

North Dorset District Council

**Core Strategy and
Development Management Policies
Development Plan Document**

**Sustainability Appraisal
Scoping Report**

June 2009

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. The role of the planning system is to facilitate and promote sustainable patterns of development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives. This is achieved through the management of future development.
- 1.2. In North Dorset development policies guiding the location and scale of development in the district are detailed in the District-wide Local Plan, adopted in 2003. In 2004 the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 came into force changing the structure and content of development plans. This new system of spatial plans moves away from the regulation of development towards a broader agenda of shaping the future of an area. It therefore needs to consider a wider range of issues and have closer alignment with the community's objectives.
- 1.3. Under this new planning system, the Local Development Framework (LDF) will incrementally replace the Local Plan through the adoption of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). These are sometime collectively referred to as Local Development Documents (LDDs).
- 1.4. The first of these Development Plan Documents to be produced in North Dorset will be the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD. The central part of this document, the Core Strategy, will set out the vision, objectives and strategy to guide where development will take place. It will establish the broad location and scale of future development within the district. A further section, the Development Management Policies, will contain more detailed policies for assessing individual planning applications to ensure that developments contribute to achieving the Core Strategy objectives.
- 1.5. Once the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD has been adopted by the Council, a Site Allocations DPD will be produced which will identify specific areas for development with the aim of delivering the Core Strategy.

The SEA Directive

- 1.6. The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC), known as the 'SEA Directive', requires the assessment of the effects of the implementation of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The objective of the Directive is:
“to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development”
Therefore plans and programmes which set a framework for future developments, which are likely to have a significant effect on the environment, are required to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The requirements of the SEA Directive are distinct and need to be met to satisfy European Law.
- 1.7. The SEA process is iterative and should be integrated into the plan making process. It requires the preparation of an Environmental Report which documents the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the draft plan; consultation on this Environmental Report along side the draft plan and; incorporation of the results of the consultation and the conclusions of the Environmental Report into the decision making process.

- 1.8. The final outcome of the SEA process should be an Environmental Statement that shows how the considerations of the significant environmental effects of plan implementation have been taken into account in the preparation of the final plan.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.9. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to be carried out for all DPDs and SPDs. SA considers the social, economic and environmental impacts of plan implementation. It is an iterative process that runs in tandem with plan preparation and therefore integrates social, economic and environmental considerations into the formation of the plan.
- 1.10. This is obviously a broader assessment than SEA by virtue of the incorporation of social and economic considerations, in addition to environmental considerations, in the DPD production process. It is therefore possible to combine the SEA and SA processes into one assessment that covers the significant environmental, social and economic effects of implementing the plan. This offers the opportunity to reduce the resources required to undertake the two assessments independently.
- 1.11. SA does not necessarily incorporate the complete requirements of the SEA Directive and therefore when they are combined into a single assessment, it is important to ensure that all the requirements of the SEA Directive are met by the combined assessment.
- 1.12. In addition, the SEA Directive is intended to offer a high level of protection to the environment. The inclusion of social and economic considerations into the assessment of the effects of DPD implementation may therefore result in the dilution of the environmental protection objective of the SEA Directive. Consequently it is important to give due attention to significant environmental effects when undertaking SA.
- 1.13. The relevant information specifically required by the SEA Directive includes:
- Relationship of the plan with other plans and programmes
 - Environmental protection objectives established at international, European and National level which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives have been taken into account during plan preparation
 - Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment, its likely evolution without implementation of the plan and the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected
 - Existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan in particular those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 73/409/EEC (The Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive)
- 1.14. In addition to this information the SEA Directive requires consultation with the authorities who have environmental responsibilities and may be concerned with the environmental effects of the implementation of the plan. These authorities should be consulted on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report.
- 1.15. This Scoping Report will form the initial stages for the preparation of the Environmental Report for the assessment of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (here after referred to as “the DPD”).
- 1.16. It has been prepared in line with the current Government guidance contained in “*A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive*” (ODPM, 2005 a) and “*Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local*

Development Documents” (ODPM, 2005 b). Regard has also been had to other guidance and good practice that has emerged since these documents were produced. By following these pieces of guidance the SA aims to meet the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the requirements of the SEA Directive.

2.0 The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies

2.1. The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD will include a single strategy to guide growth and development within the whole of North Dorset over the period to 2026. It will contain:

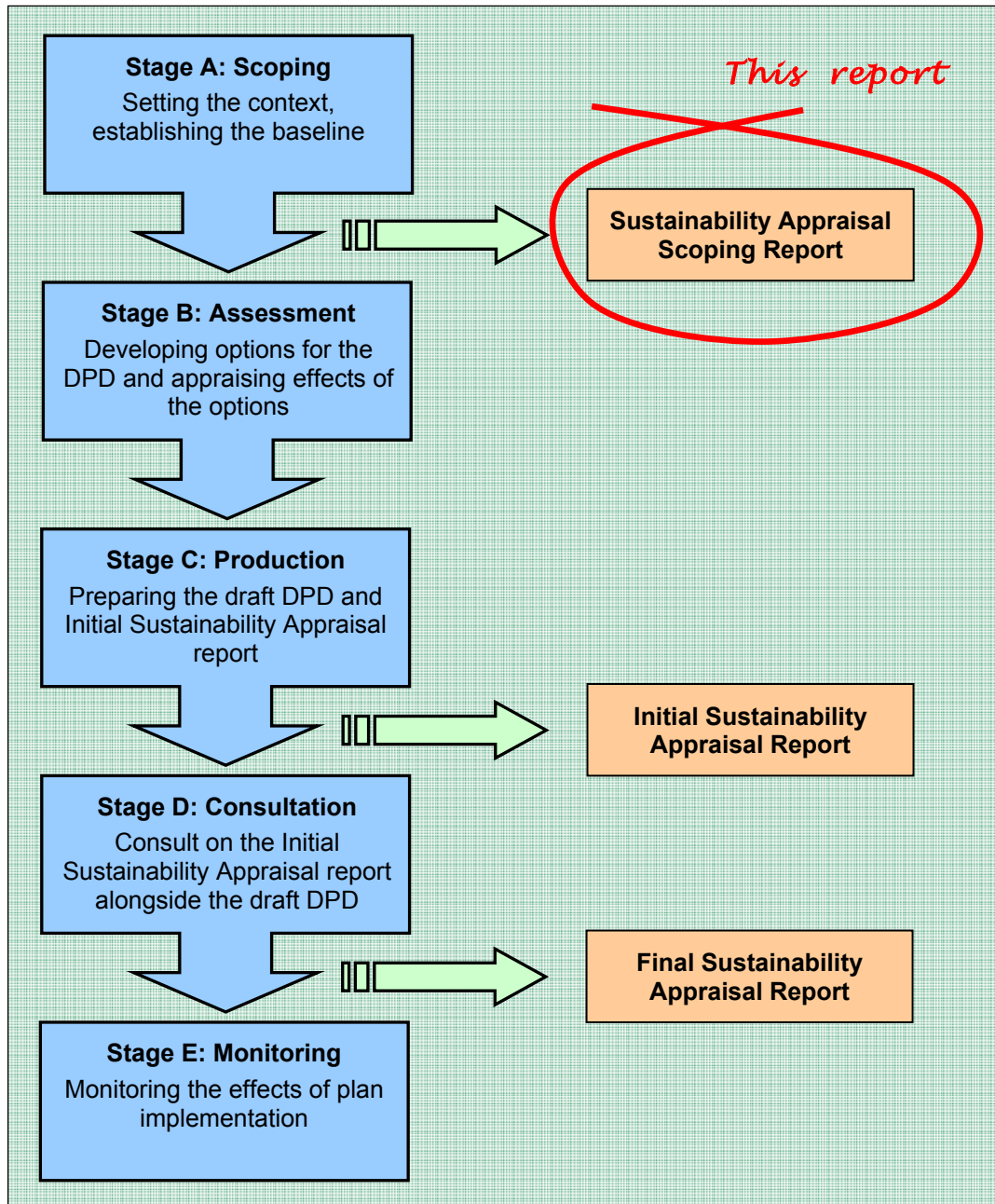
- The vision and objectives of the strategy
- A spatial strategy defining the future functions of the settlements within North Dorset and an indication of how these fit within the wider distribution of settlements in the area
- The level of growth that will be realised within each of these settlements (in terms of employment and housing development)
- The broad locations, sequencing and phasing of this development and the associated infrastructure that is needed to support it
- The issues of environmental importance that exist within North Dorset
- The transport related issues in the area and links to the strategic transport network
- The detailed policies to control developments within North Dorset addressing specific local circumstances where problems may arise
- The framework for implementation and how the effects of this implementation will be monitored

2.2. The priority of the DPD is to deliver a more sustainable pattern of development through the integration of environmental, social and economic considerations into the strategy. The SA will be central to achieving this and will act as a tool for highlighting if one of these considerations is losing out to the others. It will influence the strategy through an iterative process where, at each stage in the plan formation, the individual policies and the overall strategy will be appraised to assess the potential significant effects of the DPD's implementation.

3.0 The Sustainability Appraisal Process

3.1. The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development and through an appraisal of the stages of DPD formation, highlight environmental, social and economic concerns. SA involves five stages and the preparation of three key reports (Figure 1). It is important to remember however that these are not necessarily distinct stages and do not necessarily correspond to distinct stages in DPD production.

Figure 1: Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal Process



3.2. Initially the background is reviewed and sustainability objectives are identified. These then form the basis for appraisal of the policies within the DPD and any realistic alternative ways of meeting the DPD’s vision and objectives. The draft DPD is then consulted on along with the initial report detailing the results of the

appraisal. The results of the consultation are then assessed and a revised DPD and Final SA Report are produced outlining how the SA process has influenced the DPD formation.

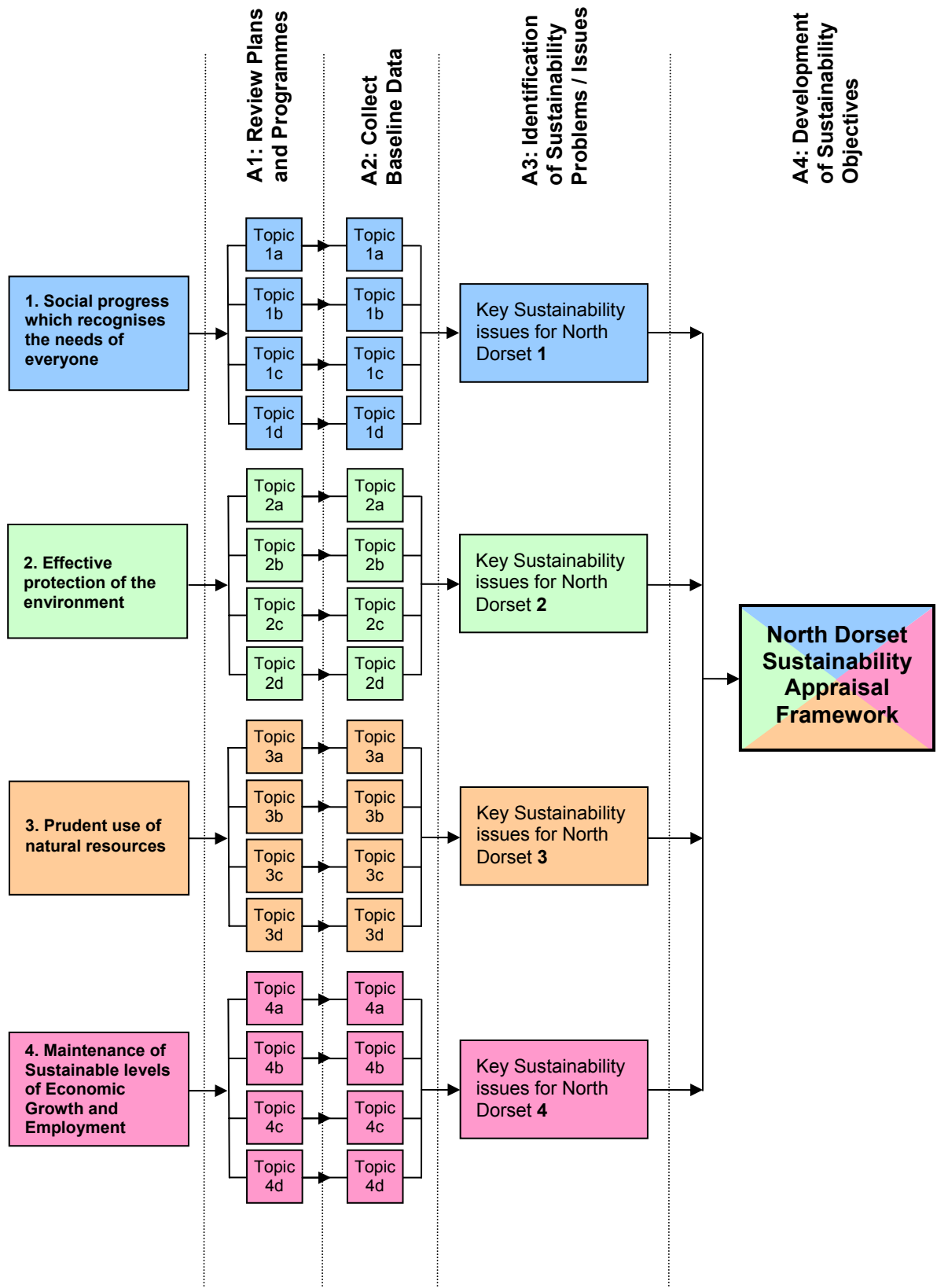
- 3.3. Scoping is the stage at which the policy framework is identified and the background information is gathered to set the context of the appraisal thus enabling the effects of implementation of the DPD to be predicted. This stage has five distinct parts (as detailed below) and this document represents the draft Scoping Report for consultation at Stage A5.
- 3.4. This scoping report has been produced on a topic basis with the review of plans and programmes and the collection of baseline data being undertaken thematically (Figure 2). One advantage of this approach is that the threads between the plans and programmes reviewed, the baseline data and the sustainability framework for each topic can easily be identified and followed. It also allows for easy updating, in whole or in part, as and when new plans or programmes or new baseline data is produced.

Stage A1: Reviewing relevant plans and programmes

- 3.5. At this stage other relevant plans and strategies are identified and reviewed. This should set the context for the SA, identifying how the DPD will be affected by factors outside of its control. It can offer ways in which problems can be addressed and objectives of the DPD can be met. There are likely to be a number of targets and objectives identified as part of this review that the DPD can contribute to achieving.
- 3.6. Often there will be a hierarchy of plans and programmes that need to be reviewed. In many cases international plans set the framework for national and local plans to deal with particular concerns. An example would be the UN Convention on Biological Diversity which had the primary aim of conserving biodiversity. This led to the European Biodiversity Strategy, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy. The main focus should therefore be on the local plans and strategies (such as the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy) as these relate more closely to the local sustainability issues of the area.
- 3.7. The review of relevant plans and programmes for this stage of the process identified a number of overarching plans and programmes that cover a wide range of topics. The main outcomes arising from these is the need to protect the environment and tackle social issues, such as poverty, whilst enabling sustainable levels of economic growth. There is therefore the recognition that these elements of sustainable development need to be considered together and in balance to achieve development that is truly sustainable. The review of these overarching plans and programmes is contained in Appendix A.
- 3.8. These elements were effectively incorporated into the strategy for sustainable development in the UK, produced by the Government in 1999. They are summarised into the following four streams:
- Social Progress which recognises the needs of everyone
 - Effective protection of the environment
 - Prudent use of natural resources
 - Maintenance of high levels of economic growth and employment
- 3.9. Since the 1999 strategy was produced, there has been recognition that the four streams are discrete and in some cases conflict. One major conflict has been between the objectives of protecting the environment and that of high levels of economic growth. To reflect this, the reference to “high” levels of economic growth has been removed and replaced with “sustainable” levels of economic growth. The four themes to be used in this report are therefore:
- Social Progress which recognises the needs of everyone
 - Effective protection of the environment
 - Prudent use of natural resources
 - Maintenance of sustainable levels of economic growth and employment
- 3.10. By organising the SA Scoping report, and hence the SA framework, under these headings, sustainability can be incorporated throughout the process (Figure 2). The topics selected are intended to cover the main issues that relate to North Dorset but also to give a balanced range of topics in each of the four sustainability streams.

3.11. Where a particular plan or programmes relates to more than one topic area the relevant points have been included under each topic heading. This highlights the relevant implications/objectives from each of the plans or programmes at the point they are being considered

Figure 2: Topic-based Scoping of the Sustainability Appraisal



Stage A2: Collect baseline information

- 3.12. The collection of baseline data forms the basis for the identification of problem sustainability issues. It forms the baseline against which the likely evolution of the area can be predicted if the DPD is implemented. Information should therefore be collected over a broad range of topics covering the main elements that relate to sustainable development.
- 3.13. The information collected should indicate how good or bad the current situation is; whether the situation is getting better or worse; how the situation compares with other similar areas and should therefore build up a picture of the area. It will then form the baseline for the future monitoring of the effects of DPD implementation.
- 3.14. By comparing and monitoring the baseline data against the targets identified in plans and programmes, the areas where there is a shortfall against these targets can be identified and action can be taken to address this.
- 3.15. The results of Stage A1 and Stage A2 for each of the four broad sustainability themes are detailed in Appendices B through E. Each of these appendices is then split further into specific topics particularly relevant to sustainable development in North Dorset. A range of indicators and targets have been identified where appropriate. These will be developed through the remainder of the SA process and will be collected and reported on in the North Dorset Annual Monitoring Report.
- Appendix B: Social Progress that recognises the needs of everyone
Incorporating the following topics:
 - Housing
 - Population and Health
 - Crime
 - Access, Equality and Deprivation
 - Appendix C: Effective Protection of the Environment
Incorporating the following topics:
 - Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
 - Climate Change and Flooding
 - Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Archaeology
 - Pollution
 - Appendix D: Prudent use of Natural Resources
Incorporating the following topics:
 - Waste
 - Natural Resources, Water and Soil
 - Energy Consumption and Energy Efficiency
 - Appendix E: Maintenance of Sustainable levels of Economic Growth and Employment
Incorporating the following topics:
 - The Economy
 - Transport
 - Education, Training and Skills

Stage A3: Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

- 3.16. The outcomes of the Review of Plans and Programmes (Stage A1) and the Review of Baseline Data (Stage A2) should identify particular problems and issues for North Dorset where action is needed to better achieve sustainable development. These problems could be those identified through the comparisons and trends related to baseline data or could be where targets and objectives identified in other plans and programmes are not being met.
- 3.17. The objectives identified as part of the review of relevant plans and programmes are best incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal through the inclusion of Sustainability Objectives within the SA framework.
- 3.18. The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for Dorset (which is also the SCS for North Dorset) details the community's view of the problems of the area. This has been used to inform the identification of key issues.
- 3.19. Due to the Dorset-wide nature of some of the Plans and Programmes reviewed and baseline data collected, issues relating to the Dorset coast have been included. However, North Dorset does not have any coast and therefore it is not thought necessary to include any further consideration of coastal issues in the SA.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 3.20. A requirement of Local Authorities is to consider diversity issues in all aspects of the work they do and the LDF is no exception to this. The aim is to minimise instances where particular groups or individuals are discriminated against on the grounds of age, ethnicity, disability, gender, religion or belief and sexual orientation or to minimise the negative impacts as a result of planning policies.
- 3.21. An Equalities Impact Assessment is intended to integrate considerations of diversity into planning policies. This type of assessment builds up a picture of the diversity in the district by collecting relevant information. It also assesses the legislation and strategies relevant to the area that aim to minimise discrimination. These stages of the assessment are similar to the early scoping stages of SA (Stage A1 and Stage A2) and therefore significant gains can be achieved by combining an Equalities Impact Assessment within the SA.
- 3.22. The SA for North Dorset will therefore include an assessment of equalities issues in relation to the policies in the DPD so that issues of diversity are considered in plan preparation. The results will therefore be incorporated into the Final SA Report. In addition to this reporting, an Equalities Impact Assessment Report will be produced to highlight the results of the assessment and report on how the assessment influenced the DPD.
- 3.23. The topic based information accumulated in Stage A1 and A2 highlighted several important issues for North Dorset. These issues are summarised below with the detail being included in Appendices B through E.

Social Progress that recognises the needs of everyone

Housing
<p><i>Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:</i></p> <p>Housing that meets a decent standard is a basic need of society and it is widely accepted that everyone has the right to live in accommodation of a reasonable standard</p> <p>House prices are generally lower than neighbouring areas, especially within Dorset</p> <p>Housing affordability still is a problem as high house prices are exacerbated by low wages. Over 27% of the dwellings within North Dorset are in Council Tax Band E or above indicating the high value of residential property in the area (average for the Southwest is 22%).</p> <p>Birth rates and death rates are similar but population is rising due to inward migration which increases housing demand.</p> <p>A wide range of housing appropriate to the needs of the community therefore needs to be provided</p> <p>Housing should be provided in the right place to meet need. Recently in North Dorset, too much housing has been provided in the rural areas. This does little to address the affordability problems associated with the district and increases the need to travel to work and to meet basic everyday needs</p> <p>The main towns have recently grown fast with the smaller town of Stalbridge showing signs of a decline in population in recent years</p>
<p><i>Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the development of balanced and safe communities with adequate housing, employment and facilities to meet needs ▪ Provide affordable housing to all which is adaptable to future needs, reflects local distinctiveness and meets the needs of the community ▪ Provide safe, affordable and suitable housing for everyone

Population and Health

Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:

The population of North Dorset is approximately 67,500 (mid 2007 estimate). This has grown significantly over the last ten years from 59,000 (mid 1997 estimate) and increase of almost 15%. The majority of these people live in the four main towns.

North Dorset is experiencing high levels of population growth due to high levels of inward migration. The birth and death rates are relatively well balanced and relatively stable.

The population consists of a larger school aged population than the average for England and Wales, partly due to the large number of private schools and the military camp at Blandford Camp but also due to in-migration of families with young children.

In comparison with England and Wales, the population of North Dorset also has a higher than average proportion of the elderly and hence a lower than average working age population. This is reflected in the relatively low levels of unemployment in the district even though the average earnings are relatively low

The population consider themselves to be relatively healthy. This is borne out in the lower than average death rate The main health problems relate to Heart and Circulatory Diseases and these are often related to old age / poor diet / low levels of exercise.

The provision of green infrastructure will promote active lifestyles and increase the opportunity for gentle forms of exercise such as walking and gardening. It can also help to reduce levels of stress and improve mental health and wellbeing.

Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:

- To improve the health and wellbeing of the population of the SW.
- To reduce the inequalities in health between the least and most advantaged people and communities in the region by improving the health of the least healthy people
- To improve the key determinants of health such as reducing poverty and unemployment
- Provide a safe environment for all

Crime

Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:

The Crime rate in the district is low and falling but the perception of crime is relatively high. The main instances of crime relate to Criminal Damage and the majority of crime occurs in and around the main towns of Blandford, Gillingham and Shaftesbury.

Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:

- Promote stronger and more vibrant communities in the SW
- Provide safe, affordable and suitable housing for everyone
- Provide a safe environment in which people feel secure
- Reduce the incidence of unemployment, low pay and tackle income inequality across the region
- Increase the circulation of wealth within the region.
- Encourage community involvement in local economies.
- Everyone in the SW has the opportunity throughout their lifetime to learn and develop new skills that enable them to achieve their full potential, capitalising on the latest developments in information communication technology

Access, Equality and Deprivation

Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:

Access to basic services (schools, shops, GPs, employment) in rural areas is poor which leads to higher than average levels of car ownership

Population density is relatively low overall and therefore public transport provision is poor as it is generally not economically viable

North Dorset has an ageing population with a higher than average proportion of elderly residents. There is also a relatively high proportion of school aged children. The result is that North Dorset has a lower than average working age population although the gender balance is relatively equal.

There are a relatively small percentage of individuals from a non “White British” ethnic background. This group is made up primarily of individuals from other “White” backgrounds

Religious groups in North Dorset are primarily Christian or not affiliated with any religion. Other religious groups with significant proportions are Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu

The proportion of residents who are claiming disability related state benefits is relatively small in North Dorset and below the average for England and Wales

The proportion of people stated as living in a same sex couple in the 2001 Census was lower than average for England and Wales

Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:

- Everyone in the SW has the opportunity throughout their lifetime to learn and develop new skills that enable them to achieve their full potential, capitalising on the latest developments in information communication technology
- Everyone in the SW has the opportunity to work and to have their work recognised and valued by the community (whether paid or unpaid)
- Everyone in the SW has access to an adequate level of service standards across the range of community services
- Promote the development of balanced and safe communities with adequate housing, employment and facilities to meet needs
- Lifelong learning will support sustainable communities
- Reduce the need to travel

Key issues: *Social Progress that recognises the needs of everyone*

Housing: High house prices, low wages, low affordability

- Need to provide adequate housing and affordable housing to meet needs

Population: Population growth due to in migration, ageing population, relatively small working aged population

- Need to provide for the ageing population

Health: Relatively healthy population, relatively high levels of diseases associated with age and poor lifestyles

- Promote active lifestyles, offer opportunities to participate in exercise

Crime: Low crime rate, more concern about crime than actual crime

- Design environments in which people feel safe, encourage community spirit

Access and Deprivation: Poor accessibility to services due to rurality, pockets of rural deprivation and areas of deprivation within towns

- Provide essential services in tandem with housing development, address deficiencies

Equality: Predominantly White British, Christian population, low proportion of disabled people, balanced gender distribution, ageing population

- Provide for the diverse needs of the population

Effective Protection of the Environment

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:

At less than 2% of its area, North Dorset has only a few International and National designations (SPA, SAC, Ramsar, SSSI) but has a highly valuable landscape.

Parts of North Dorset do however lie within 5km of European Protected heath lands (SAC/SPA). This puts strict controls on development within 5km of the heathlands requiring mitigation measures to be place to guard against harm to the designated interests.

There are a number of Strategic Nature Areas within North Dorset which offer opportunities to enhance and restore habitats

A significant proportion of North Dorset's biodiversity resource is dependent on the non statutory County Wildlife Sites network (SNCl)s). The SNCl series of sites also contribute considerably to the quality and character of local landscapes.

There needs to be recognition of the importance of the contribution of biodiversity to quality of life through the inclusion of green infrastructure in developments and in towns. By increasing connectivity and protecting/enhancing wildlife habitats, reductions in habitat fragmentation can be achieved.

There needs to be recognition of the wider social and economic importance of biodiversity in the rural and urban areas.

Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:

- Promote the conservation and wise use of land and other resources within the Region
- Protect and enhance habitats and species
- Promote biodiversity as a regional asset
- Protect and enhance the region's urban and rural landscapes
- Ensure water, land, minerals, soils, forestry and other natural resources are used efficiently and with least environmental damage
- Enhance the quality of farmland landscapes and habitats

Climate Change and Flooding

Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:

The River Stour is the main river within North Dorset. It runs from Stourhead just over the northern boarder, through Gillingham, Sturminster Newton and Blandford before leaving the district just south of Spetisbury. The river has a number of tributaries and therefore a proportion of the districts land area is at risk from flooding. There is also the potential for groundwater flooding on the chalk downs where groundwater levels rise causing localised flooding.

The instances of flooding are likely to increase in frequency and intensity as a result of climatic change and therefore flooding and the other potential impacts of climate change (resulting from hotter and drier summers and colder and wetter winters) need to be taken into account.

North Dorset's per capita CO₂ emissions are higher than the average for England and Wales. Energy efficiency and reductions in transport and agriculture related emissions need to be tackled

The impacts of climate change will also offer opportunities for new green technologies to be developed and for new crops to be grown.

Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:

- Promote efficient use of affordable energy whilst reducing energy demand
- Reduce risk to society and the environment from climate change and sea level rise
- Minimise the risk of flooding to people and places

Pollution

Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:

North Dorset has not declared any local Air Quality Management Areas as there are no areas which may be at risk of not meeting air quality standards.

River water quality highlights the health of the river's important ecosystems. The Biological river water quality is generally high with 94% of the rivers being classified as "good" or "very good". The Chemical river water quality is not as high as for Biological quality with only 64% being classified as "good" or "very good".

Nitrate pollution from farming practices and sewerage treatment, leading to eutrophication of rivers, reduces the health of rivers and therefore causes reduction in biodiversity and usability of the water. The designation of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones intends to control the use of Nitrates therefore reducing the instances of eutrophication. These zones cover a large part of Dorset including parts of North Dorset.

Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:

- Improve air quality for all
- Reduce pollution and improve water, land and air quality
- Ensure water, land, minerals, soils, forestry and other natural resources are used efficiently and with least environmental damage
- Promote wise use of waste resources whilst reducing waste production and disposal

Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Archaeology

Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:

North Dorset's heritage is embedded in the agricultural sector with the rural economy being an important part of many communities; this is still important today. The larger towns and villages act as hubs for the rural areas offering services and facilities not available in the more remote areas. Several of these larger settlements also held livestock markets although Shaftesbury is the only one which still survives.

North Dorset has a highly valued landscape although only just over one third of the district area is designated as an AONB. The Chalk Hills form a natural break between the Blackmore Vale to the north and the Purbeck Heaths and the Coast to the south. The Chalk Hills are characterised by large fields, indicative of cereal and sheep farming. The Blackmore Vale is characterised by a network of tributaries to the River Stour, creating smaller pastures and woodlands enclosed by dense mature hedgerows.

There are several specific character areas which define the rural area of North Dorset and the setting and character of the towns and villages within them is important to this.

There are a large number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments in North Dorset, significantly more than many other Local Authorities. However, approximately three quarters of these are considered to be "at risk". The proportion of listed buildings (grades I and II*) "at risk" is however small at less than 2% of the total.

There needs to be recognition of the importance of the historic environment and the cultural identity it gives to communities. As a result of the slow evolution of many parts of the towns and villages, many are built at low densities towards the periphery with more dense centres, a prominent characteristic of the rural nature of the district. The landscape and setting of North Dorset's towns and villages is therefore worth protecting.

Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:

- Ensure the SW remains a region of diverse and distinctive heritage and landscape
- Protect and enhance the region's urban and rural landscapes
- Encourage increased access to, and participation in, cultural activities across the SW, capitalising on the latest developments in ICT
- Ensure the SW remains a region of diverse and distinct cultural landscapes and townscapes.
- Reconnect farmers and food producers with local communities
- Extending the tourism season and promoting the historic and cultural environment

Key issues: *Effective Protection of the Environment*

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: Protect and enhance habitats and species by increasing connectivity and enhancing wildlife corridors, recognition of the wider importance of biodiversity

- Protect designated sites and restore habitats when opportunities arise

Climate Change and Flooding: Avoid flood risk from all sources in new developments, adaptation to the unavoidable effects of climate change

- Reduce risk to property by avoiding areas that are most likely to be affected by climate change, exploit opportunities that arise within environmental limits

Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Archaeology: Distinctive landscape areas within North Dorset, highly valued historic and rural heritage, highly valued settlement characters

- Preserve and promote the rich heritage of North Dorset

Pollution: Prevent pollution of rivers, air and land, seek to improve underperforming areas

- Protect high quality environment

Prudent use of Natural Resources

<u>Waste</u>
<p><i>Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:</i></p> <p>Within North Dorset the proportion of household waste that is recycled is increasing even though the proportion of households who have access to kerbside recycling appears to be declining. The overall amount of waste being produced by the residents of North Dorset is increasing slower than the rate across the rest of Dorset.</p> <p>The amount of waste ending up in landfill is declining at a reasonable rate</p> <p>There is a general recognition that there is a need to reduce the amount of waste produced and to move waste up the waste hierarchy:</p> <p>Reduction (priority) → Re-use → Recycling & Composting → Energy Recovery → Disposal (last resort)</p>
<p><i>Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the conservation and wise use of land and other resources within the Region ▪ Promote wise use of waste resources whilst reducing waste production and disposal

<u>Natural Resources, Water and Soil</u>
<p><i>Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:</i></p> <p>There is a high amount of pressure on undeveloped greenfield land in North Dorset to meet the housing needs. Due to its rural nature and the size of its settlement, the density of new developments has recently been relatively low.</p> <p>There are only a few small scale minerals quarrying activities in North Dorset.</p> <p>The main natural resource within North Dorset is its high quality agricultural land and this is under pressure from greenfield development. Where options exist, development should take place on the least valuable land therefore protecting this valuable asset.</p> <p>In addition the woodlands of North Dorset offer the opportunity to provide valuable resources as wood fuel if managed well and with the promotion of additional broadleaved planting.</p> <p>North Dorset contains several important groundwater source protection zones. These are used to supply drinking water to the population and therefore need to be protected from pollution (both point source and diffuse) and over abstraction. Household and commercial water efficiency is important to safeguarding this resource as is pollution prevention and control.</p>
<p><i>Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the conservation and wise use of land and other resources within the Region ▪ Reduce pollution and improve water, land and air quality ▪ Ensure water, land, minerals, soils, forestry and other natural resources are used efficiently and with least environmental damage ▪ Promote high quality local food and drink

Energy Consumption and Energy Efficiency

Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:

Greenhouse gas emissions resulting from energy production from fossil fuels is one of the main causes of climatic change. The greenhouse gasses produced therefore need to be reduced to help combat this change and therefore reductions in the reliance on fossil fuels are important. This can be achieved in two ways. Firstly by switching to non-fossil fuel based energy sources and secondly by reducing the amount of energy consumed.

Each individual saving of energy, no matter how big, contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and therefore helps to combat climate change. New buildings, both commercial and residential, therefore need to be built and operated to high levels of energy efficiency.

In North Dorset, CO₂ emissions are above the national average, with the main contribution being from residential properties with commercial and industrial processes (including agriculture) coming a close second.

Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:

- Promote efficient use of affordable energy whilst reducing energy demand
- Increase role of renewable energy and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) whilst reducing the adverse environmental impacts of all forms of energy production
- Promote fuel efficient transport systems accessible to all

Key issues: *Prudent use of natural resources*

Waste: Minimise waste and increase levels of recycling

- Promote recycling and reuse of resources and land

Natural Resources, Water and Soil: Reduce pressure on undeveloped land through efficient use of land, protect important resources from development

- Promote development on previously developed land, manage natural resources effectively

Energy Consumption and Energy Efficiency: Reduction in energy usage, promotion of non fossil fuel based energy resources, reduction in CO₂ emissions

- Promote energy efficient construction, promote renewable energy resources

Maintenance of Sustainable levels of Economic Growth and Employment

The Economy

Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:

North Dorset's contribution to the Dorset economy is primarily in the Agriculture, Manufacturing, Construction and Education sectors. For these sectors, the number of employees based in North Dorset is a significant proportion of Dorset's total. The rural nature of North Dorset and the high number of private schools accounts for two of these sectors. The existence of Blandford Camp gives a significant defence sector presence.

Within North Dorset, the largest employment sectors are Wholesale/Retail, Manufacturing, Defence, Education and Real Estate. Leisure and Tourism are relatively low contributors to the economy compared to the rest of Dorset although the high quality landscape does attract significant numbers of visitors and cultural activity supports the economy by underpinning individual and community well-being.

North Dorset's workforce has reasonable levels of educational attainment due to the significance of the education sector. This is due to the people who work in these education establishments but also due to the pupils that pass through them.

There are low levels of unemployment and lower than average earnings. The size of the workforce is not increasing significantly. The majority of firms based in North Dorset are small and the number of small firms is increasing. This is likely to be a reflection of the rural economy where wages and the number of employees are typically low.

Enabling North Dorset's small businesses to grow and increasing their economic competitiveness may help to increase earnings and bring more wealth into the area.

Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:

- Increase the circulation of wealth within the region.
- Develop greater integration within key economic sectors.
- Ensure necessary infrastructure to support a more sustainable economy.
- Encourage community involvement in local economies.
- Ensure all people have quality work opportunities both paid and unpaid
- Create more businesses and encourage existing ones to grow
- Increase the number of social economy businesses
- Improve the viability of mixed family-run farms
- Raise the skills and aspirations of the farming and food workforce
- Promotion of sustainable tourism, which conserves and enhances the environment and has the support of local communities
- Enhancing the (tourism) resource and promoting quality

Transport

Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:

The road network in North Dorset is primarily made up of rural roads with regionally significant routes passing along the Northern and Southern boundaries.

There are two rail lines that serve the area; the London to Exeter route running through Gillingham and the London to Weymouth route running through Poole. These both offer reasonably quick and frequent travel to Central London with journey times being approximately 2 hours.

North Dorset has high levels of car ownership, a reflection of its rural nature and the difficulties of providing reasonable levels of public transport coverage. The level of car ownership is not as high as the rest of Dorset probably due to the lower level of earnings in North Dorset.

Despite the high levels of car ownership, a high proportion of North Dorset's residents walk to work, higher than nationally and regionally. Less than 7% of people who work in North Dorset travel for more than half an hour (approximately 30km) to get to work and over 60% live within 5km of their work or work from home.

The number of people killed or seriously injured on North Dorset's roads is decreasing although the minor injury rates are increasing

Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:

- Promote the development of balanced and safe communities with adequate housing, employment and facilities to meet needs
- Everyone in the SW has access to an adequate level of service standards across the range of community services
- Reduce the need for travel
- Promote fuel efficient transport systems accessible to all
- Improve air quality for all
- Provide a safe environment for all

Education, Training and Skills

Brief description of the issues in North Dorset:

Enabling the citizens of North Dorset reach their full potential can be advanced through good levels of education. There are reasonable levels of educational attainment in North Dorset with some very high achievers. Despite this, there is a higher than the national average proportion of people who have poor levels of literacy.

Increasing employment prospects through higher educational achievement will help improve incomes, increase productivity and increase the competitiveness of the district through increased innovation.

Relevant Regional Sustainable Development Framework Objectives:

- Everyone in the SW has the opportunity throughout their lifetime to learn and develop new skills that enable them to achieve their full potential, capitalising on the latest developments in information communication technology
- Lifelong learning will support sustainable communities
- Learning organisations will set an example as businesses, in establishing sustainable policies and practices
- Learning gains commitment to sustainability and trains in sustainability skills
- Raise the skills and aspirations of the farming and food workforce

Key issues: *Maintenance of Sustainable levels of Economic Growth and Employment*

The Economy: Low paid workforce, prevalence of small firms, manufacturing, retail, defence and education are important sectors

- Enhance competitiveness of firms so they can grow, increase earnings

Transport: Poor public transport network results in high car ownership and poor accessibility

- Improve accessibility locally and to the national transport network
- Reduce the need to travel

Education, Training and Skills: High levels of educational achievement, significant level of people with poor literacy

- Improve educational attainment of the most disadvantaged and improve access to high quality educational establishments

Stage A4: Development of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 3.24. The SA framework consists of a series of objectives that are used to assess the contribution of the DPD to achieving a more sustainable pattern of development in North Dorset. They are a set of aims that cover the key sustainability issues identified in Stage A3 giving a direction in which progress should be made. This framework of objectives should be linked to the Regional Sustainable Development Framework which sets out how more sustainable patterns of development in the Southwest can be achieved. Its aim is to provide an overarching document that can guide and influence decision makers in business, government and the community to further integrate sustainable development into decision making.
- 3.25. To satisfy the requirements of the SEA Directive, the SA framework should cover the topics specifically mentioned in the Directive. These topics are broadly environmentally based and the SA framework needs to not only consider the individual topics (Table 1) but also the inter-relationship between them. In addition to covering these topics, the framework will need to cover the Social and economic elements of sustainability to fulfil the requirements of a Sustainability Appraisal.

Table 1: The SEA Directive Topics

SEA Topic
Biodiversity
Population
Human health
Fauna
Flora
Soil
Water
Air
Climatic factors
Material assets
Landscape
Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage

- 3.26. Through consideration of the issues and problems identified for North Dorset, the following sustainability objectives have been produced which address particular local circumstances (Table 2). These are intended to offer a framework for assessing the potential effects on sustainability of the policies in the DPD and the DPD as a whole. They allow for direct comparison between alternative ways of fulfilling the objective of a policy so that a decision can be made as to which alternative is likely to have the most sustainable outcome. The basis/derivation of each of these objectives is included. In some cases they are derived from one of the Regional Sustainable Development Objectives that relate to key issues for North Dorset.
- 3.27. Each objective within the SA framework has a set of “assessment principles”. By including these principles within the framework it is clear what the theme of each objective is and therefore on what grounds appraisals of the LDD should be made. They are intended to guide the appraisal process so that the instances of incorrect judgements are reduced, ensuring a level of consistency between different appraisers.

Table 2: The Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

SA Objective		Basis for objective	SEA Topics
<i>Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone</i>			
1	Provide housing including affordable housing that meets the needs of the community	Key issues: Affordable Housing Regional Sustainable Development Objective	Population, Human health
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Quantity and quality of housing, size and type of housing, tenure split		
2	Create balanced communities where housing, employment and community facilities are delivered to meet needs, improving access to essential services	Key issues: Accessibility Regional Sustainable Development Objective	Population, Human health
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Coordinated provision of housing, employment, community and cultural facilities and where necessary encourage deficits to be made up. Shops, GPs, green infrastructure, schools, etc		
3	Improve the health and wellbeing of the population through reducing poverty and encouraging healthy lifestyles	Key issues: Ageing population Regional Sustainable Development Objective	Human health, Population
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Recreation, cycling and walking, healthy diets, fuel poverty, income inequality, access to green infrastructure, cultural participation		
4	Reduce barriers to individuals participating fully in their community promoting a strong, vibrant and inclusive way of life	Key issues: Appreciating diversity, Reducing fear of crime	Cultural heritage, Population, Human health
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or belief, disability, community cohesion, culture (material/activity and value based), population change		
5	Improve quality of life through well designed inclusive developments	Key issues: Reducing fear of crime	Population, Human health, Cultural heritage
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Crime, road safety, urban heat, noise, green infrastructure, historic environment, culture (material/activity and value based)		

SA Objective		Basis for objective	SEA Topics
Effective protection of the environment			
6	Reduce the impact of climate change, including flood risk and make best use of the opportunities that arise	Key issues: Flood risk, Climate Change impacts	Climatic factors, Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora, Water
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Climate Change adaptation, Flooding (from all sources), heat, drought, extreme weather events, opportunities for new crops, biofuels, green technologies, renewable energy, SuDS		
7	Protect and where opportunities arise, enhance habitats and biodiversity	Key issues: Biodiversity importance Regional Sustainable Development Objective	Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora, Landscape
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Species and habitats of international and local importance; protection, management, enhancement and connectivity of green infrastructure, River network		
8	Improve the quality of the built environment, protecting the district's heritage assets and distinct townscapes	Key issues: Landscape and townscape character, Historic heritage, Rural heritage Regional Sustainable Development Objective	Material assets, Landscape, Cultural heritage
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Design, archaeology, listed buildings, settlement character, heritage led regeneration and tourism, local building materials		
9	Recognise the importance of the district's distinct rural landscapes beyond just the aesthetic value	Key issues: Landscape and townscape character, Historic heritage, Rural heritage, AONB	Landscape, Material assets, Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna, Cultural heritage, soil, Human health
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Quality of life, tourism, recreation and access to green infrastructure, education, farming practices, setting of towns. Conserving and enhancing landscapes, woodlands, hedgerows, historic environment		

SA Objective		Basis for objective	SEA Topics
Prudent use of natural resources			
10	Reduce impacts on the environment	Key Issues: Climate Change, Pollution Regional Sustainable Development Objective	Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora, Soil, Water, Air, Climatic factors
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Climate Change mitigation, Greenhouse gas emissions, air, water, soil pollution, diffuse pollution		
11	Reduce pressure on the district's natural resources, reducing waste and promoting the wise use, reuse and recycling of land and resources	Key Issues:, Greenfield land development, Climate Change, Pollution Reduction in waste production	Soil, Material assets
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Reuse of previously developed land and buildings, primary won aggregates, recycling, soil conservation		
12	Promote energy and resource efficiency, encouraging clean energy production	Key Issues: Energy consumption, Climate Change	Water, Air, Climatic factors
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Renewable energy, micro and community energy, energy efficiency, reduction in consumption, water efficiency, sustainable construction, fuel poverty		

SA Objective		Basis for objective	SEA Topics
Maintenance of Sustainable levels of Economic Growth and Employment			
13	Improve the competitiveness of the district's economy through provision of the necessary infrastructure for a more sustainable economy	Key Issues: Low earnings, Business competitiveness	None
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Public transport provision, access to strategic transport network, home working, ICT		
14	Enable local needs to be met locally, encouraging more sustainable forms of travel	Key Issues: Transport, Public Transport, Reduced need to travel	Population, Climatic factors
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Reducing need to travel, provision of accessible services, cycling, walking, public transport, vibrant town centres		
15	Encourage innovation, improve productivity, regenerate towns and villages creating a business environment in which new businesses start and existing businesses grow	Key Issues: Small businesses, Innovation and skills, rural economy	Population, Material assets
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Small scale business units, business sector clusters, farm diversification, traditional building skills, green technologies		
16	Improve skills and incomes of the lowest paid and provide satisfying work opportunities for all so that people can realise their full potential	Key Issues: Low earnings, poverty/deprivation	Population, Human health
	<u>Assessment principles:</u> Jobs, skills, public transport, up-skilling the workforce, economic competitiveness, valued and productive workforce, access to further and higher education		

3.28. All of the SEA topics are covered by at least two of the SA objectives meaning that all of the essential topics required by the Directive will be considered through the application of this framework in the appraisal process. The only Objective which doesn't have an impact on one of the SEA topics is Objective 13. This objective seeks the improvement of the economic competitiveness of the district and therefore has little or no impact on the topics listed. There may be an impact on the landscape if road improvements are required to improve access to the strategic road network but these are likely to be localised and small scale due to high costs and associated environmental impacts.

3.29. The fact that all SEA topics are covered by at least one of the SA objectives highlights the interdependency of these topics. To decouple the topics from one another would not only require a large number of objectives, it would also be

counter productive as the interrelationship would not be considered. This interrelationship is an important part of sustainability and therefore needs to be considered throughout the appraisal process.

- 3.30. In addition to having good coverage of all of the issues that are identified in the previous stages of the scoping process, the objectives within the framework should not conflict with each other. The internal compatibility of the SA framework therefore considers the interactions between the individual objectives to see if there are any potential conflicts (Table 3).
- 3.31. Within each of the four broad themes of the SA framework, the objectives tend to be compatible and in many cases reinforce each other. One exception to this is the potential conflict between Objective 8 – *protecting heritage assets* and Objective 12 – *energy efficiency* as it is significantly more difficult to achieve high levels of energy efficiency through the renovation of an old building than through the construction of a new one.
- 3.32. Across each of these four themes, there are some conflicts. These are generally between the protection based objectives of the environmental themes with the development based objectives of the social and economic themes.
- 3.33. One objective where there are a large number of potential conflicts is between Objective 1 – *housing provision*, and the objectives which seek to protect the environment (in particular Objectives 7, 9, 10, and 11). Due to the levels of housing that are required, there is potential for large amounts of greenfield land development to accommodate the housing needs of the district. This therefore has negative impacts on the environmental protection objectives (Objectives 7, 9, 10, and 11).
- 3.34. In a similar vein to Objective 1, Objective 13 – *economic development* has several potential conflicts with the objectives which seek to protect the environment. This is again because of the potential for development to accommodate the infrastructure required to support the economy. Careful attention will therefore need to be given to these competing objectives to ensure that the environmental protection objectives do not consistently lose out to development pressure. In some cases mitigation measures could be proposed to lessen the negative effects of the development. In others development may not be suitable.
- 3.35. There are significant potential positive links between some of the social and economic objectives. This is because improvements in people's skills levels and therefore job and earning opportunities improves their quality of life and removes many barriers to their participation in community life including access to housing.

Table 3: Sustainability Framework Internal Compatibility

SA Objective																	
Social progress	1	Provide housing that is affordable and that meets the needs of the community	1														
	2	Create balanced communities where housing, employment and community facilities are delivered to meet needs, improving access to essential services	✓	2													
	3	Improve the health and wellbeing of the population through reducing poverty and encouraging healthy lifestyles	✓	—	3												
	4	Reduce barriers to individuals participating fully in their community promoting a strong, vibrant and inclusive way of life	✓	✓	✓	4											
	5	Improve quality of life through well designed developments	✓	✓	✓	✓	5										
Protection of environment	6	Reduce the impact of climate change, including flood risk and make best use of the opportunities that arise	—	✓	—	—	✓	6									
	7	Protect and where opportunities arise, enhance habitats and biodiversity	✗	—	—	—	—	✓	7								
	8	Improve the quality of the built environment, protecting the district's heritage assets and distinct townscapes	—	—	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	8							
	9	Recognise the importance of the district's distinct rural landscapes beyond the aesthetic value	✗	—	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	9						
Natural resources	10	Reduce impacts on the environment	✗	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10			
	11	Reduce pressure on the district's natural resources, reducing waste and promoting the wise use, reuse and recycling of land and resources	✗	✓	—	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	11		
	12	Promote energy and resource efficiency, encouraging clean energy production	✓	—	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	12		
Economic growth	13	Improve the economic competitiveness of the district's economy through provision of the necessary infrastructure for a more sustainable economy	—	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✗	—	✗	✗	—	✗	13		
	14	Enable local needs to be met locally, encouraging more sustainable forms of travel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	—	✓	—	—	✓	14	
	15	Encourage innovation, improve productivity, regenerate towns and rural areas creating a business environment in which new businesses start and existing businesses grow	✓	✓	—	✓	—	—	✗	✓	✓	—	✓	—	✓	✓	15
	16	Improve skills and incomes of the lowest paid and provide satisfying work opportunities for all so that people can realise their full potential	✓	—	✓	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—	✓

✓	=	Potentially compatible objectives
✗	=	Potentially incompatible objectives
—	=	No significant link

Stage A5: Consulting on the Scoping Report

- 3.36. The final stage of the Scoping phase of the Sustainability Appraisal is to consult the statutory environmental consultees on the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA Report. In addition, other individuals and groups as appropriate should be consulted. This consultation period should last for at least 5 weeks. When considering who is to be consulted, it is essential to give a balance of groups with concerns across the spectrum of environmental, social and economic issues to ensure that additional weight is not given to one particular sector of sustainable development.
- 3.37. The consultation should concentrate on the level of detail within the Scoping Report and whether there is sufficient information included to support the subsequent stages of the SA. This primarily should focus on whether the information collected is sufficient to offer a reasonable prediction of the significant environmental effects of implementing the plan.
- 3.38. The draft SA Scoping Report was sent to the three statutory consultees of English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England. In addition, the SA Scoping Report was sent for comment to various groups that were considered to have key interests in social, economic and environmental issues. The draft report was also placed on the Council's website so that it is available to any individual or group for comment. A letter was sent to the Council's Local Development Framework mailing list informing them that the draft SA Scoping Report was available for comment and instructing them how they could view the document and make comments.
- 3.39. The comments received during the consultation along with the responses from North Dorset District Council are included within Appendix G of this report. Where changes were considered necessary, these have been made, resulting in this final SA Scoping Report.

The next steps

- 3.40. Now that the consultation on the draft Scoping Report has been completed and the results of the consultation have been considered, this final SA Scoping Report has been produced. This, and the framework contained within it, will form the basis for the SA of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD.
- 3.41. Prior to work commencing on the DPD, several stages of community involvement have taken place on a "stand alone" Core Strategy where the views of the residents of North Dorset have been sought. This has informed the vision and objectives included in the DPD and, along with a broad evidence base, highlighted some of the issues that need to be tackled. These will be pulled together into a draft DPD which will be consulted on at a later date.
- 3.42. The results of the initial SA of the draft DPD will be published in an initial SA Report and will be consulted on in parallel with the draft DPD. The results of this consultation will then be considered and a final SA Report will be published detailing how the SA has influenced the DPD preparation.

4.0 Glossary:

This glossary explains terms used throughout this report including in the appendices which follow.

Anthropogenic Climate Change	Anthropogenic Climate Change is climatic change caused by the release of greenhouse gasses resulting from human activity
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	Required to be produced annually under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to report on the effects of implementing policies on a range of indicators
Creative Industries	Those goods and services in the creative sector: advertising, architecture, art and antiques, crafts, design, designer fashion, film and video, interactive leisure software, television and radio, performing arts, music and software and computer services which feature original creativity and generate intellectual property with a potential for wealth and job creation
Culture	Culture is defined as having both a material and value dimension. The material dimension encompasses for example the performing and visual arts, play, sports, libraries and museums, landscape, the built environment, and heritage. The value dimension embraces shared memories, experience and identity
DPD	The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document - the Documents that this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report relates to and the document that contains policies on which the Sustainability Appraisal will be undertaken.
Eutrophication	Eutrophication is when the environment becomes enriched with nutrients. This can be a problem in marine habitats such as lakes as it can cause algal blooms.
Green Infrastructure	The sub-regional network of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces and greenway linkages. The linkages include corridors and floodplains, migration routes and features of the landscape, which are of importance as wildlife corridors. Green infrastructure should provide for multi-functional uses i.e. wildlife, recreational and cultural experience, as well as delivering ecological services, such as flood protection and microclimate control. It should also operate at all spatial scales from urban centres through to open countryside (Source: Biodiversity by Design (TCPA, 2004) http://www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/biodiversity-by-design.html
Historic Environment	All designated and non-designated features of historic or architectural interest. This includes World Heritage Sites, listed buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and scheduled monuments. It also includes their settings; the wide urban and rural landscape and the potential for unrecorded archaeology. The manifestation of an area's heritage assets can be as subtle as the historic street patterns, below ground archaeology and discrete architectural features. It can include key views, settings and those familiar and cherished local

	scenes. These historic environment features combine to make a vital contribution to a sense of place and local identity.
Indicators	Data collected on a particular theme to give an indication of how that theme has changed over time. This change could be due to external influences such as policy implementation and developments that takes place as a result.
North Dorset	The area covered by North Dorset District Council and the DPD
Plans and Programmes	A strategy produced which determine the use of small areas of land. They set the framework for future development usually in one of the following sectors: agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning and land use.
SA	Sustainability Appraisal – A broad appraisal process required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It incorporates sustainable development into plan formation through the consideration of the potential Social, Economic and Environmental impacts of plan implementation.
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment – An assessment carried out at the strategic level to assess the significant effects of plan or programme implementation on the environment. Required under European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) for all plans or programmes that sets a framework for future development. It is carried out at the strategic level so that the cumulative effects of multiple developments can be considered. It must be carried out for all plans and programmes which are likely to have significant environmental effects.
SuDS	Sustainable drainage systems or sustainable (urban) drainage systems - a sequence of management practices and control structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable fashion than some conventional techniques.

5.0 Bibliography:

These documents have been used to guide the preparation of this SA Scoping Report and will be used to guide the SA process. Other plans and programmes and sources of data are included in the appropriate places within the following appendices.

A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, [Internet] ODPM, Published 2005a, Available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/practicalguidesea>

Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, [Internet] ODPM, Published 2005b, Available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/sustainabilityappraisal>

Local Development Frameworks Guide on Sustainability Appraisal, [Internet] Planning Advisory Service, Published 2007, Available at:

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=51859>

Appendix A: Overarching Plans and Programmes

A.1. The following plans, programmes and strategies have an overarching implication for the DPD. These set the context for sustainable development and form the framework in which sustainable development can be defined at the national and local level.

Over-arching Plans/Programmes/Strategies
<p>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro (The Earth Summit) (UNCED, 1992) http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/enviro.html</p> <p>The primary goals of the summit were to come to an understanding of “development” that would support socio-economic development and prevent the continued deterioration of the environment, and to lay a foundation for a global partnership between the developing and the more industrialised countries, based on mutual needs and common interests, that would ensure a healthy future for the planet.</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Agenda 21 – a plan of action taken globally, nationally and locally to promote sustainable development○ Rio Declaration on Environment and Development – recognises the interdependence of the earths systems○ Statement of Forest Principles – recognition of the importance of forests and encourages reforestation○ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – considered what can be done to reduce global warming and cope with the effects that are inevitable – led to the Kyoto Protocol○ United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity – the conservation and fair use of biological diversity – led to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>These documents have implications for national legislation which in turn have implications for the DPD and the SA.</p>
<p>Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (UN, 2002) http://www.un.org/events/wssd/</p> <p>Reaffirms commitment to the principles of sustainable development as central to the international agenda.</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Recognises the needs of everyone○ Protection of the environment○ The prudent use of natural resources○ Climate change and energy efficiency○ Sustainable communities <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>The DPD can assist in achieving these commitments and the SA framework should reflect them.</p>

The European Spatial Development Perspective (EC, 1999)

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/pdf/sum_en.pdf

Working towards a balanced and sustainable development of the EU

Main objectives/outcomes:

Important to ensure that

- economic and social cohesion;
 - conservation and management of natural resources and the cultural heritage;
 - balanced competitiveness of the European territory
- are achieved equally across all member states

Implications/Targets:

The DPD will need to take into account the cross boundary issues raised to achieve balanced sustainable development.

EC Sustainable Development Strategy Revision (EC, 2005)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/>

Strategy aiming to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Improve policy making including recognition of tradeoffs between competing objectives

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Combating climate change
- More efficient use of energy and production of clean energy
- Ensure sustainable transport
- Address threats to public health
- Manage natural resources more responsibly and stop biodiversity decline
- Combat poverty and social exclusion
- Meet the challenges of an ageing population
- Decouple economic growth and environmental degradation

Implications/Targets:

The DPD needs to recognise these objectives and the SA needs to make accurate predictions of policy impact especially where tradeoffs are required.

UK Sustainable Development Strategy (UK Government, 2005)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/publications/uk-strategy/>

Strategy aims to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations

Main objectives/outcomes:

Four priorities:

- “One planet economy”: sustainable consumption and production
- Confronting the greatest threat: climate change and energy
- A future without regrets: protecting our natural resources and enhancing the environment
- From local to global: creating sustainable communities and a fairer world

Implications/Targets:

UK Government commitment to sustainable development. The DPD and SA will need to take these priorities onboard.

Planning Policy Statement 1- Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM, 2005)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicystatement1>

Sets out the Government's vision for planning and the key policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Social cohesion and inclusion
 - take into account the impact of developments
 - reduce social inequalities
 - address accessibility deficiencies
 - take into account diversity
 - deliver safe, healthy and attractive places including through good design
- Protection and enhancement of the environment
 - take account of environmental issues including climate change, air quality, land contamination, protection of groundwater, noise and light pollution
 - avoidance of natural hazards such as flooding
 - management of waste in ways that protect the environment and human health
- Prudent use of natural resources
 - Ensure that outputs are maximised whilst minimising resource use
 - Promotion of resource and energy efficient developments
- Sustainable economic growth
 - Recognition of the wider benefits of economic development alongside local impacts
 - Recognition of positive environmental and social benefits of development
 - Promote good quality development
 - Provide for improved choice and competition
 - Provision of infrastructure and services to support economic development

Implications/Targets:

The fundamental principles of achieving sustainable development and therefore need to be covered by the DPD and the SA framework.

Regional Planning Guidance for the South West (RPG 10) (GOSW, 2001)

http://www.gosw.gov.uk/497666/docs/166217/regional_planning_guidance

RPG10 provides a regional spatial strategy within which local authority development plans and Local Transport Plans in the South West should be prepared; sets out a broad development strategy for the period to 2016 and beyond; and provides the spatial framework for other strategies and programmes.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Protection of the Environment
 - Ensuring that the level, distribution and nature of development is consistent with the special character, diversity and distinctiveness of the region and seeks to maximise benefits to the environment
 - Safeguarding and enhancing the quality and diversity of the natural, cultural and built environment across the region, while giving the highest level of protection to designated areas and features of national and international importance
- Prosperity for communities and the Regional and National Economy
 - Improving the economic competitiveness of the region by drawing on its strengths and resources and fostering the development of businesses and skills
 - Promoting, supporting, enabling and focusing economic development in ways and locations where it can best contribute to meeting local, regional and national needs
- Progress in Meeting Society's Needs and Aspirations
 - Addressing the wide variations in prosperity between different parts of the region through regeneration and so reducing social exclusion and economic disadvantage, particularly in areas of special need
 - Meeting people's requirements for housing, jobs and facilities of good quality and in sufficient measure to provide for all who live and work in the region
 - Providing integrated, efficient and environmentally appropriate transport and communications systems to meet local, regional, national and international priorities
 - Improving accessibility to jobs and services and ensuring that patterns of future development reduce the need to travel and encourage access by walking, cycling and public transport
 - Recognising and encouraging community identity and diversity
- Prudence in the Use of Resources
 - Ensuring that development makes the most prudent use of resources created through past investment, both buildings and other infrastructure, especially in urban areas; and that it contributes to new infrastructure provision in partnership with public investment
 - Minimising waste and pollution, avoiding loss or damage to irreplaceable natural and cultural assets and safeguarding the region's resources of green fields, biodiversity, primary minerals and water
 - Ensuring at all levels of planning integrated relationships between economic activity and housing, both in terms of scale and distribution

Implications/Targets:

Although the RSS will replace RPG10 when finally adopted, RPG10 still forms current regional strategy to guide development in the SW.

A Sustainable Future for the South West - The Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the South West of England (SWRA, 2001)

<http://www.oursouthwest.com/RegiSus/framework/framework.htm>

An over-arching framework to guide and influence decision makers in the South West. Aimed at businesses, government and the voluntary and community sectors. Identifies sustainability principles and cross-cutting themes that are relevant to the South West.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Support a diverse and thriving economy, where everyone in the region has access to satisfying and fair paid work and where unpaid work is valued
- Wherever possible local needs are met locally, supporting local economies
- Giving everyone access to life-long learning, training, skills and knowledge
- Meeting the needs of the population including their physical and mental well-being
- Access to basic services is available for all
- Ability to live without fear of crime
- Pollution is limited and natural resources are managed and used efficiently
- Waste is minimised
- Biodiversity and landscape are properly valued and conserved
- Local diversity and distinctiveness is valued and protected
- Provision of leisure and cultural facilities
- Empowerment of the community in decision making

Implications/Targets:

The DPD needs to incorporate these principles to enable North Dorset to play its part in achieving sustainable development. The SA should use this framework as a starting point to developing a locally specific set of sustainability principles. A series of indicators is included.

Sustainable Communities in the South West – Building for the Future (ODPM, 2003)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/144035.pdf>

Sets out the issues and challenges in the South West and a plan for achieving sustainable communities. It does not cover all the issues but highlights the actions needed in certain areas.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Meeting the housing needs of the growing population in particular the need for affordable housing in a sustainable way that protects the environment
- Tackle the problems of housing affordability by increasing prosperity
- Tackle accessibility both in rural areas and the extremes of the region
- Tackle congestion
- Reduce inequalities especially related to economic prospects, education and skills, deprivation and health,
- Enhance the role of market towns as hubs within the rural areas

Implications/Targets:

Identifies some of the issues relevant to North Dorset which the DPD will cover. The SA will need to ensure that the main issues are covered.

- 20,200 homes per annum of which between 6,000 and 10,000 should be affordable.

‘Just Connect!’ an Integrated Regional Strategy for the Southwest 2004-2026 (SWRA, 2004)

http://www.justconnect-sw.co.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=1666

The Integrated Regional Strategy draws together the thematic region-wide strategies into one overarching strategy for the whole of the Southwest. It sets the context for the thematic strategies and the key aims for the region.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- harness the benefits of population growth and manage the implications of population change
- enhance our distinctive environments and the quality and diversity of our cultural life
- enhance our economic prosperity and quality of employment opportunity
- address deprivation and disadvantage to reduce significant intra-regional inequalities
- make sure that people are treated fairly and can participate fully in society

Implications/Targets:

Identifies the regional strategic priorities which the DPD will need to address

The Way Ahead: Delivering Sustainable Communities in the South West (SWRDA, 2005)

http://download.southwestrda.org.uk/file.asp?File=/regeneration/general/SOUTHWEST_lr2.pdf

The strategy for the delivery of “Sustainable Communities in the South West”

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Improving productivity
- Addressing the housing market imbalance
- Reduce disparities and deprivation
- Supporting the continued role of market towns as service centres for their rural hinterlands

Implications/Targets:

The DPD will aid in the delivery of these objectives and they should form part of the SA framework.

Southwest Regional Spatial Strategy: Draft (SWRA, 2006), Panel Report (PiNS, 2007) and Secretary of State Proposed Changes (DCLG, 2008)

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=4145

The Draft RSS was published for consultation by the SWRA in 2006. An examination in public was held in 2007 with a report from this panel published in early 2008. The Secretary of State then published her proposed changes to the RSS after consideration of the Panel’s Report. The final RSS is expected to be produced in mid 2009.

The strategy within the RSS will aim to deliver the aims of the Integrated Regional Strategy by proactively managing growth and development to improve quality of life and help create and maintain sustainable communities.

Main objectives/outcomes:

Issues important to the region as a whole:

- The relationship and interconnectivity between the Southwest and other regions
- The importance of the regions high quality environmental and cultural assets
- The relationship between rural and urban areas and ensuring the future role of a settlement reflects function rather than size

- The need to plan for economic and population change
- The aims of the strategy are to deliver a region where:
- All communities enjoy the benefits of further development and where housing need is satisfied
 - The economy continues to prosper
 - Rural parts of the region fulfil their economic potential with vibrant market and coastal towns at their core
 - The regions Strategically Significant Cities and Towns (SSCTs) also fulfil their economic potential and are attractive places where people want to live and work
 - The regeneration of priority areas continues to have focus and effect
 - Priorities for action and investment are understood and shared by all the key players in the region – local and central government, agencies, business and the wider community
- Sets out four high level policies for sustainable development:
- Stabilise and reduce the regions ecological footprint
 - Development that respects environmental limits
 - Wise use of natural resources
 - Building a low carbon and low resource consuming economy
 - Sustainable construction as the norm
 - Minimising the need to and promoting more sustainable forms of travel
 - Meeting regional targets relating to renewable energy, resource consumption and recycling
 - Contribute to climate change reduction
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets of 30% by 2026
 - Identifying most vulnerable communities and ecosystems and mitigate against these effects
 - Avoid need to develop in flood risk areas
 - Develop and exploit the opportunities that climate change will bring
 - Future proof development to susceptibility to climate change
 - Improve infrastructure resilience and reliability
 - Protect and enhance the regions environment and natural resources
 - Respect of the landscape and ecological thresholds of settlements
 - Reduce environmental impact of the economy, transport and development
 - Planning to enhance natural environments through a holistic, ecosystem approach
 - Design to enhance local character
 - Contribution to regional biodiversity targets through restoration, creation, improvement and management of habitats
 - Create and maintain sustainable communities throughout the region through the management of growth
 - Realise economic potential, reducing disparity
 - Meet the needs of all people based on the role and function of cities, towns and villages
 - Link homes, jobs and services to role and function of cities, towns and villages
 - Promote public transport
 - Encourage business activity

- Make adequate and affordable housing available for all
- Make best use of existing infrastructure
- Invest in cultural facilities
- Create healthy, safe and secure places to live
- Provide homes that are adaptable to changing needs
- Deliver a step change in the quality of urban living
- Support social and economic progress by enhancing skills and training

Implications/Targets:

The main thrust of the strategy is then to direct growth towards the larger Strategically Significant Cities and Towns (SSCTs) within the region, with a smaller amount of growth going to the market and coastal towns and the larger villages. The DPD will need to be in general conformity with the RSS.

For North Dorset 7,000 new homes need to be delivered across the district over the period 2006 -26

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Structure Plan, CSP28 (Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Borough of Poole, 2001)

http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/Residents/Planning_Development/Planning_Policy/regional_strategic/Structure_Plan.asp

Adopted in July 2000 it sets out Dorset-wide planning policy to guide development to 2011. Identifies sustainable development as the guiding principle in the development and management of the area.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Make adequate provision for the housing needs of Dorset.
- Conserve and improve Dorset's environmental inheritance.
- Concentrate new built development in existing built-up areas, particularly the conurbation and other towns.
- Contain the outward spread of the South East Dorset conurbation Increase biological diversity.
- Increase the rate of carbon absorption and retention.
- Conserve critical international, national and local assets.
- Reduce pollution to land, air and water.
- Reduce the overall demand for resources.
- Make the most efficient use of non-renewable resources.
- Increase the use of renewable resources.
- Increase the re-use and recycling of resources
- Provide for the restructuring of Dorset's economy and the development of local enterprise.
- Create opportunities to reduce the need to travel, particularly by private car.

Implications/Targets:

This strategy will be replaced by the final version of the Regional Spatial Strategy however the core principles are still relevant and will guide development until its replacement.

**North Dorset District-wide Local Plan (1st Revision) Adopted Plan to 2011
(North Dorset District Council, 2003)**

www.northdorsetlocalplan.co.uk

The Local Plan is current statutory plan which guides development in North Dorset. It aims to achieve sustainable development in-line with the national Sustainable Development Strategy.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Protection/enhancement of the built and natural environment
- Create viable and mixed communities, and meet local housing needs
- Improve economic and social opportunities
- Improve access and reduce the need to travel
- Concentrate most development in the District to the larger market towns of Blandford Forum, Gillingham and Shaftesbury
- Resist most forms of development in the countryside
- Plan for a rate of development of residential dwellings of 347 per annum between 1994 and 2011
- Provide affordable homes on sites that are larger than prescribed thresholds
- Support the retention of village facilities and sustainable businesses in the countryside
- Improve leisure and transport facilities in the District

Implications/Targets:

This plan will be incrementally replaced by the documents produced as part of the Local development Framework. It will however guide development until this replacement takes place.

North Dorset District Council Corporate Plan 2008 - 2013 (NDDC, 2008)

http://www.north-dorset.gov.uk/index/about_your_councils/north_dorset/corporate_plan.htm

The plan sets out how the District Council will, along with partners, will bring improvements in the District over the coming years.

Main objectives/outcomes:

Our shared vision for North Dorset:

- “where thriving, balanced and environmentally responsible communities in our market towns and surrounding villages build economic prosperity while safeguarding our unique surroundings”

Our ABC Priorities:

- Access and Affordable Housing – Improving access to services and providing affordable, sustainable and appropriate housing
- Building Local Capacity – Making best use of the resources available to us and our partners
- Community – Building strong, inclusive and sustainable communities

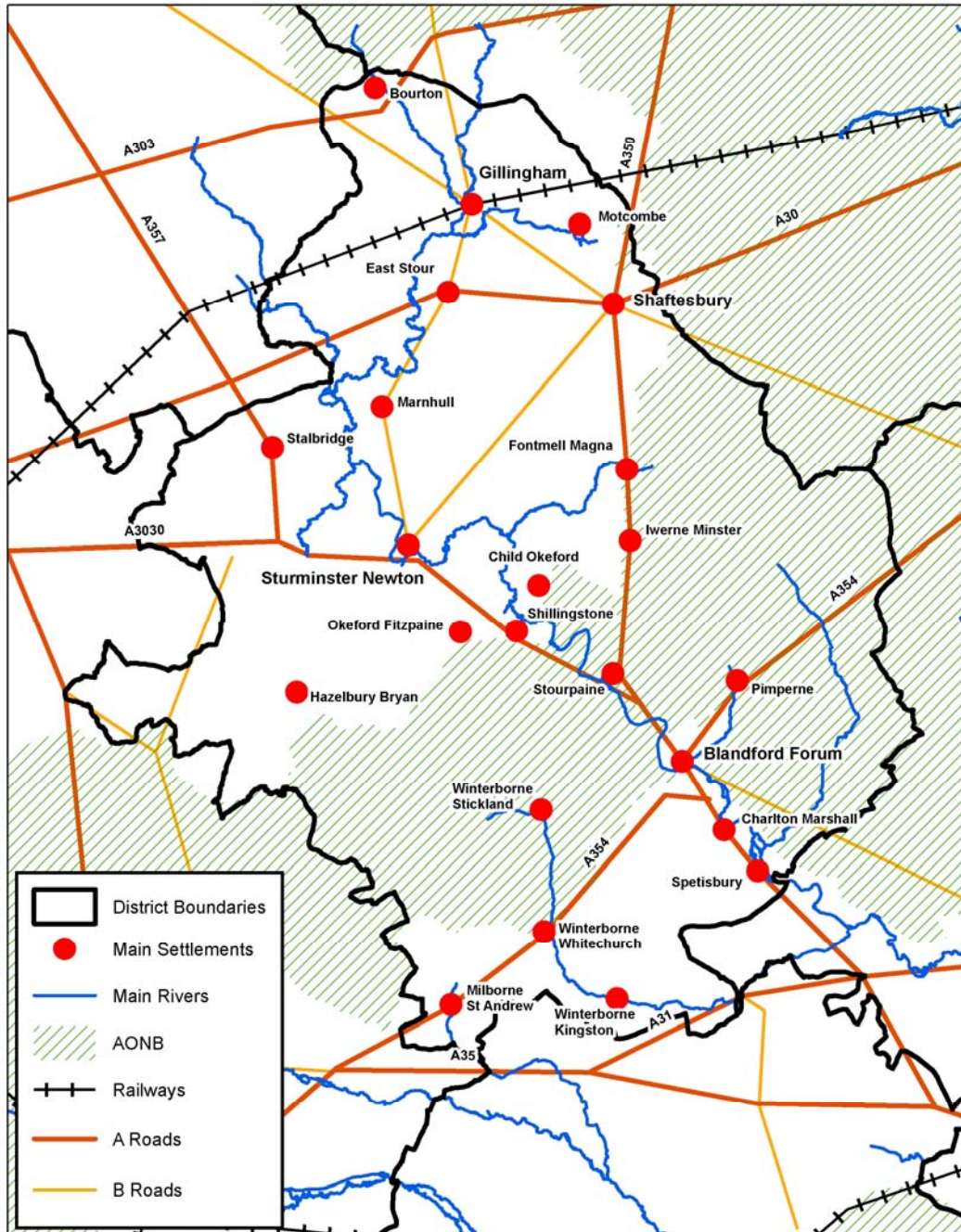
Implications/Targets:

The corporate plan identifies key issues for North Dorset and sets out how the District council will address them over the coming years. The DPD is part of the work of the council and therefore will have a key role to play in achieving these priorities.

Introduction

Baseline data:

Figure A1: North Dorset District



North Dorset District


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 North Dorset District Council.
 LA 100018415 (2009)



North Dorset covers an area of 235 square miles, bordering the Dorset districts of West Dorset, East Dorset and Purbeck. It also shares a border with Somerset to the North West and Wiltshire to the north east.

Blandford Forum in the South is the administrative centre of North Dorset. Other towns are Gillingham and Shaftesbury to the north and Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge to the west. These towns form the main hubs, providing services for their surrounding rural areas. Of the districts total population, nearly 53% of people live in one of these towns.

The Strategically Significant Cities and Towns (SSCTs as defined in the Southwest Regional Spatial Strategy) that influence North Dorset are the Bournemouth/Poole conurbation to the Southeast, Salisbury in the Northeast, Yeovil in the West and Dorchester to the Southwest.

The main outcomes arising from this review of these overarching plans and programmes is the need to protect the environment and tackle social issues, such as poverty, whilst enabling sustainable levels of economic growth. There is therefore the recognition that these elements of sustainable development need to be considered together to achieve development that is truly sustainable

The four streams of sustainable development, broadly reflecting the UK Government's 1999 strategy, are:

- Social Progress which recognises the needs of everyone
- Effective protection of the environment
- Prudent use of natural resources
- Maintenance of sustainable levels of economic growth and employment

These have been amended from those defined in the 1999 Sustainable Development Strategy to allow for the apparent contradiction between “high” levels of economic growth and environmental protection.

By organising the SA Scoping report, and hence the SA framework, under these headings, consideration of the core principles of sustainability can be incorporated throughout the process.

Appendix B: Social Progress that recognises the needs of everyone

- B.1. This sustainability theme refers to meeting the needs of individuals who live and work in North Dorset so that they can participate fully through their time here. There is clearly a link between Social Progress and Economic Development and therefore this section has deliberately been kept relatively focused on the social aspects of progress rather than those which have a more economic focus.
- B.2. The topics covered in this section are
- Housing
 - Population and Health
 - Crime
 - Access, Equality and Deprivation

1a	Housing
<p>Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (DCLG, 2006) http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps3housing</p> <p>Sets out the Government's policy framework for delivering their housing objectives. The general approach is to planning across housing market areas through collaborative working.</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ High quality housing that is well-designed and built to a high standard.○ A mix of housing, both market and affordable, particularly in terms of tenure and price, to support a wide variety of households in all areas, both urban and rural.○ A sufficient quantity of housing taking into account need and demand and seeking to improve choice.○ Housing developments in suitable locations, which offer a good range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure.○ A flexible, responsive supply of land – managed in a way that makes efficient and effective use of land, including re-use of previously-developed land, where appropriate. <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>The SA will need to look at all these aspects to aid in achieving sustainable residential developments, highlighting where the DPD can be amended to make progress in this direction.</p>	
<p>Building for Life – Delivering great places to live (CABE, 2008) http://www.buildingforlife.org/</p> <p>A partnership between national agencies concerned with creating good quality, well designed housing developments. Assessment of schemes against 20 criteria seen as important in achieving sustainable residential developments</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improve social wellbeing○ Reduce crime○ Improve public health○ Ease transport problems	

- Increase property value

Implications/Targets:

Assessment against the 20 criteria benchmarks development against others and therefore promotes good design.

ODPM Circular 01/2006: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites (ODPM, 2006)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/circulargypsytraveller>

Sets out how the planning system should be used to find appropriate sites for Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To ensure that the housing needs to gypsy and traveller groups are catered for adequately
- Improved health and education for gypsy and traveller groups through the identification of good quality caravan sites

Implications/Targets:

The DPD will need to include provision for Gypsy and Traveller's as a minority group within the community of North Dorset.

