

# Scoping Report

Sustainability Appraisal of Updates to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 in light of the Five Year Review

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Rev 0	Name: Hilary Livesey Signature:  Date: 01/10/21	Name: Jenefer Taylor Signature:  Date: 01/10/21	Name: Jenefer Taylor Signature:  Date: 01/10/21
Rev 1	Name: Hilary Livesey Signature:  Date: 21/10/21	Name: Jenefer Taylor Signature:  Date: 22/10/21	Name: Jenefer Taylor Signature:  Date: 22/10/21
	Name:  Signature:  Date:	Name:  Signature:  Date:	Name:  Signature:  Date:

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

Amey is commissioned to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of the updates being made to the adopted Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 (KMWLP) in light of a five yearly review.

Undertaking a review of a local plan every five years is a legal requirement for all local plans under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. Having been adopted five years ago, the KMWLP has been reviewed and updates to the Plan's policies are required.

SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of a draft plan, and alternatives, with a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse effects and maximising positives. This report is the Scoping Report for the SA, which is the first step of the SA of the updated KMWLP.

## 1.2. Requirements

It is legal requirement that SA is undertaken in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which transpose into national law the requirements of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. The 2004 Regulations require that a report – which for the purposes of SA is known as the 'SA Report' - is prepared which appraises the effects of a plan on sustainable development objectives and is taken into account in the update of the KMWLP prior to its adoption.

Prior to the SA Report being compiled, a Scoping Report is required to be produced which sets out the scope of the SA process and is used to consult the views of the three statutory consultees on that scope, namely the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.

While the Regulations do not specify the content of a Scoping Report, standards of good practice typically dictate that it contains the following information:

- A description of the baseline characteristics of the area relevant to the plan;
- A description of the policy objectives set at international, national and local level which the plan must support or be compliant with;
- Identification of the key sustainability issues for the appraisal of the plan; and
- An appraisal framework which encompasses the key sustainability issues and will be used to appraise the effects of the plan.

This information is set out under these headings in the remainder of this report.

The key steps in the preparation of the KMWLP and the SA are set out in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Development Plan Document and SA Preparation Process



## 2. Evolution of the KMWLP and its accompanying Sustainability Appraisals

### 2.1. Introduction

This section describes the scope of the current update of the KMWLP and how the KMWLP has evolved to date. It also describes the SA work that has accompanied the evolving KMWLP and the published reports that this has produced.

### 2.2. The History of the KMWLP and SA

The KMWLP was adopted in 2016, following the legally required stages of drafting, consultation and review. The KMWLP is a high-level document which describes:

- the overarching strategy and planning policies for mineral extraction, importation and recycling, and the waste management of all waste streams that are generated or managed in Kent, and
- the spatial implications of economic, social and environmental change in relation to strategic minerals and waste planning.

The KMWLP identifies and sets out the following subjects for the period up to, and including, the year 2030:

- the long-term Spatial Vision and Strategic Objectives for Kent's minerals and waste;
- the delivery strategy for minerals and waste planning that identifies how the objectives will be achieved in the plan period;
- two areas where strategic mineral and waste development may occur;
- the development management policies that will be used when the County Council makes decisions on planning applications; and
- the framework to enable annual monitoring of the policies within the Plan.

Alongside the process of the development of the 2016 KMWLP, an SA was undertaken. As part of this process, a series of reports were published, including a Scoping Report and a final SA Report:

- Kent Minerals and Waste Development Framework SA Scoping Report, Scott Wilson, March 2010<sup>1</sup>
- Sustainability Appraisal of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan: SA Report, URS, July 2014<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://consult.kent.gov.uk/file/3358609>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/15415/Kent-Minerals-and-Waste-Plan-2013-30-Sustainability-Appraisal.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/15415/Kent-Minerals-and-Waste-Plan-2013-30-Sustainability-Appraisal.pdf)

The Scoping Report set out an appraisal framework to be used to appraise the KMWLP in the SA Report. This is a set of sustainable development policy objectives which is used to assess the effect of the KMWLP and the reasonable alternatives to its proposals on sustainable development in Kent and beyond.

Following the adoption of the KMWLP in July 2016, further assessments suggested that the level of waste management capacity required to maintain net self-sufficiency had changed. It was therefore expedient to undertake an early partial review of the KMWLP to amend several of the policies relating to waste management. At the same time policy concerned with safeguarding mineral resources and waste and mineral infrastructure was amended to ensure its effectiveness. Alongside the Early Partial Review of the KMWLP, a separate but linked Mineral Sites Plan was developed, which identified and allocated a number of sites for mineral extraction.

Both of these documents – the Early Partial Review and the Mineral Sites Plan - were subject to SA. Separate Scoping Reports and SA Reports were produced for each of the Early Partial Review and the Mineral Sites Plan as follows:

- Sustainability Appraisal of the Kent MWLP Partial Review: Scoping Report, Amey, November 2017<sup>3</sup>;
- Sustainability Appraisal of the Kent Minerals Sites Plan-Making Process, Amey, November 2017<sup>4</sup>;
- Sustainability Appraisal Report – SA of the draft Early Partial Review of the Kent Minerals and Waste Plan: Main Modifications Consultation, Amey, November 2019<sup>5</sup>;
- Sustainability Appraisal Report – SA of the draft Kent Mineral Sites Plan: Main Modifications Consultation, Amey, November 2019<sup>6</sup>.

The Scoping Reports for these SA processes adapted the SA framework used in the earlier SA of the adopted 2016 KMWLP. This was to reflect updates to the policy context relevant to the plans since the KMWLP was adopted and changes in the baseline data describing sustainability conditions in Kent.

### 2.3. The Current Review of the KMWLP

The National Planning Policy Framework (2021) (NPPF) and legislation require that Local Plans should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years. Having been adopted five years ago, the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan has been reviewed to assess whether updates to the Plan are required.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://consult.kent.gov.uk/file/4794609>

<sup>4</sup> <http://consult.kent.gov.uk/file/4794621>

<sup>5</sup> <https://consult.kent.gov.uk/file/5525025>

<sup>6</sup> <https://consult.kent.gov.uk/file/5659127>



The review needs to consider whether the Vision, Strategic Objectives and policies of the Plan are still consistent with national policy and local context and whether the policies have been effective in achieving the intended outcomes relating to the use of land for minerals and waste development in Kent.

National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) states that "The review process is a method to ensure that a plan and the policies within remains effective". The PPG also sets out what authorities should consider when determining whether a Plan or policies should be updated. Information relevant to this KMWLP Review includes:

- Conformity with national planning policy;
- changes to local circumstances;
- success of policies against indicators in the KMWLP;
- significant economic changes that may impact on viability; and,
- whether any new social, environmental or economic priorities may have arisen.

To inform the process, a review of national policy changes has been undertaken. This revealed that, amongst other things, there have been changes to the National Planning Policy Framework which require updates to policies in the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan to ensure they remain consistent with national planning policy. Locally, since adoption of the Local Plan, the Council has published a 'Climate Emergency Statement' and adopted the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy that provides local impetus for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Monitoring of the way in which planning applications have been determined has also been undertaken to assist the review of the policies. Other observations regarding the wording of the policies and supporting text have been made and some of these indicate that policies, and supporting text, should be updated to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the KMWLP.

The review has considered each of the Vision, the Strategic Objectives and the 52 policies within the KMWLP in turn. It has identified the need for changes to the wording of both the Vision and some of the Strategic Objectives to ensure that these remain current and reflective of recent changes. One of the Strategic Objectives is proposed to be deleted (SO 10). The majority of policies within the KMWLP are also proposed for amendments of different kinds and for various reasons, as well as various amendments to the supporting text and contextual Chapters (1 and 2).

## 3. Sustainability Baseline

### 3.1. Introduction

This section sets out a description of the baseline environment, social and economic conditions in Kent that are relevant to the appraisal of the updated KMWLP. The information collated has been used to assess the key issues relevant to the KMWLP and has informed the development of the sustainability appraisal framework, which consists of a set of sustainable development policy objectives which will be used to appraise the updated KMWLP and any reasonable alternatives to its proposals. In this way, sustainability considerations have underpinned the appraisal of the updated KMWLP and helped to ensure that these are integrated into the KMWLP.

### 3.2. Waste

In 2017/18, Kent generated a total of 717,388 tonnes of Local Authority Collected Waste. The amount of waste collected per household by Kent County Council has fallen from 665.1kg in 2010/11 to 535.3kg in 2018/19.

In 2017/18 46.7% of Kent's household waste was reused, recycled or composted - working towards the national aim of recycling or composting at least 50% of household waste by 2020/21. The target for landfill reduction (less than 2% to landfill by 2020/21) had already been met in 2018/19, with Kent only sending 1.7% of its total municipal waste tonnage to landfill. After recycling, the majority of the remainder of Kent's Local Authority Collected Waste was incinerated with energy recovery.

It is anticipated that Commercial and Industrial waste will also continue to increase from ~1.1m tonnes (2016) to 1.3m tonnes in 2031. Illegal waste disposal continues to be an issue across Kent and Medway with 22,050 incidents of flying tipping occurring in 2018/19 – creating major health and safety issues as the dumping of hazardous waste, often results in some degree of environmental damage.

#### *Sources*

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/102157/Waste-statistics.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/102157/Waste-statistics.pdf) [accessed 22/9/21]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables> [accessed 22/9/21]

### 3.3. Minerals

Kent is underlain by several naturally occurring minerals of economic importance including chalk, clays, brickearth, ragstone (a hard rock limestone), and a variety of superficial sand and gravels deposits. There are also large scale stratigraphically defined units of sand that give rise to both construction aggregates (soft sand) and industrial minerals, including high purity or silica sand. Construction aggregates (sand, gravel and

ragstone) are the main types of economically important minerals extracted in Kent at this time, although brickearth (for stock brick manufacture) clay (for tile manufacture and engineering clay) and chalk (for engineering and agricultural lime applications) is also extracted.

To complement the land-won aggregate supplies, significant proportions of the aggregate minerals used in Kent are imported via rail and wharf facilities, with these minerals also serving the market in London and the wider South East. Moreover, the recycling or re-use of wastes, particularly from construction, demolition and excavation waste arisings, makes a significant contribution to Kent's construction aggregate need. Ensuring that appropriate provision is made for land-won, imported and secondary and recycled minerals is a key objective for the County Council as the Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) to meet Kent's current and future objectively assessed needs. Table 1 shows the sales of sand and secondary/recycled aggregates in Kent between 2009 and 2018. This shows that during this period, while sales of soft sand and recycled aggregates have remained fairly stable, sales of sharp sand have fallen considerably.

*Table 1 Sales of Minerals in Kent (tonnes)*

	Soft sand	Sharp sand	Secondary and recycled aggregates
2009	1,199,120	764,000	900,000
2010	621,573	763,924	710,000
2011	438,909	619,855	770,000
2012	387,746	652,285	670,000
2013	483,165	273,000	840,000
2014	289,087	172,672	730,000
2015	480,215	239,366	840,000
2016	506,663	259,550	1,030,000
2017	519,414	151,165	900,000
2018	493,179	119,259	760,000
<b>Average 10-years sales (2009-18)</b>	<b>506,416</b>	<b>401,508</b>	<b>820,000</b>
<b>Average 3-years sales (2016-18)</b>	<b>541,907</b>	<b>176,658</b>	<b>900,000</b>

Given that there are currently only two active hard rock sites in Kent, detailed reporting of sales has not previously been possible, however the operator has recently agreed for sales to be reported and these will be published in the Local Aggregates Assessment currently being prepared. The latest published version of the Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) includes a proxy sales value of 0.78mtpa that has previously been used to represent sales since the KMWLP 2013-30 was adopted.

### Sources

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/110356/Kent-County-Council-Annual-Monitoring-Report-2018-2019.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/110356/Kent-County-Council-Annual-Monitoring-Report-2018-2019.pdf) [accessed 22/9/21]

### 3.4. Biodiversity

Kent is considered to be one of the UK's most wildlife-rich counties. This is a result of its varied geology, long coastline, landscape history and southerly location / proximity to mainland Europe. Its important wildlife habitats include estuaries, chalk cliffs, woodlands, and chalk downland, and encompass some of the South East's most iconic landscapes, such as the shingle headland of Dungeness and the White Cliffs of Dover. The last century has seen major losses in Kent's wildlife. During this period, 30 species of wild plant, eight species of butterfly, one amphibian, one reptile, 10 bird species, and two species of bat all became extinct in the county. The Red Squirrel and 3 species of bumblebee were also lost during the 20th century. In addition to this, many of the species that remain have seen big population declines, including many species of butterflies and moths, birds and wildflowers of farmland, wetland plants, Adders and Common Toads.

The causes of these losses and declines are various. However, amongst the most important are:

- direct loss of land of value to wildlife to built development or intensive farming, which has reduced and fragmented populations of wild plants and animals
- intensification of the way land is farmed, particularly the use of pesticides and artificial fertilisers, which has resulted in losses of wildlife across the wider landscape, and has increased nutrient levels on land and in water
- changes in the management of woodland, resulting in loss of open space in woods and forests
- climate change, which increasingly shapes which species are, and are not, able to live successfully in Kent

Internationally important Natura 2000 habitat is concentrated around the coast, particularly around the Thames Gateway (much within Medway UA), The Isle of Thanet and the Stour Estuary and Dungeness. The following table lists the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites (internationally important wetlands) that are designated in Kent and protected under the Habitats Regulations.

*Table 2 Natura 2000 Sites in Kent*

Special Areas of Conservation	Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites
Blean Complex SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar
Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SAC	Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA and Ramsar
Dungeness SAC	Stodmarsh SPA and Ramsar
Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC	The Swale SPA and Ramsar

Lydden and Temple Ewell Downs SAC	Medway Estuary and Marshes SPA and Ramsar
North Downs Woodlands SAC	Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA and Ramsar <sup>1</sup>
Parkgate Down SAC	Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5) SPA and Ramsar <sup>1</sup>
Peter's Pit SAC	Ashdown Forest SPA <sup>1</sup>
Queendown Warren SAC	
Sandwich Bay SAC	
Stodmarsh SAC	
Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe SAC	
Thanet Coast SAC	
Wye and Crundale Downs SAC	

Notes: 1 Outside Kent but within 10km

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) cover 8.5% of the county, slightly under 40,000 hectares (ha), of which two thirds are in a favourable condition and a further fifth in an unfavourable but recovering condition. In total, 90% of the area of SSSIs meets the target of being in a favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition.

There are eleven National Nature Reserves (NNR) and 43 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) in Kent, listed in the following table.

*Table 3 National Nature Reserves in Kent*

National Nature Reserves	Local Nature Reserves	Local Nature Reserves
Blean Woods NNR	Boxley Warren LNR	No Mans Orchard LNR
Dungeness NNR	Bus Company Island LNR	Oare Marshes LNR
Elmley NNR	Crane Valley LNR	Poulton Wood, Aldington LNR
Ham Street Woods NNR	Curtis Wood LNR	Prince's Beachlands LNR
High Halstow NNR	Darland Banks LNR	Queendown Warren LNR
Lydden Temple Ewell NNR	Ditton Quarry LNR	Rectory Meadow LNR
Sandwich and Pegwell Bay NNR	Dryhill LNR	Rede Common LNR
Stodmarsh NNR	Farningham Wood LNR	River Len LNR
Swanscombe Skull Site NNR	Foal Hurst Wood LNR	Romney Warren LNR
The Swale NNR	Folkestone Warren LNR	Seasalter Levels LNR
Wye NNR	Foxburrow Wood LNR	South Bank of the Swale LNR
Local Nature Reserves	Foxes Cross Bottom LNR	South Wood LNR
Ambley Wood LNR	Haysden Country Park LNR	Tyler Hill Meadow LNR
Ashford Community Woodland LNR	High Meadow LNR	Vinters Valley Park LNR
Ashford Green Corridors LNR	Hilbert Woods LNR	Western Heights LNR
Barnett's Wood LNR	Hothfield Common LNR	Whinless Down LNR
Baty's Marsh LNR	Jumping Downs LNR	Whitehall Meadows LNR
Berengrave Chalk Pit LNR	Larkey Valley Wood LNR	
Bishopstone Cliffs LNR	Levan Strice LNR	

The county has about 10% of the national resource of ancient woodland.

