

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

Scoping Report September 2010



Prepared jointly by Christchurch Borough Council and East Dorset District Council
as part of the Local Development Framework

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Introduction

- 1.1. In September 2004 a new Planning Act made far-reaching changes to development plan arrangements. A new system for the production of the Local Development Framework is now in place. The Local Development Framework will guide future development in Christchurch and East Dorset and will be made up of a series of Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. These are collectively known as Local Development Documents. The new Local Development Framework will replace the Borough of Christchurch Local Plan 2001 and the East Dorset Local Plan 2002 in setting out policies and proposals to guide the future development of the area.
- 1.2. The new Planning Act (Section 39 (2)) requires that Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents should be subject to Sustainability Appraisal. This is elaborated in Government Guidance: Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (ODPM, Nov 2005). This report comprises the first stage of the Sustainability Appraisal for the emerging Christchurch and East Dorset Local Development Frameworks.

Sustainability

- 1.3. The most commonly accepted definition of sustainable development is:

'...development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'¹

- 1.4. The Government has set out 5 guiding principles for sustainable development², these are:

- Living within Environmental Limits

Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.

- Ensuring a Strong Healthy and Just Society

Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion and creating equal opportunity for all.

¹ Brundtland Commission Report – Our Common Future (World Commission on Environment and Development) 1987

² Securing the Future – Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (March 2006)

- Achieving a Sustainable Economy

Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which produces prosperity and opportunities for all, and on which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised.

- Promoting Good Governance

Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging peoples’ creativity, energy and diversity.

- Using Sound Science Responsibly

Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.

- 1.5 Sustainability appraisal is a systematic process undertaken during the preparation of a plan or strategy. Its role is to assess the extent to which the emerging policies and proposals will help to achieve relevant environmental, social and economic objectives. In doing so, it provides an opportunity to consider ways in which the plan or strategy can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and addressing any adverse effects that draft policies and proposals might have.
- 1.6 The overall aim of the appraisal process is to help ensure that the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Development Frameworks, and the Local Development Documents they contain, make an effective contribution to the pursuit of ‘sustainable development’.

The Purpose of the Report

- 1.7 The purpose of this Scoping Report is to:
 - identify environmental, social and economic objectives contained in other plans and programmes that are relevant to the Local Development Frameworks;
 - assess the existing broad environmental, social and economic characteristics of Christchurch and East Dorset, and how these are changing, taking a long term view of whether, and how, the area is expected to develop;
 - in the light of these reviews, consider key issues and problems that the Local Development Frameworks should address in the pursuit of sustainable development; and to

- set out an appropriate framework for carrying out the remainder of the Sustainability Appraisal, including objectives against which draft policies and options may be assessed, and indicators against which progress towards meeting those objectives can be monitored in future.

1.8 This report has been prepared following consultation with relevant stakeholders in order to ensure that the identification of sustainability objectives and issues, and the proposed collection of the baseline data, are adequate for the assessment of the future formulation of Local Development Documents. This included a stakeholder consultation, held between 21st November 2005 and 30th December 2005 and a further consultation in 2008, including those required to be involved as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process. This Scoping Report has taken on board many of the useful comments received, as well as other changes introduced through improved understanding.

Legislative Framework

- 1.9 European Directive 2001/42/EC requires an 'environmental assessment' of plans and programmes prepared by public authorities that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment. This process is referred to commonly as Strategic Environmental Assessment, and covers relevant plans and programmes whose formal preparation began after 21 July 2004. Among the documents to which this requirement will apply are land use plans that cover a wide area, such as the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Development Frameworks.
- 1.10 As stated previously, the new planning system also requires local authorities to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. The purpose of a Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of the documents. The Strategic Environmental Assessment will form the environmental part of the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 1.11 This Scoping Report will use an approach that addresses the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal simultaneously, by giving full consideration to environmental issues whilst also addressing the spectrum of socio-economic concerns. In terms of the specific requirements of the Directive, the Scoping Report and the Sustainability Appraisal Report on the draft Local Development Documents will together meet the need for an 'Environmental Report', as required by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, setting out the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the draft plan (and the reasonable alternatives that have been considered).
- 1.12 Due to the presence of internationally designated nature conservation sites the Councils will also have to undertake Appropriate Assessments when producing Development Plan Documents. These assessments are made to meet the

requirements of the Habitats Regulations, and if the Development Plan Documents are to pass the test which they impose, the assessment must conclude that they will not damage the integrity of the international nature conservation sites.

