

Woking Local Development Framework

Core Strategy

Issues and Options consultation

Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report



October 2009

Core Strategy - Issues and Options consultation

Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Woking Borough Council is in the early stages of preparing a new planning policy framework which will guide future development (including houses, offices and shops) in the Borough from now until 2026. This is called the Local Development Framework (LDF), and it will replace the saved policies of the Woking Borough Local Plan 1999.
- 1.2 The first LDF document that the Council must prepare is called the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy will include an overall vision for the area (which is in line with that set out in the Community Strategy), a set of strategic objectives which focus on the key issues to be addressed, and a delivery strategy for achieving those objectives. It will also contain a number of core development management policies.
- 1.3 In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Core Strategy must be subject to the process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA). This is a process that involves the identification, consideration and reporting of the likely impacts of planning proposals on social, environmental and economic interests.
- 1.4 SA is a legal requirement under the European Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) which requires assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment as well as on social and economic objectives. The SEA Directive states:

“...an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated” (Article 5.1). Information to be provided in the Environmental Report includes *“an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with”* (Annex I (h))
- 1.5 The SEA Directive has been transposed in to UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.6 This document is the ‘Initial’ Sustainability Appraisal Report for Woking’s Core Strategy. It is published at this stage for consultation on the Core Strategy to ensure that the final SA report will be comprehensive and robust enough to support the Core Strategy through the later stages of publication and Examination. This is not a statutory stage of consultation; however, SA helps to develop and refine the possible policy options and assesses their effects. The SA stages mirror those of the Core Strategy and are therefore linked. It is therefore important that the SA is made available for consultation at the same time as the Core Strategy as the SA will assist in the eventual content of the Core Strategy.
- 1.7 Figure 1, overleaf, sets out the key stages of the SA and how it links with the key stages of preparation of the Core Strategy.

The process of SA

- 1.8 The Council is undertaking the SA of the Core Strategy in accordance with Government guidance. However, since the publication of the SA guidance in 2005, there have been procedural amendments to the LDF Regulations and accompanying national policy which have not been accompanied by amended SA guidance. The Council has therefore adapted the SA process to align with the revised LDF procedures where appropriate (see Figure 1).
- 1.9 There are five key stages in the SA process:
- Stage A: Setting the context, objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope
 - Stage B: Developing and refining the options and assessing the effects
 - Stage C: Preparing the SA report
 - Stage D: Consulting on the SA report
 - Stage E: Monitoring significant effects.

Stage A: The Scoping Report

- 1.10 The first stage of the SA is to establish the social, economic and environmental context for the Borough. This is achieved through the consideration of other plans, strategies, programmes, studies and other data sources which are relevant to the preparation of the LDF and the SA of it.
- 1.11 The results of Stage A were reported in a SA Scoping Report. In accordance with the Regulations, this was subject to consultation with the statutory bodies and other interested parties for five weeks between July and September 2009. The responses to the consultation will be made available on the Council's website.
- 1.12 The Scoping Report, and the responses to the consultation on the Scoping Report, have been used to help identify the key issues that are presented in the Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation.

The SA Framework

- 1.13 The SA Framework (SAF) is key to the SA process. It provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. The SAF consists of sustainability objectives, which can be expressed in the form of targets, the achievement of which can be measured against a number of indicators.
- 1.14 The objectives in the SAF are distinct from those of the Plan, although in some cases there may be some overlap. They are a way of ensuring that the objectives and policies of the Plan are the best possible ones in terms of sustainability.

Stage B: The Initial Sustainability Report

- 1.15 This report is the 'initial' SA Report for Woking's Core Strategy DPD Issues and Options document. It is being published for consultation to provide the public and statutory bodies with an opportunity to express their opinions on it. This SA Report compliments the Issues and Options document and the two

documents should be read together. This document reports on the first stages of Stage B in the SA process.

- 1.16 Using the objectives in the SAF, this Initial SA Report appraises:
- The six key themes of the Community Strategy (which are subject to consultation at the same time as the Core Strategy)
 - The draft Core Strategy objectives that are set out in the Issues and Options document.
- 1.17 It is important to note that many of the principles included in the Issues and Options document, such as the level of growth, are set by the South East Plan. Therefore the SA process for the Core Strategy cannot re-visit or appraise the sustainability of these principles.
- 1.18 Given the strategic nature of the Core Strategy and the early stage that the Council is at in the plans preparation, and consequently the strategic nature of the objectives and various approaches, the appraisal work is inevitably 'broad brush'. It has not, at this stage, taken into account the detailed implications of different possible policy approaches as these have not been formulated in any detail. However, the appraisal work is a useful tool in highlighting where more detailed work is required on the various options at the next stage of the development of the Core Strategy, as well as identifying the potential sustainability implications of the options that may need to be addressed through more detailed policy. The purpose of SA is not to identify the best options. SA is a tool to be used during the preparation of a plan to inform the decision making process and ensure that sustainability considerations are taken fully into account.
- 1.19 This Initial SA has been undertaken in house by the Senior Policy Officer (Sustainability) and the Senior Policy Officer (Planning).
- 1.20 Further SA work will be undertaken in conjunction with the development of the next stage of the Core Strategy, including predicting and evaluating the effects of the various issue approaches in more detail.

