



Dartford Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal

Non-Technical Summary

Dartford Borough Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

July 2021

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Land Use Consultants Limited

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Introduction

1.1 This Non-Technical Summary relates to the full Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report for the Dartford Local Plan and should be ready in conjunction with that document as well as the Dartford Local Plan itself.

1.2 This Non-Technical Summary and the full SA Report were prepared by LUC on behalf of Dartford Borough Council as part of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Dartford Local Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.3 Dartford Borough Council is required by law to carry out both Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the emerging Local Plan. The Council appointed LUC to do this on its behalf.

1.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment is the process of assessing the likely environmental effects of a plan or programme (such as the Local Plan) and the requirements for this are set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations). The Government recommends that the requirements for both Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment are met through one integrated process, referred to as Sustainability Appraisal.

1.5 The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through by better integrating sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. It should be viewed as an integral part of good plan making and an ongoing process, involving ongoing iterations to identify and report on the potential social, economic and environmental effects

of the Local Plan and alternatives to the Local Plan to consider how well sustainable development will be achieved.

1.6 An overview of the stages of Sustainability Appraisal is set out below.

SA Stage A: Scoping

1.7 The SA process began with the production of a Scoping Report for the Dartford Local Plan, which was prepared by LUC on behalf of Dartford Borough Council.

1.8 The Scoping stage of the SA involves understanding the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan area as well as the sustainability policy context and key sustainability issues. The SA Scoping Report also sets out information about the methodology for this and later stages of the SA, in particular the 'SA Framework' - the sustainability objectives against which Local Plan options and policies have been appraised. The sustainability objectives making up the SA Framework are presented below. The detailed decision-making questions used to aid assessments are set out in the full SA Report. A summary of the policy review and baseline information for Dartford Borough is provided further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.

1.9 The Scoping Report was published for consultation from 31st October 2018 until 5th December 2018. An updated Scoping Report was published in January 2019, which responded to the comments received in this consultation.

Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- SA 1: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home
- SA 2: To ensure ready access to essential services and facilities for all residents

- SA 3: To strengthen community cohesion
- SA 4: To improve the population's health and reduce inequalities
- SA 5: Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy and a vital and viable town centre
- SA 6: To reduce the need to travel and encourage sustainable and active alternatives to motorised vehicles to reduce congestion
- SA 7: To conserve the Borough's mineral resources
- SA 8: To conserve the Borough's soils
- SA 9: To maintain and improve the quality of the Borough's waters
- SA 10: To reduce air pollution and ensure improvements in air quality
- SA 11: To avoid and mitigate flood risk
- SA 12: To minimise the Borough's contribution to climate change
- SA 13: To conserve, connect and enhance the Borough's wildlife, habitats and species
- SA 14: To conserve and/or enhance the significant qualities, fabric, setting and accessibility of the Borough's historic environment
- SA 15: To conserve and enhance the special qualities, accessibility, local character and distinctiveness of the Borough's settlements, countryside and landscape

SA Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

1.10 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process, usually involving a number of consultations with the public and stakeholders. Consultation responses and the SA can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for a plan.

1.11 The SA can help decision makers by identifying the potential positive and negative sustainability effects of each Local Plan option being considered, and therefore where there are opportunities to enhance positive effects and avoid or reduce negative ones.

1.12 The SA findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining a preferred option to take forward in a plan. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability, conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting preferred options for their plan.

1.13 The first consultation to inform the Local Plan was the Strategic Issues Consultation, which took place from June to July 2018. This consisted of a series of open-ended questions so that residents and stakeholders could voice their opinions on the direction that the new Local Plan should take.

1.14 The responses to the Strategic Issues Consultation fed into the Preferred Options for the Local Plan, which were subject to SA and then subject to consultation from January to February 2020. At this stage of the plan preparation process, the Council focused on the most critical planning policy matters, topics and potential development locations which will define the Borough in future, its environment and main areas of regeneration. The SA made a series of recommendations for the Dartford Local Plan and Preferred Options Consultation Document, some of which resulted in updates to that document (prior to consultation) and some of which have been implemented in preparation of the full Local Plan. The SA Report for the Dartford Local Plan Review Preferred Options Consultation Document (Regulation 18 stage) was subject to public consultation alongside the Preferred Options Consultation document between 10th January and 21st February 2020.

1.15 The Pre-Submission (Publication) Local Plan was then prepared, taking into account comments received in response to the Preferred Options Consultation Document (January 2020), and was subject to SA. The Local Plan document and accompanying SA report were published for consultation between February and April 2021.

1.16 An updated version of the Pre-Submission (Publication) Local Plan has now been updated to reflect a material change in context since it was originally published, namely the notification of the Swanscombe Peninsula Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by Natural England. This has resulted in amendments being made to a number of the Local Plan policies. The SA Report and this Non-Technical Summary have therefore also been updated to reflect the current version of the Local Plan.

SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

1.17 This Non-Technical Summary accompanies the full SA report, which describes the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the Dartford Local Plan. It summarises the findings of the appraisal of the Local Plan, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative, and taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term and permanent and temporary effects).

SA Stage D: Consultation on the Local Plan and this SA Report

1.18 Dartford Borough Council is inviting comments on the Local Plan and the SA Report. Comments received will be submitted to the Inspector, alongside the Dartford Local Plan, the SA Report and the rest of the Local Plan evidence base.

SA Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the Local Plan

1.19 Recommendations for monitoring the likely significant social, environmental and economic effects of implementing the Dartford Local Plan are summarised further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary and are set out in full in Chapter 7 of the main SA Report.

