



**Horsham District  
Local Development Framework**

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**Horsham  
District  
Council**

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL AND STRATEGIC  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE  
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

**SCOPING REPORT**

**June 2004**

## CONTENTS

<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>2.0 THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK VISION AND OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>3.0 PLANS AND PROGRAMS INFLUENCING THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>4.0 THE BASELINE: THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HORSHAM DISTRICT TODAY AND PREDICTIONS FOR THE FUTURE</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>5.0 SUSTAINABILITY CONSTRAINTS AND ISSUES AFFECTING HORSHAM DISTRICT</b>	<b>Page 18</b>
<b>6.0 SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS</b>	<b>Page 23</b>
<b>7.0 IDENTIFICATION OF DIFFERENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK OPTIONS</b>	<b>Page 27</b>
<b>8.0 WHERE NEXT? THE METHODOLOGY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL AND THE CONTENT OF THE FINAL REPORT</b>	<b>Page 31</b>

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### The concept of sustainable development

1.1 Sustainable development is a term that has been commonly used since the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The aim is to balance economic progress with social and environmental needs, and not taking resources that future generations may need to survive. There are now numerous definitions of what the term sustainable development means, but the UK government defines it as:

- Social progress which meets the needs of everyone,
- Effective protection of the environment,
- Prudent use of natural resources,
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

### Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.2 There is now an international and national commitment to achieving sustainable development, and this has been incorporated into laws, guidance and advice. One of the means by which sustainable development can be achieved is through the land-use planning process. In line with new planning legislation, Local Development Frameworks are to be produced which contain plans, policies and guidance in relation to the type of development which can take place in an area. These plans and policies can help to achieve sustainable development as they aim to ensure that development meets the needs people living and working in an area, whilst the same time ensuring that it is sited in such a way as to protect the environment.

1.3 As economic, social and environmental needs are often conflicting, it can sometimes be hard to balance all these issues. In response the government has set out a requirement for a 'Sustainability Appraisal' of emerging Local Development Framework Documents to be undertaken, to ensure that this balance of issues is achieved as far as possible.

1.4 In addition to the Government's requirement for a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), recent European Legislation also requires that an assessment of the environmental effects of certain plans and policies (including planning documents) is undertaken. There is a large amount of overlap between the European 'Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)' and the UK Sustainability Appraisal process, and they have therefore been combined into one process for the assessment of the emerging Horsham District Local Development Framework. For ease of reference this document will refer to both processes as a Sustainability Appraisal.

### What does the Sustainability Appraisal process achieve?

1.5 By undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal it is possible to look at the range of policies and plans contained in the Local Development Framework documents, and examine how they contribute to the aim of sustainable development. By looking at every policy in this manner it is possible to identify areas where policies may not contribute to sustainable development. By identifying these problems at an early stage, it is possible to change and amend policies to ensure that they are as sustainable as possible.

## What is the process of SA/ SEA?

- 1.6 The process of a Sustainability Appraisal requires an examination of the state of the District as it is today and how it may change in the future, together with an identification of the key issues which could affect the sustainability of the area. Using this information it is possible to develop sustainability objectives and indicators against which LDF policies can be measured to decide how they contribute to sustainable development, and enable appropriate amendments to be made to policies. The objectives and indicators also enable the success of the plan to be tested once the plan is adopted.
- 1.7 There are several documents that will be contained within the Horsham District Council Local Development Framework. At this stage the Sustainability Appraisal will focus on the Core Strategy Document for the LDF, and the results will be published in a 'Sustainability Report' at the same time as the LDF preferred options. Other documents within the LDF may well also require a Sustainability Appraisal, but these will be undertaken at a later date.
- 1.8 This Scoping Document is the first step in undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal of the LDF. It sets out the baseline information that has been collected so far, as well as the draft objectives and indicators, and proposals as to how the Appraisal of LDF policies will be undertaken. We are seeking your comments or views on the information and proposals that are set out in this document in order to ensure that all aspects of sustainability are considered as part of the appraisal process.
- 1.9 Should you have any comments to make on any of the issues set out in this Document please write to:

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Horsham District Council  
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North Street  
Horsham  
West Sussex  
RH12 1RL

or e-mail [strategic.planning@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.planning@horsham.gov.uk)

**The deadline for comments is 30<sup>th</sup> July 2004**

## 2.0 THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – VISION AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Before undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Framework, it is useful to understand the aims and visions of the Framework itself, and the context in which it is being produced. This chapter provides a brief summary of the aims and objectives of the Plan. More detail is provided in the Local Development Framework Issues and Options consultation, which this document accompanies.

### A Vision for Horsham District

2.2 The Horsham District Community Partnership has set out a vision for the District in 2013 as a basis for the Community Strategy. This vision is as follows:

*“A dynamic district where people care and where individuals from all backgrounds can get involved in their communities and share the benefits of a district that enjoys a high quality of life”*

2.3 It is intended the Local Development Framework Documents will adopt the vision of the Community Strategy, and provide a means for attaining the vision by setting out the land-use strategy for the District. In particular the aims of the strategy are to:

- maintain and enhance the role of Horsham town as the major centre within the District;
- protect the distinctive character of the smaller towns, villages and hamlets within the District, whilst allowing for continued small-scale growth where appropriate of necessary to meet local needs;
- protect and enhance the diverse character of the countryside within the District
- direct the necessary new development so that it is sustainable and contributes as much as possible towards the needs of the community, either within specific settlements or within the District as a whole;
- plan positively in order to address the issues facing the District and to meet local needs.
- to protect and enhance the distinctive character of the District including the distinct and separate character of settlements.

2.4 To meet these aims, a range of objectives have been developed. These are briefly set out below:

#### 1) Protecting and enhancing the character of the District

To protect and enhance the distinctive character of the District through the application of policies which will ensure that the key characteristics of the District's landscape character areas, including the distinct and separate character of settlements, are retained and where possible enhanced.

## 2) Balancing protection and continued evolution through new development

To ensure that new development protects and where possible enhances the natural environment and the historic heritage of the District through policies and proposals which balance the need for protection with the continued evolution of both countryside and the character and environment of settlements, as they change and adapt to economic and social needs.

## 3) Meeting the needs of local communities and businesses

To meet the diverse needs of the communities and businesses of the District by ensuring that there is provision for appropriate new development, which is supported by the necessary infrastructure, facilities and services, and that existing local facilities or services are protected or enhanced wherever possible.

## 4) Providing for community leisure, recreation and tourism and cultural facilities

To protect and enhance community, leisure and recreation facilities and to assist in the development of appropriate tourism and cultural facilities through the application of appropriate planning policies derived from the analysis of needs within communities and generally within the District.

## 5) Enhancing the vitality and viability of villages and towns

To enhance the vitality and viability of Horsham town centre and the centres of the smaller towns and villages in the District, and to enable their continued evolution and increased diversity through the application of appropriate policies for retail or related development, including in terms of the evening economy.

## 6) Managing travel demand and widening choice of transport

To seek to provide choice in modes of transport whenever possible, including through regulating the location of new development relative to transport nodes and setting a hierarchy for new development which gives preference to people and sustainable modes of transport rather than the car.

