

Planning Purbeck's Future



Core Strategy Pre-Submission Sustainability Appraisal Non-Technical Summary



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1. What is the purpose of this report?

The purpose of this summary is to present the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Purbeck's Core Strategy pre-submission document which is being published for consultation in November 2010. This non-technical summary sets out what the Core Strategy pre-submission document is, provides an overview of the SA process, and presents the findings and recommendations arising from the assessment.

The Council is required by law to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of this document. The government recommends that the two requirements are met through one process. Thus this document incorporates both the SA and the SEA requirements, and for simplicity will be referred to as a "Sustainability Appraisal" (SA). Its aim is to achieve sustainable development.

2. What is Sustainability Development?

Sustainable development is a term that has been commonly used since the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro in 1992. It aims to balance economic progress with social and environmental needs and not compromise the lives of generations to come.

3. What is a Core Strategy pre-submission document?

The Core Strategy pre-submission document comprises 33 policies. All policies are listed under the appropriate Spatial Objectives. These include policies on location of development, settlement extensions and more specific criteria-based development policies.

Table 2.8 Core Strategy pre-submission policies

	List of policies in Core Strategy pre-submission document	Source
	Spatial Objective 1	
LD	General Location of Development	Ch 5
NW	North West Purbeck	Ch 7
SW	South West Purbeck	Ch 7
CEN	Central Purbeck	Ch 7
NE	North East Purbeck	Ch 7
SE	South East Purbeck	Ch 7
CO	Countryside	Ch 8
	Spatial Objective 2	
HS	Housing Supply	Ch 6
AHT	Affordable Housing Tenure	Ch 8
AH	Affordable Housing	Ch 8
RES	Rural Exception Sites	Ch 8
GT	Site Criteria for Gypsies, Travellers & Travelling showpeople	Ch 8
WHN	Wider Housing Needs	Ch 8
	Spatial Objective 3	
BIO	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Ch 8
DH	Dorset Heaths International Designations	Ch 8
	Spatial Objective 4	
RFS	Retail Floor Space Supply	Ch 6
RP	Retail Provision	Ch 8
CF	Community Facilities and Services	Ch 8
GI	Green Infrastructure, Recreation and Sports Facilities	Ch 8
	Spatial Objective 5	
FR	Flood Risk	Ch 8

	List of policies in Core Strategy pre-submission document	Source
GP	Groundwater Protection	Ch 8
CE	Coastal Erosion	Ch 8
Spatial Objective 6		
SD	Sustainable Design	Ch 8
REN	Renewable Energy	Ch 8
Spatial Objective 7		
LHH	Landscape, Historic Environment and Heritage	Ch 8
Spatial Objective 8		
ELS	Employment Land Supply: Approx 35 ha	Ch 6
E	Employment	Ch 8
TA	Tourist Accommodation and Attractions	Ch 8
MOD	Military Needs	Ch 8
CZ	Consultation Zones	Ch 8
Spatial Objective 9		
IAT	Improving Accessibility and Transport	Ch 8
ATS	Implementing an Appropriate Transport Strategy for Purbeck	Ch 8
Implementation and Monitoring		
DEV	Development Contributions	Ch 9

4. What are the stages in the SA Process?

Government guidance identifies a five stage approach to undertaking SA as follows:

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope, which includes:

- Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
- Collecting baseline information;
- Identifying sustainability issues;
- Developing SA objectives;
- Consulting on the scope of the SA.

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects, which includes:

- Testing the objectives against the SA objectives;
- Developing strategic alternatives;
- Predicting the effects of the policies contained within the Core Strategy, including alternatives;
- Evaluating the effects of Core Strategy policies, including alternatives;
- Identifying how adverse effects associated with the Core Strategy might be mitigated;
- Proposing measures to monitor the sustainability effects of implementing the Core Strategy.

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Report, which includes

- Presenting the predicted effects on sustainability of the Core Strategy, in a form suitable for public consultation and use by decision-makers.

Stage D: Consulting on the Core Strategy and the Sustainability Report, which includes:

- Consulting on the Core Strategy and Sustainability Report;
- Assessing any significant changes between the draft Core Strategy and the adopted plan;
- Providing information on how the Sustainability Report and consultees' opinions were taken into account in deciding the final form of the adopted Core Strategy.

Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the plan or programme, which includes:

- Developing aims and methods for monitoring the Core Strategy;
- Responding to adverse effects which may be caused by the Core Strategy.

5. When did Purbeck undertake the SA process?

The following table sets out key stages of the SA, undertaken between 2005 and 2010.

Date	SA preparation	Comments
2005	Scoping Report Stage A1	Review of over 130 documents, leading to list of key themes for which baseline data was required.
	Scoping Report Stage A2	Data was collated according to the themes identified above. This led to a better understanding of key issues.
	Scoping Report Stage A3	Description of key issues in the District
	Scoping Report Stage A4	Development of SA objectives as the tool for assessing Core Strategy documents
	Scoping Report Stage A5	Consultation on the above
		Amendments made based on consultee responses
2006	SA: Issues and Options leaflet	Recommendations for Preferred Options
2006	SA: Preferred Options	Recommendations for pre-submission document
2008	Scoping Stages A1 – A4 updated	Minor amendments made where required.
2009	SA: “Planning Purbeck’s Future”	Recommendations made for pre-submission document. Amendments made based on consultee responses to SA.
2010	Scoping Stages A1 – A4 updated	Minor amendments made where required.
2010	SA: Pre-submission document	Full Sustainability Appraisal, covering 2009 consultation, June 2010 consultation and pre-submission consultation

6. What are the main sustainability characteristics of Purbeck?

As part of the Scoping Report, the review of baseline information, policies, plans and programmes, as well as consultation both internally and with external stakeholders, highlighted a number of key sustainability characteristics of Purbeck. These are highlighted below:

Characteristics of Purbeck
GENERAL
Purbeck is a small rural District with a population of just over 44,500. The largest towns are Swanage, Wareham and Upton, which contain around 60% of the District’s population. The southern part of the District is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and virtually all the coastline is Heritage Coast. The coast from Studland westwards is designated a World Heritage Site. International and national nature conservation designations cover over 23% of the District.
SOCIAL

Characteristics of Purbeck

Purbeck has 18.6% of people with limiting, long-term illness, while 34.3% of households are affected by someone with such an illness. 37.5% of these are of working age. Life expectancy is significantly higher than the average. However, the ageing population in Purbeck means increased pressure on health facilities and need to encourage fitness among the elderly. Accessibility to health shows up well in the baseline data, but the data does not tell the whole story, and there is other evidence (for example, from the Purbeck Community Plan) that younger residents in particular struggle to access facilities that could assist in their health and well-being. Encouraging healthy lifestyles can also be difficult in a rural area with high car-dependency.

The high cost of housing is well documented. Local housing is out of reach for some local people who wish to stay in the area. This is exacerbated by the buying of homes by people outside the area as second homes and/or as investments.

Although qualifications are slightly higher than average, there are concerns about young people with qualifications leaving the area in search of more suitable and more highly paid work. Furthermore, access to skills can be problematic due to transport difficulties.

Purbeck's crime rate of 67 crimes per 1,000 population is slightly higher than the county overall but is lower than national figures. However, Purbeck has the second highest rate of vehicle crime across the county (10 crimes per 1,000 population) which could be as a result of increased vehicle numbers in summer. Perception of crime in Purbeck is an issue to be addressed and more than half of Purbeck residents are concerned about anti-social behaviour and drug use.

Access to local facilities can be poor in isolated areas. However, this does not mean that the communities themselves lack "community spirit". Furthermore, research undertaken in West Dorset indicates that people move to rural areas for quality of life and not for access to services. Notwithstanding this apparent lifestyle choice, promotion and retention of facilities such as village halls and similar facilities would assist in promoting community participation as well as improving access.

ECONOMIC

In 2007, mean and median weekly pay was lower in Purbeck than for the rest of the country, which may have reflected the strength of tourism and the relative weakness of the knowledge-based sector. However, more recently (2009) pay has risen and is now more in line with the South East figures. The reasons for this are unclear, but may reflect out-commuting to the Poole/Bournemouth conurbation and beyond. The impact of the current recession on pay is not yet known.

Purbeck has an over-supply of employment land provision, with large sites at Holton Heath and Winfrith (now referred to as Dorset Green). Borough of Poole has a short-term undersupply of employment land, which may lead to Holton Heath being a potential site to meet this employment need – as per observations in the workspace strategy.