Policy Context

1.20 The Dartford Local Plan is not prepared in isolation, being greatly influenced by other plans, policies and programmes and by broader sustainability objectives. In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, relevant international, national, regional, sub-regional and local plans have been reviewed in relation to their objectives, targets and indicators. The full review is included in Appendix B of the full SA Report.

1.21 There are a number of relevant international agreements, mostly relating to conservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment, as well as a commitment to tackling climate change, through the 2015 Paris Agreement.

1.22 At the national level, the most significant policy context (other than the SEA Regulations) for the Local Plan is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making, stating that plans should:

- Be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.
- Be prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable.
- Be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees.

Introduction Introduction

- Contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals.
- Be accessible through the use of digital tools to assist public involvement and policy presentation.
- Serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area (including policies in this Framework, where relevant).

1.23 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development.
- Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, Flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat).
- Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure).
- Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

1.24 The NPPF also promotes well-designed places and development, as well as protection and enhancing beneficial use of the Green Belt.

1.25 Non-strategic policies should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development, including qualitative aspects such as design of places, landscapes, and development.

Baseline Information and Key Sustainability Issues

1.26 Baseline information provides the context for assessing the sustainability of proposals in the Dartford Local Plan and it provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects of the plan and monitoring its outcomes. In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, consideration has been given to the current state of the environment in Dartford. Detailed baseline information for the Borough is presented in Appendix B of the full SA Report and it has been updated throughout the SA process. As well as environmental issues, the baseline information includes a description of social and economic issues in the Borough.

1.27 The baseline information contributed to the identification of a set of key sustainability issues for Dartford, which in turn helped to develop the SA framework presented above. The key sustainability issues identified for Dartford are set out below. In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment if the Local Plan were not to be implemented.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Key issue: population growth and demographic change will place additional demand on key services and facilities such as health, education and social care. In particular, there are currently capacity issues with schools and GP services.
- Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: Without the Local Plan it is likely that services and facilities will still be delivered. However, it is less likely that these will be in appropriate locations, or of sufficient quality and quantity to keep pace with demand arising from new residential development. The Local Plan offers an opportunity to deliver these in a coherent, sustainable manner alongside development.

- Key issue: there is a need for affordable housing across Dartford. At present the average house prices in the Borough are higher than the national average.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: without the Local Plan it is likely that house prices will continue to rise across the Borough and levels of affordable housing will be low. The Local Plan offers the opportunity to facilitate and expedite the delivery of affordable housing.
- Key issue: there is a need to reduce the inequalities gap between those living in the most deprived areas of Dartford and those living in the least deprived areas of Dartford. The Borough contains deprivation 'hot spots' that are geographically close to some of the least deprived parts of the country.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: without the Local Plan it is possible that the gap between the most and least deprived areas in the Borough will remain or grow. The Local Plan presents the opportunity to address this through the planning of new and improved communities and infrastructure, particularly within the areas that are amongst the 20% most deprived in the country.
- Key issue: levels of obesity in the District exceed the national average.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: without the Local Plan levels of obesity in the Borough may continue to rise, although national campaigns may work to reduce this. The Local Plan could further contribute to tackling obesity through policies that encourage active travel and access to green space and healthy food, and other recreation opportunities.
- Key issue: there is a deficit of open spaces in some areas in the northern half of the Borough, and some of the southern areas are not within walking distance of a park. This could be limiting opportunities for recreation and for people to connect with nature.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: without the Local Plan it is likely that the deficit in open spaces will remain. The Local Plan offers the opportunity to address this by ensuring that the accessibility and quality of open space is high and new local green spaces are planned

alongside new development. These will help people to connect to nature and natural environment. The new Local Plan provides further opportunities for connecting people with nature, including creating and enhancing green links within and between towns and into the countryside.

- Key issue: as with the County as a whole, total crime in Dartford has risen since 2010 and violent crime makes up the largest proportion of the increase.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: the Local Plan would provide a contribution, alongside other local and national measures, to locally reduce crime through policies which aim to make the local environment and streets safer, for example by 'designing out' crime.
- Key issue: although unemployment is low in Dartford, the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a rise in unemployment and a decrease in economic productivity. The Borough needs to ensure a future supply of jobs and continued investment to ensure identified employment development opportunities are taken forward and deprivation issues tackled.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: it is uncertain how the job market will change without the implementation of the Local Plan and some degree of change is inevitable. However, the Local Plan offers the opportunity to create and safeguard jobs through the allocation and promotion of employment generating uses and office and industrial spaces and promotion of the rural economy, as well as promoting access and opportunity for all.
- Key issue: the major traffic routes of the M25 and the A2 pass through Dartford. These experience high levels of congestion and delays and traffic accidents and issues can spread onto the local road network. Rail capacity is also currently stretched. Population growth has the potential to exacerbate these problems.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: without the Local Plan it is anticipated that congestion, and the number of traffic accidents will continue to rise with the rising population. The Local Plan presents the opportunity to address this through providing clarity for infrastructure providers and policy that promotes alternative forms of transport and

sustainable locations for development that minimise the need to travel by car on the local network and will complement measures taken by highways authorities to combat congestion on the strategic road network.