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation (ODPM, 2002)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance17>

Sets out the objectives and importance of open space, sport and recreation

Main objectives/outcomes:

Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives

- supporting an urban renaissance - through recreation, biodiversity, air quality, and general increase in attractiveness
- supporting a rural renewal - through increased visitor numbers and associated economic benefits
- promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion - through the provision of opportunities for social interaction
- health and well being
- promoting more sustainable development

Implications/Targets:

A network of open spaces will contribute to a range of objectives that will be covered by the DPD. The SA objectives will need to incorporate the need for establishing this network rather than stand alone open space.

Code for Sustainable Homes

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/buildingregulations/legislation/englandwales/codesustainable/>

The Code for Sustainable Homes has been developed to enable a step change in sustainable building practice for new homes. It is intended as a single national standard to guide industry in the design and construction of sustainable homes. It is a means of driving continuous improvement, greater innovation and exemplary achievement in sustainable home building. The Code measures the sustainability of a home against design categories, rating the 'whole home' as a complete package. A mandatory rating is required for all new homes as of 1st May 2008.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- The categories included within the Code are:
 - energy/CO2
 - pollution
 - water
 - health and well-being
 - materials
 - management
 - surface water run-off
 - ecology
 - waste

Implications/Targets:

The national target is to achieve Code Level 6 (Zero Carbon) in all new homes by 2016. The DPD needs to encourage progress towards this target. Progress will aid in achieving wider sustainability goals including social benefits such as tackling fuel poverty

A better place to be: Culture and the Southwest of England (Culture Southwest, 2008)

<http://www.culturesouthwest.org.uk/about/index.asp>

Sets out a strategy for cultural provision in the Southwest. Its vision is to ensure that Southwest England is the region of choice for vibrant cultural activity, where engaged individuals build creative communities, where culture is seen as a core component of all regional development and a vital contributor to the quality of life of everyone in the region.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Harnessing the benefits of population growth and managing the implications of population change
 - Provide green community spaces where people live
- Promoting economic prosperity, quality of employment and employment opportunity
- Ensuring that people are treated fairly and can participate fully in society
- Challenging deprivation and disadvantage and reducing inequality
- Enhancing our distinctive environments and the quality and diversity of our cultural life
 - Consider carbon reduction targets and adaptation to unavoidable climate change
 - Ensuring quality design in urban planning giving a sense of identity and place, taking cultural considerations in developments

Implications/Targets:

The DPD should consider the potential of North Dorset's cultural assets to deliver a wide range of benefits. The SA can highlight where measures can be incorporated into policies.

Southwest Regional Housing Strategy 2005-16 (Southwest Housing Body, 2005)

http://www.southwesthousingbody.org.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=1751&tt=swra

The strategy sets out the strategic priorities for housing in the region, the latest covers the period 2005-2016

Main objectives/outcomes:

The Strategy has three strategic aims:

- Improving the balance of housing markets: To develop housing markets with a range of tenures, which improve the balance between supply and demand, and offer everyone the opportunity to access a home at a price they can afford.
- Achieving good quality homes: To ensure that existing and new homes improve over minimum standards of quality, management and design.
- Supporting sustainable communities: To ensure that housing makes a full contribution to the achievement of sustainable and inclusive communities.

The delivery of these aims will be achieved through a series of actions grouped under the following themes:

- Increasing housing delivery
- Reducing homelessness and use of temporary accommodation
- Access and more efficient use of the housing stock
- Promoting sustainable development and good design
- Meeting the decent homes target
- Sustainable & mixed communities
- Support for homeless households and vulnerable groups

Implications/Targets:

The DPD will be one of the principal delivery vehicles for these housing related aims. Delivery of these aims in tandem with other types of development such as employment and leisure will be fundamental to delivering sustainable development. The SA will need to incorporate objectives to cover these aims.

Baseline data:

In 2008 there were a total of 29,482 dwellings in North Dorset, of these 28,126 (95.4%) were occupied, 943 (3.2%) were vacant and 413 (1.4%) were second homes¹. The percentage of second homes in the district at 1.4% is lower than the county average of 2.8%.

The 2001 Census showed that 42.5% of properties in North Dorset were detached, 28.8% semi detached, 18.0% terraced, 8.6% flats and 2.1% other types of property². The Survey of Housing Need and Demand for North Dorset (2007) indicates that 40.3% of homes in the district were owner occupied with no mortgage, 35.6% were owner occupied with a mortgage, 13.4% were social housing rented by an RSL and 10.7% were private rented.

¹ Source: Dorset Data Book 2008

² Source: ONS Census 2001

In the period from April 2007 to March 2008 there were 194 dwellings built in North Dorset, of these 25 fall into the “affordable” category.

Table B1: Housing Completions

Housing Completions (net) ³	All Completions		Affordable Completions	
	2006/7	2007/8	2006/7	2007/8
Blandford	36	31	5	2
Gillingham	99	25	14	0
Shaftesbury	7	3	0	0
Sturminster Newton	37	32	7	0
Stalbridge	2	3	0	0
Elsewhere	88	100	10	23
Total	269	194	36	25

North Dorset experiences high house prices. In 2006 the average house sale was a little over £223,000 compared to just under £137,000 in 2001. This is equivalent to a rise of over 60% and forms a significant barrier to accessing the housing market.

The ratio of house prices to incomes for first time buyers (the intermediate housing market) shows that affordability is a problem in North Dorset. The average first time buyer would need to pay over five times their household income to be able to buy an average 2/3 bed home.

North Dorset Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment: Sufficient land has been identified to meet the short and long-term housing requirements as set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy.

³ Source: North Dorset Annual Monitoring Report 2008

Figure B1: Average house prices (2001-2006)⁴

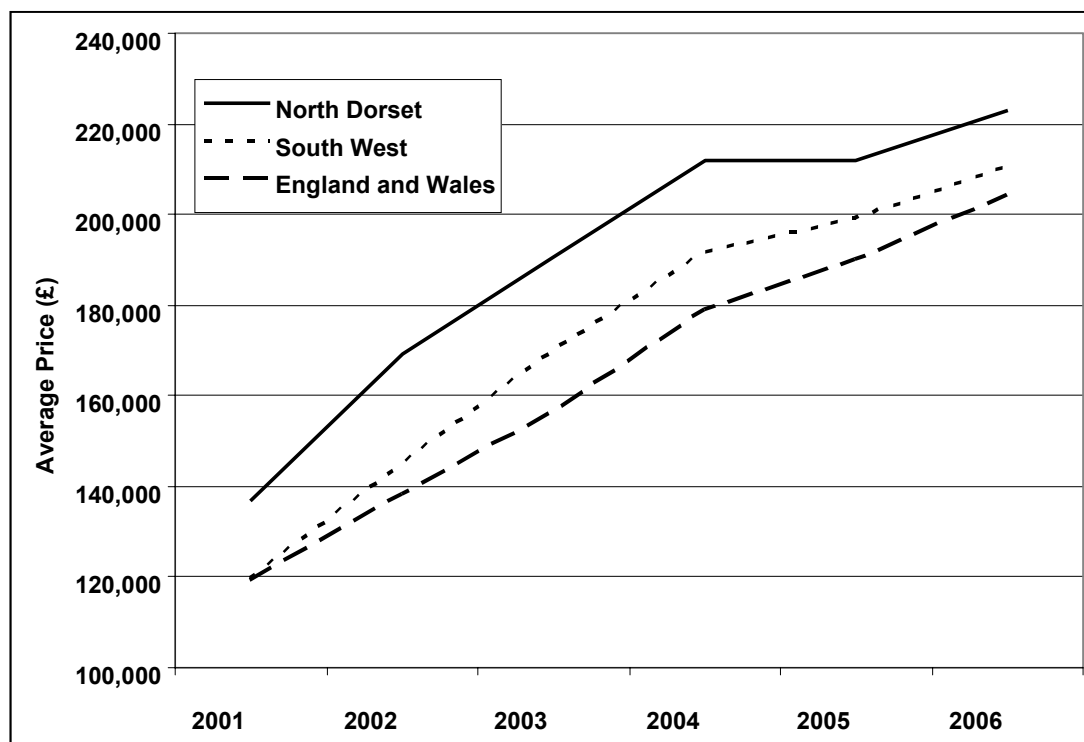


Table B2: Average House Prices 1997 to 2006⁵

	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flat
Jan - March 1997	£120,886	£62,661	£54,661	£33,820
Jan - March 1998	£117,117	£74,690	£59,544	£39,403
Jan - March 1999	£148,908	£70,781	£59,313	£44,628
Jan - March 2000	£176,225	£92,480	£70,977	£46,705
Jan - March 2001	£181,553	£110,620	£81,448	£55,383
Jan - March 2002	£195,515	£124,482	£96,453	£68,674
Jan - March 2003	£281,744	£164,034	£124,136	£79,632
Jan - March 2004	£272,460	£178,715	£144,356	£100,533
Jan - March 2005	£304,868	£192,470	£158,820	£118,798
Jan - March 2006	£304,868	£192,470	£158,820	£118,798

⁴ Source: Land Registry

⁵ Source: Land Registry

Table B3: Change in house price to income ratio for the intermediate housing market.

House price to income ratio ⁶⁷	2002	2003	2004	2005	% change
Christchurch	4.76	6.71	6.03	5.61	17.9%
East Dorset	5.45	5.35	5.22	5.31	-2.6%
North Dorset	4.87	4.97	5.53	5.43	11.5%
Purbeck	5.58	5.86	5.93	5.77	3.4%
West Dorset	5.08	5.14	5.16	4.75	-6.5%
Weymouth & Portland	4.86	5.22	5.09	4.98	2.5%
Bournemouth	5.08	5.69	6.15	6.09	19.9%
Poole	5.06	5.17	5.64	5.44	7.5%
South West	4.2	4.66	4.74	4.88	16.2%
London	4.79	4.69	4.89	5.01	4.6%
England	3.37	4.11	4.2	4.43	31.5%

1b Population and Health

Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services (DH, 2006)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4127453

This white paper sets out a new approach to the whole health and social care system, making care more personalised and easier to fit into peoples working lives.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Better prevention services with earlier intervention
- More choice and better access to GP facilities
- Do more to tackle inequalities and improve access to community services
- More support for people with long-term needs

Implications/Targets:

These objectives accord with those of the DPD and therefore the DPD can aid in achieving these goals. The SA can highlight where this could be done.

⁶ House price to income ratio for working households aged 20-39, avg. 2/3 bed home

⁷ Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Choosing Health: Making Healthy Choices Easier (DH, 2004)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4094550

This white paper sets out the priorities in relation to healthcare with the emphasis on personal choice and enabling that choice more healthy. Has a large number of objectives with only a few relevant to the DPD

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Tackling obesity through increased levels of exercise
- Improving access to health services

Implications/Targets:

Through the protection and enhancement of the existing cycle and foot path network, active lifestyles can be promoted. New developments can also make walking and cycling more convenient than using the car therefore promoting cycling and walking as attractive options. The support for local GP and health services especially in rural areas, will aid in improving access to health services. The DPD can facilitate these objectives and the SA framework should reflect these priorities.

Strategic Plan 2004 – 2009 (Dorset Healthcare NHS Trust, 2004)

http://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/Portals/3/DHCT_strategy.pdf

Sets out the aims for the strategic management of the Healthcare Trust

Main objectives/outcomes:

Five strategic aims

- Aim one: To provide high quality, professional, services and facilities in line with best practice and local and national guidelines and priorities.
- Aim two: To value, develop and support staff.
- Aim three: To ensure service users and carers are fully involved in all our services.
- Aim four: To deliver national and local priorities and achieve financial balance.
- Aim five: To further develop close working partnerships with local organisations for the benefit of service users and carers.

Implications/Targets:

The aims of the Trust will help to deliver some of the objectives of the DPD and through consideration of the needs of the Trust, support their work.

Health Strategy A strategy to develop efficient, patient-led health services, 2008 to 2011 (Dorset PCT NHS Trust, 2008)

http://www.dorset-pct.nhs.uk/documents/publications/trust_strategies/HealthStrategy2008-2011.pdf

Sets out the strategy for delivering healthcare across Dorset including from General Medical Practices (GPs) dental practices, opticians and community pharmacies, general and community hospitals. Details ten key aims

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Achieve with partners:
 - a shift from a system based on treating illness to one focused on keeping people well and independent
 - a shift from hospital care to care closer to home
- Reduce health inequalities across populations and communities and support individuals to keep well and avoid illness
- Improve the speed and convenience of access to diagnosis and treatment
- Extend the choice of providers, treatments and care options so that

individuals can select those that best fit their needs and personal circumstances

- Ensure an effective community-based rapid response in an emergency or where urgent care is required
- Ensure patients do not stay in hospital any longer than they need to and they are supported to return to independent living
- Improve community-based services to maximise the independent living of vulnerable groups and people with specific diseases, including long-term conditions and disabilities
- Improve clinical quality and safety, avoiding any possible error and harm, to ensure that all care is of the highest possible standard
- Improve the quality of the patient experience to ensure dignity, respect and responsiveness for everyone, including dignity at the end of life
- Improve value for money and productivity to ensure that in everything it does, the PCT achieves the best use of available resources

Implications/Targets:

The key aims of the strategy closely accords with the problems of accessibility in North Dorset. The DPD will therefore help and be helped by these joint objectives.

Dorset Sport Strategy (Dorset County Council, 2000)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=387497>

Outlines a broad strategy for sports provision across Dorset, highlighting areas where further facilities may be needed

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Encourage the delivery of sport to all abilities, across the county
- Provide equal opportunities for the people of Dorset to participate in sport of all levels
- Raise awareness of the benefits of participating in sport
- Encourage sport participation as part of a healthier lifestyle and as a way to develop community spirit and reduce anti-social behaviour
- Maximise through partnership all potential resources for the development of sports and sport facilities in Dorset
- Provide pathways for the attainment of excellence
- Ensure the most effective and efficient use is made of sport and sports facilities in Dorset
- Safeguard opportunities and resources for sport in the future

Implications/Targets:

Improvement of sports facilities will enable improvements in individual's health and wellbeing. This strategy identifies the current situation across Dorset and can therefore help to direct investment. The DPD will therefore be the delivery vehicle for the strategies aims.

Dorset Play Strategy (Dorset Community Action, 2007)

<http://www.dorcom.org.uk/DisplayPage.aspx?GroupID=15666&ID=8569>

The strategy aims to make the case for a more co-ordinated approach to play, by setting out a range of recommendations that can be used by organisations to improve play opportunities across the county. It forms the review of the original 2004 Play Strategy. Several recommendations have been made around four main themes:

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Raising understanding and awareness about the importance of play
- Resources
 - supplementary planning guidance to prioritise play provision in new developments
 - Planners take into account use made of a site for informal play when determining planning application
 - More play areas be developed
- Opportunity for play
 - All play schemes look at ways of improving access and transport
 - Location of schemes be assessed on access issues and judgement made on one large-scale versus several small-scale schemes
 - Providers to demonstrate how they have planned for the needs of **all** children and to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of such planning
- Sustainability and co-ordination
 - commitment to long-term funding for play

Implications/Targets:

Several of the recommendations have impacts on the LDF, many of which accord with the objectives of the DPD. The detailed role of the DPD will therefore need to be considered in achieving these recommendations.

Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food: Facing the Future (DEFRA, 2002)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/>

Sets out how industry, Government and consumers can work together to secure a sustainable future for our farming and food industries

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Resources
- Energy efficiency
- Health
 - Produce safe, healthy products in response to market demands, and ensure that all consumers have access to nutritious food, and to accurate information about food products
- The Economy
- Training

Implications/Targets:

As North Dorset is predominantly rural in character, the objectives of this strategy are particularly relevant. The DPD needs to incorporate steps to aid the farming community in areas related to this strategy. The SA needs to highlight issues related to this strategy and therefore related to sustainable development in rural areas.

Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy: Forward Look (DEFRA, 2006)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/>

Builds on the Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy published in 2002. It is structured around five priority themes, which are closely inter-related, a reflection of the inter-dependence of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainability.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Succeeding in the market
- Improving the environmental performance of farming
- Sustainable consumption & production
 - meeting the demand from consumers for more environmentally sustainable, healthy food
- Climate change & agriculture
- Animal health & welfare
 - society rightly demands high standards of animal health and welfare

Implications/Targets:

A wide ranging set of objectives that have implications for North Dorset, building on the earlier document. The DPD will need to consider its role in achieving these aims and the SA will need to highlight areas where this can be achieved.

Towards a Sustainable Transport System (DfT, 2007)

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/>

The Government's response to the Eddington and Stern reports setting out the long-term strategy for the transport network

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Contributing to better health and longer life-expectancy through reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport, and promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health.
- Improving quality of life for transport users and non-transport users, including through a healthy natural environment, with the desired outcome of improved well-being for all.

Implications/Targets:

In relation to health the transport strategy aims to improve quality of life through improving the environment and encouraging forms of transport that are beneficial for health. The DPD, by reducing the need to travel and making walking and cycling more attractive, can aid in achieving these objective. The SA can highlight areas where this can be achieved.

Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DfT, 2008)

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/dasts/>

Government strategy to achieve the aims of the 2007 "Towards a Sustainable Transport System" Strategy.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- to contribute to better safety, security and health and longer life expectancy by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport, and by promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health;
- to improve quality of life for transport users and non-transport users, and to promote a healthy natural environment.

Implications/Targets:

The DPD can influence the “what?”, “when?” and “where?” of transport demand. For this reason, where the existing network is already overstretched, the DPD should highlight this and locate development in areas where the situation would not be taken to breaking point by the increase in demand. Reducing the need to travel and promoting cycling and walking will also help and is an area where the DPD can have an impact. The SA framework should cover the main points of this strategy.

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation (ODPM, 2002)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance17>

Sets out the objectives and importance of open space, sport and recreation

Main objectives/outcomes:

Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives

- supporting an urban renaissance - through recreation, biodiversity, air quality, and general increase in attractiveness
- supporting a rural renewal - through increased visitor numbers and associated economic benefits
- promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion - through the provision of opportunities for social interaction
- health and well being - through the provision of spaces for exercise and play that are vital in improving health
- promoting more sustainable development - by encouraging cycling and walking and by locating sports and recreation space in areas well served by public transport

Implications/Targets:

A network of open spaces will contribute to a range of objectives that will be covered by the DPD. The SA objectives will need to incorporate the need for establishing this network rather than stand alone open space.

People, Places and Spaces: a cultural infrastructure development strategy for the South West of England (Culture Southwest, 2008)

<http://culture.swo.org.uk/information-publications-presentations/culture-south-west-research-publications/people-places-and-spaces/>

A cultural infrastructure strategy for developing major cultural infrastructure and associated investment in the South West of England over the next 20 years. Providing a ‘joined up’ approach to developing regional cultural infrastructure.

Main objectives/outcomes:

Through working together establishing a process for cultural infrastructure development the goal is to see a region where:

- Cultural sector partners work together to deliver an integrated approach to cultural infrastructure improvement and development;
- Priority is given to projects involving more than one cultural domain so that integrated cultural development is the norm;
- Planning Areas for Culture are established as a framework for sub-regional cultural infrastructure development;
- Cultural infrastructure addresses the needs of diverse communities within the region, taking account of factors such as social inclusion, rurality, age,

sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, disability, gender, faiths and religious beliefs;

- Cultural sector partners address the major gaps in the region's cultural provision – bringing cultural activity within reach of more people in the region;
- Culture is recognised as a key component of all development planning in the region;
- Cultural infrastructure is developed with clear and quantifiable impact assessments (economic, social, environmental and accessibility);
- Creative individuals of quality, imagination and enterprise choose to live, work and study in the region;
- Cultural organisations of distinction, ambition and excitement enhance the reputation of the South West;
- Cultural participation and activity increase.

Implications/Targets:

The strategy concentrates on the range and type of infrastructure that is most needed at a regional and sub-regional level in the South West and where joint working will achieve the greatest impact. The DPD should consider the role of North Dorset in delivering the regional objectives. The SA can highlight where measures can be incorporated into policies.

A better place to be: Culture and the Southwest of England (Culture Southwest, 2008)

<http://www.culturesouthwest.org.uk/about/index.asp>

Sets out a strategy for cultural provision in the Southwest. Its vision is to ensure that Southwest England is the region of choice for vibrant cultural activity, where engaged individuals build creative communities, where culture is seen as a core component of all regional development and a vital contributor to the quality of life of everyone in the region.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Harnessing the benefits of population growth and managing the implications of population change
 - Promote community cohesion and provide employment
 - Enhance the regions image, its assets and distinctiveness
 - Provide green community spaces where people live
- Promoting economic prosperity, quality of employment and employment opportunity
- Ensuring that people are treated fairly and can participate fully in society
- Challenging deprivation and disadvantage and reducing inequality
- Enhancing our distinctive environments and the quality and diversity of our cultural life

Implications/Targets:

The DPD should consider the potential of North Dorset's cultural assets to deliver a wide range of benefits. The SA can highlight where measures can be incorporated into policies.

Life's out there. Be Active in the South West: The Regional Strategy for Sport 2004-2008

http://www.sportengland.org/sw_regional_plan_exec_summary.pdf

The strategies vision is to change the culture and community view of sport in the south west so we can increase activity levels by all ages and across all social groups.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Delivering community sport
- Influencing strategic planning
- Encouraging active living
- Raising sports profile

The goals of the strategy are to:

- drive up participation levels of the south west's population by at least 1%, year on year
- improve performance by increasing representation at national and international levels
- bring together a wide range of partners to create a more active and community focused south west

Implications/Targets:

The DPD can aid in delivery of sports facilities enabling easier participation in sports and therefore promoting active and healthy lifestyles

Diversity and Equality in Planning, a good practice guide. ODPM 2005

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/324051.pdf>

A guide to help planners and others understand that planning for diversity is simply good planning and that diversity issues should be in the mainstream of a planning authority's day-to-day work. Sets out legislation and uses case studies to illustrate good practice

Main objectives/outcomes:

- understand diversity
- be inclusive in outreach
- diversity is integral to sustainable communities
- responsibility to ensure that policy is not discriminatory
- understand your community and engage with it
- improve quality of results on the ground through monitoring and assessment

Implications/Targets:

LDDs should be backed by meaningful consultation with all sectors of the community, and should be assessed to ensure that policies are not discriminatory. EqlA will identify where effective measures need to be put in place.

Diversity and Race Equality Scheme

http://www.north-dorset.gov.uk/diversity_scheme_2005-08.pdf

Sets out the Council's priorities on equality and inclusion and how equality will be embedded into the work of the Council

Main objectives/outcomes:

- ensure Council services are accessible and responsive to the needs of our diverse communities
- ensure that we enable people to fully participate in consultation
- use the National Equality Standard for Local Government to measure progress

Implications/Targets:

Policies will be assessed using an EqlA which will be summarised within the SA

Community Strategy for Dorset (Dorset Strategic Partnership, 2007)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=17275>

The Community Strategy has the role of promoting and improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area, contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Affordable, sustainable and appropriate housing
 - More affordable and appropriate housing
 - Better and more co-ordinated use of land
 - Increased investment
 - New ways of meeting housing need
 - Sustainable housing development.
- Developing Dorset's Economy
 - Improved infrastructure and connectivity
 - Improved skills base, development and employability of workers
 - Increased enterprise, innovation, investment and competitiveness in Dorset's economy
 - Stronger economic performance through partnership working
 - Sustainable economic development with minimum use of natural resources.
- Improved access to services, employment and leisure
 - An improved transport infrastructure for Dorset
 - A range of safe, efficient and fair access solutions which encourage greater use of alternatives to the car
 - Access solutions based on the needs of individuals and communities
 - Effective public transport through a range of providers
 - More equal access to appropriate service provision across the county.
- Safeguarding Dorset's environment now and for the future
 - Partnership response to the challenges of global climate change
 - Protection, conservation and enhancement of Dorset's environment
 - Efficient use of natural resources and a prosperous local food and farming industry
 - A high quality built environment
 - Quality access for all to Dorset's environment
 - Continuing contribution of volunteers to the conservation of the natural and built environment.
- Dorset's demographic challenge – An ageing population
 - Encouraging access to and use of computers and the internet
 - Better access to services for older people across all of Dorset
 - Better links between generations to make Dorset a county for all ages
 - Better integration of service provision between all agencies supporting older people
 - Investment in services promoting the well-being and health of older people
- Dorset's demographic challenge – Children and young people

The Children and Young People's Partnership wants to make sure children and young people:

 - are happy and healthy
 - stay safe

- can take part in activities they enjoy
 - learn new skills and have their achievements recognised
 - have opportunities to make a positive contribution to their communities
 - are well provided for in the future, enjoying economic and social well-being
- Delivering a legacy from the 2012 Games
 - Thriving communities

Implications/Targets:

The LDF and the DPD are the key delivery mechanisms for a wide range of the objectives of the Community Strategy, there are obviously therefore a number of joint objectives. The DPD will therefore need to consider its role in delivering the community objectives.

Draft Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Dorset County Council, 2007)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=386570>

The Plan sets out what needs to be done to improve the rights of way across Dorset over the next 5 - 10 years.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To manage Dorset's public rights of way through sustainable practices
- To manage countryside access to meet present and future needs of Dorset's people
- To develop and publish an up to date definitive map and statement
- To involve volunteers and local communities more in the management of paths and greenspaces
- To increase the provision of countryside access for equestrians, cyclists and vehicle users
- To develop a safer network
- To improve the management and maintenance of rights of way signage and structures
- To improve opportunities for countryside access for people of all needs and abilities
- To develop a network of 'key attractive routes' within and between settlements and into the wider countryside
- To provide better information and promotion

Implications/Targets:

The improvement to the Rights of Way network will, amongst other things, aid in improving accessibility in rural areas and also encourage healthier lifestyles. These objectives are aligned with the DPD objectives.

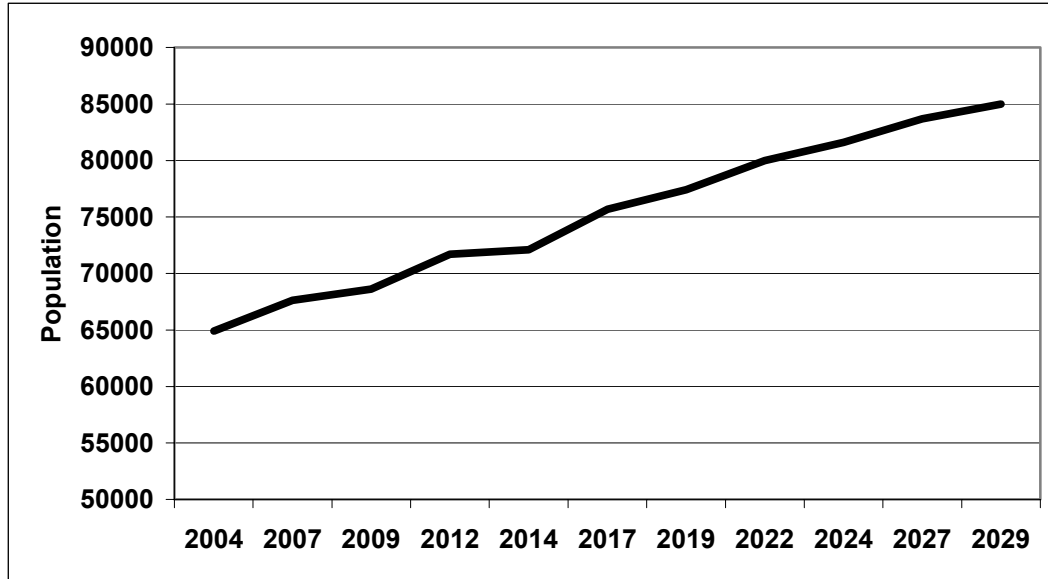
Baseline data:

The 2007 mid year estimate of population for North Dorset was 67,626⁸. This population has increased steadily over time with North Dorset has experiencing the highest level of population growth in Dorset.

⁸ Source: ONS Mid Year Estimate 2007

Since 1996, when the mid year estimate was 57,600, the population has increased by over 17%⁹, reflecting the fact that the district is a desirable place to live. This population growth has predominantly been through high levels of in-migration.

Figure B2: North Dorset predicted population growth¹⁰



Over 98% of the districts total population are White, of the remainder 0.47% are of Mixed Race, 0.40% Asian, 0.38% Chinese and 0.12% Black¹¹.

The mid year population estimates for 2007 show that 60.5% of the population are in the 16 to 65 working age band, 20.4% in the over 65 age band and 19.2% in the 1-15 year age band¹². Compared to the national average North Dorset has a higher proportion of over 65's and smaller number of people in the working age band.

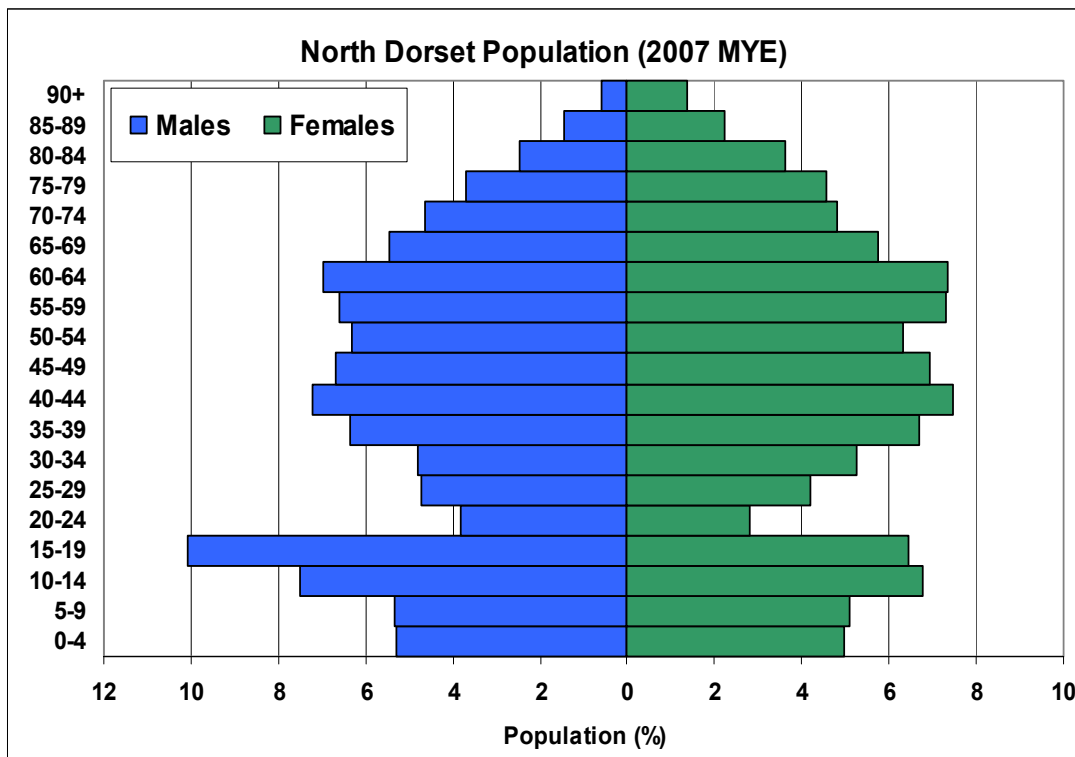
⁹ Source: Dorset for you Statistics & Census Information

¹⁰ Source: ONS 2006 Sub National Population Projections

¹¹ Source: Census 2001

¹² Source: ONS Mid Year Estimates 2007

Figure B3: North Dorset Population Pyramid¹³



Life expectancy for men is 79.4 years and for women 83.9¹⁴ years, both are higher than the national average. The number of live births per 1,000 of the population in the district has fallen from 11.0 in 1996 to 9.8 in 2006¹⁵ and is similar to the reduction seen across the whole of Dorset.

The Census results in 2001 showed that 71.1% of the population felt that they were in good health; this is higher than the percentage for Dorset as a whole at 68.1% and England at 68.6%. Of the total population 16.6% had a limiting long term illness.

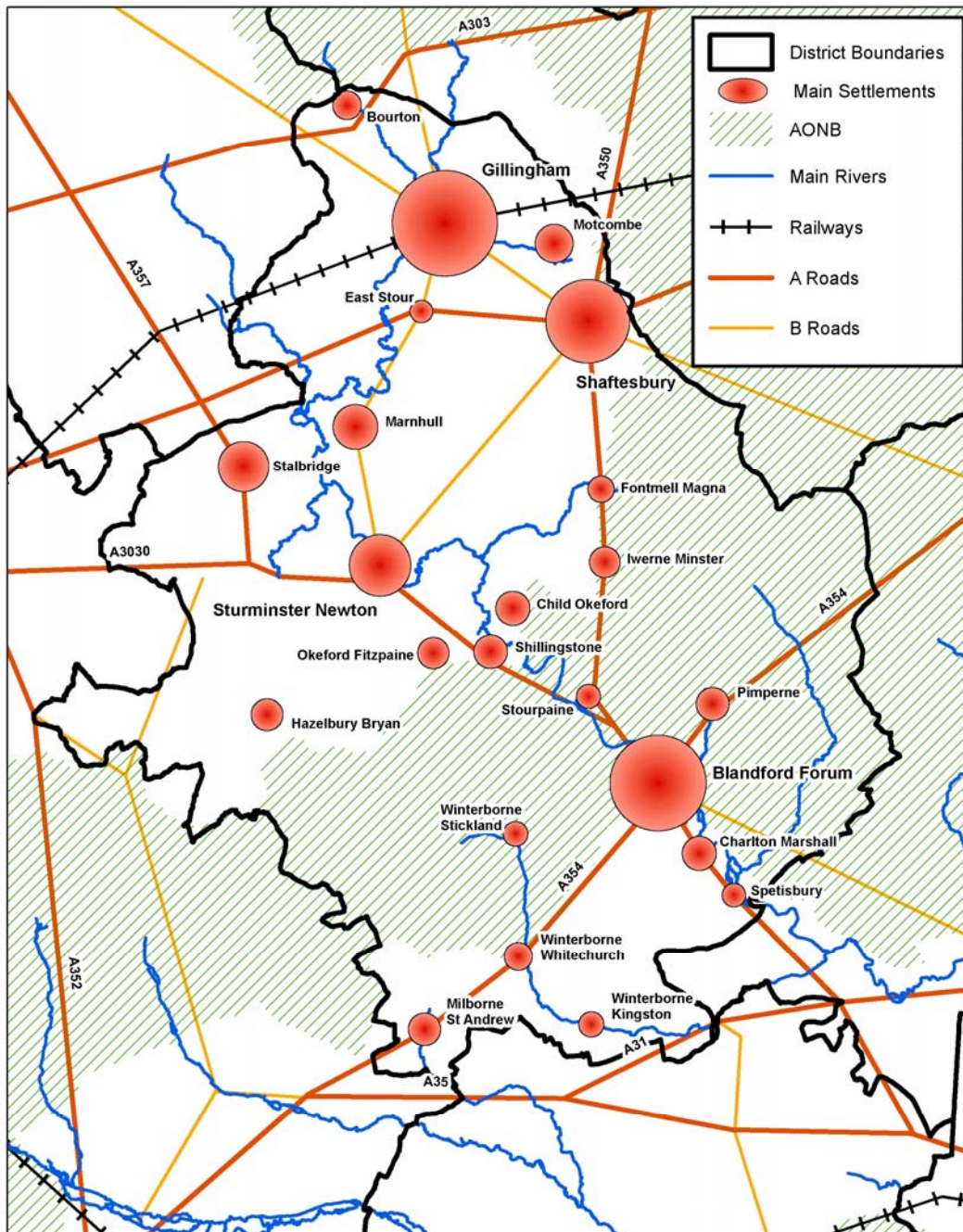
The Citizens Panel Survey 2009 showed that 78% agree that access to cultural activities helps make Dorset a better place to live and 77% agree that engagement in cultural activities contributes to improved quality of life

¹³ Source: ONS 2007 Sub National Population Projections

¹⁴ Source: Dorset Data Book 2008

¹⁵ Source: Dorset Data Book 2008

Figure B4: North Dorset Population Distribution



North Dorset District

Circles represent the relative populations of each of the settlements



North Dorset
 DISTRICT COUNCIL

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 LA 100018415 (2009)

1c Crime

Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance (ODPM, 2000)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/ourtowns>

The document sets out the Government's vision of urban living in towns, cities and suburbs which offer a high quality of life and opportunity for all. It sets out the Government's overall strategy for tackling poverty and social exclusion and fostering economic growth in a way that benefits all citizens.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- people shaping the future of their community, supported by strong and truly representative local leaders;
- attractive, well kept towns and cities which use space and buildings well;
- good design and planning which makes it practical to live in a more environmentally sustainable way, with less noise, pollution and traffic congestion;
- towns and cities able to create and share prosperity, investing to help all their citizens reach their full potential; and
- good quality services - health, education, housing, transport, finance, shopping, leisure and protection from crime - that meet the needs of people and businesses wherever they are.

This urban renaissance will benefit everyone, making towns and cities vibrant and successful, and protecting the countryside from development pressure.

Implications/Targets:

The objectives of this strategy directly relate to the market towns and built up areas of North Dorset. The DPD will need to take steps in achieving these objectives therefore rejuvenating the urban areas but also reducing pressure on greenfield development. The SA will need to highlight where it can do so.

Eastern Dorset Community Safety Plan 2008-2011 (Eastern Dorset Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, 2008)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=4125>

A strategy to reduce crime, responding to concerns raised by the community, identifying a number of priorities.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To reduce violent crime, with a particular focus on alcohol and drug related crime
- To protect people known to be at risk
- To reduce criminal damage and anti-social behaviour
- To maintain low levels of crime in Dorset
- To work with those individuals and groups at risk of offending
- To tackle speeding, road safety and the anti-social use of vehicles
- To help our communities feel safer

Implications/Targets:

Crime reduction and reductions in the fear of crime aid in creating sustainable communities in which people feel they can participate. This will therefore impact on the objectives of the DPD.

Baseline data:

The level of total crime per 1,000 of the population has reduced steadily over the last few years. In 2006/7, North Dorset had the lowest level of all the Dorset districts and was well below the national average.

Table B4: Total Crime Per 1,000 Population¹⁶

	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
Christchurch	70.8	72.8	69	60.5
East Dorset	43.1	39	43.1	42.6
North Dorset	48.6	46	45.3	41.4
Purbeck	66.3	61.4	62	57.3
West Dorset	60.9	60.9	60	56.9
Weymouth & Portland	105.2	96.3	106.4	107.8
Dorset County	64.1	61	62.7	60
England & Wales	113.1	105.1	104.2	100.2

The rate of domestic burglaries in North Dorset has decreased over the last three years, falling from 5.1 in 2004/5 to 3.6 in 2006/7. The breakdown of the burglary rate in the towns of North Dorset is shown in the table above. At 8.5¹⁷ per 1000 population, North Dorset has the second lowest violent crime rate in Dorset, with only East Dorset having a lower rate.

