



Suffolk Coastal...
...where quality of life counts



Suffolk Coastal Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

prepared for the Core Strategy and Policies

Draft February 2006



Suffolk Coastal
Local Development
Framework

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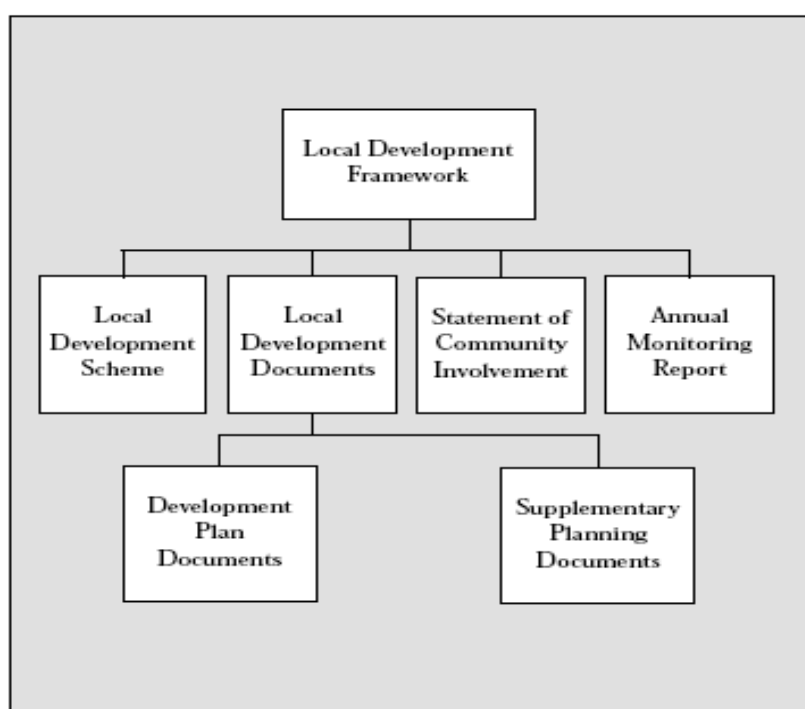
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1. INTRODUCTION

Background: The new system – The Local Development Framework

- 1.01 Substantial changes to the planning system and development plans have recently come into effect via the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). These changes include the replacement of Local Plans with Local Development Frameworks (LDFs).
- 1.02 The Local Development Framework will be a 'folder' that will hold a number of Documents. Each Authority is required to prepare such documents, which will include Local Development Documents (LDDs). These will contain the policies, proposals and actions that affect the future of the district. The LDF for the Suffolk Coastal district is shown on Diagram 1.
- 1.03 It is intended that the new system of LDFs will simplify the local planning process and become more accommodating to any required changes. In addition to greater community involvement, there is also a greater emphasis to be given towards the environment and sustainable development. As a result, all Local Development Documents (LDDs) within the Suffolk Coastal LDF are expected to be subject to:
- a Sustainability Appraisal (SA); and
 - a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- 1.04 However, some LDF documents will be exempt from Sustainability Appraisal and SEA. These include The Statement of Community Involvement, Local Development Scheme and Annual Monitoring Reports.



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Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.05 The main purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to assess to what extent policies and proposals contribute towards meeting social, economic and environmental objectives and sustainable development.
- 1.06 It is common to find many varying definitions of sustainable development. However, perhaps the best and most widely used definition is that of the World Commission of Environment and Development which states that sustainable development is: -

‘Development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.

Further information can be found on the Government's Sustainable Development website at <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk>

- 1.07 In 1999, the Government published a strategy for the UK to work towards in achieving sustainable development. This document, entitled; ‘A Better Quality of Life; a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK’, set out 4 main aims which are: -

- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- effective protection of the environment;
- the prudent use of natural resources; and
- maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

The idea of a Sustainability Appraisal, therefore, is to achieve a more harmonised thought process between social, economic and environmental disciplines. By taking a more balanced approach to planning, the concept of ‘sustainable development’ can be realised.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.08 Under European Directive 2001/42/EC, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is now required for certain plans ‘which are likely to have significant effects on the environment’. An aim of SEA is to promote greater consideration to the environment in the plan making process.
- 1.09 It is anticipated at present that all proposed Local Development Documents for the Suffolk Coastal Local Development Framework, will indeed be significant to the environment and as such, the Sustainability Appraisal and SEA requirements must be fulfilled.
- 1.10 It may be the case that other documents produced by the Council, which are directly or indirectly related to the planning function, may also need to satisfy SEA requirements. As such, this document will act as a

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corporate methodology for Suffolk Coastal District Council to meet any SEA requirements of documents produced by the Council in the future.

Method

- 1.11 Whilst much of the Sustainability Appraisal process is specific to each local authority area, there are many elements where common patterns of work exist, most notably in producing the Scoping Report. With this in mind, the eight local authorities in Suffolk, including the County Council, have been involved in a partnership aiming to streamline the Sustainability Appraisal process. National guidelines have been followed in devising a methodology.
- 1.12 A key area where this becomes invaluable is the task of collecting baseline information of data from which to inform the Scoping Report and highlight any sustainability issues. Each year, the partnership publishes an Annual Monitoring Report incorporating forty indicators which provide information on social, economic and environmental issues. These indicators have contributed a lot towards the baseline information collected for this Scoping Report.

Consultation

- 1.13 There are 4 statutory consultees in the Sustainability Appraisal process - The Environment Agency, English Nature, The Countryside Agency and English Heritage. However, the Council believes that the methodology behind the Appraisals should be the subject of community involvement. In order to be most effective, consultation will be held with the public and other stakeholders at the start of the plan making process in order to make key decisions regarding the plan at an early stage. The Suffolk Coastal Statement of Community Involvement provides in depth detail as to the Council's approach to general consultation including how, when and who are to be involved in the whole Local Development Framework process.
- 1.14 In December 2004, a draft Sustainability Appraisal Framework setting out how the headline objectives were achieved and a proposed methodology for the framework to assess a proposed policy was produced by the Suffolk partnership. An informal consultation period was then opened up to key consultees on the draft framework.
- 1.15 For the Sustainability Appraisal process, the Council will evaluate all relevant responses from previous, current and future consultation and will demonstrate how these have been taken into account during the preparation of the plan before it becomes adopted.

Stages in the Appraisal process

- 1.16 Government guidance states that whilst the requirements to carry out Sustainability Appraisal and SEA are distinct, 'it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process'. With this integration in mind,

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and for ease of understanding, throughout this report where reference is made to Sustainability Appraisal, **it should be read to include** the SEA requirements as well.

1.17 The above guidance also indicates there are 5 main stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process: -

- **Stage A** – *Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope (the Scoping Report).*

Main content:

- i) Evaluating the relevance of other plans and programmes.
- ii) Gathering baseline information and identifying sustainability issues.
- iii) Developing the Sustainability Appraisal objectives.

- **Stage B** – *developing and refining options.*

Main content:

- i) Testing the plan/programme objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives.
- ii) Assessing alternative plans/programmes.
- iii) Consultation as to the level of detail required for the Sustainability Appraisal.

- **Stage C** – *Appraising the effect of the plan.*

Main content:

- i) Predicting and evaluating the effects of the plan/programme as well as any alternatives.
- ii) Proposing mitigation of any adverse affects.
- iii) Outline methods for monitoring the effects of plans/programmes after their implementation.
- iv) Developing the Environmental Report.

- **Stage D** – *Consultation on the plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report.*

Main content:

- i) Consultation on the plan/programme and Environmental Report.
- ii) Consideration of any significant changes.
- iii) Decision making.

- **Stage E** – *Monitoring implementing of the plan.*

Main content:

- i) Commence monitoring and responding to any adverse effects.

2 STAGE A – THE SCOPING REPORT

Purpose

2.01 The principal aim of the Sustainability Appraisal and SEA processes are to ensure that the Suffolk Coastal Local Development Framework complies and contributes to the target of sustainable development.

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2.02 The purpose of this Scoping Report (Stage A) is to contain the following information: -

- Context review - other plans, programmes and objectives relevant to the Plan with information on synergies or inconsistencies;
- Baseline data already collected/still needed, with notes on sources and problems;
- An overview of any social, economic and environmental issues which has been identified from the work done;
- A Sustainability Appraisal framework to include objectives and indicators (and proposed targets) together with how they were chosen;
- Proposals for the structure and level of detail of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Context Review

2.03 It is a requirement that local authorities design and produce LDF documents which are harmonised with other relevant policies, plans and programmes. Other relevant material can be in the context of European, national, regional and local levels.

2.04 The plans and programmes which have been studied in terms of their relationship to the Suffolk Coastal Sustainability Appraisal and LDF process are listed in Appendix 01.

2.05 Suffolk Coastal has undertaken this task as part of the Suffolk partnership and has scoped most relevant plans, programmes and documents which are not specific to each local authority. The remaining, more local documents to Suffolk Coastal will be scoped in due course as an ongoing process. The full scoping document of plans and programmes has been made available on the County Council's website (<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/PlanningAndBuilding/PlanningPolicy/>). An extract to demonstrate the methodology of the scoping of other plans appears in Appendix 02 of this document.

Baseline Information & Overview of Sustainability Issues in Suffolk Coastal

2.06 The idea of collecting baseline data for the Sustainability Appraisal is to provide an evidence base from which local authorities can identify any existing or potential sustainability issues that need to be addressed in the LDF process. There are three broad areas that the data aims to provide information on namely; social, economic and environmental. Suffolk Coastal, through the Suffolk partnership, has gathered this baseline data and trends for all the Sustainability Appraisal Framework indicators (where possible). In instances where data is not currently available, it is anticipated that the availability will be forthcoming and can be added to the baseline data when appropriate.

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- 2.07 The full baseline data document collected by the partnership can be viewed on the Council's website under the planning policy section (<http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/>). The remainder of this section deals with what key sustainability issues in the Suffolk Coastal district are shown from the baseline data and what implications they have. Issues with significant potential adverse sustainability impacts are marked with the notation; 😞

KEY:

😊 = Good progress/positive trend/on target. 😞 = Poor progress/negative trend/below target

😐 = Mixed progress/unable to determine trend.

Social Baseline Information and Analysis of Trends

- 2.08 **Health -** 😊 There are no significant health problems within the district other than the ageing population and the number of discreet health facilities that exist.
- 2.09 **Travel -** 😐 Due to the nature of the district and very poor travel methods, mobility is more reliant on the ability to travel easily eg. to reach services. The lack of public transport infrastructure means that the prevalence of the car therefore remains high.
- 2.10 **Education -** 😐 The levels of GCSE, A/AS and NVQ level 4+ achievement all score above the Suffolk average. However, the proportion of people aged 16 – 74 in the district who have no qualifications is the lowest in Suffolk and below the national average.
- 2.11 **Crime -** 😊/😐 Overall crime figures for the district are low. Despite small rises in crime, most notably violent crime, figures remain significantly below the Suffolk average.
- 2.12 **Social deprivation -** 😊/😐 The district is quite affluent on the whole but there is significant disparity with isolated pockets of seriously deprived areas.
- 2.13 **Service provision -** 😊 Significant progress has been made in recent years and the district's rural population with good access to services is well above the Suffolk average.

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- 2.14 **Employment -** ☹️ Unemployment levels in the district are low and fall below national, regional and county averages. Average earnings are below the national average but show an increasing trend.
- 2.15 **Housing -** ☹️ Affordable housing provision in the district is a major problem. Despite new housing stock being created above required build rates, the provision of affordable housing is distinctly lacking. With district house prices continuing to rise sharply and the increase in wages not being able to match this rate, the disparity gap in housing becomes extended. A high level of second homes in the district also pushes up house prices and increases demand.
- 2.16 **Population -** ☹️ The district has an ageing population who are attracted to the area for a better quality of life in their elder years. 26% are over the age of 60. The needs of these people are somewhat different to those people who are young or middle aged.

Environmental Baseline Information and Analysis of Trends

- 2.17 **Pollution -** ☹️ River and groundwater data gaps to be filled. Air quality over the district is generally good. However, there are now sites in Woodbridge and the Port of Felixstowe which are required to be assessed in terms of the effects of traffic upon local air quality.
- 2.18 **Development -** ☹️ The level of housing completions on greenfield land fluctuates in the district. However, the number of existing housing commitments on greenfield land is declining. Development on brownfield sites is increasing but the district average density of housing development falls below the national requirement and results in inefficient use of land.
- 2.19 **Waste -** ☹️ The district has recently seen a relatively large increase in household and municipal waste. This increase is not mirrored by many other districts in Suffolk but can be partly explained by the increase in 'trade waste'. Recycling levels have improved for Suffolk Coastal and are expected to satisfy a revised 2005/06 target.

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- 2.20 **Traffic -** 😐/😞 As matched by the county average, traffic volumes in the district are steadily increasing. Overall (68%), development is being directed to major towns in the district and provision of rural services is significantly increasing. These factors help reduce the need to travel but do amount to an unacceptable pressure on car parking.
- 2.21 **Energy -** 😊/😐 Consumption of gas has decreased although the district remains one of the highest consumers in Suffolk. Domestic energy efficiency has been consistently improving. Uptake of renewable energy is currently problematic. The district has no renewable energy generation and this figure will have to increase with the region being expected to meet a 14% target.
- 2.22 **Coast Protection & Flooding -** 😐/😞 Due to the coastal and estuarine environments, the district is particularly susceptible to flooding. The district has the highest number of properties at risk of flooding in Suffolk. The effects of climate change will put increased pressure on land by adding to the area at risk of flooding and will increase coastal erosion.
- 2.23 **Biodiversity -** 😊/😐 The conditions of SSSIs and Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species reveals a mixed picture. In general, most terrestrial habitats are doing well, including some wetland habitats. However, many coastal habitats are suffering from losses as a result of coastal processes and pressures. There has been an increase in both the number of County Wildlife Sites in the district and also the number of conditions for habitat / wildlife safeguarding. The same trend corresponds at county level by decreasing the level of viable crops in the district.
- 2.24 **Archaeology Heritage and Conservation -** 😊 The district is continually progressing with enhancement in this area. There are increasingly more listed buildings (2760), nationally designated historic parklands (6) and conservation areas (33). 36% of the district is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Damaged Scheduled Ancient Monuments, as a result of development, is at a

minimum. In addition, the district is doing well in Suffolk for completing Conservation Area Appraisals and Landscape surveys.

Economic Baseline Information and Analysis of Trends

- 2.25 **Economic growth -** ☹️
The district has an increasing (9.4%) business formation rate which is greater than the Suffolk average (9.3%). In addition, there is a relatively diverse economy across the area although people employed in public administration, education and health sectors account for 25% of all employment.
- 2.26 **Shops in town centres -** ☹️
In general there has been a gradual decrease in the percentage of shops in town centres. There is continuous pressure to develop these areas in to other use classes, including housing. There is however a sufficient level (6%) of vacant units in town centres for new business to occupy without having a prevalence of vacant units which can be damaging to the local economy. Viability is therefore crucial and measures to show decline and mix of retail types should be applied.

A Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Defining the objectives

- 2.27 The objectives to be used for the Sustainability Appraisal are set out in Table 1 below and the full list of both objectives and their related indicators can be seen in Appendix 03. The way in which these have been defined has been from a combination of ODPM guidance, scoping of existing documents, analysis of the baseline information, and the identification of the issues which face the district. Work has mainly been progressed in this area through the Suffolk partnership and Appendix 04 sets out the sources as to how the Sustainability Appraisal objectives were developed. Primarily, these objectives were progressed from higher tier national and regional plans to ensure consistency.
- 2.28 Once the Sustainability Appraisal objectives had been derived, it was necessary to test their compatibility in order to identify any areas of conflict to be further investigated or re-developed. A compatibility matrix between the Sustainability Appraisal objectives is shown in Appendix 05. Clearly, there will be instances where progress in one area causes inevitable deterioration in another. In broad terms, it appears that the most frequent number of conflicts arise between economic growth and environmental protection objectives. These

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conflicts in particular, as well as others, will need to be investigated further when considering future plans and policies and it is anticipated that addressing/minimising these conflicts will primarily be through mitigation.

Table 1 – Headline Sustainability Appraisal Objectives.

HEADLINE OBJECTIVES
SOCIAL OBJECTIVES
1. To improve the health of the population overall
2. To maintain and improve levels of education and skills in the population overall
3. To reduce crime and anti-social activity
4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion
5. To improve access to key services for all sectors of the population
6. To offer everybody the opportunity for rewarding and satisfying employment
7. To meet the housing requirements of the whole community
8. To improve the quality of where people live and to encourage community participation
ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
9. To maintain and where possible improve water and air quality
10. To conserve soil resources and quality
11. To use water and mineral resources efficiently, and re-use and recycle where possible
12. To reduce waste
13. To reduce the effects of traffic on the environment
14. To reduce contributions to climate change
15. To reduce vulnerability to climatic events
16. To conserve and enhance biodiversity
17. To conserve and where appropriate enhance areas of historical and archaeological importance
18. To conserve and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes
ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES
19. To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth throughout the plan area
20. To revitalise town centres
21. To encourage efficient patterns of movement in support of economic growth
22. To encourage and accommodate both indigenous and inward investment

Indicators and targets

- 2.29 The baseline information (section 3) is linked into the Sustainability Framework when devising objectives/targets and informing the production of LDDs. Using objectives and indicators is an established methodology for describing, analysing and comparing environmental and sustainability issues and was therefore considered suitable and appropriate for the Sustainability Appraisal. The objectives will act as a basis against which draft plans and policies can be assessed and the

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indicators will be used to collect data as to how well the progress for objectives is being achieved. It is considered that the baseline data can be generically used and updated where possible for each LDD to be appraised. However, in some circumstances, eg. Site specific areas, additional data may need to be collated so that an informed environmental 'snapshot' and future predictions can be made regarding the impacts of a given plan.

- 2.30 It is necessary to have a system which is dynamic and easily updated, when required. As many indicators are Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) and source information which is already collected and updated in other plans, programmes, strategies and reports, it is considered that this system is flexible enough to be accordingly updated and monitored. Many indicators are also collected at a range of geographical scales that can allow comparisons of Suffolk Coastal district with national, regional and county averages. Appendix 03 sets out the indicators that provide relevant data to each Sustainability Appraisal objective.

Assessing policies, proposals and strategies using the framework

- 2.31 A summary template has been developed for assessing the effects of Suffolk Coastal plans and policies (see Appendix 06). The document will be completed for each policy, proposal and strategy to determine what the most suitable option is. It should also provide an indication of where any potentially negative sustainability issues are and how they might be avoided or mitigated.

