



Hart District Local Plan: Core Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

(incorporating Strategic Environmental  
Assessment)

April 2014

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## I INTRODUCTION

### Background

- I.1 A Local Plan can comprise either a single or multiple documents which together guide the future of development in the District and provide the planning framework within which this will be delivered.
- I.2 The Hart District Local Plan Core Strategy is a document which will contain the overarching strategic policies, site allocations and some development management policies which will influence development in the District until 2032. This will replace some of the policies from the currently adopted Local Plan<sup>1</sup> whilst remaining saved policies will stay in place until they are cancelled or are replaced by new policies in other Local Plan documents.

### Sustainable Development

- I.3 The term “sustainable development” has been used in policy-making since 1987 following the publication of the World Commission on Environment and Development Report ‘Our Common Future’<sup>2</sup>, commonly referred to as the Brundtland Report. The report developed guiding principles for sustainable development as it is generally understood today, and contained the following definition of sustainable development:

***“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”***

- I.4 The concept of sustainable development gained additional momentum after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, which encouraged the UK government to develop its own themes for sustainable development. The initial themes for sustainable development were presented in a document entitled ‘A Better Quality of Life: a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the United Kingdom’<sup>3</sup>. This was updated in 2005, when the Government produced a new UK framework for sustainable development ‘Securing the Future’<sup>4</sup>. This document listed the following five principles of sustainable development which are used to guide the implementation of sustainable development in the UK:
  - Living within environmental limits;
  - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
  - Achieving a sustainable economy;

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<sup>1</sup> The adopted Local Plan is made up of saved policies from the Hart District Local Plan (Replacement) 1996-2006, adopted Dec 2002, and the First Alterations document adopted June 2006. The saved policies can be viewed in the Saved Policies document available on the Hart District Council Local Plan web page.

<sup>2</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) ‘Our Common Future’

<sup>3</sup> Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (1999) ‘A Better Quality of Life: a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the United Kingdom’

<sup>4</sup> HM Government (2005) ‘Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy’

- Promoting good governance; and
- Using sound science responsibly.

I.5 More recently, the UK Government has published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>5</sup>. Paragraphs 18-219 of the NPPF indicate the Government's view of what sustainable development in England means for the planning system, but three dimensions are specifically highlighted, giving rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

- **"an economic role** - contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
- **a social role** - supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- **an environmental role** - contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy." (CLG, 2012).

## **Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

I.6 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required in the UK by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004<sup>6</sup>. All Local Plans are subject to SA. The SA considers how the principles of sustainable development have been taken into account in the development of the Local Plan Core Strategy.

I.7 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required in the EU by an EU Directive, commonly referred to as the "SEA Directive"<sup>7</sup>, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Plans and programmes with the potential to have significant environmental effects (positive or negative) are required to undergo SEA. All Local Plans are considered to have the potential for significant environmental effects.

I.8 SA and SEA are required by separate legislation, however, as there are many cross-overs between the two processes, they are usually undertaken together. This approach has been taken for the Local Plan Core Strategy, therefore where SA is referred to, this incorporates the requirements of SEA. A Quality Assurance Checklist is provided in **Appendix I** which will

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<sup>5</sup> CLG (2012) 'National Planning Policy Framework'

<sup>6</sup> HM Government (2004) 'Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004'

<sup>7</sup> EU (2001) 'Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment'

be used throughout the SA process to highlight how the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met.

### Stages of the SA Process

1.9 There are several stages to the SA process. Table 1.1 sets out these stages and indicates how these relate to the different stages of preparing a document such as a Local Plan.

