



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

ALLOCATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DPD

DRAFT OPEN SPACE ALLOCATIONS

DRAFT INTERIM SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

AUGUST 2011



ALLOCATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DPD
DRAFT OPEN SPACE ALLOCATIONS

DRAFT INTERIM SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

AUGUST 2011

CONTENTS

<u>CHAPTERS</u>	Pg
1 INTRODUCTION	4
2 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL / SEA DIRECTIVE	7
3 METHODOLOGY	9
4 ALLOCATION ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW	11
5 ASSESSMENT SUMMARY	12
6 APPRAISAL CONCLUSIONS & KEY RECOMMENDATIONS	16
APPENDIX 1 – OPEN SPACE TYPE APPRAISALS	17

1 INTRODUCTION

Local Development Framework Background

- 1.1 Sevenoaks District Council is currently preparing its Local Development Framework (LDF), which will replace the Sevenoaks District Local Plan. The LDF will comprise of two Development Plan Documents (DPDs), the adopted Core Strategy, and the emerging Allocations and Development Management DPD.
- 1.2 The objective of the Allocations and Development Management DPD will specifically be to identify new land use site allocations for housing and employment, to set out allocations for protected open areas and to set the boundaries for other land use designations such as the Green Belt and AONB. It will also provide a comprehensive set of generic development management policies to replace those currently saved from the Sevenoaks District Local Plan. These will act as the basis for determining planning applications.
- 1.3 Previously it was the intention of the Council that the Allocations and Development Management Policy DPDs would be two separate documents. However the Council have now chosen to combine them into one single DPD, to speed up production and to fill any outstanding policy gaps.
- 1.4 Prior to this decision, an option draft of the initial housing and employment allocations (known as the Allocations (Options) DPD) was subject to a public consultation and sustainability appraisal assessment between January and March 2010. This was followed up with a draft consultation on Development Management policies in May 2011.
- 1.5 The Council are now considering any outstanding site allocation issues that have yet been subject to a formal public consultation, in order to be able to progress the document to the publication stage. This process includes a consultation on areas of open space to be protected through the DPD, to which this Interim Sustainability Appraisal document relates.
- 1.6 There will be an opportunity to make representations on the publication document, which will take place in due course prior to the submission of the DPD to the Secretary of State.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.7 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, DPDs must undergo a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). Sustainability Appraisal involves the identification and evaluation of the DPDs impacts on the three elements of sustainable development those being the economic, social and environmental impacts. The SA process incorporates the requirements of European Law on

the environmental assessment of plans (referred to as the ‘Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’).

- 1.8 In 2005 Consultants Scott Wilson (who have since become part of URS) carried out a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (SA Scoping Report) on the LDF that covered the key DPDs proposed at the time, including the issues surrounding the Core Strategy. The report was updated in 2007 as the Core Strategy progressed through the production process.
- 1.9 Through this scoping process a series of key sustainability objectives were produced for the District which highlighted some of the particular sustainability priorities that the LDF should seek to address, and the monitors and targets by which they would be assessed.
- 1.10 Following the adoption of the Core Strategy, the Council produced a SA Scoping Report Update, in conjunction with consultants URS/Scott Wilson, which reviewed the baseline data and policy framework in which future DPDs will be considered. This scoping report was published for consultation in May 2011.

This Document

- 1.11 The purpose of this document is to provide an interim assessment of the sustainability issues with regard to the Draft Open Space Allocations. The document tests the approach taken to identifying open space for protection against the sustainability objectives identified through the scoping stage, with the goal of ensuring that the environmental quality and local distinctiveness of the Sevenoaks District is maintained.
- 1.12 A detailed appraisal of the types of open space to be protected has been undertaken in order to test the allocations for potential sustainability conflicts.
- 1.13 **A public consultation will take place between *** on both the draft open space allocations and this SA Report.**
- 1.14 Following these consultations a publication version of the Allocations and Development Management DPD will be prepared drawing on representations received on all of the previous consultations.
- 1.15 The publication version of the DPD will be accompanied by a full SA Report, which will be supported by documentation to demonstrate how the proposed allocations and policies were amended to take account of comments raised and mitigation measures identified from the SA.

Should you wish to comment on this SA Report, please do so in writing no later than *** 2011.