3 CONSULTATION ON THIS SCOPING REPORT

- 3.01 As mentioned earlier, an early informal consultation was held in December 2004 with key consultees relating to the development of the Sustainability Framework. The feedback from this formulated the current Sustainability Framework.
- 3.02 Consultation relating to the scope of this report will now take place with the key statutory consultees and the response deadline for this stage will be **5pm on Monday 20th March 2006.**

4 REMAINING STAGES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL AND STRUCTURE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

- 4.01 There are 5 main stages to the Sustainability Appraisal process (see para. 1.17). This Scoping report completes the first stage (Stage A) of the process.
- 4.02 It may be of help at this stage to outline very briefly some elements of the further stages.

Testing the Plan Objectives

- 4.03 The purpose of the LDF objectives will be to detail what the plan is attempting to achieve and these will have to be compatible with sustainability principles as well as other plans and policies.
- 4.04 Presently, at this very early stage in the LDF preparation process, the objectives have not yet been formulated. These objectives will be produced in due course as it appears most valuable to develop the objectives out of early discussions of issues with the community.
- 4.05 Once the LDF objectives are derived, then these will need to be tested for their sustainability against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. It is anticipated that this will be carried out similar to the matrix methodology as per Appendix 05, which was used to test the Sustainability Appraisal objectives against each other.

The Environmental Report

- 4.06 The Environmental Report will document and summarise the predicted effects of the draft plan policies, as well as the alternatives. The Report will also have to identify any cumulative or synergistic effects that are expected from the draft plan and other plans.
- 4.07 After assessing the effects, the Environmental Report must then recommend measures to minimise, prevent or mitigate any negative effects which are identified as best as possible. For example, this could be achieved through redesigning policies, discarding highly unsustainable options, requesting specific issues to be dealt with by Environmental Impact Assessment for specific developments etc.
- 4.08 The third main part to the Environmental Report is to set out proposals for a system of monitoring so as to track the significant changes, both positive and negative, of the draft plan. There are two areas of effects to focus on. Firstly, any significant effects that could have irreversible damage so that preventative measures can be explored. Secondly, where there is uncertainty as to any effects so that a greater understanding can be formed. This monitoring is anticipated to be mainly reported through the Annual Monitoring Report.

Sustainability Appraisal Statement

- 4.09 Resulting from consultation on the Environmental Report and draft plan, a Sustainability Appraisal Statement will be produced to outline the responses from consultation. It will also draw attention to any significant changes that have been made to the draft plan as a result of the Sustainability Appraisal process.

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APPENDIX 01 - List of the relevant strategies, plans, policies and programmes reviewed in the scoping exercise

International/European Context
The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development – Commitments arising from summit - Sept 2002
The UN Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals – Sept 2000
Kyoto Protocol and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – May 1992
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats – 1979
Ramsar convention on Wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat – 1971
Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979)
European Spatial Development Perspective (May 1999)
Air Quality Framework Directive – 96/62/EC
Directive to promote electricity from renewable energy – 2001/77/EC
Directive for the encouragement of bio-fuels for transport – 2003/30/EC
Water Framework Directive – 2000/60/EC
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive – 91/271/EEC
Water pollution caused by Nitrates from agricultural sources: Nitrates Directive – 91/676/EEC
Bathing Water Quality Directive – 76/160/EEC
Drinking Water Directive – 98/83/EC
Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds
Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora
Framework Waste directive 75/442/EEC, as amended
Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste
Packaging and packaging waste directive – 94/62/EC of 20 Dec 1994
A New Partnership for Cohesion – Third Report on Economic and Social Cohesion (Feb 04) and Draft New Regulations for Renewed Structural Funds (July 2004)
Aarhus Convention
EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan

National, Regional and Local Context (Generic)
National Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements
PPS1 – Creating Sustainable Communities (Feb 04)
PPG2 – Green Belts (Jan 1995)
PPG3 – Housing (March 2000)
PPG3 – Housing Update: Planning for Sustainable Communities in Rural Areas (Jan 2005)
PPG3 – Housing Update: Supporting the Delivery of New Housing (Jan 2005)
PPG4 – Industrial and Commercial Development and Small Firms (Nov 1992)
PPG5 – Simplified Planning Zones (Nov 1992)
PPS6 – Planning for Town Centres (Mar 2005)
PPS7 – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (Aug 2004)
PPG8: Telecommunications (Aug 2001)
Draft PPS9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (Sept 2004)
PPG9 – Nature Conservation (Oct 1994)
Draft PPS10 – Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (Dec 2004)
PPG10 – Planning and Waste Management (Sept 1999)
PPG11 – Regional Planning (Sept 2004)
PPS11 - Regional Spatial Strategies (2004)
PPS12 – Local Development Frameworks (Aug 2004)
PPG13 – Transport (Mar 1994)
PPG14 - Development on Unstable Land (Apr 1990)
PPG15 – Planning and the Historic Environment (Sept 1994)
PPG16 – Archaeology and Planning (Nov 1990)
PPG17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (July 2002)
PPG20 – Coastal Planning (Sept 1992)
Review of PPS21: Tourism (Mar 2003)
PPG21 – Tourism (Nov 1992)
PPS22 – Renewable Energy (Aug 2004)

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PPS23 – Planning and Pollution Control (2004)
PPG24 – Planning and Noise (Sept 1994)
PPG25 – Development and Flood Risk (July 2001)
Draft MPS 1: Planning & Minerals
Urban
Urban White Paper
Towns and Cities Strategy and Action Plan, Urban Renaissance in the East of England
Rural
Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside – the future – a fair deal for rural England, DETR (2000)
CROW Act (2000)
Rural Strategy (2004)
Forestry Commission - Open spaces and Woodlands
Sustainable Communities
A Better Quality of Life: a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK (1999), Taking it on: Developing UK Sustainable Development Strategy Together (Consultation: 2004)
Sustainable Communities Plan: Building for the Future (2003)
A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (Oct 2001)
Sustainable Communities in the East of England 2003
Creating Sustainable Communities – In the East of England (Jan 2005)
Regional Spatial Strategy
Regional Spatial Strategy – RSS (banked version April 2004)
RSS14 for the East of England SEA Scoping Report (17 Sept 2004)
Other Regional Strategies
An Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England (Revised draft for consultation (5)) 20 Sept 2004
Regional Key Workers Study
East of England European Strategy 2003 – 2004, June 2003
Suffolk European Strategy
Towards Sustainable Construction – A Strategy for the East of England, Draft 2003
Regeneration
Transport
Aviation White Paper (Dec 2003)
Rail White Paper (July 2004)
Transport White Paper
Government/DfT 10 Year Transport Plan 2000
East of England Regional Transport Strategy (April 2003) (Incorporated as a chapter in RPG14)
Suffolk Local Transport Plan 2001-6 (Annual Progress Report 2004 scoped)
Suffolk Bus Strategy, 2003
Community Strategies and Community Development Strategies
Altogether a better Suffolk – Suffolk's Community Strategy 2004 (Consultation Draft)
Suffolk Structure Plan
Suffolk Structure Plan – 2001
All Structure Plan policies will be replaced by RSS14, except 'saved' policies. Saved policies will be valid until at least 28 September 2007.
Local Authority Corporate Plans and Strategies
Suffolk County Council Policy and Performance Plan 2004