**Table 1.1 Incorporating SA within the Local Plan Core Strategy Process**

<b>Local Plan Stage 1: Pre-production – Evidence Gathering</b>	
<b>SA stages and tasks</b>	<b>Output</b>
<p><b>Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A1:</b> Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives</li> <li>• <b>A2:</b> Collecting baseline information</li> <li>• <b>A3:</b> Identifying sustainability issues and problems</li> <li>• <b>A4:</b> Developing the SA framework</li> <li>• <b>A5:</b> Consulting on the scope of the SA</li> </ul>	<b>SA Scoping Report</b>
<b>Local Plan Stage 2: Production</b>	
<b>SA stages and tasks</b>	<b>Output</b>
<p><b>Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>B1:</b> Testing the Local Plan objectives against the SA framework</li> <li>• <b>B2:</b> Developing and refining the Local Plan options</li> <li>• <b>B3:</b> Predicting the effects of the Local Plan</li> <li>• <b>B4:</b> Evaluating the effects of the Local Plan</li> <li>• <b>B5:</b> Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects</li> <li>• <b>B6:</b> Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan</li> </ul>	<p><b>SA Report accompanying Draft Local Plan Core Strategy / Preferred Approach document</b></p> <p><b>&amp;</b></p> <p><b>SA Report accompanying Pre-Submission document</b></p>
<p><b>Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>C1:</b> Preparing the SA Report</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Stage D: Consulting on the Local Plan and SA Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>D1:</b> Consultation on the Preferred Approach Local Plan and accompanying SA Report</li> <li>• <b>D2:</b> Consultation on the Pre-Submission Local Plan and accompanying SA Report</li> </ul>	
<b>Local Plan Stage 3: Examination</b>	
<b>SA stages and tasks</b>	<b>Output</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>D3:</b> Appraising significant changes resulting from representations</li> </ul>	<b>Report on any significant changes</b>
<b>Local Plan Stage 4: Adoption and monitoring</b>	
<b>SA stages and tasks</b>	<b>Output</b>

<b>Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>E1:</b> Finalising aims and methods for monitoring</li><li>• <b>E2:</b> Responding to adverse effects</li></ul>	<b>Monitoring Reports</b>
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I.10 This SA Scoping Report represents stage A. The following section will outline in more detail the methodology that has been followed for this SA Scoping Report.

## 2 STAGE A: SCOPING

### Introduction

2.1 This section of the report sets out how the scoping stage of the SA has been carried out, with reference to tasks listed under Stage A in Table I.1 in the previous section.

### Task A1: Identify relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives

2.2 This task requires a review of policies, plans and programmes relevant to the Local Plan Core Strategy to establish the sustainability objectives which need to be considered.

2.3 A comprehensive review of relevant policies, plans and programmes, highlighting their key sustainability objectives is provided in **Appendix 2** of this document. This information will be reviewed when producing future iterations of the SA, as it is likely that further related policies, plans and programmes will emerge during the preparation of the Local Plan Core Strategy. Table 2.1 below lists all the documents included, separated into the categories of: international, national, regional, sub-regional and local.

**Table 2.1 Key Plans and Programmes Relevant to the Local Plan Core Strategy**

International and European
UNFCC (1997) Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNESCO (1972) World Heritage Convention
EU (1991) Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste-water treatment
EU (1991) Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources
EU (1992) Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna
EU (2000) Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy
EU (2008) Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe
EU (2008) Directive 2008/98/EC on waste and repealing certain Directives
EU (2009) Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources
EU (2009) Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds
EU (2010) Europe 2020 – EU Growth Strategy
EU (2006) EU Sustainable Development Strategy
EU (2011) EU Transport White Paper, Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system
EU (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020
Council of Europe (2006) European Landscape Convention
National
CLG (2012) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