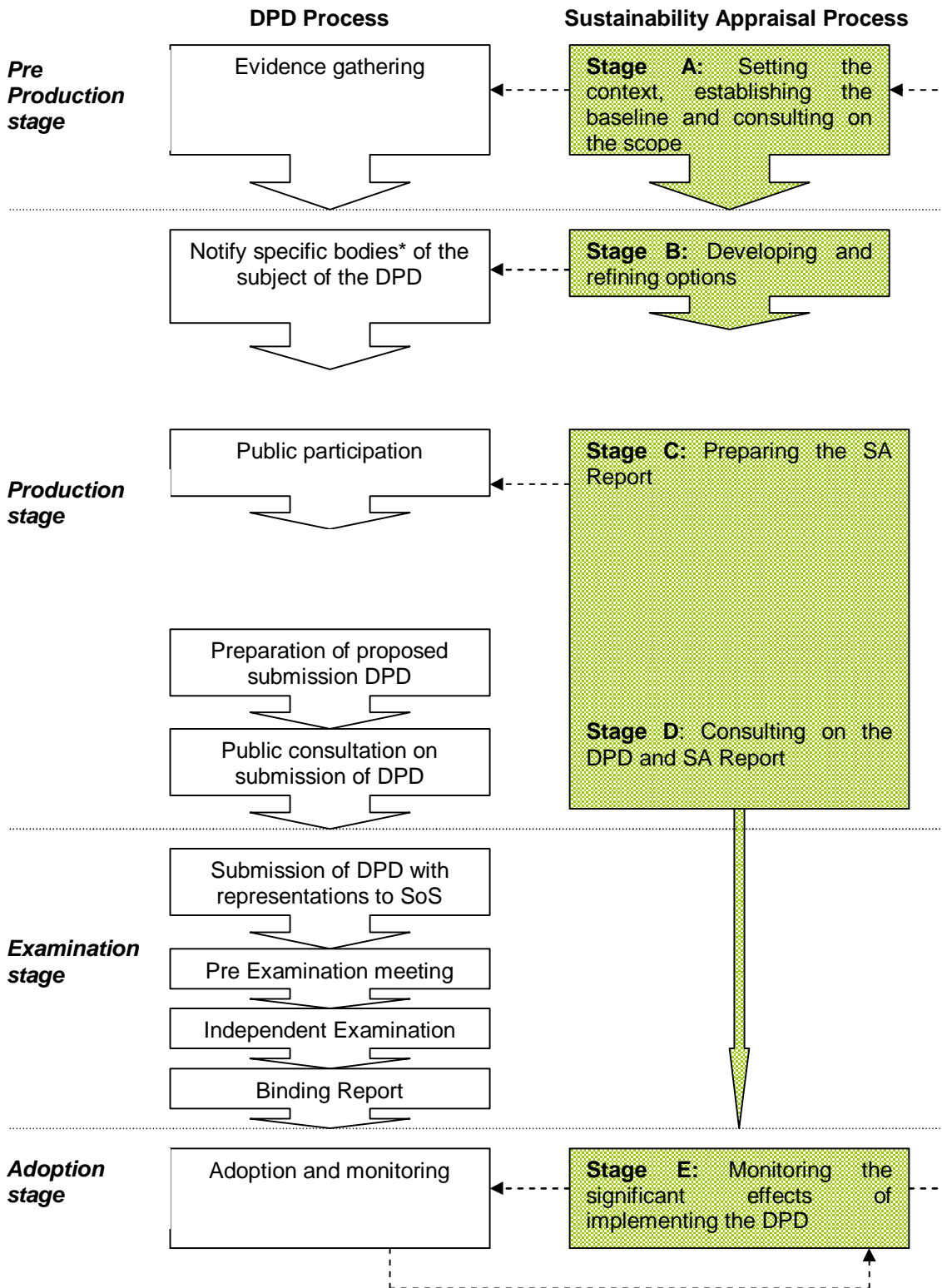


Figure 1: The SA Process and DPD Preparation

Source: SA Guidance 2005, adapted following publication of revised PPS12

*The specific consultation bodies are listed in the Town and Country Planning, Local Development, England, Regulations 2004, as amended.

How to get involved and have your say

- 1.21 It is important that the statutory consultees and the wider community are involved in the preparation of the Core Strategy, which includes the SA.

Question 1: Do you agree with the methodology used to appraise the objectives against the SA Framework?

Question 2: Do you agree with the conclusions drawn from this exercise?

Question 3: Do you have any other comments to make about the content of this Initial SA Report?

- 1.22 Please address any comments to:

Planning Policy Team
Woking Borough Council
Civic Offices
Gloucester Square
Woking
Surrey
GU21 5QN

The Planning Policy Team can also be emailed at:

planning.policy@woking.gov.uk

- 1.23 This consultation runs from Monday 26 October 2009 and closes at 5pm on Monday 7 December 2009. Comments received after this consultation period cannot be taken in to account. Please be aware that we are unable to accept confidential responses.

What happens next?