Write to:

The Planning Policy Team
Sevenoaks District Council
Council Offices
Argyle Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 1HG

E-mail: ldf.consultation@sevenoaks.gov.uk

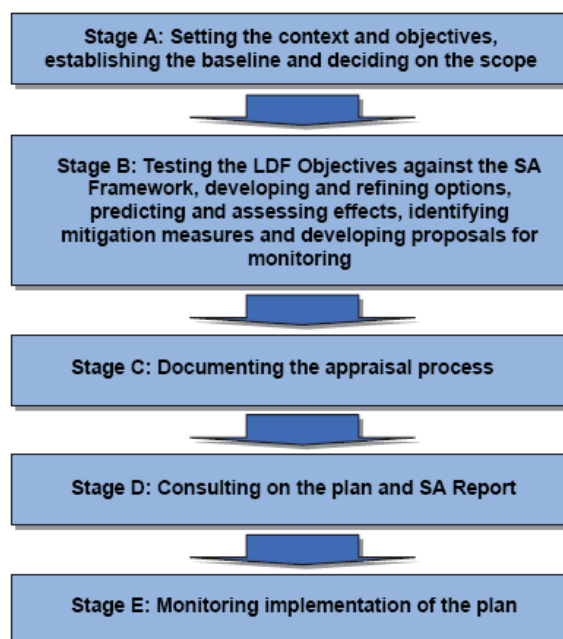
2 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL / SEA DIRECTIVE

- 2.1 By law, DPDs are subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and SA. SEA involves the systematic identification and evaluation of the environmental impacts of a strategic action (e.g. a plan or programme). In 2001, the EU legislated for SEA with the adoption of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the ‘SEA Directive’). The Directive entered into force in the UK on 21 July 2004 and applies to a range of plans and programmes including LDFs.
- 2.2 SA extends the concept of SEA fully to encompass economic and social concerns. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA), SA should be undertaken for the constituent DPDs of the LDF. SA is therefore a statutory requirement for LDFs along with SEA. The Government’s approach is to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into a wider SA process that considers economic and social as well as environmental effects. To this end, the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) Plan Making Manual provides detailed guidance as to the approach to be taken to SA and SEA. The combined SEA/SA process is referred to in this document as SA.
- 2.3 The Guidance advocates a five-stage approach to undertaking SA (see below).

Stage A involves establishing the framework for undertaking the SA – essentially a set of sustainable development objectives against which each DPD can be assessed – together with the evidence base that will help to inform the appraisal.

The subsequent stages of the SA process involve the main body of appraisal work including developing and refining options and assessing the effects.

Figure 1: The five stage approach to SA



Sevenoaks Sustainability Objectives

2.4 SA provides a continuous process that informs all stages of the plan making process, and aids the identification of potentially adverse impacts of development. In particular SA seeks to ensure that the decision-making process takes into account the Government’s key objectives of sustainable development:

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

2.5 In 2005 Consultants Scott Wilson carried out a SA Scoping Report on the LDF that covered the key DPDs proposed at the time, including the issues surrounding the Core Strategy. A set of 13 key sustainability objectives were derived as a result of this scoping exercise. Following production of the SA Scoping Report Update the Council considers them to remain relevant.

Sustainability Objectives of the LDF derived from the Scoping Stage	
1	To help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home
2	To reduce and manage the risk of flooding and any resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment
3	To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health
4	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest
5	To improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational opportunities and employment
6	To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and ensure air quality continues to improve
7	To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity
8	To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside and the historic environment
9	To reduce the need to travel, encourage alternatives to the car, and make the best use of existing transport infrastructure
10	To create a high quality built environment
11	To promote sustainable forms of development and sustainable use of natural resources
12	To encourage high and stable levels of employment and sustain economic competitiveness
13	To improve the development and retention of skills

2.6 This SA Assessment Report therefore follows the same approach to that which was adopted with the Core Strategy and Draft Policies for consultation. The appraisal assesses the open space types for their compatibility with these 13 sustainability objectives in order to evaluate whether the allocations proposed are suitable, and the most effective approach to addressing these priority areas.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Scoping is the first stage of SA that is completed before production of the plan document starts. As detailed in Chapter 1, three SA Scoping Reports have been produced as part of the LDF process, which have helped develop the approach to considering Allocations and Development Management Policies and fulfils a number of important roles that set the basis of SA for the process.
- 3.2 This Interim SA Report of the draft Open Space Allocations assessed the extent to which the draft open space allocations will help to achieve the relevant sustainability objectives of the wider Sevenoaks LDF. The appraisal is based on an assessment of each potential open space allocation type against the thirteen Sustainability Objectives set out in the LDF Scoping Report.
- 3.3 More detailed assessment will be carried out as the DPD progresses through the stages of production.