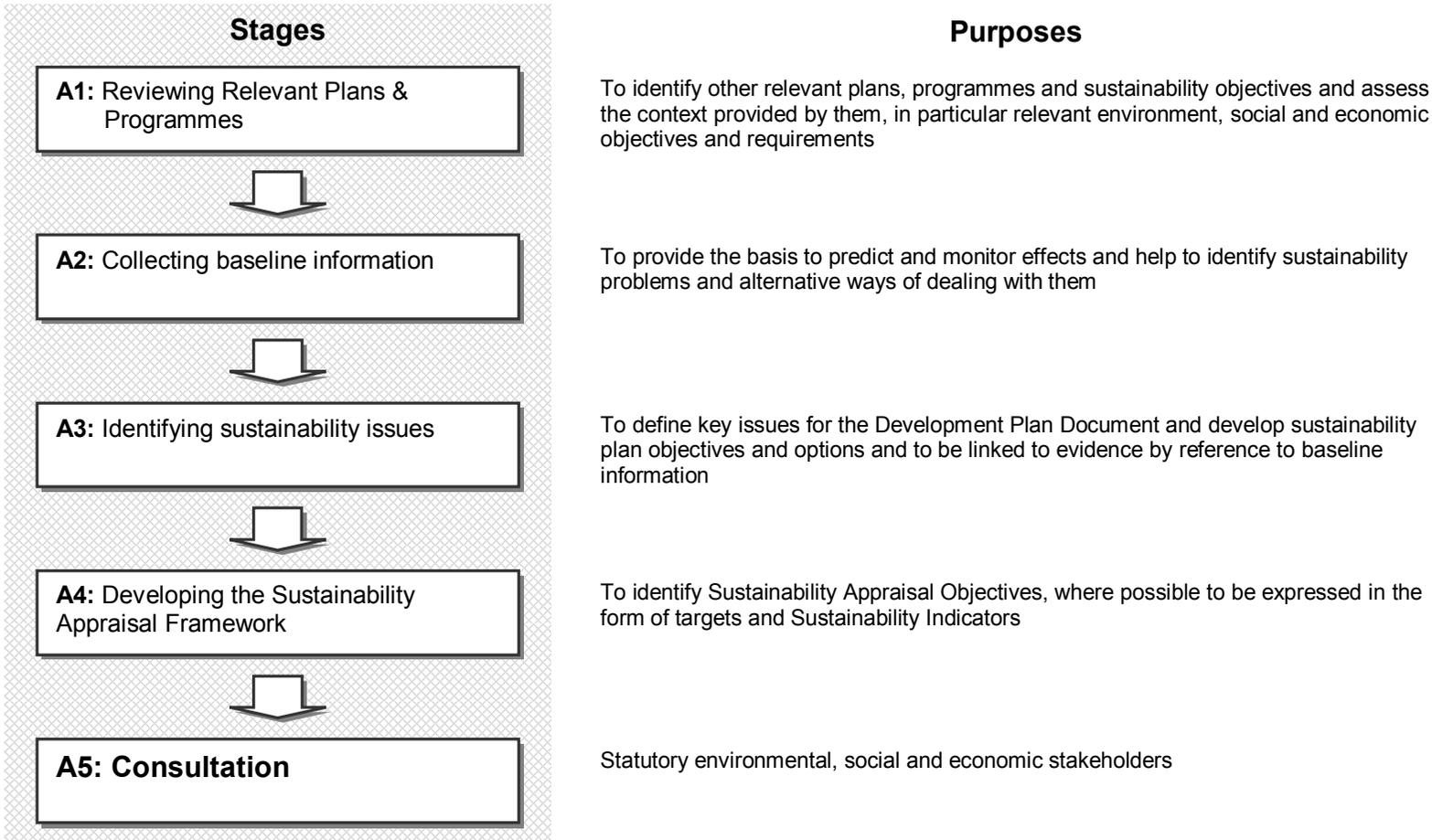
The Local Development Framework Process

- 1.13 The Local Development Schemes for Christchurch and East Dorset set out the Local Development Documents that will form the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Development Frameworks. Local Development Schemes for the two Councils have been published setting out the timetables for document production. These will be updated as circumstances require.
- 1.14 A joint Statement of Community Involvement for both Authorities was adopted in July/August 2006.
- 1.15 It is proposed that the first Development Plan Document will be a Core Strategy, again covering both Authorities. This document will set out the overall planning strategy for Christchurch and East Dorset.

Scoping methodology

- 2.1 The general methodology to be employed draws upon the guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment published by ODPM in 2003 and 2005, now the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG).
- 2.2 Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process that identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of a Development Plan Documents or Supplementary Planning Documents and the extent to which their implementation will fulfil the Government's principles of sustainable development.
- 2.3 Within the overall process stage A consists of five key tasks, as set out in Figure 1. This Scoping Report sets out the findings of Stage A together with information on what happens next in the process.

Figure 2: Stages of Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Study Process



Stage A1: Identifying other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives

- 3.1 The first stage in the Sustainability Appraisal process is to establish the context in which the Local Development Framework is being written. It is necessary to review all of the other policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives which may influence, or be influenced by, the Local Development Framework in order that any conflicts or synergies may be identified.
- 3.2 A list of those policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives which we believe to be relevant is shown at Appendix 1. No list is exhaustive and often there is a hierarchy which may influence the significance given to any particular document.
- 3.3 Each of the documents will have to be taken into account to a different degree. The Local Development Framework will be written in the context of local, sub-regional, national and even international policies.
- 3.4 The work is ongoing and further documents will continue to be reviewed and added to the list if appropriate.
- 3.5 Some of the key messages so far emerging from the review are as follows:

General

- The need to integrate social, environmental and economic issues in considering future development.
- The aim to create mixed communities.

Social

- The area has a predominantly ageing population.
- There is a need for affordable private and social housing.
- Access to local amenities (particularly in the rural areas), including green spaces is a major issue.
- The need to ensure the community can access cultural facilities.

Environmental

- Impact of climate change
- Conservation, maintenance and enhancement of protected habitats and species is essential.
- Efficient use of land for development (brownfield sites, higher densities) is preferable to development on green field sites.

- The communities value the high quality built and natural character of the area.
- Traffic congestion and car dependency influence development and community perceptions.
- The maintenance of good air quality is important for the health of the community.
- Flooding is likely to have a significant impact.
- Provision and maintenance of a safe and plentiful water supply is required.
- There is need to conserve energy, including energy used in travel, and provide renewable energy sources to reduce the use of fossil fuels.
- The population faces problems with how to deal with the waste it generates.

Economic

- There is presently a shortage of labour and this is forecast to worsen in the coming years. Out migration of young people will have a major impact on the future economy.
- Businesses are finding it hard to grow because of a lack of suitable and available employment land.
- The Airport should accommodate relevant knowledge based activity and industries which make a positive contribution to sustainable economic growth
- There is a need to control the levels of commuting.
- The area has important town centres that need to be supported in order to keep them vital and viable.
- There is a need to ensure a sustainable economy in rural areas.

Stage A2: Baseline Information

- 4.1 The collection of baseline data is a key component of the Sustainability Appraisal process and a legal requirement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation. Baseline data helps to identify sustainability issues and monitoring indicators to refine the effects of policies.
- 4.2 In compiling the list of possible indicators there are inevitably gaps in data identified. Where this is the case it is legitimate to note the gap and make provision for the collection of such data in the future. The proposed local indicators are identified in

Table 2. These have been identified to provide a robust assessment of the performance and impact of policies on the proposed objectives considered in Stage A4.

- 4.3 Baseline data is usually collected in the form of indicators which can either be monitored over time or against regional or national statistics. When undertaking an assessment it will be important to look at the cumulative effects and trends shown through the monitoring of the indicators.
- 4.4 Indicator data can be useful for identifying sustainability issues to which the LDF may need to respond. For each indicator, enough data should be collected to identify how good or bad a situation is and whether trends show an improvement or deterioration.
- 4.5 It is anticipated that some data can be shown spatially and can therefore be mapped; examples would include open space provision, areas at risk of flooding, landscape designations, Conservation Areas etc. This will be done as part of the overall Sustainability Appraisal process ready for the public consultation phase of the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 4.6 The baseline data for Christchurch and East Dorset has been set out alongside key sustainability issues in Section 5 and key baseline indicators are also set out in Appendix 2. Each of the “Joint Principles of Sustainability” published jointly by the two Councils in 2001 acts as a thematic heading with Sustainability Objectives listed below and a number of indicators for each objective.
- 4.7 This list is not exhaustive and will change as new information becomes available.
- 4.8 The review of indicators has identified several areas where there are gaps in the data currently available. These are:
 - % of households in fuel poverty
 - How to measure access issues meaningfully
 - The indicators under the Biodiversity Objective
- 4.9 Where data supply is a problem, attempts will be made to fill any gaps during the process. Where information is still to be collected or is awaited, this is stated in the table.