- 1.24 At the end of the six week consultation in December, all the responses to the Core Strategy Issues and Options paper and to this Initial SA Report will be analysed.
- 1.25 SA is an iterative process. Issues and options will be refined, and as more detailed options are developed, a more detailed SA will be undertaken. This will include predicting and evaluating the effects of the Core Strategy, considering ways in which adverse effects can be mitigated and positive benefits can be maximised. Proposals for monitoring will also be considered.

2.0 Testing the Community Strategy

- 2.1 Woking's Community Strategy sets out a long-term vision for the Borough and contains a set of goals and actions which the Woking Partnership, in representing the residential, business, statutory and voluntary interests of the area, wish to promote in order to support a sustainable community and improve quality of life for residents. Following significant public consultation, the Community Strategy sets out a number of aims under six broad themes:
- 1) A strong community spirit with a clear sense of belonging and responsibility.
 - 2) A clean, healthy and safe environment.
 - 3) A transport system that is linked and accessible, recognising Woking's potential as a transport hub.
 - 4) Access to decent affordable housing for local people and key workers.
 - 5) A community which values personal health and well-being.
 - 6) Provide opportunities and encourage people to participate in learning throughout their lives so they progress and reach their full potential.
- 2.2 The themes can be viewed in detail at Appendix 3. The Community Strategy informs the LDF and acts as an umbrella for all other strategies prepared for the local area, such as the Housing Strategy and the Climate Change Strategy. The documents that comprise the LDF, and particularly the Core Strategy, set out how the Council will seek to achieve the community aims set out in the Community Strategy through the spatial planning system.
- 2.3 The Community Strategy was last updated in 2005 and the Council is taking this opportunity, whilst consulting widely with the public, to ensure that the priorities set out in the Community Strategy remain representative of community aspirations.
- 2.4 SA is not specifically required for Community Strategies. However, strong links exist between the Community Strategy and the LDF. The LDF is the Community Strategy's spatial implementation framework. It is therefore important that the Community Strategy is considered against the SAF as a starting point. The detailed Appraisal matrices can be found at Appendix 1.

Key findings

- 2.5 The six themes of the Community Strategy have been tested against the SAF, and it is considered that the Community Strategy is generally compatible with the objectives of the SAF. No areas of potential conflict have been highlighted. However, as set out below, the Appraisal (and information from the Scoping Report) has found that there are a number of opportunities strengthen the Community Strategy to make it truly sustainable.
- Since Woking's Community Strategy was last refreshed in 2005/06, the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 has come in to force. This requires the preparation of a 'Sustainable' Community Strategy which should fully address the social, environmental and economic aims of the community. In order to be genuinely sustainable, it is considered that the forthcoming refresh of the community strategy should be driven by all aspects that contribute to a sustainable community. Testing and monitoring the aims of

the (Sustainable) Community Strategy against the SAF is recommended as a tool to achieve this.

- Statutory guidance requires local authorities to align their housing and homelessness strategies with their Sustainable Community Strategies where possible in order to ensure that housing growth is fully incorporated in to the LSPs wider vision for an area and that it takes in to account the infrastructure delivery that is required to support housing growth. It is recommended that the Council considers aligning its housing and homelessness strategies with the Community Strategy when they are next updated.
- The Community Strategy could be strengthened through the introduction of a spatial and delivery element. For example, the SA Scoping Report highlighted that there are two areas in Woking Borough that are within the top 14% most deprived areas in England. Specific actions to relieve deprivation in these areas could be developed through the Community Strategy.
- The Government has re-inforced its ambition for the planning system to embed community responsive policy-making at its heart and has introduced as a statutory objective the achievement of sustainable development. The links between sustainable community strategies and LDFs should be explicit and transparent. It is therefore recommended that Woking's revised Sustainable Community Strategy and the LDF share the same vision for the Borough and set priorities for the same timescales where possible.
- Theme 1. The LDF is the spatial implementation framework for the Community Strategy. It is therefore essential that the community is given the opportunity to participate in the preparation of the LDF, and to be heard by decision makers. To ensure that the priorities under Theme 1 are achieved and translated to the planning system, the Council should commit to a review of its Statement of Community Involvement to bring it in line with recent changes in national policy. This should be linked to the preparation of the Council's corporate communications strategy.
- Theme 1. One of the key ways in which the planning system can assist in achieving the aims set out in the Community Strategy is through ensuring that sufficient suitable land and buildings are available to aid fair and equal access to services and facilities. This Community Strategy aim could be strengthened by ensuring that the Woking Partnership is fully engaged with the preparation of the LDF and in particular the preparation of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- Theme 2. The priorities under Theme 2 regarding the environment could be strengthened to ensure that specific environmental objectives of the SAF relating to air and water quality and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity are made more explicit.
- SAF objectives 17 and 18 specifically relate to economic development. Although a number of weak 'positive compatibles' were highlighted through the Appraisal, it is considered that Woking's Community Strategy does not fully address the aims of economic development. Consideration should be given to strengthening these aspects of the strategy, and could

draw on the key issues highlighted through the Scoping Report as a starting point for discussion with the Woking Partnership and the wider community.