JNCC & Defra (2012) UK Post-2013 Biodiversity Framework
HM Government (2005) Securing the Future: delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy
Department for Transport (2011) Cutting Carbon, Creating Growth White Paper
DEFRA (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
DEFRA (1981, as amended) Wildlife and Countryside Act
TCPA (2004) Biodiversity by Design: A Guide for Sustainable Communities
Natural England (2008) Securing Biodiversity: A New Framework for Delivering Priority Species and Habitats in England
DEFRA (2007) England's Trees, Woods and Forests Strategy
HM Government (2011) The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature, The Natural Environment White Paper
HM Government (2008) Climate Change Act
HM Government (2009) Renewable Energy Strategy
Department for Education (2010) The Importance of Teaching, The Schools White Paper
Department of Health (2010) Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England White Paper
<b>Regional</b>
GOSE (2009) The South East Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East of England [ <i>Mostly revoked, but policy NRM6 retained</i> ]
Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) (2013) Draft Strategic Economic Plan
Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) (2013) Strategy for Growth
Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) (2013) Draft Skills and Employment Strategy
<b>Sub-Regional</b>
Environment Agency (2009) Thames River Basin Management Plan
Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership (1997) The Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire
Hampshire County Council (2011) Hampshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031
Hampshire County Council (2013) Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan
Hampshire County Council (2013) Hampshire Strategic Infrastructure Statement
Hampshire Health and Well-Being Board (2013) Hampshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board (2009) Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework
<b>Local</b>
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2013) Local Plan Pre-Submission document
Bracknell Forest Borough Council Core Strategy (adopted 2008) and Site Allocations DPD (adopted 2013)
East Hampshire District Council (2012) Submission Draft Joint Core Strategy
Hart District Council (2012) Draft Corporate Plan 2012-15
Hart District Council (2012) Draft Hart Biodiversity Action Plan
Hart District Council (2008) Hart Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-18
Hart District Council (First Revision Adopted 2010) Interim Avoidance Strategy for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area
The Conservation Studio (2010) Hart District Urban Characterisation and Density Study

Scott Wilson (1997) Hart Landscape Character Assessment
Hart District Council (2012) Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment
Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners (2009) Employment Land Review
Runnymede Borough Council (2013) Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document
Rushmoor Borough Council (2011) Core Strategy (adopted)
Surrey Heath Borough Council (2012) Core Strategy (adopted)
West Berkshire Council (2012) Core Strategy (adopted)
Wokingham Borough Council Core Strategy (adopted 2010) and Managing Development Delivery DPD (adopted 2014)

### Task A2: Collecting baseline information

- 2.4 This task requires the collection of baseline information about the plan area, and anywhere outside the plan area which may be relevant. This helps to set out the current situation in the District and how conditions are likely to evolve over time. This information is then used to help identify the key issues and problems facing the District, and to inform the assessment of the Local Plan Core Strategy.
- 2.5 Baseline information has been collected from a number of sources, notably the Council's Geographical Information System (GIS), and the evidence base which has been collected to inform the preparation of the Local Plan Core Strategy. Up-to-date information is used where possible, but only information which was readily available could be used.
- 2.6 There is a vast amount of information available about the District, and rather than repeat this in this document, the key aspects have been drawn out, and are presented as the key issues and problems facing the District under the next section (Task A3). More detailed information, including maps of constraints, is provided in **Appendix 3**. Gaps in information are identified where they exist.
- 2.7 Further information will be added to the baseline information section as more evidence is collected and presented in later iterations of the SA.

### Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems

- 2.8 This task requires the identification of key sustainability issues and problems relevant to the plan in question, based on the review of plans and programmes and the baseline information collected as part of the previous tasks. The key sustainability issues and characteristics which have been identified are listed in Table 2.2 below.

