

March 2008

# Welwyn Hatfield Local Development Framework

## Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

MAIN REPORT AND APPENDICES 1-3

Prepared for Welwyn Hatfield Borough  
Council by Land Use Consultants





**WELWYN HATFIELD LOCAL  
DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL  
SCOPING REPORT**

**Prepared for  
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council  
by  
Land Use Consultants**

**March 2008**

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1. List of strategies, plans, programmes, policy statements and other relevant documents reviewed
2. SA Scoping workshop agenda and attendees
3. SA Framework – Derivation of SA objectives and criteria
4. Sustainability Appraisal Topic Papers (separate document)
5. Detailed review of strategies, plans, programmes and policy statements (separate document)

## LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THE REPORT

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AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
DPD	Development Plan Document
EC	European Commission
GVA	Gross Value Added – a measure of economic performance
HCC	Hertfordshire County Council
LDD	Local Development Document
LDS	Local Development Scheme
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
NNR	National Nature Reserve
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
ONS	Office for National Statistics
RES	Regional Economic Strategy
RPB	Regional Planning Body - for Welwyn Hatfield Borough this is the East of England Regional Assembly
RSDF	Regional Sustainable Development Framework
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation – these areas are protected under the Habitats Directive because of their special habitat value.
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monuments
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, more correctly known as Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of plans and programmes on the environment)
SPA	Special Protection Area- these are areas protected under Directive EC 79/409 (the Birds Directive) because of their bird interest

SPD            Supplementary Planning Document - a LDD  
SSSI           Site of Special Scientific Interest  
WHBC         Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

# I. INTRODUCTION

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## WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL?

- 1.1. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a process through which the sustainability of a plan or programme under preparation is assessed. The plan or programme is usually but not always prepared by a public body, such as a planning authority.
- 1.2. The SA process aims to test the strategy of the overall plan, and each policy it contains, against sustainability objectives which have been agreed for this purpose. The strategy and policies can then be altered if desired or justified if not. The SA is undertaken in parallel with development of the plan, so that all reasonable alternatives for achieving the plan's objectives are assessed for their sustainability effects. In this way, the most sustainable strategy and policies should emerge and be included in the final adopted plan.
- 1.3. SA is mandatory for plans prepared by planning authorities under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. SAs are intended to ensure that planning authorities aim to achieve the Government's framework goal of sustainable development in line with the five principles set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy<sup>1</sup>.

### Figure I.1: The five guiding principles of sustainable development

**Living within Environmental Limits**

Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.

**Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society**

Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunities for all.

**Achieving a Sustainable Economy**

Building a strong, stable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised.

**Using Sound Science Responsibly**

Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.

**Promoting Good Governance**

Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people's creativity, energy and diversity.

- 1.4. In preparing plans or programmes, planning authorities must also comply with the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC, the Strategic Environmental

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<sup>1</sup> Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (Defra, 2005)

Assessment (SEA) Directive. The objective of SEA, as defined in Article 1 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”. Government guidance states that the requirements of the SEA Directive, which is more focussed on environmental impacts, can be met through SA, which also includes a wider range of considerations extending to social and economic effects.

- 1.5. Throughout this Scoping Report, SA refers to Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment.

## WHAT IS A SCOPING REPORT?

- 1.6. There are two main outputs of the SA process – a Scoping Report, and a Sustainability Appraisal Report. The Scoping Report compiles the findings of the scoping phase of the SA process. The scoping phase of the SA process is the information gathering phase.
- 1.7. The SA process comprises a number of stages, with scoping being Stage A:

### Figure 1.2: Main stages of Sustainability Appraisal

- **Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope**
- Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing 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

- 1.8. **Figure 1.3** sets out the stages involved in the scoping phase, as set out in ODPM guidance on Sustainability Appraisal<sup>2</sup>.

### Figure 1.3: Stages in the SA scoping phase (Stage A)

- A1:** Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.
- A2:** Collecting baseline information.
- A3:** Identifying sustainability issues and problems.
- A4:** Developing the SA framework
- A5:** Consulting on the scope of the SA.

- 1.9. Land Use Consultants (LUC) were appointed by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council in December 2007 to prepare this Scoping Report.

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<sup>2</sup> Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities (ODPM, 2005)

## **HOW WILL THE SCOPING REPORT BE USED?**

- 1.10. The Scoping Report is released for consultation by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council. It allows statutory authorities and any other interested party to make comments on the adequacy of the scope of the SA. Any significant gaps in the information gathered can be identified and steps taken to remedy these before strategy and policy options are developed. The suitability of the sustainability objectives and consistency of them with other plans and programmes can also be assessed.

## **HOW TO COMMENT ON THE SCOPING REPORT**

- 1.11. The SA Scoping Report is being published for consultation to provide the statutory environmental bodies and stakeholders with an opportunity to express their opinions on the Report. Responses to the following questions would be particularly welcomed:

### **Consultation questions**

- 1. In light of the scope of the Local Development Framework, are there any additional relevant strategies, plans, programmes or other policy documents that should be taken into account?**
- 2. Have the key messages from the review of relevant strategies, plans, programmes and other policy documents been correctly identified? If not, which additional key messages should be addressed?**
- 3. Are there any other key sources of data or information that are missing? If so, please provide the data source.**
- 4. Are you aware of any inaccuracies in the baseline data show in the report? If so, please provide the correct data.**
- 5. Do you agree with the key sustainability issues that have been identified for the Welwyn Hatfield Local Development Framework? Are there any key sustainability issues that are missing, or that need amending?**
- 6. Has the influence of the Local Development Framework (LDF) on the sustainability issues been appropriately described? If not, please suggest how the LDF may help to address the sustainability issues.**
- 7. Are the sustainability objectives and appraisal questions/criteria in the SA Framework appropriate? Are there any questions/criteria that are missing, or that need amending?**

Please send your comments to:

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## 2. WELWYN HATFIELD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

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### WHAT DOES THE LDF COMPRISE?

- 2.1. The Local Development Framework (LDF) for Welwyn Hatfield will replace the current Welwyn Hatfield District Plan, which was adopted in 2005. It will comprise a number of Local Development Documents (LDDs) along with a Local Development Scheme (LDS), a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). LDDs set out the spatial strategy, policies and proposals for an area. There are three types of LDDs:
- Development Plan Documents (DPDs): These set out the main strategy, policies and proposals.
  - Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs): These contain more detailed guidance on a policy or proposal within a DPD.
  - Statements of Community Involvement (SCI): This sets out how the community will be consulted on the preparation of LDDs and planning, listed building and conservation area applications.
- 2.2. The components of the Welwyn Hatfield LDF are set out in **Table 2.1**. Pre-production informal consultation began in 2007 to inform the Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper.

**Table 2.1: Components of Welwyn Hatfield LDF**

Type of document	Title
LDS	Local Development Scheme
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
LDD - DPD	Core Strategy
	Site Allocations
	Development Control Policies
Area Action Plan	To be confirmed - may include Welwyn Garden City Town Centre & Campus East Development Brief
SPD	Welwyn Garden City Town Centre & Campus East Development Brief
	Broadwater Road West site Development Brief
	High View/ Hill Top Neighbourhood Centre Development Brief

- 2.3. The progress of all documents that comprise the LDF will be reviewed at least annually as part of the Annual Monitoring Report, which is also part of the LDF.

## **SCOPE OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL**

- 2.4. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report will initially be used as a basis for assessing the sustainability of the Welwyn Hatfield Core Strategy DPD. However, the Sustainability Appraisal Framework developed during the scoping phase will subsequently be used for appraising any further DPDs and SPDs prepared by the Council. A separate Scoping report has already been prepared on behalf of the Council for the Welwyn Garden City Town Centre & Campus East SPD, and has informed this report.

## **HOW DOES THE CORE STRATEGY DPD RELATE TO OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES?**

- 2.5. As discussed above, the Core Strategy DPD is one component of the LDF. The LDF for Welwyn Hatfield will form part of the Development Plan. In addition, the Development Plan for Welwyn Hatfield comprises:
- Regional Planning Guidance 9 for the South East of England, which will be superseded by the East of England Plan as the Regional Spatial Strategy. This provides the overall strategic context for development in the region. All LDDs within the region are required to conform to the East of England Plan. The RSS is at a late stage of its preparation, with the final version expected to be published in Spring 2008.
  - The Hertfordshire Structure Plan Review 1991-2011.
  - The saved policies of the Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan 1995-2005.
  - The Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan 2002-2016.
- 2.6. Hertfordshire Council carried out a public consultation on the Hertfordshire Waste Core Strategy Submission Document, the Waste Development Policies Preferred Options and Waste Site Allocations Preferred Options, along with the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report between 28th January and March 10th 2008.
- 2.7. There is a wide range of other plans and programmes that the LDDs (including the Core Strategy DPD) in the LDF relate to, even though they are not part of the statutory development plan. These include:
- Welwyn Hatfield Community and Corporate Strategy to 2015 (Welwyn Hatfield Local Strategic Partnership, 2007).
  - Sustainable Futures: Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England (2005)
  - Hertfordshire Economic Development Strategy (2006).
  - Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan (2006/07 to 2010/2011)

## **3. WORK UNDERTAKEN**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1. Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council adopted the Welwyn Hatfield District Plan in 2005 and has now commenced work on the Local Development Framework (LDF) that will replace the Local Plan. Land Use Consultants (LUC) was appointed by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council in December 2007 to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal of the LDF.
- 3.2. As discussed in chapter 1, this phase involves five stages, A1 to A5. The methodology for the first four stages of the Scoping phase is set out below. Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council will undertake Stage A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA, which includes consulting on this Scoping Report.
- 3.3. The purpose of the scoping phase is to gather information to determine the key sustainability issues and 'problems' that affect the Borough, to identify sustainable development policy objectives that are relevant to the preparation of the Core Strategy DPD and the SA, and to build-up an evidence base against which to appraise the options to be considered in the preparation of the Core Strategy DPD in order to come to a preferred option.
- 3.4. The information gathered during the scoping phase is not intended to be exhaustive, but sufficient to identify the key issues, and formulate the SA Framework. It is expected that more detailed and location-specific information will need to be gathered as the options are developed. This approach makes the SA more manageable, and helps to make the best use of available resources for undertaking the SA.