The World Heritage Coastline is a major tourist attraction, as well as its "hinterland". Wareham, for example, has been labelled a "gateway" to Jurassic Coast, and the potential for Purbeck to benefit economically from the designation is considerable. A key issue is to encourage tourists to come into the area by means other than the car.

Access to a car is high in Purbeck while public transport is perceived as both expensive and unreliable. Therefore most people travel to work by car with only 16% of households not having access to a car. Public transport is comparatively expensive and not frequent. Most visitors to Purbeck use their car to travel to and around Purbeck. Indeed, other options are limited, especially outside the three main towns.

ENVIRONMENTAL

While only 3.8% of Purbeck's housing is deemed to be at risk of flooding, this is likely to increase with climate change.

Purbeck has 6,536.39 ha of SACs (Special Area of Conservation), 7,330.03 ha of SPAs (Special Protection Areas) and of Ramsars, and 9,924.78 ha of SSSI. 51.23% of SSSIs (which contain SACs, SPAs and Ramsars) are in favourable condition, against a government target of 95% by 2010. Loss of heathland by development is not currently a major problem, but SSSIs are under

Characteristics of Purbeck

threat from lack of management and from additional nearby development, with its pressure from domestic animals and vandalism.

Purbeck has recently been able to achieve most of its new housing on brownfield land, although it must be noted that brownfield does not mean “devoid of habitat”. Purbeck has 25 conservation areas, but none of them have management proposals although character appraisals are being updated. Listed buildings at risk in Purbeck are double the national average. Appendix 1 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2004 lists all the scheduled and unscheduled ancient monuments in the area.

Water use per capita is less than the national average, but there is an increasing national trend and consideration must also be given to lower rainfall as part of the process of climate change.

While the annual consumption of gas per household is lower than the national average, this may reflect the fact that many properties use oil. Consumption of electricity is higher than average. The recycling rate for Purbeck was poor until the introduction of recycling boxes, which has improved recycling rates and reduced the amount of waste going to landfill.

Most rivers in Purbeck are deemed to have good chemical and biological water quality. However, they are high in nitrates, and Poole Harbour is classed as eutrophic. The forms of pollution most of concern to the public are those that are “visible” – eg abandoned cars and litter. Noise and light pollution is not measured in the baseline data, but is raised as an issue in some parish plans.

7. What are the SA Objectives?

At Stage A4 of the Scoping Report, SA objectives were developed as the main tool for assessing Purbeck’s LDF documents. This comprised 15 objectives in the form of questions:

Does the option/policy:

- Improve health and promote healthy lifestyles?
- Help make suitable housing available and affordable for everyone?
- Give everyone access to learning, training, skills & cultural events?
- Reduce crime and fear of crime?
- Promote stronger, more vibrant communities?
- Improve employment opportunities in Purbeck?
- Reduce poverty and help everyone afford a good standard of living
- Harness the economic potential of tourism in a sustainable way
- Help everyone access basic services, reduce the need to travel by car and encourage cycling, walking and use of public transport?
- Reduce vulnerability to flooding and sea level rise and plan for climate change?
- Protect and enhance habitats and species?
- Protect and enhance Purbeck’s unique landscape and townscape, & cultural and historical assets?
- Reduce water consumption?
- Reduce waste and minimise energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions?
- Minimise land, water, air, light and noise pollution?

8. How was the Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document appraised?

As set out above, the Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document contains a total of 33 policies which have been assessed as part of the SA process. As part of the development

of the Pre-submission Document, a number of alternatives to the proposed policies were also identified and assessed as part of the SA process.

The appraisal of the proposed policies and alternatives has been undertaken against each of the SA objectives that comprise the SA framework identified earlier in this report. In assessing the Core Strategy, a number of issues were taken into account, including:

- Whether the effect is likely to be permanent or temporary
- The likelihood of the effect occurring
- The scale of the effect (eg whether it will affect one location or a wide area)
- Whether it will combine with the effects of other policies and proposals to generate a cumulative effect greater than the effect of each individual policy or proposal
- Whether there are policies elsewhere that will help to mitigate adverse effects occurring or support positive effects
- The current status and trends in the environmental, social and economic baseline or characteristics of the area affected
- Whether it is likely to affect particularly sensitive locations eg those that are designated as international or national level), or where thresholds (eg air quality) might be breached.

To facilitate the appraisal process, assessment matrices were utilised. These matrices include:

- a commentary on significant impacts against the SA objectives;
- a score indicating the nature of the impact; and
- recommendations as to how the proposals may be improved against the SA objectives including any mitigation or enhancements which could be considered in the next steps of policy formation.

9. How were the Core Strategy policies and options scored?

The scoring mechanism outlined in Table 3.1 below was used to assess the effects of the policies and alternatives against the SA objectives.

Symbol	Definition
++	Significant positive effect
+	Positive effect
n	Neutral effect
-	Negative effect
--	Significant negative effect
n/a	Not applicable

Assessment matrices for each of the Core Strategy policies and alternatives are contained in Appendix 9 of this report.

10. How do the options score against the SA Objectives?

Those options in bold are contained within the pre-submission document, either as policies, or (in the case of the leaflet consultations) have been incorporated into the spatial area policies. The other options refer to previous consultation and other options discussed in relevant background papers.

List of options, sites and policies assessed against SA Framework	Minimise land, water, air, light, & noise pollution?	Reduce waste & minimise energy consumption & greenhouse gas emissions?	Reduce water consumption?	Protect & enhance Purbeck's unique landscape & townscape, & cultural & historical assets?	Protect & enhance habitats and species?	Reduce vulnerability to flooding and sea level rise & plan for climate change?	Help everyone access basic services, reduce the need to travel by car & encourage cycling, walking and use of public transport?	Harness the economic potential of tourism in a sustainable way?	Reduce poverty and help everyone afford a good standard of living?	Improve employment opportunities in Purbeck??	Promote stronger, more vibrant communities?	Reduce crime and fear of crime	Give everyone access to learning, training, skills & cultural events	Help make suitable housing available and affordable for everyone	Improve health, & promote healthy lifestyles?
Development Options (pre-2009 consultation)															
<i>Focus development at Upton</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Edge of Wareham</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	++	n	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Focus growth at Swanage</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	n	-	-
Preferred Option (Now "Location of Development")	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Proportionate Development</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Dispersal to all settlements</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	-	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Improve self-sufficiency of Wool</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Improve self-sufficiency of Bere Regis</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Improve self-sufficiency of Lytchett Mat.</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
Sites consulted on (June 2010)															
<i>Bere Regis Site A</i>	+	+	n	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Bere Regis Site B</i>	+	+	n	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Bere Regis Site C</i>		n/a	n	n	+	+	+	n/a	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Bere Regis Site D</i>	+	+	n	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Bere Regis Site E</i>	+	n/a	+	n	+	n/a	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Lytchett Matravers Site A</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Lytchett Matravers Site B</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
Lytchett Matravers Site C	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Lytchett Matravers Site D</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Lytchett Matravers Site E</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Swanage Site A</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Swanage Site B</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Swanage Site C</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Swanage Site D</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	n	-	-
Upton – Policemans Ln	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
Wareham (Area A)	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Wareham (Area B)</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	+	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Wool Site A</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	-	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Wool Site B</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Wool Site C</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
<i>Wool Site D</i>	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	-	-
Spatial Policies															

	List of options, sites and policies assessed against SA Framework	Minimise land, water, air, light, & noise pollution?	Reduce waste & minimise energy consumption & greenhouse gas emissions?	Reduce water consumption?	Protect & enhance Purbeck's unique landscape & townscape, & cultural & historical assets?	Protect & enhance habitats and species?	Reduce vulnerability to flooding and sea level rise & plan for climate change?	Help everyone access basic services, reduce the need to travel by car & encourage cycling, walking and use of public transport?	Harness the economic potential of tourism in a sustainable way?	Reduce poverty and help everyone afford a good standard of living?	Improve employment opportunities in Purbeck??	Promote stronger, more vibrant communities?	Reduce crime and fear of crime	Give everyone access to learning, training, skills & cultural events	Help make suitable housing available and affordable for everyone	Improve health, & promote healthy lifestyles?
NW	North West Purbeck	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	-	-	-
SW	South West Purbeck	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	-	-	-
CEN	Central Purbeck	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	-	-	-
NE	North East Purbeck	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	-	-	-
SE	South East Purbeck	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	-	-	-
	Spatial Objective 1															
LD	General Location of Dev	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	-	-	-
CO	Countryside	+	n	n	n	n	n	n	+	n	n	+	++	n/a	n	n
	Spatial Objective 2															
HS	Housing Supply	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	n	+	n	n	n	-	-	-
AHT	Aff. Housing Tenure	+	++	+	n/a	+	+	+	n/a	+	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-
AH	Affordable Housing	+	++	+	n/a	+	+	+	n/a	+	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-
AH04	Affordable Housing – 2004 Local Plan	+	-	+	n/a	+	+	+	n/a	+	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-
AHL	Affordable Housing – Lower threshold	+	++	+	n/a	+	+	++	n/a	+	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-
RES	Rural Exception Sites	+	+	+	n/a	+	+	+	n/a	n	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-
GT	Gypsies Travellers & Travelling showpeople	+	+	+	n/a	+	+	+	n/a	n	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-
	Spatial Objective 3															
BIO	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	++	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	++	n/a	++	++	++	n/a	n/a	+
DH	Dorset Heaths International Designations	++	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	++	n/a	++	++	++	n/a	n/a	+
	Spatial Objective 4															
RFS	Retail Floor Space	+	n/a	+	n	n	+	n	n	n	+	n	-	n/a	-	-
RFSW	Retail Floor Space Supply (Wareham supermarket)	+	n/a	+	n	-	+	n	-	-	+	-	-	n/a	-	-
RFS S	Retail Floor Space Supply (Swanage supermarket)	+	n/a	+	n	-	+	n	-	-	+	-	-	n/a	-	-
RFS WS	Retail Floor Space Supply (2 small supermarkets)	+	n/a	+	n	-	+	n	-	-	+	-	-	n/a	-	-
RP	Retail provision	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	n/a	n/a	+	n/a	-	-
CF	Community Facilities and Services	++	n/a	+	++	++	+	+	n/a	+	n	n/a	n	n/a	-	-
GI	Green Infrastructure, Recreation & Sports Facilities	++	n/a	+	++	++	+	+	n/a	+	n	+	n	n/a	-	n
	Spatial Objective 5															
FR	Flood Risk	+	+	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	+	n/a	++	+	+	n/a	n/a	++
GP	Groundwater Protection	+	+	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	+	+	n/a	++	+	+	n/a	++

	List of options, sites and policies assessed against SA Framework	Minimise land, water, air, light, & noise pollution?	Reduce waste & minimise energy consumption & greenhouse gas emissions?	Reduce water consumption?	Protect & enhance Purbeck's unique landscape & townscape, & cultural & historical assets?	Protect & enhance habitats and species?	Reduce vulnerability to flooding and sea level rise & plan for climate change?	Help everyone access basic services, reduce the need to travel by car & encourage cycling, walking and use of public transport?	Harness the economic potential of tourism in a sustainable way?	Reduce poverty and help everyone afford a good standard of living?	Improve employment opportunities in Purbeck??	Promote stronger, more vibrant communities?	Reduce crime and fear of crime	Give everyone access to learning, training, skills & cultural events	Help make suitable housing available and affordable for everyone	Improve health, & promote healthy lifestyles?
CE	Coastal Erosion in Swanage	+	+	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	+	+	n/a	++	+	+	n/a	n/a	++
	Spatial Objective 6															
SD	Sustainable Design	+	+	n/a	++	+	n/a	+	+	n/a	++	+	+	++	++	+
REN	Renewable Energy	+	n/a	n/a	++	n/a	n/a	+	+	n/a	++	n/a	-	n/a	++	n
	Spatial Objective 7															
LHH	Landscape, Historic Environment and Heritage	++	--	n/a	+	+	n/a	n/a	++	n/a	+	+	++	n/a	n/a	+
	Spatial Objective 8															
ELS	Employment Land Supply 34.8ha	+	n/a	+	+	+	++	+	n	-	n	n	n	-	-	-
ELS 11	Employment Land Supply 11.5ha	+	n/a	+	+	+	+	+	n	n	n	n	n	-	-	-
ELS +	Employment Land Supply PO+2ha	+	n/a	+	+	+	++	+	n	n	n	n	n	-	-	-
E	Employment	+	n/a	+	+	+	++	+	n	n	n	n	n	-	-	-
TA	Tourist Accommodation and Attractions	+	n/a	+	n	+	++	+	+	-	n	n	n	-	-	-
MOD	Military Needs	+	+	+	n	+	++	+	n	n	n	n	n	-	-	-
CZ	Consultation Zones	+	n/a	+	n/a	n/a	+	+	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n	n/a	n/a	+
	Spatial Objective 9															
IAT	Improving Accessibility and Transport	+	n/a	+	n/a	+	++	+	n	++	++	++	++	n/a	++	++
ATS	Implementing an appropriate Transport Strategy for Purbeck	+	n/a	+	n/a	+	++	+	n	++	++	++	++	n/a	++	++
	Implementation															
DEV	Development Contributions	+	+	+	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	+	n/a	++	n/a	n/a	+	+

11. What are the Sustainability Strengths of the Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document?

The SA has always been clear that there is no easy or obvious place for development in Purbeck. The best that can be done locally is to offset impacts as much as possible, and Purbeck's Core Strategy has done a good job in difficult circumstances to promote social, environmental and economic benefits.

The sustainability strengths of the document can be summarised as follows:

Sustainability strengths of Purbeck's Core Strategy

- The Core Strategy has a strong emphasis on achieving sustainable communities, based on settlement role and function.
- The Core Strategy recognises that even within a small district, different areas have very different characteristics, constraints and opportunities.
- The 5 spatial areas work well to emphasise the role the key service villages and how the villages around them depend on their services and facilities
- The promotion of additional facilities and services and retention of existing ones assists in reducing the need to travel.
- Encouragement of housing development and rural exception sites near to services and facilities reduces the need to travel.
- Criteria-based policies on accommodation for gypsies and travellers and on location of rural exception sites could assist in making these locations more sustainable.

12. What are the Sustainability Weaknesses of the Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document?

Sustainability weaknesses of Purbeck's Core Strategy

- Levels of housing growth are likely to have cumulative impact on the environment and on energy consumption, as well as noise pollution and light pollution. This may in turn impact on health and well-being of residents
- There is a focus on the larger villages. However, the small villages have very different needs, depending on location, and this is not explored in detail
- Provision of facilities such as GP surgeries and schools are out of the control of planning policy and can be affected by many factors, including the current economic climate.
- There is a focus on problems on the A351, but other roads such as A352, A35 and A31 are likely to be adversely affected by cumulative growth in traffic. This may in turn impact on health and well-being of residents
- The current economic climate could affect delivery of affordable housing.
- Viability testing on affordable housing may require updating to reflect the current economic climate.
- The threshold of two dwellings for affordable housing may not allow much affordable housing to come forward in the smaller villages.
- Climate change could offset any enhancement to habitat and could lead to increased vulnerability to flooding.

13. How can the Core Strategy be made more sustainable?

The Core Strategy provides the maximum amount of housing that can be successfully integrated, but it is accepted that the constraints of protected habitats and road infrastructure means that it cannot meet all housing need. The policies of the Core Strategy therefore have to maximise the sustainability benefits from the level of development proposed, which, while not large, is not insignificant in view of the nature of the District's constraints.

Any development proposed would be sustainable if it could be delivered so that it benefited those most in need, especially in need of housing, helped to reduce traffic and greenhouse gas emissions, and did not result in a loss of biodiversity or access to open space. If this is applied, then growth in Purbeck will be more sustainable.

Mitigation measures set out in this SA would go some way to making the Core Strategy more sustainable. Some of these mitigation measures could be included in the Site Allocations DPD which will be consulted on in 2011. Mitigation measures set out in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will also need to be carried out.

Future strategy documents could be more positive and proactive regarding rural settlements and help make them more sustainable and self-sufficient. The large differences in Purbeck's spatial areas could be addressed by focussing more on the specific characteristics of the relevant villages. For example, the villages in the north west and north east of Purbeck are very different from those in the south east, and have different needs. Future strategy documents could also be more proactive on renewable energy provision through collection of locally derived evidence such as viability assessments.

14. Conclusion

A tension between growth and sustainability lies at the heart of findings of this SA. This tension can be found across much of the UK. As Purbeck must prepare for growth, the Core Strategy should be used to ensure that this growth is delivered as sustainably as possible. It is hard to see how a district can provide 120 additional dwellings per year over the plan period and increase its GVA without increasing greenhouse gases, and without causing additional pollution.

If growth in Purbeck could be delivered to benefit those most in need (for example, meeting the need for affordable housing), if it helped to reduce traffic and greenhouse gas emissions, and did not result in a loss of biodiversity and of a high-quality built environment, then such growth would be considered sustainable. However, as stated above, other factors are at play. Provision of affordable housing can be improved, but only by also building to meet some of the demand (rather than need) for market housing – with this demand frequently coming from outside the district. A reduction in traffic and greenhouse gas emissions is unlikely to be achieved, although the Core Strategy will assist in minimising the impacts. Closure of local facilities makes the achievement of better accessibility even more difficult. Loss of biodiversity through cumulative impact of humans and with climate change is also likely to continue, even with mitigation measures in place. Growth at Poole could lead to additional impact on protected sites and on traffic in Purbeck, as new residents in Poole visit Purbeck in their leisure time.

The strength of the document lies in its focus on self-contained communities and a reduction in the need to travel, and it may be possible to achieve this in part for the local community. However, the desire to travel is likely to increase in line with national trends and in particular if GVA increases. Thus Purbeck will probably not decrease its greenhouse gas emissions overall until the very long-term, ie beyond the plan period, at which point national policies, trends, and new technologies may address the issue.

Government policies and proposals can hinder the likelihood of achieving sustainable development, for example: high public transport costs (relative to the car), VAT on building repairs (but not on new build), threatened closures of local services such as libraries and

post offices, and many other factors that are outside the control of planning. The result of this is that the Core Strategy may go some way towards making a difference, but potential positive effects may not be felt until some of the more problematic policies of government are addressed.

The following table shows a simplified analysis of what the document is likely to achieve within the plan period, bearing in mind other factors beyond the scope of the spatial planning system.

Within the plan period, is the Core Strategy likely to assist in:	
Improving health & promote healthy lifestyles?	Likely, in view of self-containment of options.
Making suitable housing available and affordable for everyone?	Likely, although not all need could be met.
Giving everyone access to learning, training, skills & cultural events?	Possible, with the promotion of development near to existing facilities, and policies to protect existing services. However, national trends continue to show increase in unsustainable transport patterns.
Reducing crime & fear of crime?	Likely, in particular through promotion of community facilities and services, as well as provision of jobs. However, the causes of fear of crime are complex.
Promote stronger, more vibrant communities?	Likely, with current policies on self-containment and retention of facilities.
Improving employment opportunities in Purbeck?	Likely, if employers come forward. The supply of land in Purbeck is more than enough to meet demand.
Reducing poverty and help everyone afford a good standard of living?	Likely, through the provision of affordable housing and of additional jobs. However, the causes of poverty are complex and the current economic climate has led to more uncertainty.
Harnessing the economic potential of tourism in a sustainable way?	Uncertain. National trends continue to show increase in unsustainable transport patterns which would make this objective difficult to achieve.
Helping everyone access basic services, reduce the need to travel by car & encourage cycling, walking and use of public transport?	Uncertain. Self-containment is promoted, but “rationalisation” of services such as libraries continue.
Reducing vulnerability to flooding and sea level rise & plan for climate change?	Uncertain. There are no proposals to build on land at risk of flooding. However, trends in climate change could make this objective difficult to achieve.
Protecting & enhancing habitats and species?	Uncertain, in view of trends in climate change. Some species may be more adaptable than others.
Protecting & enhancing Purbeck’s unique landscape & townscape, & cultural & historical assets?	Likely. Despite the additional development, enhancements are possible through good design and landscaping.
Reducing water consumption?	Unlikely in the plan period, in view of national trends of increased consumption
Reducing waste & minimising energy consumption & greenhouse gas emissions?	Unlikely in the plan period, in view of national trends of increased consumption.
Minimising land, water, air, light, & noise pollution?	Unlikely in the plan period, in view of national trends and the cumulative impact of development.