

Sustainability Appraisal - Executive Summary

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Introduction

1.1 This Executive Summary has been produced to provide a concise overview of the Arun District Council Sustainability Appraisal.

1.2 Arun District Council (ADC) has prepared the publication version of its Local Plan. Once adopted, the Arun District Local Plan will contain the planning policies to implement the vision and strategic objectives for future development in the District. This addresses the needs and opportunities within Arun District Planning Authority Area relating to the economy, housing, facilities and infrastructure through enabling good design, safeguarding of the environment, and allow adaptation to climate.

1.3 In accordance with European and national legislation, the Arun District Local Plan as a Local Development Document (LDD) establishes a framework for future development and so triggers the requirement for a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), to ensure that the plan delivers sustainable development.

What is Sustainable Development?

1.4 Sustainable development is at the core of the planning system. It has a worldwide meaning, defined in the World Commission on Environment and Development Report, as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

1.5 This SA fully incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) requirements as set out by European Directive 2001/42/EC and has been prepared to accompany the proposed submission version of Arun District Local Plan. This SA builds upon the SA Scoping Report and Initial Sustainability Commentary that supported the Core Strategy Issues and Options

1.6 The SA process is designed to test the Local Plan and is a means for identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the Local Plan might otherwise have. By doing so, it can help make sure that the proposals in the plan are the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives. The SA process helps test the Local Plan through the use and application of evidence and therefore helps with developing options. It is an iterative process, which is integrated into the different stages of forming a Local Plan.

2 Methodology

Methodology

2.1 The SA process is completed to work in tandem with the production processes of the Local Plan process are completed together at the different stages as shown in the flow chart below (Figure 1.1).

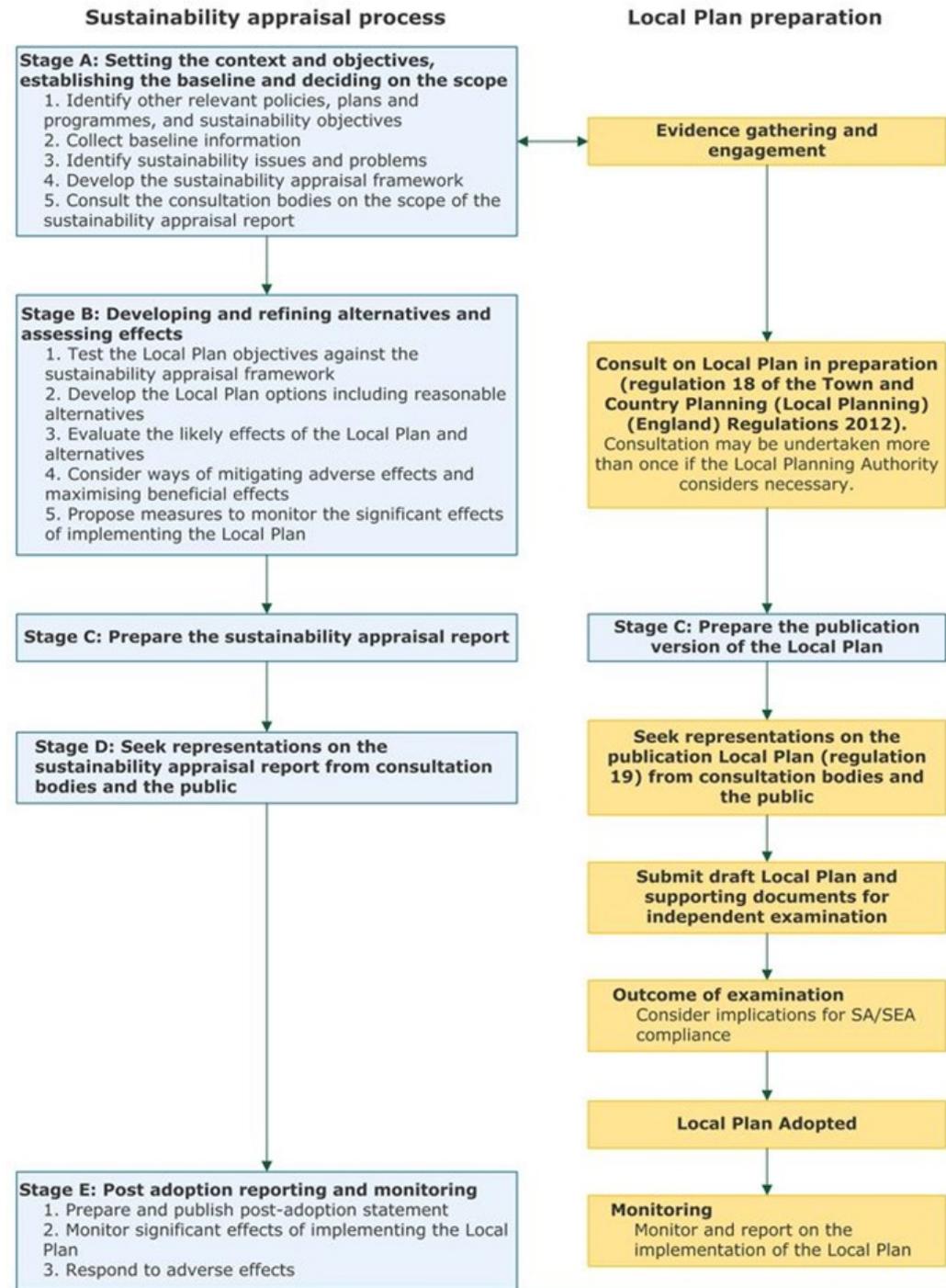


Figure 1.1

3 Plans, Programmes and Policies

Plans, Programmes and Policies

3.1 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA it is necessary to systematically review and develop an understanding of baseline data, and plans, programmes and policies (PPP's) that are of relevance to informing the Local Plan. These are set out in a table forming Appendix 1.

3.2 Detailed baseline information for ADC was gathered as part of the baseline analysis in the original 2005 Scoping Report. As part of the process of producing each SA, the baseline information has been utilised, updated and added to through a review of the National, County and ADC's strategies, action plans and monitoring reports. Additionally evidence based studies commissioned by both ADC and WSCC to inform the emerging Local Plan have been incorporated in the appraisal process, specifically in updating indicators, and building on trends. As part of the baseline data review process the following principles are systematically considered:

- a. Relevance - is the data helpful?
- b. Current in the data as up to date as possible?
- c. Availability - the data easily accessible?
- d. Interpretation - is it easy to understand?