Stage A3: Identifying Sustainability Issues

- 5.1 The purpose of this section is to identify key sustainability issues for Christchurch and East Dorset, which will inform the development of policy objectives and options for individual Local Development Documents. Any issues/problems identified will be, where possible, linked to evidence by reference to the baseline information contained within Appendix 2 and explained previously in Stage A2.
- 5.2 The description below contains the key sustainability issues for Christchurch and East Dorset that have been identified to date. They have been compiled taking into account:
- The existing knowledge of planning issues arising from work of the Councils.
 - Recent studies carried out to inform the and Local development Framework e.g. Town Centre Retail Survey; Open Space Survey etc.
 - Public Consultation Responses obtained through Consultation and Community Strategy work.
 - Initial review of plans, policies and programmes (Stage A1).
 - The baseline information collected for Stage A2 of this Scoping Report and listed in Appendix 2.
- 5.3 In order to predict and subsequently monitor the impacts of the Local Development Frameworks for Christchurch and East Dorset, we need to know what condition the area is in at present. What is needed is a 'baseline', in terms of the environment, society and the economy, from which to forecast and measure the effects of proposed plans and policies which are being promoted through the Local Development Framework process.
- 5.4 The baseline appraisal is also important because it helps identify the key issues that are currently facing Christchurch and East Dorset and are likely to do so in the future. It will form an important part of the evidence base upon which the Local Authorities will be developing the Local Development Framework.
- 5.5 The baseline information has been obtained from a wide range of sources including the Office for National Statistics, the Department for Communities and Local Government and a range of County Council, and local monitoring sites. Whilst there are many sources of social, environmental and economic information, the intention is to focus on issues at a scale that is appropriate to the Local Development Framework. The collation of baseline information is an ongoing process. There may be current gaps in the data and new data may become available as we proceed through the Local Development Framework

process. Therefore, a database of baseline information for Christchurch and East Dorset will be developed and refined or revised as necessary.

Geography

- 5.6 East Dorset District and the Borough of Christchurch are located in the east of Dorset and represent the most south-easterly local authorities in the South West region of England.
- 5.7 Christchurch is relatively small in area, at 50 square kilometres, occupying only 2% of the land mass of the County. It has a coastline which extends to 10.3 kilometres in length (including 1.5 kilometres of harbour coast) and the historic town of Christchurch lies at the confluence of the rivers Stour and Avon.
- 5.8 The principal settlement is Christchurch which has the role of a local service centre, providing a range of shopping, health, recreation and other community facilities. During the twentieth century, the town expanded along the coastal frontage and immediate hinterland. Much of the built up area takes the form of low-rise suburban post war residential development around small cores of earlier settlements. 80% of Christchurch residents live in the main built up area.
- 5.9 About 70% of the Borough remains as open countryside, harbour or coast. North of the built up area, the village of Burton has seen major residential growth, whilst the villages of Winkton and Hurn remain as small rural settlements. The Borough is characterised by a low lying landscape with only gentle variations in topography with the rural area being divided in two by St Catherine's Hill, a ridge at 45 m above sea level running north/south between the valleys of the rivers Avon and Stour.



- 5.10 © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. East Dorset District Council. Licence: 100024319. 2005 The town of Christchurch is located close to Bournemouth with easy access to the A338 which runs to the north of the Borough, providing links to primary routes to the east and the west. The town has a railway station providing a two hour link to London and the South East. Bournemouth Airport, lying in the north-east of the Borough, provides scheduled and charter flights to a range of national and international destinations.
- 5.11 The District of East Dorset is located in the north-east of the County. To the east, it is bordered by the River Avon and its valley which separates it from the New Forest whilst to the south, the River Stour divides a large area of the District from the coastal towns of Christchurch, Bournemouth and Poole (the South East Dorset conurbation). To the south-west, the District has a boundary with Purbeck, whilst North Dorset lies to the west. East Dorset has an area of 355 square kilometres which, although around seven times the size of Christchurch, is the smallest rural Authority in Dorset. (Dorset Data Book)
- 5.12 The landscape character of the district is closely related to the geology which is predominately chalk in the north-west and sands and clays in the south-east. This gives rise to downlands in the north-west and a mix of heathland, woodland, coniferous plantations and small fields bounded by hedges in the south-east.

- 5.13 At the beginning of the twentieth century, Wimborne Minster, an ancient and historic market town, was the principal settlement serving an almost entirely rural area. The town maintains its position as the main settlement in the district although rapid population growth from the 1920s onwards in the district as a whole has resulted in extensive areas of urban development which have transformed East Dorset. Urban development and population growth have been concentrated in the southern and eastern parishes bordering, and influenced by, the South-East Dorset conurbation with an extended 'finger' of growth stretching northwards through Verwood to Alderholt. These urbanised areas include the settlements of Corfe Mullen, Colehill, Ferndown, West Parley, West Moors, St Leonards and St Ives and Verwood. Whilst each of these has its own identity, they share a number of common characteristics: each is a discrete urban area, separated from one another (and the main conurbation) by corridors and wedges of open country. The principal land use is residential, at relatively low densities and suburban in character. Populations range between 5,600 and 10,000 for each settlement, although Ferndown and West Parley are distinguished as a single continuous built up area with a combined population approaching 19,000. This represents the largest single concentration of population in the district.
- 5.14 The chalk downlands of the north and west largely retain their rural character. The settlements are generally small villages, many being of architectural and historic interest. The major estates (together with planning policy) have been an important factor in sustaining the character of this area of the district.
- 5.15 The A31 trunk road from London to the South West runs through the district providing direct links to Southampton and on to the M3, M27 and A34 to the Midlands. There is no rail link in the district. Bournemouth Airport in the Borough of Christchurch lies within two miles of the eastern boundary and provides national and international air links, while the Port of Poole to the south provides cross Channel sea links.

Environmental Baseline and Issues

- 5.16 The environment of Christchurch and East Dorset is of exceptional quality, cherished by the local community and attracting tourists throughout the year. Both Authorities boast a rich archaeological and built heritage within an attractive landscape setting. The following sections set out particular aspects of the environment.

Climate Change

Baseline

- 5.17 Climate change has the potential, not only to affect the environment, but also the social and economic aspects of life in Christchurch and East Dorset. Although the precise nature of environmental changes is not fully understood, changes to

precipitation patterns (and river flow) and rising sea level have significant implications particularly for the town of Christchurch. Conversely, predicted dry, hot summers will cause problems of low flows for some of the chalk downland rivers in the area. Additionally, climate change could have a significant impact on agriculture and wildlife throughout the whole area.

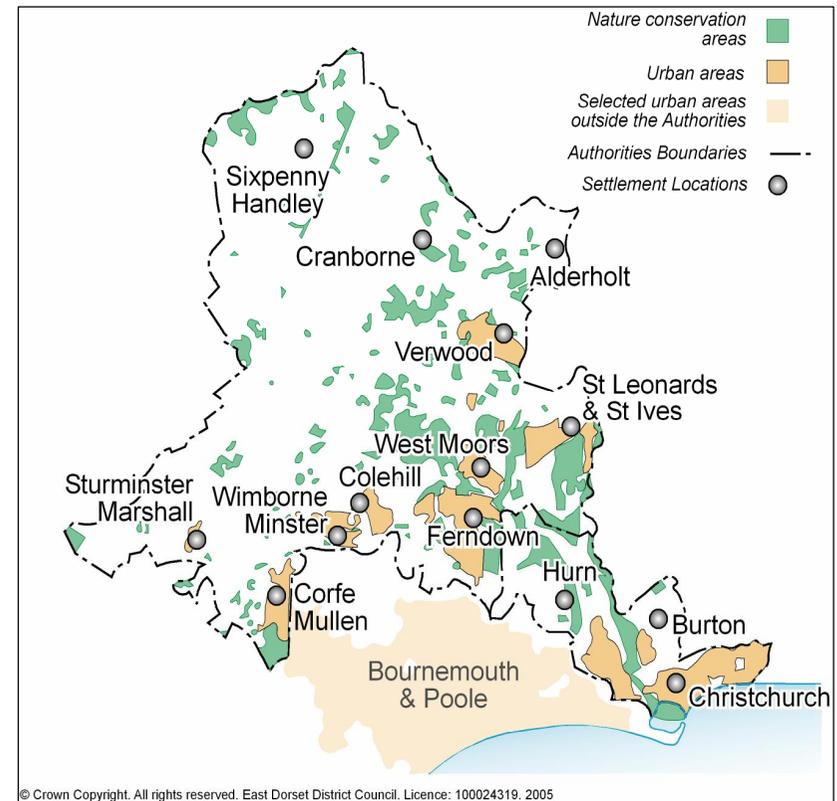
Plans, Policies and Programmes – Key Issues