## 7) Providing for development needs

a) To ensure the provision of a sufficient number of dwellings to meet the identified requirements specified by the West Sussex Structure Plan 2001-2016, including the appropriate mix of types, size and tenures through the application of the sequential approach to development and the release of land for development where necessary

b) To provide for business and employment development needs including provision for the development of sufficient employment floorspace to meet the identified requirements of the West Sussex Structure Plan 2001-2016, and to enable a range of sizes and types of employment sites and premises to meet modern employment needs

c) Within the context of a and b above, enable the District to contribute appropriately to the economy of the wider area, including the requirements stemming from the economic growth in the Crawley /Gatwick area and the needs for regeneration in the coastal area.

## 8) Improving the quality of new development

To ensure that new development in the District is of high quality, makes the best use of land that has to be developed, is accessible to all sections of the community, maximises efficiency in the use of energy and minimises pollution / waste.

### **3.0 PLANS AND PROGRAMS INFLUENCING THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

- 3.1 The Local Development Framework has not been prepared in a vacuum. The policies and plans that it will contain will be developed by following guidance from organisations such as the Government and West Sussex County Council, as well as reflecting local needs and requirements, for example those which have been identified as a result of preparing the community strategy.
- 3.2 Appendix One provides a comprehensive outline of the plans and strategies that will influence the policies and strategies in the LDF. It also attempts to identify where there may be areas of conflict between different plans and strategies affecting different elements of the LDF. A brief summary of this is however set out below in the following paragraphs.
- 3.3 There are different levels of plans and strategies that affect the Local Development Framework. At a national level, Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPGs) and their successors, Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) set out the Government's strategy for development on a wide range of issues, including housing, the economy, transport and the environment. Areas of particular importance to the Horsham District LDF that are contained in the PPGs and PPSs include:
- the re-use of previously developed land and development within urban areas before considering the release of greenfield sites;
  - reducing reliance of the use of the car;
  - ensuring that retail development is in town centres in preference to edge of town locations;
  - the need to ensure a vibrant rural economy;
  - the need to protect the character of the countryside.
- 3.4 The Government has also prepared Regional Planning Guidance (RPG9) which sets out the overarching framework for the preparation of development plans in the South-East. In addition to setting out policies which provide a regional dimension to the national planning policies, it sets the housing requirement for West Sussex for the period until 2016. In addition to the Regional Planning Guidance some more detailed regional policy documents have been published in relation to transport and renewable energy. Guidance has also been produced at a regional level providing guidance on undertaking urban housing potential and housing needs surveys.
- 3.5 The main strategy which has influenced the development of the Local Development Framework at the County Level is the West Sussex Structure Plan 2001 -2016. This document sets out the broad framework for development within the County. The policies in the document aim to ensure that development helps provide for local needs and supports the rural economy. It is also intended that development be sited in such a location that it reduces the need for car travel and that development does not occur where it would harm the natural, historical environment or the landscape character of the County. The document also sets out the need for the District to accommodate 190,000m<sup>2</sup> of employment floorspace and 9,335 dwellings, of which 2500 are to be accommodated west of Crawley and 1000 west of Horsham.



- 3.6 At a District level there are other strategies and plans which will influence the Local Development Framework. The Horsham District Local Strategic Partnership (Community Partnership) has prepared a Community Strategy which aims to co-ordinate the activities of the public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations in trying to achieve an agreed vision and priorities for improving the economic social and environmental well being of Horsham District. The Local Development Framework will provide a spatial expression to the elements of the community strategy which relate to the use and development of land. (The key aims of this document are set out in more detail in Chapter 2)
- 3.7 In addition to the Community Strategy, other District Plans and Programmes which will influence the LDF include:
- District Economic Development Strategy
  - District Council Tourism Strategy
  - Cultural Strategy
  - The Council Biodiversity Action Plan
  - The District Council Housing Strategy.
- 3.8 At a more local level there are other documents such as village design statements and parish plans which influence the LDF. These help to set out the aspirations and needs of different parishes or communities.
- 3.9 As a result of the different plans and strategies which feed in to the LDF there are different challenges and requirements that the Council must try to address. One main challenge is the need to accommodate development to meet the needs of the community whilst ensuring that there is protection of the built and rural character of the district, biodiversity, historical sites and so on. In particular, there is likely to be a need to ensure that the vitality of the rural economy is balanced against the protection of the countryside. For example diversification schemes and businesses in rural areas have the potential to increase traffic and more buildings could adversely affect the undeveloped nature of the area.
- 3.10 A further conflict is the need for housing that has been specified by RPG9 and West Sussex County Council. This conflicts with many of the village strategies and plans, which often would prefer no or a smaller amount of housing that meets local needs. The Council cannot affect the overall number of houses that must be accommodated, or the broad area of the strategic locations, but it can work with local communities to ensure that the housing meets local needs as far as is possible.
- 3.11 The need for housing to be accommodated as far as possible on previously developed land is also another potential source of conflict. The development of all previously developed land for housing has the potential to result in the loss of employment land already in towns and villages. This could potentially lead to settlements becoming a 'dormitory towns' or for new employment land to be built on greenfield land, which would negate the benefit of using previously developed land for housing.

#### **4.0 THE BASELINE – THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HORSHAM DISTRICT TODAY AND PREDICTIONS FOR THE FUTURE**

- 4.1 Before an assessment is undertaken to determine how well each of the policies in the LDF contributes to sustainable development, it is necessary to have an understanding of the state of the District today (e.g. population figures, the economy and the environment) together with predictions of how this may change in the future under a no change / business as usual scenario.
- 4.2 This 'Baseline' information about the District can be used to help to identify sustainability issues that are affecting the District, and from this it is possible to devise 'sustainability objectives' which plans and policies in the LDF can be tested against to examine how they contribute to sustainable development.

##### An introduction to Horsham District

- 4.3 Horsham District is situated in the south-east region of England, in the County of West Sussex. Covering an area of 530km<sup>2</sup> (205 square miles), the District is predominantly rural in nature. Villages and small market towns are dotted across the District, with the biggest urban area being the historic market town of Horsham.
- 4.4 Some key facts about the District are set out below. These are expanded on more fully later in this chapter.
- The District has a high quality environment. There are two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (around 25% of the land area) where the landscape is considered to be of National Importance. These are the High Weald situated in the north-east of the District, and the Sussex Downs situated along the southern boundary.
  - The District has 23 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which are areas of national importance for nature conservation or geology. In addition, by January 2004, West Sussex County Council has designated 69 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) within Horsham District.
  - At the time of the 2001 census there were 50,037 households. Of these 79% are owner occupied.
  - The District contains over 1700 Listed Buildings and has 37 Conservation Areas which are designated for their 'special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'.
  - In April 2003 the average weekly income for residents in the District was £457.3 This equates to an annual salary of £23,779. The figure disguises the fact that there is a major gap between well and poorly paid work.
  - Horsham town has good transport links. It is 12 miles from London Gatwick Airport, and 20 miles from the south coast. There are good train links between Horsham and London and the town is in close proximity to the M25, M23 and A24.
  - 87.5% of households in the District owned one or more cars at the time of the 2001 Census. 47.7% of households own two or more cars. Only 10 Districts across England and Wales have a higher percentage of two car ownership.

