in 2006 80.0% in 2007	East Sussex: 77.1% in 2005 77.1% in 2006 80.0% in 2007	All areas: 76.8% in 2005 77.3% in 2006 80.0% in 2007	The District is comparable with East Sussex as a whole though there has been a slight decrease between 2006 and 2007	ESiF
Percentage of Students aged 16 plus in full time education	2001 2.7% aged 16 – 17 2.3% aged 17 - 74	No data	2.7% aged 16 – 17 4.3% aged 17 - 74	Data set for 2001 No trend figures available, figures are comparable with national averages for people aged 16-17 but lower for people 17-74.	ESiF
Percentage of working age population with no qualifications	10.1% in 2006	East Sussex: 9.9% in 2006 South East: 9.6% in 2006	England and Wales: 13.8% in 2006 Great Britain: 13.8% in 2006	There is a greater percentage of the working age population with no qualifications in Rother than in the County as a whole, but the figures are favourable compared to the national statistics.	ESiF
<b>6. Sustain economic growth and competitiveness and encourage innovation in higher value, lower impact activities</b>					
Percentage of unemployed who are long-term unemployed	1.3% in 2001	East Sussex: 0.3% in 2001 South East: 0.9% in 2001	England and Wales 1.5% in 2001	Figures are higher than the county and regional averages for long term unemployment, but lower than for England and Wales.	ESiF
Unemployment as percentage of the population	3.8% in 2001	East Sussex: 0.9% in 2001 South East: 3.3% in 2001	England and Wales: 5% in 2001	Unemployment is above that recorded for the county and region but lower than for England and Wales	ESiF

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Indicator	District Data	Regional / sub-regional Data	National data	Trend / Target	Data Source
GVA per person <sup>2</sup>	HMA 2006: GVA per resident in Hastings and Rother is equivalent to the regional average. Hastings and Rother have underperformed the rest of the South East in terms of growth in real GVA	East Sussex: 69 between 1995 and 2005 South East: 109 between 1995 and 2005	United Kingdom: 100 (standard)	Figures for the county show that compared to the region, which is above the national figure the county performs poorly for GVA per person. Since 1995 East Sussex has achieved the slowest growth in the region, at 27% (Alliance Trust South East Regional Report).	ESiF RDC HMA
Business start up and closures (annual percentage change in stock)	-1.1% in 1995 0.9% in 2000 1.8% in 2005 0.3% in 2006	East Sussex: -0.2% in 1995 1.4% in 2000 1.8% in 2005 1.4% in 2006 South East: 0.6% in 1995 1.9% in 2000 1.7% in 2005 2% in 2006	Great Britain: 0% in 1995 1.6% in 2000 2% in 2005 2.1% in 2006	Annual percentage change in stock shows that the District lags behind county, the region and Great Britain as a whole.	ESiF
Losses of employment land to residential	Actual = 0ha in 2006/07 Target = 0.3ha for 2006/07	No data	No data	Compares favourably to target	AMR
Industrial and business development commitments	In April 2006: Floorspace commitment = 9,384 sq m (0 under construction) Total land available = 32ha	In April 2006: Floorspace commitment = 103,118 (25,078 under construction) Total land available = 142ha	No data	Compared to Hastings, Lewes and Wealden, Rother has relatively little floor space committed though it has equal or more land available.	ESiF
Tourism business turnover	2006 = £241,013,000 2004 = £224,498,000 7% change	Hastings: 2006 = £211,050,000 2004 = £200,337,000	No data	Rising business turnover in tourism related activities – greater % change than Hastings	Tourism South East

<sup>2</sup> County indicator used pending the identification of an appropriate local indicator

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Indicator	District Data	Regional / sub-regional Data	National data	Trend / Target	Data Source
		5% change			Report 2006 <sup>3</sup>
<b>7. Improve accessibility to all services and facilities</b>					
% new development within 30 minutes public transport of facilities and services	(GP, hospital, schools, employment, major retail) April 2006 - March 2007: 3% meet all criteria; 81% meet all but A&E hospital criteria.	No data	99.5% of households are 30 minutes travel time to a GP (DFT Calculation of Core National Accessibility Indicators 2005 Report)	No target identified in AMR	AMR
% completed retail, office, leisure development in town centres	Only developments of 1,000 square metres and over are monitored (for SEERA returns). There were no such completions in 2006/07	No data	No data	No target identified in AMR	AMR
<b>8. Encourage increased engagement in cultural and leisure activities</b>					
Satisfaction with sport and leisure facilities in Rother	44% in 2000 53% in 2003 58% in 2006	Overall, 54% are satisfied with sports / leisure facilities and events (10% are very satisfied), and 8% are dissatisfied (2% very dissatisfied) (2003-2004)	2000/01 – 2003/04 Satisfaction with sport and leisure has remained constant at 54% (General Survey Initial Topline report, June 2004 ODPM).	Target 60% in 2009 and 65% in 2010 – results show District is moving towards its target	RDC PP ODPM ESCC
Satisfaction with theatres and concert halls	59% in 2000 46% in 2003 40% in 2006	Overall, 48% are satisfied with theatres concert halls (10% are very satisfied), and 5% are dissatisfied (1% very dissatisfied) (2003-2004)	2000/01 – 2003/04 decline in satisfaction with theatres and concert halls by 5% to 47% (General Survey Initial Topline report, June 2004 ODPM).	Target was 65% by 2006 – results show the District failed to meet its target and furthermore is showing a declining trend. Target for 2009 = 50%	RDC PP ODPM ESCC

<sup>3</sup> The Economic Impact of Tourism on Hastings, Rother & 1066 Country in 2006 Tourism South East 2006

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Indicator	District Data	Regional / sub-regional Data	National data	Trend / Target	Data Source			
Visits to museums in Rother per 1000 population & Satisfaction rate	309 in 2000 445 in 2004 569 in 2005 640 in 2006  47% satisfied in 2003 47% satisfied in 2006	Overall, 33% are satisfied with museums and galleries (5% are very satisfied), and 6% are dissatisfied (1% very dissatisfied). (2003 – 2004)	2000/01 – 2003/04 Decline in satisfaction with museums and galleries by 7% to 42% (General Survey Initial Topline report, June 2004 ODPM).	Numbers of people visiting museums in Rother is increasing; the District far exceeded the target for 2006 which was 275 visits. Satisfaction target for 2009 is 50%.	RDC PP ODPM ESCC			
9. Improve efficiency in land use and encourage the prudent use of natural resources								
Percentage of development on previously developed land	66% 2002/2003 74% 2003/2004 90% 2004/2005 90% 2005/2006	East Sussex: 92% in 2007	The national target of 60% of homes on brownfield sites by 2008 was achieved in 2000 (CPRE)	National target of 60% has been exceeded year on year	AMR			
Vacant private sector dwellings returned to occupancy	27 in 2005 (target 40) 29 in 2006 (target 40)	No data	No data	District is failing to meet its targets but has increased towards the target between 2005 and 2006. Target for 2007 reduced to 20 - current performance is above median.	RDC PP			
Agricultural land quality	Agricultural Land Quality	East Sussex		England		East Sussex has a smaller proportion of excellent and very good agricultural land – which should be protected. East Sussex has a larger proportion of good (Grade 3) agricultural land of which 3a should be protected.	ESCC	
		Area / ha	% all land	Area/ha	% all land			
		Excellent - (GRADE 1)	136	0.1	354,562			2.7
		Very Good - (GRADE 2)	4,450	2.6	1,848,874			14.2
		Good (GRADE 3)	104,140	60.9	6,290,210			48.2
		Poor - (GRADE 4)	37,618	22.0	1,839,581			14.1
		Very poor - (GRADE 5)	802	0.5	1,100,305			8.4
		10. Reduce road congestion; ensure air quality improves by increasing travel choice and reducing car usage						
Background levels of main air quality pollutants	No data	No data	No data		EA and ESiF			
Number of Air	0 in 2008 (none previously)	East Sussex:	No data	Air quality is being monitored close to	DfT			

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Indicator	District Data	Regional / sub-regional Data	National data	Trend / Target	Data Source
Quality Management Areas		1 in 2004 (Hastings)		Hastings for PM10 and in Rye for Ozone – current monitoring suggests levels are below triggers for AQMA.	website
Commuting patterns in/out District	1991-2001 In = 3024 Out = 3548 Net = -524	1991-2001 East Sussex: In = 4,530 Out = 9,679 Net = -5,149	No data	Rother has the lowest net flow of all the Districts in the county	ESiF
Mode of travel to work (%)	2001 Motor vehicle = 65.5% Public transport = 7.8% Foot or cycle = 12% Work at home = 14.2% Other = 0.4%	East Sussex: 2001 Motor vehicle = 65.9% Public transport = 9.4% Foot or cycle = 12.6% Work at home = 11.6% Other = 0.5%	England and Wales: 2001 Motor vehicle = 63.1% Public transport = 14.5% Foot or cycle = 12.8% Work at home = 9.2% Other = 0.5%	The District has a low use of public transport to travel to work compared to county and particularly national figures and high use of the motor vehicle.	ESiF
%PRoW sign-posted, easy to use	East Sussex annual survey (5% of total length) 52.08 2006/07 51.1% 2007/08		No data	Target 59% 2007/08 – failure to meet target and declining trend	ESCC
<b>11. Reduce emissions of Greenhouse gases</b>					
Emissions of greenhouse gases	2005 CO <sub>2</sub> per capita 7.8	2005 CO <sub>2</sub> per capita East Sussex = 6.5 South East = 8.2	2005 CO <sub>2</sub> per capita England = 9.0	CO <sub>2</sub> per capita is greater in the District than the county average, but lower than South East and England	ESiF
%new development with renewable energy generation	No data	No data	No data		RDC
Applications received for renewable energy on existing development	No data	No data	No data		RDC
<b>12. Minimise the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to people and property</b>					
Properties at risk from flooding	EA estimate some 3,092 properties are at risk to	No data	Around 5 million people in 2 million properties live in	Target is not to increase the number of properties at risk of flooding	SFRA

## Rother District Council

Indicator	District Data	Regional / sub-regional Data	National data	Trend / Target	Data Source
	flooding		flood risk areas in England and Wales.		
Planning permissions granted contrary to EA advice on flood grounds	Environment Agency has confirmed that monitoring data shows that in the period April 2006 to March 2007 there were no planning permissions granted contrary to their advice, on either flood defence grounds or water quality	No data	88% decisions in 2003-04 in line with agency advice. Proportion approved contrary to EA advice was < 12%, significant improvement from 2001-02 when proportion was 37%. Of the 323 granted against EA advice, 230 were for residential development of which 10 were for 'major' housing schemes. <i>Planning Portal</i>	Target would be for no permissions to be granted in the District contrary to EA advice of flood defence grounds	AMR
<b>13. Maintain, improve and manage water resources in a sustainable way</b>					
Total domestic water consumption per capita	169 litres per capita in 2004	East Sussex: 171 litres per capita in 2004	England and Wales: 154 litres per capita	Domestic water use in Rother is higher than the average usage in England and Wales and average within the county.	ESiF
Quality of river water, chemical and biological aspects	2006 % of river length Very good = 35.6% Good = 39.2% Fairly good = 16% Fair = 5.3% Poor = 3.8% Bad = 0%	East Sussex: 2006 % of river length Very good = 39.9% Good = 39.5% Fairly good = 16.4% Fair = 2.1% Poor = 2% Bad = 0%	England and Wales: 2006 % of river length Very good = 36.2% Good = 35.9% Fairly good = 16.7% Fair = 6.6% Poor = 3.7% Bad = 0.9%	River water quality in Rother is above that of the county as a whole with 74.8% of river length being of good or very good compared to 72.1% in the county. Furthermore there is a trend of improvement since 2004 – shown in Rother in Profile.	ESiF
Bathing quality at beaches	Normans Bay = 2 Bexhill = 2 Winchelsea = 1 Camber = 2	Local comparators: Hove = 1 Brighton = 1 Eastbourne = 1 Saltdean = 1 Newhaven = 1 Seaford = 1 Birling Gap = 1 Pevensey Bay = 2 St Leonards = 1 Hastings = 2		European Communities Directive 1 = Guideline pass 2 = Imperative pass 3 = Failure	ESiF
<b>14. Conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Rother</b>					
Number and area	2007	2007	2007	The data source for this indicator is	ESiF

## Rother District Council

Indicator	District Data	Regional / sub-regional Data	National data	Trend / Target	Data Source
of designated sites	40 units covering 1,484 ha 2006 102 units covering 2905ha	East Sussex = 462 units covering 13,121ha South East = 4,801 units covering 136,258ha	England = 21,801 units covering 1,076,571ha	showing a net loss of 1421 ha of SSSI – this record conflicts with RDC records which show an increase in area under SSSI designation.	
Condition of SSSIs	May 2008 40.5% = favourable 34.5% = unfavourable recovering 19.1% = unfavourable declining 5.2% = unfavourable no change 0.9% destroyed / part destroyed	East Sussex October 2007 33.2% = favourable 42.4% = unfavourable recovering 10.9% = unfavourable declining 13.3% = unfavourable no change 0.3% destroyed / part destroyed	England October 2007 44.7% = favourable 8.2% = unfavourable recovering 14.9% = unfavourable declining 32% = unfavourable no change 0.1% destroyed / part destroyed	The government target for 95% favourable or unfavourable recovering is not being met at the District level (75%)	ESiF
Number of Sites Nature Conservation Importance	Following a District-wide appraisal of wildlife sites, 60 SNCIs were designated in 1997 and are of local interest	No data	No data	No loss of SNCI	AMR
Area of ancient semi-natural woodland	From the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre August 2008 ~15% 7,757ha of Rother is ancient woodland Ancient semi natural = 5,311ha Replanted = 2,246ha	East Sussex 1984 (provisional) Approximately 44% of the county's woodland may be classified as ancient semi-natural.	Britain 1984 (provisional) 2 million ha woodland; 575,000 ha ancient; approximately 300,000 ha ancient semi-natural	Natural England (NE) are carrying out a review of ancient woodland and will advise Rother of quantity and condition in due course. Need to ensure no net loss of ancient woodland.	RDC NE
<b>15. Protect and enhance the high quality natural and built environment</b>					
Number of Conservation Areas	10	In June 2002 the South East had 1966 conservation areas	No data	No trend identified	RDC
Buildings of Grade I and II* at risk of	2007 = 1 (Grey Friars, Grade I and SAM)	1.9% of Grade I and II* for the South East 2007	Nationally, 3.2% of Grade I and II* list entries – 1 in	District performs well compared to the South East and especially nationally.	EH