### **TOPIC BASED APPROACH**

- 3.5. A topic based approach for gathering information and identifying sustainability issues has been used to inform this Scoping Report. LUC identified an initial list of topic areas, covering economic, social and environmental topics. This list was subsequently revised following consultation with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and comprises the following topics:
  1. Structure of the economy, economic competitiveness and business success.
  2. Skills, Education and Employment.
  3. Health and Deprivation (including crime).
  4. Housing
  5. Transport, access and travel patterns.
  6. Waste.
  7. Land, geology, soils and minerals.
  8. Landscape.

9. Recreation, leisure and sport.
10. Historic and cultural heritage.
11. Biodiversity, flora and fauna.
12. Air quality.
13. Greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint.
14. Water resources and quality.
15. Flood risk.

3.6. A topic paper has been produced for each topic, which sets out:

- Baseline situation (a description of the current characteristics and trends relevant to the topic as they relate to Welwyn Hatfield).
- Contextual indicators (limited to a few key measures that together provide a summary of the baseline situation).
- Relevant strategies, plans, programmes and policy documents (the list provided within each topic paper is restricted to those documents that are specifically relevant to the topic in question; other over-arching documents that are relevant to a number of topic papers, such as the RSS, are not listed to avoid repetition).
- Key messages arising from strategies, plans, programmes and policy document review (including from over-arching documents).
- Key sustainability issues arising.
- References.

3.7. These topic papers can be found in **Appendix 4**. Each of the topic papers includes an assessment of sustainability performance/trend, using the following key:

**Figure 3.1: Key to sustainability performance/trends in topic papers**

Colour of trend box	Meaning
	Positive trends
	Encouraging trends
	Neutral trends
	Concerning trends
	Negative trends
	Unknown

3.8. Within each topic paper, an indication of the ability of the Core Strategy DPD to influence the key sustainability issues identified has been provided, using a ranking of 'high', 'medium' or 'low' influence. Whilst the Core Strategy DPD has a particularly strong influence on where and how development will take place, there are some sustainability issues, for example relating to agriculture and quality of service provision (e.g. education, health), where its influence will be much more limited.

## **STAGE A1: IDENTIFYING OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES, AND POLICY OBJECTIVES**

- 3.9. This task is relevant to both the SA and Core Strategy DPD itself. The Core Strategy DPD should reflect national and regional environmental, social and economic policy objectives. It should also relate to the policy context set by other plans, most notably those regional and local development and transport plans that overlap with the DPD area.
- 3.10. LUC identified an initial list of relevant international, national, regional and local policies, plans and programmes to be reviewed as part of the SA. Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council informed this process by providing LUC with a list of policies, plans and programmes which fed into the final list. LUC also drew on the work already undertaken for the Welwyn Garden City Town Centre & Campus East SPD to inform the list.
- 3.11. Following agreement of the list of policies, plans and programmes, a review was undertaken to identify:
- The overall aim or purpose of the document.
  - Objectives, opportunities and constraints identified in the document.
  - Targets set out in the document.
  - Implications for the Core Strategy DPD.
  - Implications for the SA/SEA.
- 3.12. **Appendix I** lists the plans, programmes, policy and related documents relevant to the LDF and SA. There is a very large number of potentially relevant strategies, plans, programmes and other documents. In order to keep the review manageable, specific attention has been paid to legislation and national, regional, and local policy documents. **Appendix 5** contains the full review of all plans, policies and programmes relevant to Welwyn Hatfield (please note that this is a large document, reflecting the number of documents reviewed).
- 3.13. A list of policies, plans and programmes relevant to each topic has also been included in each topic paper, along with the key messages relevant to each topic from the review.
- 3.14. In addition to policies, plans and programmes, LUC and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council identified additional documents produced by agencies and similar organisations which represent a selection of a much larger number of guidance and similar documents that exist. These documents were identified as they provide useful information for the evidence base and the appraisal itself, but were not reviewed as part of the policies, plans and programmes review.

## **STAGE A2: REVIEW OF BASELINE INFORMATION**

- 3.15. Baseline information was collected and reviewed for each topic, and set out in each of the topic papers in **Appendix 4**. For the baseline review, LUC drew on:

- Information already held by the Council (e.g. Housing Needs Survey etc).
  - Information from existing appraisals (e.g SA Scoping Report of the Welwyn Garden City & Campus East SPD).
  - Monitoring data (e.g. from Welwyn Hatfield LDF AMR).
  - Information from nationally available data sets (e.g. Office of National Statistics data).
  - Information from the existing Local Plan.
  - The review of other plans and programmes described above.
- 3.16. Where appropriate baseline data has been presented as graphs and figures in the topic papers and information has been collated in GIS form and presented as a series of maps. Where maps have been produced for topics, these are presented following the relevant topic paper.

### **STAGE A3: IDENTIFICATION OF KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES, PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES**

- 3.17. Following the baseline review, LUC identified the key sustainability issues facing Welwyn Hatfield Borough.
- 3.18. As discussed in Government guidance on SA<sup>3</sup>, *“the identification of sustainability issues is an opportunity to define key issues for the DPD and to develop sustainable plan objectives and options.”*
- 3.19. The key sustainability issues were drawn from a combination of the baseline information, and the review of policies, plans and programmes in addition to other relevant documents produced by agencies. For each key sustainability issue, the likely evolution without the Core Strategy DPD, the potential influence of the Core Strategy DPD and the implications for the Core Strategy DPD were reviewed. **Table 3.1** presents an example of the key sustainability issues table, taken from the Housing topic paper.

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<sup>3</sup> Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities (ODPM, 2005)

**Table 3.1: Example of key sustainability issues table (extract)**

<b>Key sustainability issue</b>	<b>Likely evolution without the Core Strategy DPD</b>	<b>Potential influence of the Core Strategy DPD (High/med/low/none)</b>	<b>Implications for the Core Strategy DPD</b>
Current supply of affordable housing is not meeting all of the need in the Borough, with a growing and additional need for intermediate housing.	Affordable housing provision is likely to increase as a result of current policies, but is unlikely to meet all the identified need.	<b>High:</b> The LDF contains affordable housing targets, but the planning system is unlikely to be able to meet all of the need.	The LDF should set affordable housing targets based on affordable housing need in the Borough, taking into account deliverability.

## **STAGE A4: DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK**

- 3.20. The final stage of the Scoping phase was to develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. The SA Framework provides a way in which sustainability effects of a plan or programme can be described, analysed and compared, and sets a framework for monitoring.
- 3.21. The SA Framework was developed using information collected on each of the topics, particularly the sustainability issues. Particular regard was had to Welwyn Hatfield 2015 Corporate and Community Plan (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, 2007), as recommended in the Government guidance on SA. The long term objectives of the Corporate and Community Plan were used to group sustainability objectives into themes reflecting local priorities. A cross-check was also made against the requirements of the SEA Directive to ensure that all issues listed in the Directive were covered.

### **SCOPING WORKSHOP**

- 3.22. To inform the development of the SA Framework and involve stakeholders at an early stage a half day Scoping Workshop was held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008. This was attended by 26 stakeholders, including representatives of the Local Strategic Partnership (including the Chamber of Commerce, Environment Forum, Transport Partnership and YMCA), Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Prosperity and the Hertfordshire Constabulary, as well as representatives of the Environment Agency, Home Builders Federation and Wimpey Homes, and nine officers from

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council. The Agenda for the Workshop and those attending can be found at **Appendix 3**.

- 3.23. The Workshop included an introductory presentation by Land Use Consultants before two working group sessions followed by feedback. Attendees were split into four interest groups – housing, economy, transport, environment – facilitated by LUC team members. In the first workshop session, the groups considered the sustainability issues identified in the topic papers most closely relating to their interests. The groups and the topic papers they considered are also listed in **Appendix 2**. The first session considered whether the correct key issues had been identified, amended the issues as necessary and added any missing issues. Participants also ranked the issues in order of importance in order that only key sustainability issues would be addressed in the SA Framework.
- 3.24. The second session considered the draft SA Framework and participants commented on the proposed sustainability objectives. The comments from the Workshop have been considered and reflected in the Topic Papers and SA Framework as presented in this report (see **Sections 4 and 5**, and **Appendices 3 and 4**).

## **DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED**

- 3.25. Difficulties encountered throughout the process are recorded as the SA process is undertaken. The main difficulties encountered to date are:
- The sheer number of strategies, plans, programmes, policy documents, advice and guidance produced by a range of statutory and non-statutory bodies means that it has been impossible within the resources available to prepare the Scoping Report to consider every potentially relevant document in detail. However, an attempt has been made to draw out the key generic messages relevant to the preparation of the Core Strategy DPD and the SA.
  - Given that detailed work on the Core Strategy DPD has yet to commence, there is uncertainty about where development might take place. Information collected has therefore been at a strategic level, and will necessarily need to be supplemented by detailed information collection later in the SA process.
  - For some of the topics, there is a lack of depth of baseline data for Welwyn Hatfield. Data was generally available for recent years, but in some cases it has not been possible to identify key trends against contextual indicators due to a lack of available information.
  - Data gaps identified in the topic papers (all relating to Borough level data) include the percentage of VAT registered businesses surviving 12 months, the number of vacant jobs, health indicators relating to childhood obesity, mapped groundwater vulnerability, open space provision and deficiencies, travel time to leisure and other facilities, listed buildings at risk, the number of new developments built to Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 or above, carbon emissions for different sectors, the amount of installed renewable energy generation. Some of this information will become available as part of the studies commissioned to inform the LDF, such as the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

- In addition, there are a number of issues which will need to be clarified relating to data (e.g. relating to the difference between resident and employee incomes, renewable energy developments, and properties at risk of flooding).
- 3.26. The difficulties noted above will be considered during the preparation of the Core Strategy and subsequent DPDs and during the SA process, and in subsequent programmes for monitoring and data collection. Where possible the difficulties will be addressed during the course of the preparation of each DPD. Where this cannot easily be achieved, any potential uncertainties arising and the significance of these uncertainties, including any implications for the SA, will be recorded.



## 4. CHARACTERISTICS OF WELWYN HATFIELD

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### INTRODUCTION

- 4.1. This section of the Scoping Report summarises the key characteristics of Welwyn Hatfield, and the key sustainability issues identified in the review of baseline information and relevant strategies, plans and programmes. More detailed information is provided in each of the topic papers at **Appendix 4**. The key issues have informed the SA Framework which is discussed in detail in **Section 5**.