**Table 2.2 Key Sustainability Issues and Characteristics in Hart**

<b>Settlements</b>
There are pressures on existing settlement boundaries as a result of a limited supply of brownfield land to meet needs
<b>Population &amp; Housing</b>

The population is increasingly ageing
House prices are high and there is a shortfall of affordable housing
There is a need for homes suitable for people with a disability and/or older people
Additional provision of sites for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople may be required
<b>Health and Well-Being, Cultural Activity, Leisure, and Recreation</b>
There is a need for additional cultural, leisure, and recreational facilities and enhancements to existing facilities
<b>Poverty and Crime</b>
Generally wealthy population – the least deprived District in the Country
Low and decreasing crime rates but fear of crime remains, particularly after dark
<b>Character, Vitality and Viability</b>
The centres of some of Hart’s main settlements would benefit from regeneration
The vitality and viability of Hart’s town, village and local centres is threatened by the presence of larger centres outside the District
There is a need for additional convenience floorspace (particularly in Fleet)
For rural facilities to remain these will require continued use by local communities
<b>Historic Environment</b>
There are important historical assets in Hart, particularly in and adjacent to Hartley Wintney and Odiham, and some of the smaller rural settlements
<b>Biodiversity</b>
The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area is a significant constraint to development within Hart, particularly in the north-east and east of the District
There are various sites designated for nature conservation across the District which affect all the main settlements
<b>Landscape</b>
The landscape is largely rural and encompasses a range of landscape types; there are no statutory landscape designations
<b>Water Quality</b>
The quality of water in some waterbodies within the District need to be improved to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive
<b>Soil Quality</b>
There are large areas of best and most versatile land (high grade agricultural land)
<b>Air Quality and Climate Change</b>
Carbon dioxide emissions per capita per household are high compared to the South East and UK averages
<b>Flooding</b>
There are small areas with a higher risk of fluvial flooding and these affect all of Hart’s main settlements, particularly Yateley and Blackwater
There are some areas which are susceptible to surface water and groundwater flooding
<b>Energy and Resource Use and Renewable Energy Generation</b>
There is a high demand for gas and electricity in homes in Hart compared to the South East and UK averages, but also scope for renewable energy provision
Hart is in an area which has historically experienced serious water stress
<b>Previously Developed Land</b>
There is a limited supply of brownfield land available for development inadequate to meet needs

<b>Transport</b>
More than half of residents commute <i>out</i> of Hart for work, but half of the District's workforce commute <i>into</i> the District from nearby areas
The rural nature of the District and commuting patterns make sustainable travel difficult, therefore most commuting is done by car
Travel demand is increasing leading to congestion on the roads and trains, and at railway car parks
<b>Education</b>
There is pressure on school places in some parts of the district
<b>The Economy</b>
The employment rate is high compared to national, regional and county averages, and the unemployment rate is low
Wages are high compared to the Hampshire and South East averages, but some people commute out of the District for higher paid work
There is a surplus of office space, some of which is outdated/obsolete but there is a small shortfall of industrial space
There is also a need for suitable accommodation for start up and young businesses

#### **Task A4: Developing the SA Framework**

- 2.9 The SA framework is made up of a number of SA objectives which are then used to test the policies, options and proposals of the plan against. The SA objectives have been produced based on the review of plans and programmes and the baseline information mentioned in the previous tasks.
- 2.10 In some cases, SA objectives can be scoped out as not being relevant to a particular document, but in the case of the Local Plan Core Strategy, it is considered that all the SA objectives are relevant, therefore the full list of 21 objectives have been used to make up the SA framework. The SA objectives are listed below in Table 2.3 (see page 11), whilst the full SA Framework can be found at Appendix 4.
- 2.11 The full SA Framework consists of the SA objectives, preliminary SA decision making criteria, indicators, existing targets and a list of documents which will be used to aid SA assessment.

##### Preliminary SA Decision Making Criteria

- 2.12 The preliminary SA decision making criteria are a series of questions which arise from the SA objectives. These questions will be used when assessing policies and proposals contained within the Local Plan Core Strategy against each of the 21 SA Objectives. It is clear when reviewing the objectives, that a single objective may cover a number of important issues. In such cases the criteria will assist in providing greater definition to the individual components of that objective, and ensure that the SA assessment considers all elements of the wider objective. The provision of the decision making criteria is also considered to aid transparency in the SA process, by outlining the likely considerations which will be taking place when assessing a policy or proposal against each of the 21 SA objectives.