Social – National, Regional and Local Context
Social Inclusion
Regional Social Strategy for the East of England (May 2004)
Suffolk County Council Equalities Policy, April 2003
Health
Health White Paper
Health and Social Inclusion Strategy (EERA Health and Social Inclusion Panel)
Social Care Annual Plan 2003-4
Suffolk Health Improvement Plan
Culture
Culture: a catalyst for change. A Strategy for Cultural Development for the East of England, Living East (June 2004)
A Cultural Strategy for Suffolk (Mar 2002)
Education
Suffolk's Strategy for Learning 2004-9: The Single Plan (Mar 2004)

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Housing
The East of England Regional Housing Strategy 2003-2006, Regional Housing Forum (Apr 2004)
Affordable Housing Study: The Provision of Affordable Housing in the East of England 1996-2021 (2003)
Community Safety
Suffolk Community Safety Strategy, 2001 (Draft)
Accessibility
Environmental - National, Regional and Local Context
Environmental Strategies
Environment, Our future: Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England, East of England Regional Assembly and East of England Environment Forum, July 2003
Soil
Farming and Food Strategy, Facing the Future, DEFRA, (Dec 2002)
The First Soil Action Plan for England: 2004 – 2006 (2004)
Open Space
Climate
Climate Change – UK Programme, DETR, November 2000
Living with Climate Change in the East of England – summary Report supported by technical report (2003)
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Strategies
Air Quality
National Air Quality Strategy for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (Jan 2000)
District Air Quality Management Strategy
Review and Assessment of Air Quality within District
Water
Water resources for the future: A Strategy for Anglian Region
Biodiversity and Nature Conservation
Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England (2002) RSS
Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended)
Regional Biodiversity Action Plans
Butterfly Conservation – Regional Action Plan for Anglia (2000)
Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan (Updated December 2004)
State of Nature – Lowlands – future landscapes for wildlife (2004)
Countryside Management
Suffolk Countryside Strategy
Suffolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Draft currently in preparation)
Woodland
Woodland for Life: The Regional Woodland Strategy for the East of England, November 2003
Minerals and Waste
Suffolk Minerals Local Plan Adopted May 1999
Regional Waste Management Strategy (2002)
Suffolk Waste Local Plan – Revised Deposit Draft (January 2004). Inspector's report expected in April 2005, but few significant policy changes are expected due to the low number of policy objections
Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Suffolk – Oct 2003
Economic - National, Regional and Local Context
Economic and Employment Strategies
Regional Economic Strategy for the East of England – Progressing a Shared Vision (consultation draft due for completion 2004)
Prioritisation in the East of England, June 2003
International Business Strategy, Consultation Draft, December 2003
Regional Emphasis Document SR2004, December 2003
Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action (FRESA)
Expanding Suffolk's Horizons: 2004-7 – A New Economic Strategy for Suffolk
Tourism
Regional Tourism Strategy 2000-2010

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APPENDIX 02 – Example Scoping Methodology of other plans

Document title and reference points	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SEA	Implications for plan	Implications for SEA
NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT – Cross-cutting Topics			
Regional Spatial Strategy – RSS (banked version April 2004)			
Vision	"To sustain and improve the quality of life for all people who live in, work in, or visit the region, by developing a more sustainable, prosperous and outward-looking region, while respecting its diversity and enhancing its assets."	All DPDs must seek to achieve this vision	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) increase prosperity and employment growth to meet identified employment needs of the Region, and achieve a more sustainable balance between workers and jobs; (ii) improve social inclusion and access to employment and services and leisure and tourist facilities among those who are disadvantaged; (iii) maintain and enhance cultural diversity while addressing the distinctive needs of different parts of the region; (iv) increase the regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas; (v) deliver more integrated patterns of land use, movement, activity and development, including employment and housing; (vi) sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of town centres; (vii) make more use of previously developed land and existing buildings, and use land more efficiently, in meeting future development needs; (viii) meet the region's identified housing needs, and in particular provide sufficient affordable housing; (ix) protect and enhance the built and historic environment and encourage good quality design and use of sustainable construction methods for all new development; (x) protect and enhance the natural environment, including its biodiversity and landscape character; (xi) minimise the demand for use of resources, particularly water, energy supplies, minerals, aggregates, and other natural resources, whether finite or renewable, by encouraging efficient use, re-use, or use of recycled alternatives, and trying to meet needs with minimum impact; (xii) minimise the environmental impact of travel, by reducing the need to travel, encouraging the use of more environmentally friendly modes of transport, and widening choice of modes; (xiii) ensure that infrastructure programmes, whether for transport, utilities or social infrastructure, will meet current deficiencies and development requirements; and that the responsible agencies commit the resources needed to implement these programmes and co-ordinate delivery with development; and (xiv) minimise the risk of flooding. 	All DPDs should seek to achieve these objectives	(i) Objectives/indicators relating to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment development, • access to services, • social inclusion, • cultural diversity, • housing development, • affordable housing, • use of PDL, • vitality of town centres, • protection and enhancement of the built, natural and historic environment, • use of resources, • travel and transport, • flood risk,

APPENDIX 03 - Draft Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Objectives and Indicators