Table B5: Domestic Burglaries Per 1000 Households¹⁸

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
Blandford	8.2	7.2	4.2
Gillingham	3.2	2.7	3.9
Shaftesbury	7.7	4.5	6.1
Stalbridge	9.1	12.2	4.1
Sturminster Newton	4.7	4.7	3.2
North Dorset	5.1	4.8	3.6
Dorset County	6.5	5.7	4.4
England	14.4	13.5	13.1

¹⁶ Source: Home Office & Dorset Police

¹⁷ Source: Dorset Data Book 2008

¹⁸ Source: Dorset Data Book 2006, 2007 and 2008

1d Access, Equality and Deprivation
<p>Towards a Sustainable Transport System (DfT, 2007) http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/</p> <p>The Government’s response to the Eddington and Stern reports setting out the long-term strategy for the transport network</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promoting greater equality of transport opportunity for all citizens, with the desired outcome of achieving a fairer society. <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>In relation to Transport and accessibility these objectives aim to achieve a more sustainable transport system through improving accessibility and economic performance whilst protecting the environment and quality of life. The DPD is in a position to facilitate these objectives through integration of strategic transport considerations into decision making. The SA can highlight areas where this can be done.</p>
<p>Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DfT, 2008) http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/dasts/</p> <p>Government strategy to achieve the aims of the 2007 “Towards a Sustainable Transport System” Strategy.</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens, with the desired outcome of achieving a fairer society; and <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>The DPD can influence the “what?”, “when?” and “where?” of transport demand. For this reason, where the existing network is already overstretched, the DPD should highlight this and locate development in areas where the situation would not be taken to breaking point by the increase in demand. Reducing the need to travel will also help and is an area where the DPD can have an impact. The SA framework should cover the main points of this strategy.</p>
<p>Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance (ODPM, 2000) http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/ourtowns</p> <p>The document sets out the Government’s vision of urban living in towns, cities and suburbs which offer a high quality of life and opportunity for all. It sets out the Government’s overall strategy for tackling poverty and social exclusion and fostering economic growth in a way that benefits all citizens.</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ people shaping the future of their community, supported by strong and truly representative local leaders; ○ good design and planning which makes it practical to live in a more environmentally sustainable way, with less noise, pollution and traffic congestion; ○ towns and cities able to create and share prosperity, investing to help all their citizens reach their full potential; and ○ good quality services - health, education, housing, transport, finance, shopping, leisure and protection from crime - that meet the needs of people and businesses wherever they are.

This urban renaissance will benefit everyone, making towns and cities vibrant and successful, and protecting the countryside from development pressure.

Implications/Targets:

The objectives of this strategy directly relate to the market towns and built up areas of North Dorset. The DPD will need to take steps in achieving these objectives therefore rejuvenating the urban areas but also reducing pressure on greenfield development. The SA will need to highlight where it can do so.

The Rural White Paper: Our Countryside – The Future: A Fair Deal for Rural England (DEFRA, 2000)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralwp/whitepaper/default.htm>

A broad vision for rural England setting out the way that the Government will deliver an improved quality of life for everyone in the countryside with the aim of sustaining and enhancing the distinctive environment, economy and social fabric of the English countryside for the benefit of all.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- a living countryside, with thriving rural communities and access to high quality public services;
- a vibrant countryside which can shape its own future and with its voice heard by Government at all levels

Implications/Targets:

Sets out the broad aims for the rural area which the DPD can play its part in achieving. The SA needs to highlight rural issues especially as North Dorset is predominantly rural in character.

Rural Strategy (DEFRA, 2004)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/strategy/default.htm>

Rural Strategy 2004 sets out the Government's new approach to rural policy. It builds on the rural white paper updating the objectives in the light of new evidence. It sets out the actions that will be taken by Government over the next three to five years.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Economic and Social Regeneration – supporting enterprise across rural England, but targeting greater resources at areas of greatest need.
- Social Justice for All – tackling rural social exclusion wherever it occurs and providing fair access to services and opportunities for all rural people.

Implications/Targets:

The priorities in this strategy accord strongly with the issue in North Dorset. The DPD will therefore have a key role in helping to achieve these priorities and the SA will need to highlight areas where this can be done.

Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (ODPM, 2004)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps7>

Sets out the Government's planning policies for rural areas. The policies in this statement apply to rural areas, including country towns and villages and the wider, largely undeveloped countryside up to the fringes of larger urban areas. This therefore applies to the majority of North Dorset outside of the main towns.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas
- To promote more sustainable patterns of development
- To promote the development of the English regions by improving their economic

performance so that all are able to reach their full potential

- To promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors

Implications/Targets:

The policies in this document are applicable to North Dorset and should be reflected in the DPD where applicable. The SA should reflect their application to the rural areas but also have regard to the need for sustainable development and the relationship with the main towns.

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation (ODPM, 2002)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance17>

Sets out the objectives and importance of open space, sport and recreation

Main objectives/outcomes:

Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives

- supporting an urban renaissance - through recreation, biodiversity, air quality, and general increase in attractiveness
- supporting a rural renewal - through increased visitor numbers and associated economic benefits
- promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion - through the provision of opportunities for social interaction
- health and well being - through the provision of spaces for exercise and play that are vital in improving health
- promoting more sustainable development - by encouraging cycling and walking and by locating sports and recreation space in areas well served by public transport

Implications/Targets:

A network of open spaces will contribute to a range of objectives that will be covered by the DPD. The SA objectives will need to incorporate the need for establishing this network rather than stand alone open space.

A better place to be: Culture and the Southwest of England (Culture Southwest, 2008)

<http://www.culturesouthwest.org.uk/about/index.asp>

Sets out a strategy for cultural provision in the Southwest. Its vision is to ensure that Southwest England is the region of choice for vibrant cultural activity, where engaged individuals build creative communities, where culture is seen as a core component of all regional development and a vital contributor to the quality of life of everyone in the region.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Harnessing the benefits of population growth and managing the implications of population change
 - Promote community cohesion and provide employment
 - Provide green community spaces where people live
- Promoting economic prosperity, quality of employment and employment opportunity
- Ensuring that people are treated fairly and can participate fully in society
 - Celebrate diversity and include all sections of the community in cultural activities
 - Promote opportunities for volunteering across a range of activities

- Challenging deprivation and disadvantage and reducing inequality
 - Encourage safer and more cohesive communities
 - Address accessibility barriers in rural areas and related to race, disability and age
 - Promoting opportunities for lifelong learning
- Enhancing our distinctive environments and the quality and diversity of our cultural life

Implications/Targets:

The DPD should consider the potential of North Dorset's cultural assets to deliver a wide range of benefits. The SA can highlight where measures can be incorporated into policies.

Draft Dorset Cultural Strategy 2009-2014 (Dorset Strategic Partnership, 2009)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=364545>

Sets out the role of "Culture" to improving the quality of life of the residents of Dorset detailing how it can contribute to achieving the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy for Dorset.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- A thriving , competitive economy that delivers better quality employment for people in Dorset
- A sustainable infrastructure which provides improved access to cultural and leisure opportunities
- Safeguarding, understanding and enjoying Dorset's environment with planning for the future
- Improved well-being with increased opportunities for people to enjoy and achieve within safe and thriving communities

Implications/Targets:

Achieving these objectives will aid in building strong and inclusive communities which are essential in achieving sustainable development.

Our Environment: Our Future - The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment 2004 - 2014 (SWRA, 2004)

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=521&tt=swra

The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment sets out what is important about our region s environment. It aims to provide a vision and aims for the environment in the future and identify pressures threatening the environment; It identifies six key issues to be tackled (and indicators of change).

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Spatial Planning - (Greenfield development, Historic building resource, Flooding, Dark skies, Local environment quality)
 - Planning for people – giving communities a greater say in the changes they want in their local environments;
 - Positive planning for the environment – maximising opportunities for environmental benefits;
 - Integrating environment considerations into planning
- Transport - (Traffic growth, Alternative fuels, Local air quality, Tranquil areas)
 - Minimise the impact of transport on the environment
 - Provide safe, integrated transport systems accessible to all
 - Provide *alternatives to fossil-fuelled transport*

Implications/Targets:

A range of objectives with the aim of protecting the Southwest's important environment from further harm. The DPD will need to cover these points and the SA will be able to highlight the points at which it can do so.

Dorset Young Peoples Housing Strategy 2008 - 2012 (Dorset County Council, 2008)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=391599>

The strategy recognises the need to give our young people housing choices and to maximise opportunities to access sustainable decent, safe and secure housing.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Many young people cannot access affordable accommodation to rent or buy
- We need additional tenancy and floating support to assist in maintaining tenancies and preventing homelessness
- We need to develop more affordable housing options for young people
- Supported accommodation needs to be more effective and relevant to the needs of young people by improving move-on and geographical location
- We must ensure young people have high quality advice and information on housing options
- We must listen to what young people actually want

Implications/Targets:

The strategy identifies the issues and barriers to enabling young people to access appropriate housing and therefore enabling them to stay within Dorset. One of the key objectives of the DPD is to meet the housing needs of the residents of North Dorset and therefore will aid in achieving these goals.

Dorset Children and Young People's Plan 2007 - 2009 (Dorset County Council, 2007)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=345164>

This plan sets out a single strategic overarching plan for delivering local services for children and young people.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To improve the physical, emotional and sexual health of vulnerable groups
- To reduce the experience of bullying and discriminatory behaviour
- To provide more opportunities for play and recreation and to raise pupil and school achievement
- To engage children and young people more fully in decision making
- To prepare all young people for independent adult life
- To develop partnership working between organisations (services) and with parents

Implications/Targets:

Achieving these aims will aid in achieving the objectives of the DPD.

Dorset Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 (Dorset County Council, 2005)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=368022>

The aim of the strategy is to provide a better quality of life for vulnerable people, by helping them to live more independently

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To support and sustain vulnerable people in their homes, through a range of housing related support services
 - Affordable housing

- Access to services
- Active and inclusive communities
- Safety and health
- Thriving economy

Implications/Targets:

These objectives are covered by the DPD and therefore the two strategies can work together to achieve them

Draft North Dorset Young People Strategy 2006-2009 (NDDC, 2006)

The North Dorset Young People Strategy sets out the Council's contribution to the county-wide Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

Main objectives/outcomes:

- preventing and resolving youth homelessness
- improving access to sports and leisure activities
- preventing young people from becoming victims of crime and supporting those at risk of offending
- supporting access to youth advice and information services

Implications/Targets:

The LDD can help in delivering these objectives

Joint Affordable Warmth Strategy (Affordable Warmth Partnership, 2004)

[http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media/pdf/f/g/Item_16_Strategy_\(Affordable_Warmth_Strategy\).pdf](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media/pdf/f/g/Item_16_Strategy_(Affordable_Warmth_Strategy).pdf)

The strategy sets out the aim of the Authorities and partner organisations to meet a national aim to eradicate fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010. The strategy has been produced by local partners including North Dorset

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To develop and co-ordinate the delivery of the affordable warmth strategy.
- To provide quality advice and information and raise the awareness of fuel poverty issues.
- To promote initiatives and financial assistance available to people in fuel poverty. To encourage low income consumers to take advantage of competition in the fuel supply market
- To encourage the take up of benefit and income maximisation

Implications/Targets:

The issue of fuel poverty can detract from individuals quality of life. Issues of fuel poverty can be helped through energy efficiency measures and these can be built into new homes. The DPD can ensure that new homes are as energy efficient as they can be.

Baseline data:

The Index of Multiple Deprivation aims to illustrate levels of deprivation nationally, taking into account areas like, income, health, education, living environment, crime and barriers to housing/services. About 4.9%¹⁹ of the district's population, this equates to roughly 3,050 people, are living within the top 10% most deprived areas in the county. This is the lowest percentage of all the Dorset districts. North Dorset is ranked number 247, of all the district and unitary authorities nationally, where 1 is the most deprived and 354 the least.

However the index of deprivation for accessibility, looking at barriers to housing and services, shows that over 57% of North Dorset's Super Output Areas are within the top 20% most deprived nationally.

85.9% of households in North Dorset have access to at least one car, with only 14.1% having no car. This is higher than the national average, where only 73.2% of households have access to a car and probably reflects the rural nature of the district and dependence on the car to access services.

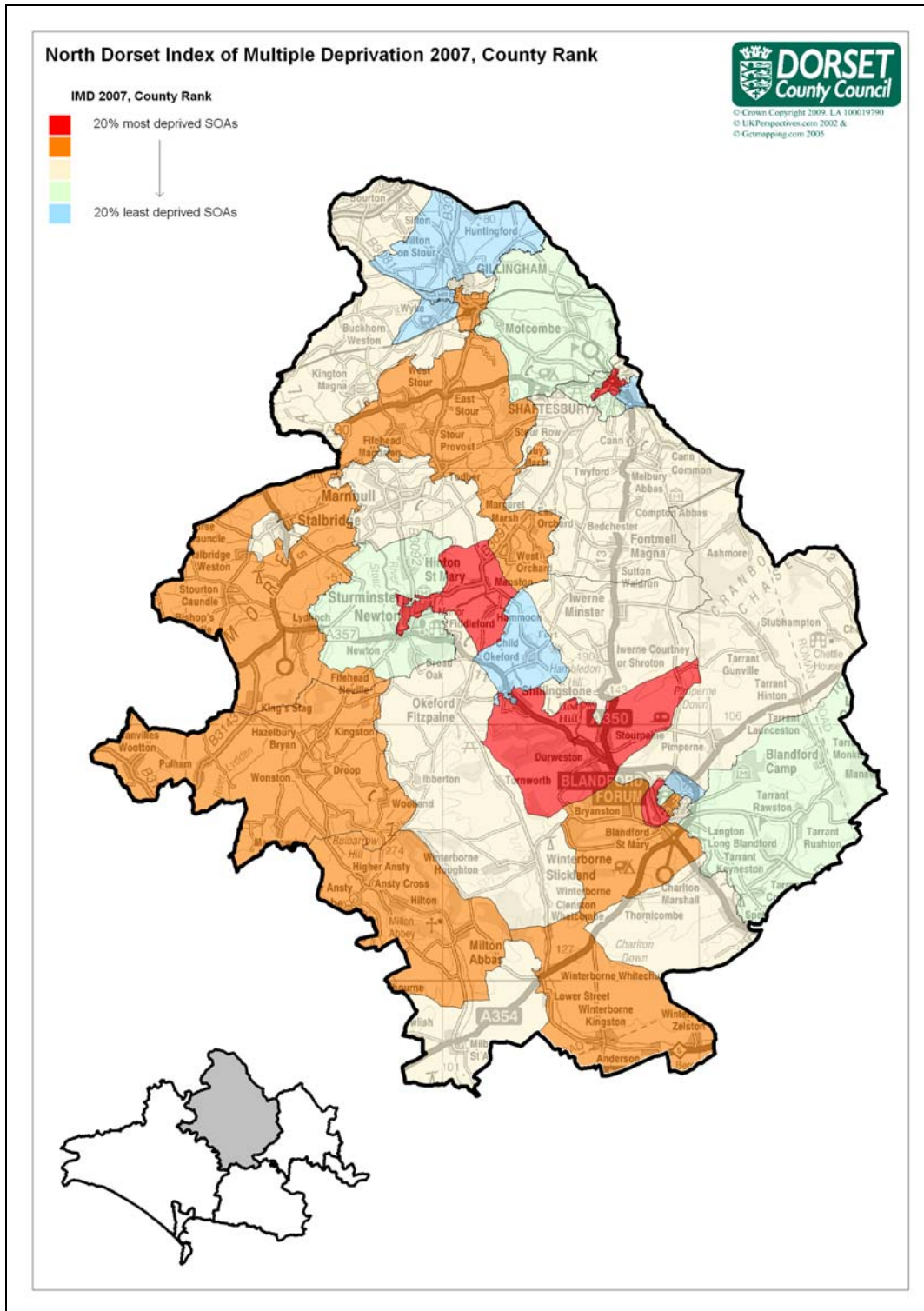
Table B6: Car Ownership (Households) in North Dorset by town (2001)²⁰

	0 Cars (%)	1 Car (%)	2 Cars (%)	3+ Cars (%)
Blandford	21.3	46.3	25.8	6.6
Gillingham	18.5	49.1	25.8	6.5
Shaftesbury	25.7	49.6	20.7	4.0
Stalbridge	15.4	42.6	33.5	8.5
Sturminster Newton	18.4	47.7	25.6	8.2
North Dorset	14.1	45.6	31.1	9.2
Dorset	17.0	46.4	28.6	8.1

¹⁹ Source: Dorset Deprivation Indices Dorset County Council

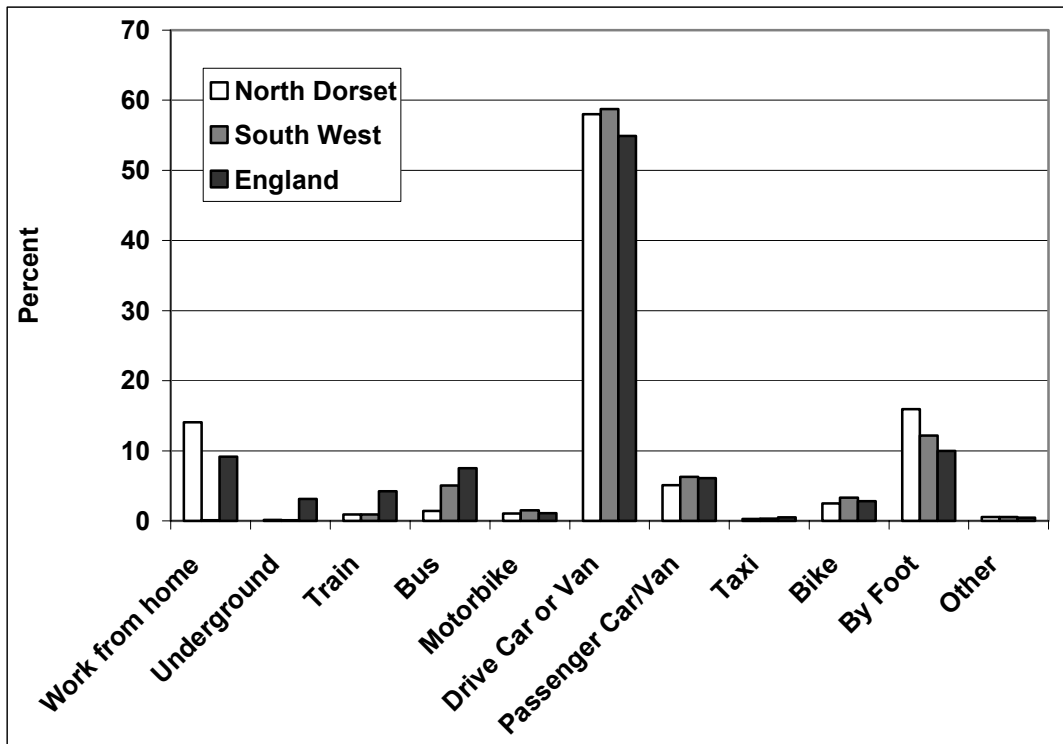
²⁰ Source: Dorset Data Book, 2008

Figure B4: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007



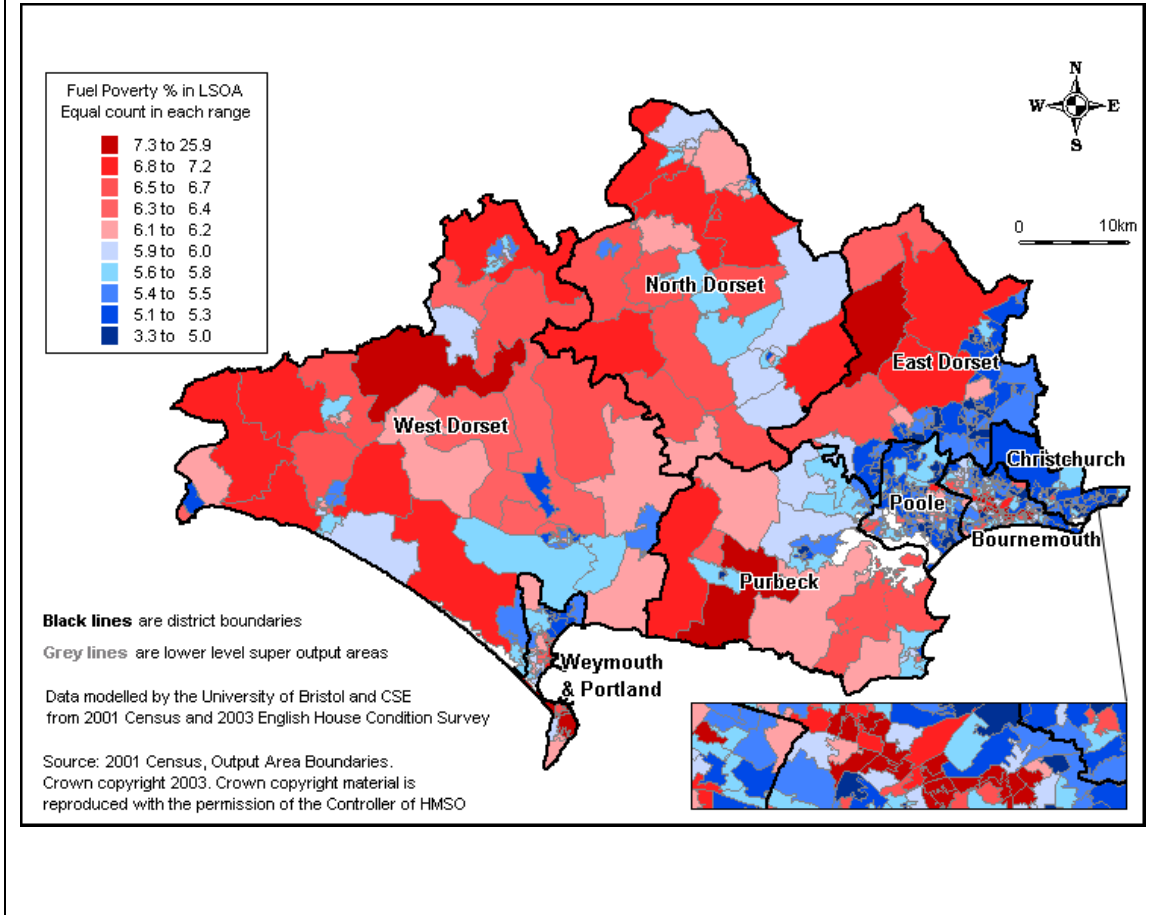
The number of people travelling to work by car is slightly higher than the national average in North Dorset. While the number of people working from home and walking to work are higher than the National and Southwest averages.

Figure B5: Travel to work by mode²¹



²¹ Source: 2001 Census

Figure B6: Fuel Poverty in Dorset



Possible Indicators:

SA Objective	Indicator
1. Provide housing that is affordable and that meets the needs of the community	Number of net dwelling completions per annum
	Number of net affordable dwelling completions per annum
	House price income ratio on annual basis
	Net additional gypsy and traveller pitches per annum
2. Provide balanced communities where housing, employment and community facilities are delivered to meet needs, improving access to essential services	Loss of village facilities over annual monitoring period
	Percentage of households within walking distance (800m) of an hourly bus or DRT service
	Percentage of new residential development within 20 minutes public transport travelling time of a list of designations (GP, hospital, school etc...)
3. Improve the health and wellbeing of the population through reducing poverty and encouraging healthy lifestyles	Life Expectancy Male and Female
	Percentage of people with a long term limiting illness
5. Improve quality of life through well designed developments	Rate of violent crimes per 1000 population
	Rate of domestic burglaries per 1000 households
	Index of multiple deprivation for North Dorset

Appendix C: Effective Protection of the Environment

C.1. The protection of the environment is an important part of sustainability and the basis of the SEA Directive. This therefore must form an important part of the SA. Consideration of the current environmental condition of North Dorset and the potential future change of this environment is therefore fundamental to achieving sustainable development.

C.2. The topics covered in this section are:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Climate Change and Flooding
- Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Archaeology
- Pollution

2a Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
<p>Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Council of Europe, 1979) http://www.unep.ch/regionalseas/legal/bern.htm</p> <p>Adopted in 1979 in Bern and is an important instrument for the protection of wildlife and natural habitats. The Convention imposes legal obligations on States, protecting over 500 wild plant species and more than 1,000 wild animal species</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats○ encourage cooperation between States○ to afford special protection to the most vulnerable or threatened species (including migratory species)○ promote education and disseminate information on the need to conserve species of wild flora and fauna and their habitats. <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>Ensure that the DPD incorporates adequate measures to protect vulnerable habitats and species. Ensure that the SA framework incorporates appropriate objectives.</p>
<p>The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (The Bonn Convention) (UN Environment Programme, 1979) http://www.cms.int/about/intro.htm</p> <p>An intergovernmental treaty concerned with conserving habitats on a global scale with the aim of protecting endangered and threatened migratory species.</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Strictly protecting endangered and threatened migratory species○ conserving or restoring the places where they live○ mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>The DPD will need to include policies to protect the habitats of migratory species and the SA should incorporate appropriate objectives.</p>

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971)

<http://www.ramsar.org/>

Recognises the importance of wetlands for their biodiversity, regulation of water, scientific, economic cultural and social resource, and their role in combating climate change and that the loss of wetlands would be irreparable. It provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources

Main objectives/outcomes:

- to ensure the wise use of wetlands through land-use planning, appropriate national policies and legislation, management actions and public education
- to designate suitable wetlands as Wetlands of International Importance and ensure their effective management
- to cooperate internationally concerning transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species

Implications/Targets:

Although there are no designated Ramsar sites in North Dorset, the DPD needs to consider the impact of actions that may have an impact on nearby designates sites such as Poole Harbour, the Avon Valley and the Dorset Heaths.

Conservation of Wild Birds, Council Directive 79/409/EEC (The Birds Directive) (EC, 1979)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm

Created a comprehensive scheme of protection for all wild bird species naturally occurring in Europe.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- conservation and management of wild birds

Implications/Targets:

The designation of Special Protection Areas (SPA) for the protection of bird species. These sites (along with SAC) form part of the Natura 2000 network of protected areas which have the intention of tackling the loss of biodiversity on land, at the coast and at sea due to human activity. The DPD and SA need to take these designations into account.

Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, Council Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive) (EC, 1992)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

This directive is the means by which the EC meets its obligations under the Bern Convention.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To promote the maintenance of biodiversity through the maintenance/restoration of natural habitats
- Robust protection for habitats and species of European importance

Implications/Targets:

Designation of as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), areas of importance that cover the habitats listed by the directive. These sites (along with SPA) form part of the Natura 2000 network of protected areas which have the intention of tackling the loss of biodiversity on land, at the coast and at sea due to human activity.

The Habitats Directive introduced the precautionary principle for protected areas (and also covers sites protected under the Birds Directive). This means

that projects can only be permitted having ascertained no adverse effect on the integrity of the designated site. Projects may still be permitted if there are no alternatives, and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In such cases compensation measures will be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of network of sites.

The DPD and SA need to take these designations into account offering the highest level of protection to them.

EC Sixth Environmental Action Programme (2002)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/intro.htm>

Sets out the framework for environmental policy-making in the European Union for the period 2002-2012 and outlines actions that need to be taken to achieve them. Promotes the integration of environmental concerns in all Community policies and contributes to the achievement of sustainable development

Main objectives/outcomes:

Four environmental priorities:

- climate change;
- nature and biodiversity;
 - protecting, conserving, restoring and developing natural systems, habitats and biodiversity
 - halting desertification and the loss of biodiversity, including diversity of genetic resources
- environment and health and quality of life;
- natural resources and wastes;

Implications/Targets:

The DPD and the SA will need to include objectives to protect habitats and species from harm.

Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended), 1981

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1377>

The principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. It consolidates and amends previous related legislation (including European) into one Act. Species listed in the Schedules of the Act are protected from disturbance, injury, intentional destruction or sale

Main objectives/outcomes:

- The protection of species and habitats from harm
- Protection of rights of way

Implications/Targets:

The SA will need to include objectives to protect habitats and rights of way.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060016_en_1

The act of parliament that sets up Natural England as the body responsible for the conservation, enhancement and management of the natural environment thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Placed a statutory duty on every public authority to conserve biodiversity, in exercising its functions

Implications/Targets

The DPD will have to pay full regard to its role in conserving biodiversity

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 (The CRoW Act)

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/ukpga_20000037_en_1

The act increases protection of certain species, improves access to the countryside and adds clarity to the status of AONBs

Main objectives/outcomes:

- new right of public access on foot to areas of open land comprising mountain, moor, heath, down, and registered common land
- encourages the creation of new rights of way and clarifying uncertainties about existing rights
- provides increased powers for the protection and management of SSSIs; creates a new offence of reckless disturbance; introduces powers enabling the diversion of rights of way to protect SSSIs
- requires local authorities to produce management plans for each AONB
- requires all relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of AONBs

Implications/Targets:

The DPD will need to make provisions for protecting SSSIs and AONBs and to protecting the rights of way network. The SA will therefore need to include objectives to highlight where these may be harmed.

A 50-year Vision for Wetlands (RSPB et al, 2008)

<http://www.wetlandvision.org.uk/dyndisplay.aspx?d=downloads>

The 50-year vision sets out the joint aspirations between Natural England, English Heritage, the RSPB and the Wildlife Trust for a future where wetlands are a significant feature of the landscape in which wildlife can flourish, heritage is safeguarded and people can enjoy quiet recreation.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To restore England's damaged wetlands and help bring back rare and threaten species as well as helping to reduce flooding and diffusing pollution because:
 - They provide sustainable livelihoods for people
 - They support a unique range of wildlife
 - They form part of a healthy functional landscape
 - They help recharge underground water supplies, store sediments and filter pollution
 - They buffer the extremes of weather associated with climate change

Implications/Targets

Sets the broad vision for the future of wetlands over the next 50 years. The DPD will need to include wetland policies that protect and enhance wildlife; preserve the wetland heritage and deliver value services to society and the SA should incorporate appropriate objectives.

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM, 2005)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps9>

Sets out Government planning policies on protection of biodiversity and geological conservation through the planning system

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To promote sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development, so that policies and

decisions about the development and use of land integrate biodiversity and geological diversity with other considerations;

- To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology by sustaining, and where possible improving, the quality and extent of natural habitat and geological and geomorphologic sites; the natural physical processes on which they depend; and the populations of naturally occurring species which they support; and
- To contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance by:
 - Enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and among developments so that they are used by wildlife and valued by people, recognising that healthy functional ecosystems can contribute to a better quality of life and to people's sense of well-being; and
 - Ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment

Implications/Targets:

The SA and the DPD will need to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of Dorset having regard to international, national, regional and local designations and where opportunities exist, create, enhance or restore habitats [Paragraph 5(ii)].

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) (HMSO, 1994)

<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/default.aspx>

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan for dealing with biodiversity conservation in response to the Rio Convention. Produced action plans for the most endangered or declining species, and for priority habitats that are either in decline, or are important for ecosystem function, or for which the UK has international obligations

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Establishment of a series of local action plans with local priorities contributing to the UK BAP, including one for Dorset
- The setting up of environmental records centres for holding information about local biodiversity, including one for Dorset

Implications/Targets:

Sets the broad aims for the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy which sets out the local priorities relevant to Dorset. The DPD and the SA will need to take these priorities into account.

Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy: Forward Look (DEFRA, 2006)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/>

Builds on the Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy published in 2002. It is structured around five priority themes, which are closely inter-related, a reflection of the inter-dependence of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainability.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Succeeding in the market
- Improving the environmental performance of farming
 - recognition that the critical importance of farming practices for the environment – our landscape, our wildlife and biodiversity, the quality of our soils, air and water – cannot be over-stated
- Sustainable consumption & production

- Climate change & agriculture
- Animal health & welfare
 - how animals are kept impacts on the environment and biodiversity

Implications/Targets:

A wide ranging set of objectives that have implications for North Dorset, building on the earlier document. The DPD will need to consider its role in achieving these aims and the SA will need to highlight areas where this can be achieved.

Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2002)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/action-uk/e-biostrat.htm>

Aims to shift thinking ensuring that biodiversity considerations become embedded in all the main sectors of economic activity. The document is structured under five themes.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Agriculture: encouraging the management of farming and agricultural land so as to conserve and enhance biodiversity as part of the Government's Sustainable Food and Farming Strategy
- Water: aiming for a whole catchment approach to the wise, sustainable use of water and wetlands
- Woodland: with the management and extension of woodland so as to promote enhanced biodiversity and quality of life
- Urban areas: where biodiversity needs to become a part of the development of policy on sustainable communities, urban green infrastructure and the built environment
- Marine and coastal management: so as to achieve the sustainable use and management of our coasts and seas using natural processes and the ecosystem-based approach

Implications/Targets:

These objectives are translated down to the more local level through the Southwest Biodiversity Implementation Plan and then the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy. The implications will need to form part of DPD policy and the SA will need to highlight areas for their inclusion.

Southwest Biodiversity Implementation Plan (Southwest Regional Biodiversity Partnership, 2007)

http://www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/lib_our.html

Sets out a framework of policy, priorities and actions to assist in a more joined up approach to biodiversity delivery. The strategy contains a number of objectives for increasing the profile of biodiversity under five main headings (four of which are directly related to North Dorset)

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Farming and Food: Integrating Biodiversity into farming practices
- Water and Wetlands: Improvements in water quality and increase opportunities for recreation including the green infrastructure alongside rivers
- Woodlands and Forestry: Protect and enhance native woodland and realise their wider social and economic benefits
- Towns, Cities and Development: Improve access to and appreciation of green infrastructure within urban areas ensuring that planning takes full account of biodiversity

- Coastal and Marine

Implications/Targets:

The DPD and the SA will need to recognise the importance of biodiversity for the built and natural environments

The Southwest Nature Map and Rebuilding Biodiversity in the Southwest (Biodiversity Southwest, 2005)

http://www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/lib_our.html

Identifies strategic nature areas (SNAs) which can be restored, linking fragmented habitats to land rich in wildlife, alongside flourishing and sustainable communities. Has been used to inform the RSS in integrating biodiversity into development considerations, will be used as a framework for delivery on RSS biodiversity targets.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To increase the biodiversity of the county as a whole and to raise awareness of the importance of doing this, for the benefit of wildlife and people.
- Focusing on, neutral grassland, calcareous grassland, broad-leaved woodland, heathland, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.
 - Identify where most of the major biodiversity concentrations are found and where targets to maintain, restore and recreate wildlife might be best met
 - Formulate sustainable choices for development
 - Assist in targeting the new Environmental Stewardship Scheme
 - Develop partnerships and projects for biodiversity in the region
 - Provide a focus for projects that will help biodiversity to adapt to climate change

Implications/Targets:

There are several areas within or directly adjacent to North Dorset identified on the Southwest Nature Map. The identified areas fall within the following habitat types: Arable, Chalk Downland, Chalk Grassland, Neutral Grassland, Parkland, Purple Moor Grass, Rush Pasture and Woodland. These need to be taken into account in the DPD and their location will form part of the SA

Dorset Local Geodiversity Action Plan (2005)

http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media/pdf/s/g/Dorset_LGAP1_1.pdf

Document which draws together existing information and ongoing projects concerned with the geology, geomorphology, soils and landscapes of Dorset

Main objectives/outcomes:

- The conservation and enhancement of the geological resource
- Providing guidance to the planning authorities on sustainable policies in the geological context
- Increasing appreciation and understanding of the geological heritage of the area

Implications/Targets:

The underlying geological heritage impacts on the landscape and environment and should be acknowledged within the SA. The landscape character assessment goes some way to achieving this.

Dorset Biodiversity Strategy (Dorset Biodiversity Partnership, 2003)

http://www.dorsetwildlife.co.uk/the_dorset_biodiversity_strategy.html

The strategy is Dorset's response to the governments UK Biodiversity Action Plan. It is one of a network of regional and local plans delivering the objectives of the national plan; namely to conserve, restore and recreate biodiversity. It Provides a framework for action for biodiversity in Dorset over the next 10 years and helps to translate the priorities in the UK BAP into local action.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Managing our best habitats – To enable appropriate management to protect and enhance existing, restored and newly created habitats of importance to wildlife, and to make connections between habitats within the surrounding landscape
- Protecting natural assets – To highlight new actions which are required to achieve biodiversity conservation in Dorset; to ensure wise use of ecological information at all levels of land-use planning in the county
- Partnership – To foster the biodiversity partnership to share workload, skills and experience
- Involving everyone – To enable communities to work together to conserve their local biodiversity
- Raising awareness – To search for imaginative ways to encourage a wider range of people to find out about Dorset's wildlife
- Funding conservation action – To seek new and innovative means to meet the costs of this work
- Monitoring Dorset's biodiversity – To monitor our progress on conserving the species and habitats special to this county

Implications/Targets:

Conservation of and improvements in biodiversity and a greater appreciation of the role biodiversity can play in society is important in achieving sustainable development. The DPD will need to take steps to protect and where possible enhance biodiversity and habitats.

The Rural White Paper: Our Countryside – The Future: A Fair Deal for Rural England (DEFRA, 2000)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralwp/whitepaper/default.htm>

A broad vision for rural England setting out the way that the Government will deliver an improved quality of life for everyone in the countryside with the aim of sustaining and enhancing the distinctive environment, economy and social fabric of the English countryside for the benefit of all.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- a protected countryside in which the environment is sustained and enhanced, and which all can enjoy;
- a vibrant countryside which can shape its own future and with its voice heard by Government at all levels

Implications/Targets:

Sets out the broad aims for the rural area which the DPD can play its part in achieving. The SA needs to highlight rural issues especially as North Dorset is predominantly rural in character.

Rural Strategy (DEFRA, 2004)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/strategy/default.htm>

Rural Strategy 2004 sets out the Government’s new approach to rural policy. It builds on the rural white paper updating the objectives in the light of new evidence. It sets out the actions that will be taken by Government over the next three to five years.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Enhancing the Value of our Countryside – protecting the natural environment for this and future generations.

Implications/Targets:

The priorities in this strategy accord strongly with the issue in North Dorset. The DPD will therefore have a key role in helping to achieve these priorities and the SA will need to highlight areas where this can be done.

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation (ODPM, 2002)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance17>

Sets out the objectives and importance of open space, sport and recreation

Main objectives/outcomes:

Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives

- supporting an urban renaissance - through recreation, biodiversity, air quality, and general increase in attractiveness
- supporting a rural renewal - through increased visitor numbers and associated economic benefits
- promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
- health and well being
- promoting more sustainable development

Implications/Targets:

A network of open spaces will contribute to a range of objectives that will be covered by the DPD. The SA objectives will need to incorporate the need for establishing this network rather than stand alone open space.