The contribution that biodiversity on brownfield land makes to the quality of biodiversity across the county is also notable. The Thames Gateway is acknowledged for its national importance due to its brownfield land biodiversity and has been designated as a UK BAP priority habitat for its open mosaic habitat on previously developed land.

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[accessed 13/9/21]

### **3.5. Flood Risk**

Due to the historic development of the county, around waterways and along the coastline, and its geography, steep hills and areas of impermeable soils, there is a significant risk of flooding from many sources. This includes local flooding sources, which are significant in Kent and threaten the safety and well-being of Kent's residents and the sustainability of its economy.

Climate change is likely to affect flood risk through sea level rise, more frequent and higher storm surges, increased winter rainfall, drier summers with periods of more intense summer rainfall. These effects are likely to result in increased frequency and magnitude of flooding in Kent. As such, there is a clear need and demand to take proactive action to reduce current and future impacts of flooding.

Local flood risk in particular is likely to be affected by climate change from:

- increasing rainfall intensities in the summer, leading to more intense rain storms and flash flooding of surface water and small ordinary watercourses;
- increased rainfall volumes in the winter leading to more fluvial flooding, including ordinary watercourses high levels on rivers can reduce the ability of ordinary watercourses and drainage networks to discharge;
- increased rainfall can lead to significant groundwater recharge, which can cause groundwater flooding; and

- sea-level rise will affect the ability of coastal rivers and drainage networks to discharge.

There are approximately 64,000 properties estimated to be at risk of flooding from coastal and fluvial flooding in Kent. The coastal areas of Kent are at significant risk of flooding, in particular the Romney Marshes, Dartford and Gravesend are at high risk of coastal and tidal flooding. Flood defences are in place in many of these areas to reduce the risk. The floodplains of the Rivers Medway, Beult, Stour and Darent present a significant risk of fluvial flooding in Kent and there are some flood defences for these areas.

There are also approximately 24,000 properties estimated to be at risk of flooding from surface runoff. This is one of the highest risks of any Lead Local Flood Authority in England. All areas are at some risk of surface water flooding, but the risk is generally concentrated in urban areas.

Groundwater presents a significant source of flooding in parts of Kent as there are large areas of permeable aquifers, particularly the chalk aquifers of the North Downs. Groundwater flooding occurs in a number of areas across the North Downs, most notably along the Nailbourne Valley.

KCC has undertaken a number of Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP) in Kent. These documents set out the local flood risks (not just the surface water risks) in an area. They range from strategic level documents that cover a wide area, for example a borough, or they can be a more focussed and more detailed study of a town.

The four Catchment Flood Management Plans produced by the Environment Agency in 2009 remain current:

- North Kent Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan
- River Medway Catchment Flood Management Plan
- Rother and Romney Catchment Flood Management Plan
- River Stour Catchment Flood Management Plan

In addition, there are three Shoreline Management Plans in Kent which set the strategy for coastal management over the next 100 years:

- Medway Estuary to Swale SMP (last updated March 2010)
- Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP (last updated April 2010)
- South Foreland to Beachy Head SMP (2006)

#### *Sources*

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<https://se-coastalgroup.org.uk/category/shoreline-management-plans/> [accessed 14/9/21]

### 3.6. Community and Wellbeing

Kent remains England's largest non-metropolitan county with a resident population of 1,589,100 people in mid-2020. Kent's population grew by 7,500 people (0.5%) between 2019 and 2020 which was equal to the national rate of growth and highest of all counties in the South East. However, this annual rate of population growth is lower than the previous year when Kent's population grew by 12,900 people (0.8%) between 2018 and 2019. By 2030, the population of Kent is projected to increase to 1,706,822, an increase of 7.4%.

There are 4.5 people per hectare in Kent, making Kent less densely populated than the regional average (4.8) but slightly higher than the national average (4.3).

Maidstone has the largest population of all Kent local authority districts with a population of 173,100 in mid-2020 whilst Gravesham has the smallest population with 106,900 people. Dartford is Kent's most densely populated local authority district with 15.7 people per hectare and Ashford is the least densely populated district (2.3 persons per hectare). Dartford saw the largest population increase both in absolute and percentage terms, increasing by an additional 1,400 people (1.28%) between 2019 and 2020.

Kent is divided spatially into 901 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). A total of 555 remained within the same decile for the Index of Multiple Deprivation in 2019 (IMD2019) as they were in IMD2015. This accounts for 62% of all Kent LSOAs and indicates for about two thirds of the county levels of deprivation have remained largely unchanged.

Although Kent is ranked within the least deprived 50% of upper-tier local authorities in England for 4 out of 5 summary measures of the IMD2019, the number of Kent LSOAs that are within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in England between the IMD2019 and the previous IMD2015 remains at 51. However, the level of deprivation in nine out of 12 Kent local authority districts has increased since IMD2015 relative to other areas in England. Thanet continues to rank as the most deprived local authority in Kent, while Tunbridge Wells continues to rank as the least deprived local authority in Kent. Tonbridge & Malling has experienced the largest increase in deprivation relative to other areas, while Gravesham has experienced the largest decrease in deprivation relative to other areas. The highest levels of deprivation can be seen in both coastal regions and urban areas.

The Kent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment from February 2018 shows that, over the 10 years from 2006 to 2016, all-cause mortality rates have fallen although the difference in mortality rates between the various levels of deprivation remains the same. Early death rates from cancer and from heart disease and stroke have fallen and are better than the England average. About a quarter (24.4%) of children aged 4-5 are classified as being obese, higher than the average for England (22.6%). Estimated levels of adult obesity are similar to the England average at 61.4%. Levels of diabetes and coronary heart disease among the adult population are also similar to the England average at 6.4% and 3.1% respectively, although levels of hypertension are higher at 14.7% (13.8% for England). 56% of those 70 and over have two or more long



term conditions. Women in the least deprived groups (as measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation) can expect to live 6 years longer than those in the most deprived groups, while the difference for men is 9 years.

The latest UK climate change projections (UKCIP 2018) predict hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters. Sea level rise will be greater in the south of Britain. There will be an increase in risk to people, property and the environment from flooding and hotter summers putting public health and safety at greater risk. The projections also highlight that predicted hotter summers could cause greater 'heat stress' to buildings, utilities and the transport system.

#### *Sources*

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### **3.7. Air Quality**

Transport is a significant contributor to poor air quality and its associated health problems in Kent, as evidenced by Kent's declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), the majority of which are located on main roads or motorways or in town centres. The pollutants of concern are principally nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter, both associated with combustion processes. Additionally, sulphur dioxide is of concern at Dover Docks, most probably associated with shipping.

The latest reported data states that, looking at the long-term trends, nitrogen dioxide, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual mean concentrations are falling in line with the national trends – this includes a slight increase in 2018 for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. This was also the case when looking at the trends for local monitoring stations, but there remains to be no long-term trend available for Ozone peak concentrations.

It has been estimated in the Kent State of the Environment report in 2020 that 922 deaths were associated with PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Kent and Medway in 2017. To reduce the incidence of these negative effects it is crucial to keep monitoring Kent's air quality, as well as continuing to improve the rural and urban air quality for all residents.

KCC's Public Health Team is concerned about the effects of poor air quality on the health of Kent's residents and work with the Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership to identify how best to raise awareness and educate everyone to take personal actions to reduce air pollution. KCC also looks for ways to limit the effects of poor air quality, especially for those with existing health conditions.

There have been 51 areas in Kent which have been designated Air Quality Management Areas on the grounds of poor quality requiring particular management measures. 12 of these have now been revoked and 43 remain in force. The following table lists the AQMAs and the pollutants of concern for which they have been designated.

*Table 4 AQMAs in Kent*

District/Borough Council	AQMAs designated	Pollutants declared
Ashford Borough Council	None	
Canterbury City Council	Canterbury No.1 (revoked)	Nitrogen dioxide
	Canterbury No. 3	Nitrogen dioxide
	Canterbury Herne No. 1	Nitrogen dioxide
Dartford Borough Council	No.1	Nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter
	No.2	Nitrogen dioxide
	No.3	Nitrogen dioxide
	No.4	Nitrogen dioxide
Dover District Council	Dover Docks	Sulphur dioxide
	A20	Nitrogen dioxide
	High Street/Ladywell	Nitrogen dioxide
Folkestone and Hythe District Council	None	
Gravesham Borough Council	Gravesham A2	Nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter
	Northfleet Industrial Area	Particulate matter
	Gravesham A227 Wrotham Road / B261 Old Road West	Nitrogen dioxide
	Gravesham A226 One-way system	Nitrogen dioxide
	Gravesham B262/B261 Pelham Arms Junction (revoked)	Nitrogen dioxide
	Gravesham Parrock Street (revoked)	Nitrogen dioxide
	Echo Junction (revoked)	Nitrogen dioxide
Maidstone Borough Council	Maidstone Town (revoked)	Nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter
	Maidstone Borough	Nitrogen dioxide

District/Borough Council	AQMAs designated	Pollutants declared
Sevenoaks District Council	No. 1 M20	Nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter
	No. 2 M25	Nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter
	No. 3 M26	Nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter
	No. 4 A20T	Nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter
	No. 5 Riverhead (revoked)	Nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter
	No. 8 (Swanley Town Centre)	Nitrogen dioxide
	No. 9 (Seal High Street) (revoked)	Nitrogen dioxide
	No.10 (Sevenoaks High Street)	Nitrogen dioxide
	No. 11 (Westerham Town Centre) (revoked)	Nitrogen dioxide
	No. 12 (Sevenoaks Bat and Ball) (revoked)	Nitrogen dioxide
	No. 6 (M25-PM10)	Particulate matter
	No. 14 (Junction of Brichwood and London Roads, Swanley)	Nitrogen dioxide
	No. 13 (A25)	Nitrogen dioxide
Swale District Council	Newington	Nitrogen dioxide
	No 2/6 Ospringe extended	Nitrogen dioxide
	No 3 – East Street, Sittingbourne	Nitrogen dioxide
	No 4 – St Pauls Street, Sittingbourne	Nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter
	Teynham No 5	Nitrogen dioxide
	No 7 Keycol Hill, Sittingbourne	Nitrogen dioxide
Thanet District Council	Birchington (revoked)	Nitrogen dioxide
	High St, St Lawrence (revoked)	Nitrogen dioxide
	Thanet urban	Nitrogen dioxide
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	M20	Nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter
	Ditton (revoked)	Nitrogen dioxide
	Tonbridge High Street	Nitrogen dioxide
	Wateringbury	Nitrogen dioxide
	Aylesford	Nitrogen dioxide
	Larkfield	Nitrogen dioxide
	No 7 Borough Green	Nitrogen dioxide
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	A26	Nitrogen dioxide

*Sources*

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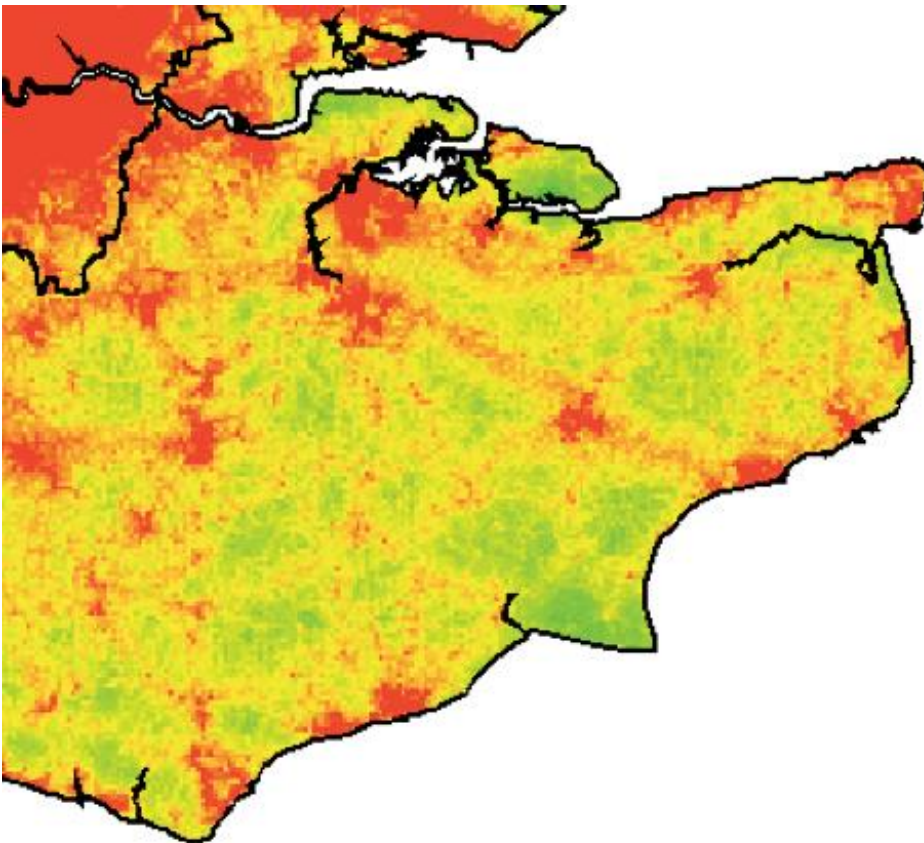
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**3.8. Noise**

Kent is a relatively tranquil county due to the dispersed nature of its settlements and wide tracts of agricultural or rural land uses. There are nonetheless agglomeration and transport-related noise hotspots throughout the county. The construction and operation of waste and minerals sites and associated haulage has considerable potential to cause local negative impacts as a result of noise and vibration.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England has produced a noise map for England which shows the areas which are the least tranquil. Figure 2 shows the Kent area of this map and indicates that these are principally related to the road network and urban areas.

Figure 2 Tranquillity Mapping for England (extract)



#### Sources

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### 3.9. Heritage

In terms of the historic environment, the South East has more listed buildings than any other region other than the South West, and Kent has significantly more than any other South East county. A relatively low amount of these are found in Medway, Dartford, Gravesham, Shepway and Thanet. The number of listings has increased slightly in recent years, to 17,345 in 2021. Table 5 shows the assets by District/Borough as well as the number of entries in the Heritage at Risk Register. The Register includes buildings, places of worship, monuments, parks and gardens, conservation areas, archaeological sites, battlefields and wreck sites that are listed and have been assessed and found to be at risk. Grade II listed buildings outside London, other than places of worship, are not included.

Table 5 Historic Assets in Kent 2021

District/Borough Council	Listed buildings	Scheduled monuments	Park and garden	Entries in Heritage at Risk Register
Ashford Borough Council	2402	42	6	5
Canterbury City Council	1880	56	2	11
Dartford Borough Council	181	12	0	3
Dover District Council	1926	50	6	13
Folkestone and Hythe District Council	917	70	2	11
Gravesham Borough Council	310	9	2	0
Maidstone Borough Council	2023	26	5	13
Sevenoaks District Council	1653	25	17	4
Swale District Council	1440	23	4	16
Thanet District Council	1048	13	1	9
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	1317	25	5	4
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	2248	13	14	4
<b>Total for Kent</b>	<b>17345</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>93</b>

There is one protected wreck site at Langdon Bay near Dover. The Langdon Bay site is of international significance and arguably the oldest known shipwreck site in northern Europe. The importance of the site lies in the breadth of its Bronze Age metalwork assemblage which is unparalleled in both maritime and terrestrial archaeology.

Canterbury cathedral is designated as a World Heritage Site. Canterbury has been the seat of the spiritual head of the Church of England for nearly five centuries. The cathedral complex has a unique artistic beauty with its a rich panorama of Romanesque, early Gothic, and late Gothic art and architecture.

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### 3.10. Landscape

The Kent Downs AONB covers nearly a quarter of the County, whilst the High Weald AONB is shared with East Sussex. The County is also covered by a number of National Character Areas (NCAs). These NCAs divide England into 159 distinct natural areas, with each defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity, as opposed to administrative boundaries. Each NCA has a profile which is a guidance documents which can help communities to inform their decision-making about the places that they live in and care for. Kent is covered by five NCA profiles:

- NCA Profile:113 North Kent Plain;
- NCA Profile:119: North Downs;

- NCA Profile:120 Wealden Greensand;
- NCA Profile:122 High Weald; and
- NCA Profile:123 Romney Marshes.

Green Belt is another important spatial constraint as it represents land that should be kept open in order to achieve the purposes set out within National Policy. In Kent, Green Belt comprises the majority of Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling and Gravesham Districts, as well as a proportion of Tunbridge Wells and Dartford Districts.