Traffic Light Assessment

- 3.4 The Interim SA uses the process of appraising open space types against the LDF sustainability objectives and utilised a traffic light assessment method to measure the impacts of policy proposals. The purpose of the traffic light assessment was to establish the positive and negative aspects of sustainability against the objectives of the LDF.
- 3.5 The traffic light system was preferred for assessing proposals rather than risk false precision by giving a numerical sustainability rating. For example if the allocations were assessed on a numerical basis rather than the traffic light system, the comparison between a score of 10 and 5 would imply that the former is twice as good as the latter, which is unlikely to be the case.
- 3.6 A guide to the traffic light approach is included below.

Guide to Traffic Light Policy Assessment

++	<i>The open space type has a very positive impact on the sustainability objective</i>
+	<i>The open space type has a positive impact on the sustainability objective</i>
0	<i>The open space type has a neutral impact on the sustainability objective</i>
-	<i>The open space type has a negative impact on the sustainability objective</i>
--	<i>The open space type has a very negative impact on the sustainability objective</i>

Assessment

- 3.7 Open Space types are considered against the sustainability objectives, and are included within the consultation document for either having been identified in the Council's evidence base through the Open Space Study (Jan 2009) or because they were previously protected under Policy EN9 of the Sevenoaks District Local Plan. Both of these documents are available on the Council's website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk.
- 3.8 All open space types have been given an initial rating using the traffic light methodology as detailed above. Where open space types are judged to receive a negative impact, this will inform future development of the allocations policy and determine whether there is a direct conflict between two separate sustainability objectives or whether the policy is negative to an extent that would warrant significant amendment or removal before the document continues through the process.

4 ALLOCATION ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

4.1 Taking into consideration the methodology described, the following matrix sets out the findings of the initial assessment and the impact of the draft open space types against their contribution and impact upon the key sustainability objectives of the LDF. Detailed appraisals of the open space types are included at Appendix 1.

Open Space Type	Sustainability Objective												
	1 Housing	2 Flooding	3 Health	4 Inclusion	5 Accessibility	6 Air quality	7 Biodiversity	8 Environment	9 Travel	10 Built Environment	11 Sustainability	12 Economy	13 Skills
Allotment & Community Gardens	++	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+
Amenity Green Space	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+
Cemeteries and Churchyards	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+
Green Corridor	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Natural & Semi Natural	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+
Outdoor Sports Facilities	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Parks and Gardens	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Young People and Children Space	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Sustainability Objective Key	
1	To help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home
2	To reduce and manage the risk of flooding and any resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment
3	To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health
4	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest
5	To improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational opportunities and employment
6	To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and ensure air quality continues to improve
7	To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity
8	To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside and the historic environment
9	To reduce the need to travel, encourage alternatives to the car, and make the best use of existing transport infrastructure
10	To create a high quality built environment
11	To promote sustainable forms of development and sustainable use of natural resources
12	To encourage high and stable levels of employment and sustain economic competitiveness
13	To improve the development and retention of skills

++	The open space type has a very positive impact on the sustainability objective
+	The open space type has a positive impact on the sustainability objective
o	The open space type has a neutral impact on the sustainability objective
-	The open space type has a negative impact on the sustainability objective
--	The open space type has a very negative impact on the sustainability objective

5 ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the detailed appraisals of the open space types to be protected, and judges them against the 13 defined sustainability objectives of the LDF. A summary of these findings is included within this section.

Allotments and Community Gardens

5.2 This open space type scores very positively against the sustainability objectives that promote health and well being and promote access to recreational services and facilities. These are considered to be of great significance and identify the important community role that allotment garden play within settlements.

5.3 There are also positive impacts in terms of combating flood risk, increasing social inclusion, mitigating air pollution and protecting biodiversity due to the open nature of the use.

5.4 The remaining sustainability objectives are not considered to be impacted by the protection of allotment gardens and are considered to have a neutral effect.

5.5 There are no negative impacts upon any of the sustainability objectives.

Amenity Green Space

5.6 Amenity Green Space scores very well against the sustainability objectives that seek to improve access to opportunities for sports and recreation. Amenity space is also seen as essential to the creation of new high quality places, and as such features as a key component in the 'Building for Life' assessment process. This open space type therefore received a very positive rating for both of these sustainability objectives.