Baseline data:

North Dorset has two sites which are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the European Habitats Directive. There are no Special Protection Areas or Ramsar sites within the district. The details of the SAC sites and the reasons for their designation are as follows²²:

SAC Name	Area (Ha)	Reason For Inclusion
Fontmell and Melbury Downs	260.75	This inland site supports consistently large populations of early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i> , numbering many thousands of plants. The site includes large areas of species-rich chalk grassland and is one of three sites selected in the centre of the main range of the species.
Rooksmoor	61.36	Representing marsh fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> in the southern part of its range in England, Rooksmoor is an exceptionally large population within a cluster of sites in the Dorset stronghold. A large outlying population at Lydlinch has been included in this site as it is considered to be part of the meta-population in this area.

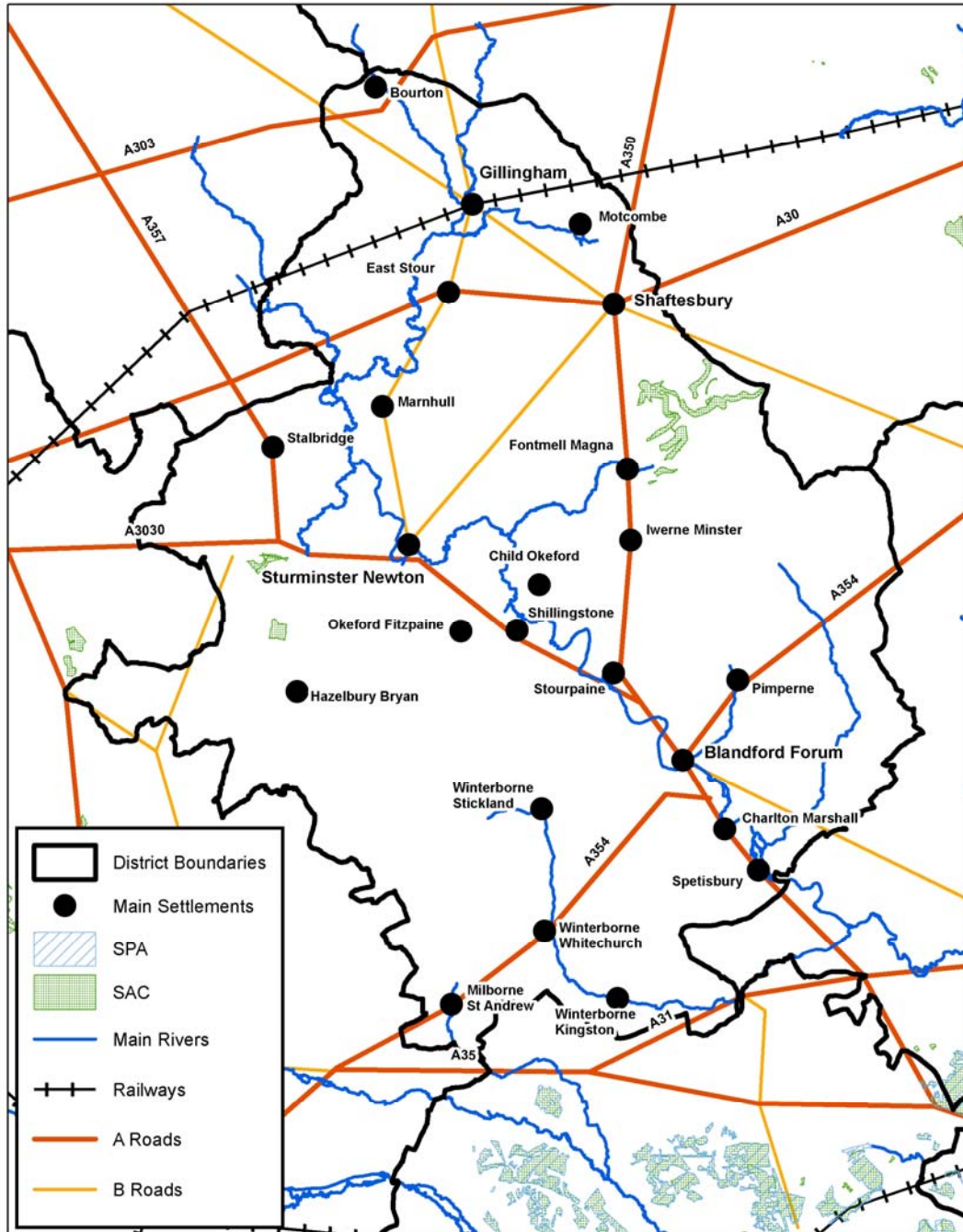
There are 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), covering approximately 840 hectares, 52% of this area is considered to be in a favourable condition, while the other 48% is in an unfavourable condition.

North Dorset has 224 Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI), which cover approximately 2850 hectares of land, 40% are in a favourable condition, 2% are in a poor condition and the remaining 58% are still to be surveyed.

There are two Local Nature Reserves in North Dorset, Butts Pond Meadows in Sturminster Newton and Woolland Hill near Woolland village.

²² Source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Figure C1: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)

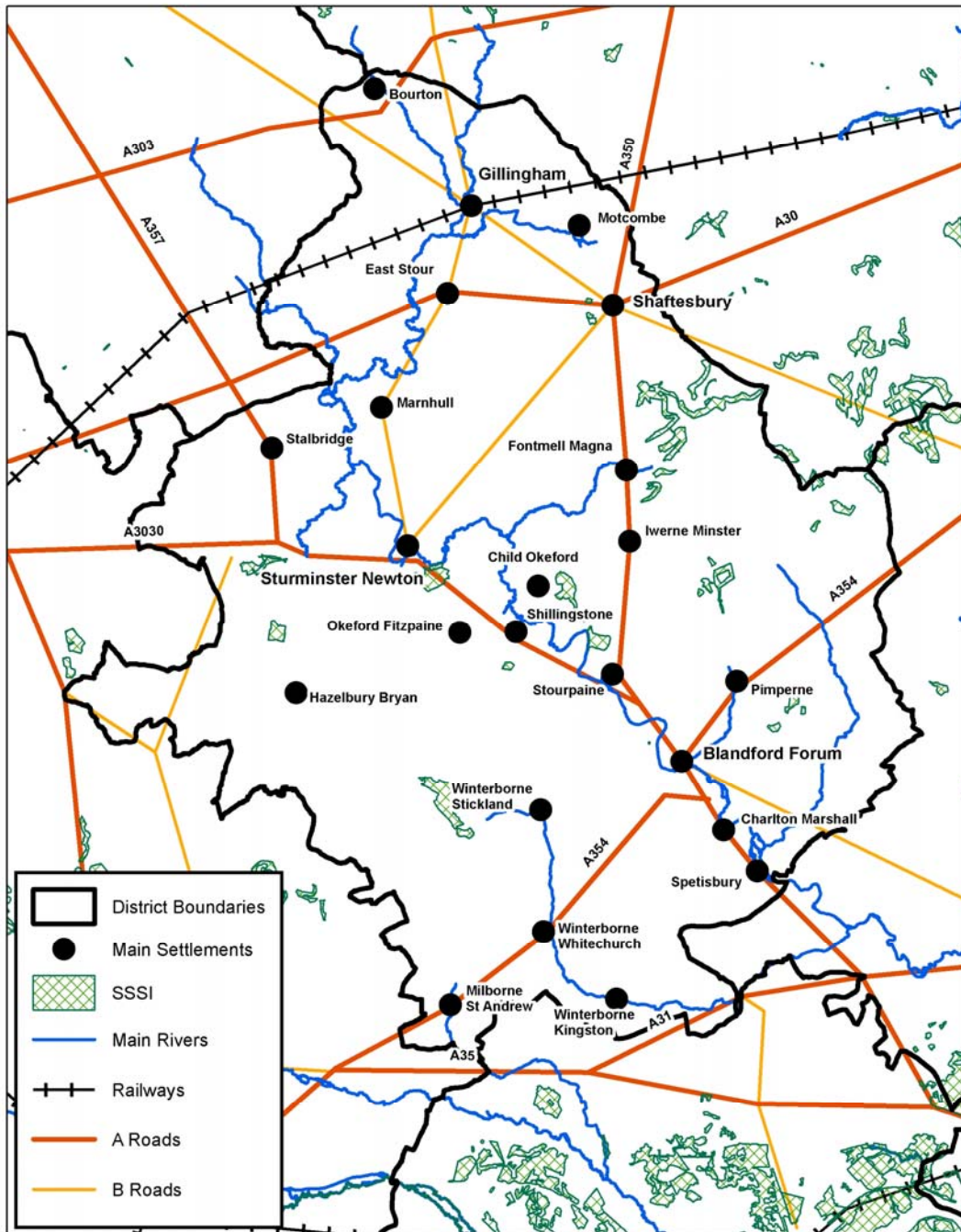


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Figure C2: Sites of Special Scientific Interest



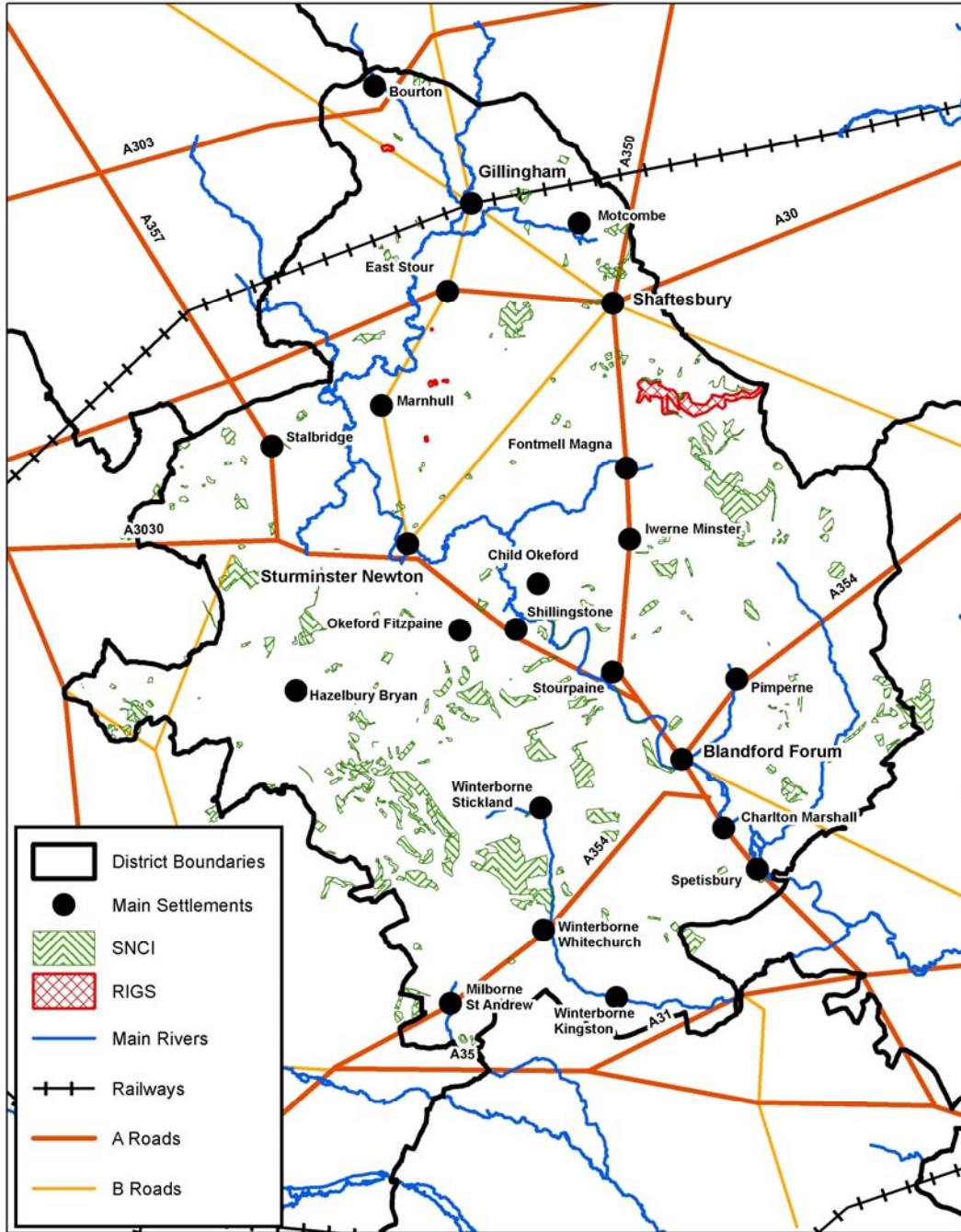
North Dorset District



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Figure C3: Sites of Nature Conservation Interest and Regionally Important Geological Sites



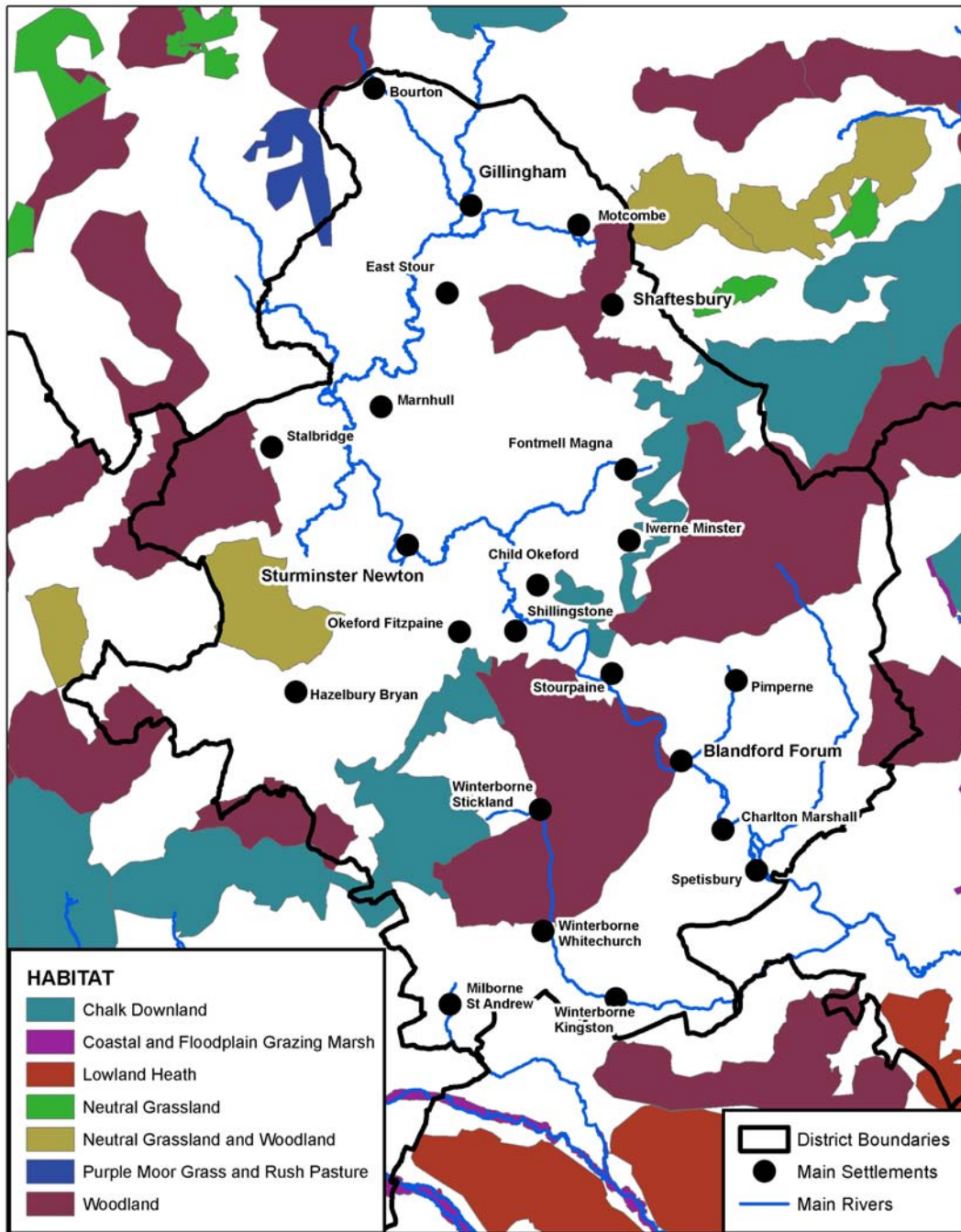
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Figure C4: Southwest Nature Map



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2b Climate Change and Flooding

Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN, 1997)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/internat/un-kyoto.htm>

The Convention recognised that cuts in greenhouse gas emissions were needed to prevent serious anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system. The resultant Kyoto Protocol went some way to achieving this by setting legally binding emissions reduction targets

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Improved energy efficiency
- Lower carbon intensive forms of energy supply (energy and transport)
- Reduced industrial process emissions
- Improved agricultural practices and livestock management
- Management of biodegradable waste

Implications/Targets:

Commitment to reduce overall emissions of a basket of six greenhouse gases by 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels over the period 2008-2012. The DPD should help to achieve this through its policies and the SA should include appropriate objectives.

EC Sixth Environmental Action Programme (EC, 2002)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/intro.htm>

Sets out the framework for environmental policy-making in the European Union for the period 2002-2012 and outlines actions that need to be taken to achieve them. Promotes the integration of environmental concerns in all Community policies and contributes to the achievement of sustainable development

Main objectives/outcomes:

Four environmental priorities:

- climate change;
 - emphasising climate change as an outstanding challenge of the next 10 years
 - a long term objective of a maximum global temperature increase of 2° Celsius over pre-industrial levels
 - require a global reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases by 70% as compared to 1990
- nature and biodiversity;
- environment and health and quality of life;
- natural resources and wastes;

Implications/Targets:

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions will need to be a part of the DPD and the SA will need to highlight areas where this can be achieved.

Climate Change Act, 2008

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/legislation/provisions.htm>

The Act legislates for actions to tackle climate change, introducing new measures including the establishment of a carbon emissions trading scheme and legally binding targets.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- to improve carbon management and help the transition towards a low carbon economy in the UK
- to demonstrate strong UK leadership internationally

Implications/Targets:

Reduce Greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 and reductions in CO₂ emissions of at least 26% by 2020 against 1990 baseline. Emissions of Greenhouse gases can be influenced by future development and therefore the DPD will have an important role to play in achieving these targets. The SA will need to include relevant objectives to aid in achieving these targets.

Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy: Forward Look (DEFRA, 2006)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/>

Builds on the Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy published in 2002. It is structured around five priority themes, which are closely inter-related, a reflection of the inter-dependence of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainability.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Succeeding in the market
- Improving the environmental performance of farming
- Sustainable consumption & production
- Climate change & agriculture
 - address the potential serious impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector such as more frequent storms, heat stress, or increased pest and disease risk
- Animal health & welfare

Implications/Targets:

A wide ranging set of objectives that have implications for North Dorset, building on the earlier document. The DPD will need to consider its role in achieving these aims and the SA will need to highlight areas where this can be achieved.

Towards a Sustainable Transport System (DfT, 2007)

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/>

The Government's response to the Eddington and Stern reports setting out the long-term strategy for the transport network

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Reducing transport's emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of avoiding dangerous climate change.

Implications/Targets:

In relation to climate change these objectives, the transport strategy aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport. The DPD, by reducing the need to travel, can aid in achieving this objective. The SA can highlight areas where this can be done.

Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DfT, 2008)

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/dasts/>

Government strategy to achieve the aims of the 2007 “Towards a Sustainable Transport System” Strategy.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- to reduce transport’s emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of tackling climate change;

Implications/Targets:

The DPD can influence the “what?”, “when?” and “where?” of transport demand and should recognise the links between transport and climate change. For this reason, where the existing network is already overstretched, the DPD should highlight this and locate development in areas where the situation would not be taken to breaking point by the increase in demand. Reducing the need to travel will also help and is an area where the DPD can have an impact. The SA framework should cover the main points of this strategy.

Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change (DCLG, 2007)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppsclimatechange>

Sets out how planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change

Main objectives/outcomes:

- influence energy use and emissions – including renewable and decentralised energy supply
- secure resource and energy efficiency
- deliver zero carbon developments
- create communities that are resilient to the effects of climate change – including open space to allow urban cooling and sustainable drainage
- take into account the risks to development that may arise as a result of climate change, such as flooding, subsidence etc.
- enable innovation in creating low-carbon technologies
- reduce the need to travel
- provide patterns of development that secure the use of sustainable transport
- conserve and enhance biodiversity and allow biodiversity to adapt to a changing climate

Implications/Targets:

The DPD needs to incorporate policies to enable communities to play their part in mitigating climate change and also enable adaptation to the inevitable effects of climatic change. The SA therefore needs to highlight areas where this can be achieved.

Making Space for Water (DEFRA, 2005)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/policy/strategy.htm>

The document sets out the future aim of the Government’s strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Over the 20-year lifetime of the new strategy the Government will:
 - implement a more holistic approach to managing flood and coastal erosion risks in England
 - take account of all sources of flooding
 - embed flood and coastal risk management across a range of

Government policies

- To reduce the threat to human life and property
- Further sustainable development objectives

Implications/Targets:

The SA will need to highlight the importance of flood risk management

Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk (DCLG, 2006)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps25floodrisk>

and

Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk – Practice Guide (DCLG, 2008)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps25practiceguide>

To ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. Where new development is exceptionally necessary in such areas, policy aims to make it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and where possible reducing flood risk overall

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Appraising risk: Identify areas at risk from flooding from all sources through the preparation of Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA)
- Managing risk: Avoid flood risk where possible and manage any residual risk taking into account the inevitable effects of Climate Change. Only allowing development in flood risk areas where there are no other more suitable sites or where the benefits of the development outweigh the risks
- Reducing risk: Safeguard land from development that may be needed for flood management; reduce risk through design and the use of SuDS; where possible reduce the risk of flooding to existing areas by taking opportunities offered by developments

Implications/Targets:

The DPD will need to incorporate policy to manage and reduce flood risk to developments taking into account the inevitable effects of climate change. The results of SFRAs will need to be taken into account to inform the selection of developable land.

Our Environment: Our Future - The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment 2004 - 2014 (SWRA, 2004)

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=521&tt=swra

The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment sets out what is important about our region's environment. It aims to provide a vision and aims for the environment in the future and identify pressures threatening the environment; It identifies six key issues to be tackled (and indicators of change)

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Climate Change - (Greenhouse gas emissions, Rising sea levels, Loss of wildlife, Changes to landscape & historic environment, Lifestyle changes)
 - Integrate climate change into regional strategy and policy development
 - Reduce the causes of climate change
 - Adapt to changes in climate that are now unavoidable
- Spatial Planning - (Greenfield development, Historic building resource, Flooding, Dark skies, Local environment quality)
 - Planning for people – giving communities a greater say in the changes they want in their local environments;

- Positive planning for the environment – maximising opportunities for environmental benefits;
- Integrating environment considerations into planning

Implications/Targets:

A range of objectives with the aim of protecting the Southwest's important environment from further harm. The DPD will need to cover these points and the SA will be able to highlight the points at which it can do so.

Code for Sustainable Homes

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/buildingregulations/legislation/englandwales/codesustainable/>

The Code for Sustainable Homes has been developed to enable a step change in sustainable building practice for new homes. It is intended as a single national standard to guide industry in the design and construction of sustainable homes. It is a means of driving continuous improvement, greater innovation and exemplary achievement in sustainable home building. The Code measures the sustainability of a home against design categories, rating the 'whole home' as a complete package. A mandatory rating is required for all new homes as of 1st May 2008.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- The categories included within the Code are:
 - energy/CO2
 - pollution
 - water
 - health and well-being
 - materials
 - management
 - surface water run-off
 - ecology
 - waste

Implications/Targets:

The national target is to achieve Code Level 6 (Zero Carbon) in all new homes by 2016. The DPD needs to encourage progress towards this target. Progress will aid in achieving wider sustainability goals including social benefits such as tackling fuel poverty

The Nottingham Declaration (The Declaration Partnership, 2000)

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham>

A declaration signed by more than 300 local authorities in England committing to addressing the causes of climate change and to prepare their communities for its impacts

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Welcome the social, economic and environmental benefits which come from combating climate change
- Work at the local level to reduce carbon dioxide emissions
- Develop plans to address the causes and impacts of climate change
- Encourage all sectors of the community to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions

Implications/Targets:

North Dorset has made a public declaration to tackling climate change by signing the Nottingham Declaration. The DPD therefore needs to reflect this.

Baseline data:

A strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) has been completed for the district. Approximately 4% of properties (around 1,300) are at risk from flooding from rivers in North Dorset.

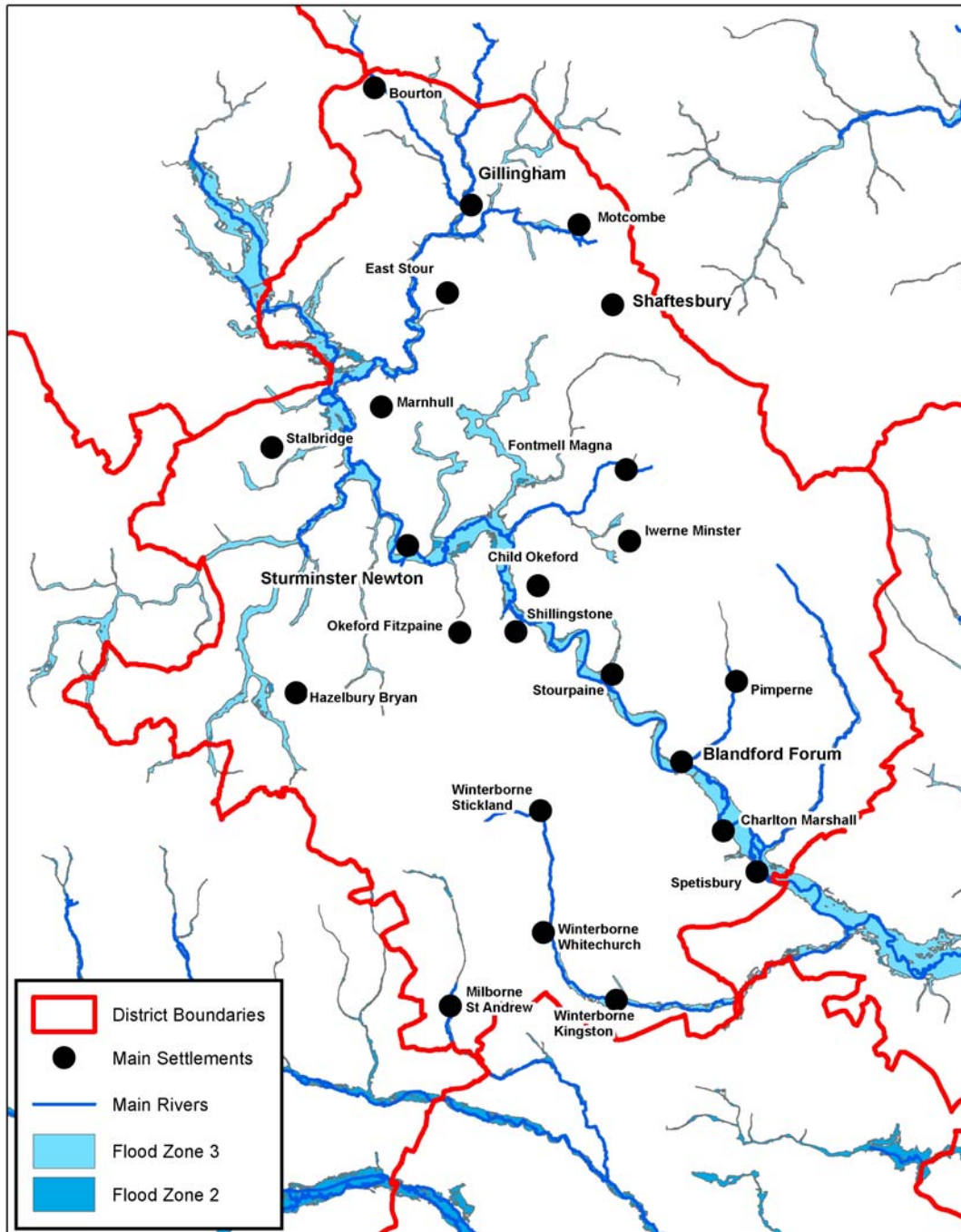
The following key potential impacts of climate change on the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase Character Area were identified in a recent Natural England study²³

- Due to seasonal drought and flood events a change in species and communities that make up habitats would occur;
- Due to high winds, veteran trees and isolated parkland trees would be lost (although the positive impact of storms on biodiversity in woodlands was also mentioned);
- Due to an increase in winter rainfall soil erosion would result in silt and nutrients being washed in streams and rivers;
- Due to weather extremes the amount, distribution and type of access and recreation in the area would be affected and that an increase in visitor numbers would have negative impacts on wildlife and landscapes.

Potentially, the landscape of the Character Area could be significantly impacted by climate change and it is possible that by the end of 21st century, the area will resemble that of the southern Mediterranean at present.

²³ Responding to the impacts of climate change on the natural environment: Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/climateandenergy/climatechange/adaptation/naturalengland.aspx>

Figure C5: Areas at risk of flooding



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2c Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Archaeology

Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance (ODPM, 2000)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/ourtowns>

The document sets out the Government's vision of urban living in towns, cities and suburbs which offer a high quality of life and opportunity for all. It sets out the Government's overall strategy for tackling poverty and social exclusion and fostering economic growth in a way that benefits all citizens.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- people shaping the future of their community, supported by strong and truly representative local leaders;
- attractive, well kept towns and cities which use space and buildings well;
- good design and planning which makes it practical to live in a more environmentally sustainable way, with less noise, pollution and traffic congestion;

This urban renaissance will benefit everyone, making towns and cities vibrant and successful, and protecting the countryside from development pressure.

Implications/Targets:

The objectives of this strategy directly relate to the market towns and built up areas of North Dorset. The DPD will need to take steps in achieving these objectives therefore rejuvenating the urban areas but also reducing pressure on greenfield development. The SA will need to highlight where it can do so.

Rural Strategy (DEFRA, 2004)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/strategy/default.htm>

Rural Strategy 2004 sets out the Government's new approach to rural policy. It builds on the rural white paper updating the objectives in the light of new evidence. It sets out the actions that will be taken by Government over the next three to five years.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Enhancing the Value of our Countryside – protecting the natural environment for this and future generations

Implications/Targets:

The priorities in this strategy accord strongly with the issue in North Dorset. The DPD will therefore have a key role in helping to achieve these priorities and the SA will need to highlight areas where this can be done.

Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy: Forward Look (DEFRA, 2006)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/>

Builds on the Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy published in 2002. It is structured around five priority themes, which are closely inter-related, a reflection of the inter-dependence of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainability.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Succeeding in the market
- Improving the environmental performance of farming
 - recognition that the critical importance of farming practices for the environment – our landscape, our wildlife and biodiversity, the quality of our soils, air and water – cannot be over-stated

- Sustainable consumption & production
 - recognition of the public goods, such as the quality of the countryside
- Climate change & agriculture
- Animal health & welfare

Implications/Targets:

A wide ranging set of objectives that have implications for North Dorset, building on the earlier document. The DPD will need to consider its role in achieving these aims and the SA will need to highlight areas where this can be achieved.

Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (ODPM, 2004)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps7>

Sets out the Government's planning policies for rural areas. The policies in this statement apply to rural areas, including country towns and villages and the wider, largely undeveloped countryside up to the fringes of larger urban areas. This therefore applies to the majority of North Dorset outside of the main towns.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas
- To protect the landscapes of the AONBs
- To promote more sustainable patterns of development

Implications/Targets:

The policies in this document are applicable to North Dorset and should be reflected in the DPD where applicable. The SA should reflect their application to the rural areas but also have regard to the need for sustainable development and the relationship with the main towns.

Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (DCLG, 1994)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg15>

Outlines the approach to preserving the Country's historical assets through the planning system.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- "The protection of the historic environment, whether individual listed buildings, conservation areas, parks and gardens, battlefields will need to be taken fully into account both in the formulation of authorities' planning policies and in development control"
- To preserve or enhance the character or appearance of any conservation area
- To protect registered parks and gardens
- To maintain image setting and local distinctiveness

Implications/Targets:

The SA will need to incorporate objectives related to the historic environment to highlight where the DPD can aid in the conservation and preservation of historic assets.

Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning (TSO, 1990)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg16>

Sets out policy on archaeological remains on land, and how they should be preserved or recorded both in an urban setting and in the countryside

Main objectives/outcomes:

- appropriate management essential to ensure that remains are not damaged or destroyed
- reduce the areas of potential conflict between development and preservation through good planning
- reconcile the need for development with the interests of conservation including archaeology

Implications/Targets:

The preservation of archaeological remains needs to be covered in the SA and areas where the DPD can aid in their preservation need to be highlighted.

Planning (Listed building and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1990/Ukpga_19900009_en_1

Act of parliament giving legal protection to buildings which are listed or which lie within a conservation area.

Main objectives/outcomes:

Planning permission is required for:

- All works affecting a scheduled monument or the ground surrounding it
- The demolition or alteration of a listed building and historic structures within its grounds
- The demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area
- Alterations to the exterior of buildings in conservation areas

Implications/Targets:

The Act gives protection to Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, however the DPD will also need to include policy references to their protection. The SA will also need to highlight this.

Hedgerow Regulations (1997)

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1997/19971160.htm>

Legislation that covers the protection of hedgerows.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Local planning authority permission is required before removing hedges that are at least 20 meters in length, more than 30 years old and contain certain species of plant.

Implications/Targets:

Hedgerows are important to the landscape of North Dorset and therefore need to be protected. The SA should therefore include hedgerow protection as important to the character and biodiversity of the area.

Keepers of time: A statement of policy for England's Ancient and Native Woodland (Forestry Commission England, 2005)

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/keepersoftime>

This statement updates the government's policy towards woodlands and trees by re-emphasising their value, evaluating threats and opportunities and setting out a range of actions to improve their protection and quality.

“Ancient woodlands, veteran trees and other native woodlands are adequately protected, sustainably managed in a wider landscape context, and are providing a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits to society.”

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Preservation of woodlands
- Acknowledgement of the wider benefits of woodlands, such as pollution

mitigation

- Recognition of woodlands as a resource for renewable energy, timber etc
- Preservation of woodlands for their biodiversity value including for priority species
- Improve knowledge and awareness of woodland heritage and their importance in the landscape
- Increase the use of woodlands for leisure and recreation

Implications/Targets:

The importance of woodlands and forests within the landscape and for recreation needs to be acknowledged in the DPD and SA and their preservation needs to be secured.

A better place to be: Culture and the Southwest of England (Culture Southwest, 2008)

<http://www.culturesouthwest.org.uk/about/index.asp>

Sets out a strategy for cultural provision in the Southwest. Its vision is to ensure that Southwest England is the region of choice for vibrant cultural activity, where engaged individuals build creative communities, where culture is seen as a core component of all regional development and a vital contributor to the quality of life of everyone in the region.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Harnessing the benefits of population growth and managing the implications of population change
 - Provide green community spaces where people live
- Promoting economic prosperity, quality of employment and employment opportunity
- Ensuring that people are treated fairly and can participate fully in society
- Challenging deprivation and disadvantage and reducing inequality
- Enhancing our distinctive environments and the quality and diversity of our cultural life
 - Consider carbon reduction targets and adaptation to unavoidable climate change
 - Ensuring quality design in urban planning giving a sense of identity and place, taking cultural considerations in developments

Implications/Targets:

The DPD should consider the potential of North Dorset's cultural assets to deliver a wide range of benefits. The SA can highlight where measures can be incorporated into policies.

A Strategy for the Historic Environment in the Southwest (English Heritage, 2004)

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/sw_strategy_HE2004.pdf?1236869145

The Strategy represents an important first step in raising the profile of the historic environment and ensuring it is reflected fully in the key strategies, plans and policies that will guide change over the coming years.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Ensure the historic environment is integrated into the region's policy framework
 - Highlight heritage led regeneration successes
 - Undertake heritage character appraisals and landscape character

- appraisals and integrate them into decision making
 - Include heritage considerations in urban extensions to settlements
 - Encourage good design and the inclusion of design requirements in statutory plans
- Develop positive and creative partnerships that reflect the many linkages and opportunities in the south west
 - Increase training in traditional conservation and management skills
- Ensure the historic environment is accessible and relevant to people in their everyday lives
- Raise awareness of the historic dimension of the wider environment and its contribution to quality of life
 - Increase understanding of the link between the HE and economic activity, identifying examples of best practice. This should cover sustainable tourism, regeneration and development sectors

Implications/Targets:

The DPD needs to incorporate policies on design and the value of the built and natural heritage of North Dorset. The SA will also need to incorporate objectives reflecting these priorities

Our Environment: Our Future - The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment 2004 - 2014 (SWRA, 2004)

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/ngcontent.cfm?a_id=521&tt=swra

The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment sets out what is important about our region's environment. It aims to provide a vision and aims for the environment in the future and identify pressures threatening the environment; It identifies six key issues to be tackled (and indicators of change)

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Food, Farming and Forestry - (Farmland birds, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Field Boundaries, Woodland, Farmers markets)
 - Encourage outstanding environmental management in the region's farming and forestry businesses;
 - Develop an integrated rural land use system to support better delivery of environmental benefits;
 - Develop environmentally-focussed supply chains to provide healthy, profitable food and drink and an enhanced environment.
- Tourism - (Bathing water quality, Visitor pressure, Car use, Local distinctiveness, Access to open spaces)
 - Better understanding of the impacts of tourism and leisure on the environment and communities;
 - Enhance the environmental resource;
 - Reduce the impacts of tourism and leisure on our environmental assets.
- Spatial Planning - (Greenfield development, Historic building resource, Flooding, Dark skies, Local environment quality)
 - Planning for people – giving communities a greater say in the changes they want in their local environments;
 - Positive planning for the environment – maximising opportunities for environmental benefits;
 - Integrating environment considerations into planning

Implications/Targets:

A range of objectives with the aim of protecting the Southwest's important environment from further harm. The DPD will need to cover these points and the SA

will be able to highlight the points at which it can do so.

draft Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 (AONB Partnership, 2008)

http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk/whats_new/publications.asp

The draft management plan contains an overall vision for the AONB which includes three subdivisions (environment, community and economy) plus a cross cutting theme that reflect the AONB's contribution to sustainability. Drawn from the vision are seven community priorities, structured around the four themes

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Cross cutting -
 - Increase the levels of awareness and understanding of the AONB
- Distinctive local landscapes -
 - Conserve and enhance the landscape character, habitats, species and tranquillity of the AONB
 - Conserve and enhance the historic, archaeological and cultural features within their distinctive landscape settings
- Vibrant local communities -
 - Support and influence innovative ways of maintaining and providing access to community facilities and services
 - Conserve and enhance the distinctive character of the built environment within its historic, cultural and landscape setting
 - Promote the management of the impact of traffic on the AONB
- Towards a sustainable economy -
 - Support the rural economy in ways that are sustainable

Implications/Targets:

The aims of the strategy are closely aligned to the DPD. Inclusion of appropriate SA Objectives will enable coordinated efforts to achieve them.