### OVERALL CONTEXT

- 4.2. The Borough of Welwyn Hatfield is located within the southern part of Hertfordshire in the East of England region and covers approximately 130 square kilometres. It is bordered by Hertsmere to the south west, St Albans to the west, North Hertfordshire to the north and East Hertfordshire and Broxbourne to the east. The south of the Borough borders the London Borough of Enfield (see **Map SRI**). There are good north south transport routes across the borough by rail and road, linking with London and the north, with fewer east west routes by road, and none by rail.
- 4.3. The Borough is characterised by the two main settlements of Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield surrounded by smaller settlements and attractive countryside. The metropolitan Green Belt covers 79% of the Borough. Welwyn Garden City was designed according to the principles of Ebenezer Howard, and both Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield were designated new towns following the Second World War. Welwyn Hatfield is the only borough in England with two new towns.
- 4.4. The estimated population of Welwyn Hatfield was 105,500 in 2006, an increase of 8,000 since the 2001 census<sup>4</sup>. Welwyn Garden City is the largest settlement in the Borough with a population of 43,252 in 2001<sup>5</sup>. Hatfield has a population of 27,883 in 2001 and is located within 2km of Welwyn Garden City. Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield are the key centres for employment, shopping leisure and other services for the Borough. There are a number of smaller settlements providing housing shops and local services, including Brookmans Park, Cuffley, Oaklands and Mardley Heath, Welham Green and Welwyn. Outside the two main towns the Borough is predominantly rural in character, with a number of smaller villages all within the Green Belt.
- 4.5. The Borough includes several historic parks including Hatfield House and Bocket Hall Park, as well as substantial areas of woodland, and these along with access to the countryside provide opportunities for informal outdoor recreation.

### KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

- 4.6. This section sets out the key sustainability issues identified under each of the fifteen topics listed in **Section 3** above. Further details can be found in **Appendix 4**.

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<sup>4</sup> Welwyn Hatfield Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report (2006-2007)

<sup>5</sup> Office of National Statistics 2001 Census

Before listing the detailed issues a number of cross cutting issues were identified at the Scoping Workshop and these are discussed briefly below. Examples of where workshop participants deleted, significantly changed or added new issues are also provided.

### **Cross Cutting Issues**

- 4.7. A number of sustainability issues cut across several topic areas. Reducing the Borough's contribution to climate change is a key cross cutting issue, addressed directly through the topic paper on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint, but also through the topic papers addressing transport, economy, waste and minerals issues. The over arching theme of sustainable resource use relates closely to climate change, and is covered in topic papers on transport, waste and landscape / historic character, for example in relation to sustainable construction and design.
- 4.8. While Health is included as a separate topic paper with deprivation and crime, it is also closely linked to the sustainability issues identified in the transport, access and travel patterns, recreation, leisure and sport, as well as access to housing and education / skills development
- 4.9. Citizenship is another cross cutting issue which is also one of the long term objectives of the Corporate and Community Plan, around which we have structured the SA Framework. Involvement in the community is a key aspect of citizenship which was identified at the Scoping Workshop, and as such the issues identified under the recreation, leisure and sport, and historic and cultural heritage topic papers are particularly important, along with those identified under education, skills and employment.

### **Workshop comments on key sustainability issues**

- 4.10. The key sustainability issues for each topic were amended to reflect the views of the workshop group who discussed the issues most closely relating to their areas of expertise or interest
- 4.11. For example, the group considering the economy identified the need to decouple greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth, and added five additional issues highlighting the characteristics of transport networks in the Borough (north south links predominate; rail links to London are a driver/ opportunity), and the need to support home working the growth of micro-businesses, and to allow business expansion without compromising principles of the green belt. The group considered that encouraging tourism and improving hotel accommodation was not a key issue for the Borough and therefore should be deleted.
- 4.12. The group discussing housing identified one overarching issue, supplying the right type of housing in the right locations to meet local needs, which encompasses concerns over affordability and the availability of suitable housing for all.
- 4.13. The transport group identified the lack of an efficient walking network within some town centres in the Borough as a key missing issue. The needs of young people were identified as a key issue in terms of recreation and leisure, along with a lack of resources to manage facilities, while the connection between the historic character

of the Borough and its sense of place and local distinctiveness was highlighted as an amendment to a key issue. The potential for wildlife sites to be de-designated was not found to be a significant sustainability issue, and was deleted, as was an issue relating to particulate levels, given that air quality is not generally a problem in the Borough.

### **Topic Paper I: Structure of the Economy, Economic Competitiveness and Business Success**

- 4.14. Welwyn Hatfield Borough has one of the largest economies in Hertfordshire (Hertfordshire Economic Development Strategy, 2006), with the main areas of activity focusing on service industries such as distribution, hotels and restaurants, and public administration, education and health sectors. Major employers in Welwyn Hatfield include GlaxoSmithKline, Roche Products Ltd., John Lewis Plc, University of Hertfordshire, and Queen Elizabeth Hospital. There are also a large number of micro-businesses. Approximately 43% of Welwyn Hatfield working residents commute out of the Borough to work (Central Hertfordshire ELA Review, 2006) to other areas in Hertfordshire (21%) followed by 18% that commute to London. The Borough is also a net importer of labour with 20,027 people commuting out of Welwyn Hatfield and 28,467 people commuting in to the Borough to work (Welwyn Hatfield LDF Annual Monitoring Report, 2006/2007).
- 4.15. Key sustainability issues were identified as follows:
- Pressure from housing retail and leisure uses on employment land could jeopardise the future supply of quality employment land.
  - Welwyn Hatfield's location within the London/Oxford/Cambridge 'golden triangle' needs to be promoted to encourage future investment from the knowledge-based sector, whilst also capitalising on the University of Hertfordshire and Royal Veterinary College.
  - Outward commuting can create dormitory towns and villages.
  - Out of town retail centres still threaten the success of some town centres. For example, Hatfield's town centre is up against competition from the out-of-centre Galleria shopping centre and Oldings Corner.
  - Sustain rural communities and their rural economies, possibly through rural diversification.
  - Reduce the environmental impacts of the economy, decoupling greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth.
  - Promote the regeneration of areas and sectors of the economy in decline.
  - Rail links to Kings Cross /St Pancras as a driver/opportunity.
  - Blurring of the distinction between homes and jobs (i.e. to facilitate home working, live-work units).
  - Need to allow micro-businesses to expand where they are located.

- Need to allow business expansion without compromising principles of green belt
- Transport networks are all north/south both road and rail.

### **Topic Paper 2: Skills, Education and Employment**

4.16. Key concerns in this topic related to relatively poor performance at GCSE level, the percentage of 16 year olds not in employment, education or training, pockets of unemployment and possible mismatches between skills and jobs. Key sustainability issues were identified as follows:

- Employment in the Borough was lower than the average for Hertfordshire and below the national target in 2006, due in large part to the number of students and early retired living within the Borough.
- There are wards in the Borough that experience higher levels of unemployment compared to others (e.g. Peartree and Hatfield Central).
- There are signs of possible mismatches between skills and jobs available in the Borough, and pay of residents can be lower than the County average.
- Need to improve the quality of secondary education in the Borough in light of high levels of students' under-performing at GCSE level.
- The percentage of 16 year olds not in employment, education, or training is higher in Welwyn Hatfield than in other Hertfordshire Districts.

### **Topic Paper 3: Health and Deprivation**

4.17. Key sustainability issues relating to health and deprivation, and including crime, were identified as follows, the first being a key point:

- Within a relatively prosperous Borough there are pockets of multiple deprivations.
- Health inequalities such as mental health, smoking and alcohol related illness/deaths and child obesity are an issue within Welwyn Hatfield and particularly in Peartree, Hatfield West and Hatfield South wards where life expectancy is also lower.
- The Borough may experience a continued increase in the number of older/retired people, which is likely to have economic implications.
- Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour is high.
- Offences for all crimes per 1,000 population have increased above National levels.

### **Topic Paper 4: Housing**

4.18. A Strategic Housing Market Assessment is underway which will inform the Core Strategy and other DPDs. With reference to homelessness the Council has identified that enquiries, acceptances and intentionally homeless cases have increased

slightly in 2007. The final bullet point is an overarching issue which is reflected in the SA Framework.

4.19. Key sustainability issues for housing were identified as:

- Current supply of affordable housing is not meeting all of the need in the Borough, with a growing and additional need for intermediate housing
- Homelessness is rising in the Borough.
- Affordability of housing may mean that people leave the Borough to purchase property elsewhere.
- Supplying the right type of housing in the right locations to meet local needs.

### **Topic Paper 5: Transport, Access and Travel Patterns**

4.20. While the north south transport network is good, there are no east west rail links, and there are localised congestion problems. Key sustainability issues were identified as:

- Public transport utilisation needs to improve in addition to increased accessibility to public transport, alongside a co-ordinated and joined up approach between different modes of transport
- Capacity constraints could affect the future growth of the rail and road transport network.
- Gaps in the cycle network could reduce the potential of the Borough's cycle network to be used as an efficient alternative mode of transport to the car for local journeys.
- Congestion is an issue in some urban areas within the Borough and along major transport routes such as the A1(M) and A414, which is exacerbated by the lack of an accessible east-west road network.
- There is a lack of an efficient walking network within some town centres in the Borough.

### **Topic Paper 6: Waste**

4.21. Key sustainability issues identified for waste were as follows:

- There is a need to reduce household waste as far as possible in the Borough.
- Recycling and composting rates must continue to improve, particularly if the National target of 40% by 2010 is to be reached.
- There needs to be a progressive reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill.
- There is a need to decouple waste growth from economic growth and put more emphasis on waste prevention and re-use and economic investment in waste management.

- Recycling rates are lower in more deprived areas within the Borough.

### **Topic Paper 7: Land, Geology, Soil and Minerals**

4.22. Key sustainability issues identified were:

- Need to prevent sterilisation of mineral resources, whilst taking into account development pressures.
- Minimise development on best and most versatile agricultural land.
- Use soils sustainably, and encourage better management of agricultural soils.

4.23. In addition, while the Borough has a good record in recent years of using previously developed land, the need to continue this is reflected in the SA Framework.

### **Topic Paper 8: Landscape**

4.24. Key sustainability issues relating to landscape were identified as:

- The quality, quantity and character of open spaces in Welwyn Hatfield should be maintained and enhanced.
- Insensitive proposals for rural development (farm diversification, recreation, energy schemes, tourism related) could have an erosive effect on landscape character.
- Increasing traffic volumes will continue to erode tranquillity and air quality and quality and appearance of rural and urban areas.
- Light pollution is an existing problem associated with development generally, but in particular the AI/M, major urban areas and sports and industrial developments.