## Population

- 4.5 It is important to know the current and future levels of the population of the District, as it underpins many of the aspects of life in Horsham District, including the economy, housing requirements, pressure on the countryside, and so forth.
- 4.6 The population of Horsham District has risen significantly in the last 30 years, mainly as a result of residential development and associated in-migration. By the time of the Census in 2001, the population of the District was 122,087. (Office for National Statistics [ONS]). Projections by West Sussex County Council suggest that by 2011 the population of the District is likely to be around 128,900.
- 4.7 The District currently has as a relatively large working age population (16-60). The population is however an aging one, which in future years is likely to create additional social care needs.

## Economy

- 4.8 Horsham District has a diverse economy. The most common business sector is the service industry, although in the north of the District industrial and commercial sector is also common. The south of the District has a more rural economy. Most businesses in the District employ fewer than 10 people. (Horsham District Community Profile)
- 4.9 Overall, unemployment is low (1.6% between January and June 2003), which is well below the county and national average of 2.0% and 2.7% respectively. (WSCC Unemployment Statistics). Although difficult to predict, this could in the future lead to skills shortages where the local employment market is not large enough to enable existing businesses to expand, or for new businesses to locate in the area. This skills shortage could also lead to a large influx of workers to the area, particularly if the development of a second runway at Gatwick Airport goes ahead.
- 4.10 In the south of the District, the more rural economy is vulnerable to the overall decline in the agriculture sector, as well as the problems caused by the traditionally low incomes in this sector. It is hoped that rural diversification will help to address some of the problems that are facing those in the agriculture business. In addition, Common Agricultural Policy reforms and the demand for renewable sources of energy may in future years help agriculture, with demands for more coppice woodland and grasses.
- 4.11 The retail sector forms an important part of Horsham District's economy. It employs around 15% of the workforce, (ONS 2001 Census) and also meets residents' everyday needs. Horsham town was recently assessed as part of the Horsham District Retail Health Check, and was considered to be a vital and viable town centre with a good range and choice of facilities.
- 4.12 The retail health check also found the main villages in the District have a good provision of retail services with a main high street food retailer supplemented by specialist stores and service units. This balance of shops will need to be carefully monitored to ensure that there is no decline in the retail mix, which could harm the vitality of the villages. Pressures facing village centres include the pressure for conversion to residential dwellings, and the presence of national companies keeping rental rates high and creating difficulties for small businesses in the villages.

## Housing

- 4.13 At the 2001 Census, there were 50,037 households in Horsham District. 79% of these properties were owner occupied, and most of the housing stock is in good condition, with 1% being classified as unfit for habitation. (ONS). The cost of owner occupied houses has risen steadily since 1998 and the average property price in the District between October and December 2003 was £238,834. This is a rise of 6.0% from an average house price of £223,640 for the same period in 2002. (HM Land Registry)
- 4.14 The high cost of housing in the District has made it difficult for many people to buy and rent homes. In spring 2003, a single person wanting to buy an average flat in Horsham costing £133,209 with a 90% mortgage based on three times income would need to earn £34,253 (Horsham Community Profile). This is considerably above the average wage for the area of £23,779.
- 4.15 To try to address the problem of high house prices, preliminary work has been undertaken to investigate the provision of housing for 'key workers' (people who are employed in vital occupations in the public sector but cannot afford market housing). In future years, provision of this type of housing may become a more common feature of housing developments.
- 4.16 Horsham District Council has also recently undertaken a Housing Needs Survey to assess the number of people in need of affordable housing. The assessment, undertaken in 2003, estimated that there was a need for an additional 7,496 additional affordable homes in the period to up to 2011. This equates to a need for 937 new affordable homes each year.
- 4.17 The need for housing in Horsham District has created pressure on the land for the provision of housing. Until recently most of the pressure for land was on undeveloped or 'greenfield' land. Whilst there is still a need for some development of greenfield land in the future, previously developed or 'brownfield' land has come under considerable pressure in recent years. Further residential development on such sites has the potential to alter the mix of building types in villages and towns.

## Social Inclusiveness and Deprivation

- 4.18 The overall measure of how deprived a community is calculated by scoring a wide range of issues, from access to childcare and open space, to overall levels of income. The overall score provides an indication of how deprived an area is. Generally, Horsham District has very low levels of deprivation when compared against national standards, with all wards being above the 'average' level of deprivation. (Index of Multiple Deprivation, ONS, 2000)
- 4.19 Despite very low levels of deprivation in the District, there are areas where it exists. The precise type and level of the deprivation is often very hard to measure, and data is often not available. Ways to locate, measure and resolve deprivation need to be found over the coming years. Some examples of deprivation that were identified in the community profile of the District published in 2003 include:
- Rural communities often have limited facilities, and this, coupled with poor public transport can prevent those without a car accessing the facilities they require. For example, many young people are not able to reach the facilities they would like (Horsham District Council Youth Strategy 2003) and in some rural villages,

families have problems accessing child care. Storrington, Sullington and West Chiltington have in particular been noted for their lack access to welfare facilities, and this problem could potentially be exacerbated in future years as the population ages;

- A total of 9.9% of households in the District have been identified as being in fuel poverty. These are households which needs to spend in excess of 10% of its income to heat their home adequately.

### Community Safety

- 4.20 Horsham District is generally a very safe place to live. According to figures collected between April 2000 and March 2001, Horsham District had lower levels of crime per head of population than all the other Districts and Boroughs in West Sussex. (Horsham, A Community Profile, P.124) More recent figures show that crime levels in the District have decreased over recent years. The level of reduction has been the best in the south east, with a drop of 8.9% of all crimes. Violent crime is down by 5.9%, sexual offences down by 21.4%, robbery down by 14.3% and burglary of dwellings down by 7.5% and vehicle crime down by 11.6%. (Crime in England 2003, Home Office)
- 4.21 Although the level of crime in the District is very low, fear of crime is still an issue. Village Appraisals reveal that this fear is a particular concern in rural areas, especially as police operations are now increasingly concentrated in larger centres. Community Wardens have been recruited in some villages to try to counteract this problem (Horsham, A Community Profile, p.134).
- 4.22 It is difficult to predict future levels of crime in the District, although it is of course hoped that they will continue to fall. Planning has a role to play in ensuring that crime levels remain low, for example, by ensuring the design and layout of new developments does not encourage crime, and by providing youth facilities which may perhaps reduce the occurrence of antisocial behaviour.

### Health

- 4.23 Overall, the health of Horsham District's residents is good. Life expectancy is 78.9 for men and 82 years for women, which is higher than the national average of 75.1 for men and 80.0 for women. (Horsham, A Community Profile, p.90)
- 4.24 Although levels of health are generally good, there is pressure on many of the GP surgeries in the District, some of which are now not currently able to take on any further patients. Work is however underway to expand and improve many surgeries in the District. There are no acute hospital services located in the Horsham District, so residents have to go to hospitals in Crawley, Redhill, Worthing, Chichester or elsewhere for these services.