3.3 The Local Plan has been influenced by a wealth of PPPs. Additionally the content of the PPP's have also been used to inform some of the key sustainability issues facing the District and in turn, the sustainability objectives of this SA Report.

4 Baseline Situation

Baseline Situation

4.1 During the process of producing the Local Plan a portrait of the District was created taking in account economic, social and environmental factors, to determine what the current state of the district is and what would happen if the Local Plan was adopted.

Economic characteristics

- In economic terms, Arun is relatively prosperous when compared to the national average, but performs below average for the South East region.
- The largest employment sectors are distribution, hotels and restaurants providing around 30% of jobs, followed by public administration, education, care and health at around 27%. Around 12% of jobs are in manufacturing which is above the South East average.
- Also significant is the commercial horticulture industry, which is a major employer in the Barnham and Angmering areas. Arun is dominated by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with less than 11 employees, which account for 86% of the District's business establishments.
- Lack of employment is an issue in parts of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. Part of River Ward, Littlehampton falls within the worst 10% areas in England in terms of employment deprivation, and other parts of Littlehampton and Bognor Regis fall within the worst 20%.
- There are high levels of out-commuting Over 37% of residents in employment commute elsewhere to work.
- Chichester acts as an important employment centre for the west of the District and is also a significant draw for shopping and entertainment. Worthing fulfils a similar role for the east of the District.
- Further afield, the larger centres of Brighton and Portsmouth exert an influence and there is also some commuting northwards towards Horsham, Crawley, Gatwick and London.
- The outflow of many Arun residents reduces the amount of money spent in local shops and facilities. It is a factor in reducing the competitiveness of Arun's coastal towns as retail and service centres.
- Arun ranks as the second most deprived local authority within West Sussex, but is among the least 50% deprived nationally. Across the District, there are large variations, with many of the rural villages, and parts of the coastal urban fringe residents have higher educational attainment and incomes.

4 Baseline Situation

Environmental characteristics

- The northern part of the LPA is predominantly rural, the southern part of the LPA falls within the West Sussex coastal plain.
- There are four Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); Bognor Reef, Clymping Beach, Felpham and Pagham Harbour
- There are five Sites of Nature and Conservation Importance (SNCI); Littlehampton Golf Course and Atherington Beach, Elmer Rocks, Middleton Shingle and Fontwell Park Racecourse
- There are three Local Nature Reserves at Bersted Brooks, West Beach – Littlehampton, Pagham Harbour
- Pagham Harbour had also been designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EC Wild Birds Directive it is also a Ramsar site.
- Nearly half of the District is under the Planning Authority of South Downs National Park Authority
- The District is affected to varying degrees by all sources of flooding, the major sources are fluvial (rivers), tidal (sea), and groundwater.
- Water quality issues in Arun relate to organic pollution and eutrophication.
- Arun is rich in historical assets, with designated assets comprising 723 statutorily Listed Buildings, 28 Conservation Areas and 5 Scheduled Monuments.
- Also of note are 14 locally designated Areas of Special Character and 1,242 locally important buildings (Building or Structures of Character). Arundel in particular is renowned for its historic and cultural character

Social characteristics

- Arun Local Planning Authority (LPA) covers an area of 12,090 hectares (46 square miles) and has an estimated population of approximately 146,000⁽¹⁾.
- Arun has one of the UK's highest populations of elderly people, with 26% of residents being over the age of 65, compared to 16% nationally.
- By contrast, parts of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton have a significantly younger age profile, with above average proportions of families and young people

1 Estimate based on the 2011 Census (release 2.1) population for the Arun District, reduced by the estimated population for parishes which fall within the South Downs National Park Planning Authority Area.

4 Baseline Situation

- Average life expectancy in Arun (80.2 years) is close to the average for West Sussex, and above average for England.
- Average house prices in Arun's coastal towns are generally relatively low compared to neighbouring areas, but prices are significantly higher in Arundel and some inland villages.
- Approximately 80% of housing in Arun is owner occupied, which is much higher than both the national and West Sussex average. Around 9% is social rented, with a similar proportion privately rented. Private renting is concentrated in the town centres, where it rises to over 35% of total housing in Marine Ward, Bognor Regis.
- The 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) indicates that parts of rural Arun ⁽²⁾ fall within the 10% most deprived areas in England in terms of barriers to housing and services.
- Almost 17% of Arun's children live in low income households – just under 4,000 children, which was a small fall. Over 13% of people aged 60 or over live in low income households – just over 6,000 and this number is on the increase.
- Educational achievement in the District is relatively low, with the percentage of those with a degree or higher (23%) falling below the national average (40%).

2 Super Output Areas for this domain are Arundel, Walberton and Yapton (2010 IMD)

5 Key Sustainability Issues affecting Arun District

Key Sustainability Issues affecting Arun District

5.1 The identification of sustainability issues is an opportunity to define key challenges and develop the objectives and criteria that create the sustainability objectives which is a crucial component of the Sustainability Framework used to assess the Local Plan during its development). The review of relevant plans and policies (Stage A1) and the baseline investigations (Stage A2) (refer to Figure 1.1) have acted to provide a solid background against which the key sustainability issues for Arun's Local Plan can be established, as summarized in the table below:

Growth
Requirement to 11,600 dwellings to be delivered before 2028. Due to Arun's environmental and infrastructure constraints, options for locating growth become limited. Growth options should seek to improve inequalities where possible and explore the possibility of delivering physical infrastructure, plus improved facilities and services.
Diversifying local economy
The main sectors of employment in Arun are within wholesale retailing, repair of motor vehicles and public administration and services. Agriculture also plays an important role in the rural economy. By diversifying its reliance on a range of employment sectors will ensure Arun has a strong economic base in which to weather future economic downturns. This can also assist in upskilling the workforce and creating a more balanced population through attracting younger skilled people to relocate to Arun and encourage more of Arun's younger qualified residents to stay.
Low Wage Economy and Low Educational Achievement
GSCE attainment is lower than the national average. There is also a fair degree of variation between the educational institutions within Arun. Wages in Arun are also significantly lower at an average comparison to regional figures, due to the higher proportion being in the lower skilled sectors. This makes it hard to retain young professionals and improve the aspirations of the young. Employment needs to be key to delivering growth and should be more diversified, as well as contributing to improvement of educational attainments and skills.
Regeneration of Town Centres
Economic regeneration and the vitality of town centres is a key priority in Arun. At the heart of the regeneration plans is to create vibrant town centres that reposition Bognor Regis and Littlehampton as first class coastal destinations. Regeneration of the Town Centres should assist in addressing issues of social and economic deprivation without having a detrimental impact on the environment that is key to visitor attraction.