Dorset AONB Management Plan 2009-14 (AONB Partnership, 2009)

<http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/text01.asp?PageId=227>

The primary purpose of this plan is to conserve and enhance the beauty, heritage and health of the landscape and environment of the Dorset AONB and to ensure that the AONB continues to provide opportunities for people and communities.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Landscape: Conservation and enhancement of landscape character and beauty
- Biodiversity: Restoration, conservation, reversal of decline and sustainable management of habitats and biodiversity
- Earth Heritage: Increase understanding and awareness of the importance of geology in shaping the landscape
- Historic Environment: Conservation and sustainable management of the historic environment
- Built Environment: Conserve the architectural heritage and character of the built environment; ensuring development has regard to landscape character
- Farming & Agricultural Land Management: Ensure that farming can help provide a beautiful and healthy landscape and environment and contribute to

rural viability and way of life.

- Trees, Woodland and Forestry: Promote sustainable multi-purpose forestry and woodland, including an increase in tree cover guided by landscape character
- Access and Recreation: Facilitate enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB. Encourage sustainable access and recreation including integration with sustainable transport provision.
- Tourism: Promote the benefits of sustainable tourism
- Transport: The provision of sustainable travel options for residents and visitors to reduce car dependency
- People, Jobs and Services: Ensure that rural communities are able to access essential services, economic / employment opportunities
- Managing Natural Resources: Ensure that natural beauty is a key consideration within strategic land management and management of natural resources

Implications/Targets:

The preservation of the important landscapes and natural beauty of the AONB are also important to the DPD and therefore there is a crossover between the DPD and this management plan. The SA will need to incorporate landscape related objectives

Dorset Heritage Strategy (Dorset County Council, Undated)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media/pdf/f/4/HeritageStrategyMain.pdf>

The strategy sets out the objectives and priorities for the management of Dorset's heritage based around six main themes

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Identification of heritage assets
- Conservation of heritage assets
- Education and Interpretation of our heritage
- Promote sensitive stewardship of the heritage assets
- Enable access to the assets whilst conserving them
- Encourage and support local organisations concerned with protection of the heritage

Implications/Targets:

The management of heritage assets fits in with the objectives of the DPD and helps to enhance community cohesion. It will also have an impact on the landscape of North Dorset.

European Landscape Convention (EU, 2000)

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/176.htm>

This Convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes. The aims of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity
- Establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection,

management and planning

- Establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies
- Integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape

Implications/Targets

Promotion of the wider value of landscape in planning and its importance to individuals

The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS, 2001)

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/4667.aspx/

This statement looks at translating the Government's vision for the future of the historic environment into reality.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Responding to the public interest in the historic environment with firm leadership, effective partnerships and a sound knowledge base from which to develop policies
- Realising the educational potential of the historic environment as a learning resource
- Including and involving people: to make the historic environment accessible to everyone and ensure that it is seen as something with which the whole of society can identify and engage
- Protecting and sustaining the historic environment for the benefit of our own and future generations
- Optimising potential: to ensure that the historic environment's importance as an economic asset is skilfully harnessed

Implications/Targets

Promotion of the importance of the historic environment, making it more accessible to everyone. The SA will need to include an objective related to the historic environment

Baseline data:

North Dorset is partially covered by two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) The Dorset AONB covers approximately 17% of the district and the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB covers approximately 21%. The area covered by the two AONBs is shown on Figure A1.

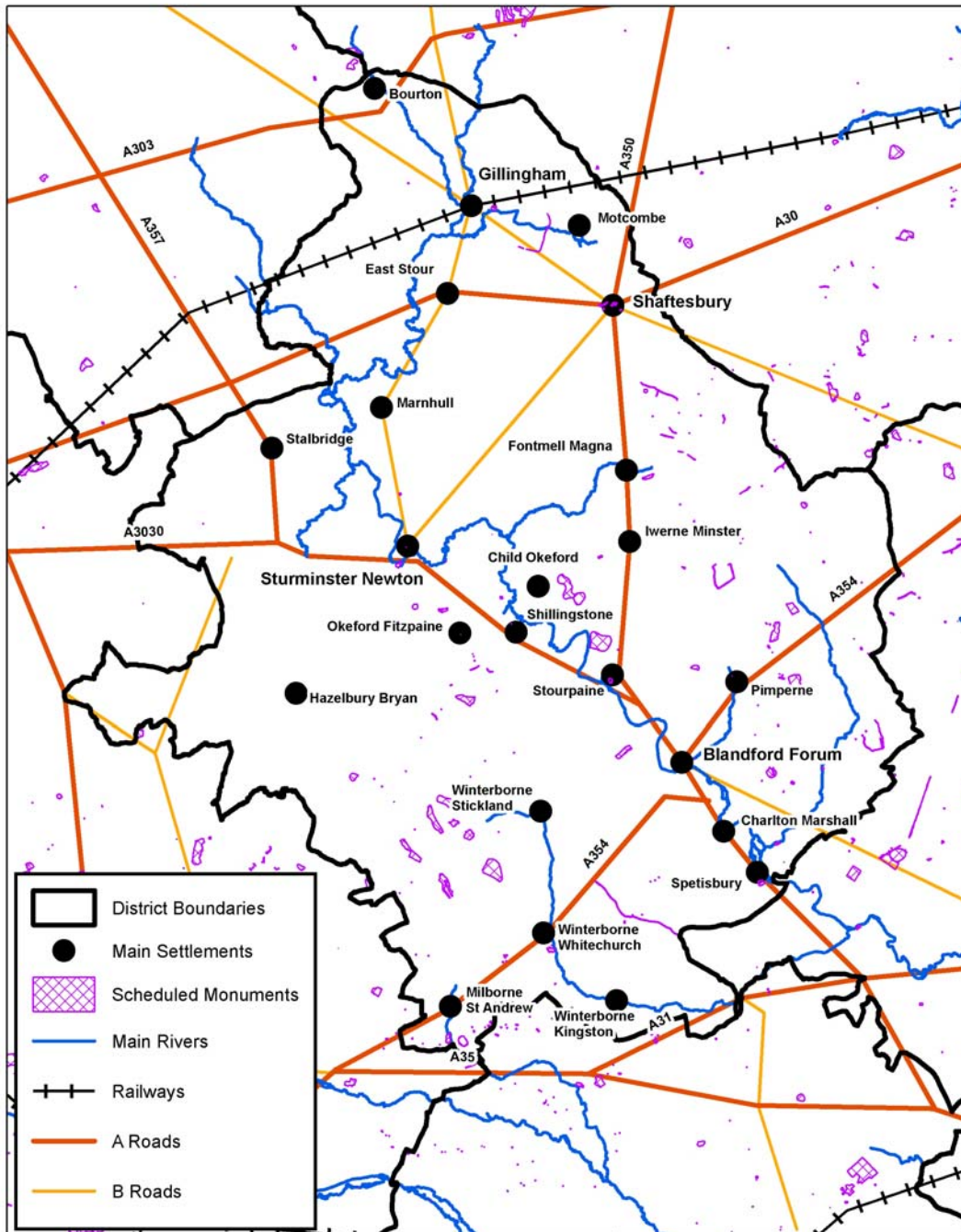
There are also several areas of distinctive landscape that North Dorset its special character, dividing the district diagonally into two parts. These are primarily the Blackmore Vale and the Vale of Wardour to the North and West and Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase to the South and East.

There are 178 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM), of these 136 (76%) are considered to be at risk. Within North Dorset there are 134 Grade I or grade II* listed buildings, of these only two are considered to be at risk.

The district has 45 conservation areas which are made up of unique groups of older buildings, open spaces, and trees. These conservation areas and these are subject to a rolling program of appraisal to assess their quality and to see if they are under

threat from degradation. The results of these will form part of future baseline data and will be used to monitor the impacts of development on the historic environment.

Figure C6: Scheduled Ancient Monuments



North Dorset District



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2d	Pollution
<p>Aarhus Convention (EC, 1998) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/ Establishes a number of rights for the public with regard to the environment <i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the right of everyone to receive environmental information that is held by public authorities ○ the right to participate in environmental decision-making ○ the right to challenge public decisions made concerning the environment <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i> The DPD and especially the SA need to be open about the environmental information that has been used as the basis for decision making.</p>	
<p>Air Quality Framework Directive, 96/62/EC (EC, 1996) and Daughter Directives 99/30/EC, 2000/69/EC and 2002/3/EC http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/legislation/existing_leg.htm Defines the policy framework for the assessment and management of 12 air pollutants known to have a harmful effect on human health and the environment <i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The main purpose is to improve air quality through continual monitoring ○ Maintain ambient air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases. <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i> Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) indicate areas where air quality targets are not presently met. The implications of these needs to be taken into account in the DPD and development should not make things worse than the current situation. The SA framework should incorporate objectives to highlight the implications of high levels of air pollution.</p>	
<p>Air Quality Strategy (DEFRA, 2007) http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/strategy/ The strategy sets out the long term approach and standards applicable to air quality management <i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all citizens should have access to outdoor air without significant risk to their health, ○ Sets air quality targets for a range of air borne pollutants <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i> The DPD can take steps to reduce the impact of air borne pollutants through the location of pollution sources. The SA will need to highlight the areas where this could be possible.</p>	

Environmental Noise Directive, 2002/49/EC (EC, 2002)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/directive.htm>

Provision of a common basis for tackling the noise problem through the production of "strategic noise maps" for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Informing and consulting the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise, in line with the principles of the Aarhus Convention
- Requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good
- Objectives to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term

Implications/Targets:

The DPD needs to consider the implications of noise pollution from development with the aim that the situation doesn't become worse over time. The SA should therefore include the loss of amenity from noise pollution as one of its objectives

Nitrates Directive, 91/676/EEC (EC, 1991)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-nitrates/index_en.html

Aims to reduce water pollution caused by nitrogen from agricultural sources and to prevent such pollution in the future. Requirement to: designate areas that are affected by nitrate pollution as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs); establish a voluntary code of good agricultural practice to be followed by all farmers; establish a mandatory Action Programme of measures for the purposes of tackling nitrate loss from agriculture and; review the extent of their NVZs and the effectiveness of their Action Programmes at least every four years.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Prevention of eutrophication and water pollution
- Human health and ecosystem protection

Implications/Targets:

NVZs covers approximately 50% of North Dorset's Land area and therefore the DPD will need to be aware of these. The SA will also need to take the potential impacts into account during the appraisal process.

Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, 91/271/EEC as amended by 98/15/EEC (EC, 1998)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/index_en.html

Aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges into watercourses.

The amendments made by directive 98/15/EEC relate to certain limits included in the original directive.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Strict controls on waste water discharges from sewerage treatment works serving urban areas over 2,000 population
- Designation of "Sensitive Areas" where even stricter controls are in force
- Reduction in pollution from sewer overflows caused by storm water taking into account seasonal variations

Implications/Targets:

The DPD will need to ensure that waste water is minimised and that sustainable controls are in place for all new developments for example the promotion of SuDS.

EC Sixth Environmental Action Programme (EC, 2002)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/intro.htm>

Sets out the framework for environmental policy-making in the European Union for the period 2002-2012 and outlines actions that need to be taken to achieve them. Promotes the integration of environmental concerns in all Community policies and contributes to the achievement of sustainable development

Main objectives/outcomes:

Four environmental priorities:

- climate change;
- nature and biodiversity;
- environment and health and quality of life;
 - improve quality of life and social well being by reducing pollution and encouraging sustainable urban development
- natural resources and wastes;

Implications/Targets:

The reduction of pollution to improve quality of life and the environment will need to be considered by the DPD and the SA will need to highlight areas where this can be achieved.

Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy: Forward Look (DEFRA, 2006)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/>

Builds on the Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy published in 2002. It is structured around five priority themes, which are closely inter-related, a reflection of the inter-dependence of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainability.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Succeeding in the market
- Improving the environmental performance of farming
 - recognition that the critical importance of farming practices for the environment – our landscape, our wildlife and biodiversity, the quality of our soils, air and water – cannot be over-stated
 - environmental protection, resource management, and pollution control
- Sustainable consumption & production
- Climate change & agriculture
- Animal health & welfare

Implications/Targets:

A wide ranging set of objectives that have implications for North Dorset, building on the earlier document. The DPD will need to consider its role in achieving these aims and the SA will need to highlight areas where this can be achieved.

Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance (ODPM, 2000)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/ourtowns>

The document sets out the Government's vision of urban living in towns, cities and suburbs which offer a high quality of life and opportunity for all. It sets out the Government's overall strategy for tackling poverty and social exclusion and fostering economic growth in a way that benefits all citizens.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- people shaping the future of their community, supported by strong and truly

representative local leaders;

- good design and planning which makes it practical to live in a more environmentally sustainable way, with less noise, pollution and traffic congestion

This urban renaissance will benefit everyone, making towns and cities vibrant and successful, and protecting the countryside from development pressure.

Implications/Targets:

The objectives of this strategy directly relate to the market towns and built up areas of North Dorset. The DPD will need to take steps in achieving these objectives therefore rejuvenating the urban areas but also reducing pressure on greenfield development. The SA will need to highlight where it can do so.

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation (ODPM, 2002)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance17>

Sets out the objectives and importance of open space, sport and recreation

Main objectives/outcomes:

Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives

- supporting an urban renaissance - through recreation, biodiversity, air quality, and general increase in attractiveness
- supporting a rural renewal
- promotion of social inclusion and community
- health and well being
- promoting more sustainable development - by encouraging cycling and walking and by locating sports and recreation space in areas well served by public transport

Implications/Targets:

A network of open spaces will contribute to a range of objectives that will be covered by the DPD. The SA objectives will need to incorporate the need for establishing this network rather than stand alone open space.

Planning Policy Statement 24: Planning and pollution Control (ODPM, 2004)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg24>

This policy statement is intended to complement the new pollution control framework under the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 and the PPC Regulations 2000

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To meet the country's economic, social and environmental needs, whilst recognising the precautionary principle
- Urban and rural regeneration and the redevelopment of previously developed sites
- Polluting activities should be sited and planned, and subject to such planning conditions, that their adverse effects are minimised and contained to within acceptable limits, ensuring other uses and developments are not affected by existing or potential sources of pollution
- Contamination in land can present risks to human health and the environment which affects the beneficial use of land, development can be an opportunity to deal with contamination

Implications/Targets:

Planning policies must reflect the guidance in addressing pollution and potential pollution issues. Issues such as contaminated land will need to be considered for example when allocating new land for development.

Our Environment: Our Future - The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment 2004 - 2014 (SWRA, 2004)

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=521&tt=swra

The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment sets out what is important about our region's environment. It aims to provide a vision and aims for the environment in the future and identify pressures threatening the environment; It identifies six key issues to be tackled (and indicators of change)

Main objectives/outcomes:

- **Wiser Use of Natural Resources** - (Water quality, Air quality, Diffuse pollution, Waste, Mineral extraction)
 - Promote a strategic approach to management of our natural resources
 - Promote sustainable use of our natural resources
 - Reduce pollution
 - Minimise waste
 - Support delivery of integrated coastal zone management
- **Spatial Planning** - (Greenfield development, Historic building resource, Flooding, Dark skies, Local environment quality)
 - Planning for people – giving communities a greater say in the changes they want in their local environments;
 - Positive planning for the environment – maximising opportunities for environmental benefits;
 - Integrating environment considerations into planning
- **Transport** - (Traffic growth, Alternative fuels, Local air quality, Tranquil areas)
 - Minimise the impact of transport on the environment
 - Provide safe, integrated transport systems accessible to all
 - Provide *alternatives to fossil-fuelled transport*

Implications/Targets:

A range of objectives with the aim of protecting the Southwest's important environment from further harm. The DPD will need to cover these points and the SA will be able to highlight the points at which it can do so.

Baseline data:

The North Dorset Air Quality Report 2007 shows that there are no air quality management areas in the district and that air quality objectives for the district are being met.

CO₂ (equivalent) emissions contribute to climate Change and action needs to be taken to control the growth and where possible reduce their emission. The total emissions in 2006 are slightly higher than those for 2005. Domestic uses are the largest contributors to carbon emissions in the district, followed by industrial/commercial uses and then road transport uses.

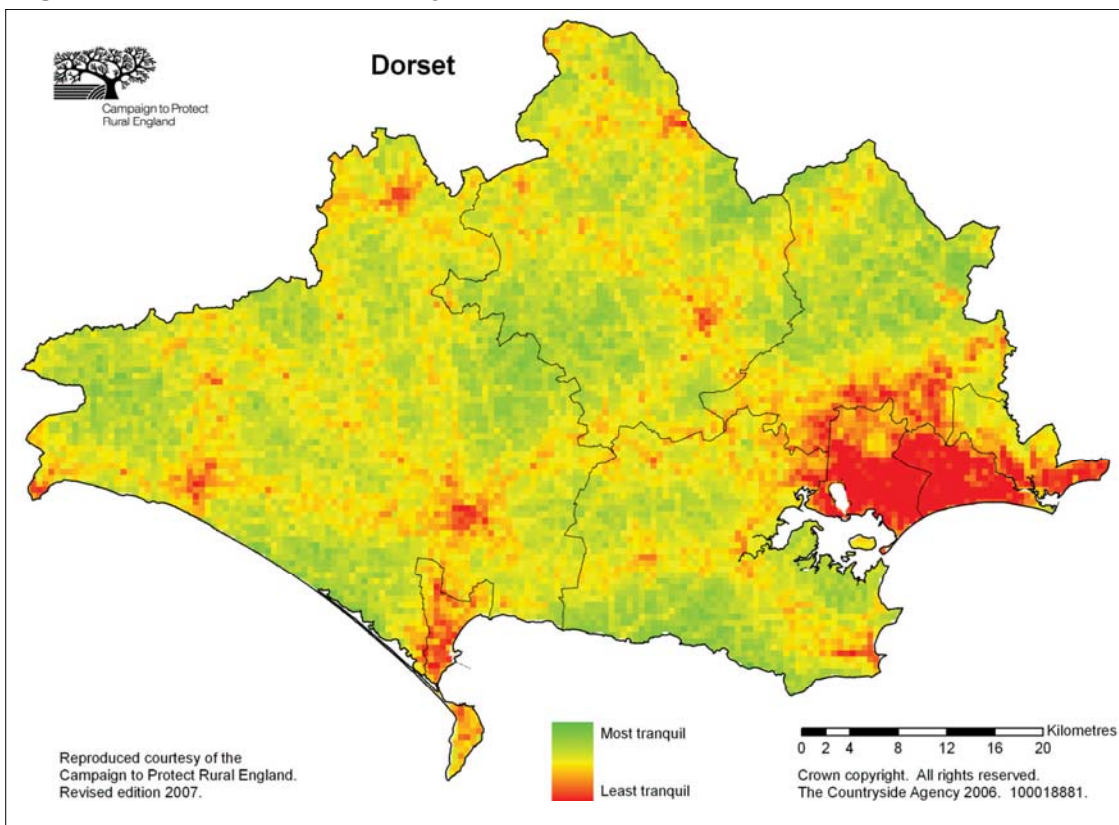
Table C1: Carbon Dioxide emissions estimates by sector (kt CO₂)²⁴

	Industry & Commercial	Domestic	Road Transport	Total
2005	141	178	123	448
2006	146	184	122	458

Both the biological and chemical quality of water in North Dorset's rivers has improved over the last ten years. In 2006 94% of rivers were classified as biologically good or very good, compared to 88% in 1995. In 2006 64% of rivers were classified as chemically good or very good, compared to 34% in 1995.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) periodically assess the levels of tranquillity across the country, using 44 different criteria to show how likely a person is to experience tranquillity in any one 500m² area. Dorset County was assessed as 13th out of 87 county/unitary areas across England.

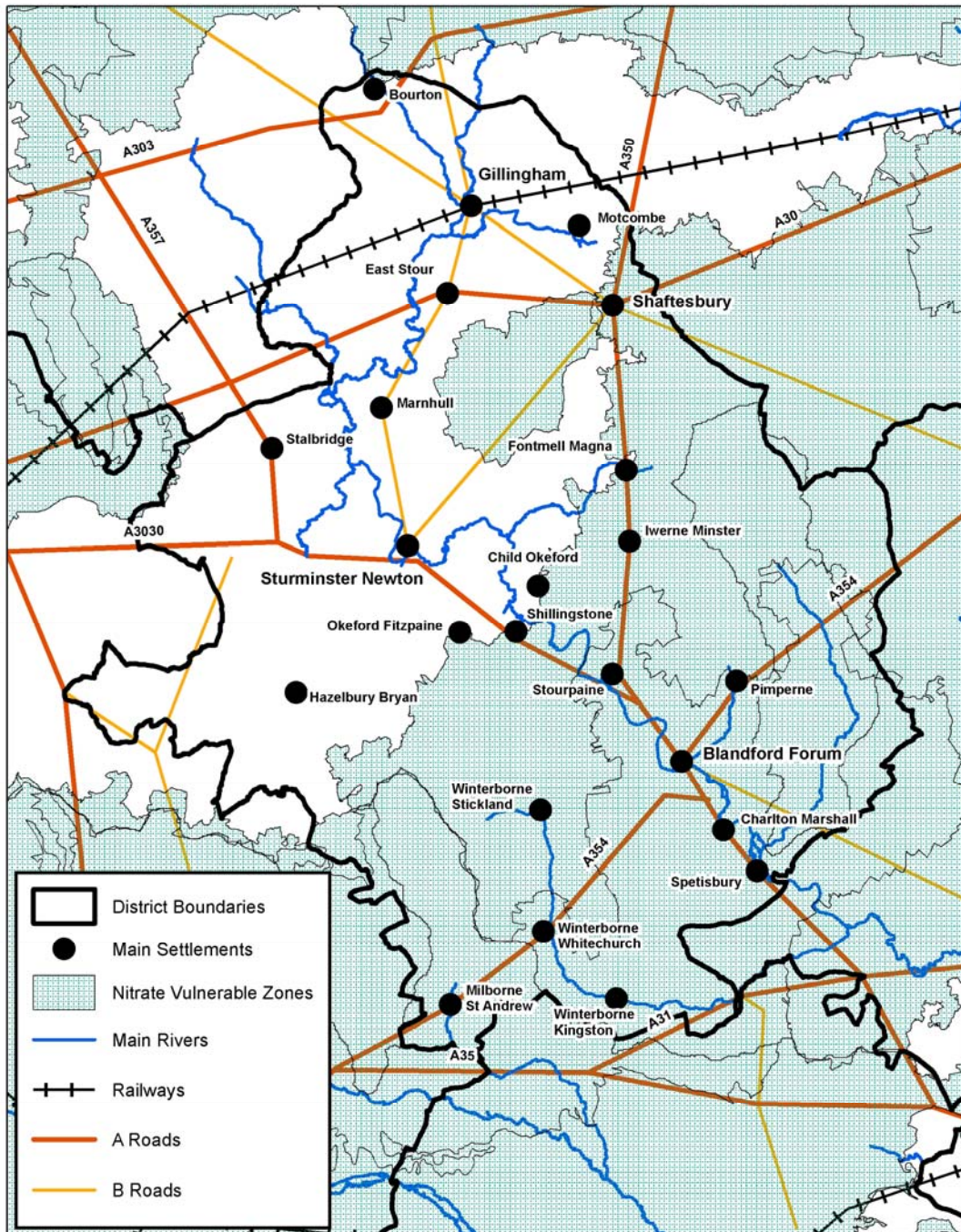
Figure C7: Areas of Tranquillity in Dorset²⁵



²⁴ Source: DEFRA

²⁵ Source: CPRE, 2007

Figure C8: Nitrate Vulnerable Zones



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Possible indicators

SA Objective	Indicator
6. Reduce the impact of Climate Change, including flood risk and make the best use of opportunities that arise	Planning application granted contrary to advice from the Environment Agency on flood or water quality grounds
	Number of properties at risk from flooding
7. Protect and where opportunities arise enhance habitats and biodiversity	Changes in areas recognised for their biodiversity importance
	Local Nature Reserves – number of hectares compared to Natural England target of 1 hectare per 1000 population
	Number of tree preservation orders per annum against a target.
3. Improve the health and wellbeing of the population through reducing poverty and encouraging healthy lifestyles	Percentage of green space managed to the Green Flag Standard
8. Improve the quality of the built environment, protecting the district's heritage assets and distinctive townscapes	Number of SAMs at risk
	Number of grade I and II* listed buildings classified as at risk
	Score against "Building for Life" criteria for major residential developments
	Conservation Area Appraisal results
10. Reduce impacts on the environment	Any air quality management Areas in North Dorset (yes/No)
	Carbon Dioxide emissions for North Dorset

Appendix D: Prudent use of Natural Resources

- D.1. Natural resources are important to sustain the population of an area. These can range from the water we drink to the minerals that are extracted to provide building materials. In addition to protecting the environmental resources of North Dorset, the use of these resources is an important element of sustainable development. The careful use of these resources so that future generations can enjoy a sustainable existence is therefore important.
- D.2. The topics covered in this section are:
- Waste
 - Natural Resources, Water and Soil
 - Energy Consumption and Energy Efficiency

3a	Waste
	<p>Waste to Landfill Directive, 99/31/EC (EC, 1999) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm</p> <p>The directive aims to reduce the negative effects of landfill on the environment by applying stringent requirements on waste and on landfill sites.</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Directive is intended to prevent or reduce the adverse effects of the landfill of waste on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air and human health○ Categorises waste into hazardous, non-hazardous and inert <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>The reduction of the impact on the environment can best be achieved through reductions in waste and therefore the encouragement of recycling should feature in the DPD and in the SA framework.</p>
	<p>EC Sixth Environmental Action Programme (2002) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/intro.htm</p> <p>Sets out the framework for environmental policy-making in the European Union for the period 2002-2012 and outlines actions that need to be taken to achieve them. Promotes the integration of environmental concerns in all Community policies and contributes to the achievement of sustainable development</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <p>Four environmental priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ climate change;○ nature and biodiversity;○ environment and health and quality of life;○ natural resources and wastes;<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ better resource efficiency and resource and waste management▪ decoupling the use of resources and generation of waste from the rate of economic growth▪ ensure that the consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources does not exceed the carrying capacity of the environment <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>The DPD will need to encourage the use of renewable resources and the reduction of waste. The SA will need to highlight areas where this can be achieved.</p>

Waste Strategy for England 2007

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ENVIRONMENT/waste/strategy/>

This sets out our vision for sustainable waste management. It builds on the Waste Strategy 2000 but aims for greater ambition by addressing the key challenges for the future through additional steps. Efforts are targeted at producers, retailers, consumers, local authorities and the waste management industry

Main objectives/outcomes:

- More emphasis on waste prevention and re-use, decoupling waste growth from economic growth
- Meet and exceed landfill directive diversion targets
- Invest in the necessary infrastructure
- Increase recycling of resources and recovery of energy from residual waste
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from waste management

Implications/Targets:

The levels of household, industrial and construction industry waste can be influenced by the DPD through the promotion of re-use and recycling. The SA therefore needs to include objectives relating to waste reduction.

Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (ODPM, 2005)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicystatement10>

Government policy on waste is to protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible

Main objectives/outcomes:

- drive waste management up the waste hierarchy, addressing waste as a resource and looking to disposal as the last option
- provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste
- help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment
- ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management

Implications/Targets:

The SA should highlight the implications of the policies in the DPD in relation to the creation and management of waste.

From Rubbish to Resource, The Regional Waste Strategy for the South West 2004 - 2020 (Southwest Regional Assembly, 2004)

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/ngcontent.cfm?a_id=500

The strategy sets out the aims of achieving a reduction in waste across the Southwest. It proposes new ways to manage our waste more effectively, and to realise the value of what is being thrown away.

Main objectives/outcomes:

Adopting the 'waste hierarchy' so that:

- First we seek to reduce the amount of waste we all produce
- Second we reuse as much as possible
- Third we recycle
- Fourth we recover as much value as we can from what is left
- Only as a last resort do we dispose of the left over waste and then we should:

- Always dispose of waste as close as possible to where it is produced
- Make sure we always look for solutions which give the best practicable outcome environmentally
- Work together across geographic boundaries for more effective solutions to waste issues

Implications/Targets:

The Waste Strategy aims to ensure that by the year 2020 over 45% of waste is recycled and reused and less than 20% of waste produced in the region will be landfilled.

Dorset Minerals and Waste Local Plan: adopted plan (Dorset County Council, 1999)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=16256>

Provides policies for all aspects of land-use in connection with mineral working and the handling, processing or disposing of waste

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Promote, as far as practical, to develop a balance between the need for minerals and waste disposal facilities and the need to protect the environment
- Encourage the most efficient use of resources
- Seek to restore sites to the best possible standards

Implications/Targets:

Although not a major issue in North Dorset due to the small number of minerals sites, the efficient use of minerals is important to encourage in the DPD.

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole First Deposit Waste Local Plan (Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Borough of Poole, 2006)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=326147>

Sets out the framework to enable the waste management industry to establish appropriate waste management facilities, in a way which meets the objectives of sustainable development.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Develop a balance between the need for waste management facilities and the need to protect the environment
- Encourage re-use, recycling and recovery of waste materials within a hierarchy of waste management options

Implications/Targets:

The waste plan will guide the processing of waste across the county and therefore have an impact on North Dorset. It sets several targets:

- Recycle/compost 40% of household waste by 2005/6
- Recover value from 45% of municipal waste by 2010
- By 2010 75%, by 2013 50% of biodegradable waste produced in 1995 (maximum) will be sent to landfill
- By 2005, reduce the amount of industrial and commercial waste sent to landfill to 85% of that landfilled in 1998

A Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset (Dorset County Council, 2003)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=389061>

This is a local strategy for dealing with waste generated by the householder together with other waste that local authorities become responsible for such as fly tipping, beach cleansing, street cleaning, and some commercial waste

Main objectives/outcomes:

General principles:

- Zero waste
- Proximity principle
- Self-sufficiency
- Best Practicable Environmental Option
- Sustainable Development
- Green Procurement
- Market Development

Implications/Targets:

Address household waste issues through designing facilities for composting and recycling into new homes and wider communities. Consider the need for further waste management facilities and sustainable locations to best serve the population in terms of environmental sensitivity whilst also aiming to deal with waste as close as possible to source. The DPD can help achieve this through consideration of waste issues in new developments.

Baseline data:

Table D1: Percentage of households with kerbside recycling²⁶

	2005	2006	2007	2009
Christchurch	95	95	96	96
East Dorset	94	92	93	96
North Dorset	88	90	82	82
Purbeck	74	100	99	100
West Dorset	69	97	100	100
Weymouth & Portland	87	89	91	82

North Dorset's recycling rate has seen a steady improvement in recent years. Since 2002/3, when the recycling rate was only 28.8%, the rate has almost doubled to 44% in 2007/8. In 2007/8 17,945 tonnes of waste were sent to landfill, 5,758 tonnes were composted and 8,281 tonnes were recycled. The amount of the district's waste being sent to landfill has fallen by 22.5%, from 23,168 tonnes in 2002/3 to 17,945²⁷ in 2007/8. North Dorset has one of the lowest percentages of households with kerbside recycling across the county and has seen a drop since the level achieved in 2006.

²⁶ Source: Dorset County Council

²⁷ Source: Dorset County Council

3b Natural Resources, Water and Soil

Water Framework Directive, 2000/60/EC (EC, 2000)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ENVIRONMENT/water/wfd/>

The directive is designed to improve and integrate the way water bodies are managed throughout Europe

Main objectives/outcomes:

The directive is designed to:

- enhance the status and prevent further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands
- promote the sustainable use of water
- reduce pollution of water
- ensure progressive reduction of groundwater pollution

Implications/Targets:

- Reach good chemical and ecological status in inland and coastal waters by 2015.

The DPD needs to play its role in achieving these objectives and the SA needs to highlight where measures can be incorporated into the plan.

Water for life and livelihoods: A consultation on the Draft River Basin Management Plan, Southwest River Basin District (Environment Agency, 2009)

<http://wfdconsultation.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfdcms/en/southwest/Intro.aspx>

River Basin Management Plans are plans for improving water and wetlands prepared under the EU Water Framework Directive.

Main objectives/outcomes:

The aims in the Southwest plan are:

- cleaner inland, estuarine and coastal waters, free from eutrophication, acidification and other water pollution
- wiser, more sustainable use of water as a natural resource
- a more sustainable approach to new development affecting the water environment
- healthy ecosystems for wildlife living in and around water
- rivers, lakes and coastal waters that are valued features of the urban and rural landscape

The following actions and causes of problems have been identified:

- improving rural land management and agricultural pollution control
 - The main causes of the problem have been associated with:
 - poor soil structure leading to increased run-off from agricultural land;
 - inappropriate management of manure and slurry on farms;
 - use of too much fertiliser, pesticides or sewage sludge, or using them in areas sensitive to groundwater pollution;
 - accidental spillage of fertilisers, pesticides and liquid wastes with high organic content.

- reducing the impact of transport and built environments

The main causes of urban and transport related problems:

- flood defences – for example with artificial river embankments
- housing growth, leading to pressures on water quality and water resources

- overloaded surface water drainage systems causing overflows from sewerage systems and private sewage treatment works
- using fertilisers and biocides in parks and gardens
- navigational dredging and river maintenance work which can release contaminants from stirred up sediment
- run-off from roads, contaminated land, driveways, car parks and car washing
- securing sustainable amounts of water
The main causes of flow problems have been linked to:
 - providing public water supply and associated water transfers
 - modified channels and structures such as weirs
 - industrial abstractions
 - irrigation for agriculture, horticulture and recreational use
- improving wildlife habitats
The main causes of loss of wildlife habitats have been linked to:
 - land drainage for agricultural improvement, reclamation for agriculture and urban development, historical structures
 - navigation in transitional and coastal waters, weirs, bank protection, dredging and bank erosion
 - river engineering, for instance re-sectioning, straightening, realignment, channelisation, substrate manipulation
 - flood defence
 - culverting to allow development
 - a small group of invasive non-native species which are known to cause problems at specific sites
- addressing point sources of pollution
The main sources of pollution have been identified as:
 - effluent from sewerage systems or private sewage treatment works
 - diffuse source pollution (for example from road runoff or agricultural areas) can enter the sewerage system and become localised or 'point source'
 - industrial point sources, for example food or textile processing or aquaculture industries

Implications/Targets:

A wide range of water based implications identified, many of which are impacted upon by planning. The specific issues related to North Dorset include abstraction from the chalk in the southern and eastern parts of North Dorset and underperformance in water quality in some areas. The DPD will need to contribute to achieving these objectives and the SA will need to incorporate appropriate objectives.

Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice, GP3 (Environment Agency, 2006)

<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO1006BLMW-e-e.pdf>

Sets out the Environment Agency's general approach in protecting and managing groundwater resources for present and future generations in ways that are appropriate for the risks identified.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Manage surface and groundwater as an integrated whole
- Use robust measures to prevent the pollution of groundwater
- Achieve the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive
- Make information on groundwater available and raise the general awareness

of groundwater issues

- Make sure policies for managing groundwater support work in the wider environment

Implications/Targets:

Source Protection Zones and other areas where there may be a potential water quality impact must be covered adequately in the DPD

Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food: Facing the Future (DEFRA, 2002)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/>

Sets out how industry, Government and consumers can work together to secure a sustainable future for our farming and food industries

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Resources
 - Respect and operate within the biological limits of natural resources (especially soil, water and biodiversity)
 - Achieve consistently high standards of animal health and welfare
 - Sustain the resource available for growing food and supplying other public benefits over time, except where alternative land uses are essential to meet other needs of society
- Energy efficiency
- Health
- The Economy
- Training

Implications/Targets:

As North Dorset is predominantly rural in character, the objectives of this strategy are particularly relevant. The DPD needs to incorporate steps to aid the farming community in areas related to this strategy. The SA needs to highlight issues related to this strategy and therefore related to sustainable development in rural areas.

Minerals Policy Statement 1: Planning and Minerals (DCLG, 2006)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/mineralspolicystatement5>

Sets out the Government's objectives for minerals planning reflecting the requirement to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Ensure, so far as practicable, the prudent, efficient and sustainable use of minerals and recycling of suitable materials, thereby minimising the requirement for new primary extraction
- Conserve mineral resources
- Safeguard mineral resources as far as possible
- Prevent or minimise production of mineral waste
- Secure working practices which prevent or reduce as far as possible, impacts on the environment and human health
- Protect internationally and nationally designated areas of landscape value and nature conservation importance from minerals development, other than in exceptional circumstances
- Secure adequate and steady supplies of minerals needed by society and the economy within the limits set by the environment
- Maximise the benefits and minimise the impacts of minerals operations over their full life cycle

- Promote the sustainable transport of minerals by rail, sea or inland waterways
- Protect and seek to enhance the overall quality of the environment once extraction has ceased through high standards of restoration
- Encourage the use of high quality materials for the purposes for which they are most suitable

Implications/Targets:

Although many of these objectives are outside of the direct remit of the DPD, there are opportunities to contribute to achieving them. The SA will need to highlight where the primary minerals resources within the district can be conserved and where recycling of resources can be promoted.

Water for the People and the Environment: Water Strategy for England and Wales (Environment Agency, 2009)

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/40731.aspx>

The Strategy sets out how water resources should be managed over the coming decades so that water can be abstracted and used sustainably. Implementing these will ensure there will be enough water for people and the environment now and in the future.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- The Environment Agency is able to manage water resources and protect the water environment in the face of climate change
- Species and habitats that depend on water are restored, protected, improved and valued.
- Good water management contributes to sustainable development by supporting people and the economy in an improved environment
- People value water and enjoy their water environment and understand how it contributes to their quality of life

Implications/Targets:

The DPD will need to consider the effects of water use on climate change, the choices between the needs of the environment and the needs of the people and water efficiently in all proposed developments. The SA will be able to highlight where this can be done through the inclusion of objectives for water efficiency.

Future Water (DEFRA, 2008)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/strategy/pdf/future-water.pdf>

This water strategy for England looks ahead to 2030 and sets out the Government's plans for water in the future and the practical steps that it will take to ensure that good clean water is available for people, businesses and nature. In short its vision is to continuously adapt to climate change and other pressures embedded across the water sector, resulting in a sustainable delivery of secure water supplies and an improved and protected water environment.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Water Demand – reduce water consumption, reduce leakage, promote water efficiency
- Water Supply – use water resources sustainably, protect natural environment through water abstraction management, planning for long terms needs of the environment and the community
- Water quality in the natural environment – healthy rivers provide resilience to climate change and sustain biodiversity, manage land for flood storage and water quality
- Surface water drainage – More adaptable drainage systems, better surface

- water drainage management, increase public awareness of water run-off
- Greenhouse gas emissions – maximising renewable energy, minimising greenhouse gas emissions, remove pollutants at source, minimise water wastage and maximising water efficiency
 - Charging for water – incentivise environmentally responsible behaviour, protection for vulnerable customers
 - Regulatory framework, competition and innovation – A strategic framework for water industry which incentivises innovation, sustainability, demands long term efficiency savings.