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### **3.11. Land**

There are relatively extensive areas of high quality (grade one) agricultural land in Kent. This land tends to be concentrated in the north of the county, running in a band from Gillingham in the west through to Deal in the east. A pocket of high-quality agricultural land can also be found in the area surrounding New Romney. Climate change projections suggest a decrease in soil moisture that could adversely affect agriculture, the natural environment and landscape.

Each Local Authority is required to compile a register listing previously developed sites which are considered to be appropriate for residential development. These are spread throughout each District/Borough in Kent, with nearly 800 brownfield sites listed on the registers, representing over 1000 Ha of land. There are particularly large amounts of brownfield land available in Dartford but also to a lesser extent in Dover,

Maidstone and Sevenoaks. Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells have very little brownfield land available for development.

*Table 6 Brownfield Land by District/Borough*

District/Borough Council	No. of sites	Total hectares
Ashford Borough Council	28	43.7157
Canterbury City Council	52	46.43
Dartford Borough Council	79	339.805
Dover District Council	57	143.02
Folkestone and Hythe District Council	48	57.25
Gravesham Borough Council	49	94.205
Maidstone Borough Council	158	141.3051
Sevenoaks District Council	88	110.4
Swale District Council	14	43.42
Thanet District Council	164	45.5553
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	13	9.74
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	37	13.19
<b>Kent total</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>1088.0361</b>

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Brownfield Land Registers held by Districts/Boroughs [accessed 17/9/21]

### **3.12. Transport**

Kent has one of the most extensive highway networks in the country. The county's motorway and trunk road network is over 400km in length and includes the M25, M26, M20/A20, M2/A2, A21, A249 and A259/A2070. County Primary Routes link the major urban centres, while county Principal Routes form the remainder of the key arterial routes across Kent. Road traffic has grown fairly steadily over the decade from 2011, apart from in 2020 when restrictions due to Coronavirus affected car traffic in particular. The effect on LGVs and HGVs was less marked, although still showed a decrease.

*Table 7 Vehicle Kilometres by Vehicle Type in Kent*

	Cars	LGVs	HGVs
2011	11,257	2,070	860
2012	11,270	2,087	839
2013	11,154	2,107	844
2014	11,348	2,254	853



	Cars	LGVs	HGVs
2015	11,625	2,378	916
2016	11,833	2,521	930
2017	11,947	2,560	939
2018	12,007	2,641	956
2019	12,081	2,673	935
2020	9,189	2,447	869

Kent's domestic rail network covers 100 stations and consists of a series of radial east-west routes connecting the county with London, along with branch lines linking Ashford and Hastings, Paddock Wood and Strood, Tonbridge and Redhill, and Sittingbourne and Sheerness. Commuters travelling to and from central London account for a significant proportion of rail trips. These tend to originate in the west of the county, where journey times to the capital are generally under an hour. The commencement of high-speed domestic rail services using High Speed 1 in December 2009 makes East Kent more attractive to London commuters. Journey times between the capital and Ashford, Canterbury and Folkestone have been reduced to less than an hour.

Kent is a major gateway for the movement of international freight through the Channel Tunnel, the ports of Dover, Ramsgate and Sheerness. Road haulage is the dominant means of transport in this sector, with around 4 million lorries crossing the Channel in 2019. Although Kent's gateway function is vital to the national economy, the high volume of freight traffic passing through the County is also associated with poor air quality and road traffic accidents.

*Table 8 Freight Vehicles Crossing the Channel*

Year	Port of Dover	Channel Tunnel
2015	2,539,918	4099
2016	2,591,286	4306
2017	2,601,162	4284
2018	2,497,804	4405
2019	2,397,270	4247

Kent has a single operational airport, at London Ashford Airport, formerly Lydd Airport, near Dungeness. Between June 1997 and November 2018 the airport's only scheduled flights were operated by [LyddAir](#). As of November 2018, following [LyddAir](#) ceasing its sole route to [Le Touquet – Côte d'Opale Airport](#), there are no scheduled services. LyddAir now only operate a charter service from the airport. As of 2015, HM Coastguard have used the airport as a base for search and rescue helicopters. Manston Airport in Thanet is currently not operational.

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### 3.13. Water

There are significant pressures on water resources in Kent, which affect both the water environment and water supplies. There are many catchments where there is little or no water available for abstraction during dry periods. Pressures are particularly notable in the County as it is one of the driest parts of England and Wales. This relative scarcity of supply is coupled with high population density and household water use.

In Kent, 73% of public water supply is taken from groundwater, most notably from chalk aquifers. The remainder of water company supply is either pumped directly to customers from rivers or into storage reservoirs. Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) are primarily associated with the chalk geology of the North Downs, but there are also some smaller SPZs in the vicinity of Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) assess the wider impacts of cumulative abstractions. These show that most of Kent's rivers experience flow stress in dry summers. There is greatest ecological pressure in the north Kent rivers, predominantly as a result of chalk aquifer abstraction. There are very few sites available for new abstraction that would not have some impact on ecology in dry years. The only location showing 'water available' status is in the Lower London Tertiaries in north Kent. However, the underlying chalk aquifer is over-licensed.

A study for Kent County Council published in 2017 showed that, by 2030/31, all except one of the nine Water Resource Zones (WRZ) supplying water to Kent are predicted to have a negative supply and demand

balance (a deficit) largely as a result of population increase but also climate change. London WRZ exhibits the highest deficit of water supply within Kent i.e. the water demand is much higher than the supply by 306 Mega litres per day (MI/d); however, the deficit in this zone is largely attributed to the significant population growth across its supply area (Greater London) and not solely attributable to growth within Kent. The Kent-Medway WRZ also shows a significant deficit of water of 30 MI/d. The only WRZ where the supply is higher than the demand (surplus) is East Surrey which has a surplus of by 13 MI/d.

In future decades there will be increasing pressures from the rising population and associated development. Looking further ahead, climate change could have a major impact on the water that will be available for consumption. Climate change projections list the risk of decreased precipitation (particularly in summer). Reduced availability would be exacerbated by a potential increase in demand. This may also reduce water quality, which could have implications in terms of meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. Table 9 to Table 13 show the status of all of Kent's water catchments, both surface water catchments and groundwater catchments. While they show little change in status according to some measures, the chemical status of surface waters has shown a marked increase in poor classifications between 2016 and 2019. This reflects a national picture, where the introduction of new pollutants into the classification has resulted in a large number of catchments now being shown to be heavily polluted.

*Table 9 Number of Water Catchments Classified Under Water Framework Directive – Overall Classification, Surface Waters and Groundwaters*

Year/classification	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad	Fail
2013	5	36	17	2	0
2014	5	35	17	2	0
2015	7	33	19	1	0
2016	7	35	17	1	0
2019	1	43	14	2	0

*Table 10 Number of Water Catchments Classified Under Water Framework Directive – Ecological Status, Surface Waters*

Year/classification	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad	Fail
2013	4	36	10	2	0
2014	4	36	10	2	0
2015	6	33	12	1	0
2016	6	35	10	1	0
2019	6	37	7	2	0

Table 11 Number of Water Catchments Classified Under Water Framework Directive – Chemical Status, Surface Waters

Year/classification	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad	Fail
2013	43	0	0	0	8
2014	43	0	0	0	8
2015	51	0	0	0	0
2016	50	0	0	0	1
2019	0	0	0	0	51

Table 12 Number of Water Catchments Classified Under Water Framework Directive – Quantitative Status, Groundwaters

Year/classification	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad	Fail
2013	2	0	6	0	0
2014	2	0	6	0	0
2015	2	0	6	0	0
2016	2	0	6	0	0
2019	4	0	4	0	0

Table 13 Number of Water Catchments Classified Under Water Framework Directive – Chemical Status, Groundwaters

Year/classification	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad	Fail
2013	2	0	6	0	0
2014	2	0	6	0	0
2015	2	0	6	0	0
2016	2	0	6	0	0
2019	3	0	5	0	0

The latest data on the quality of bathing waters shows that, of the 30 bathing water sites in Kent, 19 are of excellent quality and a further 10 are of good quality. The remaining site (at Margate) is classified as 'sufficient'.

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### 3.14. Climate Change

The latest data shows that CO2 emissions in Kent have been steadily falling from a high of 13084 ktCO2 in 2006 to a low of 7286 ktCO2 in 2019, a reduction of 44%. In the same period, emissions for England as a whole fell by 36%. Per capita emissions in Kent have also been falling in the same period from 9.4 tonnes per capita to 4.6 tonnes per capita. This is slightly lower than the England figure of 4.9 tonnes per capita in 2019.

Climate change is already affecting Kent and Medway. Therefore, understanding the potential future impacts of warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers is crucial for future prosperity, environmental quality, and health and well-being of communities. The impacts of climate change are likely to be felt acutely in Kent with its long, strategically important coastline, large number of properties at risk of flooding and warm summers compared with the rest of the United Kingdom.

Analysis of the latest (UKCP18) projections identified the following climate changes for Kent:

- Hotter summers with an increase in average summer temperature of 2 – 3°C by 2040 and 5 – 6°C by 2080.
- Warmer winters with an increase in average winter temperature of 1 – 2°C by 2040 and 3 – 4°C by 2080.
- Drier summers with a reduction in average precipitation of 20 – 30% by 2040 and 30 – 50% by 2080.
- Wetter winters with an increase in average precipitation of 10 – 20% by 2040 and 20 – 30% by 2080.
- Increases in sea-level rise by up to 0.3m by 2040 and 0.8m by 2080.

For London, sea level rise by the end of the century (when compared to 1981-2000), for a low emission scenario is very likely to be in the range 0.29 m to 0.70 m. For a high emission scenario, the range is very likely to be 0.53 m to 1.15 m.

Recent modelling suggests that the costs and impacts of climate change will likely increase over the next 30 – 80 years without significant, rapid action. Decisions made today will have lasting effects on local populations, services, the natural environment, infrastructure and finances over the coming decades

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### 3.15. Economy

The number of economically active people aged 16-64 in Kent (those who are working or are available to work) has increased from 762,300 (79.3%) in the twelve months to July 2016 when the KWMLP was first adopted, to 795,400 (80.9%) in the twelve months to July 2021. The employment rate for males (83.9%) is above the national average of 79.1%. The employment rate for females (73.8%) is slightly higher than the national average of 72.3%. The overall employment rate in Kent has risen since the KWMLP was adopted, from 73.8% in 2016 to 78.4% in 2021.

The latest data show that employee jobs in Kent increased between 2016 and 2019 by 1.8% (+11,000 jobs) in 2019. This is higher than the regional average (+1.6%) but lower than the national average (+3.0%). The largest sector for employment is wholesale and retail trade at 17.6%, followed by human health and social work at 13.3% and education at 9.6%. Relative to Great Britain as a whole, Kent has a higher proportion of employees in eight industrial sectors:

- Other service activities
- Human health and social work activities
- Education
- Accommodation and food services
- Transportation and storage
- Wholesale and retail trade
- Construction
- Primary industries (agriculture/mining/utilities)

The sectors where Kent has significantly lower proportions of employees compared to Great Britain are:

- Manufacturing
- Information and communication
- Financial and insurance activities
- Professional, scientific and technical activities

Apart from a slight decline in 2009-2010, GVA per head in Kent and Medway has risen steadily in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In 2018 it was £22,972 per head, up from £14,029 in 2000, a rise of 64%. However, per capita GVA is lower than for the South East as a whole and for England, which in 2018 were £30,356 and £29,356 respectively. GVA per head varies considerably between the different Districts and Boroughs in Kent, from £14,716 in Thanet to £34,938 in Dartford in 2018.

In Kent and Medway the highest proportion of GVA was generated by the Distribution sector, accounting for almost a fifth of the GVA generated in Kent (£8,545m). This sector includes wholesale & retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, transport, accommodation and food service industries. Information and communications industries generated the smallest GVA in Kent and Medway (£1,439m in 2018) accounting for 3.4% of the total GVA generated in Kent and Medway. Production industries (including agriculture, mining, gas, electricity, water and waste industries) generated £1,976m GVA in 2018 accounting for 4.7% of the total GVA in Kent and Medway. Since 2000 this has grown by 152.7% (+£1,194m) and by 10.1% over the last 5 years.

The total gross disposable household income estimate for Kent was £34,738 million in 2018. This equates to £22,146 per resident, an increase of 3.6% from the previous year, which is higher than for Great Britain as a whole which was estimated at £21,219 per person. All Kent districts saw an increase in disposable income per person since last year. Tunbridge Wells has the highest GDHI per head in Kent (£28,297) while Thanet district has the lowest GDHI per head in Kent (£18,074).

In 2019 Kent had 69,750 active enterprises, 2,210 higher than the previous year. Between 2009 and 2019, the number of active businesses in Kent grew by 24.3%. This is below the national rate of 27.7% but greater than the average for the South East (22.9%). Maidstone had the highest number of enterprises in the county (8,275) while Dover district had the lowest number of enterprises (3,740).

Within Kent all districts saw growth in the number of active enterprises in the ten years since 2009. The highest growth was seen in Dartford (+66.3% or +2,175 businesses). Folkestone & Hythe District saw the smallest growth in number (495 businesses) and Tunbridge Wells saw the smallest percentage growth over the last 10 years (13.0%).

#### *Sources*

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### 3.16. Summary

#### Environmental baseline

- The amount of waste collected per household in Kent has fallen in recent years, to 535.5kg in 2018/19. 46.7% of household waste was reused, recycled or composted. Less than 2% is landfilled. Most of the remainder is incinerated with energy recovery.
- Construction aggregates (sand, gravel and ragstone) are the main types of economically important minerals extracted in Kent at this time, although brickearth (for stock brick manufacture) clay (for tile manufacture and engineering clay) and chalk (for engineering and agricultural lime applications) is also extracted. This is supplemented with imports and recycled aggregates.
- Kent is considered to be one of the UK's most wildlife-rich counties. This is a result of its varied geology, long coastline, landscape history and southerly location / proximity to mainland Europe.
- Natura 2000 habitat is concentrated around the coast, particularly around the Thames Gateway (much within Medway UA), the Isle of Thanet, the Stour Estuary and Dungeness. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) cover 8.5% of the county. The county contains c.10% of England's ancient woodland.
- The Thames Gateway is also acknowledged for its national importance due to 'brownfield' biodiversity.
- The last century has seen major losses and declines of species within Kent. Amongst the most important drivers of biodiversity loss in Kent are: the direct loss of land of value to wildlife to built-development or intensive farming, which has reduced and fragmented populations; and the effects of climate change.
- Kent is considered to be the most at risk local flood authority in England. Flooding has a significant impact on residents and the economy, with such effects predicted to worsen due to climate change.
- Since 2006 there has been a steady reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, to 4.6 tonnes per capita in 2019. This is slightly lower than national emission levels.
- In 2017 it is estimated that 922 early deaths occurred as a result of PM2.5 air pollution across Kent & Medway.
- Kent has the highest number of listed buildings in the South East, which is second only to the South West for numbers at regional level.



- The Kent Downs AONB covers nearly a quarter of the County, whilst the High Weald AONB is shared with East Sussex.
- Green Belt comprises the majority of Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling and Gravesham Districts, as well as a proportion of Tunbridge Wells and Dartford Districts.
- There are relatively extensive areas of high quality (grade one) agricultural land in Kent. This land tends to be concentrated in the north of the county, running in a band from Gillingham in the west through to Deal in the east. A pocket of high quality agricultural land can also be found in the area surrounding New Romney.
- Road traffic has grown fairly steadily over the decade from 2011, apart from 2020 which particularly affected car traffic. The effect on LGVs and HGVs was less marked, although still showed a decrease. Kent is a major gateway for the movement of international freight through the Channel Tunnel, the ports of Dover, Ramsgate and Sheerness. Road haulage is the dominant means of transport in this sector.
- In Kent there are many catchments where there is little or no water available for abstraction during dry periods. Pressures are particularly notable in Kent as it is one of the driest parts of England and Wales, coupled with high population density and household water use. Over the next few decades, there will be increasing pressures from the rising population and associated development. Looking further ahead, climate change could have a major impact on the water that will be available for consumption.

#### Social baseline

- Kent had an estimated population of 1,589,100 in mid-2020. By 2030, the population of Kent is projected to increase to 1,706,822, an increase of 7.4%.
- Although Kent is ranked within the least deprived 50% of upper-tier local authorities in England for 4 out of 5 summary measures of the IMD2019, significant areas within Kent are amongst England's most deprived 20% and levels of deprivation have increased in nine out of 12 local authorities in Kent.
- Life expectancy is 9 years lower for men and 6 years lower for women in the most deprived populations in Kent compared to the least deprived populations.
- Early death rates from cancer, heart disease and stroke have fallen and are better than the England average. A quarter of children aged 4-5 are classified as being obese, higher than the average for England. However, estimated levels of adult obesity are similar to the England average.
- Climate change projections highlight an increase in risk to people from flooding and hotter, drier summers leading to public health risks.

## Economic baseline

- In 2018, the gross disposable household income in Kent was £22,164 per resident, 4.4% above the national average.
- Between 2009 and 2019, the number of active enterprises grew by 24%, to 69750, which is below the national average of 27.7% growth.
- The overall employment rate in Kent has risen since the KMWLP was adopted, from 73.8% in 2016 to 78.4% in 2021.
- Apart from a slight decline in 2009-2010, GVA per head in Kent and Medway has risen steadily in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In 2018 it was £22,972 per head, up from £14,029 in 2000, a rise of 64%. However, per capita GVA is lower than for the South East as a whole and for England.
- The largest sector for employment is wholesale and retail trade at 17.6%, followed by human health and social work at 13.3% and education at 9.6%. The distribution sector generated the highest gross value added in Kent, a fifth of the total.

## 4. Policy Context

### 4.1. Introduction

This section sets out a review of the policy context relevant to the KMWLP. It describes the policy objectives set out at international, national and county level in a range of documents and how these are relevant to the KMWLP. The SA will take account of these policy objectives by ensuring that all are included within the SA Framework that will be used to appraise the updated KMWLP. In this way, the identified policy objectives will be incorporated into the appraisal of the updated KMWLP and help to ensure that it is compliant with and supports these objectives wherever relevant.

A number of the key policy documents are described within this section. Further documents are contained within Appendix A, along with a description of their policy objectives and the relevance for the KMWLP.

### 4.2. Key National Policy Documents

This section sets out a review of the national policy context relevant to the KMWLP. It describes the policy objectives relating to sustainable development in the key policy documents and which have relevance to the KMWLP. Other relevant policy documents are reviewed in Appendix A.

#### National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied by local planning authorities. At the heart of the framework is the presumption of sustainable development (Paragraph 11). Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives - economic, social and environmental - which should be delivered through the KMWLP.

#### *Economy*

Planning policies should:

- set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to Local Industrial Strategies and other local policies for economic development and regeneration;
- set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period;
- seek to address potential barriers to investment, such as inadequate infrastructure, services or housing, or a poor environment; and

- be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan, allow for new and flexible working practices (such as live-work accommodation), and to enable a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances.

Planning policies and decisions should enable:

- the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings;
- the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses;
- it will be important to ensure that development is sensitive to its surroundings, does not have an unacceptable impact on local roads and exploits any opportunities to make a location more sustainable

### *Open space*

Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.

The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services.

### *Transport*

Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:

- the potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed;
- opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued;
- the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account – including appropriate opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects, and for net environmental gains

Planning policies should be prepared with the active involvement of local highways authorities, other transport infrastructure providers and operators and neighbouring councils, so that strategies and investments for supporting sustainable transport and development patterns are aligned.

In assessing sites that may be allocated for development in plans, or specific applications for development, it should be ensured that:

- appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes can be – or have been – taken up, given the type of development and its location;
- safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users; and
- any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree.

### *Green Belt*

Certain forms of development are not inappropriate in the Green Belt provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it, including mineral extraction. Planning policies and decisions should recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production.

### *Flood risk*

Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.

Development should only be allowed in areas at risk of flooding where it can be demonstrated that:

- within the site, the most vulnerable development is located in areas of lowest flood risk, unless there are overriding reasons to prefer a different location;
- the development is appropriately flood resistant and resilient;
- it incorporates sustainable drainage systems, unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate;
- any residual risk can be safely managed; and
- safe access and escape routes are included where appropriate, as part of an agreed emergency plan.

### *Natural environment*

Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;

- maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

### *Heritage assets*

When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification.

### *Minerals*

Planning policies should:

- provide for the extraction of mineral resources of local and national importance, but not identify new sites or extensions to existing sites for peat extraction;
- so far as practicable, take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to the supply of materials, before considering extraction of primary materials, whilst aiming to source minerals supplies indigenously;
- safeguard mineral resources by defining Mineral Safeguarding Areas; and adopt appropriate policies so that known locations of specific minerals resources of local and national importance are not sterilised by non-mineral development where this should be avoided (whilst not creating a presumption that the resources defined will be worked);
- set out policies to encourage the prior extraction of minerals, where practical and environmentally feasible, if it is necessary for non-mineral development to take place;
- safeguard existing, planned and potential sites for: the bulk transport, handling and processing of minerals; the manufacture of concrete and concrete products; and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material;

- set out criteria or requirements to ensure that permitted and proposed operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or human health, taking into account the cumulative effects of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or a number of sites in a locality;
- when developing noise limits, recognise that some noisy short-term activities, which may otherwise be regarded as unacceptable, are unavoidable to facilitate minerals extraction; and
- ensure that worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, taking account of aviation safety, and that high quality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites takes place.

### *Waste*

The Framework should be read in conjunction with the Government's planning policy for waste.

### **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**

The Plan sets out a comprehensive and long-term approach to protecting and enhancing the natural environment. This is a 'sister document' to the Clean Growth Strategy and also sits alongside the Industrial Strategy.

The Plan's 25-year goals are:

- Clean air
- Clean and plentiful water
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought
- Using resources from nature more sustainable and efficiently
- Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

The Plan sets out that pressures on the environment will be managed by:

- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Minimising waste
- Managing exposure to chemicals
- Enhancing biosecurity

*Using and managing land sustainably*

- Embedding an 'environmental net gain' principle for development, including housing and infrastructure
- Improving how we manage and incentivise land management, including designing and delivering a new environmental land management system
- Improving soil health and restoring and protecting our peatlands, including developing better information on soil health
- Focusing on woodland to maximise its many benefits
- Reducing risks from flooding and coastal erosion, including expanding the use of natural flood management solutions and putting in place more sustainable drainage systems

*Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes*

- Protecting and recovering nature, including developing a Nature Recovery Network and providing opportunities for the reintroduction of native species
- Conserving and enhancing natural beauty, including reviewing National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Respecting nature in how we use water and reforming our approach to water abstraction

*Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing*

- Helping people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces
- Creating more green infrastructure

*Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste*

- Maximising resource efficiency and minimising environmental impacts at end of life.
  - Reducing food supply chain emissions and waste
  - Improving management of residual waste
  - Reducing the impact of wastewater
- Reducing pollution
  - Publishing a Clean Air Strategy
  - Curbing emissions from combustion plants and generators



- Minimising the risk of chemical contamination in our water
- Ensuring we continue to maintain clean recreational waters and warning about temporary pollution

### **Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England, 2018**

The Strategy recognises that natural capital is one of our most valuable assets and sets out how the government plans to preserve the stock of material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy. The Strategy also sets out the aim to minimise damage to the natural environment and is aligned to the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

The government will:

- Invoke the 'polluter pays' principle and extend producer responsibility for packaging, ensuring that producers pay the full costs of disposal for packaging they place on the market;
- Stimulate demand for recycled plastic by introducing a tax on plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled plastic;
- Harness the potential of extended producer responsibility for other product types;
- Develop a model for realising resource efficiency savings;
- Address barriers to reuse;
- Support the market for remanufactured goods;
- Encourage appropriate disposal of used products;
- Improve recycling rates by ensuring a consistent set of dry recyclable materials is collected from all households and businesses;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfill by ensuring that every householder and appropriate businesses have a weekly separate food waste collection, subject to consultation;
- Improve urban recycling rates, working with business and local authorities;
- Drive greater efficiency of Energy from Waste (EfW) plants;
- Address information barriers to the use of secondary materials;
- Encourage waste producers and managers to implement the waste hierarchy in respect to hazardous waste;
- Consult on legal powers to introduce food waste targets and surplus food redistribution obligations;

- Publish a new food surplus and waste hierarchy.

Targets:

- 50% recycling rate for household waste (2020);
- 75% recycling rate for packaging (2030);
- 65% recycling rate for municipal solid waste (2035);
- Municipal waste to landfill 10% or less (2035).

#### **Minerals Practice Guidance, MHCLG, 2014**

The guidance sets out how mineral planning authorities should develop planning policies for the management of mineral extraction, supply, processing and transport and the issues that must be taken into consideration. It states that mineral planning authorities should plan for the steady and adequate supply of minerals in one or more of the following ways (in order of priority):

1. Designating Specific Sites – where viable resources are known to exist, landowners are supportive of minerals development and the proposal is likely to be acceptable in planning terms. Such sites may also include essential operations associated with mineral extraction;
2. Designating Preferred Areas, which are areas of known resources where planning permission might reasonably be anticipated. Such areas may also include essential operations associated with mineral extraction; and/or
3. Designating Areas of Search – areas where knowledge of mineral resources may be less certain but within which planning permission may be granted, particularly if there is a potential shortfall in supply.

The suitability of each proposed site, whether an extension to an existing site or a new site, must be considered on its individual merits, taking into account issues such as:

- need for the specific mineral;
- economic considerations (such being able to continue to extract the resource, retaining jobs, being able to utilise existing plant and other infrastructure), and;
- positive and negative environmental impacts (including the feasibility of a strategic approach to restoration).
- the cumulative impact of proposals in an area.

Planning authorities should also safeguard existing, planned and potential storage, handling and transport sites to:

- ensure that sites for these purposes are available should they be needed; and
- prevent sensitive or inappropriate development that would conflict with the use of sites identified for these purposes.

The principal issues that mineral planning authorities should address, bearing in mind that not all issues will be relevant at every site to the same degree, include:

- noise associated with the operation;
- dust;
- air quality;
- lighting;
- visual impact on the local and wider landscape;
- landscape character;
- archaeological and heritage features;
- traffic;
- risk of contamination to land;
- soil resources;
- geological structure;
- impact on best and most versatile agricultural land;
- blast vibration;
- flood risk;
- land stability/subsidence;
- internationally, nationally or locally designated wildlife sites, protected habitats and species, and ecological networks;
- impacts on nationally protected landscapes (National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty);
- nationally protected geological and geo-morphological sites and features;
- site restoration and aftercare;

- surface and, in some cases, ground water issues;
- water abstraction.

### **Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019**

The Act sets out a legal framework to commit the government to tackling climate change. Climate change adaptation is also covered in the Act as it provides a legal framework for adaptation policy. This is the amendment of the national target for 2050, which increases the required percentage reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from at least 80% to at least 100% from the 1990 baseline in the UK by 2050.

### **4.3. Key Local Policy Documents**

This section sets out a review of the local policy context relevant to the KMWLP. It describes the policy objectives set out in some of the key policy documents at county level. Other relevant policy documents are reviewed in Appendix A.

#### **Climate Emergency Statement, KCC, 2019**

“We recognise the UK environment and climate emergency and will continue to commit resources and align its policies to address this. Through the framework of the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy, we will facilitate the setting and agreement of a target of net zero emissions by 2050 for Kent and Medway.

“We will, by May 2020, set an accelerated target with associated action plan for its own estate and activities including those of its traded companies using appropriate methodologies. In addition, we will deliver a Kent and Medway Climate Change Risk and Impact Report and develop and facilitate adoption of a subsequent Kent and Medway Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plan by the end of March 2020.”

#### **Kent and Medway Low Emissions Strategy, 2020**

The strategy has four strategic aims:

1. Evidence: Provide an ongoing evidence and intelligence base; linking data sets to identify hot spots and opportunities, and to build the business case for action across Kent and Medway
2. Policy and stratege: Facilitate the development of evidence-based policy and strategy to future-proof economic recovery, tackle emerging issues and realise opportunities
3. Leadership: Support the public sector across Kent and Medway to play a strong leadership role with regards to challenges and opportunities
4. Action: Facilitate increased and accelerated action and implementation across Kent and Medway

The strategy has ten priorities, including the following relevant to the KMWLP:

- Priority 1: Emission reduction pathways to 2050: Set five-year carbon budgets and emission reduction pathways to 2050 for Kent and Medway, with significant reduction by 2030.

- Priority 2: Public sector decision making: Develop a consistent approach across Kent and Medway, to assess, manage and mitigate environmental impacts (both positive and negative), resulting from public sector policies, strategies, service delivery, commissioning and procurement.
- Priority 3: Planning and development: Ensure climate change, energy, air quality and environmental considerations are integrated into Local Plans, policies and developments, by developing a clean growth strategic planning policy and guidance framework for Kent and Medway, to drive down emissions and incorporate climate resilience.
- Priority 6: Transport, travel and digital connectivity: Set up a smart connectivity and mobility modal shift programme – linking sustainable transport, transport innovations, active travel, virtual working, broadband, digital services, artificial intelligence and behaviour change.
- Priority 7: Renewable energy generation: Set up an opportunities and investment programme for renewable electricity and heat energy generation.
- Priority 8: Green infrastructure: Develop a multi-functional, natural capital opportunity and investment programme – focusing on environmental projects that store carbon, increase climate change resilience, improve air quality and soil health and increase biodiversity.
- Priority 9: Supporting low carbon business: Develop and implement a Kent and Medway business recovery and support programme to cut costs and win new business.

### **Kent Environment Strategy: a strategy for Environment, Health and Economy Implementation Plan, KCC, 2017**

The strategy and associated implementation plan seek to provide support to decision makers in ensuring that the county of Kent remains the highly desirable location of choice for visitors, residents and businesses. The strategy seeks to build on past successes and learn from experiences; evaluating progress, bridging gaps in knowledge and delivering activities that have positive benefits for the environment, health and economy.

The strategy is split into three themes, each of which has several policy priorities identified under it. Challenges, learning and opportunities underpin the priorities identified in the themes of the strategy. Relevant to the KMWLP are the following:

Theme 2 Making best use of existing resources, avoiding or minimising negative impacts:

- Priority 5 Conserve and enhance the quality and supply of the county of Kent's natural and historical resources and assets
- Priority 6 Improve our resource efficiency such as energy, water and land
- Priority 7 Ensure sustainable access and connectivity for businesses and communities

Theme 3 Toward a sustainable future

- Priority 8: Influence future sustainable growth for the county of Kent

- Sub-priority 8.1: Ensure that key environmental risks such as flooding, water scarcity and heat are informing policy decisions and development
- Sub-priority 8.2: Address the environmental challenges and ambitions identified in the Growth and Infrastructure Framework and local plans, such as sustainable and alternative transport options, green infrastructure, energy, water and flooding
- Priority 9: Improve the county of Kent's environmental, social and economic resilience to environmental change
  - Sub-priority 9.2: Ensure that public sector services have assessed key environmental and severe weather risks and opportunities and are taking action accordingly
- Priority 10: Supporting growth in the rural economy and low carbon and environmental services sector
  - Sub-priority 10.2: Maximise opportunities for the rural sector

## 5. The SA Framework

### 5.1. What are the key sustainability issues for the KMWLP?

The key sustainability issues in Kent were earlier identified and described in the SA Reports produced for the SAs of the Early Partial Review of the KMWLP and the Mineral Sites Plan in November 2019. The information collected for this Scoping Report – the baseline data and the relevant policy documents – have both been reviewed to identify where there might be changes required to those key sustainability issues to reflect this new contextual information. A small number of changes are necessary to update the key issues from those presented previously in the SA Reports. Additions are shown in **bold** and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~.

#### Biodiversity

- Ambitious BAP targets have been set, including for habitat creation and for reducing fragmentation and improving connectivity. Landscape scale projects are underway with biodiversity conservation and access to biodiversity as central components.
- It is possible to increase the connectivity between important habitat patches by incorporating habitat creation as part of new development. There is a particular need to maximise the biodiversity benefits associated with restoration of minerals sites.
- Biodiversity benefits relate to the minerals **and waste** development management strategy, which is set to ensure that negative effects associated with minerals extraction **and waste management** are avoided or mitigated, and the potential for minerals **and waste** development to contribute to biodiversity objectives is realised.