5 Key Sustainability Issues affecting Arun District

Local Distinctiveness
Arun is characterised by a range of open and diverse land and townscapes, with a number of historic assets and settings to the villages and towns. This distinctiveness is critical to Arun's identity and therefore needs to be protected and enhanced where possible.
Housing Delivery and Affordability
The existing delivery rate is below this target and the economic downturn is likely to put even further pressure on housing delivery in the District. Affordability is an increasing concern in Arun. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Demographic Needs Study also indicate a substantial level of hidden housing need. Barriers to Housing also remains an issue.
Creating more balanced communities
The age profile in Arun is particularly unbalanced with significant number of younger people located in the town centres and an increase in the proportion of older people. This age structure imbalance has a range of implications in terms of the provision and delivery of services as well as the future supply of local labour and hence the strength of the economic base.
Quality of Life
Although generally Arun is not particularly deprived, there are certain concentrated pockets where people experience a range of inequalities relating to health, education, crime and income. Reducing inequalities needs to be key to ensuring future sustainability.
Isolation
Problems around isolation and loneliness were identified in the Community Strategy as key concerns. These problems may intensify in the more rural areas where a lack of public transport further exacerbates these feelings of isolation, particularly for the elderly or less mobile.
Lack of Community Cohesion
A lack of community spirit was highlighted as a key concern in the Community Strategy. Increasing number of migrants, a high number of second residences, coupled with existing issues around isolation and loneliness has increased feelings of tension and lack of community cohesion.
Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Assets and Biodiversity

5 Key Sustainability Issues affecting Arun District

Arun is rich in environmental assets both in terms of landscape and biodiversity features. Approximately 50% of the District is included in the South Downs National Park. There are 4 SSSIs, 16 SNCI, and 1 SPA and Ramsar site. These assets form an important feature of Arun's distinctiveness and need to be protected and enhanced where possible. Increased pressure and impacts resulting from increases in local residents and visitors need to be appropriately managed and mitigated against.

Fluvial and Tidal Flood Risk

Arun is at risk from all types of flooding, but the main risks are associated with fluvial and tidal flooding. Significant areas along the coast and the River Arun are within zones 2 and 3, most at risk from flooding. Climate change and pressures for development will increase the risk of flooding across the District if not managed and mitigated against.

Water Quality and Resources

Currently, one location along the Aldingbourne Rife is failing national water quality standards. Maintaining and improving water quality should be a key concern. Water as a resource also needs to be managed more effectively. Water demand will increase further through greater development pressures if consumption rates are not reduced.

Access to Sustainable Transport

The District suffers from heavy road congestion due to high levels of out-commuting of the workforce, high car ownership rates and a lack of public transport infrastructure. Therefore there is a need to increase sustainable modes of transport and the provision and coverage of public transport services.

Difficulties in Collecting Data/Data Limitations

5.2 There are several gaps in the data collected due to significant changes that have occurred in terms of information reported since 2010. Much of the data is collected or collated by external bodies and therefore Arun District Council has little control over the temporal and spatial scope of the data collected. In addition, it is necessary to be aware of the possibility that data collection methods often change, causing issues in terms of reliable comparisons.

5.3 It is important to recognise that such limitations exist and that focusing solely on quantified indicators as a measure of progress could lead to misrepresentation and distortion of trends. This being the case it will also be necessary, in some circumstances, to utilise qualitative information, along with expert judgments, to assist with the appraisal of predicted effects. It should also be recognised that when considering plans at such a strategic level, it is not always possible to accurately predict sustainability effects. Impacts on biodiversity and cultural heritage, for example

5 Key Sustainability Issues affecting Arun District

will often depend on more detailed information and studies at a site-level. Similarly some aspect of judgment has to be made when considering synergistic impacts of climate change, as though the wealth of and science of climate change has significantly increased, there is no firm evidence on this subject.

6 The Sustainability Framework

The Sustainability Framework

6.1 It is necessary to develop a Sustainability Framework (SF) to systematically assess the contribution of the Local Plan objectives and policies to delivering sustainable development. Fifteen key sustainability issues identified (in Section 1.5 of the Sustainability Appraisal) defined the key challenges facing the District and informed the Sustainability Objectives as follows;

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

1. Achieve successful and Inclusive Communities.
2. Ensure that Arun delivers high quality housing and provides excellent social infrastructure.
3. Ensure a diverse and thriving economic base to support Arun's growth.
4. Improve the vibrancy of Arun's Town centres.
5. Ensure efficient and sustainable movement within and beyond Arun.
6. Enhance Arun's Environmental integrity
7. Maximise Natural Resource efficiency.

6.2 The development of the SA objectives into a sustainability framework is a recognised way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. The SA framework was first devised in the Scoping Report (March 2009), to assess the options of the Core Strategy. The SF is split into two sets of questions relating either to:

- 1). The assessment of spatial growth options i.e. where large scale development should be located, or
- 2). The assessment of the policies which will deliver the spatial strategy.

6.3 The table below is an overview of the Sustainability Framework which includes; criteria within them and the questions applied to both spatial and policy options. Appendix 3 shows the SF with indicators and criteria against SEA⁽³⁾ objectives. The indicators used are, consistent with the regional and local core indicators set out by DCLG, and the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) to ensure compatibility and to make the best use of resources

3 Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) requirement as set out by the European Directive 2001/42/EC

6 The Sustainability Framework

Sustainability Objective 1: Achieve Successful and Inclusive Communities		
Criteria	Question for Spatial Options	Question for Policy
Social Cohesion	What is the potential of development in the area to create a self-sufficient integrated community or able to connect to existing integrated communities?	Will this assist better Community Integration?
Healthy Lifestyle	What is the potential of development in the area to promote healthy lifestyles and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities?	Will this promote healthy lifestyles and wellbeing, and/or reduce health inequalities?
Balanced Communities	NA	Does this create a more balanced community?
Community Engagement	NA	Will this promote engagement and empowerment of local communities?
Crime	NA	Will actual crime and fear of crime reduced?
Educational Achievement	NA	Will this improve educational achievement?
Social Isolation	NA	Will this reduce social isolation?
Sustainability Objective 2: Ensure Delivers High Quality Housing & Provides Excellent Social Infrastructure		
Criteria	Question for Spatial Options	Question for Policy
Housing Supply	How far will development in the area contribute to meeting the housing requirement set out in the South East Plan over the Core Strategy period?	Will this assist in the delivery of housing in the District?
Affordable Housing	What is the potential of development in the area to deliver affordable housing that meets Arun's identified housing needs?	Will this improve the delivery of affordable homes to meet housing need in the District?

6 The Sustainability Framework

Mix of Housing	Will development in the area provide a balance mix of housing which will contribute to meeting: a) identified housing needs within the local authority area? b) identified housing demand within the local area and the wider housing market?	Will this provide a balanced mix of housing which will contribute towards meeting local housing needs and identified housing market requirements?
High Quality Housing		Will this provide high quality homes?
Access to Employment Opportunities	What is the potential of the area to provide good access to a range of employment opportunities?	Will this improve access to employment opportunities?
Access to Education	What is the potential of the area to provide good access to existing and/or to create new education facilities?	Will this improve access to education facilities?
Access to Health Care	What is the potential of the area to deliver good access to existing and/or to create new health care facilities?	Will this improve the access to health care?
Access to Community Facilities	Will the area deliver good access to existing and/or the potential to provide new Community Centres?	Will this improve the access to community facilities?
Access to Green Infrastructure	What is the potential of the area to deliver good access to existing and/or to create new Green Infrastructure?	Will this improve the access to green infrastructure?
Access to Emergency Services	What is the potential of the area to deliver good access to existing and/or to create new Emergency and Essential Services: Police	Will this improve the access to emergency and essential services?
Access to local retail	What is the potential of the area to deliver good access to existing and/or to create new local retail facilities?	Will this improve the access to local retail facilities?

6 The Sustainability Framework

Access to leisure, entertainment and cultural facilities	What is the potential of the area to deliver good access to existing and/or to create new leisure, entertainment & cultural facilities?	Will this improve the access to leisure and cultural facilities?
Sustainability Objective 3: Ensure a Diverse and Thriving Economic Base to support Arun's Growth		
Criteria	Question for Spatial Options	Question for Policy
Employment Opportunities	What is the potential of the area to deliver new employment opportunities?	Will this improve employment opportunities?
Skills	NA	Will this improve the skill base of people in Arun?
Income	NA	Will this provide better paid local jobs and reduce inequalities in income levels?
Inward Investment	What is the potential of the area to attract inward investment?	Will this encourage greater inward investment in Arun?
Visitor Economy	NA	Will this strengthen the visitor economy in Arun?
Local Business Enterprise	What is the potential of development in the area to encourage and support business start-ups and assist SMEs?	Will this improve opportunities for new business start-ups and SME?
Sustainability Objective 4: Improve the Vibrancy of Arun's Town Centres		
Criteria	Question for Spatial Options	Question for Policy
Regeneration	What is the potential of the area to contribute to the regeneration objectives identified in Bognor Regis and Littlehampton's Town Centres?	Will this assist the regeneration of Bognor Regis and /or Littlehampton?
Night time economy in town centres	NA	Will this create a more balanced night-time economy in Arun's town centres?

6 The Sustainability Framework

Town centre retail	NA	Will this improve retail offer in Arun's Town Centres?
Leisure, entertainment and Culture	NA	Will this improve the leisure and cultural offer in Arun's Town Centres?
Sustainability Objective 5: Ensuring efficient and sustainable movement within and beyond Arun		
Criteria	Question for Spatial Options	Question for Policy
Traffic Congestion	What will be the net effect of potential development on the capacity of the highway network?	Will this reduce traffic congestion?
Road Safety	NA	Will this improve road safety?
Public Transport	What is the potential of development in the area to provide good access to frequent public transport?	Will this improve access to public transport?
Walking and Cycling	What is the potential of development in the area to provide opportunities for walking and cycling?	Will this improve opportunities for walking and cycling?
Sustainability Objective 6: Enhance Arun's Environmental Integrity		
Criteria	Question for Spatial Options	Question for Policy
Local Distinctiveness	What is the potential of development in the area to maintain/ enhance the distinctive character of Arun's settlements, built environment and landscapes?	Will this protect and enhance the distinctive character of Arun's settlements, built environment and landscapes?
Historic Environment	What will be the potential impact of development on the historic environment?	Will this protect and enhance the historic environment?
Designated Environmental Sites	What will be the potential impact of development in the area on designated environmental sites?	Will this protect and enhance Designated Sites

6 The Sustainability Framework

Biodiversity	What will be the potential impact of development in the area in terms of biodiversity?	Will this enhance biodiversity?
Water Quality	What will be the potential impact of development in the growth areas on the water quality in Arun?	Will this improve Water Quality?
Flood Risk	Is development proposed in an area at risk of flooding?	Will this reduce the Risk of Flooding?
Air Quality	Will development in the area reduce air quality?	What is the impact on Air Quality?
Noise Pollution	Will development in the area reduce noise pollution?	Will this reduce noise pollution?
Coastal Erosion	Will development in the area have a positive/ negative impact on the coastal protection standard in the area?	Will this improve the coastal protection standard of the area?
Beach Quality	Will development in the area have a potential impact on the quality of local beaches?	Will this improve beach quality?
Land Contamination	Will development in the area remediate land contamination?	Will this remediate land contamination?
Sustainability Objective 7: Maximise Natural Resources efficiency		
Criteria	Question for Spatial Options	Question for Policy
Energy Supply and Demand	What is the potential of development in the area to reduce carbon emissions from energy?	Will this reduce emissions from energy?
Waste	What are the infrastructure opportunities for waste reduction?	Will this minimise waste disposal?
Water Resources	What is the potential of the area for water recycling? Does the spatial option maximise the efficient use of water resources?	Does the policy protect water resources? Does the policy maximise the efficient use of water resources?

6 The Sustainability Framework

Efficient Use of Land	What is the potential of development in the area to achieve efficient use/ re-use of land?	Will this contribute towards an efficient use of land?
Embodied Impact of Materials	What is the potential of development in the area to reuse existing building and /or sourced, manufactured and / or recycled materials locally?	Will this minimise the embodied impact of materials?
Locally Produced Food	What are the opportunities to buy locally produced food / grow food?	Will this improve access to locally produced food?
Soil Quality	What will be the impact of development in the area on the highest grades of existing agricultural land?	Will this improve the quality of the agricultural land?

6.4 A scoring matrix was set in the Core Strategy Options for Growth - Sustainability Commentary (March 2009). The matrix is based on three criteria being applied to the questions within the SA framework (above). The three criteria were as follows;

- Whether the effect is positive, negative or neutral - shown by colour
- Whether the effect is based on strong or weak evidence - shown by colour
- The strength or significance of the effect - shown by + or - or 0 to show neutral

Please see matrix on following page.

6 The Sustainability Framework

++	Positive Strong Evidence
+	Positive Weak Evidence
0/+	Evidence shows low significance impact but potential for positive impact
0	Neutral or no impact
0/-	Evidence shows low significance but likely potential for negative impact
-	Negative Weak Evidence
--	Negative Strong Evidence
0/--	No impact with assumed full implementation but significant negative if any aspect fails to be delivered
	Unknown due to lack of evidence or information

7 Appraising the Strategic Objectives

Appraising the Strategic Objectives

7.1 The strategic objectives in the Local Plan (see Appendix 2 that accompanies the Sustainability Appraisal) have been tested for compatibility against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives (identified in Section 1.6); so that any conflicts between the objectives are highlighted.

Table 1.2 shows the outcome of this process.

Local Plan Strategic Objectives	Sustainability Objectives						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Neutral	Slight benefits	Significant benefits	Slight benefits	Neutral	Slight harm	Slight harm
2	Slight benefits	Slight benefits	Slight benefits	Slight benefits	Significant benefits	Neutral	Neutral
3	Neutral	Slight harm	Slight harm	Neutral	Slight benefits	Significant benefits	Significant benefits
4	Slight benefits	Significant benefits	Slight benefits	Slight benefits	Neutral	Slight harm	Neutral
5	Slight benefits	Slight benefits	Neutral	Neutral	Slight benefits	Significant benefits	Significant benefits
6	Neutral	Neutral	Significant benefits	Significant benefits	Slight benefits	Neutral	Neutral
7	Significant benefits	Significant benefits	Neutral	Slight benefits	Slight benefits	Slight benefits	Slight benefits

Table 1.2

Key									
	Significant benefits		Slight benefits		Neutral		Slight harm		Significant harm

7.2 Overall there is a high degree of compatibility between the strategic objectives of the local plan and the sustainability objectives. However the areas of potential conflict are between strategic objective (3) of the Local Plan, to plan for climate change and work in harmony with the environment to conserve natural resources and increase biodiversity and the sustainability objectives (2,3) to ensure ADC delivers high quality housing and provides excellent social infrastructure, and a diverse and thriving economic base to support Arun's growth.

7.3 It is not necessary to remove objectives in the Local Plan that are shown to conflict with those of the SA, instead by highlighting them at this stage it allows them to be taken into account and mitigated for where appropriate as the plan develops.

8 Appraising the Spatial Options

Appraising the Spatial Options

8.1 The Sustainability Framework and scoring matrix described in section 1.6 has been applied to policy area spatial options and alternatives where appropriate as set out in the chapters and sections of the Local Plan, this has been updated through the process of producing the Local Plan. Table 1.3 below details the spatial alternatives appraised and the outcome of the appraisal.

Alternatives (within Chapter and Section Headings)	Most Sustainable	Approach Carried to Policy
<p>Sustainable Place</p> <p><u>Settlement Structure & Green Infrastructure</u></p> <p>A1: Review the boundaries of the Green Infrastructure Corridor policy</p> <p>A2: Introduce a Gaps policy to replace Green Infrastructure Corridor policy</p> <p>A3: Rely on a rigorous countryside policy to protect the settlement structure of the district.</p>	A2	A2
<p>Prosperous Place</p> <p><u>Employment and Enterprise</u></p> <p>A1: Focused north of Bognor Regis and North Angmering</p> <p>A2: Creation of a business hub at Ford</p> <p>A3: Spread across suitable sites in Flood Zone 1</p>	A1	A1
<p>Living Place</p> <p><u>Housing Delivery</u></p> <p>A – No additional land allocations (175dpa; 2,960 over Plan period)</p> <p>B – Low Growth to meet demographic trends only (362dpa; 6,150 over the Plan period)</p>	E, G, F 4, 3, 2, 1, 8, 5, 10, 12, 6, 7, 9, 11	G 4, 3, 1, 8, 5

8 Appraising the Spatial Options

<p>C – Low to Medium Growth (425 dpa; 7,225 over Plan period)</p> <p>D – Medium Growth (495 dpa; 8,415 over Plan period)</p> <p>E – South East Plan Figures (565 dpa; 9,605 over Plan period)</p> <p>F – Locally Generated Needs Study Figure (610 dpa; 10,370 over the Plan period)</p> <p>Additionally discussed (G) Objectively Assessed Housing Needs evidence Figure (580 dpa; 11,600 over the plan period)</p> <p><u>Distribution of Housing</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Littlehampton, West Bank 2. Bognor Regis Eco Quarter (BREQ)/North West of Chalcraft Lane 3. Barnham/Eastergate/Westergate 4. Angmering (North, South and East) 5. Ford 6. Pagham (North/South) 7. Arundel 8. Fontwell 9. Walberton 10. Rustington/Ferring 11. Yapton/Climping 12. North Middleton 		
<p>Connected Place</p> <p><u>Transport</u></p>	<p>All combined</p>	<p>A1, A2, A3</p>

8 Appraising the Spatial Options

A1: Realignment of A29 A2: Extension of Lyminster Bypass A3: A259 Improvements		
Deliverable Place <u>Infrastructure provision & implementation</u> A1: A new Community Infrastructure Levy A 2: Continued but scaled back Section 106 (S106) agreements A13: A combination of the use of CIL and S106	A3	A3

Table 1.3

8.2 In some instances, by the nature of the policy areas there are no practicable alternate options. Where this is the case it has been set out within the following discussion, which follows the format and order of the Local Plan.