5.7 There are also positive impacts in terms of combating flood risk, improving health, mitigating air pollution and protecting biodiversity due to the open nature of the use.

5.8 The remaining sustainability objectives are not considered to be affected by the protection of Amenity Green Space and are considered to have a neutral impact.

5.9 There are no negative impacts upon any of the sustainability objectives.

Cemeteries and Churchyards

- 5.10 Cemeteries and Churchyards score very well against the sustainability objective that seek to conserve biodiversity and geodiversity, due to their generally untouched nature, which allow habitats to occupy sites without disturbance.
- 5.11 There are also positive impacts in terms of combating flood risk, mitigating air pollution and protecting the historic environment that surrounds them, which often consists of key features such listed churches and high quality trees.
- 5.12 The remaining sustainability objectives are not considered to be affected by the protection of cemeteries and churchyards and are considered to have a neutral impact.
- 5.13 There are no negative impacts upon any of the sustainability objectives.

Green Corridors

- 5.14 Green Corridors score a very positive rating based upon their role of improving health and well being as they are characterised by recreational attributes such as cycle ways or public footpaths between points of interest. These in turn provide for important opportunities for people to be active and keep fit.
- 5.15 Green corridors also score positively in regards to combating flood risk, creating additional recreational opportunities, reducing air pollution, conserving biodiversity, providing access to the countryside and providing alternative methods of travel through the use of cycle routes and public footpaths.
- 5.16 The remaining sustainability objectives are not considered to be affected by the protection of Green Corridors and are considered to have a neutral impact.
- 5.17 There are no negative impacts upon any of the sustainability objectives.

Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces

- 5.18 Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces provide very important contributions when considering against the objectives of improving air quality and conserving biodiversity. The concentration of trees within these areas mean that they have a high quality role in combating air pollution. These areas are also the best quality land types for encouraging rich biodiversity and play an important role in providing important natural habitats.

- 5.19 Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces also score well against the objectives of managing flood risk, promoting healthy lifestyles, providing access opportunities to countryside and the protection of the historic environment, especially with regards to Heritage and Ancient Woodland.
- 5.20 The remaining sustainability objectives are not considered to be affected by the protection of Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces and are considered to have a neutral impact.
- 5.21 There are no negative impacts upon any of the sustainability objectives.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

- 5.22 Outdoor sports facilities play an essential role in promoting opportunities for sport and recreation to the benefit of good health. As such the open space type scores very well in relation to these sustainability objectives. It is also acknowledged that sport and recreation can help with social inclusion and integration.
- 5.23 Outdoor Sports facilities usually include open playing fields, however it is acknowledged that the use of land for sports such as tennis or basketball includes can include the provision of some form of hardstanding. Notwithstanding this, since these hard court facilities are usually located within wider green recreation grounds it is considered that overall this type of land has a positive impact upon the objective of managing flood risk.
- 5.24 The remaining sustainability objectives are not considered to be affected by the protection of outdoor sports facilities and are considered to have a neutral impact.
- 5.25 There are no negative impacts upon any of the sustainability objectives.

Parks and Gardens

- 5.26 Parks and Gardens are considered to have a very positive role in promoting health and recreation and positive impacts upon managing flood risk, tackling poverty and social exclusion, reducing air pollution and creating high quality environments.
- 5.27 It is also acknowledged that parks and gardens can be Heritage Assets in their own rights.
- 5.28 The remaining sustainability objectives are not considered to be affected by the protection of parks and gardens and are considered to have a neutral impact.
- 5.29 There are no negative impacts upon any of the sustainability objectives.

Young People and Children Space

- 5.30 This type of space provides essential facilities for health and well being and in creating recreation opportunities for children and young people.
- 5.31 Whilst Young People and Children's Space scores does not score as favourably as some of the other types of open space it is considered to be one of the most important and much needed types within the District. The open space types does not score any negative scores.

Summary

- 5.32 The most significant very positive ratings are against objective 5 in respect to the improving accessibility to services, facilities and recreational opportunities and to objective 3 to improve the health and well being of the population. In these respects open space is a vital part of the LDF's delivery of these objectives.
- 5.33 The role of open space in reducing and managing flood risk is generally positive due to the nature of the land to be protected and the natural drainage of undeveloped land.
- 5.34 It can be seen from the matrix in chapter 4 that sustainability objectives 1, 12 and 13 all receive neutral assessments. These objectives relate to the provision of housing, employment and the retention of skills, all of which are of little relevance to the provision and protection of open space.

6 APPRAISAL CONCLUSIONS & KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The principal findings of the Draft SA for the Open Space Allocations suggest that the overall impact of protecting this land is positive, particularly in terms of providing opportunities for recreation and for promoting the health and well being in the District.
- 6.2 There are also other positive aspects of keeping land open in terms of environmental protection and the protection of biodiversity and natural habitats.
- 6.3 There are neutral impacts on the key economic objectives such as the delivery of sustainable homes, employment provision and the retention of skills, which would be expected when proposing the protection of open space, which has a social rather than economic gain.
- 6.4 There are no identified negative impacts of protecting any of the different open space types.

Recommendations

- 6.5 The open space types defined within the Draft Open Space Allocations were derived from the Council's Open Space Study (2009) and the Sevenoaks District Local Plan (2000) and relate to the different types of open space that currently exists within the District. Unlike replacement policies the draft consultation document seeks to provide formal protection for these pieces of land in their current state. As such there is little scope to identify areas of improvement or missed opportunity.
- 6.6 However the SA process has identified the positive role that the different open spaces provide in recreational and exercise opportunities for residents and that any formal policy could include provision to allow development that meets or helps enhance these key purposes.
- 6.7 The SA process has also identified that there are significant differences in the types and nature or the different open space types and that Allocations policy framework should set out what the key features, benefits and aspects for preservation are.
- 6.8 The appraisal process can also help better determine the most appropriate types of new space to be provided within new development.

APPENDIX 1

OPEN SPACE TYPE APPRAISALS

ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS	
<p>This includes all forms of allotments, with a primary purpose to provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. This type of open space may also include urban farms.</p>	
<p><i>Strategic Objective 1 - To help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</i></p>	
<p>The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.</p>	
<p>Traffic Light Assessment</p>	<p>o</p>
<p><i>Strategic Objective 2 - To reduce and manage the risk of flooding and any resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</i></p>	
<p>Any green open space, by its very nature, is porous and helps combat and minimise the potential harm of flooding.</p>	
<p>Traffic Light Assessment</p>	<p>+</p>
<p><i>Strategic Objective 3 - To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health</i></p>	
<p>Allotments are recognised as an important land use that provides opportunities for improving physical and mental health.</p>	
<p>Traffic Light Assessment</p>	<p>++</p>
<p><i>Strategic Objective 4 - To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest</i></p>	
<p>Allotments have a primary purpose to provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.</p>	
<p>Traffic Light Assessment</p>	<p>+</p>
<p><i>Strategic Objective 5 - To improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational opportunities and employment</i></p>	
<p>Allotments can provide a number of wider benefits to the community as well as the primary use of growing produce. The provision of allotments provides invaluable opportunities for people to enjoy them for social and recreational purposes.</p>	
<p>Traffic Light Assessment</p>	<p>++</p>
<p><i>Strategic Objective 6 - To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and ensure air quality continues to improve</i></p>	
<p>All open space provides positive impacts on air quality either through the openness of the land, the role of a buffer or through direct features such as trees.</p>	
<p>Traffic Light Assessment</p>	<p>+</p>
<p><i>Strategic Objective 7 - To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity</i></p>	
<p>Allotments provide natural habitats and contain rich sources of biodiversity.</p>	

Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 8 - To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside and the historic Environment.</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 9 - To reduce the need to travel, encourage alternatives to the car, and make the best use of existing transport infrastructure.</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 10 - To create a high quality built environment</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 11 - To promote sustainable forms of development and sustainable use of natural resources</i>	
A primary purpose of allotments and community gardens are to provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability. It also promotes a prudent use of natural resources.	
Traffic Light Assessment	++
<i>Strategic Objective 12 - To encourage high and stable levels of employment and sustain economic competitiveness</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 13 - To improve the development and retention of skills</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o

AMENITY GREEN SPACE	
<p>This type of open space is most commonly found in housing areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and green spaces in and around housing. The primary purpose is to provide opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or to enhance the appearance of residential or other areas.</p> <p>Much of the focus on the protection of green space in Sevenoaks District has concentrated on large open space areas such as playing fields and the Metropolitan Green Belt.</p> <p>However, amenity green space can often be valuable in the ‘greening’ of an area but can suffer from development pressures. This is particularly true in urban areas.</p> <p>The pressure for increased housing in Sevenoaks District makes amenity green spaces particularly vulnerable to development so the protection of sites is particularly important for this typology.</p>	
Strategic Objective 1 - To help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
Strategic Objective 2 - To reduce and manage the risk of flooding and any resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment	
Any green open space, by its very nature, is porous and helps combat and minimise the potential harm of flooding.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
Strategic Objective 3 - To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health	
Amenity Green Space is recognised as an important land use that provides opportunities for improving physical health.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
Strategic Objective 4 - To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest	
.	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
Strategic Objective 5 - To improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational opportunities and employment	
Amenity Green Space is recognised as an important land use that provides opportunities for improving physical health and providing recreational opportunities within urban areas.	
Traffic Light Assessment	++
Strategic Objective 6 - To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and ensure air quality continues to improve	