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>Climate change is likely to affect biodiversity, increase hazards from fluvial and coastal flooding, and increase the problem of low flow rivers during the summer.</p> <p>1) How will climate change have an impact on the Districts and how can planning policy be used to reduce any impact?</p> <p>2) How can planning policy be used to limit greenhouse gas emissions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplement to PPS1 – Planning and Climate Change • PPS22 • Environment Agency 	<p>1 Protect, enhance and expand habitats and protected species.</p> <p>2 Make sustainable use of resources.</p> <p>4 Minimise factors contributing to climate change.</p> <p>5 Provide access to meet people’s needs.</p> <p>6 Provide a safe and secure environment.</p>

Biodiversity

Baseline

- 5.18 The natural environment of Christchurch is diverse and of high quality, consisting of the coast, harbour and cliffs and, inland, of extensive areas of wet and dry heath and river valleys. There are around 150 hectares of nature reserves and wildlife areas and a significant proportion of the Borough (18.6%) is protected by some form of nature conservation designation from sites of local importance (SNCI) and green corridors to those of international importance (Ramsar). There are 10 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), two of which are also designated as Special Protection Areas and two as candidate Special Areas of Conservation. Three of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest are also designated Ramsar sites.
- 5.19 East Dorset is similarly endowed with a rich natural heritage with 9.7% of the District covered by one or more nature conservation designations (including Special Protection Areas, candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites). Holt heath is a National Nature Reserve (NNR).
- 5.20 The condition of SSSIs in both Districts is unfavourable compared to national standards. This is due to a combination of poor management, but also the significant recreational pressures exerted on the heathlands.



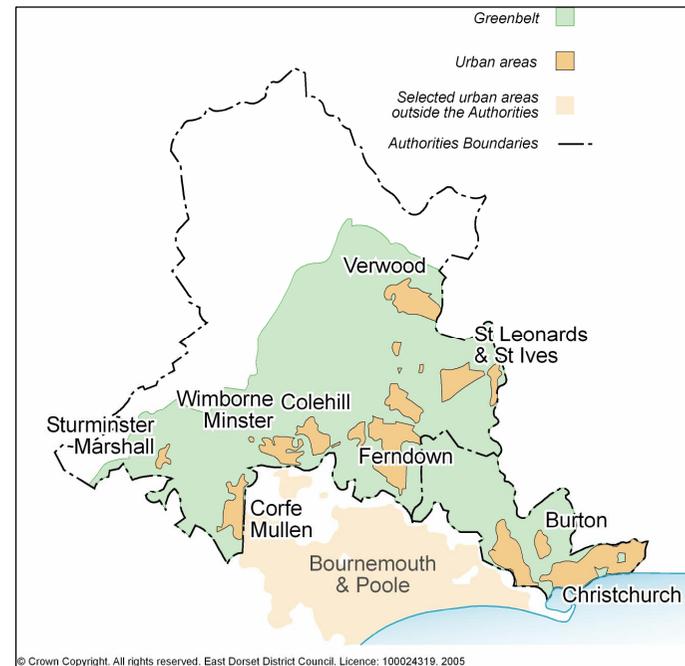
Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>The Districts contain some of the most rare and precious nature conservation assets in the Country. These are under threat from urban pressures, including disturbance and damage from recreational use.</p> <p>3) How can the valuable biodiversity of the area be maintained and enhanced?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Plans, Policies and Programmes • Structure Plan 2001 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Protect, enhance and expand habitats and protected species. 2 Make sustainable use of resources. 3 Minimise pollution. 6 Provide a safe and secure environment.

Countryside

Baseline

5.21 Approximately 80% of the area of the two Districts is rural, within which about 20% of the overall population reside. This is in contrast to the southern part of Christchurch and Highcliffe and the towns to the south of East Dorset which are more urban and suburban in character. The area has seen significant urban development since the Second World War and there are continuous pressures for more to take place. Improvements to private transport have made the rural areas accessible to those who wish to live in the countryside and work in the urban areas, or for those who wish to use the countryside for recreation. To contain urban sprawl and to maintain the separate identity of settlements the South East Green Belt was introduced in the 1980's and this has reduced the loss of green fields to development. It also provides easy access to countryside on the doorstep of many residents, avoiding the need to travel substantial distances.



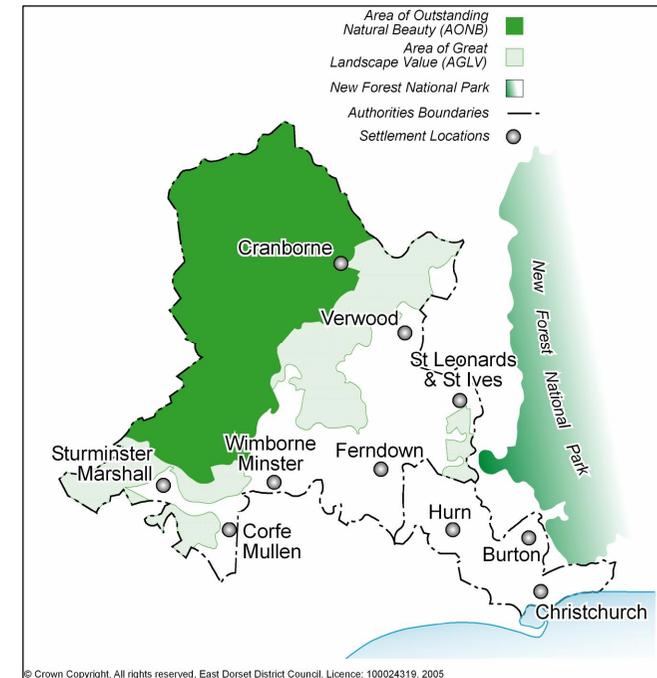
Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>The countryside is continuously under pressure from urban influences and the demand for new development is strong.</p> <p>4) What is the impact of urban influences on the countryside and how can this be managed?</p> <p>5) How can the separate identity of settlements be maintained?</p> <p>6) How can sustainable access to countryside be fostered?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Planning Policy Statements 	<p>2 Make sustainable use of resources.</p> <p>11 Maintain and enhance local distinctiveness.</p>

Landscape

Baseline

- 5.22 Christchurch has no designated special landscape areas although the 'Environmentally Sensitive Area' in the Avon Valley is a positive landscape protection and enhancement programme administered and funded by DEFRA. (Christchurch Borough-wide Character Assessment 2003)
- 5.23 In East Dorset, 45% of the land is designated as the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This comprises the chalk downlands in the north-west of the District, being one of the richest in Britain in archaeological remains, representing a landscape of great historic and amenity value. Additionally, a large part of the remaining countryside in East Dorset has been identified as an Area of Great Landscape Value in the East Dorset Local Plan.
- 5.24 The New Forest National Park lies on the border of the Districts and neighbouring development could impact on the landscape quality of the Park.



Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>The Districts have significant areas of landscape importance, including the Cranborne Chase and Wiltshire Downs AONB, River Avon SSSI, and Areas of Great Landscape Value, Special Character Areas and areas of historic value.</p> <p>7) How can the local character and environment of the area be maintained and enhanced, at the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Character Assessment 2004 • Conservation Area Statements • Local Plans • Christchurch Borough wide Character Assessment 	<p>11 Maintain and enhance local distinctiveness.</p>

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>same time as meeting changing needs and demands?</p> <p>8) How can development in Christchurch & East Dorset be managed to avoid undue impacts on the New Forest National Park?</p>		

Historic Environment

Baseline

- 5.24 The historic town centre of Christchurch is characterised by narrow streets and a number of Listed Buildings, some dating from the medieval period and the majority from the 18th and 19th centuries. Sustaining the high quality townscape is important to defining the character of the settlement. Within the Borough there are 12 designated Conservation Areas (three of which are in the rural areas) around 287 Listed Buildings and 12 Scheduled Monuments. Most of Christchurch town lies within a conservation area.
- 5.25 East Dorset has many attractive villages and other areas of special architectural or historic interest which, in order to protect their character and appearance, have been designated as Conservation Areas. There are 19 in total. The District has 689 Listed Buildings and 152 Scheduled Monuments. There are also 5 sites which are included in the 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England'. (Dorsetforyou.com)
- 5.26 In addition to the Conservation Areas, East Dorset has identified 'Special Character Areas' within a number of areas, which are distinguished by their built form and layout, often within a sylvan setting.
- 5.27 There are significant pressures exerted on the historic environment. These come from the demand to modernise historic buildings, change their uses, develop within conservation areas and from increased affects from traffic and highway improvements.

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
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Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>There are areas of significant built historic importance and aesthetic quality that should be preserved and enhanced. These are continuously facing pressures for change.</p> <p>9) How can the Conservation Areas, Special Character Areas and areas of historic value best be preserved and enhanced?</p> <p>10) How can the role of historic town centres such as Wimborne or Christchurch be enhanced whilst respecting their conservation area status?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Area Statements • Local Plans • Christchurch Borough wide Character Assessment 	<p>10 Protect and enhance historic buildings and archaeological sites.</p> <p>11 Maintain and enhance local distinctiveness.</p>

Water

Baseline

- 5.28 The Stour and Avon flood regularly and wide areas within the Borough of Christchurch are subject to marine or fluvial flood risk. The town has a major flood protection scheme, however, it is estimated that around 3,262 properties and two caravan sites would be at risk in the event of overtopping or failure of defences. Additionally, a breach of Mudeford Spit in the event of a tidal or storm surge could put the safety of 2,000 people at risk. (Major Incident Plan for Flood Emergencies, Christchurch Borough Council, Dec 2002)
- 5.29 Within East Dorset, the Stour and its tributaries have historically caused serious flooding problems, notably in Wimborne, Shapwick, Longham and Sturminster Marshall. The floodplains are an important part of the river system, providing necessary water storage. There is a need to ensure development does not impinge on this, or exacerbate flooding elsewhere. Additionally, there have been serious incidents of groundwater related flooding within the chalk areas of the District. A large part of the District, again relating to the chalk downlands, is designated as Groundwater Protection Zones. Here groundwater is taken via boreholes to serve the needs of the community.

Plans, Policies and Programmes

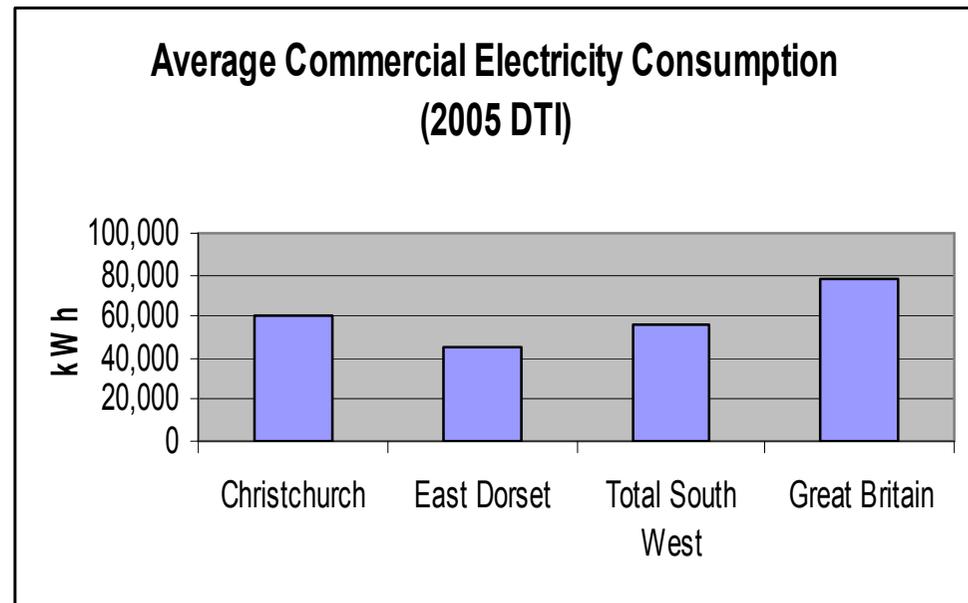
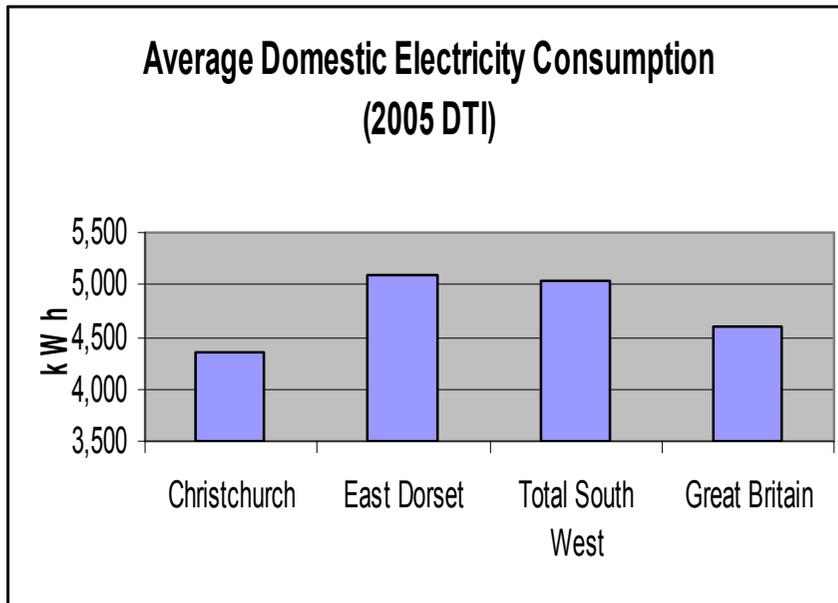
Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>There are a series of rivers that pass through the area that can cause serious flooding. Additionally, Christchurch is threatened by potential sea level rises.</p> <p>11) What response should be made to the threat of sea level rises and river flooding?</p> <p>12) How can flood defence schemes be better designed to minimise impact on the character of the coast?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plans • National Plans, Policies and programmes 	<p>6 Provide a safe and secure environment.</p>
<p>The amount of water used by households in the area has increased over the past decade, as has the abstraction of water. Water supply in the area is taken from groundwater associated with a chalk aquifer, and the River Stour. The quality and quantity of water to supply future demands is going to be critical to the future levels and location of development that can be accommodated.</p> <p>Abstraction from the River Avon has caused low flow problems, adversely affecting its high nature conservation value.</p> <p>13) What is required to protect and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plans • National Plans, Policies and programmes 	<p>2 Make sustainable use of resources.</p> <p>3 Minimise pollution.</p>