## Rother District Council

Indicator	District Data	Regional / sub-regional Data	National data	Trend / Target	Data Source
decay	0.86% of Grade I and II* (a further 6 SAMs not listed as I or II*)	2.5% in 1999	30 – remain at risk of loss through neglect and decay. 2007	No trend identified, consider target to reduce the number on the at risk register	
Number of Listed Buildings	2,129 Listed Buildings, as at 31st November 2007. 45 of these are Grade I and 75 Grade II*. There are 13 listed streets and lanes and 3 listed forecourts.	In August 2002 the South East had 88,954 entries on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest	England has 30,544 buildings or groups of buildings listed Grade I and II*,	No trend identified	RDC EH
<b>16. Reduce waste generation and disposal and achieve the sustainable management of waste</b>					
Percentage of household waste collected for recycling	16.43% in 2006 23.96% in 2007/08  (2007/ 08 unaudited)	East Sussex: 13% in 2003/04 14.24% in 2004/05 16.7% in 2005/06 18.4% in 2006/07 21.2% in 07/08 (unaudited)	Household recycling rates grew to an average of 33.2% between October 2006 and September 2007 (provisional quarterly figures for July to September 2007 <a href="http://www.letsrecycle.com">www.letsrecycle.com</a> )	The District target for 2007 is 24% of household waste recycled or 9360 tonnes. National targets for reuse, recycling, composting 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020	RDC PP ESCC W&M AMR
Percentage change in kilograms of household waste collected per year	411 kg per person in 2004 407 kg per person in 2006 % change -0.8%  368.1kg pp in 2007/08 % change = -10.79%  (2007/08 unaudited)	East Sussex 2003/04 – 2006/07 +0.8% increase in household waste arising	England 1998-99 = ~480kg pp 2003-04 = ~510kg pp Approximate change +6.25% <a href="http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk">www.sustainable-development.gov.uk</a>	The District target for 2006 is 430 kg per person. The Council's performance is above median for all English Councils. The target for 2007 is set at 453 kilograms because there may be an increase as a result of the new contract where green waste will be collected. Unaudited figures show exceeding target.	RDC PP ESiF
Percentage household waste collected for composting	2004/05 – 2006/07 none 2007/08 = 5.16%  (2007/08 unaudited)	East Sussex: 7% in 2003/04 9.72% in 2004/05 10.1% in 2005/06 10.5% in 2006/07 11.6% in 07/08 (unaudited)	Comparing the periods 2006/07 with 2005/06:  94% of authorities recycled and composted more household waste	The District target for 2007 is 9% of household waste composted, which has not been achieved – but performance shows trend is moving towards achieving the target.	RDC ESCC W&M AMR <a href="#">DEFRA</a>



## Rother District Council

Indicator	District Data	Regional / sub-regional Data	National data	Trend / Target	Data Source
Percentage household waste collected for landfill	83.4% in 2006/07 51.2% in 2007/08 (2007/08 unaudited)	East Sussex: 80% in 2003/04 75.96% in 2004/05 72.8% in 2005/06 68.9% in 2006/07 56.9% in 07/08 (unaudited)	>70% January 2006 CPRE Policy Position Statement Waste <a href="http://www.cpre.org.uk/filegrab/waste-policy.pdf?ref=1784">www.cpre.org.uk/filegrab/waste-policy.pdf?ref=1784</a>	District figures show a decrease in the percentage of household waste collected for landfill. Note that this area is ENTIRELY controlled by the Waste Disposal authority - ESCC, and not in Rother's area of management.	RDC ESCC W&M AMR CPRE



## Rother District Council

## Local Development Framework

# Rother in Profile



October 2006

[www.rother.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.rother.gov.uk/corestrategy)

*This document presents a profile of Rother District today and the factors influencing change in its social, economic and environmental characteristics.*

*Its function is to provide a basis for discussion about the key issues to address in developing a spatial vision and strategic options as part of Rother District Council's Local Development Framework 'Core Strategy'.*

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## 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

### Purpose

By identifying the main spatial characteristics of the District, this Profile sets the scene for the consideration of future development and change in Rother.

It is intended as a reference source for public consultation on 'Issues and Options' for the new 'Core Strategy' that the Council is undertaking as part of its Local Development Framework (LDF).

Details of the Core Strategy 'Issues and Options' consultation are being advertised and can also be viewed on the Council's website [www.rother.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.rother.gov.uk/corestrategy) and at its Community Help Points.

### Scope

In accordance with Government guidance, this Profile embraces a broad range of social, economic and environmental characteristics. In particular, it seeks to:

- Identify the functional relationships between land uses and settlements, both within the Plan area and across a wider hinterland;
- Articulate the diversity and needs of local communities and of the whole Plan area;
- Define the local character and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape;
- Identify main transport linkages and levels of accessibility in the Plan area;
- Set out the key 'drivers of change' - these might be social, economic, demographic and environmental; or a combination of all four.

Regularly collected statistical data is used as far as possible in order to provide a consistency and continuity of monitoring information as well as for logistical reasons. It uses relevant data from LSP Action Plans' indicators, the LDF Annual Monitoring Report and the Council's Performance Plan, as well as the 'Integrated Regional Framework'. It also draws on the Audit Commission's 'Local Quality of Life Indicators' and makes extensive use of the '*East Sussex in Figures*' database.

This Profile will be a "living document" through the Core Strategy process, up-dated and refined to reflect the most significant characteristics – strengths and weaknesses – for Rother people.

The importance of the characteristics identified in this Profile will depend somewhat on your particular perspective. You are invited to comment on its scope as part of the current consultation on the LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options document. For further details about the consultation arrangements, either go to [www.rother.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.rother.gov.uk/corestrategy), visit one of the Council's Community Help Points or contact the Planning Strategy and Environment team on 01424 787639.

## **2. SUMMARY OF MAIN CHARACTERISTICS**

### **Location and Geography**

For the greater part, Rother is rural in character, forming the south-eastern part of the High Weald. However, it also embraces low-lying coastal areas at both the eastern and western ends of the District.

The settlement pattern reflects this spatial variation, with most of the larger settlements on or close to the coast. Bexhill accounts for nearly half of the population, with the other, much smaller, historic towns being Battle and Rye. However, many jobs and key services are provided by larger towns – notably Hastings – outside the District. This means that close regard should be had to planning and service delivery across administrative boundaries.

### **People – socio-economic characteristics:**

Some 87,200 live in Rother. Their age structure shows a notably higher proportion of elderly compared to county, regional and national averages. This also varies across the District, with the highest proportion of people aged 65+ in Bexhill (35%) and at Fairlight (40%).

There are no sizeable ethnic minority groups in the District.

Average household income, which is an indicator of spending power, is relatively low in Rother, being below the county average and well below the regional average. This may partly reflect the high proportion of retired residents.

The Government's most recent (2004) compilation of indices of social-economic characteristics, the Index of Multiple Deprivation' (IMD) ranks Rother 181<sup>st</sup> "worst" of 354 local authority area. In other words, it is a little above the national average. There are still pockets of deprivation. In contrast, Hastings is ranked 39<sup>th</sup> most deprived district in the country.

Rother is a relatively safe place to live, with noticeably lower levels of criminal offences than both the region and country as a whole.

### **Education, skills and employment**

Educational achievement, at GCSE level, of local students is relatively high in both East Sussex and regional contexts. However, a lower proportion of people with a degree (17.7%) compared to the south-east region's average of 21.7% suggests a drift of away from the area.

This is also reflected in the types of jobs people do, with fewer than the national average in managerial and professional posts, although higher levels are found in some rural areas, notably those with closer links to Tunbridge Wells and London.

Some 23,200 people are employed in Rother. On the other hand, it compares with a total workforce of 33,800, meaning that there is a net out-flow of commuters. In fact, some 40% of Rother residents work outside the district.

The rationale for this is evidenced by the difference between average earnings of residents (£502) and people working in Rother (£411).



Of the jobs in Rother, the most significant sectors are public services, followed by financial and business services and retail/distribution. About 10% of jobs are in manufacturing and 3.3% in agriculture/forestry/fishing.

Smaller firms (10 or less employees) predominate, accounting for 89% of business units. Not untypical for a rural area, there are many self-employed people.

Unemployment rates (measured by benefit claimants) are currently low, broadly comparable with the wider area. However, this has not always been the case and in the early 1990s the eastern part of the District and parts of Bexhill were very much higher than the regional average.

### **Housing**

The total number of households in Rother is 38,800, giving an average household size of 2.2 persons, notably lower than the region or country. This is attributable to the fact that single person households account for one third of the total. The proportion is generally higher in coastal parishes.

In 2001 the large majority of homes (78%) were owner-occupied, with 10.6% social rented, 8.0% private rented and 3.5% other rented. This compares to 79% in 1991. Compared to the region as a whole (74%), it is higher.

The District has one of the highest ratios of average house prices to earnings in the South East (ESiF) and has increased over the last 5 years. This fuels the substantial affordable housing need across the District.

House-building since 1991 has averaged 229 dwellings/year. Most of this has actually been in the rural areas, although present plans should shift the balance towards the towns and especially Bexhill.

### **Environment**

Rother has outstanding environmental qualities in its landscape, wildlife habitats and built heritage. There are ongoing national or international obligations to conserve and enhance these. Furthermore, they are integral to the character of the area.

The state of the environment is generally good but there are pressures upon it. The High Weald is subject to continuing financial pressures on agriculture and land management, as well as from development; parts of the SSSIs are defined as in "unfavourable condition"; river water quality is virtually all "fairly good" – "very good" but abstraction is increasing; all Rother's beaches meet EC Directive on bathing water quality, although only Winchelsea Beach meets its more stringent guideline standard.

### 3. PROFILE

#### A. LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHY



Source: Rother District Council

Rother District is located in the easternmost part of East Sussex. It is a coastal district that also extends inland well into the High Weald.

The District derives its name from the River Rother, which traverses the northern part of the area to reach the English Channel at Rye. It covers some 200 square miles (51,140 hectares), and has a population of 87,238 inhabitants (ESCC mid 2006 estimate).

The District envelops (but excludes) Hastings, which is largely contained to the south of the Battle ridge. Bexhill is the principal town and administrative centre and has a population of 41,635 inhabitants (ESCC mid 2006 estimate). The smaller, historic towns of Battle and Rye also lie within this mainly rural District.

Aside from Hastings, other significant nearby settlements are Eastbourne (12 miles west of Bexhill), Tunbridge Wells (35 miles north of Bexhill). Brighton (32 miles west) and Ashford (36 miles) are further afield, while London is 75 miles to the north.

The A27/A259, which is the main road artery along the coast also connects the district to the ports of Folkestone and Dover to the east and Newhaven to the west. The A21 provides the main north-south road link to Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge, as well as London.

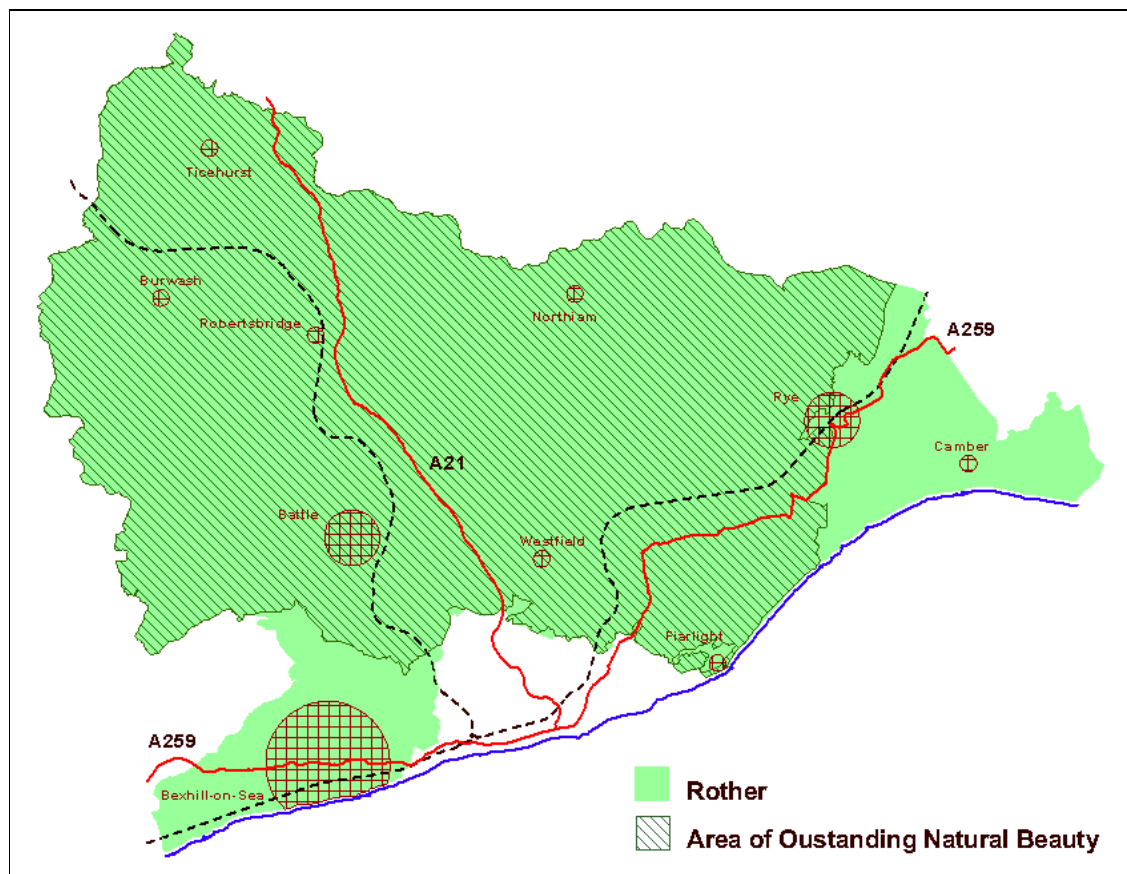
Crowhurst, Battle, Robertsbridge, Etchingham and Stonegate stations are situated on the main Hastings to London (Waterloo, London Bridge, Charing Cross and Cannon Street) railway, via Tunbridge Wells.