- Key issue: a high proportion of the Borough's residents drive to work. The uptake of more Sustainable travel options is limited.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: without the Local Plan, car dependency will continue to be high. The Local Plan provides an opportunity to prevent this rising further and minimise car use through the promotion of sustainable and active transport (based on sufficient population densities) and sustainable development locations.
- Key issue: there are four Air Quality Management Areas in Dartford District, which have been designated because these areas exceed the annual mean Air Quality Strategy objective for NO₂ and PM₁₀, caused primarily by road traffic emissions.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: how air quality will change in the absence of a Local Plan is unknown, given that the Borough accommodates a high volume of through traffic. Without the Local Plan, development may be located in less sustainable locations that increase reliance on car use, which is likely to increase air pollution. Recent national policies and the emergence of new technologies are likely to improve air pollution, for example, through cleaner fuels/energy sources. Nonetheless, the Local Plan provides an opportunity to contribute to improved air quality in the Borough through the sustainable siting of development and the promotion of alternative travel modes to the motorised vehicle, in line with national policy aspirations.
- Key issue: the Borough contains some of the County's best and most versatile agricultural land which, where possible, should not be lost or compromised by future growth.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: notwithstanding that the most versatile agriculture land lies within Green Belt that receives national protection outside of the Local Plan without the Local Plan this land may be lost or compromised. The Local Plan provides an

opportunity to ensure these natural assets are not lost or compromised, by prioritising brownfield sites and lower quality agricultural land for development.

- Key issue: some water bodies in Dartford are failing to meet the objective of 'Good Status'. The issues may be exacerbated by population growth.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: without the Local Plan it is possible that un-planned development could be located in areas that will exacerbate existing Water quality issues, although existing safeguards, such as the Water Environment Regulations and Water Supply (Water Quality Regulations, would provide some protection. The Local Plan will provide the opportunity to ensure that development is located and designed to take into account the sensitivity of the water environment and provide an opportunity to plan for adequate wastewater infrastructure.
- Key issue: Dartford contains a large number of biodiversity sites which could be impacted by climate change and / or harmed by inappropriate development.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: even without the Local Plan, some important habitats and biodiversity sites will continue to receive statutory protection. However, without the Local Plan it is possible that development could be sited inappropriately and adversely impact biodiversity sites, even if indirectly. The Local Plan will also present an opportunity to manage the sensitivities of the sites and biodiversity networks, for example by locating development away from the most sensitive locations, provide for new green infrastructure, and ensure that growth does not adversely affect their current condition but where possible contributes to their improvement.
- Key issue: Flood risk to Dartford is dominated by tidal flooding, with a breach of the coastal defence structures posing the most risk. The expected magnitude and probability of significant fluvial, tidal ground and surface water flooding is increasing in the Borough due to climate change.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: the Local Plan is not expected to reduce the likelihood of tidal flooding or prevent a breach of coastal defence structures. However, it does present the opportunity,

alongside national measures, to mitigate the effects of potential future flooding and locate development in sustainable locations that would not be significantly impacted by flooding and ensure it is designed to be flood resilient where appropriate.

- Key issue: the Borough has an obligation to contribute to the national carbon reduction targets through the generation of low carbon and renewable energy, including decentralised energy networks, and encouraging energy efficiency measures in new and existing buildings. The Local Plan does not have the ability to set renewable energy requirements in residential development.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: the Borough will continue to have an obligation to reduce carbon emissions with or without the Local Plan. The Local Plan provides a way to contribute to these targets being met, by promoting sustainable development, for example by reducing the need to travel, and through encouraging low-carbon design, promotion of renewable energy and sustainable transport.
- Key issue: there are many sites, features and areas of historical and cultural interest in the Borough, a number of which are at risk, and which could be adversely affected by poorly located or designed development.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: while a number of the heritage assets in the Borough, for example listed buildings and scheduled monuments, will be protected by statutory designations, without the Local Plan it is possible that these, and undesignated assets, will be adversely affected by inappropriate development. The Local Plan provides an opportunity to protect these assets (including their setting) from inappropriate development, as well as enhancing the historic environment and improving accessibility and interpretation of distinctive features of local heritage.
- Key issue: the Borough contains a number of locally distinct landscape character areas that could be harmed by inappropriate development.
 - Likely evolution without the new Local Plan: the Borough does not contain any national landscape designations and so character areas would be left without protection in the absence of the Local Plan and could be harmed by inappropriate development. The Local Plan offers

an opportunity to ensure that the variation in landscape character is taken into account in the design and siting of development and opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the landscape are maximised. Parts of the Borough are also within the setting of the North Downs AONB, and therefore the Local Plan can help to ensure that development does not compromise this protected landscape.

Appraisal Methodology

1.28 The findings of the SA are presented as colour coded symbols showing a score for each option against each of the SA objectives. The main SA Report presents these scores along with a justification for the score given, where appropriate. The use of colour coding and symbols allows for likely significant effects (both positive and negative) to be easily identified, as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan

Symbol	Meaning
++	The option or policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on the SA objectives.
++/-	The option or policy is likely to have a mixture of significant positive and minor negative effects on the SA objectives.
+	The option or policy is likely to have a minor positive effect on the SA objectives.
0	The option or policy is likely to have negligible or no effect on the SA objectives.
?	It is uncertain what effect the option or policy will have on the SA objectives.

Symbol	Meaning
-	The option or policy is likely to have a minor negative effect on the SA objectives.
--/+	The option or policy is likely to have a mixture of minor positive and significant negative effects on the SA objectives.
--	The option or policy is likely to have a significant negative effect on the SA objectives.
+/-	The option or policy is likely to have a mixture of positive and negative effects on the SA objectives.

1.29 Where a potential positive or negative effect is uncertain, a question mark was added to the relevant score (such as +? or -?) and the score has been colour coded as per the potential positive, negligible or negative effect (such as green, yellow or pink).

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

SA Findings for Reasonable Alternatives

1.30 The reasonable alternatives to the Dartford Local Plan were considered and subject to SA at the Preferred Options stage. The full SA assessments of those options are presented in Appendix C of the full SA Report and are summarised below. Chapter 3 of the full SA Report sets out how these alternatives relate to the policies now included in the Pre-Submission (Publication) version of the Local Plan (July 2021) and the Council's reasons for taking forward the preferred options in light of the reasonable alternatives.

