



Local Plans Team
Dover District Council
Council Offices
White Cliffs Business Park
Dover
CT16 3PJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

Growth and Communities

Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Phone: 03000 423203
Ask for: Alessandra Sartori
Email: Alessandra.Sartori@kent.gov.uk

6 July 2023

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Dover District Local Plan 2040 – Sustainability Appraisal Consultation

Thank you for consulting Kent County Council (the County Council) on the Sustainability Appraisal Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and the Sustainability Appraisal Addendum and ERRATA Sheet II.

The County Council has reviewed the consultation documents and for ease of reference, has provided comments structured under the relevant chapter headings used within the Sustainability Appraisal NTS and the Sustainability Appraisal Addendum and ERRATA Sheet II.

Sustainability Appraisal Non-Technical Summary

Publication Local Plan SA

Public Rights of Way (PRoW): As a general statement, the County Council is keen to ensure that its interests are represented within the local policy frameworks of the districts and boroughs in Kent. The County Council is committed to working in partnership with local councils to achieve the aims contained within the [KCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028](#) (ROWIP). As Local Highway Authority, KCC aims to promote the protection and enhancement of the PRoW network and National Trails, and experience shows that local planning policy support is mutually beneficial in both protecting the network and negotiating enhancements to it through new development.

The County Council supports the Sustainability Appraisal NTS and welcomes the references made to reflect the significance of walking, cycling and active travel to achieve the district's objectives. However, the County Council recommends that there is greater specific inclusion of the area's current PRoW network asset in the Transport and Infrastructure Policy Appraisals section of the document. The document should also reflect that investment in

existing routes for sustainable transport, sustainable tourism, health, protection and enhancement of community assets, and landscape character is of economic benefit to the district and county, rather than encouraging the creation of new routes.

Sustainability Appraisal Addendum and ERRATA Sheet II

Biodiversity: The County Council recognises that changes have been made to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) following advice from Natural England. The changes have resulted in a number of site allocation policies being removed from the HRA; however, they have not changed the overall conclusions. The County Council is therefore satisfied that the conclusions of the HRA are still valid.

The County Council would welcome continued engagement with Dover District Council on the matters raised in this response. If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Simon Jones
Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport