



Dacorum Local Development Framework Core Strategy – Pre Submission

Sustainability Appraisal Report Appendix C: Sustainability Framework

September 2011

Appendix C – The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

This appendix provides the detailed Sustainability Appraisal Framework used to assess the Core Strategy. The sustainability objectives outlined in the Framework have been arranged under the SEA/SA topics.

Objective	Criteria	Indicators (bold indicates existing ~)
Biodiversity		
1. To protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity at all levels, including the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species in line with local targets	To protect, maintain and enhance designated wildlife and geological sites (international, national and local) and protected species to achieve favourable condition	Herts QoL WH6 Condition of SSSIs (contextual indicator) and HBRC number, area and condition of SSSIs
	To restore characteristic habitats and species, to achieve BAP targets	HBRC Change in areas designated for their intrinsic value
	To support farming and countryside practices that enhance wider biodiversity and landscape quality by economically and socially valuable activities (e.g. grazing, coppicing, nature reserves) [not applicable to urban boroughs, such as Watford]	HBRC Change in Priority Habitats Herts QoL WH3 Wildlife Sites and HBRC number and area of Wildlife Sites HBRC no. of Wildlife Sites lost or degraded by development or gained/secured by agreements Herts QoL WH1 Water voles Herts QoL WH2 Birds (contextual indicator) Herts QoL WH4 Pipistrelle bats Herts QoL WH5 Butterflies HBRC distribution/change of key species in Herts HBRC distribution/change of protected species in Herts COI 8 Changes in areas and populations of biodiversity importance
	To manage woodlands and other habitats of value for biodiversity in a sustainable manner and protect them against conversion to other uses	% woodland cover in District
	To recognise the social/environmental value and increase access to woodlands, wildlife & geological sites and green spaces particularly near/in urban areas	Percentage of wildlife sites accessible by sustainable modes of travel
To encourage people to come into contact with, understand, and enjoy nature	Number of visitors to wildlife sites	

Water		
2. To protect, maintain and enhance water resources (including water quality and quantity) while taking into account the impacts of climate change	To raise awareness and encourage higher water efficiency and conservation by for instance promoting water reuse in new and existing developments	Level of awareness of water issues and the need for water saving (contextual indicator) Average household water consumption per capita
	To ensure water consumption does not exceed levels which can be supported by natural processes and storage systems	Commercial water consumption
	To improve chemical and biological quality and flow of rivers and encourage practices which reduce nitrate levels in groundwater	Proportion of housing (existing and new development) with installed water efficient devices/water metres
	To improve flow of rivers	Herts QoL WR3 River quality objectives
	To reduce the number and severity of pollution incidents	EA Biological and chemical river quality (contextual indicator)
	To maintain or restore the integrity of water dependent wildlife sites in the area	Number and severity of pollution incidents to surface water and groundwater
3. Ensure that new developments avoid areas which are at risk from flooding and natural flood storage areas	To avoid developments in areas being at risk from fluvial, sewer or groundwater flooding (for instance natural flood plains) while taking into account the impacts of climate change	Number of properties at risk from flooding
	To ensure that developments, which are at risk from flooding or are likely to be at risk in future due to climate change, are sufficiently adapted	Proportion of runoff from new developments which is directed into Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) ¹

¹ Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) are management practices and physical structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable way than conventional systems.

	To promote properly maintained sustainable urban drainage systems to reduce flood risk and run off in areas outside Source Protection Zones 1 (SPZ)	
Soil		
4. Minimise development of land with high quality soils and minimise the degradation/loss of soils due to new developments	To safeguard high quality soils, such as agricultural land grades 1, 2 and 3a) from development [Might not be applicable for urban boroughs, such as Watford]	Amount of high quality agricultural land degraded/lost to development Area/percentage of contaminated land remediated
	To limit contamination/degradation/loss of soils due to development	Number of development sites having a policy to safeguard soils Area of proposed new developments on greenfield sites
Climatic Factors		
5. Reduce the impacts of climate change, with a particular focus on reducing the consumption of fossil fuels and levels of CO ₂	To minimise greenhouse gas emissions (particularly CO ₂) for instance through more energy efficient design and reducing the need to travel	NAIE Emissions of greenhouse gases (particularly CO₂) per capita grouped per type of source BV 63 Energy efficiency - average SAP rating of authority dwellings BV 80a (i) Actual/'Typical' energy consumption LA buildings - electricity BV 80a (ii) Actual/'Typical' energy consumption LA buildings - fossil fuels Herts QoL EN1 Energy efficiency in homes - overall reduction in CO₂ emissions % Herts QoL EN2 Energy efficiency in public buildings
	To promote increased carbon sequestration e.g. through increases in woodland cover	
	To adopt lifestyle changes which help to mitigate and adapt to climate change, such as promoting water and energy efficiency (through for instance higher levels of home insulation)	
6. Ensure that developments are capable of withstanding the effects of climate	To promote design measures which enable developments to withstand and accommodate the likely impacts and results of climate change (for instance through robust and weather resistant building structures)	Percentage of new developments considered to be 'climate change proof' (For indicators regarding renewable energy see section on material assets)

change (adaptation to climate change)		
Air Quality		
7. Achieve good air quality, especially in urban areas	To reduce the need to travel by car through planning settlement patterns and economic activity in a way that reduces dependence on the car and maintains access to work and essential services for non-car-owners	NAIE Levels of key air pollutants (e.g. Benzene, 1,3-Butadiene, CO₂, Lead, NO₂, PM10, SO₂) within the local authority area, and within the East of England Herts QoL QoL27 Air Pollution Herts QoL TR1 Volume of motor traffic Herts QoL TR2 Modal split Number of days when air pollution reported as moderate or higher within the local authority area Number of designated AQMAs
	To integrate land use and transport planning by for instance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting Green Transport Plans, including car pools, car sharing as part of new developments Ensuring services and facilities are accessible by sustainable modes of transport 	
	To ensure that development proposals do not make existing air quality problems worse	
	To address existing or potential air quality problems	
Material Assets		
8. Maximise the use of previously developed land and buildings, and the efficient use of land	To concentrate new developments on previously developed land (PDL)	COI 1(a) & (c) Amount of land developed for employment by type and percentage which is on previously developed land COI 1(b) Amount of land developed for employment by type, which is in development and/or regeneration areas defined in the LDF COI 2(b) Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land COI 2(c) Percentage of new dwellings completed at: less than 30, between 30 and 50 and above 50 dwellings per hectare Herts QoL LU3 Residential development on previously developed land
	To avoid use of Greenfield sites for development	
	To maximise the efficient use of land and existing buildings by measures such as higher densities and mixed use developments	
	To encourage the remediation of contaminated and derelict land and buildings	

		BV106 % of new homes built on previously developed land
9. To use natural resources, both finite and renewable, as efficiently as possible, and re-use finite resources or recycled alternatives wherever possible	To encourage maximum efficiency and appropriate use of materials, particularly from local and regional sources	Amount and percentage of secondary and recycled materials (including minerals and aggregates) used in construction
	To require new developments to incorporate renewable, secondary, or sustainably sourced local materials in buildings and infrastructure	BV82a Household waste - percentage recycled
	To safeguard reserves of exploitable minerals from sterilisation by other developments	BV82b Household waste - percentage composted
	To promote renewable energy sources as part of new or refurbished developments	BV82c Household waste - percentage of heat, power and other energy recovered
	To increase recycling and composting rates and encourage easily accessible recycling systems as part of new developments	BV82d Household waste - percentage landfilled BV84 Kg of household waste collected per head
	To promote awareness regarding waste/recycling and renewable energy issues through education programmes in schools and the community	Herts QoL WS1 Household waste per capita Herts QoL WS3 Percentage of waste recycled Proportion of developments which incorporates design measures to facilitate sustainable household waste management
Cultural Heritage		
10. To identify, maintain and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets	To safeguard and enhance the historic environment and restore historic character where appropriate, based on sound historical evidence	Number of Listed Buildings at Risk
	To promote local distinctiveness by maintaining and restoring historic buildings and areas, encouraging the re-use of valued buildings and thoughtful high quality design in housing and mixed use developments – to a density which respects the local context and townscape character, and includes enhancement of the public realm	Number and condition of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) Number and condition of Registered Parks and Gardens Number of Conservation Areas
	To promote public education, enjoyment and access of the built heritage and archaeology	% of Conservation Areas with character appraisals Percentage of historic buildings and structures open to the public

		<p>Numbers of historic assets taken from the 'at risk' category</p> <p>Number of historic assets restored/reused</p> <p>Number of locally important buildings to be demolished</p> <p>Changes inconsistent with historic landscape</p> <p>Quality in the built environment as measured by public perception surveys</p> <p>A measure of increased public access or interpretation of sites</p>
Landscape & Townscape		
11. To conserve and enhance landscape and townscape character and encourage local distinctiveness	To protect and enhance landscape and townscape character	<p>CQC Changes inconsistent with (local) landscape character</p> <p>Area of designated landscapes affected by/lost to development</p> <p>CPRE Light pollution and tranquillity mapping</p>
	To evaluate the sensitivity of the landscape to new/inappropriate developments and avoid inappropriate developments in these areas	
	To protect 'dark skies' from light pollution, and promote low energy and less invasive lighting sources while considering the balance between safety and environmental impacts	
	To minimise the visual impact of new developments	
Population & Human Health		
12. To encourage healthier lifestyles and reduce adverse health impacts of new developments	To promote the health advantages of walking and cycling and community based activities	<p>Length and condition of cycle / footpath network</p> <p>Number and condition of sports facilities</p> <p>COI 4(c) Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award standards</p> <p>Percentage of population with access to public open space</p> <p>Herts QoL NO1 Noise complaints received per 1000 population</p>
	To identify, protect and enhance open spaces, such as rivers and canals, parks and gardens, allotments and playing fields, and the links between them, for the benefit of people and wildlife	
	To include specific design and amenity policies to minimise noise and odour pollution, particularly in residential areas	
	To narrow the income gap between the poorest and wealthiest parts of the area and to reduce health differential	