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
provide sustainable water supplies and maintain natural water systems?		

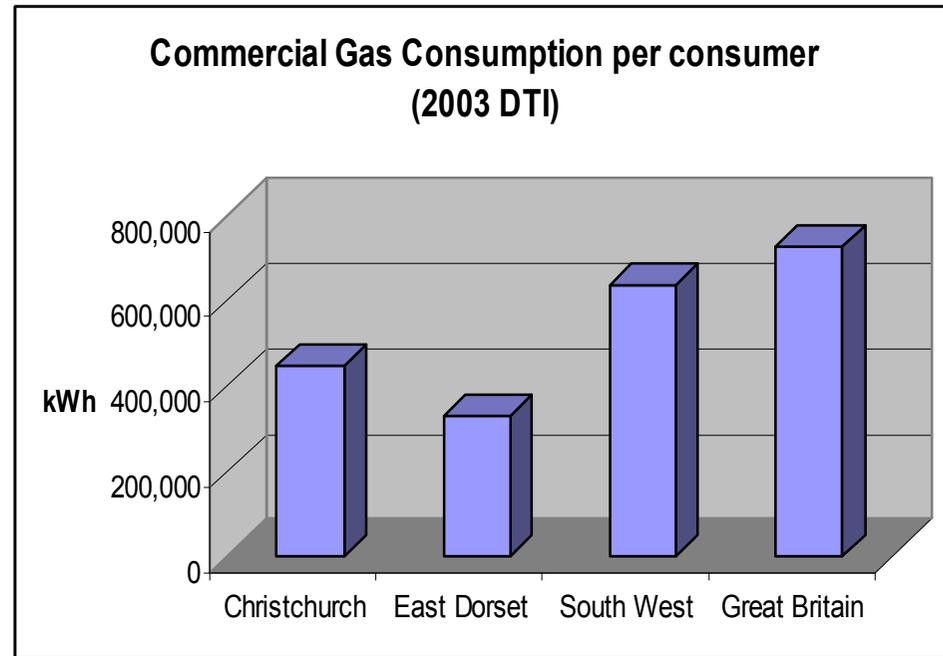
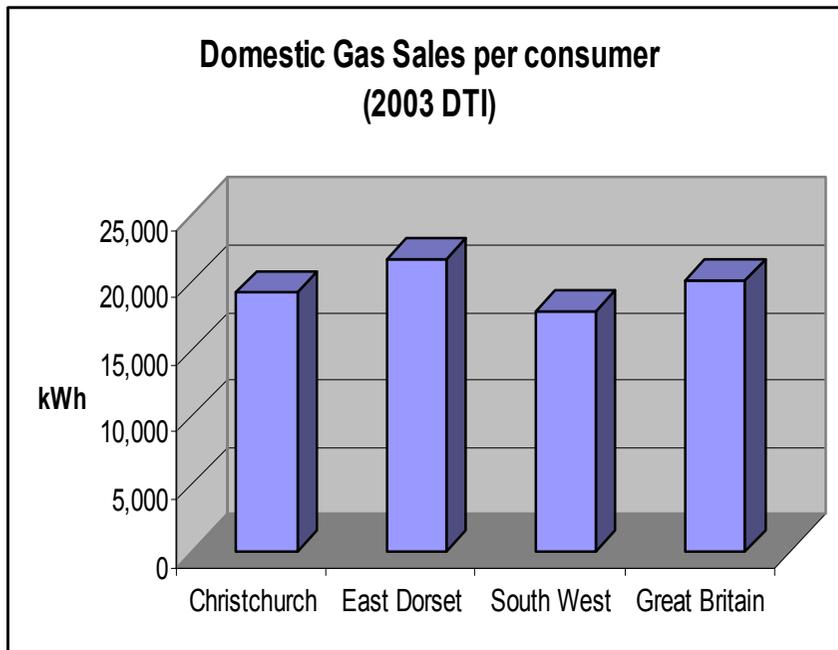
Energy

Baseline

5.30 In 2005, East Dorset had average levels of domestic electricity consumption in comparison to other authorities in the South West, whereas Christchurch was below average. In relation to commercial consumption Christchurch was above average, while East Dorset was significantly below average.



5.31 In relation to gas consumption per domestic consumer East Dorset is well above average, while Christchurch is average. For commercial use both East Dorset and Christchurch use less kWh per consumer than the average in the South West or Great Britain.



Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
There are increasing demands for energy provision predicted for the future. The supply of non-renewable sources is diminishing in the case of carbon based fuels, becoming more expensive and contributes to global	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Plans National Plans, Policies and Programmes 	4 Minimise factors contributing to climate change.

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>warming. There is a need to provide alternative, affordable renewable sources of energy, as well as improve energy conservation methods to manage our energy demands better.</p> <p>Some parts of the community experience fuel poverty.</p> <p>14) How can an affordable, safe and secure energy provision be secured to meet the needs of the community for the future?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Renewable Energy Strategy 	

Pollution

Baseline

- 5.32 Pollution is a wide ranging topic covering issues such as air quality, light, noise and visual pollution and land contamination. In general, pollution levels in both districts are low although only limited information is available on some indicators. There is a geographic Information System data base of all potentially contaminated land and the air quality strategies are updated regularly, although there are no areas within the districts which currently meet the criteria for an air quality management plan.
- 5.33 The key air pollutants are nitrous oxides – these are high (49.1µg/m³ in 2001) by contrast with levels of other pollutants, which are within target levels. The main source of this type of pollution is transport. There are no Air Quality Management Areas within the area. In Christchurch Road and air traffic associated with Bournemouth Airport may pose conflicts with air quality management and this will have to be monitored. Noise pollution is also an issue which will need special control around the airport. The Airport has adopted an air quality monitoring framework as required by the terminal permission.
- 5.34 Light pollution data collected from CPRE, using satellite technology, shows that the majority of Christchurch suffers from light saturation and that there has been a significant increase in light pollution since 1993 when measurements first began.