- 2.13 It is also considered that the preliminary SA decision making criteria will assist the Council in drawing out subtle but important differences between the sustainability performances of policies and proposals, which on face value may otherwise present similar scorings against the SA objectives. It is envisaged that this fine grained approach will be particularly important with regards to the sustainability appraisal of development sites within the district, particularly where sites may pose similar characteristics.
- 2.14 It is important to note that the preliminary decision making criteria provided in this scoping report will be likely to evolve following feedback from the statutory consultees and other relevant bodies, and as the evidence base emerges and draws out the likely significant effects which the introduction of the plan could present. Any changes from the current consultation will be clearly outlined in future iterations of the SA.
- 2.15 Additionally, it is also important to note that the decision-making criteria relate only to decisions being made within the SA assessment process in appraising the sustainability of sites and policies. It does not form the basis for plan related decision-making in terms of whether or not a site, policy or option will be included within the plan. Rather, the findings of the SA (and that of the evidence base) will collectively be used to *inform* the decisions relating to the content of the plan.

#### Indicators and Targets

- 2.16 The SA Framework also provides a series of indicators, which relate back to each of the decision making criterion which have been produced. These provide suggestions of how each sustainability consideration could be measured. The 'targets' column then outlines where targets (whether nationally or locally derived) currently exist in association with each of the indicators. In many instances, no targets have been identified in correlation with the issue raised, either because a target would be inappropriate for the issue or because one does not exist. For some issues, further targets will be identified as the plan emerges and starts proposing target / requirement based policies.
- 2.17 The indicators and targets identified are likely to evolve as further baseline information and evidence is collected and as sustainability issues and challenges are identified. As the SA process progresses, the indicators and targets will be refined and utilised in establishing a monitoring programme for measuring the significant effects of implementing the plan.

#### Documents to aid SA Assessment

- 2.18 The full SA Framework also clarifies the evidence base documents, which will be used to aid decisions in SA assessment. The documents listed will be supplemented and where necessary replaced by new evidence as it emerges. This is to be expected on the basis that an evidence base will evolve during

plan making and the fact that the SA is an iterative process. Where changes have occurred in the evidence base being used to inform the SA process, these will be made clear within the latest SA report.

**Table 2.3 SA Objectives**

<b>Hart District Council SA Objectives</b>
<b>SA1</b> To provide all residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home which meets their needs
<b>SA2</b> To protect and enhance the health and well-being of the population
<b>SA3</b> To encourage increased engagement in cultural activity, leisure, and recreation across all sections of the community
<b>SA4</b> To reduce inequality, poverty and social exclusion
<b>SA5</b> To improve community safety by reducing crime and the fear of crime
<b>SA6</b> To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive settlements and communities
<b>SA7</b> To protect and enhance the District's historic environment
<b>SA8</b> To protect and enhance biodiversity
<b>SA9</b> To protect and enhance the District's countryside and rural landscape
<b>SA10</b> To maintain and improve the water quality of the District's rivers and groundwaters and other water bodies
<b>SA11</b> To maintain and improve soil quality
<b>SA12</b> To reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases and manage the impacts of climate change
<b>SA13</b> To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to the local community, environment and economy
<b>SA14</b> To increase energy efficiency, security and diversity of supply and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources
<b>SA15</b> To promote the efficient use of land through the appropriate re-use of previously developed land
<b>SA16</b> To improve the efficiency of resource use and achieve sustainable resource management
<b>SA17</b> To improve accessibility to all services and facilities
<b>SA18</b> To improve efficiency of transport networks by enhancing the proportion of travel by sustainable modes and promoting policies which reduce the need to travel
<b>SA19</b> To maintain and improve opportunities for everyone to acquire the education and skills they need to find and remain in work
<b>SA20</b> To maintain high and stable levels of employment and promote sustainable economic growth and competitiveness
<b>SA21</b> To stimulate regeneration where appropriate and encourage urban renaissance