SOCIAL OBJECTIVES

Headline Objective	Sub-Objective	Indicator <i>(refers to data source)</i>
1. To improve the health of the population overall	Will it improve the numbers of health facilities and the distance which has to be travelled to these facilities?	Proportion of population with access to hospital or GP or dentist surgery (DfT accessibility indicators)
	Will it reduce death rates?	Overall death rate by all causes (PCT)
		Cancer deaths (malignant neoplasms) under 75 per 100,000 population (PCT)
		Ischaemic Heart Disease deaths under 75 per 100,000 population (PCT)
		Respiratory disease deaths (all ages) per 100,000 population (PCT)
		Deaths from self harm and injury undetermined (all ages) per 100,000 population (PCT)
		Number of people killed and seriously injured in road traffic accidents per 100,000 population (SCC)
		Life expectancy (SDA)
	Will it encourage healthy lifestyles?	Proportion of journeys to work on foot or by cycle (Census/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		How do children travel to school? (QOL/BVPI)
		Obesity in the population (PCT)
		Change in existing provision of outdoor playing space (youth and adult space) (SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP 5-year review)
		Change in existing provision of children's play space (SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP 5-year review)
		Change in provision of open space (District open space assessments)
		The % of total length of footpaths and other rights of way which are easy to use by members of the public (BVPI)
		Change in amount of accessible natural green space (English Nature Standards)
2. To maintain and improve levels of education and skills in the population overall	Will it improve qualifications and skills of young people?	Proportion of Year 11 pupils gaining 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE (District Wide SDA / BVPI)
		Average point score per student at A and AS Level (District Wide SDA / BVPI)

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Headline Objective	Sub-Objective	Indicator <i>(refers to data source)</i>
	Will it improve qualifications and skills of adults?	Proportion of the population with no qualifications (Census)
		Proportion of the population with NVQ level 4 or higher (District Wide SDA)
3. To reduce crime and anti-social activity	Will it reduce actual levels of crime?	Recorded Crime per 1000 population (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Burglary Rate per 1000 population (SDA)
		Violent Crime Rate per 1000 population (SDA)
	Will it reduce the fear of crime?	Fear of Crime (QOL, Suffolk Speaks, British Crime Survey)
	Will it reduce noise and odour concerns?	Number of domestic noise complaints (Environmental Health Depts Districts)
		Number of odour complaints (Environmental Health Depts Districts)
4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion	Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected?	Proportion of the population who live in wards that rank within the most deprived 10% and 25% of wards in the country (SCC)
		Housing benefit recipients (LAs)
5. To improve access to key services for all sectors of the population	Will it improve accessibility to key local services?	Percentage of rural population living in parishes which have a food shop or general store, post office, pub, primary school and meeting place (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Percentage of Rural Households within 13 minutes' Walk of an Hourly Bus Service (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Proportion of population with access to key local services (eg GP, post office) (DfT accessibility indicators)
	Will it improve accessibility to shopping facilities?	New Retail Floor Space in Town Centres (AMR)
		Proportion of population with access to a food shop (DfT accessibility indicators)
	Will it improve access to child care?	Number of child care places per thousand children under 5 (Mark Parker)
6. To offer everybody the opportunity for rewarding and satisfying employment	Will it reduce unemployment overall?	Unemployment rate (SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP/AMR)
	Will it reduce long-term unemployment?	Long-term unemployment (Nomis)
	Will it provide job opportunities for those most in need of employment?	Proportion of lone parents and long term-ill who are economically active (Census)

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Headline Objective	Sub-Objective	Indicator <i>(refers to data source)</i>
	Will it help to improve earnings?	Average Earnings (Inland revenue/AMR)
7. To meet the housing requirements of the whole community	Will it reduce homelessness?	Homelessness (districts homelessness presentations)
	Will it provide enough housing?	Housing Stock (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Housing Land Availability (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
	Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for all social groups?	Affordable Housing (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Special Needs Housing
		Housing Types and Sizes (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Dwellings per hectare of Net Developable Area (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Average property price to income ratio (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
	Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?	Number of unfit homes per 1,000 dwellings (BVPI)
8. To improve the quality of where people live and to encourage community participation	Will it improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhood as a place to live live?	% of residents who are happy with their neighbourhood as a place to live (Suffolk Speaks/ODPM QOL surveys)
	Will it increase access to natural green space?	Area of land managed in whole or part for its ecological interest and with public access over and above public rights of way (SCC)
		Areas of deficiency in terms of natural green space (SCC)
		Change in amount of accessible natural green space (English Nature standards)
	Will it encourage engagement in decision making?	Electoral turnout in local authority elections
		Number of Parish Plans adopted (Suffolk Acre)
	Will increase the number of people involved in volunteer activities?	Number of people involved in volunteer activities (SCC/CVS)
	Will it improve ethnic relations?	Number / rate of racist incidents (Racial Harassment Initiative)
	Will it improve access to cultural facilities?	Number of visits to/uses of Council funded or part- funded museums per 1,000 population (BVPI 170a)
		Number of visits to Council funded or part- funded museums that were in person,

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Headline Objective	Sub-Objective	Indicator <i>(refers to data source)</i>
		per 1,000 population (BVPI 170b)
		The number of pupils visiting museums and galleries in organised school groups (BVPI 170c)

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

Headline Objective	Sub-Objective	Indicator
9. To maintain and where possible improve water and air quality	Will it improve the quality of inland waters?	Water quality in rivers (EA)
		Groundwater quality (may be available from EA in future - CAMS)
	Will it improve the quality of coastal waters?	Water quality in estuaries (EA)
		Bathing water quality (EA)
	Will it improve air quality?	Have annual mean concentrations of any of three air pollutants been exceeded?
		Number of Air Quality Management Areas and dwellings affected (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
10. To conserve soil resources and quality	Will it minimise the loss of greenfield land to development?	Number and percentage of new dwellings completed on greenfield land
		Number and percentage of existing housing commitments on greenfield land (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Dwellings per hectare of net developable area (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
	Will it minimise loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land to development?	Allocations on best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2, and 3a)
	Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?	Number and area of potential and declared contaminated land returned to beneficial use (Districts / EA)
		Number / area of organic farms (DEFRA / Soil Association)

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Headline Objective	Sub-Objective	Indicator
11. To use water and mineral resources efficiently, and re-use and recycle where possible	Will it promote sustainable use of minerals?	Recycled aggregate production (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
	Will it promote sustainable use of water?	Water consumption
	Will it maintain water availability for water dependant habitats?	Water availability for water dependant habitats (EN / Wildlife Trust)
12. To reduce waste	Will it reduce household waste?	Household (and municipal) waste produced (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
	Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?	Tonnage / proportion of household (and municipal) waste recycled, composted and landfilled (SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP / BVPI / PSA)
13. To reduce the effects of traffic on the environment	Will it effect traffic volumes?	Traffic volumes in key locations (SCC)
	Will it reduce the need for local travel?	Percentage of all new residential development taking place in major towns, other towns, and elsewhere (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Percentage of rural population living in parishes which have a food shop or general store, post office, pub, primary school and meeting place (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Distance to key services (new accessibility indicators from DfT)
	Will it increase the proportion of journeys made using modes other than the private car?	Percentage of journeys to work undertaken by sustainable modes (SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Percentage of schoolchildren travelling to school by sustainable modes (BVPI)
		Car parking standards (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
14. To reduce contributions to climate change	Will it reduce emissions of green house gases by reducing energy consumption?	Consumption of electricity – Domestic use per consumer and total commercial /industrial use (DTI)
		Consumption of gas – Domestic use per consumer and total commercial /industrial use (DTI)
		Energy efficiency of homes (BVPI 63 / HECA)
	Will it increase the proportion of	Installed electricity generating capacity using renewable energy