- 5.35 The CPRE has also undertaken work to measure tranquillity. This shows that only a small proportion of Christchurch and the rural north of East Dorset benefits from tranquillity. There is also the consideration of minimising or mitigating the harmful environmental impacts affecting the National Park.
- 5.36 All 23 kilometres of rivers in Christchurch are rated as good or very good for water quality (Christchurch in Profile 2005) and all Christchurch's beaches are rated as good or excellent judged by the Environment Agency's standards. There are no ground water source protection areas in the Borough.
- 5.37 Of the 85 kilometres of rivers in East Dorset, 93% are rated as good or very good for water quality.(East Dorset in Profile 2005) A large proportion of East Dorset is underlain by aquifers from which water supplies are already drawn. It is essential that this resource remains protected from the risk of pollution or over abstraction.

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>Although contaminated land levels are comparatively low it is still an issue that can affect either existing, or future residents and visitors.</p> <p>15) How can levels of soil contamination be reduced and future contamination prevented?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National plans, policies and programmes 	3 Minimise pollution.
<p>There are many national statutory standards to prevent pollution. There are currently no identified significant problems, but it is necessary to ensure that this is correct and that no future problems are caused.</p> <p>16) How can it be ensured that new development does not cause harm in relation to air, noise and light pollution?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National plans, policies and programmes 	3 Minimise pollution.
<p>There are some very sensitive water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National plans, 	3 Minimise pollution.

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
environments throughout the Districts and these need to be protected. 17) How can it be ensured that water pollution levels do not cause harm to natural systems?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> policies and programmes National PPSs 	
Urbanisation has resulted in increased levels of light pollution. 18) How can light pollution be reduced when urbanisation is likely to continue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National plans, policies and programmes 	
Increasing urbanisation and the demand for further travel has resulted in a loss of tranquillity. 19) What can be done to enhance tranquillity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National plans, policies and programmes 	

Resource use/Waste & Recycling

Baseline

5.38 In 2005/6, 29,682 tonnes of household waste was generated within the Borough of Christchurch. 43% of household waste is recycled and the remainder is disposed of in landfill sites. East Dorset's household waste for the same period was 39,499 tonnes and the recycling rate was 39%. (The Dorset Data Book)

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
Both Districts have high levels of recycling when compared with national figures. However, there are increasing requirements to improve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Waste Strategy 	2 Make sustainable use of resources.

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>recycling. Waste disposal is a major issue in an area of such high landscape value.</p> <p>20) How can waste disposal be managed to prevent significant adverse affects on the environmental quality of the area?</p> <p>21) Are their potential locations for waste disposal/recycling facilities within Christchurch/East Dorset?</p>		

Social Baseline and Issues

Population

Baseline

- 5.39 Christchurch has a population of 45,824 (ONS Mid Year Estimates 2008). The Authority has the second smallest population in the County but, because of its limited area, has the second highest population density, at 895 persons per square kilometre.
- 5.40 The age structure of the population demonstrates a higher proportion of elderly persons in the Borough compared to national averages. For example, one in two of the Christchurch population is aged over 50 whilst the average for England is one in three. Christchurch has the highest proportion of population in age bands 72-84 compared with all local authorities in England and Wales and is within the 10 local authorities with the lowest proportions of population in the age group 0-39. Although the age distribution in Christchurch is biased towards the elderly, there are significant variations in distribution within the Borough. Clearly, this demographic profile has implications for social provision. However, examining trends in migration patterns, it appears that the Borough is experiencing net gains in the 0-15, 25-44 and 45-64 age groups which may, over time, help to address some of the imbalance in the population structure. (The State of Christchurch 2005)

- 5.41 The residents of Christchurch are predominantly monotypic, being mostly White British citizens who constitute 96.83% of the population. (The State of Christchurch 2005)
- 5.42 According to Resident Surveys most people migrated to the town rather than having been raised from birth within the Borough. Although many are of a mature age, only 15% moved to Christchurch on retirement, a smaller percentage than those motivated by employment or proximity to family and friends.
- 5.43 East Dorset has a population of 85,200 (ONS Mid Year Population Estimates 2008) and around two thirds of the population live in the south and eastern area of the District.
- 5.44 The age structure of the district has undergone significant changes in recent years. Since 1991, the number of people aged 50-59 years has increased by 49% whilst those in age band 20-29 years have fallen by 29%. This is mainly due to in-migration by older people (perhaps in preparation for retirement) and the out-migration of younger people (seeking employment and or affordable housing or attending university) (The Dorset Data Book 2007) Whilst the population of the UK as a whole is ageing, the percentage over the age of 65 in East Dorset (26.1%) and in Christchurch (29.6%) far exceeds the national average of 16%. (ONS Mid Year Population Estimates 2005) Indicative of the high proportion of elderly in the two districts, the death rate per 1,000 people was 12.1 in East Dorset and 14.1 in Christchurch in 2005, compared with the national average. The birth rate in 2003 was 7.9 per 1,000 in East Dorset and 8.3 in Christchurch, compared with the national average of 12.1 which is unsurprising given the demographic profile. Despite death rates exceeding birth rates in the Districts, the population continues to increase as a result of in-migration. Long term projections suggest that the population may grow to 96,500 in East Dorset and to 49,600 in Christchurch by 2028. (The Dorset Data Book 2007)
- 5.45 East Dorset has the smallest black and ethnic minority population in the County at only 2.8%. This compares with a county figure of 3.2% and a national figure of 13%. Such small numbers in both Authorities may present difficulties in engaging these groups in the democratic process and measuring the efficacy of policies and services that are fully inclusive.

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
The age structure of the population currently shows a significantly above average representation of retired people. This will have implications for the economy, service provision,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census data • Community Plans • Health Plans 	5 Provide access to meet people's needs. 7 Create conditions to improve health. 8 Help make suitable housing available and affordable. 9 Help communities to support social cohesion.