## Rother District Council

Rye, Winchelsea, Three Oaks, Doleham Halt, Bexhill, Collington, Cooden Beach and Norman's Bay are situated on both the Hastings to London (Victoria) railway via Eastbourne, Lewes, Gatwick and Croydon railway and the Ashford to Brighton south coast railway via Hastings, Eastbourne and Lewes. Ashford is an international station with connections direct to Paris, Disneyland (France), Lille and Brussels, though with the opening of Ebbsfleet station, close to the M25, scheduling will be subject to change.

### Rother District - Main settlements, road and rail links, and AONB



Source: Rother District Council

### ***Landscape and Natural Features Character Areas***

*82% of Rother lies within the High Weald. Its ridges and valleys largely define Rother's landscape, with the highest ridge traversing the District from Dallington in the west, dipping towards the sea at the cliffs at Fairlight to the east.*

Bexhill, together with the low-lying coastal levels to the west, and the reclaimed land around Rye and Camber to the east, are distinct landscape areas.

### Extract of the Natural England's Natural Areas Map

- 122 - The High Weald
- 123 - The Romney Marshes
- 124 - The Pevensey Marshes



Source: A Natural England

*These broadly based “Character Areas” defined as part of a national series take into account landscape, wildlife and natural features.*

### **The High Weald**

The High Weald developed on one particular outcrop, the Hastings Beds, which provides the foundation for the character of its landscape. Over a period of 140 million years clays, silts and sands were continually deposited over swamp. The land has risen and has been eroded. Now the underlying sandstones and clays, known as the Hastings Beds have become what is now known as the ‘High Weald’.

The sandstones and clays have had a profound influence on the development of the High Weald. Different rates of erosion of different beds of rock have produced the typical ridges and steep ghylls which characterise the area.

The Hastings Beds, especially the Wadhurst clays contain the ore which supplied the Wealden iron industry until the nineteenth century. The sandstones and clays supported great oak trees. The stone, clay and timber provided the building materials used in the construction of ships and houses, for which the Weald was famous.

### **The Pevensey Marshes**

The Pevensey Levels underwent repeated changes during the Middle Ages. Farmland that had been created from the sea was largely lost to successive floods in the late Middle Ages and not regained until the more tranquil weather and expanding economy in Elizabethan and early Stuart times. The struggle of medieval marshmen to erect bordering dykes against the water and build sluices, tide-gates and water lets, so turning soggy, black earth into rich fields, has left many visible vestiges on the ground.

A medieval activity which has left its own impression on the Levels is salt making. The ravages of the sea led to the abandonment of much of the Pevensey Levels during the later Middle Ages and wreaked havoc at its ports. Northeye, once a busy harbour and a limb of the Cinque Port of Hastings was lost to the sea, but is now well inland.

## **The Romney Marshes**

Strictly speaking, the marsh area within Rother District is more correctly known as the Rother Levels and Walland Marsh.

The marshes consist of shingle, alluvium and sands. They are characterised by a complex drainage system based upon a series of private ditches flowing to a network of Internal Drainage Board sewers and main rivers. These include the Rivers Rother, Brede and Tillingham and the Royal Military Canal. The area contains several national and international designated sites and protected habitats, whose features are influenced by changes in water level and flow.

Winchelsea and Rye were both important ports. Winchelsea had been built as a replacement town for the first Winchelsea, situated on the marshes, but destroyed by a severe storm in 1287. However, by the 16<sup>th</sup> century, because of the silting of its harbour and impoverishment by plagues and French raids it had declined significantly. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century one of the main activities at Winchelsea has been the importing of wine from Bordeaux.

Rye was also a thriving port, but smaller than Winchelsea until the decline of Winchelsea from the fourteenth century. Iron, wool and foodstuffs to London were the main commodities exported by Rye and her imports were mainly coal and grain.

Most of the District falls within the catchment of the River Rother, draining into the sea near Rye, while the south-western areas are drained by the Combe Haven, Egerton Park Stream Bexhill, and Wallers Haven. The Heathfield – Battle ridge separates the main catchments.

## B. PEOPLE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

### Population

People are unevenly dispersed around Rother. Almost half of the population live in Bexhill (i.e. 41,600 people). The other towns of Battle and Rye (with the contiguous built up parts of Rye Foreign & Playden) are considerably smaller, with populations of some 6,200 and 5,000 respectively. Most of the remainder live in the villages and hamlets across the District.

### Households

The mid year estimate for 2006 (ESiF) shows that there are 38,829 households in Rother District.

#### Towns and Parishes in Rother District



Source: Rother District Council

# Rother District Council

## *Population by Parish, Mid-Year Estimate 2006*

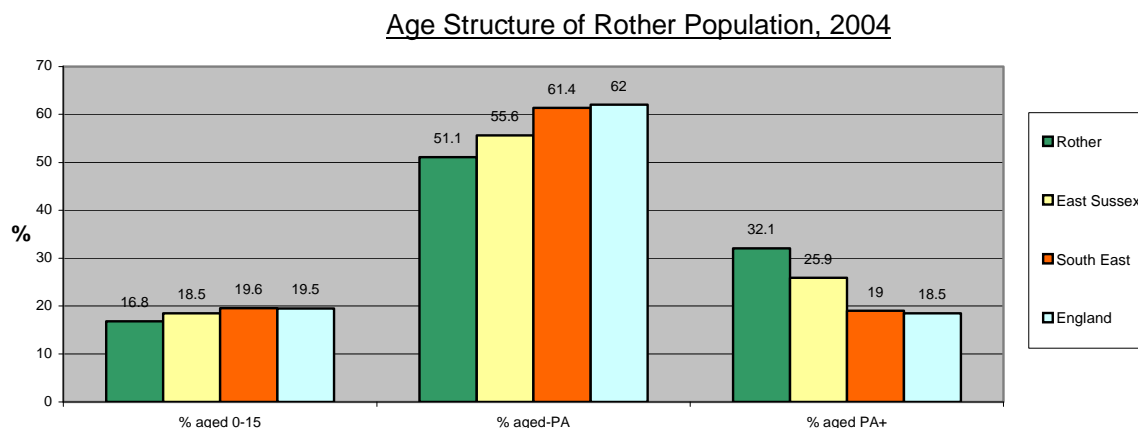
Age group	All people	0-14	15-29	30-44	45-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Geography								
Rother	87,238	15.1	12.4	15.8	28.3	13.1	10.5	4.7
Ashburnham & Penhurst	368	17.4	12.2	17.9	41.8	6	3.8	0.8
Battle	6227	18.3	12.7	17.2	26.9	12.2	9	3.7
Beckley	985	15.2	8.8	18	38.9	11.7	6.6	0.8
Bexhill	41,635	13.2	12.6	14.1	24.8	14.8	13.8	6.7
Bodiam	394	29.4	9.6	27.2	28.7	2.5	1.8	0.8
Brede	1,717	13.7	10.3	16.1	33.8	14	8.4	3.8
Brightling	367	24	6.3	24.5	31.9	11.2	1.6	0.5
Burwash	2,531	15.3	11.9	18	33.5	10.7	7	3.6
Camber	1,239	16.3	21.1	18.2	28.2	10.7	4.8	0.6
Catsfield	806	16.9	9.7	17	35.5	10.8	7.7	2.5
Crowhurst	868	16.6	10.3	15.7	34.7	10.7	8.8	3.3
Dallington	309	12.3	8.7	10.4	46.3	12.6	5.8	3.9
Etchingham	753	19.5	11.7	21.1	31.3	10	5.8	0.5
Ewhurst	1,060	19.4	8.9	17.00	35.8	11.8	5.1	2
Fairlight	1,698	7.8	7.9	10.1	35.5	20.4	14.3	3.9
Guestling	1,264	10.9	11.6	15.1	41.1	13.4	5.9	2.1
Hurst Green	1,473	20.1	15.1	19.1	29.7	7.9	6.2	1.8
Icklesham	2,826	15.5	11.5	16.5	30.5	13.5	9.9	2.6
Iden	453	10.4	15	11.5	39.1	15.2	6.6	2.2
Mountfield	573	30.4	12.7	18.3	20.8	4.4	5.4	8
Northiam	2,121	15.6	10	16.6	33.1	14	8.1	2.6
Peasmarsh	1,180	20.7	12.1	19	29.2	10.7	4.6	3.8
Pett	784	15.9	10.8	16.3	31.5	10.5	10.5	4.5
Playden & East Guldeford	319	11.9	12.9	11.9	43.6	10.7	7.5	1.6
Rye	4,159	13.5	16	16.4	28.8	13.2	9.1	2.9
Rye Foreign	361	20.2	10.8	18.6	26.3	9.7	7.5	6.9
Salehurst & Robertsbridge	2,597	19.9	17.3	18.6	26.9	9.5	5.5	2.2
Sedlescombe	1,339	16.9	13	15.8	30.5	12.6	7.8	3.4
Ticehurst	3,426	19.9	10.6	22	30	8.2	5.7	3.5
Udimore	368	17.7	7.6	19.6	35.9	14.1	3.5	1.6
Westfield	2,641	17.3	12	16.5	33.7	11.7	7	1.9
Whatlington	397	24.4	7.6	20.9	42.3	2.5	2	0.3

Source: ESiF

*Of the rural Parishes, Ticehurst is the largest, with Burwash, Icklesham, Robertsbridge and Salehurst and Westfield the only others which have populations over 2,500.*

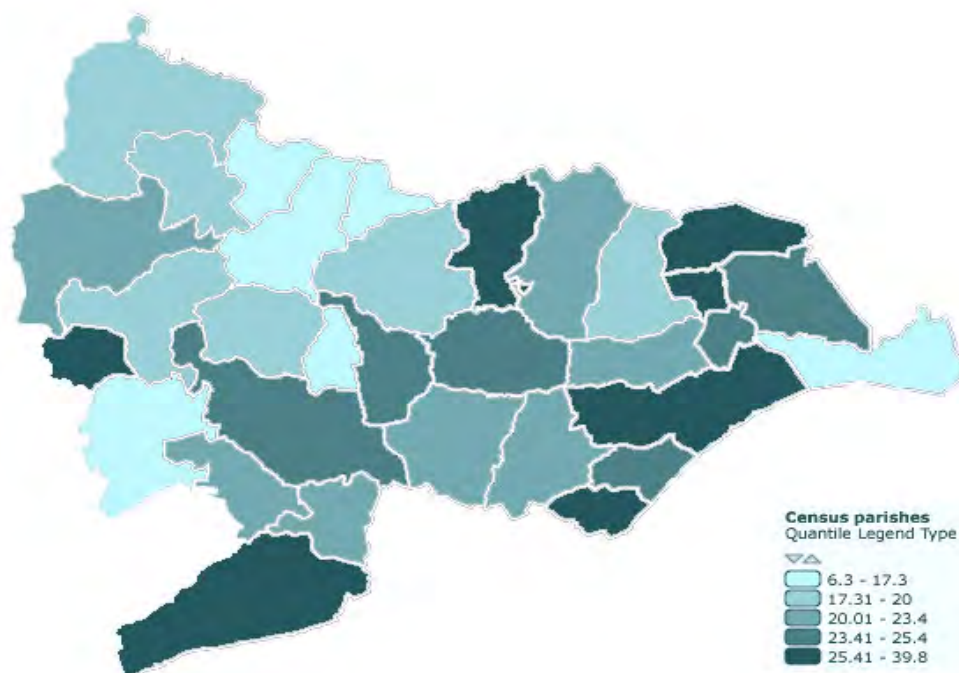
## Age profile

The data in the Figure below demonstrates that the proportion of elderly people in Rother is high compared with the county, regional and national position. In fact, Rother recorded the highest proportion of residents aged 85 and over of all local authorities in England and Wales in the 2001 Census. Conversely, the proportion of both young and working age residents in Rother is below the averages for East Sussex, the South East and for England. This relative imbalance in the population structure has implications for both the provision of support facilities for an aging population as well as the future economic fortunes of the District.



Source: EsiF

## The population aged 65+ by Parish – Census 2001

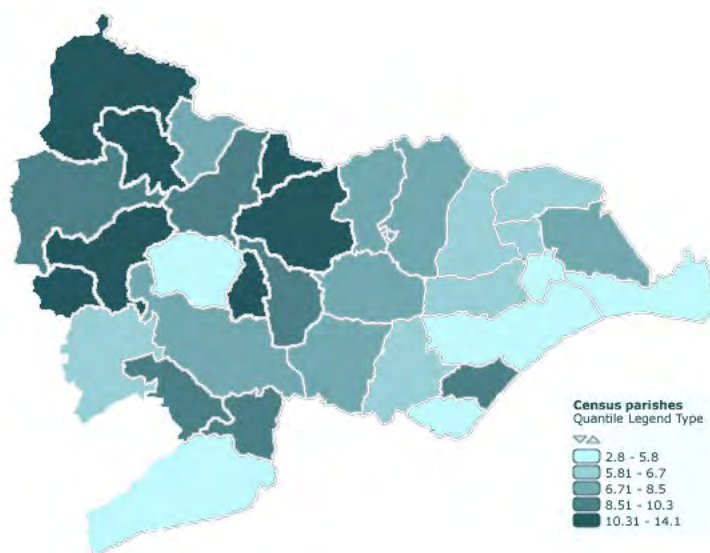


*The age profile varies notably across the District, with 35% of Bexhill's population aged over 65, compared to 25% in both Battle and Rye and between 15% and 18% in the larger rural Parishes of Hurst Green, Salehurst and Ticehurst.*

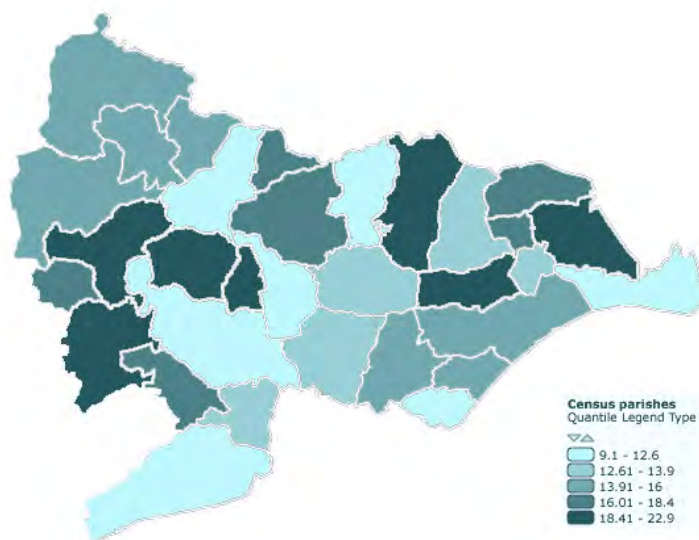
## Social structure



## Higher professional and managerial occupations – Census 2001



## Small employers and own account workers – Census 2001



Compared to the national average, Rother District has a low percentage of people in higher professional managerial occupations, lower managerial professional and intermediate occupation and lower supervisory technical and semi-routine occupations. Rother District has a relatively high percentage of small employers and own account workers.