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Headline Objective	Sub-Objective	Indicator
	energy needs being met by renewable sources?	(SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
15. To reduce vulnerability to climatic events	Will it minimise the risk of flooding to people and property from rivers and watercourses?	Flood risk - planning applications approved against Environment Agency advice (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Properties at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea (EA)
		Incidence of fluvial flooding (properties affected)
	Will it minimise the risk of flooding to people and property on the coast?	Incidence of coastal flooding (properties affected)
	Will it reduce the risk of coastal erosion?	Developments refused because of risk of coastal erosion (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
	Will it reduce the risk of damage to people and property from storm events?	Incidence of flood watches and warnings (EA)
16. To conserve and enhance biodiversity	Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest?	Change in number and area of designated ecological sites (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Reported condition of ecological SSSIs (EN / Wildlife Trust)
	Will it help deliver the targets and actions for habitats and species within the Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan?	Achievement of Habitat Action Plan targets (SBRC/SBP)
		Achievement of Species Action Plan targets (SBRC/SBP)
		Development proposals affecting BAP habitats outside protected areas (SWT)
	Will it help to reverse the national decline in farmland birds?	Bird survey results (BTO/RSPB)
17. To conserve and where appropriate enhance areas of historical and archaeological importance	Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical and cultural value in both urban and rural areas?	Number of listed buildings and buildings at risk (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Area of historic parks and gardens (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)

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Headline Objective	Sub-Objective	Indicator
		Number and area of Conservation Areas and Article 4 directions (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Number of Conservation Area Appraisals completed and enhancement schemes implemented (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
	Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of archaeological value in both urban and rural areas?	Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) damaged as a result of development (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Planning permissions affecting known or potential archaeological sites (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
	Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of geological value in both urban and rural areas?	Change in number and area of designated geological SSSIs (EN)
		Reported condition of geological SSSIs (EN)
18. To conserve and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes	Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land?	Number and percentage of new dwellings completed on previously developed land (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Number and percentage of existing housing commitments on previously developed land (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Number of vacant dwellings
	Will it improve the landscape and/or townscape?	Changes in the landscape (WI landscape survey) (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Number / area of town / village greens and commons
		Area of designated landscapes (AONB) (CA/DEFRA)
		Number of Countryside Stewardship / Environmental Stewardship schemes (DEFRA)
		Light pollution (CPRE)
		Number of planning applications refused for reasons due to poor design

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ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES

Headline Objective	Sub-Objective	Indicator
19. To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth throughout the plan area	Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness?	Take-up of employment floorspace (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Employment permissions and allocations (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Percentage change in the total number of VAT registered businesses in the area (SDA / Suffolk Observatory)
		Change in number of businesses registered to pay business rates (SDA)
	Will it improve the resilience of business and the economy?	Number and percentage of employees by employment division (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Number and percentage of businesses by main industry type (AMR)
		Number and percentage of businesses by size (number of employees) (AMR)
	Will it promote growth in key sectors?	Number and percentage of businesses by industry type in key sectors (local authority to specify key sectors) (SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP / AMR)
	Will it improve economic performance in advantaged and disadvantaged areas?	Comparative industrial and office rental costs within the plan area (ODPM / estate agents)
	Will it encourage rural diversification?	Employment permissions and allocations in rural areas (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
20. To revitalise town centres	Will it increase the range of employment opportunities, shops and services available in town centres?	Proportion of town centre units with A1 uses (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
	Will it decrease the number of vacant units in town centres?	Vacant units in town centres (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
21. To encourage efficient patterns of movement in support of economic growth	Will it reduce commuting?	Distances travelled to work for the resident population (Census).
	Will it reduce commuting?	Import/export of workers to district and/or major towns (Census).
		Employment permissions and allocations in urban areas (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Number / percentage of people working from home as main place of work (Census provides a baseline, and planning consents for working from home)

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Headline Objective	Sub-Objective	Indicator
		indicate trends)
	Will it improve accessibility to work by public transport, walking and cycling?	Number of developments where a travel plan is submitted or is a condition of development (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Percentage of journeys to work undertaken by sustainable modes (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
	Will it reduce journey times between key employment areas and key transport interchanges?	May be relevant for Ipswich but not considered suitable for Suffolk as a whole.
	Will it increase the proportion of freight transported by rail or other sustainable modes?	Proportion of port freight carried by rail (Port Authorities / AMR)
	Will it increase the consumption of locally produced food and good?	Number of farmers markets and farm shops (LAs)
		Number of locally sourced products stocked by major supermarket chains (contact supermarkets directly)
22. To encourage and accommodate both indigenous and inward investment	Will it encourage indigenous business?	Number of enquiries to business advice services from within area (business link, LAs)
		Business start ups and closures (Suffolk Observatory)
	Will it encourage inward investment?	Number of enquiries to business advice services from outside of area (business link, LAs)
	Will it make land available for business development?	Employment land availability (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)
		Employment permissions and allocations (SCDC/SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP)

APPENDIX 04 – Defining core Sustainability Appraisal objectives

Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Source documents for proposed objectives
1. To improve the health of the population overall	A
2. To maintain and improve levels of education and skills in the population overall	A
3. To reduce crime and anti-social activity	A, E
4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion	A, B, C, D
5. To improve access to key services for all sectors of the population	A, E
6. To offer everybody the opportunity for rewarding and satisfying employment	A, E
7. To meet the housing requirements of the whole community	A, E
8. To improve the quality of where people live and to encourage community participation	A
9. To maintain and where possible improve water and air quality	A, E
10. To conserve soil resources and quality	A, D, E
11. To use water and mineral resources efficiently, and re-use and recycle where possible	A, C, D, E
12. To reduce waste	A, C, D, E
13. To reduce the effects of traffic on the environment	A, B, E
14. To reduce contributions to climate change	A, B, C, D, E
15. To reduce vulnerability to climatic events	A, E
16. To conserve and enhance biodiversity	A, B, C, D, E
17. To conserve and where appropriate enhance areas of historical and archaeological importance	A, B, C, D, E
18. To conserve and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes	A, B, C, D, E
19. To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth throughout the plan area	A, C, D, E
20. To revitalise town centres	C, D, E
21. To encourage efficient patterns of movement in support of economic growth	A
22. To encourage and accommodate both indigenous and inward investment	A

Source A – *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (Consultation Paper)*, ODPM, September 2004.