Implications/Targets

The DPD will need to consider the actions recommended by the strategy for a sustainable delivery of secure water supplies and an improved and protected water environment. The SA will identify the actions in its objectives and key assessment requirements

**Dorset Stour Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)
(Environment Agency, 2004)**

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33470.aspx>

The CAMS is the strategy for managing the water resources of a river catchment. They set out the terms for the granting of abstraction licences and therefore control water supply. The Dorset Stour CAMS is the main strategy for the water resources that supply North Dorset. There are equivalent strategies for the Frome, Piddle and Purbeck and the Hampshire Avon catchments.

Main objectives/outcomes:

The aim of the Dorset Stour CAMS is to:

- Ensure that this vital resource is managed in the most sustainable and effective manner possible.
- Identify an acceptable balance between the environmental needs of the river and the needs and requirements of the society that relies upon it.

Implications/Targets:

Although policies in the CAMS do not directly influence the DPD, the available water resources can cause constraints to development. The CAMS does gather relevant information and evidence on the state of water resources and therefore will be important in the DPD production process

The update of the situation suggests that:

“There may be water available for new abstractions in all of the units, subject to restrictive flow conditions to protect the river during periods of lower flows.”

Code for Sustainable Homes

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/buildingregulations/legislation/englandwales/codesustainable/>

The Code for Sustainable Homes has been developed to enable a step change in sustainable building practice for new homes. It is intended as a single national standard to guide industry in the design and construction of sustainable homes. It is a means of driving continuous improvement, greater innovation and exemplary achievement in sustainable home building. The Code measures the sustainability of a home against design categories, rating the ‘whole home’ as a complete package. A mandatory rating is required for all new homes as of 1st May 2008.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- The categories included within the Code are:

- energy/CO2
- pollution
- water
- health and well-being
- materials
- management
- surface water run-off
- ecology
- waste

Implications/Targets:

The national target is to achieve Code Level 6 (Zero Carbon) in all new homes by 2016. The DPD needs to encourage progress towards this target. Progress will aid in achieving wider sustainability goals including social benefits such as tackling fuel poverty

Our Environment: Our Future - The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment 2004 - 2014 (South West Regional Assembly, 2004)

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=521&tt=swra

The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment sets out what is important about our region's environment. It aims to provide a vision and aims for the environment in the future and identify pressures threatening the environment; It identifies six key issues to be tackled (and indicators of change)

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Wiser Use of Natural Resources - (Water quality, Air quality, Diffuse pollution, Waste, Mineral extraction)
 - Promote a strategic approach to management of our natural resources
 - Promote sustainable use of our natural resources
 - Reduce pollution
 - Minimise waste
 - Support delivery of integrated coastal zone management
- Food, Farming and Forestry - (Farmland birds, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Field Boundaries, Woodland, Farmers markets)
 - Encourage outstanding environmental management in the region's farming and forestry businesses;
 - Develop an integrated rural land use system to support better delivery of environmental benefits;
 - Develop environmentally-focussed supply chains to provide healthy, profitable food and drink and an enhanced environment.
- Spatial Planning - (Greenfield development, Historic building resource, Flooding, Dark skies, Local environment quality)
 - Planning for people – giving communities a greater say in the changes they want in their local environments;
 - Positive planning for the environment – maximising opportunities for environmental benefits;
 - Integrating environment considerations into planning

Implications/Targets:

A range of objectives with the aim of protecting the Southwest's important environment from further harm. The DPD will need to cover these points and the SA will be able to highlight the points at which it can do so.

Southwest Regional Woodland and Forestry Framework (Forestry Commission, 2005)

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7BCJ3X>

A strategy for the future management of the regions woodlands. Identifies several issues and opportunities and proposes actions.

Main objectives/outcomes:

Cross Cutting Themes:

- Climate Change
- Woodland management
- Communication
- Environmental Economy

Main themes:

- Livelihoods (Jobs and Business) including:
 - Economically sustainable wood industry and markets
 - Land use change
 - Tourism
 - Skills
- Quality of Life including:
 - Sustainable communities
 - Rural issues
 - Recreation and access
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Education, learning and connection with nature
- Natural Resources and the Environment including:
 - Biodiversity
 - Historic Environment
 - Landscape
 - Water resources, water quality, soil

Implications/Targets:

The resources that are offered by and the impact on the landscape of forests and woodlands needs to be recognised in the LDD. The SA can highlight their importance.

Baseline data:

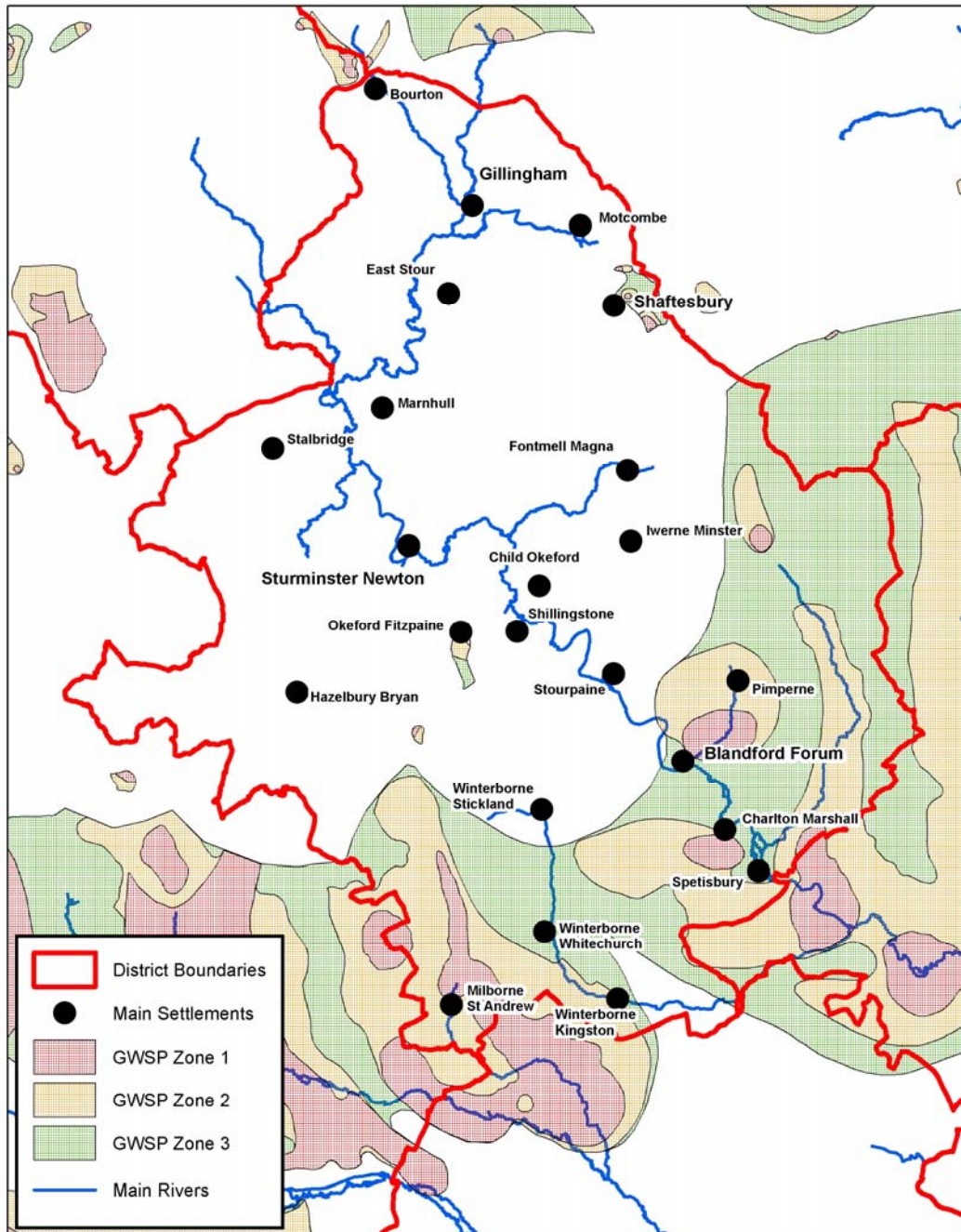
Wessex Water operates a number of groundwater abstractions for public water supply from sources within the catchments of the River Stour. Assessments were commissioned to determine whether groundwater abstractions at existing and full licence rates are (or could be) causing a detrimental affect on river flows or ecology. The assessment concluded that there was no adverse effect on ecology of middle Stour detected at current abstraction rates and Salmon fry and Parr are present in the Stour up to Blandford²⁸.

Large areas in North Dorset, to the south and east, are located in groundwater source protection zones. These areas are an important source of drinking water and

²⁸ Wessex Water Low Flow, May 2008

therefore it is important that they are sufficiently protected from contamination. The type of development that can take place in a groundwater protection zone is therefore tightly controlled.

Figure D1: Groundwater Source Protection Zones



North Dorset District

North Dorset
 DISTRICT COUNCIL

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 North Dorset District Council.
 LA 100018415 (2009)



North Dorset delivers a large proportion of its housing on greenfield land. This is primarily due to the low availability of previously developed (or brownfield) sites within the predominantly rural district.

Table D3: percentage of housing completions on previously developed land²⁹

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Average over last 10 years
Christchurch	96.9	93.1	89.4	90.5	96.4	90.2
East Dorset	54.2	86.4	94.9	97.1	48.6	64.2
North Dorset	32.6	31.4	38.8	77.4	83.9	46.6
Purbeck	93.5	94.1	94.1	98.5	84.0	88.2
West Dorset	62.5	54.8	59.4	59.2	71.2	60.6
Weymouth & Portland	87.5	88.6	98.5	96.3	92.3	82.3
Dorset County	62.6	63.1	69.8	79.7	82.1	65.4

One way of minimising the amount of greenfield land that is being developed is to make more efficient use of land. This can be achieved through increased density of development although this may harm the character of some settlements. North Dorset is slowly increasing the average density of residential development in line with the national picture

Table D4: Percentage of new dwellings built at less than 30 dwellings per hectare³⁰

Five year rolling average	1995 to 2000	1996 to 2001	1997 to 2002	1998 to 2003	2000 to 2005	2001 to 2006	2002 to 2007	2003 to 2008
Christchurch	38.04	36.5	29.19	29.47	23.2	23.7	23.9	4.0
East Dorset	80.91	78.92	72.42	72.95	63.9	58.2	60.2	0.0
North Dorset	63.34	61.40	54.39	46.43	40.8	34.1	31.8	49.1
Purbeck	58.28	56.73	52.41	44.52	49.3	41.3	33.4	0.7
West Dorset	62.95	65.76	66.01	65.12	56.8	54.6	53.5	24.1
Weymouth & Portland	35.10	31.81	25.10	27.27	20.6	17.1	16.5	2.9

²⁹ Source: Dorset County Council

³⁰ Source: Dorset County Council

3c Energy consumption and efficiency
<p>Renewable Energy Directive 2008/0016/EU (Climate Change and Energy Package) (EU, 2008) http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/index_en.htm</p> <p>The Renewable Energy Directive will impose an EU-wide legally binding target for energy from renewable sources.</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National target: 15% of primary energy (includes electricity, heat and transport fuels) to be supplied by renewables by 2020. ○ European target: 20% of primary energy to be from renewables by 2020. <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>Many countries have adopted higher targets than the UK and some already produce more than 15 % of primary energy from renewables. The DPD will need to consider its contribution to promoting renewable energy to work towards the UK target of 15% by 2020.</p>
<p>Energy White Paper (DTI, 2007) http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/page39534.html</p> <p>Sets out the Government's energy strategy in addressing the long term challenges of climate change, clean, affordable and secure energy</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ put ourselves on path to cutting CO₂ emissions by some 60% by about 2050 ○ to maintain the reliability of energy supplies ○ to promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond ○ to ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>The promotion of renewable energy and improvements in energy efficiency can help to meet these objectives. The DPD and the SA need to promote these measures.</p>
<p>Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food: Facing the Future (DEFRA, 2002) http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/</p> <p>Sets out how industry, Government and consumers can work together to secure a sustainable future for our farming and food industries</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resources ○ Energy efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Achieve consistently high standards of environmental performance by reducing energy consumption, by minimising resource inputs, and use renewable energy wherever possible ○ Health ○ The Economy ○ Training <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>As North Dorset is predominantly rural in character, the objectives of this strategy are particularly relevant. The DPD needs to incorporate steps to aid the farming community in areas related to this strategy. The SA needs to highlight issues related</p>

to this strategy and therefore related to sustainable development in rural areas.

Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change (DCLG, 2007)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppsclimatechange>

Sets out how planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change

Main objectives/outcomes:

- influence energy use and emissions – including renewable and decentralised energy supply
- secure resource and energy efficiency
- deliver zero carbon developments
- enable innovation in creating low-carbon technologies

Implications/Targets:

The DPD needs to incorporate policies to enable communities to play their part in mitigating climate change and also enable adaptation to the inevitable effects of climatic change. The SA therefore needs to highlight areas where this can be achieved.

Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (ODPM, 2004)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps22>

and

Planning for Renewable Energy: A Companion Guide to PPS 22 (ODPM, 2004)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningrenewable>

Sets out the approach to Renewable Energy and how the further implementation of renewable energy can contribute to all areas of sustainability.

Main objectives/outcomes:

To put the UK on a path to cut its carbon dioxide emissions and to maintain reliable and competitive energy supplies by:

- Supporting the development of renewable energy, improvements in energy efficiency and the development of combined heat and power
- Generating more energy from renewable sources
- Stimulating the development of new technologies to provide the basis for continuing growth of renewable energy and to assist the UK renewable industry to become competitive and provide employment
- Encouraging planning which facilitates renewable energy developments and contributes to all elements of the Government's sustainable development strategy

Implications/Targets:

The DPD should set out positive policies on the implementation of renewable energy to enable targets to be achieved. The SA needs to highlight where this can be achieved.

Code for Sustainable Homes

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/buildingregulations/legislation/englandwales/codesustainable/>

The Code for Sustainable Homes has been developed to enable a step change in sustainable building practice for new homes. It is intended as a single national standard to guide industry in the design and construction of sustainable homes. It is a means of driving continuous improvement, greater innovation and exemplary achievement in sustainable home building. The Code measures the sustainability of a home against design categories, rating the 'whole home' as a complete package. A

mandatory rating is required for all new homes as of 1st May 2008.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- The categories included within the Code are:
 - energy/CO2
 - pollution
 - water
 - health and well-being
 - materials
 - management
 - surface water run-off
 - ecology
 - waste

Implications/Targets:

The national target is to achieve Code Level 6 (Zero Carbon) in all new homes by 2016. The DPD needs to encourage progress towards this target. Progress will aid in achieving wider sustainability goals including social benefits such as tackling fuel poverty

Regional Renewable Energy Strategy for the South West 2003-2010 (RegenSW, 2003)

Overall vision is to maximise the social, environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy through the integration of renewable energy into mainstream policy and practice at all levels within the region.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Three core strands form the overarching aims for the strategy
- Deploying Renewable Energy on the Ground
 - Developing Skills and Awareness
 - Building the South West Renewable Energy Industry

Implications/Targets:

- Southwest Renewable electricity generation target of 11-15% by 2010

Policies should be included to address the promotion of renewable energy projects and developments.

Revision 2010 (Government Office for the South West, South West Regional Assembly, 2004)

<http://www.oursouthwest.com/revision2010/>

and

Revision 2020 (Government Office for the South West, South West Regional Assembly, 2005)

<http://www.oursouthwest.com/revision2020/>

Main objectives/outcomes:

Work undertaken to divide the regional target for renewable energy generation to sub-regional areas. Sets out targets for renewable energy generation by 2010 for each county area. For Dorset the target is for between 64 and 84 MW to be installed by 2010

Revision 2020 sets out targets for generation from renewable energy sectors for the Southwest and includes a requirement of 10% for on-site generation within new development

Implications/Targets:

The DPD will need to encourage renewable energy generation and include a target for at least 10% of the energy requirements of new developments to be supplied from renewable resources.

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Renewable Energy Strategy and Action Plan (The Dorset Energy Group, 2005)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=387639>

The focus of the strategy is on the use of renewable energy for meeting the need for electricity and heat although the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport is also recognised

Main objectives/outcomes:

The strategy has four aims:

- maximise the potential for local economic benefit and diversification
- facilitate renewable energy development that is appropriate to Dorset's environment and communities
- encourage a high degree of community involvement, understanding and benefit from using energy more efficiently and developing Dorset's renewable energy resources
- enable Dorset to play its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with local, regional, national and international targets

The strategy proposes actions within six priority areas:

- developing positive planning policies for renewable energy
- developing biomass energy and renewable energy from waste in Dorset
- increasing application of sustainable energy in buildings
- raising awareness and understanding about sustainable energy
- developing community renewable energy initiatives and exemplars
- researching and developing new areas for action on sustainable energy

Implications/Targets:

The DPD has a key role in facilitating the uptake of renewable energy technologies and therefore the SA will need to include objectives to highlight where this can be done.

Baseline data:

Domestic consumption of utilities (gas electricity and water) in North Dorset can be used as a proxy measure of the efficiency of the households in the District. North Dorset's residents tend to fall about average in Dorset for consumption of gas and water but have the highest consumption rate for electricity.

Table D2: Domestic consumption of utilities³¹

	Average annual domestic consumption of gas (kWh)	Average annual domestic consumption of electricity (kWh)	Daily domestic water use (per capita consumption, litres)
Christchurch	19,805	4,365	169
East Dorset	22,048	5,054	169
North Dorset	19,129	5,309	151
Purbeck	18,751	4,747	151
West Dorset	18,053	5,273	151
Weymouth and Portland	17,493	4,195	151
Bournemouth	19,967	4,503	169
Poole	19,270	4,470	151

³¹ Source: Audit Commission Area Profiles

Possible indicators

SA Objective	Indicator
10. Reduce impacts on the environment	Annual assessment of North Dorset's river quality, both biological and chemical
11. Reduce pressure on the District's natural resources, reducing waste and promoting the wise use, reuse and recycling of land and resources	Annual recycling rate in North Dorset
	Annual amount of waste in tonnes going to landfill
	Percentage of new development on previously developed land
12. Promote energy and resource efficiency, encouraging clean energy production	Renewable energy generation by installed capacity and type (megawatts)
	Annual average daily consumption per capita of water, gas and electricity

Appendix E: Maintenance of Sustainable levels of Economic Growth and Employment

- E.1. Economic growth is essential to improving individual’s quality of life. For this reason the inclusion of economic issues is needed to give a full consideration of sustainable development. This is closely linked to the social issues that are considered as part of Appendix B and therefore this section focuses on economic issues.
- E.2. The topics covered in this section are:
- The Economy
 - Transport
 - Education, Training and Skills

4a The Economy
<p>The Rural White Paper: Our Countryside – The Future: A Fair Deal for Rural England (DEFRA, 2000) http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralwp/whitepaper/default.htm</p> <p>A broad vision for rural England setting out the way that the Government will deliver an improved quality of life for everyone in the countryside with the aim of sustaining and enhancing the distinctive environment, economy and social fabric of the English countryside for the benefit of all.</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a working countryside, with a diverse economy giving high and stable levels of employment; ○ a vibrant countryside which can shape its own future and with its voice heard by Government at all levels <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>Sets out the broad aims for the rural area which the DPD can play its part in achieving. The SA needs to highlight rural issues especially as North Dorset is predominantly rural in character.</p>
<p>Rural Strategy (DEFRA, 2004) http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/strategy/default.htm</p> <p>Rural Strategy 2004 sets out the Government’s new approach to rural policy. It builds on the rural white paper updating the objectives in the light of new evidence. It sets out the actions that will be taken by Government over the next three to five years.</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Economic and Social Regeneration – supporting enterprise across rural England, but targeting greater resources at areas of greatest need. <p><i>Implications/Targets:</i></p> <p>The priorities in this strategy accord strongly with the issue in North Dorset. The DPD will therefore have a key role in helping to achieve these priorities and the SA will need to highlight areas where this can be done.</p>
<p>Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food: Facing the Future (DEFRA, 2002) http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/</p> <p>Sets out how industry, Government and consumers can work together to secure a sustainable future for our farming and food industries</p> <p><i>Main objectives/outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resources

- Energy efficiency
- Health
- The Economy
 - Support the viability and diversity of rural and urban economies and communities
 - Enable viable livelihoods to be made from sustainable land management, both through the market and through payments for public benefits
- Training

Implications/Targets:

As North Dorset is predominantly rural in character, the objectives of this strategy are particularly relevant. The DPD needs to incorporate steps to aid the farming community in areas related to this strategy. The SA needs to highlight issues related to this strategy and therefore related to sustainable development in rural areas.

Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy: Forward Look (DEFRA, 2006)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/>

Builds on the Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy published in 2002. It is structured around five priority themes, which are closely inter-related, a reflection of the inter-dependence of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainability.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Succeeding in the market
 - move away from dependence on subsidy, and towards a more professional business-focussed approach
 - greater awareness of market opportunities
 - diversified enterprises, collaboration and co-operation
 - the acquisition of skills needed to exploit new opportunities
- Improving the environmental performance of farming
- Sustainable consumption & production
- Climate change & agriculture
 - exploit new opportunities to grow crops novel to the UK, and expand the production of bioenergy
- Animal health & welfare
 - good animal health is crucial to delivering strong economic performance and reduces the costs of a major disease outbreak

Implications/Targets:

A wide ranging set of objectives that have implications for North Dorset, building on the earlier document. The DPD will need to consider its role in achieving these aims and the SA will need to highlight areas where this can be achieved.

Planning Policy Guidance 4: Industrial, commercial development and small firms (DCLG, 2001)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg4>

Intends to balance the competing demands of industrial and commercial developments with the need to protect the environment

Main objectives/outcomes:

- minimise the number and length of trips especially by car
- increase the use of more energy efficient modes of transport
- avoid increases in congestion

- direct commuting traffic onto local roads rather than long distance routes

Implications/Targets:

The DPD should aim to provide sufficient employment land in locations that meet these criteria. The objectives can be incorporated into the SA.

Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (ODPM, 2005)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps6>

The approach to creating sustainable, successful, thriving, safer and inclusive town centres by promoting their viability and vitality. It covers the main town centre uses of retail, leisure, offices and arts/culture

Main objectives/outcomes:

Planning for the growth and development of existing centres by focusing a wide range of services in a good environment and accessible to all.

- Enhanced consumer choice
- Efficient, competitive and innovative town centre uses
- Improved accessibility
- Promote social inclusion and regeneration
- Promote economic growth
- Deliver more sustainable patterns of development through a reduced need to travel and the promotion of sustainable travel options
- Good quality design protecting heritage and open spaces

Implications/Targets:

The DPD will include policies for the centres of the towns in North Dorset and therefore the SA will need to highlight where these elements of sustainable development can be enhanced.

Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (ODPM, 2004)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps7>

Sets out the Government's planning policies for rural areas. The policies in this statement apply to rural areas, including country towns and villages and the wider, largely undeveloped countryside up to the fringes of larger urban areas. This therefore applies to the majority of North Dorset outside of the main towns.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas
- To promote the development of the English regions by improving their economic performance so that all are able to reach their full potential
- To promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors

Implications/Targets:

The policies in this document are applicable to North Dorset and should be reflected in the DPD where applicable. The SA should reflect their application to the rural areas but also have regard to the need for sustainable development and the relationship with the main towns.

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation (ODPM, 2002)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance17>

Sets out the objectives and importance of open space, sport and recreation

Main objectives/outcomes:

Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives

- supporting an urban renaissance - through recreation, biodiversity, air quality, and general increase in attractiveness
- supporting a rural renewal - through increased visitor numbers and associated economic benefits
- promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion - through the provision of opportunities for social interaction
- health and well being
- promoting more sustainable development

Implications/Targets:

A network of open spaces will contribute to a range of objectives that will be covered by the DPD. The SA objectives will need to incorporate the need for establishing this network rather than stand alone open space.

Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (DCLG, 2006)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/goodpracticeguide>

This note focuses on broad principles and general criteria that are relevant to most types of tourist development

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Tourism is of crucial importance to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the whole country
- Recognition of the wider benefits of tourism in offering support for important rural services and facilities
- Use of tourism to help revitalise market towns and villages;
- Integrate development with its surroundings thereby avoid adverse impacts such as road congestion

Implications/Targets:

As tourist facilities can have a negative impact on an area, the DPD will need to incorporate policies to enhance the benefits of tourism whilst reducing the adverse impacts. The SA will need highlight how this can be achieved.

Southwest Regional Economic Strategy 2006-2015 (SWRDA, 2006)

<http://www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/policy/res-review2005/draft-res.shtm>

A strategy that provides a shared vision for the development of the region's economy, it focuses on economic development within the wider context of sustainable development and is broken down into three themes.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Successful and Competitive Business
 - Support business productivity to unlock wider improvements in the economy
 - Encourage new enterprise for the future success of the economy
 - Deliver a better skills base for the economy

- Compete in the global economy by building trade and investment links internationally
- Promote innovation and better links to research and development
- Strong and Inclusive Communities
 - Improve participation in the economy by removing barriers that prevent people getting work
 - Regenerate the most disadvantaged areas offering opportunities for those areas and the wider economy
 - Plan sustainable and successful communities that can compete on the international stage
- An Effective and Confident Region
 - Improve transport networks to improve journey times to major markets
 - Promote and enhance what is best about the region – its environment, its culture and its creativity
 - Improve leadership, influence and partnership

Implications/Targets:

This strategy has implications for the economy of North Dorset and therefore the objectives will need to be incorporated into the DPD. The objectives will also need to be incorporated into the SA

A better place to be: Culture and the Southwest of England (Culture Southwest, 2008)

<http://www.culturesouthwest.org.uk/about/index.asp>

Sets out a strategy for cultural provision in the Southwest. Its vision is to ensure that Southwest England is the region of choice for vibrant cultural activity, where engaged individuals build creative communities, where culture is seen as a core component of all regional development and a vital contributor to the quality of life of everyone in the region.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Harnessing the benefits of population growth and managing the implications of population change
- Promoting economic prosperity, quality of employment and employment opportunity
 - Celebrate and promote the cultural and natural assets especially as a tourism driver
 - Recognise the economic potential of cultural infrastructure and place culture at the centre of economic and social development
- Ensuring that people are treated fairly and can participate fully in society
- Challenging deprivation and disadvantage and reducing inequality
 - Address accessibility barriers in rural areas and related to race, disability and age
 - Promoting opportunities for lifelong learning
- Enhancing our distinctive environments and the quality and diversity of our cultural life

Implications/Targets:

The DPD should consider the potential of North Dorset's cultural assets to deliver a wide range of benefits. The SA can highlight where measures can be incorporated into policies.

Towards 2015: Shaping Tomorrow's Tourism (South West Tourism, 2005)

<http://towards2015.co.uk/pages/research.asp>

Details the vision for tourism in the region combined with the key issues and priorities for action

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Driving up Quality
- Delivering Truly Sustainable Tourism
- Creating Superior Destination Management Arrangements

Resulting in:

- Less Seasonal: increase the value of visitor spend in the off-peak periods
- More Satisfied Visitors
- Increased Welcome Across the Region
- Better Employment Opportunities: staff employed would be satisfied with their conditions of employment, training and if appropriate, career development.
- Creating Jobs: Tourism would be able to create a growth in employment.
- Making Existing Jobs Better
- A Major Wealth Creator for the Southwest

Implications/Targets:

Tourism contribution to the economy across the Southwest needs to be considered and the LDD will be able to set guidelines to facilitate tourism developments.

Raising the Game. Economic Development Strategy 2005-2016 (Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Economic Partnership, 2005)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=369382>

The first economic development strategy for the whole of Dorset, offering a long term approach to economic development.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- To improve physical infrastructure and transport connectivity
- To increase the provision of affordable housing for “key workers”
- To raise skills and workforce development
- To improve business competitiveness, enterprise and innovation
- To promote effective partnership working

Implications/Targets:

These economic objectives are consistent with producing high levels of economic growth required for sustainable development and therefore should fit with the objectives of the DPD. The SA can highlight where the DPD can aid in achieving these objectives.

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole MAA (Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council and Borough of Poole, 2008)

<http://www.boroughofpoole.com/strategiesandplans/ref:S4891839F02405/>

The MAA is a formal agreement between local authorities, public sector partners in Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset and the Government to improve the economic performance in South East Dorset looking at the following key areas: Business growth, skills, transport and Connectivity, housing and the environment

Main objectives/outcomes:

- A high- value advanced engineering sector including aerospace and a significant marine sector
- An nationally and internationally significant concentration of financial and

business services

- A world class higher education presence with new approaches in creative media, business, speciality medical services and innovation in tourism
- An economic, social and physical environment attractive to young people and where an ageing population have a good quality of life properly provided for
- More efficient use of land in the urban areas, with the housing stock matched to people's needs in a higher quality urban environment
- A cluster of newly emerging environmental technologies with low barriers of entry for R&D and the commercial exploitation of new ideas
- Sustainable, reliable and efficient transport systems and widespread high-speed broad-band connectivity
- An airport that is business driven and capable of sustaining a green technology business park, with sea ports at Poole, Weymouth and Portland that are competitive in key markets
- An Olympic legacy that creates new opportunities to regenerate Weymouth and Portland as centres of international marine and leisure excellence
- Greater inter-regional cooperation, developing complementary economic links with South Hampshire, and international links with Europe and emerging global economies

Implications/Targets:

The policies in the DPD will need to assist in achieving these goals.

Dorset's Olympic Legacy: 12 for 2012 (Dorset Strategic Partnership, 2007)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=358424>

A strategy to capitalise on the potential benefits of the 2012 Olympic sailing events which will be held in Weymouth. Identifies 12 key outcomes that will be worked towards

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Improved transport infrastructure to and from Weymouth
- Creation of Europe's top international sailing venue for the benefit of the whole of Dorset
- Increased participation by people of all ages in sport, play and leisure activities
- Increase levels of health in all ages of Dorset's population through more healthy, active lifestyles
- Weymouth and Portland becomes a centre of international marine and leisure excellence with a view to stimulating Dorset's economy, increasing wage levels and providing more year round employment
- Improved economic opportunities with access to quality employment, where young people can see they have a future
- Well trained and more highly skilled people in work or volunteering to support local communities
- International recognition of Dorset as a desirable county to visit
- A greater understanding of diversity and multiculturalism, including improved access and facilities
- Sustain the enhanced international profile of Dorset
- Provide a stimulus to improvement in the social, cultural and economic fabric together with improving the supply of housing accommodation, including affordable housing

- Dorset to achieve a step change in its environmental and sustainability performance including energy and water use; waste & recycling; travel; food; materials and wildlife

Implications/Targets:

These objectives are mainly focused on the Weymouth and Portland area however, the impacts of the Olympics have the potential to reach further afield. The DPD will need to recognise the potential benefits.

Baseline data:

The largest employment sector in North Dorset is public administration / health / education, which employs nearly a third of the working population. This is followed by distribution / hotels / restaurants with 24% and manufacturing with 13%³².

In 2006 there were 2,910 firms in the district, an increase of over 14% on the number recorded in 2002. The majority, at 95%, of firms in the district are small firms who employ between 1 and 24 people.

In 2007 there was a total of 519,000 square meters of commercial floor space in North Dorset. This was made up of factories at 51.1%, warehouses at 20%, retail at 16%, offices at 7.5% and other uses 5.4%³³.

In 2007 there were 215 new VAT registrations and 180 deregulations, giving a net gain of 35 Vat registrations. The Gross Value Added (GVA) per head of population in North Dorset was £11,820 in 2005. This is lower than the level for both Dorset at £13,059 and England at £18,267 in 2005.

The average gross weekly earnings for workplace full time employment in the district in 2007 was £385, this is lower than the Dorset earnings of £400 and significantly lower than the England average earnings of £462³⁴.

Table E1: Unemployment claimant count³⁵

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Christchurch	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0
East Dorset	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7
North Dorset	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7
Purbeck	1.6	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.8
West Dorset	1.7	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.8
Weymouth & Portland	3.1	2.5	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.6	2.1	1.7	1.8
DCC Dorset	1.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.9
Great Britain	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.3
South West	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.4

³² Source: ONS Annual Business Inquiry 2006

³³ Source: Valuations Office Agency 2008

³⁴ Source: Dorset Data Book 2008

³⁵ Source: Dorset Data Book 2008

North Dorset has one of the lowest levels of unemployment in Dorset, at only 0.7% in 2008. This is much lower than the claimant count for the Southwest and for Great Britain. The largest percentage of unemployed appears to be in Gillingham.

Table E2: Percentages unemployed by town

	1998	2007
Blandford	1.8	0.6
Gillingham	1.9	1.0
Shaftesbury	2.2	0.8
Sturminster Newton	1.1	0.8
Stalbridge	1.2	0.7
North Dorset	1.2	0.6

Of those people who are unemployed only 2% were long term unemployed and had been out of work for twelve months or more.

4b Transport

Towards a Sustainable Transport System (DfT, 2007)

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/>

The Government's response to the Eddington and Stern reports setting out the long-term strategy for the transport network

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Maximising the overall competitiveness and productivity of the national economy, so as to achieve a sustained high level of GDP growth.
- Promoting greater equality of transport opportunity for all citizens, with the desired outcome of achieving a fairer society.
- Contributing to better health and longer life-expectancy through reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport, and promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health.
- Improving quality of life for transport users and non-transport users, including through a healthy natural environment, with the desired outcome of improved well-being for all.
- Reducing transport's emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of avoiding dangerous climate change.

Implications/Targets:

In relation to Transport and accessibility these objectives aim to achieve a more sustainable transport system through improving accessibility and economic performance whilst protecting the environment and quality of life. The DPD is in a position to facilitate these objectives through integration of strategic transport considerations into decision making. The SA can highlight areas where this can be done.

Delivering a Sustainable Transport System, (DfT, 2008)

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/dasts/>

Government strategy to achieve the aims of the 2007 “Towards a Sustainable Transport System” Strategy.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- to support national economic competitiveness and growth, by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks;
- to reduce transport’s emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of tackling climate change;
- to contribute to better safety, security and health and longer life expectancy by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport, and by promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health;
- to promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens, with the desired outcome of achieving a fairer society; and
- to improve quality of life for transport users and non-transport users, and to promote a healthy natural environment

Implications/Targets:

The DPD can influence the “what?”, “when?” and “where?” of transport demand. For this reason, where the existing network is already overstretched, the DPD should highlight this and locate development in areas where the situation would not be taken to breaking point by the increase in demand. Reducing the need to travel will also help and is an area where the DPD can have an impact. The SA framework should cover the main points of this strategy.

Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance (ODPM, 2000)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/ourtowns>

The document sets out the Government’s vision of urban living in towns, cities and suburbs which offer a high quality of life and opportunity for all. It sets out the Government’s overall strategy for tackling poverty and social exclusion and fostering economic growth in a way that benefits all citizens.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- people shaping the future of their community, supported by strong and truly representative local leaders;
- towns and cities able to create and share prosperity, investing to help all their citizens reach their full potential

This urban renaissance will benefit everyone, making towns and cities vibrant and successful, and protecting the countryside from development pressure.

Implications/Targets:

The objectives of this strategy directly relate to the market towns and built up areas of North Dorset. The DPD will need to take steps in achieving these objectives therefore rejuvenating the urban areas but also reducing pressure on greenfield development. The SA will need to highlight where it can do so.

Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (DCLG, 2001)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg13>

Integration of planning and transport at the national, regional, strategic and local level to achieve a more sustainable pattern of development

Main objectives/outcomes:

- promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight
- promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling
- reduce the need to travel, especially by car

Implications/Targets:

Implementation of these objectives into the DPD will aid in achieving a more sustainable pattern of development. The SA should incorporate objectives covering these goals.

London to South West & South Wales Multi-Modal Study (SWARMMS)

<http://www.swarmms.org.uk/>

The Study looked at transport issues in the London to Southwest and South Wales area and produced several recommendations.

As well as the general problems of road congestion and limited public transport services the area suffers from economic peripherality in the far South West and unusual transport pressures from the buoyancy of the Thames Valley in the east. Devon and Cornwall are particularly dependent on tourism and there are many areas where the environment is especially valuable and vulnerable.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- A focus on reducing the growth in travel demand
- Increased public transport in rural areas
- Support for improved urban public transport and traffic restraint
- Limiting impacts on areas of greatest environmental sensitivity
- Improved reliability on the rail network
- Reduced journey times on the rail network
- More choice and reduced overcrowding on the rail network
- A more robust strategic road network
- Improved reliability on the road network
- Improved safety on the road network
- Enhanced coach and express bus services

Implications/Targets:

The DPD cannot directly influence some of these objectives; however it can contribute to some of them. Supporting the objectives will however improve accessibility and therefore quality of life in North Dorset. The SA will be able to highlight areas where the DPD can contribute.

Developing the Regional Transport Strategy in the South West: Investment Priorities for the South West (SWRA, 2004)

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=539

This strategy develops and updates the current Regional Transport Strategy (RTS). It identifies the key issues that are relevant to the South West and what interventions or investments are required to deliver the region's priorities and longer term objectives.

It aims to provide an important context for the investment programmes of the Highways Agency (HA), Network Rail, other national agencies and Local Transport Plans.

Main objectives/outcomes:

The key transport issues for the region are identified as:

- Peripherality
- Sustainable Transport in the Principal Urban Areas
- Accessibility and social exclusion
- Reducing the impact of transport on the environment
- Improving inter-urban routes

Implications/Targets:

Tackling these issues will aid in the delivery of sustainable development and improve the quality of life in North Dorset. The DPD will need to contribute to achieving these goals where it can and ensure that it does not make the situation worse. The SA will be able to highlight areas where this can be achieved.

Dorset Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 (Dorset County Council, 2006)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=2579>

Sets out a strategy for transport in Dorset for the five-year period 2006–2011 and demonstrates how Dorset County Council will improve the local transport network to benefit the community and visitors

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Road Safety
 - delivered through focussing on three main areas of intervention:- education, enforcement and engineering
- Accessibility
 - a strategy is based on the use of a strong evidence base to identify accessibility needs and to identify priorities for delivery
- Congestion
 - a strategy focuses on three main areas of intervention:- improving alternatives to the private car; encouraging and promoting smarter travel choices; and better management of the existing network.
- Air quality and the Environment
 - improvements in both through a range of measures
- Economic Development
 - through targeted infrastructure investment
- Asset Management
 - achieve the best value for money

Related to market towns and rural areas

- The level of inappropriate speed will be reduced, not only where this is a major contributory factor to accidents, but also in areas where local communities find speed intimidating and detrimental to their quality of life.