3.0 Testing the Core Strategy objectives

- 3.1 Following significant consultation on the first Core Strategy (and its accompanying SA reports), the Council approved a 'spatial vision' for the Borough which reflects the aims of the Community Strategy:

Woking is a sustainable, prosperous, attractive and inclusive community in an economically buoyant growing region. Woking will continue to grow, as a result of its popularity as a place to live and work. The growth is managed, improves quality of life locally, and uses resources sustainably.

- 3.2 Eleven spatial objectives were also agreed through the previous Core Strategy. The table in Appendix 4 shows how these draft objectives link with those of other relevant plans and policies. The LDF objectives set the context for the development of policy options.
- 3.3 In line with national guidance, the draft LDF objectives have been considered against those of the SAF. The detailed matrices can be found at Appendix 2.

The key objectives to achieve the vision are:

1. Woking Town Centre as a growing hub for the area. A vibrant, high density, high quality environment in which to live, work, access major shops and services and enjoy leisure time.
2. Attractive local centres throughout the Borough providing convenient access to everyday shops and services, local community facilities, parks and open spaces.
3. Homes to suit all needs and pockets. Enough new homes are built to meet Government targets, in a range of sizes and types to meet different needs. New developments are built at densities that make the best use of land in the urban area - but respect the context of Woking's leafy character. A significant proportion of new homes, for sale or rent, are priced to suit young families and those on lower incomes.
4. A green Borough where the countryside is never far away. Open Green Belt land is not built on unless there is no other way to deliver key priorities. Green space and wooded areas are a feature of all parts of the Borough. Plenty of open space and countryside is accessible to the public and rich in wildlife. Biodiversity and the quality of the natural environment is protected and enhanced.
5. A busy, buoyant economy with good quality offices, business parks and industrial areas, which meet the needs of modern business. These are mainly in major business and industrial areas, Woking Town Centre and local centres.
6. A Borough which leads the way on high quality sustainable development and addresses climate change. Much more use is made of renewable energy. New buildings are more energy and water efficient. As a result the use of non-renewable energy is reduced. Waste is dealt with in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way.
7. A high quality environment. The quality of air and water is maintained

and improved. The impact of noise and light is managed effectively.

8. Buildings and public spaces of which we can be proud. Attractive buildings, in a range of styles, with public spaces where people feel safe and want to spend time.

9. Provision of key services keeps pace as the Borough's population grows. This includes schools, healthcare, water supply, drainage and flood alleviation, leisure and community centres.

10. A transport system that enables people to get to jobs, services and other places they wish to visit safely, in a reasonable and consistent journey time. Walking and cycling to the town centre, district and local centres, schools and other facilities are safe and convenient. Most people who live further away from Woking Town Centre can get to it by good frequent public transport. Onward journeys to major destinations can be made by train. Using a car is a choice not a necessity.

11. A Borough where the whole community has the opportunity to share in the general prosperity and high quality of life. The Borough is made up of stable mixed communities with decent affordable housing. Everyone has good access to facilities, particularly the elderly, young people and those without access to a car.

Key findings

- 3.4 Having tested the draft LDF objectives against those of the SAF, it is considered that the draft objectives reflect the principles of sustainable development. Overall, the two sets of objectives are compatible and form a sound basis for the development of Core Strategy options.
- 3.5 However, as set out below, the Appraisal (and information from the Scoping Report) has highlighted two key areas of potential conflict, as described below, which should be considered when generating and refining options:
- New development generally has the potential to harm the environment and the availability and quality of natural resources. Where these conflicts arise has been highlighted through the Appraisal. It will be important for the Core Strategy to consider options that will mitigate the effects of development. Examples will include the potential to expand the CHP network and require developments to connect to it, and options that will encourage reducing the need to travel by car, for example. The extent that these issues can be addressed through the Core Strategy is sometimes limited. It is therefore recommended that there should be a mechanism in place to feed back the results and recommendations of the Core Strategy options appraisal to the Woking Partnership and to the Council's other corporate plans, for example the Climate Change Strategy.
 - Issues relating to competing land uses have been highlighted through the Appraisal process, particularly in relation to the level of housing, retail and employment floorspace that is required over the Plan period. These competing land uses will put pressure on the existing built up area and will also put pressure on Greenfield land. Options to use previously developed land in the urban area in the most efficient manner (for example through considering increased densities and permitting taller buildings) should be considered through the Core Strategy. Should the Council need to consider permitting development on Greenfield sites to accommodate growth, the impacts on biodiversity and other environmental

considerations will need to be taken in to account. Options considered should include those that would avoid and mitigate the potential negative effects and those that would seek to maximise the potential positive benefits of allowing such development such as creating opportunities to enhance biodiversity, the quality of open space and to secure high levels of affordable family housing to meet local need.