### Education

- 4.25 The District has a total of 52 Local Authority Schools. In addition to the primary and secondary schools there is also one nursery school, and one special needs school. There are 45 primary schools in the District. Many of these are in rural areas, but they are generally flourishing as they are popular with parents who are attracted to rural areas to live and work. In addition, government policy seeks to support small rural schools. (Horsham, A Community Profile, p64). The future viability of some rural

primary schools may however still be at risk, as the population of school-aged children fall slightly between 2002 and 2007. Although primary school provision itself is generally good, before / after school provision and holiday care for 5 -8 year olds is limited (Horsham, A Community Profile, p.65).

- 4.26 There are five Local Authority secondary schools in Horsham District. On leaving school, 75.7% of pupils enter further education. Of the remainder, most enter employment (13%), and relatively few are unemployed.
- 4.27 Amongst the working age population, 29.9% has a qualification of NVQ level 4 or above. This is slightly higher than the county average of 24.3%. Notwithstanding this there are still significant numbers of the adult population who have problems with literacy and numeracy. This is particularly the case in Sullington and Storrington wards, where numbers of adults with low levels of literacy or numeracy are above the county average.

### Culture and leisure

- 4.28 Leisure activities are by their very nature wide ranging. They can be informal, for example reading a book, or more organised, such as football matches or flower arranging classes. All leisure activities contribute to quality of life and can have an impact on other aspects of life such as physical wellbeing.
- 4.29 Horsham District Council has recently commissioned a study of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the District. This study has not yet been completed, but early results show that provision of facilities is generally good, particularly with the recently completed 'sports centres' in Horsham and Steyning and The Capitol arts centre in Horsham. Some problems have however been identified. For example, most of the village halls in the District are inaccessible to wheelchair users, and provision for younger people particularly teenagers is often very limited. These problems will need to be addressed, and in addition improvements to facilities will be required in the future as the population of the District increases.
- 4.30 Tourism forms a part of the cultural and leisure aspects of life in Horsham District. At this stage, limited information is available, although further research will be undertaken as part of the preparation of the Local Plan Review and the Sustainability Appraisal process.

### Transport

- 4.31 Within Horsham District, the majority of households own a car, and many hundreds of journeys are made each day using this mode of transport. Public transport in the District is more limited. There is one rail route through the District which runs along the Arun valley, between the south coast and London, via Crawley or Dorking. Bus services in the District are reasonably good in Horsham itself, but in rural areas services are often infrequent. This can make it difficult for people who live in rural areas to access the services and facilities they need.
- 4.32 The Travel in West Sussex study undertaken by West Sussex County Council in 2000, examined the most commonly used means of transport for all journeys. It was found that respondents tended to either use the car or walk to reach their destination with the number of people using trains, buses or cycling was significantly lower. Later studies find a similar pattern of travel. At the time of the 2001 census, most people in the District used their car in order to travel to work, (68.4%). Of the remainder, 24% walk or cycle to work with just 7.6% of the population using public transport (bus and

train) to travel to work. (ONS, 2001 Census) This is one of the lowest percentages of people using public transport to get to work across all Local Authorities in England and Wales.

- 4.33 In future years, studies show that as the population of the District continues to grow, the amount of traffic in Horsham District is expected to increase significantly, perhaps by as much as 37% (Travel in West Sussex, WSCC, 2000). This could lead to increased air pollution and contribute to global climate change, as well as increased volumes of traffic in what is predominantly a rural area. Horsham District Council is trying to encourage the use of other forms of travel other than the private car, for example by ensuring that development is close to public transport routes.

### The Environment

- 4.34 Environmental information that has been collected in Horsham District is very wide ranging. It covers issues such as landscape, nature conservation and pollution.
- 4.35 Environmental information is often more complex than other data collected about the District. It can be hard to collect within administrative boundaries; wildlife for example moves from place to place. Data also tends to be gathered at certain points rather than collected across a whole area. For example, air quality is measured from specific locations, whereas in the case of employment figures they are collected for villages, wards and towns.

### *Historic Environment*

- 4.36 Horsham District has a rich and varied heritage ranging from prehistoric sites to Roman roads, Anglo-Saxon settlements, the remains of the Wealden iron working industry and many timber framed buildings.
- 4.37 The importance of many of these sites has been recognised. For example since 1992, 19 archaeological sites have been given legal protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Many more sites have been designated as archaeologically sensitive areas which 'flag up' locally important archaeological monuments for land use planning services. In addition to these sites over 1700 buildings have been designated as listed buildings, and 37 Conservation Areas are designated for their 'special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.'
- 4.38 The historical and built heritage of the District is finite, and pressure for development and change in the District has the potential to adversely affect archaeological sites, or the features and character of historical buildings and areas. This Council is keen to ensure that the effects of development on the District's heritage are adequately assessed, minimised or where necessary mitigated.

### *Landscape and Biodiversity*

- 4.39 The landscape and biodiversity of Horsham District is very varied. Much of it has been designated as being of national importance, including two AONBs and 23 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. In addition to these national sites there are many locally important sites, the wealth of more common flora and fauna contributes to the overall value of biodiversity in the District.

- 4.40 Due to historical patterns of land-use, much of the landscape of the District is heavily wooded, and has been present for several hundred years. These areas of woodland are important in landscape terms and also for their species assemblage. Many of the larger areas of old woodland in the District have been formally classified as ancient woodland by English Nature.
- 4.41 In a recent study undertaken on the landscape of the District, 32 separate character areas have been identified. (Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment 2003). The condition of the landscape is declining in many of these areas, particularly those nearest to settlements. The study also revealed that the landscape is vulnerable to change from land management and through development.
- 4.42 The change to land management and agriculture has also had an effect on the habitats and species in the area. Although relatively limited information is available at a District Level, aerial photos taken across West Sussex have shown that 30 hectares of heathland was lost in West Sussex between 1981 and 1996. Loss of ancient woodland is also a concern. Species decline has also been recorded in the District. For example, a survey of swift numbers was carried out in villages in the southern part of Horsham District in 1970 and in 1999.([www.susos.org.uk](http://www.susos.org.uk)) This found that the number of birds had declined from 137 to 68, representing a reduction of 49%. Such reductions in habitats and species are of great concern. It is however hoped that the Biodiversity Action Plan recently published by this Council will help to ensure that actions undertaken by this Council will help to protect and enhance biodiversity.
- 4.43 It is also hoped that adverse effects on landscape and biodiversity can be limited by increasing the amount of development on brownfield land. There is a national target of 60% of new housing development to be located on previously developed land and this coupled with an increase in the density of development helps to reduce the pressure on greenfield sites, which may well have a high landscape and biodiversity value. However, there have been instances where brownfield sites are home to important plant and animal species.