#### Climate change

- There is the potential to promote ~~energy from waste as well as other~~ technologies that increase the carbon efficiency of minerals and waste operations, **including increased reuse and recycling of both waste and minerals.**
- Transport is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions that should be addressed through the plan.

#### Community and well-being

- Clear spatial variation across Kent exists in terms of income, employment and health deprivation.
- ~~Rural deprivation is also a recognised problem, for example for the Isle of Sheppey and the Romney Marsh area.~~

- **The highest levels of deprivation can be seen in both coastal regions and urban areas.**
- Deprivation is focused amongst particular socio-economic groups, for example Gypsies and travellers.
- Community impacts associated with the proximity of quarries and also lorry movements is an issue of strategic importance.
- Traffic on the motorway and A-road network is the cause of the majority of designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).
- Future development at existing population centres is likely to put further pressure on the road network and lead to new and worsened occurrences of poor air quality.
- There remain instances where point source air pollution is a strategic issue.

#### Sustainable economic growth

- There are ambitious plans for economic growth and regeneration, for example in East Kent and the Kent Thames Gateway.
- There are local disparities in economic activity (including problems of 'rurality')
- Economic benefits relate to the targeted measures that are proposed as part of the minerals strategy; in particular, around ensuring supply of materials for strategically important industries / economic activities.

#### Flood risk

- There is extensive flood risk in Kent, and this situation is set to become worse with climate change.

#### Land

- There is a need to make best use of previously developed land and avoid the loss of the County's best and most versatile agricultural land. There is also a need to avoid conflict with coastal geomorphology.
- 'Land' and 'landscape' benefits relate to the support that is provided for construction and demolition waste recycling (i.e. aggregate recycling), which reduces the need to extract primary aggregates. There is also a focus on ensuring that the non-recyclable fraction of this inert waste is targeted at quarry restoration projects as a priority. In addition, the KMWLP is supportive of efforts to increase the movement of minerals via wharves which should have the effect of encouraging supply of marine dredged aggregates and hence reducing the need for land won aggregates.

#### Landscape and the historic environment



- There is a need to protect the integrity of the most valued and sensitive landscapes as well as to avoid damage to the landscape character more widely (signs of change inconsistent with countryside character have been identified in several areas).
- Along with a loss of the distinctiveness of the landscape character there has been a noticeable decrease in the tranquillity of landscapes and landscapes that are genuinely 'wild and remote'.
- Specific landscape impacts can be associated with minerals and waste development. Appropriate restoration should be sought to mitigate effects.
- There is a need to take account of designated heritage assets and their settings as well as undesignated assets and wider historic character.
- Heritage / historic environment benefits (which are relatively small magnitude and hence of unclear significance) relate to the support that is provided by extraction of minerals for heritage building products with a view to maintaining a diverse supply.
- There remains ongoing debate about the potential for impacts to the AONB, e.g. from silica sand extraction, but the stringency of policy has been strengthened and so effects are now unlikely. ~~There is also some uncertainty around the landscape/biodiversity implications of making provision for both soft sand and sharp sand/gravel landbanks.~~

#### Transport

- Much of the primary road network operates at, or above, capacity and there is a shortage of freight paths on the rail network.
- There is a need to adhere to the proximity principle wherever possible.
- There is a need to increase the amount of waste and, in particular, minerals transported by **alternatives to road**.
- Plans are in place to improve the transport infrastructure within and to the Thames Gateway, East Kent and Ashford. The KMWLP should recognise and support the aims of regional **transport** hubs.
- 'Transport' (and hence also climate change mitigation) benefits relate to the fact that the waste strategy is geared towards ensuring strict adherence to the 'proximity principle', i.e. a situation whereby waste is managed close to the source of production. It is also the case that the minerals strategy includes a focus on the safeguarding of wharves and railheads across the County to enable the ongoing importation of marine dredged aggregates, crushed rock and other minerals by sea and rail, rather than by road. ~~No significant negative effects / trade-offs are identified and no recommendations remain outstanding at this current stage.~~

Water

- Water scarcity is set to become a greater problem in coming years as a result of population growth, climate change and the need to comply with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.
- Groundwater **and surface water** pollution from a range of sources is evident across much of Kent.

**5.2. The SA Framework**

The SA framework is taken from that used for the SAs of the Early Partial Review of the KMWLP and the Mineral Sites Plan. The information collected for this Scoping Report – the baseline data and the relevant policy documents – has been reviewed to assess whether changes are required to the previous SA framework to reflect changes in the sustainability conditions in Kent or in relevant policy objectives. Changes are shown in **bold**.

*Table 14 SA Framework*

Sustainability Objectives		Detailed considerations
1	Biodiversity	<p>Ensure that development will not impact on important elements of the biodiversity resource and where possible contributes to the achievement of the Kent BAP and other strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Add to the biodiversity baseline by creating opportunities for targeted habitat creation (which, ideally, contributes to local or landscape scale habitat networks)</li> <li>– Avoid hindering plans for biodiversity conservation or enhancement</li> <li>– Support increased access to biodiversity</li> </ul>
2	Climate change	<p>Address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and energy generated from renewable sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Promote sustainable design and construction of facilities and support wider efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of minerals <b>and waste</b> operations.</li> </ul>
3	Community and well-being	<p>Support efforts to create and sustain sustainable communities, particularly the improvement of health and well-being; and support the delivery of housing targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Help to redress spatial inequalities highlighted by the Index of Multiple Deprivation.</li> <li>– Help to tackle more hidden forms of deprivation and exclusion, such as that which is experienced in <b>urban and coastal</b> areas and particular socio-economic groups within communities.</li> <li>– Ensure that the necessary aggregates are available for building, and that the necessary waste infrastructure is in place to support housing <b>and economic</b> growth</li> <li>– Ensure that minerals <b>and waste</b> development does not contribute to poor air quality with particular reference to PM2.5 and NOx</li> <li>– Protect and enhance public rights of way and access</li> <li>– Protect local green space</li> </ul>

4	Sustainable economic growth	<p>Support economic growth and diversification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Support the development of a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities</li> <li>– Stimulate economic revival and targeted employment generation in deprived areas</li> </ul>
5	Flood risk	<p>Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ensure that development does not lead to increased flood risk on or off site</li> <li>– Seek to mitigate or reduce flood risk through developments that are able to slow water flow and promote groundwater recharge</li> </ul>
6	Land	<p>Make efficient use of land and avoid sensitive locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Make best use of previously developed land</li> <li>– Avoid locations with sensitive geomorphology</li> <li>– Recognise the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land</li> <li>– Prevent inappropriate development in the Green Belt</li> </ul>
7	Landscape and the historic environment	<p>Protect and enhance Kent's countryside and historic environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Protect the integrity of the AONBs and other particularly valued or sensitive landscapes</li> <li>– Take account of the constraints, opportunities and priorities demonstrated through landscape characterisation assessments and other studies at the landscape scale.</li> <li>– Protect important heritage assets and their settings, as well as take account of the value of the character of the wider historic environment</li> </ul>
8	Transport	<p>Reduce and minimise unsustainable transport patterns and facilitate the transport of minerals and waste by the most sustainable modes possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Minimise minerals and waste transport movements and journey lengths; and encourage transport by rail and water.</li> <li>– Ensure that minerals and waste transport does not impact on sensitive locations, including locations already experiencing congestion and locations where planned growth or regeneration is reliant on good transport networks.</li> </ul>
9	Water	<p>Maintain and improve the water quality of the Kent's rivers, ground waters and coasts, and achieve sustainable water resources management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ensure that minerals and waste development seek to promote the conservation of water resources wherever possible with particular reference to abstraction.</li> <li>– Avoid pollution of ground or surface waters, particularly in areas identified as being at risk or sensitive</li> </ul>

## 6. Next Steps

The next stages of the process are outlined in Figure 1 in section 1.2. The SA forms an integral part of the preparation of the KMWLP. It will be prepared alongside the Plan and consultation on the SA will be part of the wider consultation on the Plan itself.

Over 2021 and 2022, the following documents will be produced in relation to the modified Local Plan:

- Pre-submission updated KWMLP (Regulation 19);
- Submission updated KMWLP.

Each of these documents will be subject to SA. The next stage is the SA of the Regulation 19 KWMLP, and it is currently anticipated that consultation on this document and its accompanying SA Report will be held in June/July 2022. Table 15 sets out the current timetable for the development of the updated KMWLP.

*Table 15 Timetable for Development of updated KMWLP*

Stages	Dates in January 2021 Local Development Scheme	Proposed Dates in Development Scheme update November 2021
Consultation on draft updated policy (Regulation 18)	October-November 2021	November 2021-January 2022
Publication of draft updated policy (Regulation 19) for representations on soundness	March-April 2022	June-July 2022
Submission to Secretary of State	July 2022	September 2022
Independent Examination Hearings	October 2022	December 2022
Inspector's Report	December 2022	February 2023
Adoption by Council	January 2023	May 2023

The structure and level of detail of the SA Report will be in general conformity with the structure and content outlined in Table 16.

*Table 16 Proposed Structure of SA Report*

Structure of Report	Information to Include
1. Summary and outcomes	1.1 Non-technical summary 1.2 A statement of the likely significant effects of the document 1.3 Statement on the difference the process has made to date 1.4 How to comment on the report
2. Appraisal Methodology	2.1 Approach adopted to the SA

Structure of Report	Information to Include
	2.2 When the SA was carried out 2.3 Who carried out the SA 2.4 Who was consulted, when and how 2.5 Difficulties encountered through the process
3. Background	3.1 Purpose of the SA and SA Report 3.2 Plan objectives and outline of contents 3.3 Compliance with the SEA Regulations
4. Sustainability objectives, baseline and context	4.1 Links to other policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives and how these have been taken into account 4.2 Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline 4.3 Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems encountered 4.4 Limitations of the information, assumptions made etc. 4.5 The SA framework, including appraisal objectives
5. Plan issues and options	5.1 Main strategic options considered and how they were identified 5.2 Comparison of the social, environmental and economic effects of the options 5.3 How social, environmental and economic issues were considered in choosing the preferred options 5.4 Other options considered, and why these were rejected 5.5 Any proposed mitigation measures
6. Plan Policies	6.1 Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the preferred policies 6.2 How social, environmental and economic problems were considered in developing the policies and proposals 6.3 Proposed mitigation measures 6.4 Uncertainties and risks
7. Implementation	7.1 Links to other tiers of plans and programmes and the project level 7.2 Proposals for monitoring

## Appendix A: Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

### Key

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
International Policy Documents	
UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, UNESCO, 1972	
The main aim of the Convention is to ensure the identification and protection of the natural and cultural heritage across the world which is considered to be of Outstanding Universal Value.	The KMWLP should seek to maintain the continued protection of Canterbury Cathedral as part of the existing protections of the planning system.
European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe, 2000)	
The UK signed the European Landscape Convention in 2006. It aims to encourage the protection, management and planning of all landscapes, rural and urban, large and small, coastal and inland, protected or degraded. The Convention defines landscape as 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'. The Convention takes landscape management to mean 'action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes'.	The KMWLP should seek to manage the current and future landscape sustainably, protecting the character of landscapes, in harmony with changes brought about by social, economic and environmental processes.
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) (Council of Europe, 1979)	
The Convention aims to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats and to promote European cooperation. Particular importance is placed on the need to protect endangered natural habitats and endangered vulnerable species, including migratory species.	The KMWLP should protect and conserve species and habitats, particularly where these are endangered.
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) (UN, 1979)	
The Convention aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic, and avian migratory species throughout their range.	The KMWLP will protect and conserve migratory species within Kent.

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
Ramsar Convention (UNESCO, 1971)	
<p>Provides a framework for the conservation and wide use of all wetlands and their resources. The three pillars to the Convention are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wise use of all wetlands through national plans, policies and legislation, management actions and public education</li> <li>• Designation of suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the 'Ramsar list') and ensure their effective management</li> <li>• Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems, shared species and development projects that may affect wetlands</li> </ul>	<p>The KMWLP should avoid impacts on Ramsar sites and seek to enhance Ramsar sites.</p>
Paris Agreement (UN, 2016)	
<p>The Paris Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the UN Convention on Climate Change (1992), aims to strengthen the global response to climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holding an increase in global temperature to well below 2<sup>o</sup>C and efforts to limit this to 1.5<sup>o</sup>C above pre-industrial levels</li> <li>• Increasing the ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change, fostering climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development</li> <li>• Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development</li> </ul> <p>The Agreement outlines that developed countries should take the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emissions targets and should continue enhancing their mitigations efforts. Parties are encouraged to take action to implement and support</p>	<p>The KMWLP should be informed by climate resilience and adaptation considerations. It should consider how to cascade the international and domestic commitments for climate resilience and adaptation considerations to be embedded in future development decisions in order to contribute to national commitments and targets.</p> <p>The KMWLP should seek to be consistent with the commitments in the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit increases in global temperature to below 2<sup>o</sup>C through domestic emissions targets and enhanced mitigation efforts. It should take into account the actions identified in the agreement which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encouraging socio-economic and ecological resilience</li> <li>• economic diversification</li> <li>• conservation of forests and other important natural resources</li> </ul>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>the existing framework (1992) for policy approaches and positive incentives relating to reducing emissions from deforestation, conservation and sustainable management of forests.</p> <p>The Agreement states that each party shall, as appropriate, engage in adaptation planning processes and the implementation of actions, including the development or enhancement of relevant plans, policies and/or contributions, which may include the implementation of adaptation actions, undertakings and/or efforts;</p> <p>Parties should build the resilience of socio-economic and ecological systems, including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources.</p> <p>Now that the UK has left the EU, it is required to submit its own Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in line with Article 4 of the Paris Agreement. In its NDC, published in December 2020, the UK is committing to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This sits alongside the net zero by 2050 target set out in the Climate Change Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• commitment to low greenhouse gas emissions.</li> </ul>
<p>National Policy Documents</p>	
<p>Environment Bill 2020</p>	
<p>The Bill will support the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan to improve the environment and brings about urgent and meaningful action to combat the environmental issues that the UK is facing.</p> <p>A key component of the Bill is to set at least one long-term legally binding target in each of the following four key areas: air quality, resource efficiency and waste reduction, biodiversity and water. The Bill sets out the criteria for these long-term</p>	<p>The KMWLP should take an active role in implementing the Bill by putting sustainability at the centre to create greener and fairer places to live and work. The long-term targets across the priority areas have yet to be set but are expected to be brought forward by October 2022. The objectives for targets under consideration should be considered in developing the KMWLP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air quality: reducing annual mean level of fine particulate matter; reducing population exposure to particulate matter.</li> </ul>



Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>targets which will also be supported by interim targets. These will be reviewed every five years via the Significant Improvement Test.</p> <p>The Bill also sets out a framework for monitoring, planning, and reporting, including an Environmental Improvement Plan of which the 25 Year Plan is the first.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource efficiency and waste reduction: increasing resource efficiency; reduce the volume of 'residual' waste.</li> <li>• Biodiversity: improve the quality of habitats expressed through the condition of protected sites (SSSIs); improve the overall status of species populations; restore and create wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites.</li> <li>• Water: reduce pollution from agriculture; reduce pollution from wastewater; reduce water demand.</li> </ul> <p>The Bill outlines a requirement for new development to achieve at least 10% biodiversity net gain and as such this will need to be considered for the development of the KMWLP.</p>
<p>Natural Environment White Paper (The natural choice: securing the value of nature) (Defra, 2011)</p>	
<p>The White Paper sets out UK Government's vision for the national environment over the next 50 years and outlines actions that will be taken to deliver that goal. It recognises the need for understanding the value of the natural environment, including the economic and social benefits it can deliver. There are key areas which will be a focus including: protecting and improving the natural environment; growing a green economy; connecting people and nature; and leadership in the EU and internationally.</p> <p>Following the publication of the 25 Year Plan, the Natural Capital Committee have suggested that the White Paper could be used as a way to assess the Plan's progress.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should protect and improve the natural environment through appropriate site selection for development, greener and low carbon design, implementing net gain and integrating natural networks into development. It should seek to contribute to growing the green economy by putting sustainability at its heart, and integrating natural capital and ecosystem services in its development.</p> <p>The KMWLP should recognise the importance of the natural environment for physical and mental health and wellbeing, and should seek to connect people to the natural environment through enhancing access to and the quality of greenspace and increasing opportunities for community involvement and education in nature.</p>
<p>Environment Act 1995</p>	
<p>The Act established the • Environment Agency, to make provision with respect to contaminated land and abandoned mines, to make further provision for the control of</p>	<p>The KMWLP should have regard to the Act in relation to remediation works or development on contaminated land. It will consider the location of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the area and plan for development accordingly.</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>pollution, the conservation of natural resources and the conservation or enhancement of the environment.</p> <p>Part II relates to contaminated land and sets out laws in regard to remediation and restrictions on liability relating to contamination of controlled waters, other land as well as duties by authorities.</p> <p>Part IV outlines that, where air quality standards are not being met subject to air quality reviews, air quality management areas will be designated.</p> <p>Part V sets out the protection of elements such as hedgerows and encourages the establishment of schemes for nature conservation.</p>	<p>It will encourage nature conservation in accordance with this Act, and other relevant and subsequent policy documents.</p>
<p>Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy, July 2020</p>	
<p>This document sets out a plan to rebuild the UK for a world living with COVID-19. The government's aim is for life as close to normal as possible in a way that maximises health, economic and social outcomes. The first consideration is the nation's health and the long-term health effects. The second consideration is improving people's living standards. The document sets out a road map to recovery. Step 1 includes the avoidance of public transport and encouraging active travel and use of open spaces. Step 2 includes the re-opening public transport and non-essential retail. Step 3 encompasses further re-openings.</p> <p>To deliver our phased plan, the government will deliver fourteen programmes of work. This includes investment into science, technology and skills, as well as rapid re-engineering of public health and governmental infrastructure to prepare for future crises.</p>	<p>The KMWLP has the opportunity to help improve people's living standards in the through offering a range of new economic opportunities and infrastructure. It should emphasise elements of spatial planning that deliver resilient and health-focused outcomes, including provision of open space and active travel networks. The KMWLP should identify the opportunities to support the fourteen programmes of work, some of which align with the industry and skills in Kent.</p>
<p>The Equality Strategy: Building a Fairer Britain, Government Equality Office, 2010</p>	

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>The document was the first cross-government equality strategy that sets out a way of tackling inequality, through recognising specific problems and focusing on specific actions to deal with them. The Strategy is based on five interconnecting principles for change, constituting creating equal opportunities for all, developing power to people, transparency, supporting social action and embedding equality. The Strategy is focussed upon five key priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early years, education and social mobility – tackling deprivation and inequalities relating to family background and improving social mobility.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a fair and flexible labour market – working with businesses to develop a fairer and more flexible labour market that draws on the talents of all and builds a strong economy.</li> <li>• Opening up public services and empowering individuals and communities – devolving power to local communities and promoting greater participation and inclusion in public, political and community life.</li> <li>• Changing culture and attitudes – building respect for all, tackling discrimination, hate crime and violence.</li> <li>• Making it happen – leading by example by being transparent in policy-making, and giving people the information they need to hold services to account.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The KMWLP should locate services in effective and equally accessible locations. It should be informed by the views of the community and therefore should be developed with high levels of community consultation and engagement.</p>
<p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006</p>	
<p>This Act makes provision about bodies concerned with the natural environment and rural communities, in connection with wildlife, sites of special scientific interest, National Parks and the Broads.</p>	<p>The KMWLP will comply with the requirements set out in the Act to protect wildlife, SSSIs and other rural areas and, where possible, enhanced as part of future development. It should encourage future development to give high regard to</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>Part 3 of the Act relates to biodiversity and sets out the duty to conserve biodiversity, as well as laws regarding pesticides and the protection of birds, amongst other things. Part 4 sets out offences in connection with SSSIs which includes operations damaging the flora and fauna within SSSIs.</p>	<p>biodiversity enhancement and conservation, informed by up to date species and environmental assessments.</p>
<p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017</p>	
<p>The Regulations transpose the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) into UK law and apply in the terrestrial environment and in territorial waters out to 12 nautical miles. Further updates to the regulations have been made by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.</p> <p>The aim is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora. The Regulations set down rules for the protection, management and exploitation of such habitats and species. The EU Habitats and Wild Birds Directives are transposed in UK offshore waters by separate regulations.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should seek to promote the protection of European designated sites alongside the protection of European protected species. It should avoid the potential for any likely significant effects and explore opportunities to enhance or improve the condition of these designated sites where relevant.</p> <p>The KMWLP will be accompanied by Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) pursuant to the Regulations to determine if there are likely significant effects on protected features of a designated site (either from the KMWLP alone or in combination with other plans or projects).</p>
<p>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</p>	
<p>The Wildlife and Countryside Act is the main piece of legislation which protects animals, plants and habitats in the UK. It implements the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and the European Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive). The Act has been supplemented by Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (in England and Wales).</p>	<p>The KMWLP should seek to protect, conserve and enhance wildlife (including birds, animals and plants), whilst also preventing the establishment and spread of non-native species. It should seek to avoid negative impacts on Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves (NNR) and the countryside. It should avoid impacting public rights of way and should seek to enhance them where possible.</p>
<p>Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (Defra, 2011)</p>	
<p>The strategy builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and sets out how the UK is implementing international and EU commitments. The mission for this strategy is</p>	<p>The KMWLP should adopt an integrated approach to nature conservation, contributing to the further establishment of coherent and resilient ecological</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.</p>	<p>networks and new and improved green spaces. It should help to reduce environmental pressures through incorporating biodiversity offsetting and net gain principles, reducing impacts on the water environment and forestry.</p>
<p>Clean Air Strategy (2019)</p>	
<p>The Strategy recognises the importance of clean air in relation to health, life, the environment and the economy. It sets out the actions that are required to meet the targets for fine particulate matter, ammonia, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide and non-methane volatile organic compounds by 2030 and 2050. Actions are focussed on reducing and managing emissions to protect human health and the environment. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut public exposure to particulate matter pollution.</li> <li>• Provide powers to enable targeted local action in problem areas</li> <li>• Reduce nitrogen deposition and tackle the environmental impacts of air pollution</li> <li>• Monitor and report the impacts of air pollution on natural habitats</li> <li>• Provide guidance for local authorities to assess and mitigate, through the planning system, the cumulative impacts of nitrogen deposition on natural habitats.</li> </ul> <p>Additional actions are focused on achieving clean growth and innovation, transport, at home, from farming and industry.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should incorporate the headline commitments to protecting human health and the environment. It should consider the following specific actions and ambitions in developing the KMWLP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean growth: action to clean up the air will boost productivity and economic growth. Future electricity, heat and industrial policies will together improve air quality and tackle climate change.</li> <li>• Transport: reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides in areas where concentrations exceed legal limits. Encourage the cleanest modes of transport for freight and passengers, including active travel.</li> <li>• Industry: reduce industrial pollution and secure emissions reductions.</li> </ul>
<p>Air Quality Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide in UK, 2017</p>	

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>This plan sets out how the Government will improve air quality in the UK by reducing nitrogen dioxide emissions in towns and cities. The air quality plans set out targeted local, regional and national measures across 37 zone plans (areas which have identified air quality issues with nitrogen dioxide), a UK overview document and a national list of measures. Measures relate to freight, rail, sustainable travel, low emission vehicles and cleaner transport fuels, among others.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should seek to promote alternatives to road transport and to support measures to improve air quality pollution from nitrogen dioxide.</p>
<p>The National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016-2021, Infrastructure and Projects Authority, March 2016</p>	
<p>The government aims to have the right infrastructure in place to deal with waste as efficiently as possible, with an ambition to move towards a 'circular economy' where material resources are valued and kept in circulation.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should promote the objectives of a circular economy, maximising the reuse and recycling of materials.</p>
<p>The Clean Growth Strategy, BEIS, 2017</p>	
<p>The strategy sets out a comprehensive set of policies and proposals that aim to accelerate the pace of 'clean growth'. The strategy sets out how the government will invest £2.5 billion to support low carbon innovation between 2015-2021 to ensure the UK meets the fourth and fifth carbon budgets (covering the periods 2023-2027 and 2028-2032). This will encompass a drive to decarbonisation, and the strategies within the document will help to ensure the targets are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerating Clean Growth</li> <li>• Accelerating the Shift to Low Carbon Transport</li> <li>• Enhancing the Benefits and Value of Our Natural Resources</li> </ul> <p>The strategy is informed by the commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement as well as European Council (2014) target of a 40% reduction in EU domestic emissions to 2030. In the context of the UK's legal requirements and binding</p>	<p>The KMWLP should promote decarbonisation wherever possible, in order to support the policies of the Clean Growth Strategy. Whilst there is no requirement for developments to individually meet the national net zero target, the KMWLP should consider the approach to development proposals that do not, or are not able, themselves contribute to national targets to reduce emissions. The KMWLP should also emphasise the social and economic benefits of incorporating low carbon development. This includes promoting opportunities for walking and cycling and investment into forests/natural networks.</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>target under the Climate Change Act 2010, the UK’s approach to reducing emissions has two guiding objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To meet domestic national commitments at the lowest possible net cost to UK taxpayers, consumers and businesses; and,</li> <li>• To maximise the social and economic benefits for the UK from the transition to net zero.</li> </ul> <p>The Strategy builds upon the Climate Change Act 2008 which established the UK’s binding 2050 target (80% reduction in emissions, amended by legislation in 2019 to 100% against 1990 levels) and the supporting framework of carbon budgets.</p>	
<p>Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019</p>	
<p>The Act sets out a legal framework to commit the government to tackling climate change. Climate change adaptation is also covered in the Act as it provides a legal framework for adaptation policy. This is the amendment of the national target for 2050, which increases the required percentage reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from at least 80% to at least 100% from the 1990 baseline. This is also known as net zero.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should make a clear commitment to contributing to meeting the national net zero target. It should be founded on resilience to climate change, particularly in relation to flooding, water resources, water quality and biodiversity. Future design should implement features to increase resilience, such as increasing the provision of blue and green infrastructure.</p> <p>The KMWLP should promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• climate mitigation and adaptation, and the role this plays in enabling economic priorities to be met.</li> <li>• resource and energy efficiency in new development and opportunities for renewable or low carbon energy generation</li> <li>• increased awareness and influence behaviour change.</li> </ul>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	
<p>This Act consolidates certain enactments relating to special controls in respect of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest. The Act sets out the restrictions and authorisation of works affecting listed buildings and outlines the requirements and provisions regarding applications for listed building consent. In addition, the Act outlines how conditions may be imposed on listed building consent and outlines the purposes and requirements of certificate of lawfulness applications, amongst other things.</p> <p>The Act states that it is the duty of the local planning authority to designate areas of special architectural or historic interest as conservation areas and formulate proposals for their preservation and enhancement. Section 74 of the Act outlines controls for demolition in conservation areas.</p>	<p>The KMWLP must be aware of the conservation areas within the county and protect them if required. The location of assets and their conservation will inform the spatial arrangements of development. The KMWLP will require proposals for development to identify all historic assets within and near to development sites to consider potential impacts of the development on assets and their settings. Consent for development relating to heritage impacts will be sought through the relevant applications outlined in the Act where required.</p>
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	
<p>This Act consolidates and amends the law relating to ancient monuments, to make provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological and historic interest and for the regulation of activities affecting such matters. The Act outlines that damage to an ancient monument is a criminal offence and any works will require scheduled monument consent. Part II of the Act relates to the designation of areas of archaeological importance (AAIs).</p>	<p>The KMWLP must be aware of any ancient monuments within the county, protect them and consider potential impacts of the development on assets and their settings.</p>
Culture White Paper, (DfDCMS, 2016)	
<p>The Culture White Paper sets out the government's ambition and strategy for the cultural sectors. The White Paper sets out that our historic built environment is a unique asset in which communities will be supported to make the most of such assets. It outlines that the development of the historic environment can drive</p>	<p>The KMWLP should place emphasis on the protection and enhancement of historic assets and cultural venues.</p>



Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>regenerations, jobs and business growth. The document states that funding has been allocated to various organisations and communities to enhance historic assets.</p> <p>The government aims to promote the role culture plays in building stronger and healthier communities and boosting economic growth and will support the increased digitalisation of culture to increase access.</p> <p>The government will continue to invest in the growing cultural sectors to help cultural organisations grow, diversify and develop more mixed models of private, government and corporate support.</p>	
<p>The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017</p>	
<p>The Regulations implemented the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) into UK law (for England and Wales) and are now part of EU retained law (as amended) following Brexit. They help to implement the WFD requirement in England and Wales. They aim to protect and enhance the quality of surface freshwater, groundwater, groundwater dependent ecosystems, estuaries and coastal water (out to one mile from low-water).</p>	<p>The KMWLP should contribute to the achievement of “good status” for all water bodies in Kent. It will have regard to relevant River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in determining the spatial distribution of development. An assessment should be carried out in line with the Regulations, where applicable, to determine if relevant activities have effects on waterbody status in relation to: hydrogeomorphology, biology – habitats, biology – fish, water quality and protected areas.</p>
<p>Future Water: The Government’s Water Strategy for England, Defra, 2008</p>	
<p>The Strategy sets Defra’s vision for the water sector up to 2030 and outlines the steps the government will take to achieve that vision. The vision is where rivers, canals, lakes and seas have improved for people and wildlife, with benefits for angling, boating and other recreational activities, and with continued provisions for excellent quality drinking water.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should work closely with water companies and key stakeholders to encourage the sustainable supply and use of water. It should contribute to the protection and improvement of water quality to support biodiversity and social value and should seek to reduce surface water and river flood risk in Kent as far as possible and should implement measures such as SuDS and nature-based solutions.</p> <p>The KMWLP should contribute to a reduction in GHG emissions from water use in the waste and minerals sectors.</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
Control of Pollution Act 1974	
<p>This Act makes provision with respect to waste disposal, water pollution, noise, atmospheric pollution and public health; and for purposes connected with these matters. Part I of the Act relates to waste on land and states that, except in prescribed cases, a person shall not deposit, cause or knowingly permit the deposit of controlled waste on land. Part II controls the entry of polluting matter into water. A person is guilty of offence if they permit toxic or solid waste matter entering streams without authorisation. Section 40 of the Act gives local planning authorities powers for controlling noise and vibration from development sites. Part IV deals with the prevention of atmospheric pollution.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should ensure that any waste generating activities will be lawful and will not result in significant environmental impacts. It will consider the location of sensitive environmental assets, such as water bodies, in order to minimise harmful impacts of development and to enhance the resilience of new infrastructure.</p>
Flood Risk Regulations 2009	
<p>The Regulations transpose the EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks) into UK law. It sets out the duties regarding producing preliminary flood risk assessments, flood hazard maps and flood risk maps and flood risk management plans.</p>	<p>The KMWLP will aim to minimise flood risk for existing and future development and should exacerbate flood risk within the county. The KMWLP should work collaboratively with the Lead Local Flood Authorities and other key stakeholders.</p>
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	
<p>The Act seeks to address the threat of flooding and water scarcity. The Act takes forward a number of recommendations from the Pitt Review into the 2007 floods and places new responsibilities on the Environment Agency, local authorities and others to manage the risk of flooding. Climate projections suggest extreme weather will happen more frequently in the future and this Act is central to reducing the flood risk associated with extreme weather.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should seek to reduce the risk of flooding for people, homes, businesses and industry. It will work collaboratively with stakeholders so that flood risk is appropriately considered within developments.</p>
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (Environment Agency, 2020)	
<p>The Strategy outlines actions to be implemented across the country which contribute to the vision of becoming a “nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100”. It sets out the need for</p>	<p>The KMWLP should incorporate climate resilience considerations into new development and infrastructure. It should avoid proposing future development in high risk flood areas and should seek to incorporate nature-based solutions to</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>collaborative action to deliver infrastructure which is resilient to flooding and coastal erosion.</p>	<p>minimise flood risk. It should incorporate natural capital and net gain principles to deliver sustainable growth which is resilient to flooding.</p>
<p>The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Policy Statement (Defra, 2020)</p>	
<p>The Policy Statement sets out the long-term goal of the government to create a nation which is resilient to future flood and coastal erosion, and therefore protects people, the environment and the economy. The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Strategy has helped to inform this policy statement. It identifies five key areas for action which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrading and expanding our national flood defences and infrastructure</li> <li>• Managing the flow of water more effectively</li> <li>• Harnessing the power of nature to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk and achieve multiple benefits</li> <li>• Better preparing our communities</li> <li>• Enabling more resilient places through a catchment-based approach</li> </ul>	<p>The KMWLP should seek to increase the resilience of new and existing places to flood risk and should look to incorporate nature-based solutions to minimise flood risk.</p>
<p>Water Act 2003</p>	
<p>The Act amends the Water Resources Act and Regulations 1991 and the Water Industry Act 1991. The Act has the following four broad aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the sustainable use of water resources</li> <li>• strengthening the voice of consumers</li> <li>• a measured increase in competition</li> </ul>	<p>The KMWLP should contribute to the aims of the Act by encouraging sustainable water use while also supporting economic growth, helping to conserve water resources and reduce demand.</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the promotion of water conservation</li> </ul>	
National Policy Statement (draft): Water Resources (Defra, 2018)	
<p>The NPS has undergone public consultation and feedback from this is currently under analysis. It is considered a step to addressing the drought resilience challenge facing the UK.</p> <p>The NPS states that in considering any proposed development, and in particular, when weighing its adverse impacts against its benefits, the Examining Authority and the Secretary of State should take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>potential benefits, including the facilitation of economic development including: job creation, housing and environmental improvement and any long-term or wider benefits; and</li> <li>potential adverse impacts, including any longer-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for any adverse impacts.</li> </ul> <p>The draft strategy promotes environmental enhancement, including environmental net gain and mitigating impacts on biodiversity.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should be providing a commitment to drought and wider climate resilience where applicable. It should integrate a strong commitment to biodiversity net gain, in accordance with this and other policy documents.</p>
Meeting Our Future Water Needs, March 2020	
<p>The framework explores England’s long term water needs for public water supplies, agriculture, the power and industry sectors and environmental protection. It contributes to 2 of the pledges in the government’s 25 year environment plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to leave the environment in a better state than we found it</li> </ul>	<p>The KMWLP should support water efficiency in waste, minerals and wastewater operations and seek environmental improvement where practicable.</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to improve resilience to drought and minimise interruptions to water supplies</li> </ul> <p>Creates a move towards regional planning to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increasing resilience to drought</li> <li>• greater environmental improvement</li> <li>• reducing long-term water usage</li> <li>• reducing leakage</li> <li>• Reducing the use of drought permits and orders</li> <li>• Increasing supplies</li> </ul>	
Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations 2009	
The Regulations implement the EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) into UK law and set out to protect groundwater from being polluted by hazardous substances.	The KMWLP should seek to protect groundwater resources from pollution.
Natural Choice: Securing the value of Nature (2011)	
<p>The White Paper makes proposals to place the value of nature at the centre of the nation’s choices, to enhance the environment, economic growth and personal wellbeing. It sets out to mainstream the value of nature across society by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitating greater local action to protect and improve nature</li> <li>• Creating a green economy</li> <li>• Strengthening connections between people and nature</li> <li>• Showing leadership in the EU and globally</li> </ul> <p>The White Paper states that the government’s priority is to restore sustainable economic prosperity for all, stating that a healthy environment is essential to long</p>	The KMWLP should support the achievement of sustainable economic growth. It should protect and, where possible, enhance natural spaces, and encourage the development of low carbon infrastructure and green infrastructure, to secure social, economic and environmental benefits.