Appendix 1: Appraising the Community Strategy

	Theme 1: A strong community spirit with a clear sense of belonging and responsibility	Theme 2: A clean, healthy and safe environment.	Theme 3: A transport system that is linked and accessible, recognising Woking's potential as a transport hub.	Theme 4: Access to decent affordable housing for local people and key workers	Theme 5: A community which values personal health and well-being	Theme 6: Provide opportunities and encourage people to participate in learning throughout their lives so they progress and reach their full potential
1. Provision of sufficient housing which meets the needs of the community and which is at an affordable price	Ü	.	.	Ü	.	.
2. Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health	Ü	.	.	Ü	Ü	Ü
3. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment of public well-being, the economy and the environment.	.	Ü	.	.	.	.
4. Create and maintain safer and more secure communities	Ü	Ü	.	.	.	.
5. Encourage opportunities for decision making and information for all	Ü	.	.	.	Ü	.
6. Create and sustain vibrant communities	Ü	Ü	Ü	Ü	Ü	Ü
7. Make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings	.	.	.	.	.	.
8. Ensure that air quality continues to improve	.	Ü	Ü	.	.	.
9. Conserve and enhance biodiversity	.	Ü	.	.	.	.

	Theme 1: A strong community spirit with a clear sense of belonging and responsibility	Theme 2: A clean, healthy and safe environment.	Theme 3: A transport system that is linked and accessible, recognising Woking's potential as a transport hub.	Theme 4: Access to decent affordable housing for local people and key workers	Theme 5: A community which values personal health and well-being	Theme 6: Provide opportunities and encourage people to participate in learning throughout their lives so they progress and reach their full potential
10. Protect, enhance and where appropriate make accessible for the enjoyment the natural, archaeological and historic environments and cultural assets and landscapes of Woking	ü	.	.	.	.	.
11. Maintain agricultural soil quality and reduce the number of sites that are contaminated	.	ü	ü	.	.	.
12. Reduce the causes of climate change and prepare for its impacts	.	ü	ü	.	.	.
13. Reduce the impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably produced and local products
14. Reduce waste generation and disposal and achieve sustainable management of waste	.	ü	.	.	.	.
15. Maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers and groundwater, and achieve sustainable water resources management	.	ü	.	.	.	.
16. Increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources	.	ü	.	.	.	.
17. Maintain high and stable levels of employment and productivity, encourage high quality low impact development and education for all.	ü

	Theme 1: A strong community spirit with a clear sense of belonging and responsibility	Theme 2: A clean, healthy and safe environment.	Theme 3: A transport system that is linked and accessible, recognising Woking's potential as a transport hub.	Theme 4: Access to decent affordable housing for local people and key workers	Theme 5: A community which values personal health and well-being	Theme 6: Provide opportunities and encourage people to participate in learning throughout their lives so they progress and reach their full potential
18. Provide a range of commercial development opportunities to meet the needs of the economy and, in particular, support and enhance the economies of town and local centres.	-	-	-	-	-	-
19. Minimise the adverse impact of emissions arising from the use of transport.	-	C	C	-	-	-
20. Improve public transport facilities and their use and reduce congestion by providing jobs and services close to where people live or where they can access them by public transport.	-	-	C	C	-	-

Key:

ü	Positive compatible
-	Neutral
X	Possible conflict

Appendix 2: Appraising the Core Strategy objectives

	1. Town centre	2. Local Communities	3. Housing	4. Green Borough	5. Economy	6. Sustainable development & Climate Change	7. Environment	8. Buildings & Spaces	9. Key services	10. Transport	11. Quality of Life
1. Provision of sufficient housing which meets the needs of the community and which is at an affordable price	ü/X	ü/X	ü	X	X	?	X	ü	ü	-	ü/-
2. Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health	-	ü	ü/-	ü	-	-	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
3. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment of public well-being, the economy and the environment.	ü/-	ü/-	X	ü	?/X	ü	ü	ü/X	-	-	ü/-
4. Create and maintain safer and more secure communities	ü	ü	-	-	-	-	-	ü	-/ü	ü	ü
5. Encourage opportunities for decision making and information for all	ü/-	ü/-	ü/-	ü	-	-	-	ü	ü	ü	ü
6. Create and sustain vibrant communities	ü	ü	-	ü/-	-	-	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
7. Make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	-
8. Ensure that air quality continues to improve	ü/X	?	X	-	X	ü	ü	-	-	?	-
9. Conserve and enhance biodiversity	ü	?	?	ü	?	ü	ü	-	-	-	-
10. Protect, enhance and where appropriate make accessible for the enjoyment the natural, archaeological and historic environments and cultural assets and landscapes of Woking	ü/-	ü	-	ü/-	-	-	-	ü	-	ü/-	ü
11. Maintain agricultural soil quality and reduce the number of sites that are contaminated	ü	-	-	ü	-	-	ü	-	-	-	-
12. Reduce the causes of climate change and prepare for its impacts	X	X	X	ü	X	ü	ü	-	X	?	-
13. Reduce the impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably produced and local products	X/-	X/-	X	-	X	ü	ü	-	-	?	-

	1. Town centre	2. Local Communities	3. Housing	4. Green Borough	5. Economy	6. Sustainable development & Climate Change	7. Environment	8. Buildings & Spaces	9. Key services	10. Transport	11. Quality of Life
14. Reduce waste generation and disposal and achieve sustainable management of waste	X	X	-	-	X	ü	ü	-	-	-	-
15. Maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers and groundwater, and achieve sustainable water resources management	?	?	X	ü	X	ü	ü	-	?	-	-
16. Increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources	X	X	X	ü	X	ü	ü	-	?	?	-
17. Maintain high and stable levels of employment and productivity, encourage high quality low impact development and education for all.	ü	ü	X	X	ü	-	-	-	-	ü	ü
18. Provide a range of commercial development opportunities to meet the needs of the economy and, in particular, support and enhance the economies of town and local centres.	ü	ü	-	X	ü	-	X	-	ü	ü	ü
19. Minimise the adverse impact of emissions arising from the use of transport.	ü	ü	-	-	?	ü	ü	-	-	ü	-
20. Improve public transport facilities and their use and reduce congestion by providing jobs and services close to where people live or where they can access them by public transport.	ü	ü	-	-	?	ü	ü	-	-	ü	-

Appendix 3: Woking's Community Strategy

Theme 1: A strong community spirit with a clear sense of belonging and responsibility.