Main Plan Options

1: To what extent should brownfield land in the Borough be used for new homes and jobs?

1.31 This Main Plan Option comprised four options:

- 1A: Brownfield land should be used to its greatest extent across both the urban and rural parts of the Borough.
- 1B: Brownfield land should be used to a full extent in locations very well served by public transport (preferred option).
- 1C: Brownfield land not a strong priority, with non-Green Belt land encouraged for development (including some greenfield sites).
- 1D: Reject a brownfield land focus, in favour of new growth locations elsewhere in the Borough, including more dispersed development that may include locations within the Green Belt.

1.32 Table 2 presents a summary of the likely SA effects for these options.

Table 2: Summary of SA effects for Main Plan Option 1

SA objectives	Option 1A	Option 1B	Option 1C	Option 1D
SA 1: Housing	++?	++?	++	++
SA 2: Services and facilities	+/-?	++/-	--?/+	--?/+
SA 3: Community cohesion	+/-?	++	--/+	--/+
SA 4: Health and inequality	+/-?	++/-	--/+	+/-
SA 5: Economy	--?/+	++	+/-?	--/+
SA 6: Sustainable travel	+/-?	++	--/+	--?/+
SA 7: Mineral resources	-?	-?	-?	-?
SA 8: Soil	++	++	--	--
SA 9: Water quality	-?	-?	-?	-?
SA 10: Air pollution	--?/+	++/--	--/+	--?/+
SA 11: Flood risk	-?	-?	--?	--?
SA 12: Climate change	+/-?	++/-	--/+	--?/+
SA 13: Biodiversity	-?	+/-?	-?	--?
SA 14: Historic environment	--?/+	+/-?	-?	-?
SA 15: Landscape	--?/+	+/-?	-?	--?

2: How to ensure Dartford is a thriving town centre?

1.33 This Main Plan Option comprised three options:

- Option 2A: Support extensive radical change through promoting residential redevelopment in and around the town centre, (including at high densities), achieving a rapid expansion of residents in the town centre and new premises for businesses and shops.
- Option 2B: Encourage redevelopment of selected areas in and around the town centre; creating new spaces where this will achieve significant diversification over time of activities, and transformation of the attractiveness of Dartford town centre.
- Option 2C: New development proposals considered on a case-by-case basis, based on a looser vision which aims for gradual regeneration but with limited direction on where and how redevelopment should occur.

1.34 Table 3 presents a summary of the likely SA effects for these options.

Table 3: Summary of SA effects for Main Plan Option 2

SA objectives	Option 2A	Option 2B	Option 2C
SA 1: Housing	++	++	+
SA 2: Services and facilities	++/-?	++?	+/-?
SA 3: Community cohesion	+/-?	+?	+/-
SA 4: Health and inequality	++/-?	++?	+/-
SA 5: Economy	++/-?	++	-
SA 6: Sustainable travel	++/-?	++?	--/+
SA 7: Mineral resources	+	+	+/-
SA 8: Soil	++	++	++/-?
SA 9: Water quality	-?	-?	-?
SA 10: Air pollution	++/--	++/-	--/+
SA 11: Flood risk	--	--/+	+/-

SA objectives	Option 2A	Option 2B	Option 2C
SA 12: Climate change	++/-	++?	--?/+
SA 13: Biodiversity	+/-	+/-	--?
SA 14: Historic environment	--?	--?/+	+/-?
SA 15: Landscape	--?/+	++/-?	-?

3: What strategy is most likely to retain green space in the Borough and deliver improvements?

1.35 This Main Plan Option comprised three options:

- Option 3A: Change the network of greenspaces in local planning policy to clearly indicate where is and is not priority in the Borough's securing greenspace, and possible improvements.
- Option 3B: Maintain the existing strategy for a green Borough through requiring new development to provide sufficient new open space and generally retaining existing local greenspace designations but consolidate how policies are presented.
- Option 3C: Increasing the amount and extent of Borough Open Space to protect green Dartford further.

1.36 Table 4 presents a summary of the likely SA effects for these options.

Table 4: Summary of SA effects for Main Plan Option 3

SA objectives	Option 3A	Option 3B	Option 3C
SA 1: Housing	0	0	0?
SA 2: Services and facilities	0	0	0
SA 3: Community cohesion	+/-	+	+
SA 4: Health and inequality	++/-	+	++
SA 5: Economy	++/-	+	++
SA 6: Sustainable travel	++/-	+	++
SA 7: Mineral resources	0	0	0
SA 8: Soil	-	+	+
SA 9: Water quality	++/-	+	++
SA 10: Air pollution	+/-?	+	+?
SA 11: Flood risk	+/-	+	+
SA 12: Climate change	+/-?	+	+
SA 13: Biodiversity	+/-	+	++
SA 14: Historic environment	0	0	0
SA 15: Landscape	+/-	+	+

4: What is the best future for the Ebbsfleet Central area?

1.37 This Main Plan Option comprised three options:

- Option 4A: High-density business district.

- Option 4B: High-density urban heart with a range of uses, including employment, residential, a key health/education or leisure/culture use.
- Option 4C: Residential-led development.