Policy Area	Explanation
Sustainable Place <u>Sustainable Development</u>	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) specifies that the key underlying principle of the planning system is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. For this reason no alternative spatial option for this was undertaken as this would be applicable across the whole District.
Prosperous Place <u>Retail</u>	Retail is a large employer within the District, as well as food retail being a vital service and so its retention is an important sustainability factor into the future. The only minor spatial aspect to this policy area would be associated with a change in the settlement hierarchy. As no such change is proposed and regeneration of the coastal towns is crucial to their future sustainability, no alternative spatial option or appraisal has been undertaken.

8 Appraising the Spatial Options

<p>Prosperous Place <u>Tourism</u></p>	<p>Though this is a significant employer across the District and so key to the sustainability of the economy into the future, due to the fragmented nature of this sector spatial alternatives are difficult to identify and as a result there has been no option to appraise.</p>
<p>Prosperous Place <u>Soils, horticulture and equine developments</u></p>	<p>The policy areas included within this part of the Local Plan generally do not lend themselves to differing spatial approaches. Equine development tends to be geographically specific, often in areas where there are existing equine developments and as such no alternative spatial option and therefore appraisal was undertaken. As the soil policy area is intended to apply to the whole of the District, no alternate spatial option and therefore appraisal has been undertaken.</p> <p>Due to the higher than average days of light and quality soil supporting a high number of horticultural businesses, thought was given to whether an alternative approach should be taken through a joint policy with Chichester District. However, representations from the West Sussex Growers Association to the proposed policy supported differing approaches by the Council's, considering that this allowed flexibility. Therefore no alternative spatial option has been appraised.</p>
<p>Living Place <u>Design</u></p>	<p>Due to the nature of this policy area, no alternative spatial option was undertaken as the policy approach would be applicable across the whole District.</p>
<p>Living Place <u>Health, Recreation and Leisure</u></p>	<p>Due to the nature of this policy area, no alternative spatial option was undertaken as the policy approach would be applicable across the whole District.</p>
<p>Protected Place <u>Building Conservation & Archaeological Heritage</u></p>	<p>As these policies all relate to fixed structures, there was no spatial alternative to be appraised.</p>

8 Appraising the Spatial Options

<p>Protected Place</p> <p><u>Natural Environment</u></p>	<p>In general this section relates to specific aspects and levels of designation relating to the natural environment. The only alternative spatial option would be to take a wider more overarching approach. This has been done under the appraisal of spatial alternatives for Sustainable Place and so not replicated here.</p>
<p>Protected Place</p> <p><u>Water</u></p>	<p>Due to the nature of this subject area, there are very limited alternatives that could be considered. The only area within this section where differing approaches could be considered would relate to capacities of infrastructure. In general where these occur they are covered under other sections of the Local Plan, such as Deliverable Place.</p>
<p>Protected Place</p> <p><u>Natural Resources & Minerals</u></p>	<p>A sustainability appraisal will be carried out to accompany the formulation of the Minerals Plan by West Sussex County Council and so is not done within this document.</p>
<p>Protected Place</p> <p><u>Waste management</u></p>	<p>In the instance of waste, this has been done through a sustainability appraisal that accompanied the recently adopted West Sussex Waste Local Plan</p>
<p>Protected Place</p> <p><u>Quality of the environment</u></p>	<p>For the majority of the topics within this section there are no areas identified that require specific focused approaches to be considered.</p>

Table 1.4

Distribution of Housing

8.3 A total of nineteen locations for growth were identified in the Options for Growth 2009. Three of these locations were removed from the list and not appraised. These were two sites in North Littlehampton 1). Toddington Nurseries, 2). Courtwick, as they had significantly progressed through the planning process, and 3). Findon as it now lies in the South Downs National Park Authority.

8.4 Table 1.5, below shows the summary appraisals for all the locations considered. More detailed information on trends and evidence that has informed these conclusions can be found within the full matrices in Appendices 5 & 6 and full discussion is within the SA.

Locations	Options	Sustainability Objectives
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		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Littlehampton West Bank	Option A - No Allocated Development	0	-	--	0	-	+	-
	Option B - Approximately 600 residential units 25,000 sq ft commercial floorspace	++	++	+	0/+	++	+	+
	Option C - Approximately 1000 residential units	++	++	++	++	++	+	+
Bognor Regis Eco Quarter (BREQ)/North West of Chalcraft Lane	Option A - No allocated development	0	0	++	0	-	++	0
	Option B - up to 2000 residential units with employment as in application BE/72/09	+	++	+	++	++	0/+	-
Barnham/ Eastergate/ Westergate	Option A - No allocated development	0	-	0	0	--	-	0
	Option B – Approx. 2000 residential units associated community services/ facilities & appropriate level of retail for local centre	++	++	++	0/+	++	0/+	++
Angmering (North, South and East)	Option A - No allocated development	++	-	0	0	0	-	0
	Option B - Angmering North	+	++	++	0	+	0/+	0
	Option C - Angmering East and South	++	++	++	0	+	0/+	
Ford	Option A - no development	0/-	0/-	0	0	0/-	++	+
	Option B - capacity to accommodate between 500-900 residential units	++	++	0	0	-	0/--	0/--

8 Appraising the Spatial Options

	Option C - 5000 residential units, employment floorspace, community facilities and supporting infrastructure	++	++	++	--	--	--	--
Pagham	Option A - No development	-	-	0	0	0	++	0
	Option B - Pagham North (differing growth levels)	+	++	0	0	+	-	-
	Option C - Pagham South (differing growth levels)	++	++	+	0	+	-	-
Arundel	Option A - no development	0	-	0	++	-	-	0
	Option B - accommodation of residential in south eastern location (differing growth levels)	+	++	0	0	++	0/+	0
	Option C accommodation of residential in the south western location (differing growth levels)	+	++	0	0	++	0	0
Fontwell	Option A – no development	0	-	0	0	-	++	0
	Option B - accommodation of differing growth levels	++	++	0	0	+		
Walberton	Option A - no allocated development	0	0	0	0	0	++	0
	Option B - accommodation of differing growth levels	0	-	0	0	-	-	-
Rustington & Ferring	Option A - Differing growth levels at Rustington	0	0	0	+	0/+	0	0
	Option B - Accommodation in Western side of Ferring (to boundary with Worthing) of differing growth levels	+	++	0	+	0/+		
	Option C - Accommodation in Eastern side of Ferring of differing growth levels	+	++	+	+	0/+		