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>term growth. It outlines that we need to make enhancing nature a central goal of social action. One ambition of the document is to improve the quality of the natural environment across England, moving to a net gain in the value of nature. A further ambition is for a green and growing economy which not only uses natural capital in a responsible and fair way but contributes to improving it.</p> <p>The White Paper states that the planning system will improve the sustainability of new infrastructure and its capacity to withstand climate change, with planning for low-carbon infrastructure and offsetting the impacts of development on biodiversity constituting actions to achieve this. The strong social and economic benefits of green infrastructure are also noted.</p>	
<p>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</p>	
<p>The purpose of the Act is to make new provision for public access to the countryside, amend the law relating to public rights of way, to amend the law relating to nature conservation, the protection of wildlife and to make further provisions with respect of areas of outstanding natural beauty.</p> <p>Part I sets out provisions to introduce new statutory rights of access to land, including mountain and registered common land.</p> <p>Part II enhances the legislation governing the rights of way systems, including measures to improve strategic planning and management of rights of way. This includes environmental safeguards such as powers to regulate vehicles for conservation purposes and orders to prevent damage to sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs).</p> <p>Part III of the Act concerns nature conservation and wildlife protection, for the protection of SSSIs, which are considered nationally important sites for wildlife and geology. The Act sets out new powers for conservation management and powers to</p>	<p>The KMWLP should aim to protect and enhance access to open countryside and support the protection and enhancement of SSSIs. This will both protect and enhance biodiversity but may also create sites of interest that could attract tourists/visitors. It should integrate commitments to biodiversity in proposals for development.</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>refuse consent for damaging activities. Public bodies will be under a statutory duty to conserve SSSI and the Act sets out to include statutory underpinning to Biodiversity Actions Plans.</p>	
<p>National Infrastructure Strategy (HM Treasury, 2020)</p>	
<p>The National Infrastructure Strategy sets out plans to transform UK infrastructure to level up the country, strengthen the Union and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The strategy outlines how the government will build back better, faster and greener by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boosting growth and productivity across the UK</li> <li>• Putting the UK on the path to meeting its net zero emissions target by 2050</li> <li>• Supporting private investment into infrastructure</li> <li>• Accelerating and improving delivery of infrastructure projects</li> </ul> <p>The government aims to make cities the engines of growth, including cities outside of London. This includes support for green growth cluster with carbon capture and low carbon infrastructure.</p> <p>As part of the Green Industrial Revolution, infrastructure investment is fundamental to delivering net zero emissions. The government will unlock private sector investment to accelerate the deployment of existing technology, such as retrofitting the UK’s building stock and electrification of vehicles, while advancing newer technologies such as carbon capture and low-carbon hydrogen.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should support growth and productivity. It should support the development of low carbon infrastructure and should aim to support the creation of infrastructure growth clusters where appropriate to maximise socio- economic potential. It should plan for infrastructure delivery as quickly as possible, noting concerns with potential delays in infrastructure delivery as identified in the strategy.</p>
<p>Build Back Better: our plan for growth (HM Treasury, March 2021)</p>	

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>The Plan sets out the UK Government’s plan to support growth through investment to allow every part of the UK to grow while enabling a transition to net zero. The Plan recognises that there has been a lot of changed since the Industrial Plan was published in 2017 (net zero commitments, COVID-19 and the exit from the European Union) and as such, a new framework for growth is needed. Infrastructure, skills and innovation are the three pillars of growth the Plan focuses on.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should help to stimulate and support both short and long-term growth and productivity by planning for and delivering adequate infrastructure. It should support the transition to net zero through its support for developing low carbon infrastructure. It should support inclusive opportunities for high-quality skills and training.</p>
<p>Waste Management Plan for England 2021</p>	
<p>Provides an overview of waste management in England and brings current waste management policies under the umbrella of a single national plan. The Resources and Waste Strategy sets out a vision and a number of policies to move to a more circular economy, many of which fall under the Waste Management Plan for England umbrella. In addition, the following documents contain significant policies that contribute to the Waste Management Plan for England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Clean Growth Strategy</li> <li>• the Industrial Strategy</li> <li>• the Litter Strategy</li> <li>• the UK Plan for Shipments of Wastes</li> <li>• the National Policy Statements for Hazardous Waste and for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (in so far as it relates to facilities which recover energy from waste).</li> </ul>	<p>The KMWLP should support the objectives of the Resources and Waste Strategy, the Clean Growth Strategy, the Industrial Strateg and National Policy Statements for Hazardous Waste and Renewable Energy. These documents are covered elsewhere in this appendix.</p>
<p>Circular Economy Package, 2020</p>	
<p>The plan sets out targets to recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035 and to have no more than 10% municipal waste going to landfill by 2035. This is achieved through restricting materials that can be landfilled or incinerated and requires recycled waste</p>	<p>The KMWLP should support increased recycling and reduced landfill of waste.</p>



Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
to not be incinerated or sent to landfill. The Circular Economy Package ensure we go further and faster to reduce, reuse and recycle.	
Integrated Radioactive Waste Strategy, 2019	
The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's strategic objective for radioactive waste is to manage radioactive waste and dispose of it where possible, or place it in safe, secure and suitable storage, ensuring the delivery of the UK and devolved administration policies	The KMWLP The KMWLP should support the objectives of the strategy, ensuring that radioactive waste is managed in a safe, environmentally acceptable and cost-effective way that reflect the nature of the radioactive waste concerned, and embeds integrated waste management principles, such as the application of the waste hierarchy and sharing treatment and storage assets.should support increased recycling and reduced landfill of waste.
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	
<p>The document sets out detailed waste planning policies and should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework, the Waste Management Plan for England and National Policy Statements for Waste Water and Hazardous Waste.</p> <p>The document places responsibility on waste planning authorities to ensure that waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns, recognising the positive contribution waste management can make to developing sustainable communities.</p>	The KMWLP should be based on a proportionate evidence base for planned provision of new capacity, waste arisings and the need for waste management facilities. It should meet the requirements of the Waste National Planning Policies for waste planning authorities, specifically for identifying the need for waste management facilities, identifying suitable sites and areas and determining planning applications.
Written Ministerial Statement on Hydraulic Fracturing, 2019	
From 2019, the government is to take a presumption against issuing any further Hydraulic Fracturing Consents until new evidence address concerns around the prediction and management of induced seismicity	The KMWLP should not promote hydraulic fracturing at this time.
Energy White Paper: Powering Our Net Zero Future, 2021	

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>The White Paper puts in place a strategy for the wider energy system that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transforms energy, building a cleaner, greener future for our country, our people and our planet</li> <li>Supports a green recovery, growing our economy, supporting thousands of green jobs across the country in new green industries and leveraging new green export opportunities</li> </ul> <p>Creates a fair deal for consumers, protecting the fuel poor, providing opportunities to save money on bills, giving us warmer, more comfortable homes and balancing investment against bill impacts.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should aim to minimise the emission of carbon from minerals and waste management activities.</p>
<p>Draft National Policy Statement: Overarching Energy (EN-1) (2021)</p>	
<p>This National Policy Statement (NPS) sets out national policy for energy infrastructure. It has effect, in combination with the relevant technology-specific NPSs, on the decisions by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) on applications for energy developments that fall within the scope of the NPSs. The IPC has the power to issue a development consent order under the Planning Act 2008. In England and Wales this NPS is likely to be a material consideration in decision making on applications that fall under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.</p> <p>The document outlines government policy on energy infrastructure development and sets out the need for new nationally significant infrastructure projects, including onshore energy generation &gt; 50 MW. A further five NPSs cover specific technologies, including EN-3 on renewable energy.</p>	<p>Where relevant, the KMWLP should aim to take into account the effects of climate change when developing infrastructure, in addition to the consideration of pollution control measures.</p>
<p>Draft National Policy Statement: Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2021)</p>	
<p>This NPS covers the following types of nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure:</p>	<p>Energy from waste &gt; 50MW is unlikely to be delivered in Kent but would not fall within the remit of the KMWLP.</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• energy from biomass and/or waste (EfW) &gt;50 MW in England</li> <li>• pumped hydro storage &gt;50 MW in England</li> <li>• solar photovoltaic (PV) &gt;50 MW in England</li> <li>• offshore wind &gt;100MW in England</li> <li>• tidal stream &gt;100MW in England</li> </ul>	
National Policy Statement: Hazardous Waste (2013)	
<p>The NPS is a framework document for planning decisions on nationally significant hazardous waste infrastructure. The document sets out the main objectives of government policy on hazardous waste, which constitute the protection of human health and the environment, the implementation of waste hierarchy, self-sufficiency and proximity and an objective to maximise opportunities for climate change adaptation.</p> <p>Part 3 of the document sets out that there will be a demand for new and improved large scale hazardous waste infrastructure, due to trends in hazardous waste and the need to meet legislative requirements.</p> <p>Part 4 of the statement states the general assessment principles in accordance with which applications relating to hazardous waste infrastructure are to be decided. It sets out that there should be a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications for hazardous waste NSIPs.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should consider the need for waste management facilities in the county and, if needed, promote the development of a small number of large waste management facilities to meet growing demand, as recommended in Part 3. It could explore the potential to develop infrastructures such as electronic equipment plants, plants for air residues and hazardous waste landfill infrastructures, as they are identified as needed facilities. It should consider the potential impacts of development projects to meet the criteria for good design, including ensuring good visual appearance of infrastructure.</p> <p>The KMWLP should take into account the effects of climate change when developing infrastructure, in addition to the consideration of pollution control measures</p>
National Policy Statement: Waste Water (2012)	
<p>The NPS is a framework for planning decisions on nationally significant waste water infrastructure and covers the following infrastructure development:</p>	<p>The KMWLP should aim to deliver wastewater infrastructure as efficiently as possible, to reflect the urgency of need for this infrastructure and deliver government objectives: sustainable development, public health and environmental</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• construction of wastewater treatment plants which are expected to have a capacity exceeding a population equivalent of 500,000 when constructed; or</li> <li>• alterations to wastewater treatment plants where the effect of the alteration is expected to be to increase by more than a population equivalent of 500,000 the capacity of the plant: and</li> <li>• development under the Thames Tunnel Project.</li> </ul> <p>Part 2 of the strategy sets out the government objectives regarding wastewater and identifies the urgency of need for the infrastructure covered within the NPS.</p> <p>Part 3 sets out factors for examination and determination of applications, stating that potential benefits include contribution to meeting the need for wastewater infrastructure, job creation and any long-term or wider benefits should be considered, along with potential adverse impacts. Developments may have to provide an EIA, must be of good design and must have regard to pollution control.</p> <p>Part 4 considers the generic impacts related to wastewater infrastructure. It outlines the potential that an Environmental Statement may be provided.</p>	<p>improvement and the improvement of water quality in the natural environment. It should aim to capitalise on the socio-economic benefits of wastewater infrastructure development</p> <p>The KMWLP should integrate a commitment to adapting to climate change and how potential impacts may be prevented or mitigated through good, climate adaptive design. This is important in relation to wastewater infrastructure due to the predicted impacts on the water cycle, as set out in the document.</p>
<p>Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009</p>	
<p>The Regulations transpose the EU Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) into UK law and are based on the "polluter pays principle" to prevent damage to the environment and place the requirement for remedial action on the polluter rather than the taxpayer.</p>	<p>The KMWLP will seek to identify and where possible avoid potential environmental damage to SSSIs or protected species and habitats, and to avoid environmental damage to surface and groundwaters, preventing deterioration of waterbody status. It should seek not to exacerbate or cause contaminated land and should seek to support the remediation of contaminated land where possible.</p>
<p>The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011</p>	