- Giving local people a voice which encourages participation and is heard by decision-makers.
- Ensuring that there is fair and equal access to services and facilities.
- Providing resources and facilities to enable local communities to help themselves.
- Working towards a more caring community by encouraging a better understanding of different cultures, religion and beliefs, generations and lifestyles.

Theme 2: A clean, healthy and safe environment.

- Keeping the environment clean and encouraging everyone to respect it.
- Conserving green spaces and ensuring they are accessible.
- Helping people to feel safe in their community.
- Ensuring that when new areas are built the local infrastructure grows with it.
- Promoting and encouraging schemes and actions that minimise waste and increase recycling.
- Promoting actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, respond to the challenges of climate change and encourage sustainable development.

Theme 3: A transport system that is linked and accessible, recognising Woking's potential as a transport hub.

- Working to develop all forms of travel to ensure they are accessible, interlink and contribute towards reducing congestion.
- Exploring ways of improving community and public transport.
- Promote linked up regional transport schemes, such as the rail hub and access to Heathrow airport, to enhance economic prosperity.

Theme 4: Access to decent affordable housing for local people and key workers.

- Exploring through policy and action, ways in which all local people have a reasonable expectation of a decent, appropriate and affordable place to live.
- Exploring ways in which an imaginative architectural approach might meet housing need.
- Examining potential schemes for subsidising 'key worker' housing.

Theme 5: A community which values personal health and well-being.

- Improving access to information so that individuals can minimise preventable health problems.
- Concentrating resources on developing services which are accessible for disadvantaged vulnerable members of the community.
- Promoting emotional and spiritual well-being by encouraging support structures that help individuals live life to the full.
- Encouraging the use of key leisure and recreational opportunities to assist people to keep themselves fit and healthy.
- Working towards a system that enables all people to access health and social services in a simple and logical way.

Theme 6: Provide opportunities and encourage people to participate in learning throughout their lives so they progress and reach their full potential.

- Promoting opportunities for every child and young person to be happy and confident by matching school and leisure provision to the individual's needs.
- Improving access to specialist training for work to meet Woking's vibrant and diverse economy.
- Focusing resources on developing learning in communities who need them most.
- Providing opportunities for people who would benefit from improved basic skills so that they increase the choices available to them.
- Supporting learning initiatives that enable families to improve their quality of life.
- Ensuring access to information that improves participation and enables progression in learning throughout life.

Appendix 4: Links between the Local Development Framework, the Woking Community Strategy Themes, the Draft Surrey Sustainable Community Strategy, the Council’s Sustainability Appraisal Framework and the objectives of the South East Plan

Proposed LDF Objective	Relevant Woking Community Strategy Theme	Relevant Draft Surrey Sustainable Community Strategy priority	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Framework objectives	Relevant South East Plan objective
<p>1. Woking Town Centre as a growing hub for the area. A vibrant, high density, high quality environment in which to live, work, access major shops and services and enjoy leisure time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A transport system that is linked and accessible, recognising Woking's potential as a transport hub • Access to decent affordable housing for local people and key workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve learning, health and employment outcomes for children and young people, particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged • Improve the global competitiveness of Surrey's economy through sustainable growth • Make Surrey's economy more inclusive • Help people in Surrey to achieve more sustainable lifestyles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and sustain vibrant communities • Make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings • Maintain high and stable levels of employment and productivity, encourage high quality low impact development and education for all • Provide a range of commercial development opportunities to meet the needs of the economy and, in particular, support and enhance the economies of town and local centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustainable balance between planning for economic, environmental and social benefits will be sought, to help improve quality of life for everyone in the South East • Economic growth and competitiveness in the region will be sustained, with Gross Value Added (GVA) in the region increased by 3% per annum over the period 2006-2016 • New initiatives to tackle skills deficit will be promoted • A closer alignment between jobs and homes growth will be pursued • Economic and social

Proposed LDF Objective	Relevant Woking Community Strategy Theme	Relevant Draft Surrey Sustainable Community Strategy priority	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Framework objectives	Relevant South East Plan objective
				<p>disparities within the region will be reduced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sufficient level of housing development will be delivered • A substantial increase in the supply of affordable housing will be pursued, through a package of measures to deliver this goal • Adequate infrastructure will be provided in a way that keeps pace with development • Key transport links will be improved, providing access for all, especially disadvantaged groups • Health provision and access will be improved • Crime and the fear of crime will be reduced • The best of the region's historic, built and natural