- Traffic management measures that restrict or remove unnecessary traffic will be introduced in Dorset’s market towns to ensure that they function more effectively.
- Traffic management measures will be introduced to ameliorate damage to rural communities on heavily trafficked routes such as the A350/C13 and A35.
- There will be an accelerated programme of modernisation of rural bus services through development of flexible and demand responsive bus services using quality vehicles.
- Ensuring the more effective functioning of Dorset’s market towns through improved and more flexible transport within the rural hinterland of each town.
- We will work through the Local Development Document process to ensure development of land use policies which are responsive to relative accessibility, with an emphasis on the integration of planning and transport.
- Improving Dorset’s extensive rights of way network and enhancing facilities to encourage walking and cycling, where these can improve access within local communities or to their nearest market town.
- A lorry routing strategy will be developed that is consistent the regional freight strategy.
- A rural roads protocol will be developed for the sensitive and sustainable treatment of rural roads, encompassing safety, information, environmental protection, landscape, biodiversity and heritage, and to develop design and management guidance to give effect to the protocol.

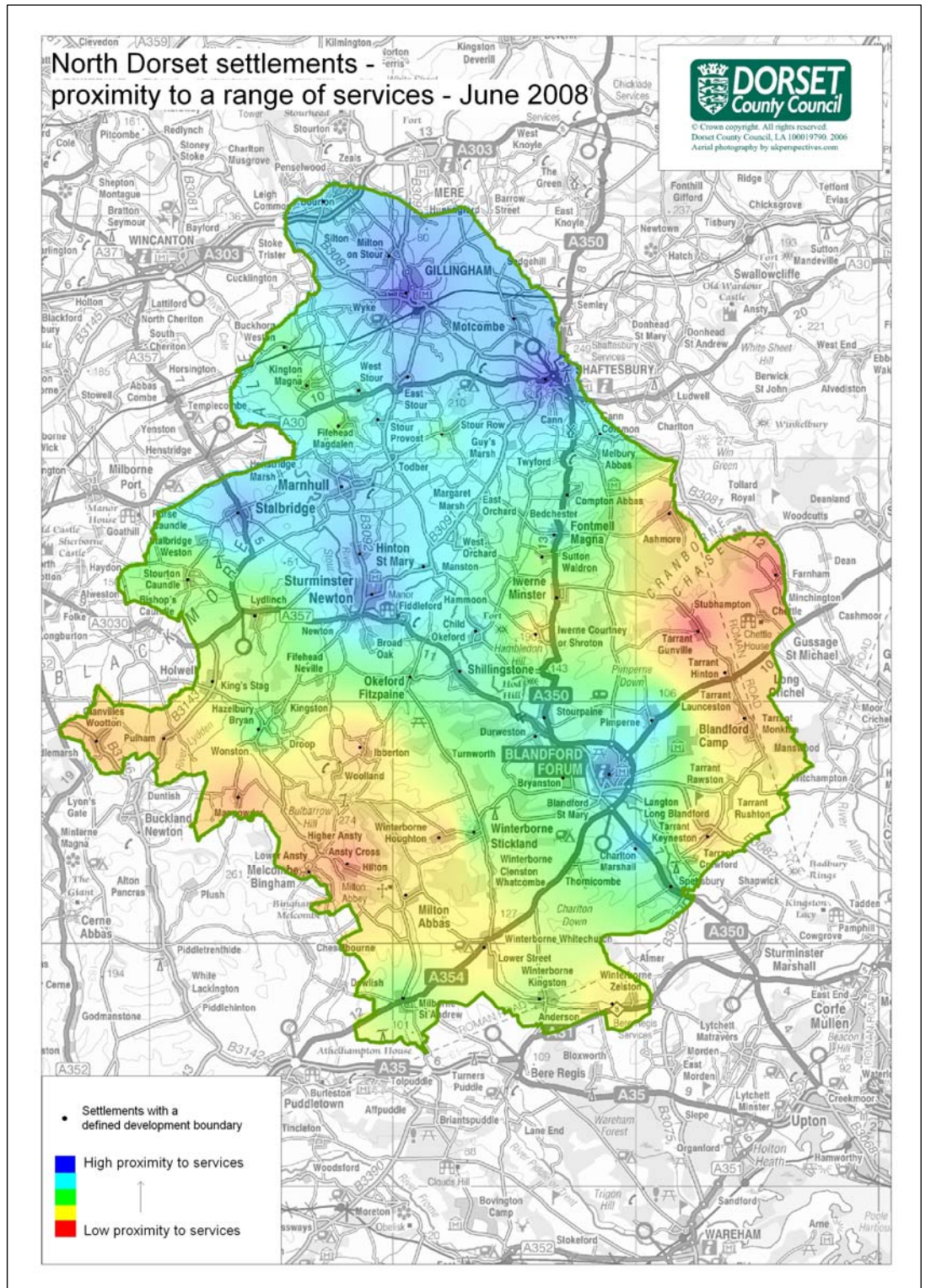
Implications/Targets:

These proposals will have a fundamental impact on the DPD as the transport network forms the connections between cities, towns, villages and individual developments. There are a number of joint objectives within the LTP and the DPD and therefore the DPD can help to achieve a number of these objectives especially in relation to improving quality of life and reducing the need to travel.

Baseline data:

Accessibility to essential services is a problem in North Dorset especially in the areas away from the main towns.

Figure E3: Proximity to a range of services, 2008



4c Education, Training and Skills

Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance (ODPM, 2000)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/ourtowns>

The document sets out the Government's vision of urban living in towns, cities and suburbs which offer a high quality of life and opportunity for all. It sets out the Government's overall strategy for tackling poverty and social exclusion and fostering economic growth in a way that benefits all citizens.

Main objectives/outcomes:

- people shaping the future of their community, supported by strong and truly representative local leaders;
- towns and cities able to create and share prosperity, investing to help all their citizens reach their full potential; and
- good quality services - health, education, housing, transport, finance, shopping, leisure and protection from crime - that meet the needs of people and businesses wherever they are.

This urban renaissance will benefit everyone, making towns and cities vibrant and successful, and protecting the countryside from development pressure.

Implications/Targets:

The objectives of this strategy directly relate to the market towns and built up areas of North Dorset. The DPD will need to take steps in achieving these objectives therefore rejuvenating the urban areas but also reducing pressure on greenfield development. The SA will need to highlight where it can do so.

Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food: Facing the Future (DEFRA, December 2002)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/>

Sets out how industry, Government and consumers can work together to secure a sustainable future for our farming and food industries

Main objectives/outcomes:

- Resources
- Energy efficiency
- Health
- The Economy
- Training
 - Ensure a safe and hygienic working environment and high social welfare and training for all employees involved in the food chain

Implications/Targets:

As North Dorset is predominantly rural in character, the objectives of this strategy are particularly relevant. The DPD needs to incorporate steps to aid the farming community in areas related to this strategy. The SA needs to highlight issues related to this strategy and therefore related to sustainable development in rural areas.

Baseline data:

In 2007, 62% of 15 year olds achieved a GCSE grade A to C. This is slightly lower than the Dorset average of 65% but much higher than the national average of only

47%. In 2001 the Census showed that 25% of people living in North Dorset had no qualifications, while nearly 50% had a level 2 or higher qualification.³⁶

Possible indicators:

SA Objective	Indicator
15. Encourage innovation, improve productivity, regenerate towns and rural areas creating a business environment in which new businesses start and existing businesses grow	Annual amount of completed employment development by hectares and floorspace
	Gross value added (GVA) per head of population
	Annual loss of employment land
	Vacant industrial floorspace in districts five towns
	Vacant shop premises rate in districts five towns
16. Improve skills and incomes of the lowest paid and provide satisfying work opportunities for all so that people can realise their full potential	Annual unemployment rate in North Dorset
	Workplace average earnings in North Dorset male and female, compared to county and national figures
	Number of school children achieving a GCSE grade A to C
	Qualifications of people in North Dorset

³⁶ Source: Dorset Data Book 2008

Appendix F: Regional Sustainable Development Framework

- F.1. The Regional Sustainable Development Framework is a high level sustainability framework intended to guide decision makers thus incorporating sustainability into their decisions. It sets out an agreed agenda for everyone in the region to work towards, to improve the quality of life for ourselves and for future generations.
- F.2. The framework consists of a vision and a number of principles to guide development so that it takes place in a sustainable way. These principles are then broken down into themes with a number of objectives related to each.
- F.3. The vision is as follows:

The Vision for the Region

The South West must remain a region with a beautiful and diverse environment. By working together, applying the principles of sustainability we can achieve lasting economic prosperity and social justice, whilst protecting that environment. This approach will secure a higher quality of life now and for future generations.

- F.4. The principles of the framework are as follows:

The Principles

- *The region continues to support a diverse and thriving economy*
- *Demands on the region's natural resources are managed so they are used as efficiently as possible*
- *Everyone in the region has access to satisfying and fairly paid work and unpaid work is valued*
- *The region's biodiversity and landscape are properly valued, conserved and enhanced*
- *Wherever possible, local needs are met locally to support local economies*
- *The region's waste is minimised, and, wherever possible, eliminated*
- *The region offers everyone access to lifelong learning, training opportunities, skills and knowledge*
- *Everyone is able to live without fear of crime or persecution*
- *The region meets everyone's basic needs for healthy food, clean water, affordable housing and efficient energy*
- *The region's diversity and local distinctiveness are valued, protected and celebrated*
- *Access to basic services like education, health, social care and policing is available to everyone*
- *Opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are provided widely throughout the region*
- *The region promotes everyone's physical and mental well-being*
- *All sections of the community are empowered to participate in decision-making*
- *The region's pollution is limited to levels which do not damage natural systems*

- F.5. The Objectives set out in the Framework provide the context for incorporating sustainability into both community strategies and other plans such as the DPD. It provides a tool for assessing the extent to which any project or proposal measures up to sustainability criteria. By incorporating the objectives into the SA framework for the SA of North Dorset, the wider Regional agenda can be tailored to the local situation
- F.6. The framework objectives are as follows:

The Themes and Objectives

1. Health & Well-being

1. *To improve the health and wellbeing of the population of the SW.*
2. *To reduce the inequalities in health between the least and most advantaged people and communities in the region by improving the health of the least healthy people*
3. *To improve the key determinants of health such as reducing poverty and unemployment*

2. Economic Development

1. *Increase the circulation of wealth within the region.*
2. *Develop greater integration within key economic sectors.*
3. *Ensure necessary infrastructure to support a more sustainable economy.*
4. *Encourage community involvement in local economies.*

3. Climate Change

1. *Promote efficient use of affordable energy whilst reducing energy demand*
2. *Increase role of renewable energy and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) whilst reducing the adverse environmental impacts of all forms of energy production*
3. *Reduce risk to society and the environment from climate change and sea level rise*

4. Development & Planning

1. *Promote the conservation and wise use of land and other resources within the Region*
2. *Promote the development of balanced and safe communities with adequate housing, employment and facilities to meet needs*
3. *Ensure the SW remains a region of diverse and distinctive heritage and landscape*
4. *Provide affordable housing to all which is adaptable to future needs, reflects local distinctiveness and meets the needs of the community*
5. *Minimise the risk of flooding to people and places*

5. Regional Inequality / Access

1. *Everyone in the SW has the opportunity throughout their lifetime to learn and develop new skills that enable them to achieve their full potential, capitalising on the latest developments in information communication technology*

2. *Everyone in the SW has the opportunity to work and to have their work recognised and valued by the community (whether paid or unpaid)*
3. *Everyone in the SW has access to an adequate level of service standards across the range of community services*

6. Sustainable Communities

1. *Promote stronger and more vibrant communities in the SW*
2. *Provide safe, affordable and suitable housing for everyone*
3. *Provide a safe environment in which people feel secure*

7. Biodiversity & Landscapes

1. *Protect and enhance habitats and species*
2. *Promote biodiversity as a regional asset*
3. *Protect and enhance the region's urban and rural landscapes*

8. Learning & Skills

1. *Lifelong learning will support sustainable communities*
2. *Learning organisations will set an example as businesses, in establishing sustainable policies and practices*
3. *Learning gains commitment to sustainability and trains in sustainability skills*

9. Transport

1. *Reduce the need for travel*
2. *Promote fuel efficient transport systems accessible to all*
3. *Improve air quality for all*
4. *Provide a safe environment for all*

10. Natural Resources & Waste

1. *Reduce pollution and improve water, land and air quality*
2. *Ensure water, land, minerals, soils, forestry and other natural resources are used efficiently and with least environmental damage*
3. *Promote wise use of waste resources whilst reducing waste production and disposal*

11. Business & Work

1. *Ensure all people have quality work opportunities both paid and unpaid*
2. *Create more businesses and encourage existing ones to grow*
3. *Reduce the incidence of unemployment, low pay and tackle income inequality across the region*
4. *Increase the number of social economy businesses*

12. Culture & Heritage

1. *Encourage increased access to, and participation in, cultural activities across the SW, capitalising on the latest developments in ICT*
2. *Ensure the SW remains a region of diverse and distinct cultural landscapes and townscapes.*

3. *Endow the region's creative capabilities and maximise their social and economic benefit.*

13. Food & Farming

1. *Promote high quality local food and drink*
2. *Improve the viability of mixed family-run farms*
2. *Raise the skills and aspirations of the farming and food workforce*
3. *Reconnect farmers and food producers with local communities*
4. *Enhance the quality of farmland landscapes and habitats*

14. Tourism

1. *Promotion of sustainable tourism, which conserves and enhances the environment and has the support of local communities*
2. *Enhancing the resource and promoting quality*
3. *Extending the tourism season and promoting the historic and cultural environment*

15. Coast & the Maritime Environment

1. *Develop and support cross sectoral partnerships*
2. *Develop the region's coastal and marine knowledge base*
3. *Enhance the sustainable economic potential of the coast*
4. *Reduce diffuse marine pollution from land-based sources*

Appendix G: Consultation Responses, Schedule of Comments

G.1. The consultation period ended on Friday 5th June. Responses were received from:

- English Heritage
- The Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Child Okeford Parish Council
- Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB
- Cultural Services - Dorset County Council
- Magna Housing Association
- RSPB South West
- The Theatres Trust
- Wessex Water

G.2. A summary of their comments is included below along with a response from North Dorset District Council in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

G.3. The draft Scoping Report was amended in the light of these consultation responses and this final Scoping Report has now been produced to form the basis for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD.

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
English Heritage	Offered a broad definition of the Historic Environment as: <i>All designated and non-designated features of historic or architectural interest. This includes World Heritage Sites, listed buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and scheduled monuments. It also includes their settings; the wide urban and rural landscape and the potential for unrecorded archaeology. The manifestation of an area's heritage assets can be as subtle as the historic street patterns, below ground archaeology and discrete architectural features. It can include key views, settings and those familiar and cherished local scenes. These historic environment features combine to make a vital contribution to a sense of place and local identity.</i>	Include in glossary
	Historic Landscape Characterisation and Urban Characterisation can supplement point data on the historic environment	Appraisals have been undertaken for several Conservation Areas and the landscape of the AONB and the conclusions of these will be used as part of the baseline to the SA.
	Early consultation with conservation/archaeology/design colleagues who have local knowledge	Involvement of these officers in SA process will be ongoing
	Need to recognise opportunities that arise out of and wider contribution of Historic Environment eg heritage led regeneration, heritage based tourism, leisure, recreation, place-making, developments which fit in with existing layout of town	Partially covered by Objective 8. Add in considerations of the opportunities that arise
	Environmental <i>Problems</i> that may need to be addressed in the SA process: Historic assets at risk, degraded landscape / townscape, areas where historic environment may be significantly affected by development, traffic congestion, air quality and noise pollution	Monuments at risk already included, investigate other relevant baseline information eg Conservation Area appraisals
	Environmental <i>Issues</i> that may need to be addressed in the SA process: Capacity of settlement to accept development, preserving and enhancing historic environment	Derive information from Conservation Area appraisals and incorporate appropriate wording into Objective 8
	Environmental <i>Opportunities</i> that may need to be addressed in the SA process: Use historic environment to contribute to local distinctiveness, promotion of reuse of existing buildings, improve awareness and understanding of historic environment, heritage led regeneration, tourism and traditional building skills and economic opportunities	Amend wording of Objective 8 and 11 to recognise the opportunities that arise
	Additional plans and programmes suggested for review:	
	European Landscape Convention (EU, 2000), The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS, 2001)	Both will be incorporated into the appraisal
	A Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West (English Heritage, 2001)	A version published in 2004 has already been included
	Streets for all South West (English Heritage, 2005)	Detailed document about street surface paving. More applicable to Development Control rather than the strategic nature of SA

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
Environment Agency	Suggestion that Catchment Flood Management Plans be incorporated into the SA.	These plans are being prepared by the EA and will promote flood risk management policies at the catchment scale. As they are currently under production, they will be considered in subsequent revisions.
	Additional plans and programmes suggested for review:	
	Future Water (DEFRA, 2008), Water Resource Management Plan (Wessex Water, 2008), The Wetland Vision (Natural England et al, 2008), The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), Biodiversity by Design (TCPA, 2004), BREEAM for commercial / industrial buildings	These will be incorporated into the appraisal
	The Pitt Review, 2008	This review of the 2007 floods makes recommendations to Government. The outcomes of the recommendations will be incorporated into subsequent SA Scoping Report revisions
	Code for Sustainable Homes is also relevant to sections on Climate Change and Flooding (section 2b) and Natural Resources, Water and Soil (section 3b) and Energy Consumption and Efficiency (section 3c)	Will include mention of the Code under these sections
	Replace “Water Resources for the Future (Environment Agency, 2001)” with the updated version “Water for the People and the Environment: Water Resource Strategy for England and Wales (Environment Agency, 2009)	Will review this document and update the relevant sections of the SA Scoping Report
	The Environment Agency can provide baseline data	Noted
	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna section should mention the importance of biodiversity within all environments	This is already covered by the wording in this section but alterations will be made to make this more explicit
	Wider coverage / promotion and definition of Green Infrastructure as: <i>The sub-regional network of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces and greenway linkages. The linkages include corridors and floodplains, migration routes and features of the landscape, which are of importance as wildlife corridors. Green infrastructure should provide for multi-functional uses i.e. wildlife, recreational and cultural experience, as well as delivering ecological services, such as flood protection and microclimate control. It should also operate at all spatial scales from urban centres through to open countryside.</i>	Include in glossary and cover under Objectives 5 and 7
	Baseline data on Pollution states “ <i>The Biological river water quality is generally high with 94% of the rivers being classified as 'good' or 'very good'.</i> ” This section refers to the old classification system which will shortly be replaced by Water Framework Directive Classification and Status.	Data under the new classification cannot be included as it has not yet been produced. Once it has been released it will be used in subsequent revisions of the SA Scoping Report

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
Environment Agency (cont.)	We are really pleased that you have highlighted the need to incorporate water efficiency measures within housing development... should not limit this requirement to housing but apply it to all new development	Will include statement to this effect and include SuDS under Objective 6
	Several suggestions for possible indicators within the response from the Environment Agency	The intention was to develop the suite of indicators further as part of the Initial SA Report. The EA's suggestions will therefore be taken on board at this later stage of the SA
	Planning Policy Statement 24 should be Planning Policy Statement 23	Amended
	Suggest that it would be useful to look at the reasons why SSSIs and SNCIs may be in unfavourable condition	Will investigate availability of the information and include if appropriate

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
Natural England	The provision of all new housing should be linked to ensuring that new schemes contribute to the provision of adequate levels of accessible green infrastructure	Include a statement within housing Key Issues and list GI under Assessment principles for Objective 2
	The promotion of active lifestyles should include the provision of increased opportunities for the more gentle forms of exercise such as walking and gardening. Further consideration should also be given to mental health issues including the provision of measures to reduce levels of stress	Include a statement on the importance of green infrastructure and open space under the Key Issues related to health
	Parts of North Dorset lie within 5km of European Protected heathlands (SAC / SPA). Residential development more than 400m from the heathlands but within 5km should only be allowed if mitigation proposals are in place to guard against harm to the designated interests	Include this statement under the Biodiversity section of the report
	A significant proportion of North Dorset's biodiversity resource is located within, or dependent on, the non statutory County Wildlife Sites network (SNCIs). The SNCI series of sites also contribute considerably to the quality and character of local landscapes	Mention of SNCIs and other sites that are important to landscape and biodiversity in North Dorset. Include the South West Nature Map as part of the baseline data
	Impact on the water levels of the district's rivers and the rivers adjacent to the district is an important biodiversity issue	The importance of the river systems / around the district will be acknowledged under the assessment principles of Objective 7
	The importance to biodiversity of the wider countryside also needs to be highlighted	This is already covered by the wording in the biodiversity section but alterations will be made to make this more explicit
	The promotion of measures to reduce habitat fragmentation by increasing connectivity and protecting / enhancing wildlife corridors should be considered as a key issue	The Biodiversity Key Issues does cover this however the wording will be amended to include wildlife corridors
	North Dorset has a number of key species which could be used as indicator species for the SA / LDF	The intention was to develop the suite of indicators further as part of the Initial SA Report. These suggestions will therefore be taken on board at this later stage of the SA
	Natural England strongly agrees that Climate Change is a key issue for North Dorset and arguably represents the biggest challenge. However, the strong link to flooding is unhelpful as it suggests that this impact is the only key issue. The section should then outline the other key issues associated with climate change mitigation (i.e. measures needed to reduce greenhouse gases and adaptation (i.e. measures needed to manage the impact of future climate change).	We understand the point Natural England are making but feel that this is the best way to tackle the wide range of issues that Climate Change raises. Adaptation is covered under Objective 6 with flooding being the most well understood inevitable impact. Mitigation is then covered under Objective 10
	North Dorset is included in Natural England's Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase Climate Change Pilot Project which seeks to explore the most likely impacts of climate change to the area's biodiversity	Noted

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
Natural England (cont)	Summary bullets of key issues should include all issues identified in the key issues descriptions for each sub heading (biodiversity, Climate Change etc.).	The Key Issues sections are intended to summarise the more detailed information included in the proceeding sections. They therefore only restate the recurring themes rather than all of the issues that have been taken into account in the review of plans and programmes and the baseline data.
	Natural England agrees that if well managed North Dorset woodlands have the potential to provide valuable resources, perhaps most notably wood fuel. However, with increased demands for non fossil fuels it is likely that demand will increase, potentially outstripping supply to the detriment of local woods. Consideration should therefore be given to the promotion of additional broad leaved planting, with the aim of providing local sustainable sources of wood fuel.	Wording will be inserted under the Natural Resources section of the report to highlight the need for management and additional broadleaved planting to provide wood fuel. It is also partially covered by Objective 6
	Key to reducing energy consumption will be minimising the need for car travel. This may be achieved through a combination of the appropriate location of new development, supporting the provision of local services and facilities, the promotion of home working initiatives and through the expansion of public transport options. The Transport section should be expanded to add as a key issue the promotion of schemes designed to reduce the need for car travel with the joint aims of making significant reductions in carbon emissions, congestion and accident rates.	Reducing the need to travel by car will be added under the Transport section. The objective of reducing the need to travel is however covered by Objective 14 and also indirectly by Objective 2
	Several recommendations were made about the SA Objectives	Objectives are easier to understand and to use in the appraisal if they are discrete and therefore have little overlap. For this reason the inter relationship between objectives is acknowledged but has been avoided where possible
	<p>Objective 1 – Assessment principles should include accessibility to jobs and services</p> <p>Objective 2 – Should include “reduce the need to travel”</p> <p>Objective 3 – Assessment principles should include access to green infrastructure</p> <p>Objective 6 – should include impacts to biodiversity and improved connectivity of habitats</p> <p>Objective 7 – Assessment principles should include the “protection, management and enhancement of international, national and local wildlife sites”.</p> <p>Objective 8 – Assessment principles should include the use of local building materials</p> <p>Objective 9 – Assessment principles should include both recreation and access to GI, highlight the health benefits by including “Human health” under the SEA Topics</p> <p>Objective 9 – Assessment principles should include a wider reference to biodiversity rather than just woodland and hedgerows</p> <p>Objective 10 – Assessment principles should include the restoration and enhanced connectivity of habitats</p> <p>Objective 11 – Assessment principles should include “soil conservation”</p>	<p>Covered by Objective 2</p> <p>Covered by Objective 14</p> <p>Will include appropriate wording</p> <p>Will include appropriate wording under Objective 7</p> <p>Will include appropriate wording</p> <p>Will include appropriate wording</p> <p>Will include appropriate wording</p> <p>This Objective relates to the visual landscape features. The potential impacts on biodiversity are covered by Objective 7</p> <p>Will be covered by revisions to Objective 7</p> <p>Will include appropriate wording</p>

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
Child Okeford Parish Council	Environmental protection themes are most important to the rural population especially in relation to housing developments. Inappropriate development, not meeting the needs of the rural population, is considered to be a particular problem	The purpose of the SA is to assess policy options for the location of development based on the baseline position and to highlight where mitigation measures may be needed, for example investment in the necessary infrastructure.
	Impact of development on flooding especially surface water flooding due to hard surfacing	The SA will highlight where problems such as surface water flooding might arise due to development and promote mitigation measures (such as SuDS) to reduce the impact of the development taking place.
	Support the recognition of the importance of the historic environment and its preservation	Noted
	Protection of agricultural land is important and should be given more emphasis in addition to that given to environment, biodiversity and wild life	Noted. The SA will be important in highlighting these issues and ensuring they are considered in the Core Strategy
	Recognition of the importance of plumbers, electricians, jobbing builders, gardeners, garages etc especially as the services they offer are in demand	The importance of these trades is noted. They are included within other employment sectors and therefore have been considered in the review of baseline data
	There is a failure to recognise that increased development in villages causes out commuting due to the lack of employment opportunities in such villages	Planned growth, where housing development is coordinated with infrastructure and job growth, is the aim of the Core Strategy. The role of the SA is to highlight where policies are needed to promote managed growth of all sectors.
	There is a need to undertake an assessment of the infrastructure requirements of settlements	Objective 2 seeks to ensure that housing development and the provision of facilities are coordinated. An assessment of the capacity of the infrastructure in the villages will form part of the Site Allocations DPD to be produced later.
	No reference in the objectives of the importance of the farming sector	The influence the farming sector has on the landscape is acknowledged in the assessment principles for Objectives 9 and 15
	No specific Objective on the use of green technologies	Green technologies are specifically mentioned in the assessment principles of Objective 6 however wording will also be added to the assessment principles of Objective 15

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
Child Okeford Parish Council (cont)	There is a specific reference to building on greenfield land to meet housing requirements, without evidence of the need. This must be resisted; it is completely in contradiction to all the other requirements, goals and objectives.	There is a need to provide housing for the growing population of the district and due to the rural characteristics of the district there is a lack of previously developed land. For this reason some development will have to take place on greenfield sites. The objectives within the SA will aim to focus development towards the most appropriate locations, including brownfield land where it exists.
	Recognition of the importance of highlighting the potential conflicts between SA objectives and that consultation needs to take place to devise an approach to tackling the conflicts / balancing the competing objectives	This section intends to highlight possible competing objectives therefore identifying areas where the appraisal may need to consider mitigation measures to offset the potential negative effects. The assumptions / trade-offs and mitigation measures will be detailed in the full SA report that will accompany the DPD. There will also be a check to ensure that no one of the 16 objectives consistently lose out to the others.

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB	Referred to AONB Management Plan for possible indicators	Indicator lists and data sources will be useful when devising indicators for the monitoring the effects of the DPD implementation. The full set of indicators will be developed as part of the Initial SA Report.
	Focus on “High Levels” of economic growth seems to prejudice the balance between economic aspects and effective protection of the environment and prudent use of natural resources	This has been derived from the UK Government’s recognised definition of sustainable development and therefore has been widely accepted. It is thought that this gives the correct balance between the environmental, social and economic themes of sustainability. However in the light of changes in thinking, the reference to “High Levels” of economic growth has been replaced by “Sustainable” levels of economic growth.
	Strongly recommend that Landscape is given a much higher profile rather than being a sub-heading. Suggest that as Landscape is an overarching topic it should be identified as such and given that appropriate profile	The landscape of the district is important to its attractiveness and therefore will be an important part of the SA. It is given a similar amount of weight as topics such as biodiversity, pollution and housing. The SA however needs to offer a balance view of all aspect of sustainability recognising the inter-relationship between different considerations. Adding disproportionate weight to one consideration will distort this balance.
	Strongly suggest that conserving and enhancing the landscapes of the AONBs should be given much higher profiles	Will include appropriate wording under Objective 9
	No mention of the duty of the District Council to take into consideration conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONBs as required by Section 85 of the CRoW Act 2000	Will refer to this in the appropriate place under the review of plans and programmes
	In connection with waste and recycling, together with ground water source protection zones the AONB is very supportive of the attitude being taken here	Noted
	The AONB has recognised the very high levels of car ownership within North Dorset... and that frequent and affordable public transport is not really achievable in remote areas. Encouraging the inclusion of affordable parking facilities at link points with public transport such as at the head of valley roads where they meet the major bus routes	Noted
	The SEA directive identifies “Landscape” as a major heading and I would recommend that approach is taken in your appraisal	Landscape is given similar weight to other SEA topics to give a balanced appraisal. Adding disproportionate weight to one consideration will distort this balance.

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB (cont)	Table 3 showing potential incompatibility of objectives is helpful... It does however seem to draw attention to potential conflicts with environmental matters rather than emphasise the importance of environmental quality to the quality of life within the district.	The table intends to identify potential conflicts between competing objectives and therefore highlights the potential for conflict between measures to protect for example the landscape of the district with that for continued housing development. The importance of the high quality environment is fundamental to the quality of life in North Dorset and this is recognised in the SA Objectives. A reference to Quality of life will be included in the assessment principles associated with Objective 9.
	There is no mention of AONBs and nationally important landscapes in the reference to PPS7	Will include appropriate wording
	Review of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Mangement Plan has now taken place and has been adopted.	Will update the relevant sections of the SA Scoping Report to this effect.
	Reference to the vale of Wardour being to the North West. It is actually to the North East of the district	Will amend the relevant section in the report
	Reference to the CPRE work on Tranquillity. This AONB has been following up the national work locally and has detailed data for the AONB area including a significant part of North Dorset	Although more detailed data is generally more useful, it is considered more appropriate to use consistent data across the whole district to enable district wide comparisons. We will therefore rely on the CPRE data unless more detailed data can be produced for the whole district
	Broadly supportive of the scoping document with the major caveat that landscape matters and conserving and enhancing landscapes should take a much higher profile	This is noted but in the interests of balance across all of the factors that play a part in sustainable development, it is considered inappropriate to add any more weight to one particular factor other than through minor changes in emphasis in existing wording.

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
Cultural Services - Dorset County Council	Cultural Services would like to see a greater recognition and understanding of the role that culture plays in quality of life in terms of the widely established two part understanding of culture as having a material or activity dimension (e.g. the performing and visual arts, play, sports, libraries and museums, landscape, the built environment, and heritage) and a value dimension (e.g. shared memories, experience and identity)	Will include this broader definition of Culture in the glossary and also amend appropriate sections of the report to take on board this definition in line with the response made by DCC Cultural Services
	The Citizens Panel April 2009 included a section on culture which showed: 78% agree that access to cultural activities helps to make Dorset a better place to live; 77% agree that engagement in cultural activities contributes to an improved quality of life The survey results are available at district level	Will use the supplied information to bolster the baseline data and request that DCC supply the council with updates as and when they are available. Assess the potential to use the information as an indicator for the monitoring of the SA
	The document refers to exercise in relation to health, but in addition should recognise the role that broader cultural participation plays in health and well being. This has a bearing on provision of access to culture in terms of facilities and services.	Will amend/add reference in assessment principles for Objectives 3 and 4 to include the broader definition of culture.
	With reference to SA Objective 4, we would like to suggest that the issue is wider than that of cultural heritage, and that it is access to culture as a whole that will contribute to achieving this target	
	With reference to SA Objective 5, Dorset Design and Heritage Forum's aim is to promote quality design that respects the county's landscape heritage within community planning, land use planning and arts practice in Dorset.	Will refer to the broad definition of culture in the assessment principles for Objective 5
	Maintenance of high levels of economic growth and employment Culture attracts business relocation because quality of life is a strong motivational factor for inward investment. The breadth and quality of cultural activity will support the image and identity of Dorset as a vibrant place to live and do business.	Improvements in Quality of Life are a direct result of sustainable development. The SA will seek to highlight areas where Quality of Life can be improved for example through the inclusion of Objective 5
	A broad definition of the creative industries is those goods and services in the creative sector: advertising, architecture, art and antiques, crafts, design, designer fashion, film and video, interactive leisure software, television and radio, performing arts, music and software and computer services which feature original creativity and generate intellectual property with a potential for wealth and job creation	Include definition in glossary

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
Cultural Services - Dorset County Council (cont)	The cultural sector provides employment with over 5% of Dorset's working population directly employed in leisure and tourism and over 3% in the creative industries. It is important to understand the infrastructure needs of the creative industries sector such as future demands for broadband speed and communication links; or employment land to enable business expansion. In addition the creative industries often consist of small to medium sized organisations with low environmental impact and an attractive appeal for a younger workforce – two issues which are important to the county.	This creative industries sector and its contribution through culture to the economy is noted. Appropriate wording will be added into the Economy section of the report. The infrastructure requirements for businesses including broadband are addressed under Objective 13
	Access to cultural activity supports the economy by underpinning individual and community well-being. In addition, creative activity plays an important role in raising skills, confidence and self esteem of all members of the community. We would also like to highlight the role for culture in the aim to extend the tourism offer	Will add appropriate wording into the Economy section to support this
	We would like to highlight the role that culture plays in the regional priority to “Promote stronger and more vibrant communities in the SW”	Will insert reference to culture in assessment principles for Objective 2
	Culture has a role to play in both the communication of environmental and climate change messages and in developing the habit of participation and action which results in active rather than passive communities that are prepared to take action	Noted
	Additional reference documents recommended:	
	People, Places and Spaces: a cultural infrastructure development strategy for the south west of England. Culture South West 2008, Multi-Area Agreement for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole 2008	Will include a review of these documents
	Envisioning the Green Knowledge Economy. A report for the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole MAA Partnership. Professor Mark Hepworth	This document is a research report which is more relevant to the Core Strategy. As it is a research paper it is not relevant to the SA and therefore will not be included.
	Ageing population has been identified as a key issue under social progress but is not clearly identified in the SA Objectives	The ageing population is identified under Objective 3 as a health issue and covered by the assessment principles of Objective 4

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
Magna Housing Association	The document on the whole is very well set out and provides a firm basis to move towards a more sustainable North Dorset.	Noted
	There is mention of Housing and sustainability, should there be a mention on Housing (affordable and open market) having to meet Code for sustainable homes and a brief paragraph explaining what this is and the effects this will have on future development.	The Code for Sustainable Homes is mentioned in Appendix B under the Housing section and many of the criteria included in the code are covered by Objectives in particular Objective 12
	Page 29 Table 3 Social progresses 1 and 5 have very compatible objectives. As an Affordable Housing provider/developer it is very important that we use design to improve lives in a way that is affordable and sustainable. We have to think about all possible tenants or purchasers needs when designing the layout and housing on a site. In designing a scheme the needs of the Community is one of the first things we look at	Noted and will amend to reflect this point

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
RSPB South West	We have considered the SA report, dated April 2009 and do not have any major comments to make	Noted
	The District contains a small but important number of internationally, nationally and local designated sites. These must be protected and enhanced. Growth can represent a direct and indirect threat to these important District assets which needs to be recognised and accounted for in the Plan.	Objective 7 covers these points
	The District also provides considerable new habitat re-creation potential. This has been described by the South West nature map, and these opportunities should be supported by the Plan.	The South West Nature Map has been used in the assessment of the plans and programmes and opportunities that arise to re-create habitats will be identified in accordance with the Nature Map as part of the SA
	Recognition of the linkages with other plans and strategies must be made. We would particularly highlight the recently adopted Dorset AONB management plan and the recently published Dorset Downs/Cranborne Chase climate change report as pertinent in this regard.	The AONB management plans have been reviewed as part of the review of plans and programmes and the Dorset Downs / Cranborne Chase Climate Change report will also be included in this respect.
	With respect to internationally important sites, we would anticipate an appropriate assessment of the core strategy being necessary. We would recommend that consideration is given to this as a matter of urgency, as this should be prepared in parallel with the Plan's development.	An Appropriate Assessment is currently being prepared in parallel with the plan to meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive
	Opportunities to promote and deliver sustainable development, green infrastructure (GI) and renewable technologies should be identified and promoted. Of particular note is the potential role of GI within the District in managing pressure on designated wildlife sites elsewhere in Dorset	Wording will be inserted within the assessment principles of Objectives 5 and 7. Renewable technologies are covered within Objective 12
	Implications of proposals for the transport network also need consideration, especially in terms of road traffic. The Plan needs to reduce reliance on private transport and promote public transport.	Objectives 13 and 14 both promote alternative forms of travel to the private car and reduction in the need to travel.

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
The Theatres Trust	We are disappointed that there is no specific guidance on protecting and encouraging arts and cultural provision.	The lack of information on cultural provision was also highlighted by Dorset County Council Cultural Services and will be amended to reflect their concerns along with the concerns of The Theatres Trust
	We assume that access to cultural activities (other than sport and recreation) may be incorporated within one of the first five SA Objectives as listed on page 29 but this is not clear. This topic is essential for the success of your towns as the Government is committed to the urban renaissance of town centres.	

Respondent	Main comments	NDDC Response
Wessex Water	The draft report sets out comprehensive details for the plans, strategies and baseline information. This will allow further discussion and progress through the issues and constraints facing future development in North Dorset	These are the aims of the SA and the response on behalf of Wessex Water highlights in concise terms what the Scoping Report intended to achieve.
	The SA framework seeks to incorporate all relevant national guidance and sustainability objectives into a focus for North Dorset.	
	The framework of objectives will allow the impacts to be considered and subject to appropriate consultation and feedback will set a platform for a balanced approach.	
	Wessex Water supports water efficiency measures to reduce the impact upon water resources and abstraction from ground water. We are proposing to increase security of supply by investing in improvements to the water grid across the region.	Noted and in agreement with Objective12
	Flood risk - we are implementing recommendations arising from the Pitt Review to increase the resilience of assets at risk of flooding. We support the use of SuDs to reduce the impact of development upon surface water run off and downstream flood risk.	Noted and in agreement with Objectives 6 and 10
	Wessex Water welcomes the opportunity to work closely with North Dorset District Council in due course, to agree the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems and Surface Water Management Plans in line with the Pitt Review to cater for future development. Wessex Water is willing to participate in any appraisal work to identify the scope and extent of infrastructure improvements to service new development sites. A drainage strategy can be agreed with Wessex Water for new development sites.	Wessex Water will be contacted in future consultation exercises and their input will be valued both at the strategic planning stage and at the development control stage