#### *Pollution*

- 4.45 Pollution is a wide ranging topic, covering issues such as air pollution, noise and contamination. In general, pollution levels in the District are low, although information about some topics is currently limited. For example relatively little is known about the extent of contaminated land, but following legislation which came into force in 2000, the Council has outlined and is undertaking an inspection strategy to identify contaminated land in the District. This process will be continuing until 2006. Horsham District Council also has limited information on issues such as water quality, although this data is held by other organisations in West Sussex and initial information indicates that the water quality in the area has generally met its targets. Further information will however need to be gathered for the full sustainability appraisal.
- 4.46 Noise (defined as unwanted sound) levels are also generally low in the District. During 2001, a large proportion of the total noise complaints received by Horsham's Environmental Health Department involved noise from residential properties, specifically from neighbours and dogs.
- 4.47 The assessment of air quality in the District is required by the Environment Act 1995. Assessment and modelling of a wide range of air pollutants in the District showed that concentrations were unlikely to exceed specified threshold levels at which damage to health is considered likely. Horsham District Council therefore does not need to



declare any Air Quality Management Areas to deal with any air quality problems at the current time. There is, however, the potential for the air quality of the District to decline in future years, particularly if the amount of traffic continues to rise, or potentially from further development of Gatwick Airport.

#### *Resource Use / Waste and Recycling*

- 4.48 At the current time around 13% of the household waste produced in Horsham District is recycled. The rest of the waste is mainly disposed of in landfill sites. The Council is trying to increase recycling rates and recently undertook trials in Horsham town which increased recycling rates to 46%. This method of household waste collection is currently being rolled out across the District.
- 4.49 Although the amount of waste being recycled is increasing, there is always a certain amount of waste that has to be disposed of permanently. Most of this waste currently goes to landfill sites but alternatives to this may have to be found in the future, as the number of available landfill sites is decreasing. There is currently less than 10 years of landfill space available. The decision as to the type and location of waste facilities will be determined by West Sussex County Council following consultation with stakeholders and the community.
- 4.50 This Council currently has limited data on water quality, supply and flooding issues for Horsham District, and will need to ensure that this information is collected for the full sustainability appraisal. Data is also required on energy use and in the future the amount of energy generated from renewable sources. It is however known that residents in the District use around 160 litres of water a day ([Southern Water www.southernwater.co.uk](http://www.southernwater.co.uk) ). This is an increase of 50% compared with water use 25 years ago. The level of water use could lead to problems with water shortages, particularly given the pressure for development in the area, and the possibility of hotter drier summers connected with the changing climate.

#### Climate Change

- 4.51 Climate change is an issue which has the potential to affect the economic, social and environmental aspects of life in Horsham District.
- 4.52 Although the precise nature of the changes that are likely to occur to the environment as a result of climate change is not fully understood, it is currently thought that summers in the UK are likely to become longer, warmer and drier, whilst winters will become shorter and wetter. This may lead to drought and to increased flooding events. Current predictions are that average annual temperatures likely to rise between 1.3 and 3.4 degrees although the degree that the climate will change depends on how much levels of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane are reduced from current emission levels.
- 4.53 Effects from global warming are difficult to predict, but changes could affect the landscape as different crops may have to be grown to cope with the new climatic conditions. Habitats may also change; ponds could dry out, or species that prefer a cooler climate may be forced further north. Where possible, it will be necessary to create measures to provide for biodiversity as climate changes. Climate change may also have an impact on the economy as increased flooding and extreme weather events may have implications as to where businesses are able to locate and will also affect the goods and services that are required.

- 4.54 Climate change is also likely to have an effect on social issues. For example, leisure activities may change with people spending more time out of doors in summer. This could perhaps lead to increased problems in terms of noise impact on neighbours. Climate change could also affect health, with more episodes of heat stroke. Concern has also been raised by some that a warmer climate could mean diseases from warmer climates may reach the United Kingdom.
- 4.55 As climate change is now to a certain extent inevitable, future development will need to adapt to a changed climate, as well as incorporating measures to ensure that the amount of greenhouse gases that are produced are reduced. Buildings will need to be built to withstand warmer summers and more severe weather events. Measures to reduce the production of greenhouse gases will require better energy efficiency measures, reduced travel and energy generated from renewable sources.

## **5.0 SUSTAINABILITY CONSTRAINTS AND ISSUES AFFECTING HORSHAM DISTRICT**

- 5.1 There are certain key sustainability issues which are central to the Local Development Framework. This section sets out those which have been determined to date, although they will be updated as a result of further consultation as work on the LDF progresses. The identification of the key sustainability issues are important as these are the areas that the Sustainability Appraisal will need to address.
- 5.2 The key sustainability issues have been derived from merging information from various sources. This includes the baseline data, and the plans and policies affecting the Local development Framework, as well as preliminary consultation with key organisations such as English Nature, the Environment Agency and West Sussex County Council.
- 5.3 The key issues are set out in more detail in the following paragraphs. The issues have been grouped under the government's four key strands of sustainable development. It should be noted that some of the issues are cross cutting in nature and could be placed under more than one category, but for ease of discussion have been placed under one section only.

### Social Progress Which Meets the Needs of Everyone

#### *Housing Provision for all*

- 5.4 The provision of housing is one of the most important issues affecting the District. House prices in the District are high and are continuing to rise which can make it difficult for people to afford to buy houses. In addition to difficulties with the private housing market, there is also a shortage of affordable (rented / part owned) houses in the District.
- 5.5 There is also a requirement for new housing development in the area, both to meet local needs and also to meet the government housing requirements in the area. There is an emphasis on providing this development on previously developed land before greenfield sites are developed. The density of development is also a consideration, as if this is increased the amount of greenfield land developed will be reduced.
- 5.6 The LDF needs to ensure that the requirement for more housing numbers helps to provide sufficient affordable homes for all sections of the community. The location of the development sites will also be important; in addition to being situated on previously developed land where possible, they should be situated so as to be accessible to employment and facilities and transport.

#### *Access to health care*

- 5.7 At the current time the general health of the District's population is good, with a high life expectancy. The main issue of concern are the small pockets of the population which cannot easily access health services (e.g. people living in rural areas with limited access to transport) and ensuring that there are enough health centres to meet the population as it increases. The health of the population will need to be enhanced and whilst this is not primarily a planning issue, the health of a population

is also influenced by access to greenspace, leisure facilities (see para 5.8 below). The Local Development Framework therefore needs to ensure that enough health care facilities are provided as part of new development, and work to ensure that transport to health care centres is as comprehensive as possible.

#### *Provision of leisure and recreation facilities*

- 5.8 Leisure and recreation facilities in the District are generally good. New and upgraded facilities have been provided in recent years, including The Capitol arts centre in Horsham and swimming pool developments at Steyning and in Horsham. There are however some areas in the District where there are little or no play facilities, and existing open space needs to be maintained and where necessary enhanced. Other problems include the lack of accessibility to village halls by disabled users, and the need for more hotels. There may also be a problem with access to certain facilities, particularly for those without access to a car in rural areas where public transport services are poor.
- 5.9 The LDF will need to ensure that there is sufficient provision of leisure facilities as part of new housing development numbers and ensure there are policies which will facilitate the provision of leisure and tourism proposals in areas where they may be required for local needs. Facilities also need to be accessible to all sections of society including those without access to a car.