Proposed LDF Objective	Relevant Woking Community Strategy Theme	Relevant Draft Surrey Sustainable Community Strategy priority	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Framework objectives	Relevant South East Plan objective
				<p>environment will be protected and where possible enhanced, both for its own sake and to underpin the social and economic development of the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development will be of high quality sustainable design and construction, and be an asset to the region
<p>2. Attractive local centres throughout the Borough providing convenient access to everyday shops and services, local community facilities, parks and open spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong community spirit with a clear sense of belonging and responsibility. • A community which values personal health and well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help people in Surrey to achieve more sustainable lifestyles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and sustain vibrant communities • Make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings • Provide a range of commercial development opportunities to meet the needs of the economy and, in particular, support and enhance the economies of town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustainable balance between planning for economic, environmental and social benefits will be sought, to help improve quality of life for everyone in the South East • Adequate infrastructure will be provided in a way that keeps pace with development • Health provision and

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			and local centres.	<p>access will be improved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best of the region's historic, built and natural environment will be protected and where possible enhanced, both for its own sake and to underpin the social and economic development of the region • New development will be of high quality sustainable design and construction, and be an asset to the region
<p>3. Homes to suit all needs and pockets. Enough new homes are built to meet Government targets, in a range of sizes and types to meet different needs. New developments are built at densities that make the best use of land in the urban area - but</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to decent affordable housing for local people and key workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support more vulnerable people to live in their own homes and to exercise greater choice and control over their health and support arrangements • Create better, more sustainable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of sufficient housing which meets the needs of the community and which is at an affordable price • Make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A closer alignment between jobs and homes growth will be pursued • A sufficient level of housing development will be delivered • A substantial increase in the supply of affordable housing will

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respect the context of Woking's leafy character. A significant proportion of new homes, for sale or rent, are priced to suit young families and those on lower incomes.		developments that deliver more social, environmental, and economic benefit		be pursued, through a package of measures to deliver this goal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial planning in the region will take into account the needs of an aging population and its implications
4. A green Borough where the countryside is never far away. Open Green Belt land is not built on unless there is no other way to deliver key priorities. Green space and wooded areas are a feature of all parts of the Borough. Plenty of open space and countryside is accessible to the public and rich in wildlife. Biodiversity and the quality of the natural environment is protected and enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clean, healthy and safe environment. • A community which values personal health and well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote healthy lifestyles, particularly targeting groups and communities at most risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health • Make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings • Protect, enhance and where appropriate make accessible for the enjoyment the natural, archaeological and historic environments and cultural assets and landscapes of Woking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustainable balance between planning for economic, environmental and social benefits will be sought, to help improve quality of life for everyone in the South East • The best of the region's historic, built and natural environment will be protected and where possible enhanced, both for its own sake and to underpin the social and economic development of the region
5. A busy, buoyant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A transport system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve learning, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the best use of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic growth and

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<p>economy with good quality offices, business parks and industrial areas, which meet the needs of modern business. These are mainly in major business and industrial areas, Woking Town Centre and local centres.</p>	<p>that is linked and accessible, recognising Woking's potential as a transport hub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities and encourage people to participate in learning throughout their lives so they progress and reach their full potential 	<p>health and employment outcomes for children and young people, particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the global competitiveness of Surrey's economy through sustainable growth 	<p>previously developed land and existing buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably produced and local products • Maintain high and stable levels of employment and productivity, encourage high quality low impact development and education for all • Provide a range of commercial development opportunities to meet the needs of the economy and, in particular, support and enhance the economies of town and local centres. 	<p>competitiveness in the region will be sustained, with Gross Value Added (GVA) in the region increased by 3% per annum over the period 2006-2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New initiatives to tackle skills deficit will be promoted • A closer alignment between jobs and homes growth will be pursued • Economic and social disparities within the region will be reduced • Adequate infrastructure will be provided in a way that keeps pace with development • Key transport links will be improved, providing access for all, especially disadvantaged groups • New development will be of high quality

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				sustainable design and construction, and be an asset to the region
<p>6. A Borough which leads the way on high quality sustainable development and addresses climate change. Much more use is made of renewable energy. New buildings are more energy and water efficient. As a result the use of non-renewable energy is reduced. Waste is dealt with in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clean, healthy and safe environment. • A transport system that is linked and accessible, recognising Woking's potential as a transport hub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help people in Surrey to achieve more sustainable lifestyles • Create better, more sustainable developments that deliver more social, environmental, and economic benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment of public well-being, the economy and the environment. • Make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings • Ensure that air quality continues to improve • Conserve and enhance biodiversity • Maintain agricultural soil quality and reduce the number of sites that are contaminated • Reduce the causes of climate change and prepare for its impacts • Reduce the impact of consumption of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustainable balance between planning for economic, environmental and social benefits will be sought, to help improve quality of life for everyone • Adequate infrastructure will be provided in a way that keeps pace with development • Key transport links will be improved, providing access for all, especially disadvantaged groups • Better natural resource management and efficiency will be pursued, leading to reductions in the consumption of water and energy and the