1.38 Table 5 presents a summary of the likely SA effects for these options.

Table 5: Summary of SA effects for Main Plan Option 4

SA objectives	Option 4A	Option 4B	Option 4C
SA 1: Housing	+?	+?	++
SA 2: Services and facilities	+?	++	++
SA 3: Community cohesion	+/-	++?	+?
SA 4: Health and inequality	+?	++?	+?
SA 5: Economy	++?	++/-	+?
SA 6: Sustainable travel	++/-	++?	++/-?
SA 7: Mineral resources	--?	--?	--?
SA 8: Soil	--?/+	--?/+	--?/+
SA 9: Water quality	-	-	-
SA 10: Air pollution	+/-	++/-	++/-
SA 11: Flood risk	-?	-?	-?
SA 12: Climate change	++/-?	++?	++/-?
SA 13: Biodiversity	--?	--?	--?
SA 14: Historic environment	--?	--?	--?
SA 15: Landscape	-?	-?	-?

5: What is the best future for the Swanscombe Peninsula area?

1.39 This Main Plan Option comprised three options:

- Option 5A: Support the development of an internationally important entertainment resort.
- Option 5B: A strategy to encourage sensitively integrated, lower density, mixed uses and ecological improvements.
- Option 5C: Do not specify potential uses but include a criteria-based policy to provide a basis for dealing with proposals that may be put forward.

1.40 Table 6 presents a summary of the likely SA effects for these options.

Table 6: Summary of SA effects for Main Plan Option 5

SA objectives	Option 5A	Option 5B	Option 5C
SA 1: Housing	0	+	0?
SA 2: Services and facilities	0	+	0?
SA 3: Community cohesion	-	+?	0?
SA 4: Health and inequality	--?/+	++?	0?
SA 5: Economy	++	+	0?
SA 6: Sustainable travel	--?	++/-	0?
SA 7: Mineral resources	--?	--?	0?
SA 8: Soil	+/-	+	+
SA 9: Water quality	-?	-?	+
SA 10: Air pollution	--	++/-	+

SA objectives	Option 5A	Option 5B	Option 5C
SA 11: Flood risk	--?	--?/+	+?
SA 12: Climate change	--	++/-	+?
SA 13: Biodiversity	--	++?	+?
SA 14: Historic environment	--?	--?	0?
SA 15: Landscape	--?	+/-?	+?

6: How can Dartford best plan ahead for a better transport network?

1.41 This Main Plan Option comprised three options:

- Option 6A: To base the Local Plan's transport and development strategy Borough heavily on plan to extend Crossrail (Elizabeth Line) services to the Borough, and workup long-term development proposals now in support of major new rail provision.
- Option 6B: To focus on a Local Plan taking forward current transport schemes (Fastrack/buses, key road junctions, and rail), expecting development to be in walkable locations, and in parallel continue to explore the best longer-term way to secure a major 'modal shift' in transport choice, particularly through investigating Crossrail (Elizabeth Line) extension. We will minimise need to travel for journeys, through planning for trips that can be done by walking (or cycling); particularly to access schools, healthcare, shops and jobs.
- Option 6C: To focus Local Plan strategy heavily on securing new development that will help fund new road junctions.

1.42 Table 7 presents a summary of the likely SA effects for these options.

Table 7: Summary of SA effects for Main Plan Option 6

SA objectives	Option 6A	Option 6B	Option 6C
SA 1: Housing	0	0	0?
SA 2: Services and facilities	+/-?	+	-
SA 3: Community cohesion	+	+	-
SA 4: Health and inequality	+/-?	+	--?/+
SA 5: Economy	++?	+	+/-
SA 6: Sustainable travel	++/-?	++	--
SA 7: Mineral resources	-?	-?	-?
SA 8: Soil	+	+	-
SA 9: Water quality	-?	-?	-?
SA 10: Air pollution	++/-?	++	--/+
SA 11: Flood risk	+/-?	+	-
SA 12: Climate change	++/-	++	--
SA 13: Biodiversity	+/-?	+/-?	--?
SA 14: Historic environment	--?/+	+/-?	--?/+
SA 15: Landscape	+/-?	+/-?	--?/+

Strategic Site Options

Hythe Street/Kent Road

1.43 This Strategic Site Option comprised two options:

- Option A: Mixed use redevelopment, part of town centre regeneration. It will be allocated for: leisure uses, a new primary care health hub and residential development. Development will be expected to retain the Co-op façade on Spital Street, provide active uses on street frontages and incorporate a public square.
- Option B: Residential-led development.

1.44 Table 8 presents a summary of the likely SA effects for these options.

Table 8: Summary of SA effects for the Street/Kent Road options

SA Objectives	Option A	Option B
SA 1: Housing	+	++?
SA 2: Services and facilities	++	+/-?
SA 3: Community cohesion	++/-?	+/-?
SA 4: Health and inequality	++/-?	+/-
SA 5: Economy	++?	+/-?
SA 6: Sustainable travel	++/-?	+/-?
SA 7: Mineral resources	0	0
SA 8: Soil	++	++
SA 9: Water quality	-	-
SA 10: Air pollution	+/-	+/-
SA 11: Flood risk	--?	--?
SA 12: Climate change	++/-?	+/-?
SA 13: Biodiversity	0?	0?
SA 14: Historic environment	?	?
SA 15: Landscape	+?	+?

Former Littlebrook Power Station

1.45 This Site Option comprised two options:

- Option A: Brownfield land for employment / high tech logistics (up to 88,000 sqm) with greenspace and infrastructure appropriate for its location and riverside setting.
- Option B: Residential-led development.

1.46 It should be noted that Littlebrook Power Station has been granted planning permission for employment use and is therefore now a commitment. It forms an extension to The Bridge Identified Employment Area (set out in Policy M21: Identified Employment Areas of the Local Plan).