2.19 When the policies or options of the plan are assessed, scores are awarded against each of the SA objectives. The scores are chosen from the following Scoring Mechanism:

**Table 2.4 Scoring Mechanism**

<b>Scoring</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>+++</b>	Major positive effect – proposed approach likely to contribute significantly to meeting this SA objective
<b>++</b>	Moderate positive effect – proposed approach likely to contribute moderately to meeting this SA objective
<b>+</b>	Minor positive effect – proposed approach likely to contribute slightly to meeting this SA objective
<b>0</b>	Neutral / No impact – proposed approach unlikely to have any effect on meeting this SA objective
<b>-</b>	Minor negative effect - proposed approach likely to slightly hinder meeting this SA objective
<b>--</b>	Moderate negative effect – proposed approach likely to moderately hinder meeting this SA objective
<b>---</b>	Major negative effect – proposed approach likely to significantly hinder meeting this SA objective
<b>?</b>	Uncertain – effects on the SA objective unclear

2.20 The assessment of the policies and options of the plan uses the SA objectives listed in Table 2.3 above and is informed by the information collected at previous stages, notably the review of plans and programmes, and the baseline data. However, it is also based on the professional judgement of officers at Hart District Council.

2.21 The SA scoring is not a quantitative process but a qualitative one, and therefore does not entail simply adding up how many pluses an option has over another, it also involves in-depth analysis which accompanies the assessment in order to help interpret the results and to inform decision-making. A single negative score against an objective could be so significant that even if other scores are positive, an option may be rejected, or a policy may require amendment. Alternatively a negative score could be justifiable or could be effectively mitigated and not require any changes to be made.

2.22 The full results of the SA are provided in tables such as the one in Table 2.5 below, including an explanation as to why each score has been awarded, how likely the effects are to occur, the spatial scale of the effects predicted, the permanence of the effects predicted, and how long term they are thought likely to be.

**Table 2.5 Example Scoring Table**

SA Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
<b>SA1</b> To provide all residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home which meets their needs	<b>++</b>	<p><b>Comments:</b> This policy will help to meet Hart’s housing needs.</p> <p><b>Likelihood of significant effect:</b> Likely</p> <p><b>Spatial Scale:</b> Hart District</p> <p><b>Temporary/Permanent:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Short, medium, long term:</b> Medium to long term</p>
<b>SA2</b> To protect and enhance the health and well-being of the population	etc	

**Task A5: Consulting on the Scope of the SA**

2.23 SA Scoping Reports are required to be consulted upon for a minimum of five weeks. The statutory environmental consultees (Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage) are to be consulted as well as other relevant organisations and the general public.

### 3 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE TASKS

#### Conclusion

- 3.1 This Scoping Report represents the findings of the stage A tasks undertaken for the SA of the Local Plan Core Strategy.
- 3.2 **This document is now subject to public consultation from 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014.** Please email any comments to the planning policy team at [planningpolicy@hart.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@hart.gov.uk) or if you prefer to respond in writing send comments to the following address:

Planning Policy Team  
Hart District Council  
Civic Offices  
Harlington Way  
Fleet  
Hants  
GU51 4AE

- 3.3 If you have any questions about this document please use the contact details above or alternatively call the planning policy team on 01252 774118.

#### Future Tasks

- 3.4 Following the consultation period, responses will be considered. Changes made will be reflected in future iterations of the SA. As part of the plan making process the Council is looking to undertake an early consultation on a Development Options Consultation Paper, which will assess the opportunities available for delivering growth within the District and ensuring early public involvement in this decision. A Sustainability Appraisal Report will be presented as part of this process, so that the likely significant effects of the options being explored can be fully appraised and to ensure that this information is made available to the public. The Development Options Consultation Paper is currently scheduled to be consulted on in mid Summer 2014.