All open space provides positive impacts on air quality either through the openness of the land, the role of a buffer or through direct features such as trees.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
Strategic Objective 7 - To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity	
Amenity Green Space provide natural habitats that offer opportunities for biodiversity, however the recreational use of such facilities does limit the potential of amenity green space.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
Strategic Objective 8 - To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside and the historic Environment.	
Amenity Green Space is usually located within the existing built confines of settlements.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
Strategic Objective 9 - To reduce the need to travel, encourage alternatives to the car, and make the best use of existing transport infrastructure.	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
Strategic Objective 10 - To create a high quality built environment	
Amenity Green Space is an important aspect of good design and is a key feature in creating a high quality built environment. Open space is recognised as a key component of high quality design when assessing against 'Building for Life'.	
Traffic Light Assessment	++
Strategic Objective 11 - To promote sustainable forms of development and sustainable use of natural resources	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
Strategic Objective 12 - To encourage high and stable levels of employment and sustain economic competitiveness	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
Strategic Objective 13 - To improve the development and retention of skills	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o

CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS	
<p>Churchyards are encompassed within the walled boundary of a church and cemeteries are burial grounds outside the confines of a church. These include private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards. The primary purpose of this type of open space is for burial of the dead and quiet contemplation.</p>	
<p>A secondary purpose is the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.</p>	
<p><i>Strategic Objective 1 - To help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</i></p>	
<p>The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.</p>	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<p><i>Strategic Objective 2 - To reduce and manage the risk of flooding and any resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</i></p>	
<p>Any green open space, by its very nature, is porous and helps combat and minimise the potential harm of flooding. Whilst cemeteries have a degree of hardstanding this would not reduce the benefit in relation to flooding.</p>	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<p><i>Strategic Objective 3 - To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health</i></p>	
<p>The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.</p>	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<p><i>Strategic Objective 4 - To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest</i></p>	
<p>The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.</p>	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<p><i>Strategic Objective 5 - To improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational opportunities and employment</i></p>	
<p>The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.</p>	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<p><i>Strategic Objective 6 - To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and ensure air quality continues to improve</i></p>	
<p>All open space provides positive impacts on air quality either through the openness of the land, the role of a buffer or through direct features such as trees.</p>	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<p><i>Strategic Objective 7 - To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity</i></p>	
<p>Cemeteries and churchyards provide natural habitats that offer high quality opportunities for</p>	

biodiversity and geodiversity.	
Traffic Light Assessment	++
<i>Strategic Objective 8 - To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside and the historic Environment.</i>	
Cemeteries and churchyards provide important features of significant high quality historic assets within the District including grade 1 listed churches and play an important role in preserving their setting.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 9 - To reduce the need to travel, encourage alternatives to the car, and make the best use of existing transport infrastructure.</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 10 - To create a high quality built environment</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 11 - To promote sustainable forms of development and sustainable use of natural resources</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 12 - To encourage high and stable levels of employment and sustain economic competitiveness</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 13 - To improve the development and retention of skills</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o

GREEN CORRIDORS	
Green corridors includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines. Their primary purpose is to provide opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding (for leisure purposes and travel) and opportunities for wildlife migration. Walking and horse riding are important recreational activities in the District and information on routes can be found on Kent County Council’s Public Rights of Way map.	
<i>Strategic Objective 1 - To help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 2 - To reduce and manage the risk of flooding and any resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</i>	
Any green open space, by its very nature, is porous and helps combat and minimise the potential harm of flooding.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 3 - To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health</i>	
Green Corridors are recognised as an important land use that provides opportunities for improving physical health through activities such as walking and cycling.	
Traffic Light Assessment	++
<i>Strategic Objective 4 - To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 5 - To improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational opportunities and employment</i>	
Green Corridors are recognised as an important land use that provides opportunities for recreational activities such as walking and cycling.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 6 - To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and ensure air quality continues to improve</i>	
All open space provides positive impacts on air quality either through the openness of the land, the role of a buffer or through direct features such as trees. The use of Green Corridors also provides important alternative travel methods such as footpath links and cycle paths.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 7 - To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity</i>	
Green Corridors provide opportunities for biodiversity and geodiversity, however these are also limited and restricted by the recreational use of the land.	