8 Appraising the Spatial Options

Climping & Yapton	Option A No Allocation	0	-	0	0	0	0/-	0
	Option B Allocation spread between the two locations	+	++	0/+	0/+	+	0	0
North Middleton	Option A - no allocated development	0	+	0	0	--	-	0
	Option B - accommodation of differing growth levels	++	++	++	+	+	0/-	0

Table 1.5

8.5 The most sustainable location, in the short term, is Angmering. In the medium to long term Barnham/Eastergate/Westergate is the most sustainable bringing wider benefits to the District. If the identified infrastructure issues can be overcome then the BREQ location could be sustainable in the medium to long term. In the longer term the West Bank provides the greatest benefits contributing to all the sustainability objectives. More detailed assessment of Ford and Fontwell is necessary to identify the contribution they may make to sustainable growth. Ferring and North Middleton equally have characteristics that mean, if the provision of open space and mitigatory measures are included, then they could be considered to be sustainable locations. Overall, the appraisal of locations has determined that Pagham; Arundel; Rustington; Yapton/Climping and Walberton are not sustainable and should not be taken forward for strategic level growth.

9 Appraising the Policies

Appraising the Policies

9.1 The Local Plan policies were appraised for sustainability against the Sustainability Framework (SF) in the Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2012) that accompanied the Draft Local Plan Local Plan 2013 - 2028 Version Regulation 18 (2012), and where necessary, recommended changes to be incorporated to ensure a higher degree of sustainability. The policies within the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan have been appraised again and any mitigation measures required to ensure sustainable development recorded.

9.2 Local Plan policies have been categorised as either Strategic Policies (prefixed by SP), or Development Management (prefixed by DM). Within most policy areas there is a mixture of both strategic and management policies. Table 1.6 and Table 1.7 provide a summary of the SP, and DM policies respectively when the SF and matrix is applied. As demonstrated they generally score positively although there are few negative impacts in regards to the land use objectives.

Policy	Sustainability Objectives						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SD SP1 Sustainable Development	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
SD SP2 Built-up Area Boundary	0	++	+	0	0	0	0
C SP1 Countryside	0	+	++	0/+	++	++	++
GI SP1 Green Infrastructure & Development	0	+	+	0	+	++	+
SD SP3 Gaps Between Settlements	0	0/-	0/+	0/+	0/-	++	+
EMP SP1 Employment Land Provision	+	+	++	++	0	0/+	0/+
EMP SP2 Strategic Employment Land Allocations	0	+	0/+	+	0	0	+
TEL SP1 Strategic Delivery of Telecommunications*	+	++	++	++	+	0	0
RET SP1 Hierarchy of centres	++	++	++	++	0	0	0
TOU SP1 Sustainable tourism & visitor economy	+	+	++	++	0	+	0

9 Appraising the Policies

H SP1 Strategic Housing, Parish/Town Allocations	++	++	++	0	++	++	++
H SP2 Affordable housing	+	++	+	+	+	0	0
H SP3 Rural housing and exception sites	+	++	+	+	0/-	0/-	0
H SP4 Houses in multiple occupation	+	++	0	0/+	0/+	0	0
H SP5 Traveller & T Show *accommodation	+	++	+		++	+	+
D SP1 Design	+	++	+	+	++	+	++
ECC SP1 Adapting to climate change	+	++	+	+	++	++	+
ECC SP2 Energy & climate change mitigation		+	+	+	0	+	+
HWB SP1 Health & wellbeing	+	++	+	++	++	0	0
OSR SP1 Allotments	++	++	0	++	0	++	++
T SP1 Transport and Development	++	++	+	+	++	0	+
T SP2 Littlehampton to Arundel Green Link	++	++	++	++	++	++	+
T SP3 Safeguarding the Main Road Network	+	++	+	+	++	++	
HER SP1 The historic environment		++	+	++	0	+	+
ENV SP1 Natural environment	+	0	0	+	+	++	+
W SP1 Water	0	0	++	++	0	++	++
NR SP1 Natural Resources/Minerals Safeguarding	0	0	+	0/+	0	0	++
QE SP1 Quality of the environment	++	0	++	+	0	++	++

9 Appraising the Policies

INF SP1 Infrastructure Provision & Implementation	++	++	+	+	++	++	++
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Table 1.6

Policy	Sustainability Objectives						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
LAN DM1 Protection of landscape character	0	0	++	++	+	++	++
LAN DM2 The setting of Arundel	0	+	++	++	+	++	++
EMP DM1 Employment Land: Development Management	0	+	++	++	++	0/+	+
EMP DM2 Bognor Regis Enterprise Zone	0/+	+	++	++	++	++	0
EMP DM3 Littlehampton Harbour	+	++	++	++	++	++	0
EMP DM4 Knowledge & Cultural Based Economic Growth	0	+	++	0/+	0	0	0
TEL DM1 Telecommunications	+	++	++	+	0	0	0
RET DM1 Retail development	+	++	++	+	++	++	+
TOU DM1 Tourism related development	0	+	++	++	0	+	+
SO DM1 Soils	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
HOR DM1 Horticulture	0	+	++	0/+	0	++	++
RET DM2 Garden centres	0	+	+	0	+	0	+
EQU DM1 Equine development	0	+	++	0	++	++	++
H DM1 Housing mix	0	++	0	+	+	+	0
H DM2 Independent living and care homes	+	++	0	+	+	+	0

9 Appraising the Policies

H DM3 Agricultural, forestry & horticultural *dwellings	+	++	++	+	+	++	++
D DM1 Aspects of form and design quality	+	++	+	0	++	+	0
D DM2 Internal space standards	+	+	++	++	0	0	0
D DM3 External space standards	+	+	0	0	0	+	0
D DM4 Extensions and alterations to existing buildings*	+	+	+	0	0	+	0
EEC DM1 Renewable energy	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
OSR DM1 Open space, sport & recreation	+	++	0	++	0	0	0
T DM1 Sustainable Travel and Public Rights of Way	0/+	++	++	+	++	+	++
T DM2 Public car parks	0	++	+	+	++	0/+	0/-
HER DM1 Listed Buildings	0	+	0/+	+	0	++	+
HER DM2 Locally Listed Buildings or Structures of Character	0	++	0	0	0	++	0
HER DM3 Conservation Areas	0	+	+	+	0/+	++	0
HER DM4 Areas of Special Character	0	+	+	+	0	++	++
HER DM5 Remnants of the Portsmouth & Arundel Canal	0/+	0/+	0/+	0/+	0	++	0
HER DM6 Sites of Archaeological Interest	0	+	0	0	0	++	0
ENV DM1 Designated biodiversity/ geological importance	0	+	+	+		++	0
ENV DM2 Pagham Harbour	+	++	++	0	++	++	0

9 Appraising the Policies

ENV DM3 Non designated sites	+	0/+	0	0	0	++	+
ENV DM4 Protection of trees	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
ENV DM1 Designated biodiversity/ geological importance	0	+	0	0	0	++	0
W DM1 Water supply and quality	0	0	++	++	0	++	++
W DM2 Flood risk	0	++	++	++	0	++	++
W DM3 Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	0	+	++	++	++	++	++
W DM4 Coastal protection	+	++	++	++	++	++	0
WM DM1 Waste management	0	0	+	0	0	0	++
QE DM1 Noise pollution	0	0	++	+	0	++	0
QE DM2 Light pollution	+	0	+	+	++	+	0
W DM1 Water supply and quality	+	0	++	0	++	++	0
W DM2 Flood risk	0	+	0	++	0	++	++

Table 1.7

9.3 It is important to note that due to the level of existing constraints and infrastructure deficits there are, it cannot be expected that the Plan will address them all. Without the Plan, it would be easy for these to continue and be worsened. Explicitly in terms of the environment these would be likely in terms of the transport network and air quality, especially around Arundel, plus drainage and flooding events. The evolution of the policies and the amendments made to the format of the Local Plan has resulted in the appraisal of the overall Plan showing that development of the area into the future has increased in terms of its sustainability.

Monitoring

10.1 The Monitoring framework (see Table 1.8) for the SA consists of assessing and reporting on the direction of travel towards achieving the seven objectives for sustainable development across the District. Where necessary the same sources and datasets will be shared with the Local Plan and reporting will be within the Authority Monitoring Report.

10.2 Monitoring is an ongoing process which is implemented through the Authority Monitoring Report. If any significant negative impacts resulting from the Local Plan are identified or if a plan is not achieving its predicted impacts, it may be necessary to review relevant policies and make modifications to negate these effects. Specific contingency plans are laid out at the end of the Housing Allocation section and the Employment Chapter, identifying what actions will be taken to any downturn or non-delivery that may occur.

10.3 Currently important aspects that the monitoring framework will need to consider and address have been identified as a result of the SA process so far. Table 1.8 below identifies these and also sets out a baseline against which monitoring can occur. This also identifies the policy monitoring of the Local Plan that will equally provide the information for informing this going forward.

SA Objective/criteria	Significant effect	Monitoring table	
		LP policy	Baseline
Water Quality	Ensuring water quality and that there is no deterioration as a result of accommodating growth	Protected Place: - ENV SP1; ENV DM2; W SP1 W DM1	There is only one area where water quality standards are failing and this is within the Aldingbounre Rife due to outfall from the Tangmere Water Treatment Works
Flood Risk	Reduction in surface water flooding and the number of properties at risk of flooding	Protected Place: - W DM2 W DM3	Large areas were badly affected through surface water flooding in 2012 with 454 properties affected.

10 Monitoring

Ensuring efficient and sustainable movement within and beyond Arun	Improvements and new accesses to the highway network to help improve movement, both through sustainable and other means, within and beyond the District	Connected Place: - T SP1 T DM1 T SP3	There are a number of identified areas on the network affected by congestion, as the Arun Transport Study shows.
Ensuring efficient and sustainable movement within and beyond Arun Access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Health care • Community facilities • Green infrastructure • Emergency services 	Better location of new development in relation to access routes to ensure access to key services and facilities	Connected Place: - T SP1 T DM1 T SP3 Deliverable Place: - INF SP1	There is a reasonable spread of most services, although GP surgeries are needing to serve a much greater population. Education facilities face similar issues, though pressure is greater on primary level facilities
Enhance Arun's Environmental Integrity Local Distinctiveness	Retention of the character and landscape setting of the District, particularly across the northern half of the District	Sustainable Place: - SD SP2 SD SP3 C SP1 GI SP1 LAN DM1 HER DM 3,4,5 and 6 Protected Place: - W DM4	Currently a key characteristic of the District and settlements which is recognised by 10 key areas designated as Strategic and Local Gaps. There are also 29 conservation areas
Air Quality	No deterioration in air quality either in the District around the areas of growth	Protected Place: - QE DM3	There are no Air Quality Management Areas within Arun District but there are a couple that

10 Monitoring

	particularly or in neighbouring areas close to the boundaries of the District		have been declared on the north eastern boundary within Horsham District.
<p>Ensure high quality housing and provide excellent social infrastructure</p> <p>Access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Health care • Community facilities 	No reduction in the overall provision of key services and community facilities, such as GP surgeries or schools	<p>Living Place: - H DM2 HWB SP1 OSR SP1 OSR DM1</p> <p>Deliverable Place: - INF SP1</p>	There is a reasonable spread of most services, although GP surgeries are needing to serve a much greater population. Education facilities face similar issues, though pressure is greater on primary level facilities
<p>Ensure a diverse and thriving economic base to support Arun's growth</p> <p>Improve Vibrancy of Arun's Town Centres</p>	An overall improvement to the economic situation	<p>Prosperous Place: - EMP SP1 EMP DM4 SKILLS SP1 TOU SP1 HOR DM1 RET DM2 EQ DM1</p>	In 2012 Arun had a job density of 0.62, which was well below the regional figure of 0.81 and the national figure of 0.78

Table 1.8