Within Rother District, Bexhill, Camber, Rye and Icklesham have a very low percentage of higher professional and managerial occupations, while Bodiam, Brightling, Burwash, Dallington, Etchingham, Ewhurst, Ticehurst and Whatlington have a very high percentage.

Within Rother District, Bexhill has the lowest percentage of small employers and own account workers, while Brightling, Playden with East Guldeford, Udimore and Whatlington record the highest percentage.

### **Ethnic population**

## Rother District Council

There is a relatively low proportion of non-white ethnic groups (2004) compared to the wider regional and national averages.

Ethnic groups by percentage, 2004

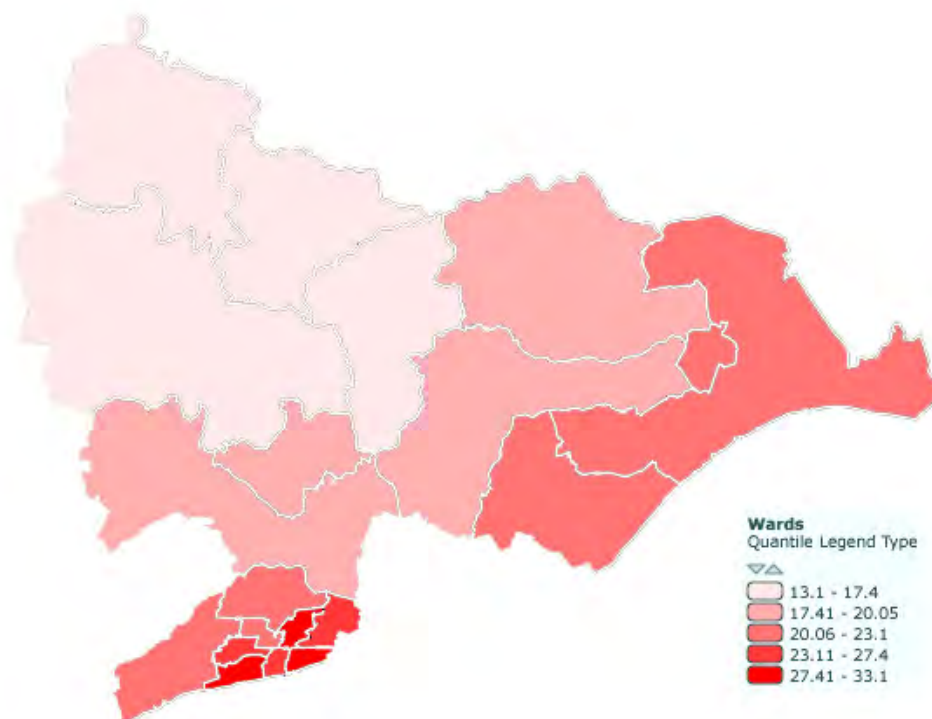
Ethnic groups	All people	All White	All Mixed	All Asian or Asian British	All Black or Black British	All Chinese or Other Ethnic Group
Gender / Age groups	Persons	Persons	Persons	Persons	Persons	Persons
Geography						
England	100.0	89.5	1.5	5.1	2.6	1.2
South East	100.0	93.6	1.3	2.9	1.2	1.1
East Sussex	100.0	96.1	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.8
Eastbourne	100.0	94.8	1.2	1.6	0.8	1.3
Hastings	100.0	94.8	1.5	1.3	1.4	0.7
Lewes	100.0	96.5	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.9
Rother	100.0	96.9	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.5
Wealden	100.0	96.8	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.8

Source: ESiF

## Health

*The table below shows that there are differences in the relative numbers of people with long term limiting illnesses, with a concentration in Bexhill, perhaps reflecting the demographic profile.*

Percentage of people with limiting long term illness by ward – Census 2001





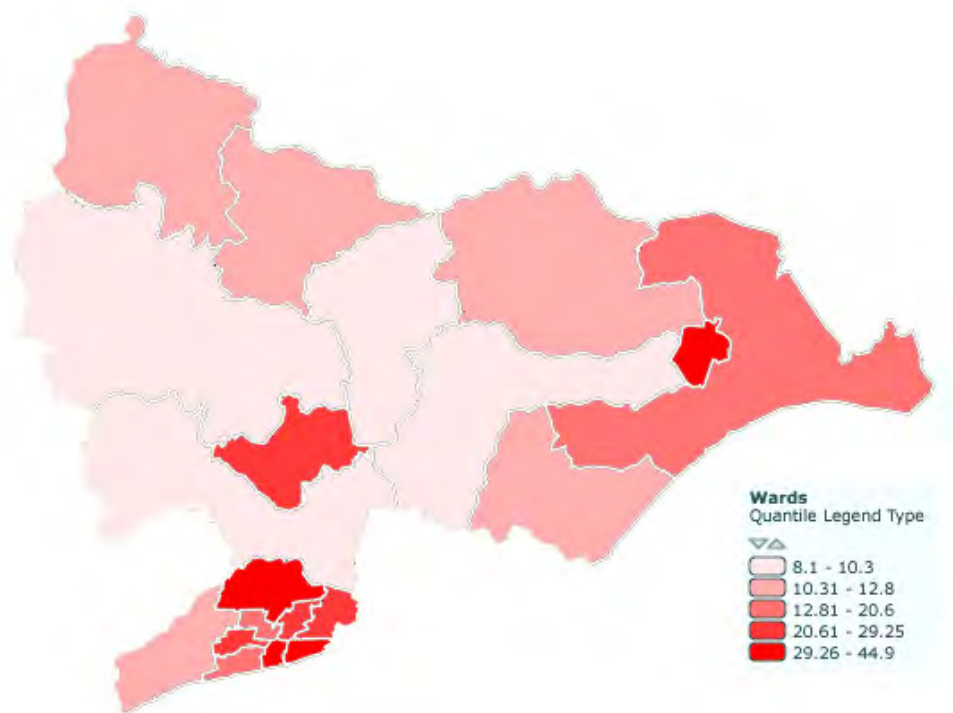
## Accessibility to Health Provision

*There are hospitals at both Hastings and Bexhill, though Bexhill is a much smaller hospital, with no Accident and Emergency facilities.*

Bexhill is served by several General Practitioners and Dentists. Battle, Rye and the larger villages have both General Practitioners and Dentists.

## Car Ownership

Percentage of households without a car, by Ward – Census 2001



Source: ESiF

Bexhill, Camber, Rye and Rye Foreign have more than 20% of their households without a car, while in the more remote parishes, mainly in the western part of the District, Ashburnham and Penhurst, Beckley, Bodiam, Brightling, Dallington, Ewhurst and Whatlington at least 93% of the households have a car.

The majority of households without a car are pensioner households.

## Rother District Council

### Public transport

Rother people exhibit a relatively high level of car usage for journeys

The Train Operating Companies record the approximate number of passengers using each station. This is known as the “footfall”.

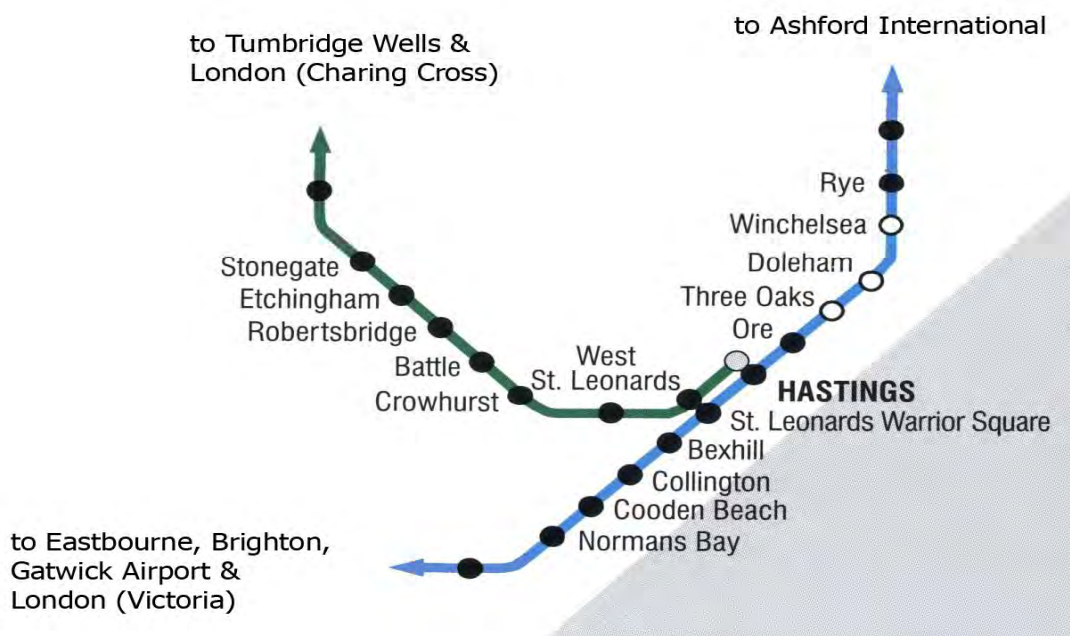
*Within Rother District these are as follows (latest available figures):*

Crowhurst	40,000	Normans Bay -	N/A
Battle	471,000	Cooden Beach -	96,720
Robertsbridge	226,000	Collington -	N/A
Etchingham	203,000	Bexhill	530,400
Stonegate	166,000	Three Oaks -	N/A
		Doleham -	N/A
		Winchelsea -	N/A
		Rye -	137,280

Source: Rail Companies

### Rail Network within Rother District

## RAIL SERVICES IN ROTHER



Source: Derived from ESCC Bus Timetables

# Rother District Council

## Bus Routes within Rother District



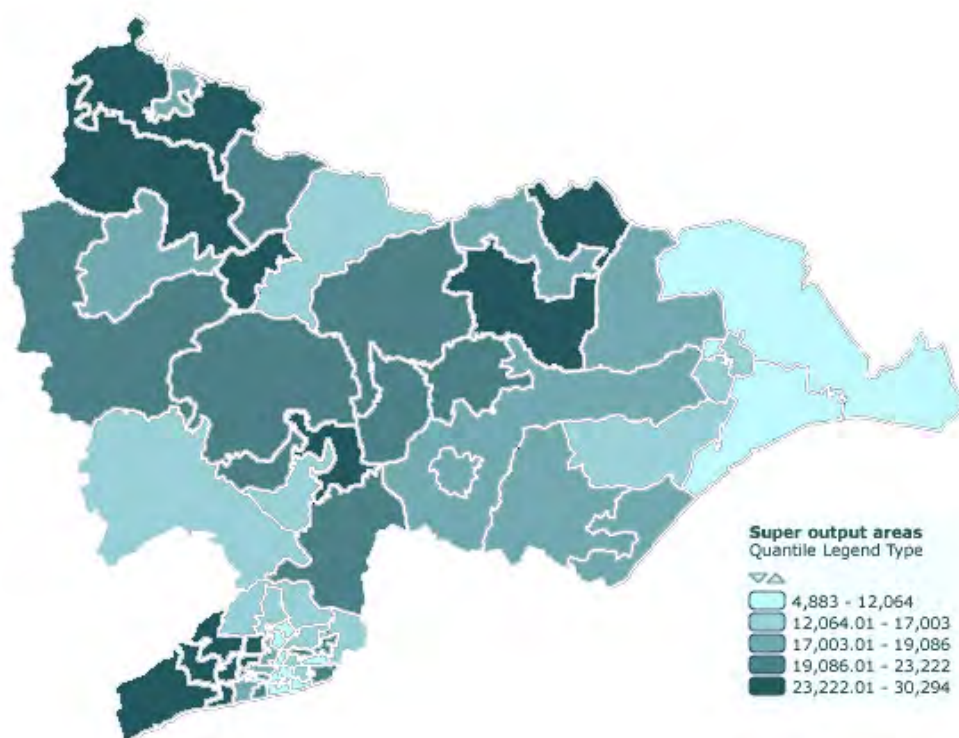
Source: Derived from ESCC Bus Timetables

NB Bus Routes funded East Sussex County Council are due to change from November 2006. For more information pick up the new timetable leaflets for the Rye area and the Battle/Robertsbridge areas. They are also available from the East Sussex County Council website on [www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk)

## Deprivation indices

*The most common indicators of socio-economic needs are the 'indices of multiple deprivation' and the combined 'Index'.*

### Index of multiple deprivation by super output area\* - 2004



\* Super output areas are a relatively new geography, designed for the collection and publication of small area statistics below ward level. They are based on 2001 Census Output Areas, with Lower Layer SOAs containing on average around 1,500 people.

Source: ESiF

The 2004 indices rank Rother as the 181st most deprived Local Authority out of the 354 in England.

*Within the District, the areas with higher levels of deprivation are the Sidley, Central and Sackville parts of Bexhill and the eastern extremes of the District.*

In comparison with the national picture, the only part of the District to fall within the top 20% most deprived areas is within the Sidley ward.