1.47 Table 9 presents a summary of the likely SA effects for these options.

Table 9: Summary of SA effects for the Littlebrook Power Station options

SA Objectives	Option A	Option B
SA 1: Housing	0	++
SA 2: Services and facilities	+/-?	+/-?
SA 3: Community cohesion	+	+/-
SA 4: Health and inequality	+/-	+/-
SA 5: Economy	++	+
SA 6: Sustainable travel	--?/+	--?/+
SA 7: Mineral resources	-	-
SA 8: Soil	++	++
SA 9: Water quality	-	-

SA Objectives	Option A	Option B
SA 10: Air pollution	--?	--?
SA 11: Flood risk	--?	--?
SA 12: Climate change	--	--
SA 13: Biodiversity	--?/+	--?/+
SA 14: Historic environment	--?	--?
SA 15: Landscape	+?	+?

Preferred Policy Approaches

1.48 The Preferred Policy approaches set out the Council’s proposed approach to a range of topics. These were derived primarily from the Main Plan Options presented above, and therefore for many of the Preferred Policy approaches the Council considered all reasonable alternatives had been considered via the Main Plan Options. For a small number of Preferred Policy Approaches, additional reasonable alternatives were identified (these are referred to as ‘alternative options’ below). The Preferred Policy approaches and reasonable alternatives were as follows:

- Preferred Option A: Pattern of Development and Green Belt in the Borough.
- Preferred Option B1: Development Delivery and Housing Location Criteria.
- Alternative Option B2: Higher level of housing.
- Preferred Option C: Infrastructure.
- Preferred Option D1: Town Centres and Retailing – Dartford Town Centre and Town Centre Regeneration Locations.
- Preferred Option D2: Town Centres and Retailing – Borough-wide and Bluewater.
- Preferred Option E: Ebbsfleet Garden City.

- Preferred Option F1: Business Premises and Employment.
- Alternative Option F2: Not intensifying employment sites.
- Alternative Option F3: Releasing employment land for other uses.
- Preferred Option G: Natural Environment and Open Space.
- Preferred Option H: Renewable Energy and Water Management.
- Preferred Option I1: Affordable Housing.
- Alternative Option I2: Apply a Borough-wide threshold of 10 dwellings for the delivery of affordable housing
- Alternative Option I3: Retain the current overall target for affordable housing of 30% on qualifying sites
- Preferred Option J: Housing Type and Size.
- Preferred Option K: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

1.49 Table 10 presents a summary of the likely SA effects for these preferred options and reasonable alternatives. More details on the options and the full assessments of these are presented in Appendix C of the full SA Report.

Table 10: Summary of SA effects for Preferred Policy approaches

SA Objectives	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Preferred Option A	+++	++/-?	++	++/-?	++	++	-?	++	-?	++/--	--?/+	++/-	+/-	+/-?	+/-?
Preferred Option B1	++	++/-	++/-	++/-?	++	+	-?	++/-	-?	--?/+	--?	+/-	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?
Alternative Option B2	+++	++/--?	++/--?	++/--?	++/-?	+/-?	-?	++/-	-?	--?/+	--?	--/+	--?/+	--?/+	--?/+
Preferred Option C	+/-?	++	+	++	++	++/-	-?	+	-?	++/-	++	++/-	--/+	--?	+/-?
Preferred Option D1	++	++/-?	++/-?	++/-	++/-?	++/-?	-?	++	-	++/-?	--?	++/-?	+/-	--?/+	+/-?
Preferred Option D2	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	++/-?	+/-?	-?	-	-	+/-?	?	+/-?	-?	--?/+	+/-?
Preferred Option E	+++	++	+++	+++	++	++/-?	--?	+/-?	-	++/-?	--?/+	++/-?	++/-?	--?	+/-?
Preferred Option F1	0	+	+	+	++	+/-	-?	++/-?	-	+/-?	--	+/-	++/--?	+/-?	+/-?

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SA Objectives	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Alternative Option F2	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alternative Option F3	?	?	?	?	--	0	0	++	-?	0	?	0	+/-	+?	+?
Preferred Option G	0	+	+	++	+	+	0	+	+	+?	+	+	++	0	+
Preferred Option H	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	++	++	+	0	+
Preferred Option I1	++/-?	-?	+	++/-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alternative Option I2	++/-?	-?	+	++/-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alternative Option I3	++/-	-?	+	++/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preferred Option J	++	0	+	++	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	+
Preferred Option K	++	0	++	+?	0	+?	0	+?	-?	-?	0	+/-?	0	+?	-?

SA Findings for Pre-Submission (Publication) Version of the Local Plan

Vision and Objectives

1.50 Table 11 shows a summary of SA scores for the Dartford Local Plan vision and objectives. The vision sets out the aspirations for the Borough, which range from being well connected, served by good infrastructure and local facilities and able to access a choice of homes to providing new green space for health and wellbeing and local wildlife, mitigating flood risk, and sensitively integrating new development with the local heritage and landscape. The vision is accompanied by a number of objectives, which seek to address wellbeing of local communities, provision of sufficient infrastructure, economic investment and creating a green and attractive environment.

Table 11: SA Scores for the vision and objectives of the Dartford Local Plan

Vision and objectives	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Vision	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	++?	++?	+
Objective W1	++	++	++	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
Objective W2	0	+	+	++	+	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
Objective W3	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective W4	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective W5	0	+	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Objective I1	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	+
Objective I2	0	+	+	+	+	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
Objective I3	+	+	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective I4	0	0	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective G1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
Objective G2	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
Objective G3	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	0	0

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

Vision and objectives	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Objective G4	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	++
Objective G5	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0

Policies

1.51 Table 12 shows a summary of SA scores for the policies contained in the Dartford Local Plan. Note that this is a high-level overview only and should be read alongside the detailed appraisals set out in the main SA Report.