Source B – *The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*, ODPM, October 2003.

Source C – *Sustainability Development Framework for the East of England*, Produced by EERA and EESDRT – October 2001.

Source D – *RSS14 Scoping Report*, East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) 2004

Source E – *Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development* (produced by SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP) objectives as at October 2004 or the 5 year review objectives (December 2002).

APPENDIX 05 – Compatibility Matrix of Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

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Appendix 06 – Summary table to document the effects of policies / options

Note: This format will be used to appraise each policy / broad option.

SA Objective	Question: Will this policy / proposal / plan / strategy help to.....	Rating	Comment
SOCIAL			
1. To improve the health of the population overall	Will it improve access to high quality, health facilities? Will it reduce death rates? Will it encourage healthy lifestyles?		
2. To maintain and improve levels of education and skills in the population overall	Will it improve qualifications and skills of young people? Will it improve qualifications and skills of adults?		
3. To reduce crime and anti-social activity	Will it reduce actual levels of crime? Will it reduce the fear of crime? Will it reduce noise and odour concerns?		
4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion	Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected?		
5. To improve access to key services for all sectors of the population	Will it improve accessibility to key local services? Will it improve accessibility to shopping facilities?		
6. To offer everybody the opportunity for rewarding and satisfying employment	Will it reduce unemployment overall? Will it reduce long-term unemployment? Will it provide job opportunities for those most in need of employment? Will it help to improve earnings?		
7. To meet the housing requirements of the whole community	Will it reduce homelessness? Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for all social groups? Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?		
8. To improve the quality of where people live and to encourage community participation	Will it improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhood as a place to live? Will it increase access to natural green space? Will it encourage engagement in decision making? Will it increase the number of people involved in volunteer activities? Will it improve ethnic relations? Will it improve access to cultural facilities?		
ENVIRONMENTAL			
9. To maintain and where possible improve water and air quality	Will it improve the quality of inland waters? Will it improve the quality of coastal waters? Will it improve air quality?		
10. To conserve soil resources and quality	Will it minimise the loss of greenfield land to development? Will it minimise loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land to development? Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?		

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SA Objective	Question: Will this policy / proposal / plan / strategy help to.....	Rating	Comment
11. To use water and mineral resources efficiently, and re-use and recycle where possible	Will it promote sustainable use of minerals? Will it promote sustainable use of water?		
	Will it maintain water availability for water dependant habitats?		
12. To reduce waste	Will it reduce household waste? Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?		
13. To reduce the effects of traffic on the environment	Will it effect traffic volumes? Will it reduce the need for local travel? Will it increase the proportion of journeys made using modes other than the private car?		
14. To reduce contributions to climate change	Will it reduce emissions of green house gases by reducing energy consumption? Will it increase the proportion of energy needs being met by renewable sources?		
15. To reduce vulnerability to climatic events	Will it minimise the risk of flooding to people and property from rivers and watercourses? Will it minimise the risk of flooding to people and property on the coast? Will it reduce the risk of coastal erosion? Will it reduce the risk of damage to people and property from storm events?		
16. To conserve and enhance biodiversity	Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest? Will it help deliver the targets and actions for habitats and species within the Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan? Will it help to reverse the national decline in farmland birds?		
17. To conserve and where appropriate enhance areas of historical and archaeological importance	Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical and cultural value in both urban and rural areas? Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of archaeological value in both urban and rural areas? Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of geological value in both urban and rural areas?		
18. To conserve and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes	Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land? Will it improve the landscape and/or townscape?		
ECONOMIC			
19. To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth throughout the plan area	Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness? Will it improve the resilience of business and the economy? Will it promote growth in key sectors? Will it improve economic performance in advantaged and disadvantaged areas? Will it encourage rural diversification?		
20. To revitalise town centres	Will it increase the range of employment opportunities, shops and services available in town centres? Will it decrease the number of vacant units in town centres?		

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SA Objective	Question: Will this policy / proposal / plan / strategy help to.....	Rating	Comment
21. To encourage efficient patterns of movement in support of economic growth	Will it reduce commuting? Will it improve accessibility to work by public transport, walking and cycling? Will it reduce journey times between key employment areas and key transport interchanges? Will it increase the proportion of freight transported by rail or other sustainable modes? Will it increase the consumption of locally produced food and good?		
22. To encourage and accommodate both indigenous and inward investment	Will it encourage indigenous business? Will it encourage inward investment? Will it make land available for business development?		

Key To Ratings

- ++ Major positive
- + Minor positive
- Minor negative
- Major negative
- 0 Neutral effect
- ? Uncertain effect

Significant Positive Effects:

Significant Negative Effects:

Timescale:

Likelihood:

Recommendation for mitigation of adverse effects and/or enhancement or positive effects:

ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT BY: _____
 DATE: _____

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report Comment Form

Please note the following before completing this form: -

- You are recommended to use this form as it will enable us to deal with your comments accurately and efficiently.
- Please complete all sections fully and clearly in pen.
- Please use one form per comment/objection. You may obtain more forms via the Council's Offices or website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk
- Comments cannot be treated confidentially and can be made public.

NAME & ADDRESS:	Telephone:
	Email:
AGENT'S DETAILS (if applicable):	Telephone/Fax:
	Email:

Which part of the SA/SEA are you commenting upon?

Section:

Paragraph:

Are you supporting or objecting to this section? (Please mark box 'x')

☐

Supporting

☐

Objecting

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SCI reference number:

Date Acknowledged:

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Please indicate, in detail, the nature of your support/objection (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary).

If you are objecting to any area of the SA/SEA, please indicate what changes you propose to resolve your objection (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary).

DATED:

Thank you for your comments.

Please return this form by post or email to:

Planning Services,
Suffolk Coastal District Council,
Council Offices,
Melton Hill,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk,
IP12 1AU.

development.policy@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

**COMMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 5pm on
Monday 20th March 2006**