### **Topic Paper 9: Recreation, Leisure and Sport**

4.25. Key sustainability issues identified related to the need to ensure access to recreation facilities for all, but particularly for young people. The cross-cutting benefits of recreation, leisure and sport in terms of health, community involvement, providing activities for young people, which may have linked benefits of reduced anti-social behaviour and crime, were also identified at the Scoping Workshop. The lack of revenue resources to run leisure facilities was identified as a problem at the Workshop. Key sustainability issues were identified as follows:

- Ensure everyone has access to green and open spaces for everyone as part of green infrastructure provision.
- The provision of footpaths, cycleways and bridleways needs to increase.
- Increase opportunities for access to and participation in sport in all sections of the community.
- Increase provision of leisure facilities for all sections of the community

- Increase provision of cultural opportunities for all sections of the community (involvement in drama, dance, visual art and literature, media, technologies, sports, crafts etc).
- There is a lack of specialised community facilities to meet the needs of young people in the Borough.
- There is a lack of resources to run recreational, leisure and sports facilities in Welwyn Hatfield.

### **Topic Paper 10: Historic and Cultural Heritage**

4.26. Comments on this topic highlighted the need to ensure that links are made between the historic and cultural assets and the Borough's sense of place and local distinctiveness, keeping the issues general to encompass *all* historic and cultural assets in the Borough, not only the Garden City and new town heritage. Key sustainability issues identified were:

- Ensure the historic character of the Borough is maintained to retain a sense of place and local distinctiveness.
- Increase education and awareness of the historic environment.
- Ensure access to the historic environment for everyone.

### **Topic Paper 11: Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**

4.27. This topic has links to water resources and air quality. Key sustainability issues were identified as:

- Development pressures and climate change may lead to changes in habitat structure, species composition, and possible gains and losses of species in the Borough.
- The percentage of SSSIs found to be in favourable condition is well below the national target of 95% by 2010.
- Rye Meads Sewage Treatment Works is at/near capacity and could have adverse impacts on biodiversity, and in particular Natura 2000 sites, if overloaded.
- Ensuring BAP targets are achieved and reviewed as appropriate.
- Maintain and enhance all designated wildlife areas and promote any opportunities for increasing biodiversity in the Borough.

### **Topic Paper 12: Air Quality**

4.28. Air quality is not currently a problem in Welwyn Hatfield. The only identified potential future issue relates to localised junctions and sections of busy roads, where particulate levels may exceed air quality strategy levels from 2010. However, this was not considered a significant issue at the Scoping Workshop. One sustainability issue was identified as follows:

- The impact of air quality on Natura 2000 sites needs to be considered as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process.

### **Topic Paper 13: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Carbon Footprint**

4.29. Key sustainability issues were identified as:

- Significantly reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the industrial and commercial sector.
- Significantly reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from road transport.
- Significantly reduce average annual domestic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per dwelling through retrofitting existing buildings.
- Significantly reduce average annual domestic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per dwelling in new developments.
- A continuation in the progressive reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill to reduce methane emissions from waste.
- Significantly increase the installation of renewable energy capacity.

4.30. The need to reduce emissions from road transport was suggested for deletion by the workshop group, but we advise it should be retained given the significant contribution to emissions from road transport.

### **Topic Paper 14: Water Resources and Quality**

4.31. Key sustainability issues were identified as follows:

- While biological water quality in Welwyn Hatfield is improving, chemical water quality is deteriorating.
- There is a need to reduce both domestic and commercial per capita water consumption in the Borough, particularly in light of new housing provisions for Hertfordshire, which could put a serious strain on water resources.
- Climate change is likely to lead to water shortages in the summer months in future.
- Rye Meads sewage treatment works is at/near capacity and could have adverse impacts on water quality if overloaded.
- Ground water pollution means that local water is imported into the Borough.

### **Topic Paper 15: Flood Risk**

4.32. Key sustainability issues were identified as follows:

- Although the Borough has relatively few areas within the Environment Agency's medium and high flood risk zones, some areas are still prone to flooding.
- Climate change is likely to exacerbate frequency and severity of flooding events.

- There may be pressures to develop in flood risk areas against Environment Agency advice.



## 5. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

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### WHAT IS THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK?

- 5.1. SA objectives and criteria are a recognised way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. SA objectives and criteria state what outcomes are intended. The SA objectives are separate from LDD objectives, though the two can overlap.
- 5.2. The SA objectives and criteria are presented in **Table 5.1** – the SA Framework:
- For the over-arching SA objectives, we have used the six long term objectives of the Borough's Corporate & Community Plan (see **Figure 5.1**). This is because the Corporate & Community Plan has already been the subject of public consultation, and is an agreed statement of what the Borough aims to achieve in sustainability terms. [These are the shaded rows in the Table 5.1]
  - For the SA criteria, a series of questions have been developed under each of the objectives. These questions will be asked of the DPD strategy, policy and proposal options and will help inform whether the objective outcome is likely to be achieved. [These are questions in the first column of Table 5.1]
  - We have also set out indicative examples (which are not meant to be comprehensive or prescriptive) of the sort of things that the SA will look for in the Core Strategy DPD in response to each criterion/question. [These are the bullet points in the second column in Table 5.1]
  - Finally, we have noted how the topics listed in the SEA Directive are addressed in the SA Framework. [These are the bullet point topics in the last column of Table 5.1]

**Figure 5.1: Proposed headline SA objectives**

1.	Health improvement
2.	Safer communities
3.	Good citizenship
4.	Improving the environment
5.	Decent housing
6.	A thriving economy

Source: The six long term objectives in the Welwyn Hatfield Corporate & Community Plan 2015

- 5.3. It should be noted that the Welwyn Hatfield Corporate & Community Plan 2015 is subject to review and will be taking account of *Hertfordshire 2021: a brighter future* the draft of Hertfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy. This draft County-wide Sustainable Strategy, which was subject to consultation in the winter of

2007/08, includes objectives under nine key headings which it identifies as key areas of concern for improvement:

- Jobs, Prosperity and Skills
- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Children and Young People
- An Ageing Population
- Health and Wellbeing
- Affordable Housing and Quality Neighbourhoods
- Transport and Access
- Sustaining Hertfordshire's Unique Character and Quality of Life
- Promoting Sustainable Development

5.4. The proposed headline SA objectives suggested in Figure 5.1 above may therefore change, to reflect both the Hertfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy and any revisions to the Corporate and Community Plan. However, a key point to note is that the main topics of concern in the draft Hertfordshire Strategy are very similar to those identified within Welwyn Hatfield, and it is expected that the appraisal criteria will remain the same or similar to those now proposed. The SA Framework will continue to be kept under review during the SA process, for example, when starting the appraisal of subsequent DPDs.

## **HOW WAS THE SA FRAMEWORK DEVELOPED?**

- 5.5. The SA criteria/questions were initially developed from analysis of the sustainability issues identified in the topic papers and presented in Section 4 of this Scoping Report. These were tested at the SA Scoping Workshop, and a number of amendments, additions and deletions were made.
- 5.6. As a result of suggestions at the Workshop, it was decided that the criteria/questions needed to be made as simple and understandable as possible. It was agreed that the criteria/questions should focus on sustainable outcomes (i.e. where we want to get to) rather than the processes and mechanisms for achieving sustainable outcomes (i.e. how we get there). It is for LDDs to decide how to achieve sustainable outcomes. It is the role of the SA to determine whether the LDD is likely to achieve the sustainable outcomes or not.
- 5.7. Some of the detail originally in the first draft of the criteria/questions now appears in column two of **Table 5.1**.
- 5.8. The derivation of the criteria/questions is presented in **Appendix 3**.
- 5.9. Finally, the SA objectives were benchmarked against the review of strategies, plans, programmes, policy statements identified for the District (see **Appendix 5**). This

was to ensure that key policy and other relevant objectives are properly reflected in the SA Framework.

**Table 5.1: Proposed Welwyn Hatfield Sustainability Appraisal Framework**

Will the plan, policy or proposal...	What will the SA look for in the Core Strategy DPD and other LDDs?	SEA Topic
<b>Long-term Objective 1: Health improvement</b>		
...lead to reduced health inequalities, and in particular improve the health of those living in communities characterised by relatively poor health? (1.1)	[This should be achieved through positive assessments against criteria 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1 to 4.6, 4.8, 4.9, 5.1, 6.1 to 6.4, and 6.6.] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In particular, the SA will look for proposals that will improve opportunities for non-car access to jobs, education, formal sport facilities, informal recreation especially green space and play areas, community facilities for young people, health and cultural facilities, and that lead to improvements in the built and natural environment of those communities most characterised by poor health (e.g. Hatfield Central, Peartree wards)*.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human health</li> <li>Population</li> </ul>
...lead to improved health for all? (1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above, but also taking into account the needs of particular sectors of the community, such as the increasing elderly population, people with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, and young people including the growing number of students*<sup>6</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human health</li> <li>Population</li> </ul>
<b>Long-term objective 2: Safer communities</b>		
...reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour, and reduce fear of crime? (2.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policies and development proposals that design out crime.</li> <li>Policies and proposals that provide for an appropriate mix of uses.</li> <li>Policies and proposals that increase community, leisure and recreational facilities, particularly for young people, and especially in more deprived parts of the Borough*.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population</li> <li>Human health</li> </ul>
...ensure there is no increase in flood risk to people or property, taking into account climate change? (2.2)	[Flooding is not a major issue in the Borough, but could increase with climate change and pressure on surface water drainage systems.] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoidance of inappropriate development in flood risk areas.</li> <li>Avoidance of development that will increase flood risk elsewhere.</li> <li>Promotion of sustainable drainage systems including where necessary strategic flood storage areas.</li> <li>That the capacity of the surface water drainage systems is capable of accommodating more development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population</li> <li>Human health</li> </ul>
<b>Long-term Objective 3: Good citizenship</b>		
...encourage involvement of the public in the planning process? (3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouragement for local people to engage effectively in development plan preparation (e.g. in Area Action Plans), especially underrepresented or 'hard to reach' groups, identified in the Statement of Community Involvement as young people, ethnic minorities, and sections of the community living in the rural areas or more deprived areas of the borough*.</li> <li>Encouragement for developers to consult at an early stage local people who may be affected (beneficially or otherwise) by development to ensure community concerns are taken into account during the planning and design stages*.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> \* To be brought together in a statement on equalities and diversity as part of the main SA Report (see also remainder of table).

Will the plan, policy or proposal...	What will the SA look for in the Core Strategy DPD and other LDDs?	SEA Topic
<b>Long term objective 4: Improving the environment</b>		
...significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from built development? (4.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of energy efficiency in housing development, where possible in excess of building standards, and consistent with achieving high Code for Sustainable Homes targets.</li> <li>Promotion of energy efficiency in non-housing development, energy efficiency to be achieved through a combination of use of materials and design, orientation, etc.</li> <li>Clear guidelines and support for renewable energy sources, such as wind, micro-generation, ground sourcing, biomass, combined heat and power, district heating.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climatic factors</li> </ul>
...significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport? (4.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of housing close to existing and proposed employment and vice versa, based on a good understanding of travel to work patterns.</li> <li>Promotion of car free development, home zones, car clubs, more energy efficient choices of transport, and restraints on unnecessary car use.</li> <li>Distance to, and ease of non-car access to schools, colleges, health facilities, shops, sports, places of worship, pubs, cultural and other community services and facilities (including integrated facilities), plus concentration of facilities on public transport corridors, and integrated with walking and cycling networks, and provision of home services.</li> <li>Promotion of tele-working, travel plans, and reduced parking at business premises.</li> <li>The right type of retail and community facilities in the right locations according to identified need and settlement role and function.</li> <li>Promotion of significantly improved east/west sustainable modes of transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climatic factors</li> </ul>
...avoid and reduce air pollution? (4.3)	<p>[Air quality is not a major issue in Welwyn Hatfield, but could become so if traffic continues to increase, – therefore look for the same sort of issues as for criterion 4.2. It is also a topic in the SEA Directive and for the regional as a whole has been identified as a potential issue with respect to biodiversity, especially Natura 2000 sites]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policies that encourage tree planting (as natural cleanser of air).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air</li> </ul>
...protect and enhance open space and landscape character, retaining local distinctiveness? (4.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive design policies for built development that respect village character (including use of local materials/vernacular).</li> <li>Avoidance of ‘sub-urbanisation’.</li> <li>Support for employment linked to land management.</li> <li>Meeting Natural England’s greenspace standards, including provision of a network of greenspace in settlements in close proximity to where people live, with green corridors and woodland, and links to surrounding countryside (green infrastructure).</li> <li>Minimisation of noise and light pollution from development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape</li> <li>Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage</li> </ul>
...protect and enhance the Borough’s character, sense of place and local distinctiveness,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development and policies that safeguard archaeological sites (including scheduled ancient monuments), conservation areas, historic settlement cores, listed buildings, parks and gardens, etc., including their setting, improving access and interpretation, and promotion of heritage-led regeneration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape</li> <li>Cultural heritage including</li> </ul>

Will the plan, policy or proposal...	What will the SA look for in the Core Strategy DPD and other LDDs?	SEA Topic
historic and cultural assets? (4.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive design policies for built development that respect town character (including use of local materials/vernacular), for example where relevant to the 'garden city'.</li> <li>Reassurance that development will be adapted to deal with extreme weather events.</li> <li>Improvements to the public realm including green infrastructure, greenspace, tree planting/shading, safe walking and informal recreational areas, especially in more deprived neighbourhoods*.</li> </ul>	architectural and archaeological heritage
...protect and enhance biodiversity, taking into account the impacts of climate change? (4.6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection for internationally, nationally, regionally and locally designated sites and species.</li> <li>Positive proposals for achieving biodiversity action plan targets, taking into account the need to link habitats to allow species to migrate (e.g. wildlife corridors, etc.).</li> <li>Ensure in particular that the integrity of the Special Protection Area at Rye Meads is not compromised by development proposals affecting the treatment works.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Flora</li> <li>Fauna</li> </ul>
...reduce water consumption, and provide for reliable sources of water supply even in drought conditions? (4.7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of water efficiency (e.g. through Code for Sustainable Homes), including re-use and recycling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water</li> </ul>
...avoid water pollution? (4.8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring there is sufficient capacity in the sewage treatment works and general water infrastructure to cope with additional development without adverse effects on the environment.</li> <li>Use of natural treatment systems (e.g. reed beds).</li> <li>Avoidance of development that could adversely affect groundwater sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water</li> </ul>
...minimise the amount of waste generated and maximise the re-use, recycling or composting of waste that cannot be reduced? (4.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum re-use of construction and demolition materials in construction, refurbishment rather than new build where in accordance with wider sustainability objectives (e.g. energy conservation, quality of built environment, etc.).</li> <li>Provision for composting, re-use and recycling in new development, including easily accessible community facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Material assets<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>
...promote the conservation and sustainable use of productive agricultural land and maximise use of previously developed land? (4.10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of brownfield sites where these can support wider sustainability objectives (e.g. reduce travel by car, improve public realm, avoid loss of biodiversity interest, gardens, etc.).</li> <li>Ensure necessary development of greenfield land fully takes into account existing or potential contribution for biodiversity, flood storage and management, aquifer recharge, sustainable food/biomass production, recreation and health, and mitigate, compensate, enhance as appropriate.</li> <li>Avoidance of development on best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3a).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil</li> <li>Material assets</li> </ul>
<b>Long-term Objective 5: Decent housing</b>		
...provide the right amount,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of regional housing allocation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> 'Material assets' are not defined in the SEA Directive, but we understand this term to mean the value of past human investment in the built environment including major infrastructure – this would include, for example, housing, industry, transport infrastructure etc. So the SEA would need to consider whether the plan would affect such past investment (e.g. would it result in a loss of a major industrial site, or the demolition of a lot of housing, etc.).

Will the plan, policy or proposal...	What will the SA look for in the Core Strategy DPD and other LDDs?	SEA Topic
type and tenure of housing to meet identified local needs? (5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate provision for affordable, social, intermediate and key worker housing, plus policies to ensure certainty of delivery.</li> <li>• Appropriate provision for students*.</li> <li>• Provision for lifetime homes to meet needs of an ageing population*.</li> <li>• Appropriate provision for Gypsies and Travellers*.</li> </ul>	
<b>Long-term objective 6: A thriving economy</b>		
...ensure the supply, location and quality of business and employment sites reflects the needs of local businesses and encourages a mixed and greener economy? (6.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support in particular for knowledge-based sector (including high-tech and business services).</li> <li>• Also support for key public services (e.g. health, administration, education).</li> <li>• Encouragement for micro businesses, SMEs etc.</li> <li>• Support for local trading schemes.</li> <li>• Encouragement for greener business practices, such as reduced travel, reduced waste, environmental technologies, etc.</li> <li>• Economic activity that capitalises on links to London and King's Cross/St Pancras.</li> <li>• Allowing business expansion without compromising objectives of the Green Belt.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Landscape</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>
...encourage economic investment in those areas most in need of regeneration, in a way that will benefit those most in need of rewarding employment? (6.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted regeneration and improvements to public realm and sustainable transport networks of particularly affected wards in Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City centres.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Material assets</li> </ul>
...enhance the vitality and attraction of Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield town retail centres? (6.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision for retail outlets as identified by technical research.</li> <li>• Improvements to the public realm of the town centres, including improved access by foot, cycle and public transport.</li> <li>• Policies and proposals that encourage living within the town centres.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Material assets</li> </ul>
...sustain rural communities and their economies, small businesses and other rural diversification, while protecting rural character? (6.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for economic development that is appropriate for rural locations, including small-scale or home-based.</li> <li>• Particular support for economic activity linked to land management, village services, etc.</li> <li>• Avoidance of economic activity that will generate large numbers of car trips, or that cannot be supported by alternative modes of transport.</li> <li>• Initiatives that add value to rural products, development of farmers' markets and small-scale rural craft businesses, re-use of redundant farm buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Material assets</li> </ul>
...avoid the sterilisation of mineral resources? (6.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of development on mineral reserves (e.g. sand and gravel) that may be needed for future use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Material assets</li> </ul>
...provide access to training, skills development and life long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close proximity of, and ease of access to, schools, colleges, libraries, etc, centres of excellence, particularly in relation to young people in parts of Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield, where skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Material assets</li> </ul>

Will the plan, policy or proposal...	What will the SA look for in the Core Strategy DPD and other LDDs?	SEA Topic
learning to meet identified needs? (6.6)	levels are lowest*.	

## HOW THE SA FRAMEWORK WILL BE USED

### The Core Strategy DPD

- 5.10. The Core Strategy DPD will set out the key elements of the planning framework for Welwyn Hatfield. It will comprise a spatial vision and strategic objectives for the District, a spatial strategy, core policies, and a monitoring implementation framework.
- 5.11. The Core Strategy DPD will indicate the broad locations for delivering the housing and other strategic development needs such as employment, retail, leisure, community, essential public services and transport development (where relevant to the DPD).
- 5.12. As a strategic document, the Core Strategy DPD will not set out proposals for specific sites, which will be addressed in the Site Specific Allocations DPD.
- 5.13. The SA of the Core Strategy DPD will follow a similar strategic approach, and will appraise the extent to which the approach to development of the spatial strategy and supporting core policies is in line with sustainability objectives – i.e. whether it is likely to lead to more sustainable outcomes for the Borough. It will also record what the sustainability effects of implementing the preferred Core Strategy are likely to be.
- 5.14. The SA Framework will be used at each stage of the DPD preparation process to determine how well each of the options under consideration performs against the SA objectives. A systematic matrix-based approach will be used. To do this, the effects of the DPD will need to be predicted (i.e. what will the effect be on a given SA objective?) and assessed (i.e. how significant will that effect be?), using baseline data to qualify and quantify effects wherever possible. Consideration will be given to measures that could be introduced to mitigate any significant adverse effects on sustainability and maximise benefits. The SA will also include an assessment of how the policies and proposals interact with one another in order to identify any conflicts, and to determine the likely effects of the DPD as a whole.
- 5.15. In many instances it is likely that it will not be possible to quantify the effects, especially given that the DPD will be only one influence on what actually happens on the ground. In the light of this, the reasoning for all judgements (especially subjective ones) will be explained, and the assumptions under-lying the judgements set out. This will make the appraisal process as transparent as possible and open to scrutiny and challenge.
- 5.16. The SA will not try to identify every effect, but will focus on ‘significant’ effects. ‘Significance’ is a difficult concept to understand, and it can vary in different contexts. Factors that will be taken into account will be:
  - The current state of the environment, economy, or social factors that will be affected, and their sensitivity to change (e.g. whether thresholds are close to being exceeded such as transport capacity or water resources, proximity to designated sites, effects on more deprived communities, etc.).