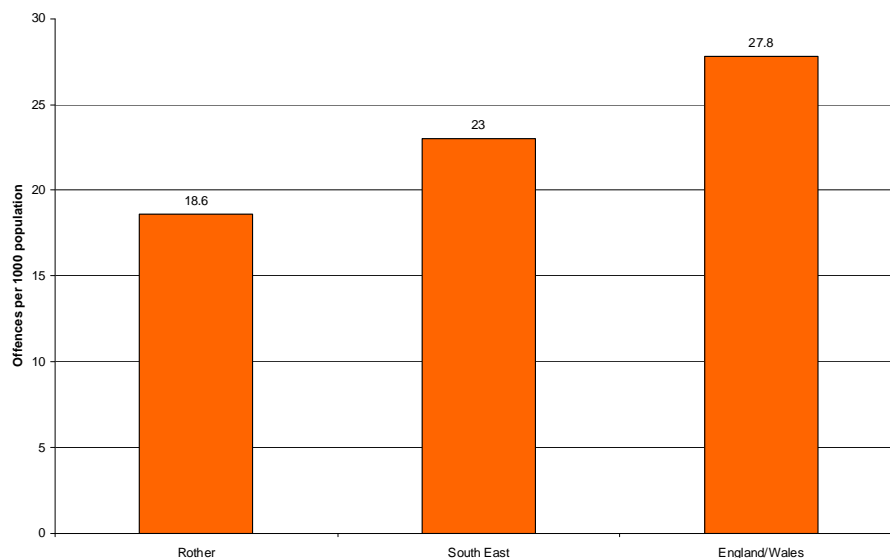
However, for child poverty specifically, the Bexhill areas of St Michaels and Sackville as well as a part of Rye are within the top 20% nationally whilst part of Sidley falls within the top 10%.

## Crime

## Rother District Council

*In terms of crime levels, an overall comparison of rates of offences is set out below. This shows that Rother has generally low offence rates compared with the South East and England & Wales.*

Criminal Offences per 1000 population, Jan – March 2004



Source: Home Office Crime Statistics for England & Wales

Recorded Crime in Rother

No. of Recorded Offences	
August 2005 to July 2006	
Burglary from dwellings	- 2.1 per 1,000 dwellings
Vehicle crime (damage to, and theft of)	- 2.3 per 1,000 residents
Violent crime	- 4.2 per 1,000 residents

Source: Sussex Police Performance data

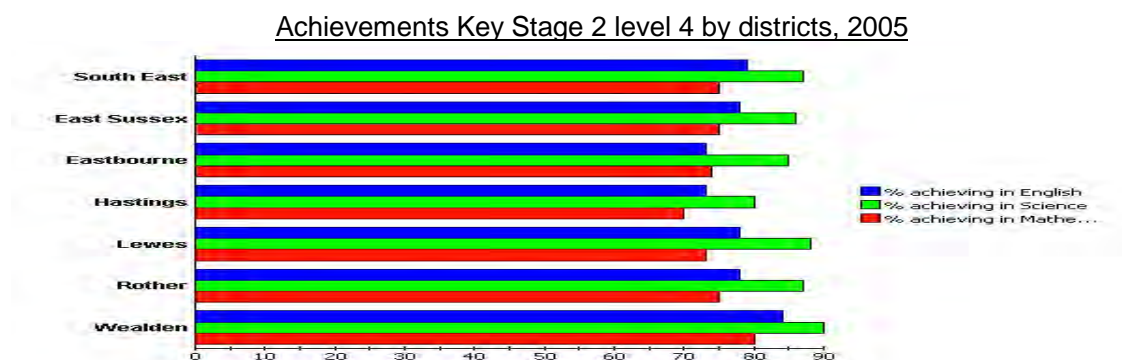


## C. EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

### Education

Some 1,500 students aged 16+ are in full-time education, representing 2.7% of the adult population. There is no noticeable variation across the district.

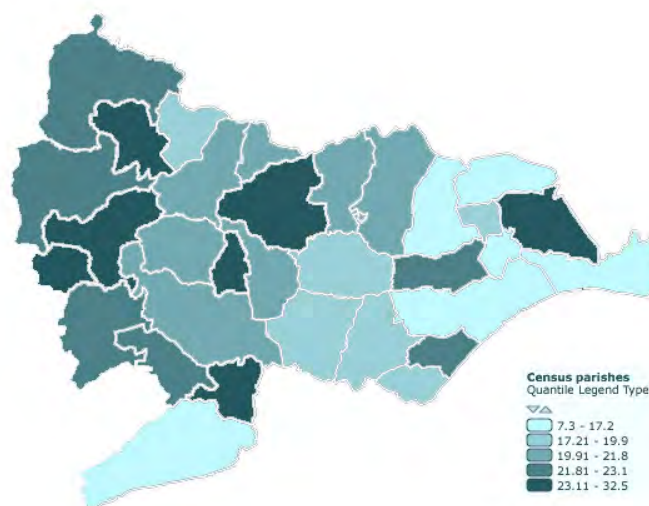
*Recent levels of educational attainment, in Rother, in terms of the proportion of secondary school students achieving 5 GCSEs A\*-C are relatively high, at 64%, compared to 57% across East Sussex and 58% in the South East.*



Source: EsiF

*Key Stage 2 tests take place during a pupils final year at Primary School, when they are aged approximately 11 years. Level 4 is the level of achievement expected of pupils at the end of Key Stage 2. It can be seen that Rother is close to the county and regional average.*

Percentage of Higher Qualifications by parish, attained level 4/5\*



\*First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HND, Qualified Teacher Status, Qualified Medical doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor.

Source: EsiF

The Plan above shows that a higher proportion of people have higher qualifications in the western rural areas with those in Bexhill and the eastern rural area being less well qualified.

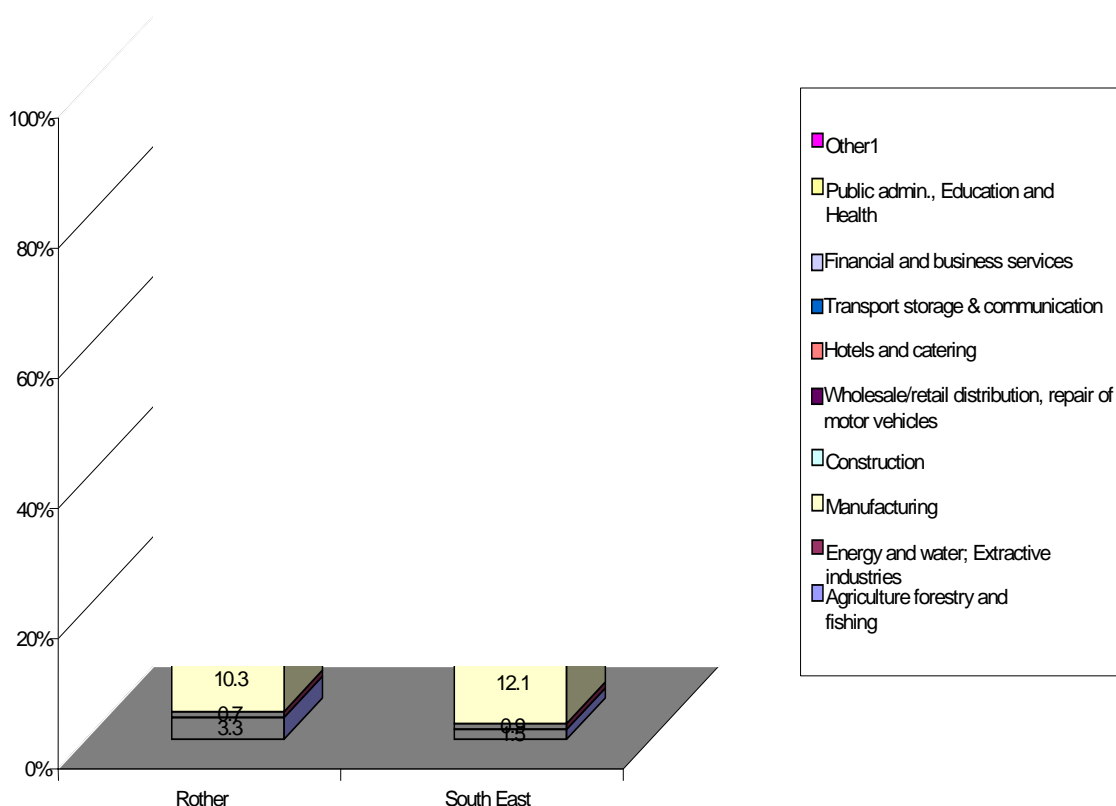
## Employment

Rother substantially forms part of the defined Hastings economic area (Travel To Work Area), with the northern part of the District within the Tunbridge Wells TTWA.

There are some 23,200 jobs in Rother compared to 30,000 in Hastings (2004). This represents an increase on the 1994 figure, but a decrease on 2001 when there were 23,900 jobs. These figures represent increases of 10% and 7.5% respectively, compared to 10.3% for all of East Sussex and 6.4% for the South East region.

A significant proportion, some 40% of local jobs, is part time

### Employment Sectors – Census 2001

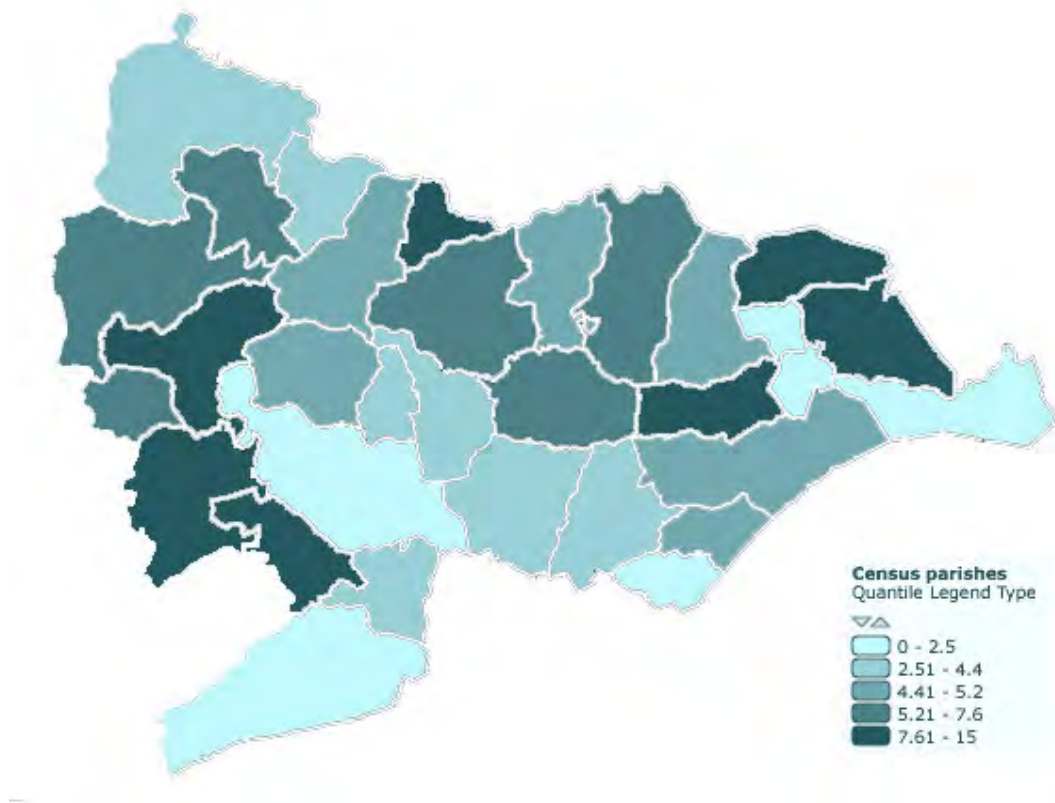


In broad terms, the pattern depicted is similar at the local and regional levels. The greatest percentage of Rother's working population is employed in the public service sector (27.8%), a higher rate than for the region as a whole (23.6%). Conversely, the regional importance of financial and businesses services in employment terms (20.7%) is not reflected locally (16.8%), nor is employment in transport, storage and communications (5.4% in Rother, 8.1% in the South East).

Whilst low in overall percentage terms, employment in agriculture and related activities in Rother (3.3%) is significantly above the regional average of 1.5%.

### Percentage jobs in agriculture by Parish – Census 2001

## Rother District Council



Firm Size by Business units

Variable	Business units						
Size band	Total	1 to 4 employees	5 to 10 employees	11 to 24 employees	25 to 49 employees	50 to 99 employees	Over 100 employees
Geography							
Great Britain	2,235,300	1,533,300	329,600	194,200	93,200	48,000	37,000
South East	361,500	261,600	47,300	27,700	13,200	6,800	5,000
East Sussex	20,800	15,500	2,500	1,500	700	300	200
Eastbourne	3,200	2,100	500	300	200	100	100
Hastings	2,800	1,900	400	200	100	100	0
Lewes	3,900	2,900	500	300	100	100	0
Rother	3,600	2,800	400	200	100	0	0
Wealden	7,300	5,800	800	400	200	100	0

Source: EsiF

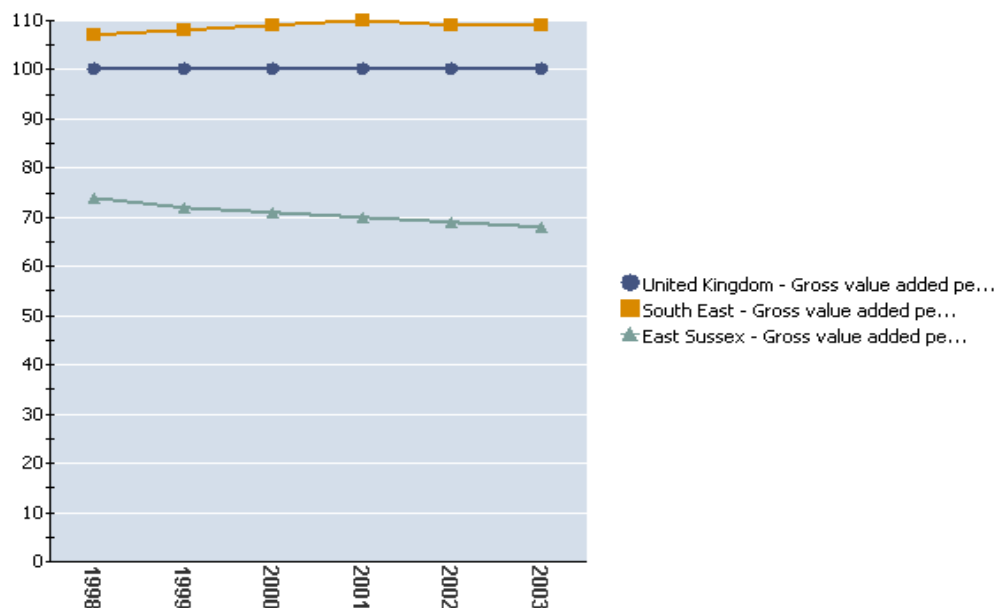
Rother District clearly has a high proportion of small firms and a very low proportion of large firms compared to the country, the region and the county.