#### *Access to education*

- 5.10 The population of Horsham District is generally well educated, with a well qualified workforce and most school leavers entering further education of some kind. There are however problems with a lack of access to childcare facilities both before and after school and during school holidays. It is important to ensure that the high levels of education are maintained, both through the provision of schools and adult education services, which can help address the potential problems with skills shortages in the area. These facilities need to be accessible, to enable those living in more remote rural locations to access them.
- 5.11 Whilst the LDF is less easily able to address the issue of child care, the LDF will need to ensure that sufficient educational facilities are required and are as accessible as possible to the potential users.

#### *Provision of accessible transport*

- 5.12 Horsham District has very high levels of car ownership compared with most other Districts / Boroughs in the UK. The need for travel by car is at the current time exacerbated due to the lack of public transport, particularly in rural areas. As noted in the sections above the lack of access to transport can lead to difficulties in reaching health care, leisure and recreation, education and even employment sites. This has the potential to result in social inequality.
- 5.13 Car use is also potentially damaging to the environment including poor air quality, noise and so on. Although the air quality of the District is currently not a problem this could change as car numbers are predicted to increase. Pollution from cars can also have an impact on the wider environment beyond the District boundary.
- 5.14 The LDF therefore needs to consider transport as an integral part of the plan. Development needs to try to reduce the number of car journeys, but also be

accessible by a variety of means to ensure that sites can be accessed by people who live in more isolated areas or have no access to a car.

## Effective Protection of the Environment

### *Protecting the Landscape Character of the District*

- 5.15 Horsham District is predominantly rural in nature. It has an attractive and varied landscape, some of which is considered nationally important. It also contains several attractive settlements. There is potential for the character of the landscape and townscape to be affected by change, for example through housing and other forms of development, farming diversification schemes, and also climate change, where different species / crops may displace those which can currently thrive in the area.
- 5.16 The LDF needs to ensure that development in the District that is needed to help maintain economic and social needs does not adversely affect the character of the countryside or townscapes in the District.

### *Protecting the Biodiversity of the District*

- 5.17 Horsham District contains a wide range of biodiversity (the variety of life), which helps to contribute to the quality of life in the area. Some of this biodiversity has been designated as being of international, national or local importance. Biodiversity is threatened by a range of factors, including changing agricultural practices and land management, climate change and also development.
- 5.18 The LDF has relatively little influence on issues such as land management, but will need to ensure that biodiversity is not adversely affected by development, both through the careful siting of development and enabling measures to enhance biodiversity in other areas.

### *Protection of the historical environment*

- 5.19 The District has a very varied historical environment. It ranges from prehistoric archaeological sites to hammer ponds from former iron workings and historic buildings in settlements. Development has the potential to destroy archaeological sites, or adversely affect Conservation Areas / Listed Buildings. The LDF must ensure that development avoids historically important sites and the design of development is such that the historic character of villages and towns is not adversely affected.

### *Climate Change*

- 5.20 Climate change is one of the key sustainability issues which faces the District. The economy, society and the environment will all be affected, but in turn activities in the District are contributing to this change in the first place.
- 5.21 Development in the District therefore needs to be constructed in such a way as to withstand some of the effects that may arise from climate change, such as increased intensity and frequency of flooding, and hot dry summers. Development will also need to ensure that it reduces the amount of greenhouse gases that are emitted to ensure that the effects of climate change are as small as possible.

### *Pollution*

- 5.22 Generally, pollution levels (e.g. air, noise, water quality) within the District are low. Development has the potential to alter this and the LDF will need to ensure that pollution levels are not worsened by the nature/ scale of development, and that where applicable mitigation measures are incorporated into developments to reduce any pollution impacts.

### Prudent Use of natural resources

#### *Siting of development to minimise the risk of flooding*

- 5.23 Developments can affect the frequency of flooding as water cannot easily enter the soil where there is a large amount of man made surfaces such as concrete, tarmac and so on. This can increase rain water run off and lead to flash flooding.
- 5.24 Development in the floodplain also risks being flooded, and new development should therefore not take place in this location. It should also be ensured that development is sited to be in such a location that it will not be affected if flooding events worsen as a result of global warming.

#### *Maximising energy efficiency, minimisation of waste*

- 5.25 Development requires the use of energy to provide raw materials needed for construction, and once complete, developments also use energy in the form of heating, lighting, cooking and so on. This can contribute to global climate change through the consumption of fossil fuels and also uses these valuable non renewable resources. Development therefore needs to be constructed to be as energy efficient as possible. The District also needs to enable the development of renewable sources of energy to occur in appropriate locations.
- 5.26 In addition to using up energy, the process of development and change often produces a large amount of waste. Whilst the location of sites to deal with waste is a matter for the County Council, there is a need for all development to reduce the production of waste as far as possible, in order to minimise the pressure on waste sites. The LDF needs to consider the use of measures to ensure that development minimises the use of waste by using recycled materials and so on, and also to ensure that once buildings are operational their design is such that the recycling of material is encouraged. .

#### *Maximising water efficiency*

- 5.27 Water consumption in the south east has risen continuously over the last twenty-five years. As the south east is one of the driest regions of the country the amount of available water has the potential to be less than the actual demand. Development is likely to further increase the amount of water that the population of the area requires, further increasing the demand on resources. The LDF will need to ensure that development minimises the use of water as far as possible, for example by ensuring that systems such as rainwater recycling are installed as part of developments.

### *Good design of development*

- 5.28 Achieving many of the requirements of energy efficiency, limited impact on the environment and landscape is dependent on the design of the development. The design is important in terms of its location, so that housing and employment and services are close together and linked by good transport, and also its appearance, so that it fits in with the character of the area. The design of development is also an important issue for safety, designing out crime.

### Maintenance of High and Stable levels of economic growth

#### *Maintenance of the overall strong economy of the area and low levels of unemployment*

- 5.29 At the current time the economy of the District is generally good with low unemployment levels, and it needs to be ensured that this can be maintained into the future. The pressure for the development on brownfield sites could potentially reduce the number of employment sites in villages and towns, and result in people commuting outside the District to work, which could adversely affect the economy. The LDF therefore needs to ensure that there is continued protection of existing employment sites and that there is provision of new sites as well.

#### *Ensuring a vibrant rural economy*

- 5.30 Much of the District is very rural, and in these areas, the economy is different to those in the villages and towns. The rural economy has been affected in recent years by falling incomes from farming. There is support for diversification schemes to try to assist this problem, but at the same time these schemes have the potential to affect the character of rural areas, for example through increased traffic, new buildings and so on. The LDF will need to balance the need for such schemes with protection of the countryside.

#### *A range of shops and services in village and town centres.*

- 5.31 Many of the needs and services that the community needs are provided in the District's shopping areas. At the current time food and other basic needs are met within the villages in the District, with Horsham town centre providing a larger range of goods and services. The vitality of some village centres are under threat for example through pressures for conversion to residential dwellings and from pressure from national businesses who are able to afford higher rents. The LDF needs to consider how best to protect the shopping areas and enable them to develop and remain competitive in the future.