- The extent and duration of the effect (e.g. the geographical scale or size of the population likely to be affected).
- 5.17. During subsequent stages of the DPD preparation, it may be necessary to define 'significance criteria', appropriate to the Core Strategy DPD.
- 5.18. Options will need to be appraised as they are being developed, with an SA on the potential sustainability effects of emerging options to be published for consultation with stakeholders at the same time. The level of detail of the appraisal will depend on the level of detail of the document being appraised. Where feasible, the SA criteria will be used, noting whether there is likely to be:

**Figure 5.2: Symbols to be used in the appraisal**

++	A significant positive effect on the SA criterion
+	A minor positive effect on the SA criterion
0	A neutral or no effect on the SA criterion
-	A minor negative effect on the SA criterion
--	A significant negative effect on the SA criterion
?	An uncertain effect on the SA criterion

- 5.19. Where possible, reference will be made to whether the effect is likely to be direct or indirect, temporary or permanent. Cumulative (e.g. the combined effects of a number of different types of development) or secondary effects (e.g. where one effect has a 'knock-on' effect on something else) will also be considered.
- 5.20. It should be noted that the SA will be looking for positive effects (i.e. the achievement of SA objectives, including improving conditions that are currently poor) as well as identifying negative effects.
- 5.21. It should always be remembered that SA is only a tool. It does not make decisions. Inclusion of an SA objective or question (e.g. on reducing road transport) does not instantly veto all road travel expansion. What it does do is ensure that the full range of sustainability consequences of options or choices are made clear, so that ultimately political choices about policies can take these into account.
- 5.22. An example 'proforma' matrix for one of the SA objectives, to be used for comparing options, is provided in **Table 5.2**. Similar matrices will be prepared for each of the SA objectives. As options are worked up in more detail towards a preferred option, the appraisal will also become more detailed. Throughout, the SA Framework will be used as the basis of the appraisal.

### Other LDDs

- 5.23. A similar process will be used for all other LDDs, using the same SA Framework. However, where necessary the SA Framework may need to be amended to make it fit for purpose. This is because appraising a site allocations DPD or an Area Action Plan DPD can be a very different proposition from appraising a Development Control Policies DPD. A site allocations DPD will be about appraising the suitability

of different sites from a sustainability perspective, whereas a Development Control Policies DPD will be about appraising the principles by which development proposals will be considered acceptable or not and will help to set the conditions by which development will be delivered on the ground.

- 5.24. In addition, the SA will need to consider how different DPDs relate to one another. For example, the appraisal of the Core Strategy DPD may determine that there is the potential for adverse effects against one or more of the policies within that DPD. However, the Development Control Policies DPD, which is following a slightly later timeline than the Core Strategy DPD, may well include policy 'safeguards' that will ensure that such adverse effects will not be allowed to happen when decisions are made on development proposals.
- 5.25. The SA of the Core Strategy DPD will therefore need to 'flag up' where such policy safeguards may be needed in the Development Control Policies DPD in order to ensure that such adverse effects will be dealt with. However, the SA will also need to come to a judgement whether the policies and proposals in the Core Strategy DPD (and subsequently the Site Allocations DPD) are actually likely to be deliverable without adverse effects occurring (even if safeguards are included in the Development Control Policies DPD). This is a key role of SA – to identify and help to reconcile potential tensions at an early stage in the planning process.

**Table 5.2: Example SA Matrix for Options Appraisal**

**Headline Objective 1: Health improvement**

Option, policy, or proposal	Will the option, policy or proposal.....		Justification for assessment with reference to scale, duration and direct/indirect effects	Recommendations for increasing positive effects and mitigating adverse effects
	...lead to reduced health inequalities, and in particular improve the health of those living in communities characterised by relatively poor health?	...lead to improved health for all?		
Option 1				
Option 2				
Option 3				
Etc.				
<b>Conclusions</b>				
<b>Recommendations</b>				

## 6. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

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- 6.1. This Scoping Report represents the first stage (Stage A) of the SA process. Following consultation on this Report, changes may need to be made to incorporate stakeholder feedback. This may require the criteria in the SA Framework to be modified.
- 6.2. Further detailed information required for the appraisal of the DPDs will be collected as they are being prepared. This information will be reported on in the final SA reports.
- 6.3. Stages B (Developing and Refining Options) and C (Appraising the Effects of the Plan) of the SA then run alongside the DPD preparation, leading to its statutory six week public consultation period. Stage D (Consulting on the Plan and SA Report) and Stage E (Monitoring implementation of the plan) follow. These subsequent stages will be carried out in accordance with the ODPM SA guidance. There are a number of generic tasks to be undertaken within Stages B-E which are explained below.

### **STAGE B: DEVELOPING AND REFINING OPTIONS**

#### **Appraisal of DPD objectives**

- 6.4. The objectives of each DPD, developed by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, set the context for the development of options for the DPD. Once these have been developed they will be tested against the SA objectives. The purpose of this is to determine whether the DPD objectives are in accordance with sustainability principles.
- 6.5. Where there are potential conflicts, these will be highlighted and recommendations put forward to reduce the conflicts where possible. This may mean revising the DPD objectives. The Core Strategy DPD is likely to be the DPD which sets out the over-arching objectives to guide all other LDDs, and so this is where the focus for the first part of the SA will fall. All other DPDs/SPDs will be prepared in accordance with the Core Strategy DPD objectives. The SA will aim to avoid duplication on the SA process where possible.

#### **Appraisal of DPD options**

- 6.6. The types of option (or 'alternatives') that could be considered within the Core Strategy DPD include:
  - Alternative overall spatial strategy for development (i.e. where, how much, and what type of development will take place).
  - Alternative policy approaches towards issues to be taken into account in development proposals (i.e. the criteria that will need to be met in order for development to be acceptable).

- 6.7. The SEA Directive requires “reasonable alternatives” to be taken into account, and so not every possible alternative will be considered. In some instances, other policy considerations (e.g. PPGs, PPSs, and policies in the East of England Plan) may pre-determine which policy approach needs to be adopted, effectively ruling out some options. In any event, the number of options will need to be kept manageable and focused on those aspects where real choices have to be made. One option that will need to be considered will be the ‘do-nothing’ option (i.e. what would happen without implementation of the DPD).
- 6.8. Where Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council decides to consult on issues and options under consideration for a DPD, where possible these will be accompanied by a commentary from an SA perspective, so that the consultees and the wider public can see what the likely sustainability effects of different options will be. It will also give consultees and the public the opportunity to comment on the findings of the SA, so adding to the robustness of both the SA and the DPD preparation process.

### **STAGE C: APPRAISING THE EFFECTS OF PREFERRED OPTIONS**

- 6.9. Preferred options for the DPDs will be prepared by the Borough Council, taking into account stakeholder comments, and the findings of the SA. Reasons for eliminating other options will need to be recorded. A detailed appraisal of the preferred options will then be undertaken, using the SA objectives and criteria in the SA Framework and recorded using a systematic matrix-based approach.
- 6.10. A final SA report will be produced which details the process undertaken and results of the appraisal. This will include an overall assessment of the sustainability effects of each DPD on each SA objective using the criteria/questions. A draft of a potential format for this report is set out in **Figure 6.1**.
- 6.11. Those parts of the SA Report that meet the specific requirements of an ‘Environmental Report’ under the SEA Directive will be identified.

### **STAGE D: CONSULTATION ON PREFERRED OPTIONS AND FINAL SA**

- 6.12. The final SA report will be consulted on alongside the statutory six-week pre-submission public participation stage of each DPD. Consultation will need to comply with the Statement of Community Involvement and requirements of the SEA Directive. Should any significant changes be made to the DPD as a result of public consultation, additional appraisal work will need to be carried out and the final SA report amended to reflect the results.

### **STAGE E: MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORE STRATEGY DPD**

- 6.13. The final SA Report will set out recommendations for monitoring the sustainability effects of each DPD, and indicators will be developed for this purpose, where possible using information already gathered by the Borough Council or other bodies. Recommendations for a process for dealing with adverse or unexpected effects will also be included in the SA report.

- 6.14. The topic papers set out some headline indicators that have been used to determine the key sustainability issues facing Welwyn Hatfield. The final choice of indicators for monitoring the sustainability performance of the Core Strategy DPD will, however, need to be determined once the likely significant effects of the DPD have been identified, helping to ensure that the monitoring framework is suitably focused.

**Figure 6.1 Draft format for final SA Report**

Non-technical summary
Statement on the difference the process has made
How to comment on the report
1. Introduction
• Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal
• Aims and structure of the report
• Background to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Local Development Framework
2. Methodology
• Approach to SA
• Stages and tasks undertaken
• Consultation
• Limitations
3. Characteristics of Welwyn Hatfield Borough
• Key sustainability issues
4. Sustainability Appraisal Framework
5. Issues and Options
• Alternative options considered
• Assessment of effects
• Choice of preferred option
• Mitigation and maximising benefits
6. Appraisal of DPD
• Assessment of effects (listed under each of the SA objectives)
• How effects were considered in developing policies and proposals
• Mitigation and maximising benefits
7. Implementation
8. Monitoring Proposals

*Note: The SA Report will also include technical appendices as required (e.g. baseline information, review of relevant plans, programmes and policy objectives, etc.)*

Land Use Consultants

February 2008

S:\4200\4274 Welwyn Hatfield Core Strategy SA SEA HRA\4274.01 - SA\_SEA\Documents\Scoping\Final Scoping Report Mar 08\Revised Scoping Report 10.3.08\WH Scoping Report - 1st draft 27.2.08 - revised 14.3.08.doc

## **APPENDIX I**

### **List of strategies, plans, programmes, policy statements and other relevant documents reviewed**

(see Appendix 5 for detailed review)



## **Welwyn Hatfield SA Scoping Report – Plans, strategies, programmes and policy documents reviewed**

Note: Documents in italics are not policy documents, therefore they have not been reviewed. However, they have been referred to in the topic papers in Appendix 4.