## Rother District Council

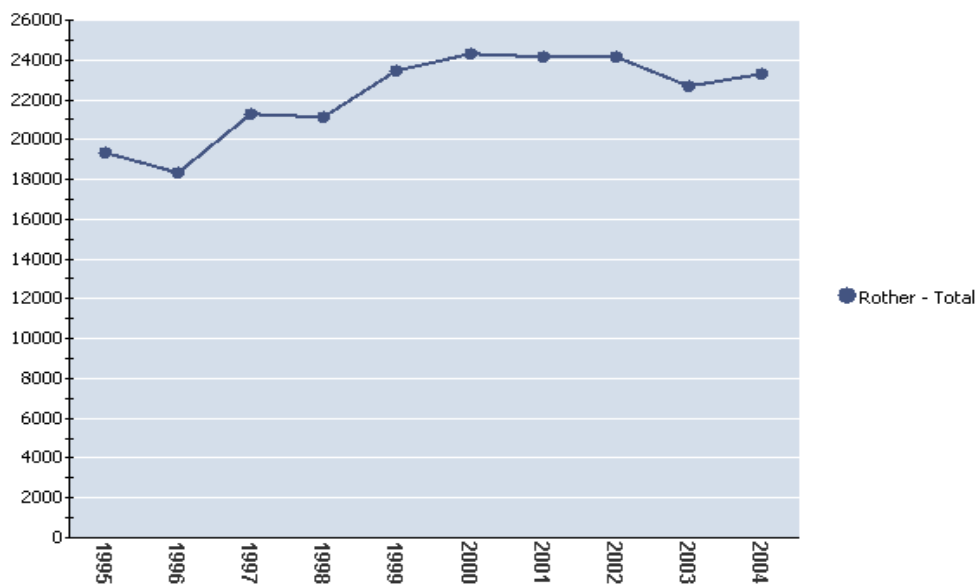
The total 'Gross Value Added' (GVA) by businesses in East Sussex is compared to the region and national picture below. GVA is an indicator of wealth creation within an area, measuring the sum of local economic activity.

'Gross Value Added' by businesses



Source: ESiF

Employment (jobs in Rother 1995 – 2004)



Source: ESiF

The graph shows that the number of jobs in Rother has increased by 20% over the last 10 years.

### Earnings

## Rother District Council

### Average Gross Weekly Earnings, 2005

	Av. gross weekly earnings		
	Residents	Employees	% difference
<b>Rother</b>	£549	£425	23%
<b>East Sussex</b>	£507	£436	14%
<b>South East</b>	£577	£539	7%

Source: ESCC and Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2005

*Average earnings of people working in Rother is noticeably lower than of residents, illustrating the higher incomes available by commuting out of the District for work*

*Average weekly earnings of Rother residents are £549, with average full-time male earnings some 50% higher than those of women.*

*In terms of household income levels, the table below compares the position locally with the county and region. The average household income in Rother falls significantly below the regional average. This may be linked to the high proportion of retired residents. The 2001 Census revealed that of those aged between 16 and 74 in Rother, 22.3% are retired. This is the highest proportion of all the 67 local authority areas in the South East.*

### **Average Household Income, 2006**

	Av. household income 2006	% of SE average
<b>Rother</b>	£30,000	83%
<b>East Sussex</b>	£31,600	87%
<b>South East</b>	£36,300	100%

Source: ESCC & CACI

## Unemployment

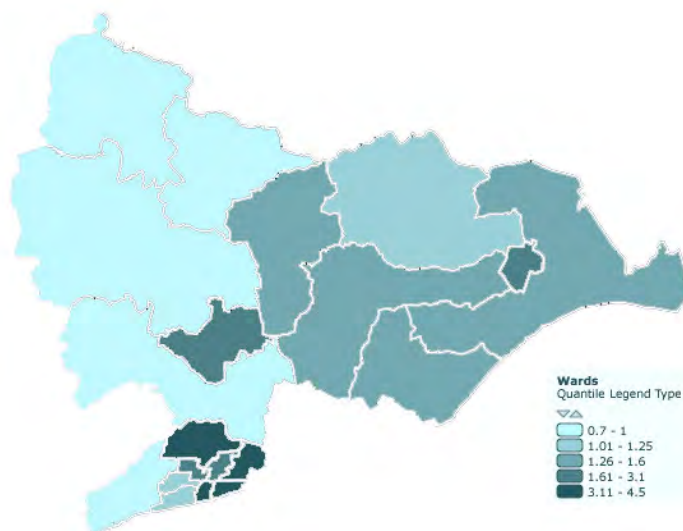
### Unemployment rate, Quarterly 2005/06

Quarter	Jan-05	Apr-05	Jul-05	Oct-05	Jan-06	Apr-06	Jul-06
<b>Geography</b>							
Great Britain	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.6
South East	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.7
East Sussex	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.2
Eastbourne	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.9
Hastings	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.6	3.7	3.8
Lewes	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.7
Rother	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.0
Wealden	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0

Source: ESiF

### Unemployment rate by ward, July 2006

## Rother District Council



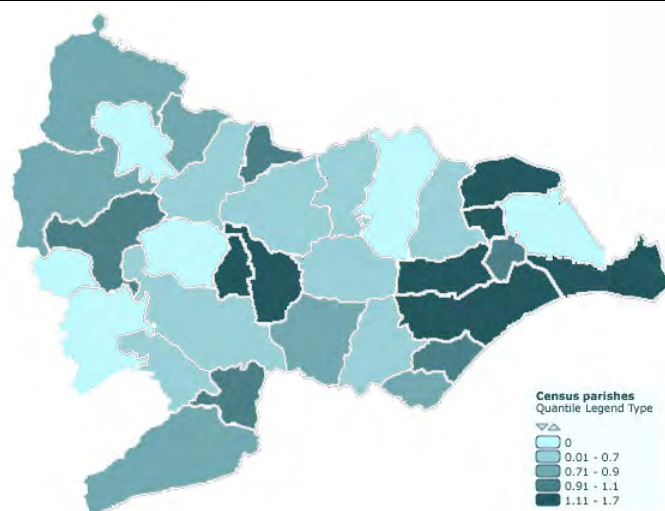
Source: ESiF

Unemployment is currently low. There are some 810 people unemployed in Rother (at May 2006). This figure equates to 1.8% of the resident working age population, which is lower than the rate for East Sussex and Great Britain and only marginally higher than the South East figure of 1.7%. The distribution of unemployment across the district (January 2006) is shown below.

It has increased somewhat over the last 12 months, including in the Rye and Eastern Rother wards, as well as in all except the most western Bexhill wards.

*Long-term unemployment is generally greatest in the eastern part of the District, but also at Sedlescombe and Whatlington.*

### Percentage of Long-term Unemployment by parish, 2005



\*Long-term unemployment are those who stated they have not worked since 1999 or earlier (at the time of the Census April 2001)

Source: ESiF

### **Travel to Work**

## Rother District Council

### Commuting Flows In and Out of the District – Census 2001

Commuting flow variable	Live and work in district	In-commuters	Out-commuters	Net commuters
<b>Geography</b>				
East Sussex	164,380	16,380	48,659	-32,279
Eastbourne	26,768	10,404	10,026	378
Hastings	24,984	7,219	10,779	-3,560
Lewes	23,567	12,123	17,874	-5,751
Rother	19,704	8,254	14,078	-5,824
Wealden	35,392	12,345	29,867	-17,522

The East Sussex LTP shows that Rother District has the highest percentage of people working at home. The numbers commuting by cycle or by bus is very low. The numbers commuting by train or by car is close to the average.

### Comparison of Commuting Flows in and out of East Sussex County, 1991 with 2001

Commuting flow variable	In-commuters		Out-commuters		Net commuting flow	
	Persons	% change 1991-2001	Persons	% change 1991-2001	Persons	% change 1991-2001
Year						
1991	11,850		38,980		-21,130	
2001	16,380	38	48,659	25	-32,279	19

Source: Journey to work data, 1991 Census and 2001 Census, OPCS/ONS

This table gives changes in commuting flows to and from East Sussex for the period 1991-2001. This data is taken from Census data which records place of work and place of residence, and thus can calculate journey to work movements.

The figures show that the numbers of both in-commuters (into the county) and out-commuters (out of the county) has increased during the 10 year period, particularly in-commuters. The net commuting flow has also increased.

### Commuting Flows, distance travelled to work – Census 2001

Distance travelled to work	All people	Less than 2km	2 - 5km	5 - 10km	10 - 20km	20 - 40km	40 - 60km	60km and over	Working at or from home	Other
<b>Geography</b>										
Eastbourne	100.0	29.7	29.3	5.2	5.7	8.9	2.4	4.5	8.6	5.8
Hastings	100.0	28.7	28.8	8.2	3.8	6.7	3.0	5.1	8.7	6.9
Lewes	100.0	21.8	9.9	14.3	20.8	7.4	2.5	5.7	11.4	6.2
Rother	100.0	21.0	11.2	14.9	13.8	7.2	3.2	7.1	14.2	7.4
Wealden	100.0	16.9	9.1	12.5	18.5	11.9	5.5	4.6	13.8	7.2

### Commuter Journey Patterns – Census 2001

## Rother District Council

Local Authority	Car or van passenger or driver	Work at Home	Cycle	On Foot	Bus	Train	Other – Taxi/Motorcycle
Eastbourne	62.4	8.6	3.5	13.5	6	4.5	1.5
Hastings	64	8.6	1.5	14.4	5.4	4.4	1.7
Lewes	63	11.4	1.7	10.8	5.5	6.2	1.4
Rother	64.5	14.2	1.4	10.6	1.8	6	1.5
Wealden	68.4	13.8	1.1	7.5	2.6	5.6	1
East Sussex	65	11.6	1.7	10.8	4	5.4	1.5
South East	64	10	3	10	4	6	3
Great Britain	62	9	3	10	7	7	2

## **D. HOUSING**

### **Household characteristics**

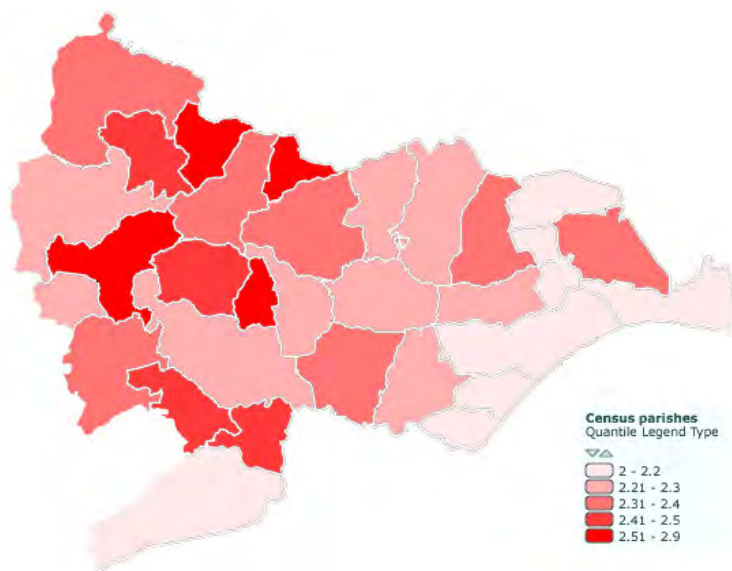
Rother's residents live in a range of household types.

#### **Household Type – Census 2001**

	<b>Household Type (as a % of all households)</b>				
	Couples	Lone parent	Other multi person	Single person	Average household size
Rother	57.6%	7.5%	1.9%	33.0%	2.2
East Sussex	56.8%	8.5%	2.2%	32.5%	2.2
South East	59.9%	8.7%	2.9%	28.5%	2.4
England	56.4%	10.5%	3.0%	30.1%	2.4

Whilst the majority of households comprise couples, with or without children, the table above shows that there is also a significant minority of single person households in Rother. Overall, the pattern of household types in Rother is broadly in line with the county picture. There are clearer distinctions with the regional and national picture with the proportion of single person households being noticeably higher and the proportions of lone parent and multi-person households being lower.

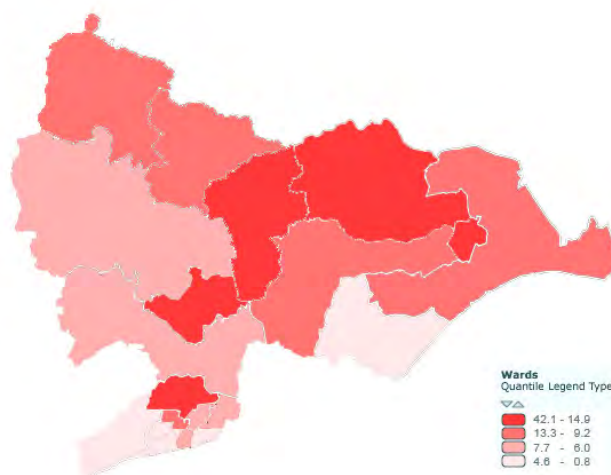
#### **Household Size by Parish – Census 2001**



The 2001 Census reveals that 73% of all occupied household 'spaces' (i.e. dwellings) in Rother were occupied by one or two people. The extent to which smaller household sizes prevail in Rother is similarly demonstrated by the District's average household size, which is 2.17 persons (rounded to 2.2 in the table above). This rate is one of the very lowest in the South East, ranking 64<sup>th</sup> lowest of the 67 local authorities in the region.

## Rother District Council

### Percentage of households in housing association dwellings by ward, 2006



Source: EsiF and Rother DC

The Sidley ward of Bexhill has by far the largest proportion of social housing units (42.1%) of any ward within the District. No other Bexhill ward is in the top quartile. There are nine wards within Bexhill and four fall into the lowest quartile. Apart from Sidley, Rye (22.2%), Battle (15.2%), Ewhurst and Sedlescombe (15.0%) and Rother Levels (14.9%) have the highest proportion of social housing.