Table 12: SA Scores for the policies of the Dartford Local Plan

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Policy S1: Borough Spatial Strategy	++	++/-	+	++/-	++	++/-	-	++/-?	-	++/--	--?	++/-	++/-	--/+?	+/-
Policy S2: Infrastructure Planning Strategy	+/-?	++	+	+	+	++/-	-?	0	-?	+/-	+/-?	+/-	+/-?	-?	+/-?
Policy S3: Climate Change Strategy	+/-?	0	0	+	+/-?	+	0	+	+	+	++	++	+	0	+
Policy S4: Borough Development Levels	++	+	+	+	++	+	-?	++/-	-?	+/-	-?	+/-	-?	-?	-?
Policy D1: Central Dartford Strategy	+	+++?	+++?	+++?	++	++/-	-?	+	-?	++/--	--?	++/-	+/-?	+/-?	+
Policy D2: Central Dartford Development Principles	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	0	0	++	++	++	+	++	+
Policy D3: mix of uses in Dartford Town Centre	+	+++?	+	+	++	+?/-	-?	+	-?	--/+?	--?	+?/-	0	+/-	+

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Policy D4: Westgate Allocation	+	++?	++?	++?	++	+/-	0	++	0	--/+	--?	+/-	0	+/-?	++
Policy D5:East of Lowfield Street Allocation	++	++?	++?	+?	+	+/-	0?	+	-?	++/--	--	+/-	0	+/-?	++
Policy D6: Priory Centre Allocation	++	++?	+?	+?	++	+/-	0	++	0	--/+	--?	+/-	0	+	++
Policy D7: Station Surrounds/River Darent Area	+?	+?	++?	++?	+	++/-	0?	++	-?	++/--	--?/+	++/-	--/+	+/-?	++
Policy E1: Ebbsfleet and Swanscombe Strategy	++	++	++	++	++	++/-	-?	++/-?	-	++/--	--?/+	++/-	++/-?	--?	+/-
Policy E2: Ebbsfleet Garden City Development Principles	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	++	+	+	+
Policy E3: Swanscombe	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	+
Policy E4: Ebbsfleet Central Allocation	++	++?	++?	++?	++/-	++/-	-?	--?/+	-?	++/--	--?	++/-	+/-?	--?	++/-?

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Policy E5: Alkerden and Ashmere Allocation	+	++?	++	++?	++	++/-	0	--/+	-	++/--	0	++/-	--/+	--?	+/-?
Policy E6: Area North of London Road, Swanscombe	+?	+?	+?	+?	+?	+/-	-?	++	-?	++/--	--?	+/-	--/+	--?	+
Policy M1: Good Design for Dartford	0	0	++	++	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+?	+	++
Policy M2: Environmental and Amenity Protection	0	0	0	+?	0	0	0	+?	+?	+?	0	+?	+?	0	+?
Policy M3: Sustainable Technology, Construction and Performance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+?	++	0	0	++	+?	+?	+?
Policy M4: Flood Risk and Riverside Design	0	0	+?	+?	0	+?	0	0	+	0	++	+	+?	0	+
Policy M5: Designated Heritage Assets	0?	0	0	0	0?	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++?	+
Policy M6: Historic Environment Strategy	0?	0	0	0	0?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Policy M7: Affordable Housing	++/-	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy M8: Housing Mix	++	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy M9: Sustainable Housing Locations	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	++	0	+	+?	+	+?	0	+?
Policy M10: Residential Amenity Space	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
Policy M11: Extensions, New Dwellings and Garden Land	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
Policy M12: Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation	++	+	0	+	0	+	-?	+	0	++/-	0	+	-	0	+
Policy M13: Green Belt	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	+
Policy M14: Green and Blue	0	+	+	++	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	++	0	++

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Infrastructure Strategy															
Policy M15: Biodiversity and Landscape	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	++	0	++
Policy M16: Travel Management	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
Policy M17: Active Travel, Access and Parking	0	+	+	+	+	++	0	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	0	0	0
Policy M18: Community Uses	0	+	++	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
Policy M19: Sustainable Economic Locations	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
Policy M20: Provision for Local Business and Skills	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy M21: Identified Employment Areas	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	0	0	0
Policy M22: Bluewater	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	+/-	+	+/-	+?	0	+?

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Policy M23: District and Local Centres	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
Policy M24: Food and Drink Establishments	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Overall effects of the Local Plan against the SA Objectives

1.52 In addition to assessments for individual policies, the SA also includes an assessment of the cumulative effects of the plan as a whole, as well as consideration of effects in combination with other development in the surrounding area. The results of this cumulative effects assessment are presented in Table 13. The full cumulative effects assessment is set out in Chapter 6 of the full SA Report.

Table 13: Cumulative effects of the Dartford Local Plan

SA objective	Likely cumulative effect
SA 1: Housing	++
SA 2: Services and facilities	++
SA 3: Community cohesion	++
SA 4: Health and inequality	++/-
SA 5: Economy	++
SA 6: Sustainable travel	++/-
SA 7: Mineral resources	-
SA 8: Soil	++
SA 9: Water quality	+
SA 10: Air pollution	++/-
SA 11: Flood risk	+
SA 12: Climate change	++/-
SA 13: Biodiversity	++/-

SA objective	Likely cumulative effect
SA 14: Historic environment	+/-
SA 15: Landscape	+

In Combination Effects

1.53 The effects of development are not limited to within local authority boundaries and some development, particularly Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) are considered at a national level, by the Planning Inspectorate, rather than the local authority. This section identifies other development that could have sustainability impacts in combination with the Dartford Local Plan and discusses these effects.