		Herts QoL NO2 Source of noise complaints
13. To deliver more sustainable patterns of location of development	To reduce the need to travel through closer integration of housing, jobs and services	Percentage of health facilities accessible by sustainable modes of travel
	To promote better and more sustainable access to health facilities	Herts QoL TR2 Modal spilt Accessibility modelling
Social Factors		
14. Promote equity & address social exclusion by closing the gap between the poorest communities and the rest	To include measures which will improve everyone's access to high quality health, education, recreation, community facilities and public transport	Index of Multiple Deprivation BV156 % of local authority buildings suitable for and accessible by disabled people
	To ensure facilities and services are accessible by people with disabilities and minority groups	BV170a Number of visits to/usage's of museums per 1,000 population
	To encourage people to access the learning and skills they need for high quality of life	BV 117 Visits to libraries Number per capita
	To ensure that the LDF does not discriminate on the basis of disability, ethnic minority, or gender	Herts QoL SE3 Transport: access to public services COI 3(b) Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes of a GP, hospital, primary & secondary school, employment and major health centre Herts QoL ED1 GCSE performance Herts QoL ED2 Adult education level 2* Herts QoL QoL9 Young people with Level 2 qualifications BV38 % of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent % pensioners in households with below average income % children in households with below have half average income

<p>15. Ensure that everyone has access to good quality housing that meets their needs</p>	<p>Promote a range housing types and tenure, including high quality affordable and key worker housing</p>	<p>COI 2(d) Affordable housing completions BV184a LA homes which were non-decent at start of year BV184b Change in proportion on non-decent homes (negative means deterioration in stock) Herts QoL HS1 Affordable housing (house price/earnings affordability ratio) Herts QoL HS2 Statutorily unfit homes Herts QoL HS3 Homelessness</p>
<p>16. Enhance community identity and participation</p>	<p>To recognise the value of the multi-cultural/faith diversity of the peoples in the region</p> <p>To improve the quality of life in urban areas by making them more attractive places in which to live and work, and to visit</p> <p>To encourage high quality design in new developments, including mixed uses, to create local identity and encourage a sense of community pride</p>	<p>Number of community facilities per 10,000 population</p> <p>Town centre health checks</p> <p>CABE design review of schemes with significant impacts (if conducted)</p>
<p>17. Reduce both crime and fear of crime</p>	<p>To reduce all levels of crime with particular focus on violent, drug related, environmental and racially motivated crime</p> <p>To plan new developments to help reducing crime and fear of crime through thoughtful design of the physical environment, and by promoting well-used streets and public spaces</p> <p>To support government-sponsored crime/safety initiatives, maximising the use of all tools available to police, local authorities and other agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour</p>	<p>BV126a Burglaries No. per 1,000 households BV127a Robberies per 1000 population and percentage detected BV127b violent offences committed in a public place per 1,000 population BV127c violent offences committed in connection with licensed premises per 1,000 population BV127d violent offences committed under the influence per 1,000 population BV128a Vehicle crimes No. per 1,000 population BV174 Number of recorded racial incidents per</p>

		100,000 population Fear of crime statistics
Economic Factors		
18. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	To support an economy in the Authority which draws on the knowledge base, creativity and enterprise of its people	Herts QoL EC1 Percentage rise in GVA Herts QoL UN1 Long term unemployment Herts QoL QoL1 Proportion of people of working age in employment COI 1(f) Amount of employment land lost to residential development Business start up failures
	To promote and support economic diversity, small and medium sized enterprises and community-based enterprises	
	To support the economy with high quality infrastructure and a high quality environment	
19. Achieve a more equitable sharing of the benefits of prosperity across all sectors of society and fairer access to services, focusing on deprived areas in the region	To encourage local provision of and access to jobs and services	Herts QoL QoL5 The percentage increase/decrease in the number of local jobs In/out commuting balance Rate of growth of businesses (urban and rural)
	To improve the competitiveness of the rural economy [not applicable for urban boroughs, such as Watford]	
20. Revitalise town centres to promote a return to sustainable urban living	To promote the role of local centres as centres for sustainable development providing services, housing and employment, drawing on the principles of urban renaissance	COI 4(b) Percentage of completed retail, office and leisure development in town centres
	To encourage well-designed mixed-use developments in the heart of urban areas, create viable and attractive town centres that have vitality and life, and discourage out-of-town developments	