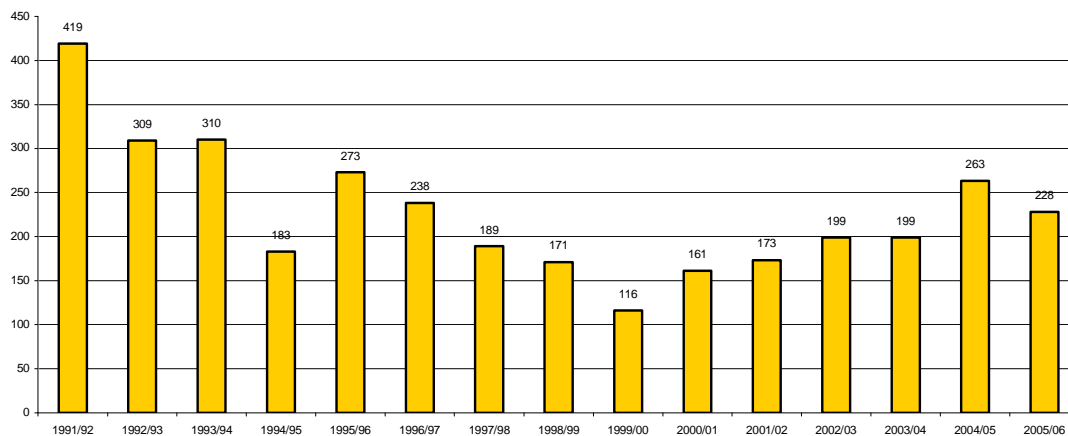
### Percentage of Housing Quality, 2005

Tenure type		Total -all tenures	Local authority - rented	RSL - rented	Private
Geography	Housing quality				
Rother	All types	100.0	0.0	10.1	89.9
	Unfit	5.2	0.0	5.7	94.3
	Vacant	8.3	0.0	0.5	99.5

Source: ESiF

## House building activity

### Housing Completions, 1991 – 2006



Source: Rother District Council



## Rother District Council

*The following tables show the distribution of recent house building and that planned up to 2011. It shows a shift to more urban development.*

Distribution of housing 1991 – 2006

<i>Bexhill</i>	<i>41%</i>
<i>Battle</i>	<i>7%</i>
<i>Rye</i>	<i>4%</i>
<i>Rural parishes</i>	<i>49%</i>

Source: Rother District Council

Anticipated distribution 2006 – 2011

<i>Bexhill</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>Battle</i>	<i>11%</i>
<i>Rye</i>	<i>5%</i>
<i>Rural parishes</i>	<i>41%</i>

*Since 1994 housing completions have been low, due mainly to the lack of land allocated for housing. Completions fell steadily to each a low in 1999/2000. Since then the number of completions has risen steadily apart from a fall last year. Nevertheless, annual completions remain consistently below what is required to meet the County Structure Plan Housing requirement for 2011. It is anticipated that completions will rise towards the end of the Plan period with the development of the Blackfriars site at Battle and with the opening of the Link Road at north Bexhill which will enable implementation of the associated housing allocations.*

Affordable Housing Completions for the past 10 years

96/97	53		01/02	42
97/98	54		02/03	23
98/99	18		03/04	63
99/00	0		04/05	20
00/01	32		05/06	3

Source: Rother District Council

### House prices

Current average house prices in Rother (January – March 2006) are shown in the table below:

	Rother	East Sussex	South East
Flat/maisonette	£130,464	£126,526	£151,056
Terrace	£170,065	£168,598	£178,308
Semi-detached	£202,939	£200,870	£215,128
Detached	£309,167	£304,920	£373,219
Average for all types of property	£215,577	£198,540	£228,762

Source: ESiF



## Affordability

The table below shows the changes in average household incomes and the average house price between 2000 and 2005.

Average Household income and average house price 2000 and 2005

	2000	2005	% increase
<b>Rother</b>			
Average household income <sup>1</sup>	£21,200	£29,160	37.5%
Average house price <sup>2</sup>	£120,806	£224,920	86%
<b>East Sussex</b>			
<b>Average household income <sup>1</sup></b>	£22,800	£30,148	32%
<b>Average house price <sup>2</sup></b>	£116,733	£205,387	76%

<sup>1</sup> data from ESCC      <sup>2</sup> data from the Land Registry, for the Oct to Dec quarter

This table shows that, proportionately, the average price of a house in the District has increased at a much greater rate than the increase in average income over the same period.

The data also shows that the position is marginally worse in Rother compared with East Sussex as a whole. The average income in Rother is below the county average whilst the average house price is higher.

These figures suggest that increasing numbers of households in the District will find it difficult to afford to purchase a home.

Housing need in Rother is evidenced the Council's Housing Register and homelessness statistical data for households in the District.

Further evidence is provided by the Housing Needs Survey. The latest survey was undertaken for the Council in 2005 by David Coutie Associates. It assesses the scale of current and future affordable housing need for sub-areas within the District.

The Survey confirms that there is substantial affordable housing need across all parts of the District. Annually 256 new affordable homes are needed in Rother.

*The main findings include:*

- 91% of households live in accommodation suitable for their needs;
- The social rented housing stock is 11.3%, much lower than the national average of 19.3%.
- There is a requirement to develop a more balanced housing stock in both the private and social sectors with a need for more flats and terraced houses, particularly in the private sector; and
- The retired population will increase by 35.5% by 2021. 70% of those with a support need are over 60 and over half have a walking difficulty.

*The allocation sites in the adopted Local Plan 2006 should be able to provide some 750 affordable dwellings. 308 affordable houses have been completed in the past ten years, but only 3 last year.*

## E. ENVIRONMENT

*The extent of landscape and nature conservation designations, as well as the number of listed buildings and conservation areas, reflects Rother's high quality environment. Only 11% of the District is not designated of national or international landscape or nature conservation importance.*

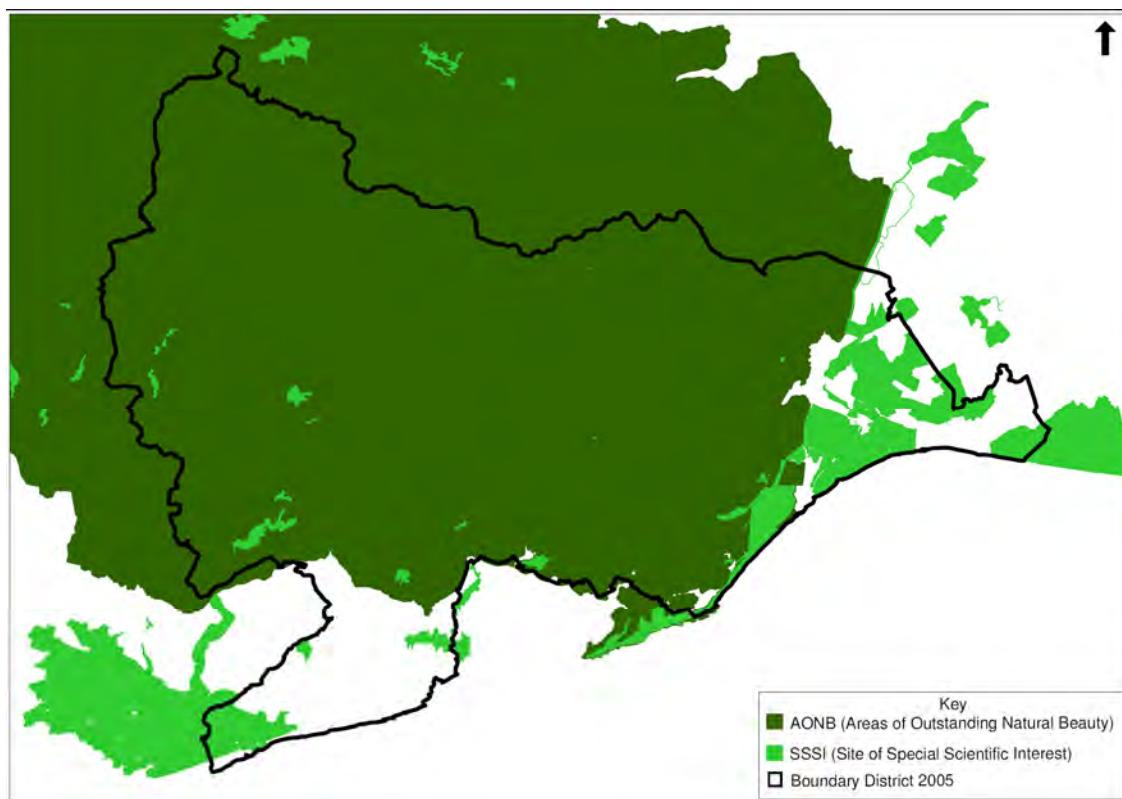
### Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

82% of the District falls within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – see front cover. Its landscape is of national importance and was designated by the former Countryside Commission (now the Countryside Agency) and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment in 1983.

### Nature Conservation sites

A further 7% of the District, not within the AONB, is within a nationally or internationally designated site of nature conservation importance.

A map showing the main nature conservation designations in the District is shown below.



Source: Rother District Council

## Rother District Council

International Nature Conservation Sites - The Pevensey Levels is a 'Ramsar' site, designated in February 1999 for its importance as a wetland habitat. English Nature has proposed as a classified Special Protection Area (SPA) an area between Dungeness and Pett Level. This recognises its importance for wild birds. An area between Dungeness and Pett Level is also a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), in recognition of its flora and fauna. Both SPAs and SACs are designated by the European Union and are of European importance. Hence, these sites form part of a commitment globally and by member states of the European Community to protect the habitats of threatened species of wildlife.

Sites Of Special Scientific Interest - SSSIs are sites which have been identified by English Nature as being important for their flora, fauna and geological or physiographic features. Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Rother are principally located around wetland areas near the coast. Part of the Pevensey Levels Site of Special Scientific Interest is designated as a National Nature Reserve, which represents the best examples of natural habitat.

Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - Following a District-wide appraisal of wildlife sites, a number of SNCIs were designated in 1997 and are of local interest.

### Built heritage

Conservation Areas – These are defined as areas of special architectural or historic interest the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. There are designated Conservation Areas in Rother District at Battle, Bexhill Old Town, Bexhill Town Centre, Burwash, Northiam, Robertsbridge, Rye, Sedlescombe, Ticehurst and Winchelsea. (These are primarily the centres of the above towns and villages). Sedlescombe Conservation Area is the most recently designated Conservation Area, in summer 2004.

Listed Buildings – There are 2,114 Listed Buildings within Rother District, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002, based on List entries. 43 of these are Grade 1 and 74 Grade 2\* (based on GIS records, November 2005).

### Waste

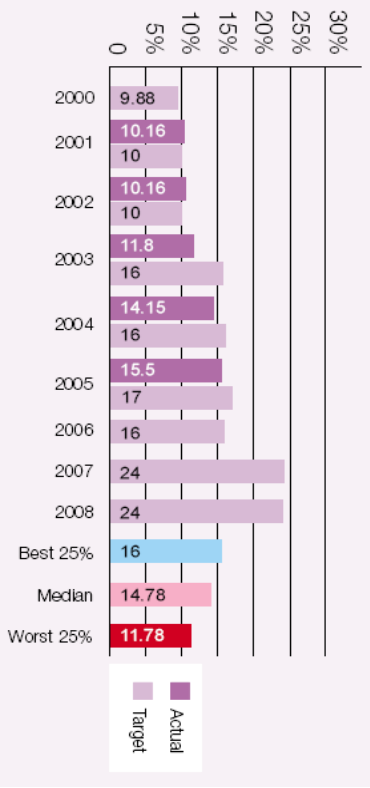
The East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove Waste Local Plan was adopted in 2006. It deals with waste disposal. The District Council is responsible for waste collection.

All the District Councils and the County Council are currently working together to produce a long-term strategy to manage the county's household waste. A six-week consultation begins in September 2006 and people in East Sussex are being asked for their ideas and opinions on how best to tackle the waste that is created in homes across the county.

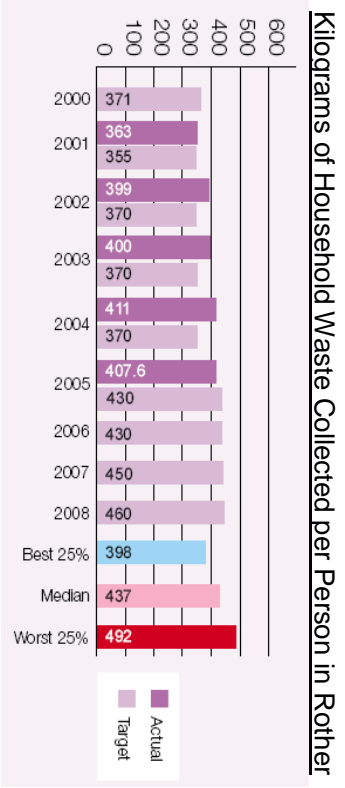
This strategy, known as the 'Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy', and the Plan will be published in summer 2007 and will cover the period 2006 to 2020. It will address the problems of waste collected from households, recycling collections waste taken to recycling banks, collection of bulky waste, street sweepings, collection of household clinical waste, waste collected from some businesses and fly-tipped waste. The strategy will be reviewed and updated every five years.

### Recycled household waste collected as a percentage of all household waste in Rother

# Rother District Council



Source: Rother District Council, Performance Plan 2006



Source: Rother District Council, Performance Plan 2006

## Water Quality

% of samples taken from rivers in Rother and East Sussex reaching water quality grades (chemical and biological aspects)

Year	% Grade					
	A = very good	B = good	C = fairly good	D = fair	E = poor	F = bad
East Sussex	1990	46.15	38.46	15.39	0	0
	2000	32.5	37.5	25.8	2.5	0
	2004	33.3	51.3	10.3	2.5	0
Rother	1990	60	30	10	0	0
	2000	23.6	41.8	27.3	5.5	0
	2004	36.8	42.1	10.5	5.3	0

Source: Derived form ESiF

### Bathing Water Quality at Rother's 4 main beaches

Parameter	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
No. beaches meeting more stringent guidelines	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1
No. beaches meeting mandatory guidelines.	3	4	3	4	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	3
No. beaches failing to meet guidelines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Derived form ESiF

## **4. DRIVERS FOR CHANGE**

### **(a) Population and migration trends**

Rother's population between 1991 and 2006 has grown but at a slower rate than for the county as a whole. Rother's increase of 3.6% is less than the rate for the county (5.9%), the South East (6.3%) or England as a whole (4.6%)

Anticipated population growth is shown below:

Age group		All people	0-14	15-29	30-44	45-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Geography	Year								
Rother	2001	85,100	13,400	10,200	14,600	22,500	11,100	9,300	4,000
	2006	87,728	13,666	10,640	14,269	23,815	11,441	9,217	4,680
	2011	90,979	13,647	11,917	13,137	24,865	12,739	9,327	5,347
	2016	93,160	13,611	12,638	11,998	24,728	14,483	9,949	5,753
	2021	94,971	13,406	12,628	12,170	24,904	14,345	11,174	6,344
	2026	96,557	13,391	12,260	12,988	24,057	14,072	12,690	7,099

Source: ESiF

### **(b) Emerging housing growth requirements**

The Rother District Local Plan 2006 includes land allocations for some 1,874 dwellings. The vast majority of these are part of the planned urban expansion to the north-east of Bexhill (1,110 dwellings). There are also sites identified in other parts of Bexhill (88 dwellings), Battle (250 dwellings), Rye (201 dwellings), Rye Harbour (16 dwellings), Burwash (17 dwellings), Etchingham (15 dwellings), Fairlight (15 dwellings), Flimwell (21 dwellings), Hastings Fringe (30 dwellings), Northiam (30 dwellings), Robertsbridge (44 dwellings), Westfield (37 dwellings). In addition the three towns of Bexhill, Battle and Rye, some 36 village/settlements also have defined development boundaries, within which some intensification could take place.