### **International**

- Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
- Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)
- Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971)
- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)
- The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002), Commitments arising from the Johannesburg Summit

### **European**

- Aarhus Convention (1998, ratified February 2005)
- Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC)
- Bathing Water Quality Directive (76/160/EEC)
- Directive concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (Nitrates Directive) (91/676/EEC)
- Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) (The Birds Directive)
- Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (Directive 92/43/EC) (The Habitats Directive)
- Directive to Promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001/77/EC)
- Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (2002/91/EEC)
- EU Directive Establishing a Framework for the Community Action in the Field of Water Policy (200/60/EC) (The Water Framework Directive).
- EU Sixth Environmental Action Programme 2002-2012 (2002)
- EU Waste to Landfill Directive (99/31/EC)
- European Biodiversity Strategy (February 1998)
- European Air Quality Directive (1991)
- Proposal for a Directive establishing a framework for the protection of soil (2006/0086) (COD)
- Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2006)
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)
- Waste Framework Directive (91/156/EEC)
- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

### **National**

- A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (DEFRA, 2007)
- A Better Quality of Life, A Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK (DETR, 1999)
- Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland (DEFRA, July 2007)
- Better Places to Live (ODPM, 2001)

- Building a Greener Future: Towards Zero Carbon Development - Consultation (CLG, December 2006)
- Circular 01/2006 – Gypsy and Travellers (ODPM, 2006)
- Cleaner, Safer, Greener: Streets for All (English Nature, DfT, 2005)
- Climate Change: The UK Programme (DEFRA, 2006)
- Code for Sustainable Homes – A Step Change in Sustainable Home Building Practice (CLG, 2006)
- Consultation Paper on a new Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development (December 2007)
- Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000
- Delivering Affordable Housing (Companion Statement to PPS3) (2006)
- Department for Transport (2004) The Future of Transport a network for 2030. White Paper
- Education and Skills: Delivering Results, a Strategy to 2006 (DfES, 2002)
- Energy White Paper - Meeting the Challenge (DTI, 2007)
- Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning (Countryside Agency, Environment Agency, English Nature, English Heritage, 2005)
- Game Plan (2020): A Strategy for Delivering Government's Sport and Physical Activity Objectives (DCMS, 2002)
- Green Space Strategies. A Good Practice Guide. CABE SPACE 2004
- Health in Strategic Environmental Assessment (Draft Guidance Consultation Document) (Department of Health 2007)
- Heritage Protection for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: White Paper (DCMS, 2007)
- Homes for the Future: More Affordable, More Sustainable – Housing Green Paper (CLG, July 2007)
- Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener (ODPM, 2002)
- Making space for water: Developing a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England. The Government's First Response (DEFRA, 2005)
- Making the Connections: Final Report on Transport and Social Exclusion. Social Exclusion Unit (2003)
- Minerals Policy Statement 1: Planning and Minerals (November 2006)
- National Cycling Strategy (Cycling England, 1996)
- Our Countryside: the Future – a Fair Deal for Rural England – Rural White Paper (DETR, 2000)
- Our Towns and Cities: the Future – Delivering an Urban Renaissance – Urban White Paper (DETR, 2000)
- Planning for a Sustainable Future: White Paper (CLG, 2007)
- Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – A Guide to Good Practice (March 2006)
- Planning for Tourism: A Good Practice Guide (July 2006)
- Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (September 1994)
- Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning (November 1990)
- Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (July 2002)
- Planning Policy Guidance 2: Green Belts (January 1995, amended March 2001)
- Planning Policy Guidance 24: Planning and Noise (September 1994)

- Planning Policy Guidance 4: Industrial, commercial development and small firms (November 1992)
- Planning Policy Guidance 8: Telecommunications (August 2001)
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport (March 2001)
- Planning Policy Statement 1 (supplement): Planning and Climate Change (December 2007)
- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (February 2005)
- Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (July 2005)
- Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks (September 2004)
- Planning Policy Guidance 14: Development on Unstable Land (April 1990)
- Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (August 2004)
- Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control (November 2004)
- Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk (December 2006)
- Planning Policy Statement 3 – Housing (November, 2006)
- Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (March 2005)
- Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (August 2004)
- Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (August 2005)
- Quality of Life Counts. Indicators for a Strategy for sustainable development for the United Kingdom. Defra, 2004
- Rural Strategy (DEFRA, 2004)
- Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention (ODPM, 2004)
- Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA, 2005)
- Sustainable Communities – Homes for All (ODPM, 2005)
- Sustainable Communities – People, Places, Prosperity (ODPM, 2005)
- Tackling Health Inequalities - A Programme for Action (Department of Health, 2003)
- Ten Year Plan (DfT, 2000)
- The First Soil Action Plan for England, 2004-2006 (DEFRA, 2004)
- The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS, 2001)
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK Biodiversity Action Group, 1994)
- Waste Strategy for England (Defra, May 2007)
- Water Resources for the Future – A Strategy for England and Wales (Environment Agency, 2001)
- Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2002)

### **Regional**

- A Better Life: The Role of Culture in the Sustainable Development of the East of England (2006) and accompanying Action Plan (Living East, 2006)
- A Better Life: the role of culture in the sustainable development of the East of England (2006) and accompanying Action Plan.
- A Regional Health Strategy for the East of England 2005-2010 (East of England Regional Assembly, 2005)
- A Shared Vision: The Regional Economic Strategy for the East of England (East of England Development Agency, 2004)

- Draft Regional Economic Strategy 2008-2031 (East of England Development Agency, 2007)
- East of England Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action (FRESA) (East of England Development Agency, November 2002)
- The East of England Plan for Sport (Sport England, 2004)
- East of England Plan, Draft revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East of England (2004)
- East of England Plan. The Secretary of State's Proposed Changes and Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England (2007)
- East of England Regional Transport Strategy (EERA, 2003)
- East of England Regional Waste Management Strategy (2002)
- *Heritage Counts: The State of the East of England's' Historic Environment (English Heritage, with the East of England Historic Environment Forum, 2007)*
- Integrated Regional Strategy (2005)
- 'Our Environment, our future' The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England to 2021 (East of England Regional Assembly and East of England Environment Forum, 2003)
- Regional Rural Delivery Framework (Government Office for the East of England, 2004)
- Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (East of England Regional Assembly, 2001)
- Revised Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England 2005-2010 (East of England Regional Assembly, 2005)
- Rye Meads Water Cycle Strategy Scoping Report (Halcrow for the Environment Agency) versions in May & August 2007
- Single Issue Review on Planning and Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England – Draft Policy (East of England Regional Assembly, February 2008)
- Sustainable Communities in the East of England: Building for the Future (ODPM, 2003)
- A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (2001)
- Thames region Catchment Flood Management Plan, consultation summary document, Environment Agency (2007)
- The East of England Plan for Sport (Sport England, 2004)
- The East of England Regional Woodland Strategy – 'Woodland for Life' (November 2003)
- Towns and Cities Strategy and Action Plan: Urban Renaissance in the East of England

### **Sub-Regional**

- A Housing Strategy for the London Commuter Belt Sub-region, 2005-2008 (London Commuter Belt Housing Sub-Region Group, 2005)
- Thames Region Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) Consultation Summary Document (Environment Agency, 2007)

### **County**

- A 50 – year vision for the wildlife and natural habitats of Hertfordshire. A Local Biodiversity Action Plan (March 2006)

- Enjoy! A Cultural Strategy for Hertfordshire 2002-2007 (Hertfordshire County Council, 2002)
- Hertfordshire Accessibility Strategy 2006/07-2010/11 (Hertfordshire County Council, March 2006)
- Hertfordshire Bus Strategy 2006/07- 2010/11
- Hertfordshire Economic Development Strategy 2006-2011 (Hertfordshire Prosperity, October 2006)
- Hertfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy: Core Strategy, 2007
- Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07-2010/2011
- Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Waste Core Strategy (Hertfordshire County Council, Emerging)
- Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review 2002-2016 (Hertfordshire County Council, March 2007)
- Hertfordshire Rail Strategy 2006/07- 2010/11
- Hertfordshire Renewable Energy Study 2005 (Hertfordshire County Council, 2005)
- Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011 (Hertfordshire County Council, 1998) – Saved Policies
- Hertfordshire Structure Plan Direction - identifying policies to be saved beyond Sept 2007 (Sept 2007)
- Hertfordshire Teenage Pregnancy Strategy (2001-2010)
- Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan 1995-2005 (1999)
- Hertfordshire Waste Strategy 2002 -2024
- Hertfordshire Youth Crime Reduction Strategy (Hertfordshire Children’s Trust Partnership, May 2007)
- The Upper Lee Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) (June 2006)

### Local

- A Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Welwyn Hatfield District (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, 2003)
- A Strategy for Walking in Welwyn Hatfield (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, 2002)
- Community Safety Strategy (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, 2005)
- Enjoying Life: Making the Most of Living in Welwyn Hatfield – Cultural Strategy (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, June 2003)
- Welwyn Hatfield 2015: The Borough’s Corporate and Community Plan (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, 2007)
- Welwyn Hatfield Air Quality Strategy – Progress Report 2005 (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, 2005)
- Welwyn Hatfield Cycling Strategy 2003-2008 (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, 2003)
- Welwyn Hatfield District Plan 2005 (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, 2005)
- Welwyn Hatfield Housing Strategy 2004-2007 (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, June 2004)
- Welwyn Hatfield Local Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008 (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, 2003)
- Welwyn Hatfield: The Next 5 Years (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, 2005)

- Welwyn Hatfield's Parking Strategy 2004-2010 (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, 2004)
- Welwyn Hatfield Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (emerging)
- *Welwyn Hatfield Third Road Updating & Screening Assessment 2006*
- *Welwyn Garden City Conservation Area Appraisal.*
- *Welwyn Garden City Leisure and Community Review 2006*
- *Welwyn Hatfield Retail and Town Centre Needs Assessment 2007*

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **SA Scoping Workshop Agenda and Attendees**



**WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL WORKSHOP**

**2.00pm, Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

**Agenda**

- 2pm**                      **Introduction by Land Use Consultants:**
- Sustainability Appraisal
  - Purpose of the Workshop
  - Introduction to Exercises
- 2.30 – 4pm**              **Group Session 1: Identifying and prioritising key sustainability issues**
- Split into 4 groups to answer the following questions in relation to c.4 topics:
1. Have we identified the right key sustainability issues for Welwyn Hatfield? If not, what issues should be included?
  2. Prioritise the issues from very important (1) to not important at all (5).
- The Group Sessions will be facilitated by Land Use Consultants.
- 4pm**                        **Tea break**
- 4.15-4.45pm**            **Feedback on Group Session 1**
- 4.45-5.30pm**            **Group Session 2: Agreeing Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Criteria**
- Split into the same groups as for Session 1 and consider (with reference to the same 4 topics):
1. In the light of Session 1, do you agree with the suggested Sustainability Appraisal objectives and criteria which will be used to appraise the Local Development Documents? If not, what changes should be made?
- 5.30-6pm**                **Feedback on Group Session 2 and Next Steps**
- 6pm**                        **Close**