Development Proposed in Neighbouring Local Plans

1.54 The neighbouring authorities of Bexley and Gravesham are all in the process of preparing new or revised Local Plans. Sevenoaks District Council lost an appeal against an unsuccessful Judicial Review of their draft Local Plan in April 2021 and is therefore expected to begin preparation of a new Local Plan shortly. These authorities have all recognised a need to provide for additional housing and employment development in their areas. Dartford also has a connection further afield with London, Essex and the rest of Kent, due to the strategic road links in the Borough; the A2 and M25/A282, including the Dartford Crossing, which provides the only direct road link between Kent and Essex.

1.55 Additional development in surrounding areas is likely to have a significant negative in-combination effect with regards to SA objectives 10 (Air pollution) and 12 (Climate Change), as this will add to the number of vehicles on these strategic roads and associated increases in congestion. In addition, a minor negative effect is expected for SA objectives 4 (Health and wellbeing) and 13

(Biodiversity), as increases in air pollution have potential to negatively impact the health of people and habitats along these roads.

Other development proposals

1.56 The full SA Report includes a summary of the following development proposals and their likely effects, which should be considered alongside those of the Dartford Local Plan:

- Lower Thames Crossing
- London Resort
- Ebbsfleet Garden City

Monitoring

1.57 The SEA Regulations require that monitoring is undertaken in relation to the significant effects of implementing the Plan in question. Since effects which the SA expects to be minor may become significant and vice versa, monitoring measures have been proposed in relation to all of the SA objectives in the SA Framework. Suggested monitoring measures for each SA objective are presented in Chapter 7 of the full SA Report. Examples of the indicators proposed for each SA objective are listed below:

- SA objective 1: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home - Total new homes completed in reporting year.
- SA objective 2: To ensure ready access to essential services and facilities for all residents - Number of schools that are at capacity/surplus.
- SA objective 3: To strengthen community cohesion - Crime rates per 1,000 people.
- SA objective 4: To improve the population's health and reduce inequalities - Percentage of residents that consider their health to be good.
- SA objective 5: Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy and a vital and viable town centre - Vacancy rates within District centres.
- SA objective 6: To reduce the need to travel and encourage sustainable and active alternatives to motorised vehicles to reduce congestion - Number of applications providing/improving cycle/pedestrian pathways, in or outside of development boundaries.
- SA objective 7: To conserve the Borough's mineral resources - Number of planning applications approved within a Minerals Consultation Area.
- SA objective 8: To conserve the Borough's soils - Net loss of agricultural land.
- SA objective 9: To maintain and improve the quality of the Borough's waters - Water pollution incidents recorded by the Environment Agency.

Monitoring Monitoring

- SA objective 10: To reduce air pollution and ensure improvements in air quality - Data from the air quality monitors within the AQMAs.
- SA objective 11: To avoid and mitigate flood risk - Percentage of developments permitted including elements of SuDS.
- SA objective 12: To minimise the Borough's contribution to climate change - CO2 emissions per capita.
- SA objective 13: To conserve, connect and enhance the Borough's wildlife, habitats and species - Number and hectares of Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, Ancient Woodland and Priority Habitats.
- SA objective 14: To conserve and/or enhance the significant qualities, fabric, setting and accessibility of the Borough's historic environment - Number of entries on the Heritage at Risk Register.
- SA objective 15: To conserve and enhance the special qualities, accessibility, local character and distinctiveness of the Borough's settlements, countryside and landscape - Number of landscape enhancement schemes secured.

Mitigation and Recommendations

1.58 Chapter 6 of the full SA Report sets out recommendations for mitigation measures for the negative cumulative effects identified. It is noted that the Local Plan already goes a long way to mitigating many potential negative effects and that some, such as those arising from increased levels of traffic or loss of mineral resources, are, to an extent, unavoidable in the context of growth. Many of the proposed mitigation measures are outside the remit of the Local Plan or will need to be implemented at the planning application stage.

1.59 Throughout the SA process, SA assessments identified a number of recommendations in order to minimise potential negative effects of the Dartford Local Plan and maximise the number, magnitude and likelihood of positive effects of the Dartford Local Plan. These recommendations, along with an overview of how the Council has responded to them, are set out in Appendix D of the full SA Report.

Conclusions

1.60 Chapter 8 of the full SA Report sets out the final conclusions of the SA Report. Overall, the spatial strategy generally performs well in sustainability terms, building on the adopted Local Plan by focusing development on well-connected brownfield sites within the town of Dartford, and also at Ebbsfleet Garden City, which is a long-term large-scale regeneration project in the area.

Next Steps

1.61 This Non-Technical Summary and the full Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published for consultation alongside the Dartford Local Plan for from September 2021. Following this consultation, the Council will consider whether to propose any modifications to the Local Plan. The Local Plan, any proposed modifications to this, other supporting and submission documents, including the SA Report and responses received during the consultation, will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination.

LUC

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Report produced by LUC

Report produced by LUC

Bristol

12th Floor, Beacon Tower, Colston Street, Bristol BS1 4XE
0117 929 1997
bristol@landuse.co.uk

Edinburgh

Atholl Exchange, 6 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EG
0131 202 1616
edinburgh@landuse.co.uk

Glasgow

37 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JJ
0141 334 9595
glasgow@landuse.co.uk

London

250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD
020 7383 5784
london@landuse.co.uk

Manchester

6th Floor, 55 King Street, Manchester M2 4LQ
0161 537 5960
manchester@landuse.co.uk

landuse.co.uk

Landscape Design / Strategic Planning & Assessment
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