## **6.0 SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS**

- 6.1 The aim of the Local Development Framework is to improve the sustainability of the District and undertaking a sustainability appraisal is a means of achieving this. In order to help the assess the sustainability of the policies in the LDF, and to monitor the success of the plan in sustainability terms, it is helpful to identify some sustainability objectives and indicators to help measure the success of the Framework.
- 6.2 A set of sustainability objectives have therefore been devised which aim to ensure that the sustainability of the District is improved. These have been based on the sustainability issues which are affecting the District, as identified in the previous chapter. The objectives have also been subject to comments as part of a very preliminary consultation with other Council departments and statutory organisations.
- 6.3 In addition to the objectives a set of indicators have been set out which will enable the effect of the plan on sustainability to be measured. The indicators are primarily related to planning matters rather than wider issues as it is not easy to measure how much of an effect planning can have on some matters. For example whilst planning policies can help the location and development of leisure services, a measure of visitor numbers would not be a direct indication of how successful such a policy has been, as visitor numbers are also likely to be affected by other effects ranging from the type of attraction, the cost of entry and even the weather!
- 6.4 The objectives and indicators are set out on table A below. In due course it is also intended to develop targets for the LDF to aim towards, but at this stage they have not been completed as there is not yet sufficient information on certain aspects of the baseline or how things may change in the future.



**TABLE A:  
PROPOSED OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS TO MEASURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE LDF POLICIES AND PROPOSALS**

<b>Social Progress which meets the needs of everyone</b>		
<b>Objective Number</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
1	To ensure that everyone has access to good quality affordable home that meets their needs	The number of affordable homes built The level of housing need identified
2	To ensure that all groups of the population has access to the health, education leisure and recreation services that are required, in terms of the number of facilities and being able to reach them	% provision of developer contribution to health, leisure education services The loss of open space / other facilities to other uses Developer contributions to rural transport services
3	To reduce crime and the fear of crime	Amount of development which is designed to meet Secure by Design principles
<b>Effective Protection of the Environment</b>		
<b>Objective Number</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
4	To reduce car journeys and congestion by reducing the need to travel by car	The level of provision of alternative modes of transport as part of new development The percentage of people using travel modes other than the car
5	To conserve and enhance the landscape and townscape character of the District	The condition of landscape character areas
6	To conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the District	The condition of protected sites The number of protected sites lost as a result of development The provision of mitigation schemes as a result of development

		Populations of butterflies and bird species
7	To conserve and enhance the historical and cultural environment of the District	Number of buildings at risk Loss of archaeological sites
8	To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases	The number of buildings built to eco home / other energy efficiency standards
9	To encourage the use of renewable resources and the provision of renewable energy within the area	Number of renewable energy schemes in the District
10	To make the most efficient use of land	% development on greenfield and brownfield land Density of development
11	To maintain a high quality environment in terms of air soil and water quality	Number of Air quality management zones designated The quality of rivers
12	To reduce the risk of flooding	Number of buildings constructed which are at risk of flooding
<b>Prudent Use of Natural Resources</b>		
<b>Objective Number</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
13	To ensure that energy and water consumption is as efficient as possible	Per capita consumption of energy Per capita consumption of water Number of homes and buildings built to BREEAM / Ecohomes standard
14	To reduce the amount of waste produced and maximise the rates of recycling of other materials	Tonnage which is recycled or composted Number of developments which incorporate waste efficiency measures

**Maintenance of High and Stable Levels of Economic Growth and Employment**

<b>Objective Number</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
15	To maintain the high and stable economy of the District but enhance areas of inequality, particularly the rural economy	The number of employment sites lost to other uses The number of rural diversification schemes
16	To maintain and enhance the vitality of village and town centres	Conversion of retail to other uses

## 7.0 IDENTIFICATION OF DIFFERENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK OPTIONS

- 7.1 There is not necessarily one single way of meeting the needs of people who live and work in Horsham District. Some of the different options may be more sustainable than others, and in order to ensure that the Local Development Framework contributes to sustainable development as far as possible different options need to be assessed.
- 7.2 There is more than one kind of option that can be considered in relation to Local Development Framework policies and proposals. These are as follows:
- *Discrete Alternatives*: These are alternatives which involve a choice between one option or another. One example is the decision as to whether housing should be located at one site or another.
  - *Alternative Approaches*: There are potentially different methods that different issues can be approached. For example the need to reduce car journeys could be addressed by locating employment and housing close together, by helping to fund improvements to public transport, or a combination of the two.
  - *Do nothing*: In some instances it may be that it could be more sustainable to leave things as they are rather than to provide development, and this option may need to be considered on some occasions.
- 7.3 The following table sets out the different options that the Sustainability Appraisal could examine. The options that are set out are appropriate to the level of the Local Development Framework, as it is not feasible for the Local Development Framework to consider options that have already been determined at a higher level (e.g. the location of strategic developments as set out in the West Sussex County Structure Plan) which have in any event already been subject to their own sustainability appraisal.
- 7.4 Within the table, the options set out do not generally include the 'do nothing' option although it will be considered as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process. A further option that has not been included in the tables is the possibility that different options could be carried out at different times.
- 7.5 It should be emphasised that the options that are set out in the table are preliminary suggestions only and we are seeking your views as to whether you feel that there are other options which should be considered as part of the Sustainability Appraisal. In addition it is anticipated that other options may come to light as a result of the consultation on the Preliminary Consultation Issues and Options document. Following the consultation on this report further work will be required on the different options prior to the next stage of the Sustainability Appraisal being undertaken.
- 7.6 A further reason for further consideration of the LDF options is the fact that it may not be necessary to subject every option that is identified to the full sustainability appraisal process. This is because the effects of an option may not be significant in sustainability terms, or it may not be feasible to progress the option for other (e.g. planning) reasons.

Table B: Different Local Development framework Options for consideration as part of the Sustainability Appraisal

Local Development Framework Issue	Sustainability Issues	Options
Protecting and Enhancing the Character of the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting Landscape Character</li> <li>• Protecting the Historical Environment</li> <li>• Good Design</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Reduce demand for change or development in the countryside by maximising re-use of previously developed land.</li> <li>2) Produce policies and guidance on how to protect landscape character</li> <li>3) Retain local and strategic gaps</li> <li>4) Remove local and strategic gaps</li> <li>5) Remove local but keep strategic gaps</li> </ol>
Balancing Protection and Continued Evolution through New Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting Biodiversity of the District</li> <li>• Protection of the Historical environment</li> <li>• Good Design</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ensure that development does not harm protected sites</li> <li>2) Ensure development does not occur on protected land and that all development incorporates measures to protect / enhance biodiversity / historical character</li> <li>3) Reduce the need for development by reusing existing sites , e.g. previously developed land and increasing the density of development</li> </ol>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring a vibrant rural economy</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Develop policies to protect rural employment land</li> <li>2) Develop policies which support rural diversification schemes</li> <li>3) Allow rural employment sites to relocate and redevelop sites</li> </ol>
Meeting the needs of Local Communities and Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to services and facilities (health care, education, affordable housing etc)</li> <li>• Access to services and facilities (health care, education, affordable housing etc) (continued)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Enable development in all villages</li> <li>2) Draw up a hierarchy of settlement limiting development in smaller less sustainable villages</li> <li>3) Have no development at all in the smaller less sustainable villages.</li> <li>4) Enhance existing facilities and services by seeking using developer contributions</li> <li>5) Provide new facilities as part of developments</li> </ol>