## SA SCOPING WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS & GROUPINGS

### Group 1

Participant	Organisation	Topic papers
Paul Cronk	Home Builders Federation	Housing
Carol Rigby	WHBC Head of Community Service	Health and deprivation
Stacey Brewer	WHBC Head of Housing Strategy	Recreation, leisure and sport
Lynn McIver	George Wimpey	Historic and cultural heritage
Michael Rachlin	Herts Constabulary	
Sue Cave	Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)	
Sue Tiley	WHBC Planning	
Sarah Barker	WHBC Planning Team	

### Group 2

Participant	Organisation	Topic papers
John Pryor	Herts Prosperity Ltd	Economy, competitiveness and business success
Mark Boringdon	LSP Chamber of Commerce	
Geraldine Ward	LSP University of Hertfordshire	Skills, education and employment
Francesca Weal	Chamber of Commerce	
Paul Everard	WHBC Planning	Waste
David Irving	LSP	
		Land, geology, soils and minerals

### Group 3

Participant	Organisation	Topic papers
Trevor Land	LSP Transport Partnership	Transport, access and travel patterns
Neil French	HCC Passenger Transport	
Mark Norman	Highways Agency	
Luke Fairall	Faber Maunsall	Air quality
John Rumble	Herts CC Sustainability	Greenhouse gas emissions
Anita Ward	WHBC Planning	

### Group 4

Participant	Organisation	Topic papers
Tom Davidson	CPRE, LSP Environment Forum	Landscape
Keira Murphy	Environment Agency	Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Becky Pointer	Three Valleys Water	
Sally Gibbon	(WHBC Planning)	Water resources and quality
Anne Day	WHBC Planning	
Chris James	WHBC Ecology	Flood Risk

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **The SA Framework – Derivation of Objectives and Criteria**



## Welwyn Hatfield SA Framework – Derivation of SA Objectives and Criteria

Key Sustainability Issue (from Topic Papers – see Appendix 4)	Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Criteria – will the plan, policy or proposal...
<b>Long-term Objective 1: Health improvement</b>	
Health inequalities such as mental health, smoking and alcohol related illness/deaths and child obesity are an issue within Welwyn Hatfield and particularly in Peartree, Hatfield West and Hatfield South wards where life expectancy is also lower.	...lead to reduced health inequalities, and in particular improve the health of those living in communities characterised by relatively poor health?
Within a relatively prosperous Borough there are pockets of multiple deprivations.	
The Borough may experience a continued increase in the number of older/retired people, which is likely to have economic implications.	
Ensure everyone has access to green and open spaces as part of green infrastructure provision	...lead to improved health for all?
Increase opportunities for access to and participation in sport in all sections of the community.	
Increase provision of leisure facilities for all sections of the community	
Increase provision of cultural opportunities for all sections of the community (involvement in drama, dance, visual art and literature, media, technologies, sports, crafts etc)	
There is a lack of specialised community facilities to meet the needs of young people in the Borough.	
There is a lack of resources to run recreational, leisure and sports facilities in Welwyn Hatfield.	
<b>Long-term objective 2: Safer communities</b>	
Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour is high	...reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social

Key Sustainability Issue (from Topic Papers – see Appendix 4)	Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Criteria – will the plan, policy or proposal...
Offences for all crimes per 1,000 population have increased above National levels	behaviour, and reduce fear of crime?
Although the Borough has relatively few areas within the Environment Agency’s medium and high flood risk zones, some areas are still prone to flooding.	... ensure there is no increase in flood risk to people or property, taking into account climate change?
Climate change is likely to exacerbate frequency and severity of flooding events.	
There may be pressures to develop in flood risk areas against Environment Agency advice.	
<b>Long-term Objective 3: Good citizenship</b>	
None identified	...encourage involvement of the public in the planning process?
<b>Long term objective 4: Improving the environment</b>	
Significantly reduce average annual domestic CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per dwelling through retrofitting existing buildings.	...significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from built development?
Significantly reduce average annual domestic CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per dwelling in new developments	
Significantly reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from the industrial and commercial sector	
. Reduce the environmental impacts of the economy decoupling greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth.	
Significantly increase the installation of renewable energy capacity	
Significantly reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from road transport	...significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport?
Public transport utilisation needs to improve in addition to increased accessibility to public transport, alongside a co-ordinated and joined up approach between different modes of transport	
Capacity constraints could affect the future growth of the rail and road transport network.	
There is a lack of an efficient walking network within some town centres in the Borough/The provision of footpaths, cycleways and bridleways needs to increase.	

Key Sustainability Issue (from Topic Papers – see Appendix 4)	Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Criteria – will the plan, policy or proposal...
Gaps in the cycle network could reduce the potential of the Borough's cycle network to be used as an efficient alternative mode of transport to the car for local journeys.	
Congestion is an issue in some urban areas within the Borough and along major transport routes such as the A1(M) and A414, which is exacerbated by the lack of an accessible east-west road network.	
The quality, quantity and character of open space in Welwyn Hatfield should be maintained and enhanced.	...protect and enhance open space and landscape character, retaining local distinctiveness?
Insensitive proposals for rural development (farm diversification, recreation, energy schemes, tourism related) could have an erosive effect on landscape character.	
Increasing traffic volumes will continue to erode tranquillity and air quality and quality and appearance of rural and urban areas.	
Light pollution is an existing problem associated with development generally, but in particular the A1/M, major urban areas and sports and industrial developments	
Increasing traffic volumes will continue to erode air quality	...avoid and reduce air pollution?
The impact of air quality on Natura 2000 sites needs to be considered as part of the HRA process.	
Ensure the historic character of the Borough is maintained to retain a sense of place and local distinctiveness	...protect and enhance the Borough's character, sense of place and local distinctiveness, and historic and cultural assets?
Increase education and awareness of the historic environment	
Ensure access to the historic environment for everyone	
Development pressures and climate change may lead to changes in habitat structure, species composition, and possible gains and losses of species in the Borough	...protect and enhance biodiversity, taking into account the impacts of climate change?
The percentage of SSSIs found to be in favourable condition is well below the	

Key Sustainability Issue (from Topic Papers – see Appendix 4)	Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Criteria – will the plan, policy or proposal...
national target of 95% by 2010.	
Maintain and enhance all designated wildlife areas and promote any opportunities for increasing biodiversity in the Borough.	
Ensuring BAP targets are achieved and reviewed as appropriate.	
Rye Meads Sewage Treatment Works is at/near capacity and could have adverse impacts on water quality and biodiversity, in particular Natura 2000 sites, if overloaded.	
There is a need to reduce both domestic and commercial per capita water consumption in the Borough, particularly in light of new housing provisions for Hertfordshire, which could put a serious strain on water resources.	
Climate change is likely to lead to water shortages in the summer months in future.	
Ground water pollution means that local water is imported into the Borough.	...reduce water consumption, and provide for reliable sources of water supply even in drought conditions?
<b>While biological water quality in Welwyn Hatfield is improving, chemical water quality is deteriorating</b>	...avoid water pollution?
There is a need to reduce household waste as far as possible in the Borough.	...minimise the amount of waste generated and maximise the re-use, recycling or composting of waste that cannot be reduced?
Recycling and composting rates must continue to improve, particularly if the National target of 40% by 2010 is to be reached.	
There needs to be a progressive reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill/ A continuation in the progressive reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill to reduce methane emissions from waste.	
There is a need to decouple waste growth from economic growth and put more emphasis on waste prevention and re-use and economic investment in waste management.	
Recycling rates are lower in more deprived areas within the Borough.	

<b>Key Sustainability Issue (from Topic Papers – see Appendix 4)</b>	<b>Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Criteria – will the plan, policy or proposal...</b>
Minimise development on best and most versatile agricultural land	...promote the conservation and sustainable use of productive agricultural land and maximise use of previously developed land?
Use soils sustainably, and encourage better management of agricultural soils	
<b>Long-term Objective 5: Decent housing</b>	
Affordability of housing may mean that people leave the Borough to purchase property elsewhere.	...provide the right amount, type and tenure of housing to meet identified local needs?
Current supply of affordable housing is not meeting all of the need in the Borough, with a growing and additional need for intermediate housing.	
Homelessness is rising in the Borough.	
Supplying the right type of housing in the right locations to meet local needs.	
<b>Long-term objective 6: A thriving economy</b>	
Pressure from housing retail and leisure uses on employment land could jeopardise the future supply of quality employment land.	...ensure the supply, location and quality of business and employment sites reflects the needs of local businesses and encourages a mixed and greener economy?
Rail links to Kings Cross /St Pancras as a driver/opportunity	
Need to allow business expansion without compromising principles of green belt	
Welwyn Hatfield's location within the London/Oxford/Cambridge 'golden triangle' needs to be promoted to encourage future investment from the knowledge-based sector, whilst also capitalising on the University of Hertfordshire and Royal Veterinarians College.	
Transport networks are all north/south both road and rail	See 'significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport' above
Promote the regeneration of areas of the economy in decline.	...encourage economic investment in those areas most in need of regeneration, in a way that will benefit those most in need of rewarding employment?
There are wards in the Borough that experience higher levels of unemployment compared to others (e.g. Peartree and Hatfield Central).	
Out of town retail centres still threaten the success of some town centres. For example, Hatfield's town centre is up against competition from the out-of-centre Galleria shopping centre and Oldings Corner	...enhance the vitality and attraction of Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield town retail centres?
Sustain rural communities and their rural economies, possibly through rural	...sustain rural communities and their economies,

<b>Key Sustainability Issue (from Topic Papers – see Appendix 4)</b>	<b>Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Criteria – will the plan, policy or proposal...</b>
diversification.	small businesses and other rural diversification, while protecting rural character?
Outward commuting can create dormitory towns and villages.	
Blurring of the distinction between homes and jobs (i.e. to facilitate home working, live-work units)	
Need to allow micro-businesses to expand where they are located	
Need to prevent sterilisation of mineral resources, whilst taking into account development pressures.	...avoid the sterilisation of mineral resources?
There are signs of possible mismatches between skills and jobs available in the Borough, and pay of residents can be lower than the County average	...provide access to training, skills development and life long learning to meet identified needs?
Employment in the Borough was lower than the average for Hertfordshire and below the national target in 2006, due in large part to the number of students and early retired living within the Borough.	
Need to improve the quality of secondary education in the Borough in light of high levels of students under-performing at GCSE level	
The percentage of 16 year olds not in employment, education, or training is higher in Welwyn Hatfield than in other Hertfordshire Districts.	

**APPENDICES 4 & 5**

**Available as separate documents**