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			<p>resources by using sustainably produced and local products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce waste generation and disposal and achieve sustainable management of waste • Maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers and groundwater, and achieve sustainable water resources management • Increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources 	<p>production</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development will be delivered in a manner which mitigates the effect • The best of the region's historic, built and natural environment will be protected and where possible enhanced, both for its own sake and to underpin the social and economic development of the region • New development will be of high quality sustainable design and construction, and be an asset to the region
<p>7. A high quality environment. The quality of air and water is maintained and improved. The impact of noise and light is managed effectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clean, healthy and safe environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create better, more sustainable developments that deliver more social, environmental, and economic benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that air quality continues to improve • Conserve and enhance biodiversity • Maintain agricultural soil quality and reduce the number of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustainable balance between planning for economic, environmental and social benefits will be sought, to help improve quality of life

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			<p>sites that are contaminated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce waste generation and disposal and achieve sustainable management of waste • Maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers and groundwater, and achieve sustainable water resources management 	<p>for everyone in the South East</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better natural resource management and efficiency will be pursued, leading to reductions in the consumption of water and energy and the production of waste • The best of the region's historic, built and natural environment will be protected and where possible enhanced, both for its own sake and to underpin the social and economic development of the region • New development will be of high quality sustainable design and construction, and be an asset to the region
<p>8. Buildings and public spaces of which we can</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clean, healthy and safe environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create better, more sustainable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and maintain safer and more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime and the fear of crime will be reduced

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<p>be proud. Attractive buildings, in a range of styles, with public spaces where people feel safe and want to spend time</p>		<p>developments that deliver more social, environmental, and economic benefit</p>	<p>secure communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best of the region's historic, built and natural environment will be protected and where possible enhanced, both for its own sake and to underpin the social and economic development of the region • New development will be of high quality sustainable design and construction
<p>9. Provision of key services keeps pace as the Borough's population grows. This includes schools, healthcare, water supply, drainage and flood alleviation, leisure and community centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong community spirit with a clear sense of belonging and responsibility. • A clean, healthy and safe environment. • A community which values personal health and well-being • Provide opportunities and encourage people to participate in learning throughout their lives so they 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve learning, health and employment outcomes for children and young people, particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged • Support more vulnerable people to live in their own homes and to exercise greater choice and control over their health and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health • Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment of public well-being, the economy and the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustainable balance between planning for economic, environmental and social benefits will be sought, to help improve quality of life for everyone • New initiatives to tackle skills deficit will be promoted • Adequate infrastructure will be provided in a way that

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	<p>progress and reach their full potential</p>	<p>arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help people in Surrey to achieve more sustainable lifestyles • Improve public confidence in the ability of public services to keep Surrey safe, prepare for emergencies, and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour 		<p>keeps pace with development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health provision and access will be improved • Spatial planning in the region will take into account the needs of an aging population and its implications
<p>10. A transport system that enables people to get to jobs, services and other places they wish to visit safely, in a reasonable and consistent journey time. Walking and cycling to the Town Centre, district and local centres, schools and other facilities are safe and convenient. Most people who live further away from Woking Town Centre can get to it by good frequent public transport. Onward journeys to major destinations can be made</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clean, healthy and safe environment. • A transport system that is linked and accessible, recognising Woking's potential as a transport hub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the global competitiveness of Surrey's economy through sustainable growth • Help people in Surrey to achieve more sustainable lifestyles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the adverse impact of emissions arising from the use of transport • Improve public transport facilities and their use and reduce congestion by providing jobs and services close to where people live or where they can access them by public transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic growth and competitiveness in the region will be sustained, with Gross Value Added (GVA) in the region increased by 3% per annum over the period 2006-2016 • Adequate infrastructure will be provided in a way that keeps pace with development • Key transport links will be improved, providing access for all, especially

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by train. Using a car is a choice not a necessity				disadvantaged groups
<p>11. A Borough where the whole community has the opportunity to share in the general prosperity and high quality of life. The Borough is made up of stable mixed communities with decent affordable housing. Everyone has good access to facilities, particularly the elderly, young people and those without access to a car</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong community spirit with a clear sense of belonging and responsibility. • A clean, healthy and safe environment. • Access to decent affordable housing for local people and key workers • A community which values personal health and well-being • Provide opportunities and encourage people to participate in learning throughout their lives so they progress and reach their full potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve learning, health and employment outcomes for children and young people, particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged • Improve the safeguarding of Surrey's most vulnerable children and young people • Make Surrey's economy more inclusive • Encourage and facilitate active citizenship to strengthen communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage opportunities for decision making and information for all • Create and sustain vibrant communities • Maintain high and stable levels of employment and productivity, encourage high quality low impact development and education for all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustainable balance between planning for economic, environmental and social benefits will be sought, to help improve quality of life for everyone in the South East • Economic and social disparities within the region will be reduced • A substantial increase in the supply of affordable housing will be pursued, through a package of measures to • Adequate infrastructure will be provided in a way that keeps pace with development deliver this goal • Key transport links will be improved, providing access for all,

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				<p>especially disadvantaged groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health provision and access will be improved • Spatial planning in the region will take into account the needs of an aging population and its implications