Traffic Light Assessment	+
Strategic Objective 8 - To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside and the historic Environment.	
Green corridors provide important linkages between spaces, often surrounding Heritage Assets, and thereby promoting better quality access to these facilities. Green Corridors also provide important links in and out of areas of open countryside.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
Strategic Objective 9 - To reduce the need to travel, encourage alternatives to the car, and make the best use of existing transport infrastructure.	
Green Corridors provide important linkages for alternative methods of transport including footpaths and cycle ways that provide alternatives to car use.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
Strategic Objective 10 - To create a high quality built environment	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0
Strategic Objective 11 - To promote sustainable forms of development and sustainable use of natural resources	
Green Corridors are recognised as providing opportunities for activities such as walking and cycling, which are alternative forms of transportation as well as recreational activities.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
Strategic Objective 12 - To encourage high and stable levels of employment and sustain economic competitiveness	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0
Strategic Objective 13 - To improve the development and retention of skills	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
This type of open space includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrubland, grasslands (eg downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, nature reserves and wastelands with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and bio-diversity within the settlement boundaries.	
<i>Strategic Objective 1 - To help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 2 - To reduce and manage the risk of flooding and any resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</i>	
Any green open space, by its very nature, is porous and helps combat and minimise the potential harm of flooding.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 3 - To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health</i>	
Natural and semi-natural areas are recognised as providing opportunities for improving physical health through activities such as walking.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 4 - To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest</i>	
.	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 5 - To improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational opportunities and employment</i>	
Natural and semi-natural areas are recognised as an important land use that provides opportunities for recreational activities such as walking and cycling.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 6 - To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and ensure air quality continues to improve</i>	
All open space provides positive impacts on air quality either through the openness of the land, the role of a buffer or through direct features such as trees. However the concentration of trees in areas of natural and semi natural green space provides a greater natural positive in combating air quality problems.	
Traffic Light Assessment	++
<i>Strategic Objective 7 - To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity</i>	
Natural and semi-natural areas provide high quality opportunities for biodiversity and geodiversity.	

Traffic Light Assessment	++
<i>Strategic Objective 8 - To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside and the historic Environment.</i>	
Natural and Semi Natural Green Space covers areas of Heritage Woodland and Ancient woodland, which in itself is an important Heritage Asset that should be preserved and enhanced and that should be protected for general public access.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 9 - To reduce the need to travel, encourage alternatives to the car, and make the best use of existing transport infrastructure.</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 10 - To create a high quality built environment</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 11 - To promote sustainable forms of development and sustainable use of natural resources</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 12 - To encourage high and stable levels of employment and sustain economic competitiveness</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 13 - To improve the development and retention of skills</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
<p>The assessment of sports facilities covers both outdoor (as per the PPG17 typology) and indoor sports facilities.</p> <p><i>Outdoor sports facilities</i> is a wide-ranging category of open space and includes natural and artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned, which are used for sport and recreation. Examples include playing pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens and tennis courts. The primary purpose is participation in outdoor sports.</p>	
<p>Strategic Objective 1 - To help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</p>	
<p>The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.</p>	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<p>Strategic Objective 2 - To reduce and manage the risk of flooding and any resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</p>	
<p>Any green open space, by its very nature, is porous and helps combat and minimise the potential harm of flooding. In most instances outdoor sports facilities usually amount to playing fields, however it is acknowledged that the use of land for sports such as tennis or basketball includes the provision of some form of hardstanding. However since these facilities are usually located within wider green recreation grounds it is considered that overall this type of land has a positive impact upon this sustainability objective.</p>	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<p>Strategic Objective 3 - To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health</p>	
<p>Outdoor sports facilities are recognised as providing vital opportunities for improving physical health through sports activities.</p>	
Traffic Light Assessment	++
<p>Strategic Objective 4 - To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest</p>	
<p>Outdoor sports facilities are recognised as providing vital opportunities for sports activities, which provide significant opportunities to combat social exclusion and integration.</p>	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<p>Strategic Objective 5 - To improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational opportunities and employment</p>	
<p>Outdoor sports facilities are recognised as an important land use that provides opportunities for sports and activities.</p>	
Traffic Light Assessment	++
<p>Strategic Objective 6 - To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and ensure air quality continues to improve</p>	
<p>All open space provides positive impacts on air quality either through the openness of the land, the role</p>	