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>The Regulations transpose the EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC). A key requirement set out in the Regulations is the Waste Hierarchy, to prioritise the disposal route of waste as follows: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, recovery, disposal. The Regulations also set out the requirements for handling waste and recycling, including the separate collection of waste paper, metal, plastic and glass. The Regulations were adopted in 2011 and amended in 2014.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should promote the application of the waste hierarchy, increase resource efficiency to reduce waste and provide for enhanced recycling and recovery opportunities.</p>
<p>Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002</p>	
<p>The Regulations set out a pollution control regime for landfills for the purpose of implementing the Landfill Directive 99/31/EC in England and Wales.</p>	<p>The KMWLP must ensure that any applications for landfill development comply with the pollution control provisions of the Regulations.</p>
<p>The Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources Regulations 2011</p>	
<p>The Regulations transpose EU Energy and renewable sources Directive (2009/28/EC) into UK law, which aim to increase renewable energy generation.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should promote the use of renewable energy from waste and wastewater management to contribute to the achievement of the stated national targets of 32% renewable energy by 2030 and net-zero by 2050.</p>
<p>County Policy Documents</p>	
<p>Kent Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2017-2023</p>	
<p>The aims of the local strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support and improve the safety and wellbeing of Kent’s residents and the economy of Kent through appropriate flood risk management;</li> <li>• To ensure that we all work together effectively to understand and deliver appropriate flood risk management in Kent</li> <li>• To contribute to sustainable development, regeneration and land management in Kent through the promotion of sustainable flood risk management practices that utilise natural processes where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p>The KMWLP must ensure that minerals and waste developments do not increase flood risk in the county or beyond, manage risks appropriately and where possible contribute to an overall reduction in flood risk.</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>The strategy has four objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding flood risks - continue to monitor and record flooding and there remain opportunities to improve our understanding across our partners, to broaden the range of techniques available to manage flooding and identify opportunities for more parties to be involved in flood risk management.</li> <li>• Reduce the risk of flooding - work in partnership to reduce the risk of flooding on people and businesses in Kent through the delivery of cost-effective flood risk management projects and programmes.</li> <li>• Resilient planning - ensure that development and spatial planning in Kent takes account of flood risk issues and plans to effectively manage any impacts.</li> <li>• Resilient communities - ensure that residents and local communities are supported to understand their own flood risks and help them to identify how they can play a part in managing it.</li> </ul>	
<p>Kent Biodiversity Strategy, Kent Nature Partnership, 2020</p>	
<p>The Kent Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2045, published February 2020, aims to deliver, over a 25 year period, the maintenance, restoration and creation of habitats that are thriving with wildlife and plants and ensure that the county's terrestrial, freshwater, intertidal and marine environments regain and retain good health.</p> <p>The Strategy looks to protect and recover threatened species and enhance the wildlife habitats that Kent is particularly important for. It also aims to provide a natural environment that inspires citizen engagement and is well used and appreciated, so</p>	<p>The KMWLP should ensure that developments in Kent conserve and where possible enhance biodiversity value. It should preserve and, where practicable, promote access to green spaces for citizens.</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>that the mental and physical health benefits of such a connection can be realised by the people of Kent.</p> <p>This will be achieved through the delivery of the following goals in Kent for 2045:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A rich and growing terrestrial biodiversity, underpinned by more resilient and coherent ecological networks and healthy, well-functioning ecosystems.</li> <li>• Clean, plentiful and biologically diverse freshwater and intertidal ecosystems underpinned by implementation of a catchment-based approach.</li> <li>• A reverse in the loss of marine biodiversity and delivering clean, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas through good management.</li> <li>• The widest possible range of ages and backgrounds will be benefiting from the mental and physical health benefits of the natural environment; and we will have inspired the next generation to take on guardianship of the county’s biodiversity.</li> </ul>	
<p>Kent Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, KCC, undated</p>	
<p>The strategy seeks the following outcomes, as informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has the best start in life</li> <li>• Effective prevention of ill health by people taking greater responsibility for their health and wellbeing</li> <li>• The quality of life for people with long term conditions is enhanced and they have access to good quality care and support</li> <li>• People with mental health issues are supported to ‘live well’</li> </ul>	<p>The KMWLP should ensure that development is managed in a way that does not adversely affect public health or exacerbate health inequalities.</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People with dementia are assessed and treated earlier, and are supported to 'live well'</li> </ul> <p>These are supported by four priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tackle key health issues where Kent is performing worse than the England average</li> <li>▪ Tackle health inequalities</li> <li>▪ Tackle the gaps in provision</li> <li>▪ Transform services to improve outcomes, patient experience and value for money</li> </ul>	
Local Transport Plan 2016-31, Kent County Council	
<p>The strategic priorities of the Local Transport Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new Lower Thames Crossing;</li> <li>• Bifurcation of port traffic;</li> <li>• Transport infrastructure to support growth in the Thames Estuary including Crossrail extension to Ebbsfleet;</li> <li>• A solution to Operation Stack;</li> <li>• Provision for overnight lorry parking;</li> <li>• Journey time improvements and Thanet Parkway Railway Station;</li> <li>• Ashford International Station signalling;</li> <li>• Rail improvements;</li> </ul>	<p>The KMWLP should promote minerals and waste transport that maximises the use of alternatives to road transport, does not add to congestion on the road network and does not adversely affect air quality.</p>



Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus improvements.</li> </ul> <p>The strategy will be delivered by five overarching policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver resilient transport infrastructure and schemes that reduce congestion and improve journey time reliability to enable economic growth and appropriate development, meeting demand from a growing population</li> <li>• Promote affordable, accessible and connected transport to enable access for all to jobs, education, health and other services.</li> <li>• Provide a safer road, footway and cycleway network to reduce the likelihood of casualties, and encourage other transport providers to improve safety on their networks.</li> <li>• Deliver schemes to reduce the environmental footprint of transport, and enhance the historic and natural environment.</li> <li>• Provide and promote active travel choices for all members of the community to encourage good health and wellbeing, and implement measures to improve local air quality.</li> </ul>	
<p>Kent and Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework, Kent County Council, 2018 (update)</p>	
<p>Kent and Medway has set out the following action plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Defining the investment gap: We will make clear the shortfall in capital investment identified for delivering planned, high-quality growth across Kent and Medway;</li> <li>2. Pioneering a “place-based” approach: We will pioneer an approach that sees greater co-ordination of investment in homes, infrastructure and jobs to build</li> </ol>	<p>The KMWLP should support development in appropriate locations that either directly serves communities or does not affect community health and vibrancy. Energy recovery from waste should be supported wherever practicable and where supportive of the priority on climate risks and decarbonisation.</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>quality communities, and new ways of working with Government and its agencies across Kent and Medway. In this, we will work with the local planning authorities to enable coherent new towns and settlements where infrastructure is available to support, but recognise where infrastructure is insufficient to accommodate further growth;</p> <p>3. Exploring innovation in financing the funding gap: We will explore new ways of closing the funding gap and ways of working with Government and other potential funders in addressing the shortfall in capital funding;</p> <p>4. Commercial supply and demand: We will work with local partners to develop key actions to respond to the gaps identified between the supply and demand of commercial space, such as through encouraging speculative commercial development or funding incentives;</p> <p>5. Future-proofing Kent and Medway’s infrastructure: We will future-proof the infrastructure we deliver today to the greatest extent possible, building in resilience, innovation and flexibility;</p> <p>6. Creating well-designed communities: We will work with local partners and the industry in ensuring high-quality, innovative and inclusive design across the County;</p> <p>7. Collaborating with infrastructure providers: We will work and liaise with the utilities companies, the health sector and other providers to ensure that their medium- to long-term planning aligns with Kent and Medway’s growth agenda;</p> <p>8. Creating an increasingly robust evidence base: For the GIF to continue to be a valuable tool in helping us understand the county-wide growth agenda and</p>	

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>associated delivery challenges, we will continue to develop and evolve the Framework, working with partners.</p> <p>Priorities for delivery include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Becoming adaptable to new technologies, a rise in electric vehicles, a growing and ageing population, climate risks, decarbonisation and a growing energy demand;</li> <li>• Increasing resilience to changes in climate, economic uncertainty (Brexit), population growth and increased financial pressure on services;</li> <li>• Becoming more connected to growth in technology, AI and automation, broad-band demand, changes in work patterns and employment.</li> </ul>	
<p>Kent Waste Disposal Strategy 2017-2035, Kent County Council</p>	
<p>The ambition is to deliver a high quality household waste disposal service, whilst remaining cost-effective for the people of Kent, with an emphasis on waste reduction, reuse, recycling and achieving zero landfill. The strategy highlights six policy priorities and identifies a number of objectives to support each policy.</p> <p>Priority 1 The Environment: We will deliver services which mitigate impacts on or from the environment and climate change.</p> <p>Objective A: Continue to support and contribute to the implementation of the Kent Environment Strategy through our waste disposal activities.</p> <p>Objective B: Maximise reuse and recycling and eliminate waste to landfill in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy.</p>	<p>The KMWLP should ensure that waste development supports the priorities and objectives of the Strategy, in particular ensuring that development has no adverse environmental effects, minimises greenhouse gas emissions and is resilient to the effects of future changes in climate.</p>

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>Objective C: Work as part of the KRP to support waste prevention initiatives including lobbying and working with manufacturers to minimise waste and packaging.</p> <p>Objective D: Ensure materials are segregated at our HWRCs in line with legislative requirements.</p> <p>Objective E: Take action to reduce the negative impacts that our service has on the environment and support approaches to reduce or enforce against environmental crime.</p> <p>Objective F: Continue to explore opportunities for alternative uses for those closed landfill sites that KCC has responsibility for, and continue to monitor them to ensure they are safe for the environment.</p> <p>Priority 2 Working Together: We will work together with our key partners on projects to deliver our ambition.</p> <p>Objective A: Continue to work as part of the KRP and individually with district and borough councils where appropriate, to deliver high quality and cost effective services for Kent residents.</p> <p>Objective B: Work with Kent Parish Councils, Town Councils and community groups to share information with residents, and gather their views and opinions in order to help improve the service.</p> <p>Objective C: Work with the companies that manage our HWRCs and final waste disposal sites to deliver high quality, safe and fit for purpose services, embracing innovation and keeping the customer (including the district and borough councils) at the heart of the service.</p>	

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>Objective D: Work closely and share ideas with other Waste Disposal Authorities (WDAs) to understand where opportunities may exist to work together to improve services for everyone.</p> <p>Objective E: Embrace opportunities to work with and learn from other organisations in the UK and beyond, where their innovative thinking could have a positive impact on our service.</p> <p>Priority 3 Innovation and Change: The services we design and provide will be resilient through accommodating change and growth.</p> <p>Objective A: Ensure we have the capacity needed to deal with Kent’s household waste, with final disposal points located where the evidence shows they need to be.</p> <p>Objective B: Household Waste Recycling Centres and Waste Transfer Stations will be located where the evidence shows they need to be.</p> <p>Objective C: Use technologies to ensure waste materials are recycled and reused in the most efficient and effective way, whilst ensuring minimal impacts on the environment.</p> <p>Objective D: Take actions to stop trade waste from illegally entering our HWRCs.</p> <p>Objective E: Ensure a trade waste disposal service is provided for small businesses in Kent, where evidence shows there is the need and demand.</p> <p>Objective F: Investigate the use of our HWRCs by people who do not live in Kent, and where our residents are using HWRCs outside of the county (including Medway). This will help us to understand the impact on our service and opportunities for change.</p>	

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<p>Priority 4 HWRC Service Delivery: We will provide a cost effective service, which meets the needs of our customers.</p> <p>Objective A: Work as part of the KRP to encourage residents to use the most cost effective and environmentally sound means of disposal for different waste materials; whether it is through kerbside collections, HWRCs or other recycling or reuse services.</p> <p>Objective B: HWRCs will be open when the evidence shows they need to be.</p> <p>Objective C: Household Waste will be accepted free of charge. Charges may be made for non-household waste where lawful and appropriate to do so.</p> <p>Priority 5 Customer service: We will provide an accessible service whilst encouraging customers to reuse and recycle, and let people know what happens to their waste.</p> <p>Objective A: Work with the companies that manage our HWRCs to ensure high levels of customer service and evaluate and monitor customer feedback.</p> <p>Objective B: Ensure that the HWRC workforce is appropriately trained and skilled to do the best possible job.</p> <p>Objective C: Ensure that all residents are able to safely access our HWRCs and receive a positive and consistent level of service.</p> <p>Objective D: Increase recycling rates and help public understanding by providing information to customers to explain what happens to their waste.</p> <p>Objective E: Ensure individuals understand the environmental and financial impacts and consequences of disposing of their waste incorrectly or illegally.</p>	

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<p>Objective F: Ensure information about the HWRC service is communicated to residents across a variety of channels.</p> <p>Objective G: Work as part of the KRP to encourage waste prevention, reuse and recycling through targeted campaigns, understanding how people like to receive information.</p> <p>Priority 6 Commissioning: Our commissioning and contract management approach will provide a quality and value for money service.</p> <p>Objective A: Continue to explore opportunities for the best models to deliver the household waste disposal service.</p> <p>Objective B: Commission, design and deliver services with our partners including the district and borough councils and the market to achieve the greatest savings, innovations and value for money for the Kent taxpayer.</p> <p>Objective C: Use high quality data from within KCC, the district and borough councils and from our providers to inform our approach to commissioning and procurement. We will tell potential providers what our end goal is, allowing them to suggest how we reach it.</p> <p>Objective D: When required, improve the quality and range of bids submitted by working with our KCC procurement team to provide support to organisations to help them to understand how our procurement processes work.</p> <p>Objective E: Engage with waste companies at the earliest opportunity to understand views, challenges, innovation and key market drivers to provide us with the information we need to make the best decisions about how to deliver our services.</p>	

Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<p>Objective F: Ensure that where possible, the services we commission provide wider benefit to the local community.</p> <p>Objective G: To ensure a sustainable household waste disposal service, share commercial risks and benefits with our providers and district and borough councils where appropriate.</p> <p>Objective H: Ensure the contracts or agreements we have in place deliver what they set out to do, through ongoing monitoring and evaluation, excellent contract management and positive relationship building.</p>	
<p>Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2018/19 to 2020/21, Kent Resource Partnership, 2019</p>	
<p>The Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) will support the transformation of Kent into a circular economy, where the value of material resources flowing into and through the region are retained, generating employment, skills and training opportunities, and realising wider economic, environmental, health and wellbeing benefits for the local and regional community and beyond.</p> <p>The KRP is committed to delivering efficiency and quality in resource management and waste services, with focus on: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximising the 'value' of resources that we manage from households, in terms of realising the social, environmental and economic opportunities;</li> <li>• Providing the best possible value for money service to the Kent taxpayer, taking into account whole service costs;</li> <li>• Realising opportunities to improve services now and in the future through engagement, collaboration and working in partnership with the supply chain; and</li> </ul>	<p>The KMWLP should support development that helps to deliver the targets in the Strategy, in particular continuing to meet the target for landfill of waste.</p>



Key Relevant Policy Objectives	Implications for KMWLP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting future thinking through ongoing research and evidence that will facilitate the transition into a circular economy for Kent.</li> </ul> <p>Up until 2020/21, the KRP will achieve a year on year reduction to its Kent-wide residual household waste per household (kg/h'hold) tonnage.</p> <p>By 2020/21, the KRP will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recycle and compost at least 50% of household waste tonnage</li> <li>ensure no more than 5% of Kent's municipal waste ends at landfill.</li> <li>develop a joint approach to facilitate the procurement of third sector/reuse providers/charities in managing and delivering a reuse service for bulky waste.</li> </ul> <p>The KRP will explore the possibility of implementing recycling on-the-go initiatives, and other similar activities aimed at recovering resources. Additionally, the KRP will look to engage and work with the supply chain to deliver recycling on-the-go in keys areas.</p> <p>The KRP will publish its Materials End Destinations Publication on an annual basis and continue its transparent approach to reflect where all material resources end up.</p>	
Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy, 2020	
<p>The vision is that, by 2050 the county of Kent has reduced emissions to net-zero and is benefiting from a competitive, innovative and resilient low carbon economy, where no deaths are associated with poor air quality.</p> <p>The Strategy has four strategic aims:</p>	

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<p>1. Evidence: Provide an ongoing evidence and intelligence base; linking data sets to identify hot spots and opportunities, and to build the business case for action across Kent and Medway</p> <p>2. Policy and strategy: Facilitate the development of evidence- based policy and strategy to future-proof economic recovery, tackle emerging issues and realise opportunities</p> <p>3. Leadership: Support the public sector across Kent and Medway to play a strong leadership role with regards to challenges and opportunities</p> <p>4. Action: Facilitate increased and accelerated action and implementation across Kent and Medway</p> <p>Ten priority areas have been identified to deliver the vision. These include Priority 3 on planning and development, which aims to ensure climate change, energy, air quality and environmental considerations are integrated into Local Plans, policies and developments, by developing a clean growth strategic planning policy and guidance framework for Kent and Medway, to drive down emissions and incorporate climate resilience. It seeks to achieve new developments in the county that are sustainable, carbon neutral and climate resilient.</p> <p>It also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 4 on renewable energy generation, seeking the outcome that the county is an exemplar for renewable energy generation, producing more low carbon energy than it consumes and stimulating enhanced renewable energy supply chain opportunities that will support a green recovery.</li> <li>• Priority 8 on green infrastructure, seeking increased capacity for Kent and Medway’s natural environment to store carbon and offset the county’s</li> </ul>	

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<p>greenhouse gas emissions: bringing additional benefits such as reduced air and water pollution, increased flood storage capacity, improved biodiversity and providing health, cultural and leisure opportunities for local communities.</p>	