Local Development Framework Issue	Sustainability Issues	Options
Providing for Community leisure recreation tourism and cultural facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of leisure and recreation facilities</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Reduce the need for new facilities by locating development close to those which exist</li> <li>2) Retain Horsham Football club in its current location</li> <li>3) Relocate Horsham Football club together with associated development</li> <li>4) Develop a new hotel using an existing building</li> <li>5) Provide a hotel on a new site</li> <li>6) Locate a new secondary school in Southwater</li> <li>7) Provide a new secondary school in a different location</li> </ol>
Enhancing the vitality and viability of existing centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing a range of shops and services in village centres</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Continue to resist change of use of retail to residential use</li> <li>2) Resist change of use but enable evening economy to improve</li> <li>3) Enable the provision of shops / food store in NE of Horsham</li> <li>4) Do not provide new shops in the NE of Horsham or provide the shops elsewhere</li> <li>5) Develop proposals to encourage the regeneration of East Street</li> <li>6) Do not develop proposals for the regeneration of East Street</li> </ol>
Managing travel demand and widening the choice of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of accessible transport</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Reduce the need to travel by enhancing existing facilities in villages and towns</li> <li>2) Locate new development close to existing facilities or build new ones close by</li> <li>3) Provide an enhanced public transport service</li> <li>4) Provide additional park and ride sites around Horsham</li> </ol>
Providing for development needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing provision for all</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Prioritise development to take place on brownfield land prior to greenfield sites</li> <li>2) Seek to increase the overall density of development from historic levels to minimise land take</li> <li>3) Seek affordable housing of 30% / &gt;1ha on development sites</li> <li>4) Seek a higher or lower density of affordable housing on sites than in 3) above.</li> </ol>

Local Development Framework Issue	Sustainability Issues	Options
Providing for development needs (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing provision for all (continued)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5) Make no provision for gypsy sites</li> <li>6) Provide gypsy sites according to identified needs</li> <li>7) Retain existing built –up area boundaries in their current form</li> <li>8) Amend built-up areas to include all back gardens and playing fields</li> </ol>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of an overall strong economy</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Protect employment sites to prevent the conversion of these sites to residential land.</li> <li>2) Work to enable the redevelopment of sites around the District (eg Shoreham Cement Works / Chantry Lane)</li> <li>3) Leave sites around the District in their current form</li> </ol>
Improving the quality of new development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change</li> <li>• Flooding</li> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Energy efficiency</li> <li>• Water efficiency</li> <li>• Waste minimisation</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Locate and design development to be able to cope with predicted climate change</li> <li>2) Design development to ensure that emissions of greenhouse gases are reduced</li> <li>3) Encourage renewable energy schemes</li> <li>4) Do not develop in current floodplain</li> <li>5) Do not develop in current or predicted future flood plains</li> <li>6) Reduce demand for water by installing efficiency measures</li> <li>7) Include water re-use measures as part of the development</li> <li>8) Reduce demand for energy by siting development to maximise solar gain, and ensure construction includes energy conservation measures</li> <li>9) Encourage reuse of materials</li> <li>10) Install recycling facilities as part of developments</li> <li>11) Develop waste recycling schemes</li> <li>12) Aim to reduce polluting activities from transport by locating different types of development close to each other and providing alternative means of transport</li> <li>13) Install measures to treat pollution where necessary (e.g. bunding etc)</li> </ol>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good Design</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Design development to minimise crime</li> </ol>

## 8.0 WHERE NEXT? THE PROPOSED METHODOLOGY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL AND CONTENT OF THE FINAL REPORT

8.1 This document has set out the results of the preliminary stages of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Horsham District Local Development Framework. The baseline of the District has been identified together with sustainability issues that the District is facing and sustainability objectives the LDF should aim to achieve. The document also identifies some preliminary options that the LDF could pursue to help the District to become more sustainable.

8.2 At this stage we would welcome your views on the baseline, sustainability issues and objectives. In addition to this general information the specific questions that we have are as follows:

1. Are there any other plans and programmes which influence the LDF which we have not included in Appendix One?
2. Do you have any facts and figures that you may have about the District which could help add to the baseline information. If so we would be grateful if you could pass it on to us.
3. Are there any sustainability issues that we have not included in this document that you consider to be important?
4. Do you agree with the sustainability objectives and indicators that have been identified? We would particularly welcome any suggestions on other indicators or targets which we could use.
5. Alternative Options – are there any other LDF options that could be considered as part of the sustainability appraisal?

8.3 The results from this consultation will be incorporated into the next part of the Sustainability Appraisal process. The results from the Issues and Options consultation will also be incorporated where relevant as it may throw up new ideas and problems that need to be incorporated into the sustainability appraisal process.

8.4 At this stage it is considered that the proposed methodology to carry out the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Framework is likely to follow a format whereby each Local Development Framework Option is assessed against each of the sustainability objectives. For each option the likely effect on the existing baseline of the District will need to be determined as accurately as possible. An assessment will be made as to whether any change will occur, and if so whether the effect will be positive, negative or neutral effect. This assessment will need to be made in the short, medium and longer term. It is likely that the results could be set out in a table similar to the example below.

LDF ISSUE 'EXAMPLE X'										
Sustain - ability Objective	Option 1				Option 2					
	Likely Effects on the District	Assessment of Effects			Significance / Further Comments	Likely Effects on the District	Assessment of Effects			Significance / Further Comments
		Short	Medium	Longer term			Short	Medium	Longer term	
Objective 1										
Objective 2										



- 8.5 The assessment of the effects of the plan on sustainability issues will require the input of those who have been involved in producing the Local Development Framework. The final assessment of the effects of the policies and proposals contained in the LDF on sustainability will however be undertaken so that it is independent from those who have been involved with policy formulation.
- 8.6 The results from the appraisal process will be used to help determine which policies are the most sustainable and should be included in the Preferred Options document. The results from the appraisal will also enable the wording of the policies to be altered so that it is as sustainable as possible.
- 8.7. The results from the Sustainability Appraisal process will be set out in a report which will be published at the same time as the Preferred Options paper. This report will set out the updated information already set out in this report, having taken into account results from this consultation. In addition the report will also set out the results of the appraisal, together with how the sustainability problems that were identified as part of the appraisal process have been addressed in the LDF, for example in terms of the options which were incorporated into the plan, and proposed mitigation measures. This report will also be available for comment as part of the consultation process on the Preferred Options document.