of a buffer or through direct features such as trees.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
Strategic Objective 7 - To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
Strategic Objective 8 - To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside and the historic Environment.	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
Strategic Objective 9 - To reduce the need to travel, encourage alternatives to the car, and make the best use of existing transport infrastructure.	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
Strategic Objective 10 - To create a high quality built environment	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
Strategic Objective 11 - To promote sustainable forms of development and sustainable use of natural resources	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
Strategic Objective 12 - To encourage high and stable levels of employment and sustain economic competitiveness	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
Strategic Objective 13 - To improve the development and retention of skills	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o

PARKS AND GARDENS	
This type of open space includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks.	
These provide opportunities for informal recreation and community events. This typology also has many wider benefits including a sense of place for the local community, ecological and education benefits, help with social inclusion and provide structural and landscaping benefits.	
<i>Strategic Objective 1 - To help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0
<i>Strategic Objective 2 - To reduce and manage the risk of flooding and any resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</i>	
Any green open space, by its very nature, is porous and helps combat and minimise the potential harm of flooding.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 3 - To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health</i>	
Parks and Gardens have many benefits including opportunities for walking and other exercise beneficial to good quality health and well being.	
Traffic Light Assessment	++
<i>Strategic Objective 4 - To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest</i>	
Parks and Garden are recognised as providing opportunities for social inclusion and integration through public events and open access. The use of land for facilities such as fetes and fairs is such an example.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 5 - To improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational opportunities and employment</i>	
Parks and Gardens have many positive impacts including providing a sense of place for the local community and offering recreational, ecological and education benefits.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 6 - To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and ensure air quality continues to improve</i>	
All open space provides positive impacts on air quality either through the openness of the land, the role of a buffer or through direct features such as trees.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 7 - To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	

Traffic Light Assessment	0
Strategic Objective 8 - To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside and the historic Environment.	
Historic Parks and Garden in themselves are recognised Heritage Assets.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
Strategic Objective 9 - To reduce the need to travel, encourage alternatives to the car, and make the best use of existing transport infrastructure.	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0
Strategic Objective 10 - To create a high quality built environment	
Parks and Gardens are a key feature in urban landscapes and are recognised as heritage assets.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
Strategic Objective 11 - To promote sustainable forms of development and sustainable use of natural resources	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0
Strategic Objective 12 - To encourage high and stable levels of employment and sustain economic competitiveness	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0
Strategic Objective 13 - To improve the development and retention of skills	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
This type of open space includes areas such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters. They have the primary purpose of providing opportunities for play and social interaction involving both children and young people.	
<i>Strategic Objective 1 - To help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 2 - To reduce and manage the risk of flooding and any resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon flooding as the majority of these facilities involve the laying of hardstanding.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 3 - To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health</i>	
Provision of space for children and young people provides important access for sports and recreation, to the benefit of their wider health	
Traffic Light Assessment	++
<i>Strategic Objective 4 - To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest</i>	
Provision of space for children and young people provides opportunities for social inclusion and integration.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 5 - To improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational opportunities and employment</i>	
Provision of space for children and young people provides opportunities for social inclusion and facilities for recreational opportunities.	
Traffic Light Assessment	++
<i>Strategic Objective 6 - To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and ensure air quality continues to improve</i>	
All open space provides positive impacts on air quality either through the openness of the land, the role of a buffer or through direct features such as trees.	
Traffic Light Assessment	+
<i>Strategic Objective 7 - To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	o
<i>Strategic Objective 8 - To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside and</i>	

<i>the historic Environment.</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0
<i>Strategic Objective 9 - To reduce the need to travel, encourage alternatives to the car, and make the best use of existing transport infrastructure.</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0
<i>Strategic Objective 10 - To create a high quality built environment</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0
<i>Strategic Objective 11 - To promote sustainable forms of development and sustainable use of natural resources</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0
<i>Strategic Objective 12 - To encourage high and stable levels of employment and sustain economic competitiveness</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0
<i>Strategic Objective 13 - To improve the development and retention of skills</i>	
The open space type would have a neutral impact upon this sustainability objective.	
Traffic Light Assessment	0