The current level of housing requirements stemming from the Structure Plan provides for an average of 275 dwellings a year over the period 1991 – 2011. It should be pointed out that housebuilding rates are presently well short of this target, largely due to the delay in being able to release land at north-east Bexhill.

The submitted South East Plan seeks 6,600 total net additional dwellings for Rother between 2006 and 2026, equivalent to an average of 280 dwellings/year. This figure is also broken down to 200 dwellings/year in the coastal belt (Bexhill, Hastings fringes and Rye), and 80 dwellings/year in the rest of Rother.

### **(c) Local housing need**

While the Local Plan will make a significant contribution to the development of more affordable homes, it cannot satisfy the high and increasing total level of assessed local housing need evidenced by the 2005 Housing Needs Study. The data suggests that house prices could continue to rise faster than local incomes.

Efforts to make housing more affordable for local people needs to be considered alongside regeneration initiatives that will increase local earnings.

Furthermore, Rother has a high proportion of one and two person households. Action needs to be taken to better match the types of housing provided with the needs of Rother's population.

### **(d) Climate change agenda and use of resources**

Global climate change has been caused by the increase in greenhouse gases, particularly those released from fossil fuels. The climate change we expect in the next 30-40 years will be due to our past greenhouse gas emissions and climate change later this century will be determined by the emissions we allow now.

In the south-east we expect to see the greatest impact of climate change within the UK. Incidences of more extreme weather are expected with flash flooding, higher sea and air temperatures and the rising of sea levels. In Rother this may translate as increased surface run off from the High Weald causing flooding and impacts on the coastal areas from storms.

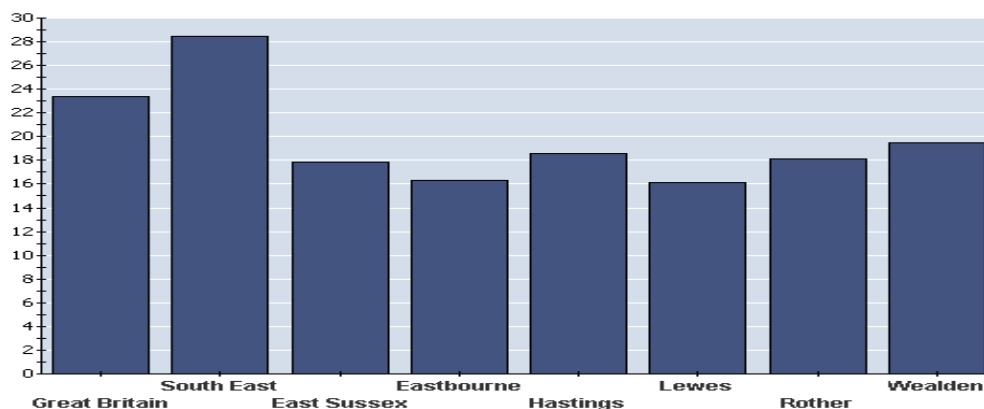
The overarching aims/actions being proposed to mitigate the impacts of our changing climate are to establish effective measures to reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases by increasing use of renewable and other non-fossil fuel based energy and to work with the changing climate through adaptation.

### **(e) Regeneration initiatives and employment trends**

The continuing reduction in manufacturing sectors is evident locally. While Hastings retains a relatively high number of manufacturing businesses, this may make the area more vulnerable to further contractions.

The growth potential of indigenous firms is likely to be crucial given the apparent lack of significant inward investment potential. However, the business base locally, as shown below, does not currently contain a high proportion of companies in growth sectors.

Percentage of total employment in growth and high value added sectors, 2004



Source: ESiF

The current lack of quality sites and premises, coupled with an ageing stock, are often highlighted as issues.

### **(f) Infrastructure programmes**



Water supply and road infrastructure give rise to the greatest concern. Decisions will have to be made soon and the necessary investment put in place to sustain further growth.

The ability to serve development with the necessary infrastructure is vital. Infrastructure programmes need to work in concert with spatial strategies.

The Bexhill Hastings Link Road is perhaps the most significant single element of infrastructure as it is key to releasing employment and housing potentials. The A21 is identified for improvements over time.

The establishment of the University Centre Hastings, coupled with the new Bexhill College and planned Hastings Sixth Form College, should improve local skill levels.

Educational programmes in the light of falling school rolls and health service policies for an ageing population will be vitally important.

### **(g) Technology**

Advances in technology, particularly in Information Technology, have accelerated in past ten years and this trend is likely to continue. It is likely to lead to more homeworking.

*Cleaner energy production and vehicles are urgently sought in order to drastically reduce carbon emissions and other forms of pollution. The renewable energy and nuclear power debate will intensify over the next year as Government will have to make decisions and provide necessary investment to avert an “energy gap”.*

### **(h) Changing arrangements for service delivery**

Will increased use of the internet for grocery and other types of shopping have implications for Rother's town and village centres and the other, larger centres outside the District which Rother residents use? Will the demand for locally sourced products, particularly food, grow to significantly affect the local agricultural economy?

If there is a trend for public services become more centralised, with larger facilities serving a wider geographic area there will be implications for users' physical access to facilities. Conversely, more localised services raise issues of 'economies of scale'.

Recent Government initiatives have promoted patient choice in respect of health services, parental choice (regarding schools) and greater tenant choice for social housing. If these trends continue, what might the implications be for service delivery in Rother?

Potentially, the timeframe of the Core Strategy will see increasing use of more diverse working practices such as home and flexible working, aided by innovations in IT. This could have implications for issues such as commuting levels, childcare requirements, and the need for employment floorspace.

Overall, how will services be delivered in Rother as the proportion of working age adults in the population is set to decline over the coming years?



## Appendix 3

### 1<sup>st</sup> Round Consultation Comments and Responses

Comment		Response	Where in Report
CA = Countryside Agency EA = Environment Agency			
<b>Question 1 Are there any other documents or sustainable development objectives relevant to this report?</b>			
CA	High Weald AONB Management Plan	Included in PPPSI Review	Appendix 1
EA	Waste Strategy, 2000 DEFRA Making space for Water 2005, Catchment Flood Management Plans Rother CAMS 2006 PPS 25 – Development and flood risk Review of the Waste Strategy 2006 EA State of the Environment report	Waste Strategy 2007 reviewed Reviewed Reviewed Reviewed Waste Strategy 2007 reviewed Reviewed	Appendix 1
<b>Question 2 Are you aware of any inaccuracies in the baseline data presented?</b>			
EA	Improve baseline by further explanation. Graphs/tables have no explanation and data source not identified	The “Rother in Profile” spatial portrait that has been used as the baseline has this information	Appendix 2
<b>Question 3 Do you agree that the baseline data collected is relevant to the Core Strategy DPD?</b>			
EA	Add Water Framework directive and associated indicators. Also EA ‘State of the Environment’ report.	Both reviewed as part of PPPSI review and targets identified.	Appendix 1
<b>Question 4 Are you aware of any additional baseline data that should be included?</b>			
CA	Add more details on the quality and quantity of the networks of cycle routes and footpaths, open spaces and energy consumption	The Open Space Audit will identify access to open space and provide contextual qualitative information on the quality of open space – will be reviewed as part of the update of “Rother in Profile”	Updated Spatial Portrait (Pending)
EA	Waste: Improve on Baseline by providing further explanation, explain source of data. No supporting text regarding graphs on Waste, or background to waste issues in the district.	Noted Will be addressed as part of the update of “Rother in Profile” Cross reference to the Framework indicators and inclusion of additional waste indicators	Table 4, Section 5
EA	Water Quality: Is water quality based on River Quality data or General Quality assessment data? Ground water sources should be addressed as part of the water quality section as these must be protected from pollution and contamination.	Noted Will be addressed as part of the update of “Rother in Profile” Cross reference to the Framework indicators and inclusion of additional water quality indicators	Table 4, Section 5
EA	Climate Change Potential impacts of climate change	Additional information on climate change will be presented in the	Updated Spatial

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	<p>should be added, especially in terms of sewage effluent entering watercourses suffering from low flows during periods of increased temperatures.</p> <p>Section G of Spatial Portrait does not adequately reflect environmental characteristics and issues of the district, especially relating to flood risk and water resources.</p> <p>Extent of flood plain and a summary of the District within flood zone 1, 2, 3 should be acknowledges as part of character of the district. Map showing these zones would be useful.</p> <p>Issue of water resources and ensuring sustainable supply of water should be in this section. Recycling water and promote use of SUDS</p>	<p>updated Spatial Portrait (pending)</p> <p>Cross reference to sustainability issues and the acknowledgement of locally specific issue son climate change</p> <p>SFRA will be taken into account throughout the SA process and information on the findings will be presented in the SA Report</p> <p>SFRA will provide additional information on SuDS and suitability of using them in different locations</p>	<p>Portrait (Pending)</p> <p>Section 4</p> <p>Will be documented in the SA Report</p> <p>Will be documented in the SA Report</p>
<b>Question 5 Do you agree with the main sustainability issues identified?</b>			
EA	<p>Important to highlight the consequences of climate change on the environment as well as the causes i.e., sea level rise, habitat change implication on the natural environment i.e., low river flows and extreme weather events</p>	<p>Agreed, mention of impacts on the environment and example given</p>	<p>Section 4, para 4.12</p>
<b>Question 6 Are there any issues that should be added or removed?</b>			
EA	<p>Include issue of: Integration of management systems for waste from all sources i.e., commercial and industrial waste. All waste management figures, not just landfill and recycling. That which is composted should be separated out Make specific reference to diversion of Biodegradable Municipal Waste from Landfill</p>	<p>Monitoring of commercial and industrial waste streams from varying sources is a county level issue. Information on waste collected for composting and that going to landfill is available at the local level and indicators have been added to the framework to take account of this.</p>	<p>Table 4, Section 5</p>
<b>Question 7 Do you agree with the focus and direction of the sustainability objectives?</b>			
CA	<p>Reference to achieving high quality of design that respects and enhances local distinctiveness is required</p>	<p>Reference to the quality of the built environment is considered to be covered by objective 15. A DPD or SPD objective could include design and local distinctiveness matters where appropriate. There is also the underlying assumption that all new development will be of a high quality design</p>	<p>Table 4 Section 5</p>

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EA	Objective 19 deals with water quality and water resources. This should be made into two distinct objectives.	Agreed. Revised SA Framework Objectives 12 and 13	Table 4 Section 5
EA	Objectives should be strengthened by the inclusion of more specific indicators.	Agreed. Additional specific indicators in framework	Table 4 Section 5
<b>Question 8 do you consider that the indicators are appropriate, in that they will satisfactorily identify trends and assist monitoring and review?</b>			
CA	Approve of use of Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape quality should also be used. Indicators on design should also be developed.	Noted	Table 4 Section 5
CA	Develop indicators on the accessibility to the countryside, open spaces i.e., distance of households from open spaces, length of undisrupted footpaths/cycle routes, net gain and level of use of open spaces.	Accessibility to open space will be monitored under Objective 7 Accessibility to services and facilities. Net gain of footpaths/cycle routes is not presently monitored at District or County level.	Table 4 Section 5
EA	Objective 1 – add number of houses built to Ecohomes / Breeam / other efficiency standards.	This information is not available. Propose to consider the future monitoring of homes built to Code for Sustainable Home standards.	Not available
EA	Objective 2 – Strengthen indicators relating to flood risk. Add percentage of new development with SUDS, number of properties on Environment Agency's auto dialling service.	Two indicators to measure flood risk for the new flood risk Objective 12. Information on SuDS implementation not available. On further discussion with the EA it has been agreed the auto dialling indicator is not required.	Table 4 Section 5
EA	Objective 14 – Number and area of designated sites (SSSI, AONB, SNCI etc), percentage of land in SSSI in favourable condition, unfavourable but recovering, length of hedgerows, area of land managed primarily for biodiversity in urban/or rural nature reserves, Area of ancient semi-natural woodland or as a percentage of total land area.	Indicators covering condition of SSSIs, number and area of SNCIs and national and internationally designated sites and ancient semi-natural woodland.	Table 4 Section 5
EA	Objective 18 – BMW sent to/ diverted from landfill, Waste collected/recycled from other sources i.e., commercial and industrial, Composting and other waste management options	Waste Objective 16 – associated indicators now include % household waste collected for compost and landfill as well as recycling figures. Commercial and industrial waste is not presently monitored at District or County level.	Table 4 Section 5
EA	Objective 19 – More indicators suggested relating to water quality of the District's rivers and coastline.	Water quality Objective 13 – associated indicators now include water quality of rivers and the sea	Table 4 Section 5
EA	Objective 20 – additional indicators relating to sustainable water resources management.	Water quality Objective 13 – associated indicators now include water consumption per	Table 4 Section 5

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		household. Information on SuDS implementation not available	
<b>Question 9 Are you able to provide data on biodiversity or drinking water quality?</b>			
EA	State of the Environment report will provide information and data on biodiversity/drinking water quality. LA should meet challenges of Water Directive framework, SSSI and BAP targets. Water Directive sets standard for water quality to reach good status by 2015. Targets should be reflected in Core Strategy DPD.	State of the Environment Report and Water Directive Framework reviewed as part of Task A1, targets have been identified and highlighted in review.	Appendix 1