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>accommodation and health.</p> <p>22) What are likely to be the main implications of the ageing population profile of the Districts, and how should we provide for the needs of the elderly population?</p> <p>23) What should be done to provide the necessary skilled labour supply to sustain the economy and meet the needs of the community?</p>		
<p>There are very low numbers of ethnic minorities in the Districts. Nevertheless, it is important that they are not discriminated against and form part of a fully inclusive community.</p> <p>24) How can the needs and rights of ethnic minorities be secured?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census data • Community Plans 	<p>5 Provide access to meet people's needs.</p> <p>6 Provide a safe and secure environment.</p> <p>7 Create conditions to improve health.</p> <p>8 Help make suitable housing available and affordable.</p> <p>9 Help communities to support social cohesion.</p>

Housing

Baseline

5.46 In 2001, Christchurch had around 21,769 dwellings of which 31.7% were single households (21.7% one-pensioner and 10% single non-pensioner households). Only 2.4% were vacant which is lower than the national average of 3.2%. Around 3% of housing stock is second residences or holiday homes compared with the average for England and Wales of 0.7% (The Dorset Data Book)

- 5.47 The type of housing stock is atypical from the regional and national averages with around 41% of properties being detached (which is almost double the national average) and 19 % semi-detached (one third fewer than the national average). (The State of Christchurch)
- 5.48 Around 180 new homes are built each year in Christchurch. About 85% of new housing has been built on brownfield sites. (The Dorset Data Book)
- 5.49 The majority of homes in Christchurch are owner-occupied with 46% owned outright. Only 12% of housing stock is rented from the Council/Housing Associations (compared with the national average of 19%) and 6% is privately rented (below the national average of 9%) (Christchurch in Profile)
- 5.50 A housing needs survey, conducted in 2007 for all Districts in Dorset estimated that in Christchurch 243 affordable homes would be required per year and 440 in East Dorset.
- 5.51 In 2001 the total housing stock in East Dorset stood at 36,616 with only 1.9% being unoccupied. The national figure for empty homes stood at 3.2% in 2001. Around 0.6% are second or holiday homes which is comparable with the national average of 0.7% but significantly smaller than the county average of 2.8% and that of Christchurch at 3%. (Dorset Data Book) These figures demonstrate that the housing stock is effectively utilised in East Dorset.
- 5.52 With increases in population come increases in housing and about 320 new homes were built per year in the district over the decade to 2008. Since then housing development has fallen dramatically without about 100 dwellings per year being built. Between 1994 and 2006 55% of housing development took place on brownfield sites, which represent the second lowest figure in the County and significantly less than the county average (excluding Bournemouth and Poole) of 60.8%. (Dorset Data Book)
- 5.53 Between 2002 and 2006 national average house prices have risen by 77% in East Dorset. These figures demonstrate the difficulty faced by some people in finding an affordable home.
- 5.54 The situation is exacerbated by the limited availability of social housing with only 8% of the housing stock provided by 'Registered Social Landlords' compared with the national average of 19%. Only 11 social housing units were built in the District in 2005/06. (Dorset Data Book)
- 5.55 House prices in both Authorities are high with an average price of about £235,000 in Christchurch and £260,000 in East Dorset, (Dorset Data Book). Research carried out by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation indicates that, based on average household incomes of working households aged 20-39 and average house prices for two and three bedroom houses.

Christchurch is the least affordable place in the Country and East Dorset 65th out of 407 local authorities (Dorset Data Book)

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>The provision of new housing needs to reflect the needs of the community, in terms of the size, type and tenure of dwelling provided. It may not be acceptable to simply allow the most profitable market demand to dictate these.</p> <p>House prices in the area are higher than the national average and wages below the national average. The supply of new housing is constrained by environmental, infrastructure and planning constraints. This coupled with the sale of social houses has resulted in a shortage of affordable housing.</p> <p>25) How can we provide housing in the area to meet the needs of all the community?</p> <p>26) Do we need to protect areas for family homes, and if so, where should these be?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Plans, Policies and Programmes • Structure Plan 2001 • Community Plans • Council Housing Strategies 	<p>8 Help make suitable housing available and affordable.</p> <p>9 Help communities to support social cohesion.</p>

Health

Baseline

- 5.56 Christchurch has 8 NHS surgeries and one hospital, the Christchurch Hospital which has a range of departments including a Macmillan Unit. There are 12 dental surgeries in the Borough offering a mix of NHS and private treatment.
- 5.57 Overall the health of the Borough's residents is good, with life expectancy for the period 2003/2005 being 79.7 years for men and 83.4 years for women. (The Dorset Data Book) The main causes of death (in 2005) were from circulatory diseases (229), cancers (172), coronary heart disease (103) and stroke (85).
- 5.58 Although teenage pregnancies in the Borough are relatively low compared with national averages, with 29.5% per 1,000 women aged 15-17 in 2002-2004, this masks considerable difference between wards.
- 5.59 East Dorset has 15 NHS surgeries and two hospitals (St Leonard's Community Hospital and Wimborne Community Hospital). There are 11 dental surgeries offering a mix of private and NHS treatment.
- 5.60 Life expectancy in East Dorset is higher than the national average, being 84.1 for females and 80.9 for males for the period 2003-05. The national figures are 81.1 and 76.8 respectively. Indeed, in 2003-05 life expectancy for males in East Dorset was second highest in the UK whilst females' life expectancy ranked 3rd in the UK. (The Dorset Data Book)
- 5.61 In 2001, the Census asked how people categorised their health over the past year. In East Dorset 68.9% described their health as 'good', 23.2% as 'fairly good' and 7.9% as 'not good'. These figures are comparable with national averages, although the figure for 'not good' is a little lower than the national average of 9.2%. Around 18.4% of the population has a limiting long term illness and the principal causes of death in 2005 were from circulatory diseases (384), cancers (295), coronary heart disease (186) and stroke (115).
- 5.62 Rates of teenage pregnancies in East Dorset were 24.8 per 1,000 females aged 15-17.

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant SA Objectives (See Stage A4)
In general, the health of residents in the area is good. However, the high proportion of older people in the area, which is anticipated to rise, does mean that there is an issue about	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census data • Community Plans • Health Plans 	7 Create conditions to improve health.

Key Issue	Source	Relevant SA Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>providing adequate care for the elderly.</p> <p>27) What is required to ensure suitable health care for the elderly?</p> <p>28) How can the Local Development Framework assist with provision of development which promotes healthy lifestyles?</p>		

Social Inclusion and Deprivation

Baseline

- 5.62 Levels of deprivation are measured using a range of indicators including income, health, employment, education, housing, living environment and crime. In 2007 the Department for Communities and Local Government published the most recent Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMP) which provides an in-depth approach to pinpointing small pockets of deprivation. The data is now based on identified neighbourhoods known as ‘Super Output Areas’ rather than wards.
- 5.63 Setting the context at County level, Dorset ranks twelfth from a total of fourteen counties and unitary authorities in the south-west region (where one is the most deprived and fourteen the least).
- 5.64 Christchurch is generally perceived as an attractive, tranquil and affluent Borough and promotes itself as a place ‘where time is pleasant’. Whilst this may be a reality for the majority, there are pockets of deprivation such as Somerford East and West which are ranked 5th and 9th most deprived in the County (from a total of 247) and within the 25% most deprived areas in the Country. In contrast, Mudeford Quay is amongst the 10% least deprived areas in the Country. (The Christchurch Annual Monitoring Report 2007)
- 5.65 A range of local initiatives have been introduced to address issues of deprivation including provision of a youth advisory centre ‘Ladders’, parenting courses, support for carers and a recent successful joint application by The Grange School and Somerford Primary School for ‘full service extended school’ status.
- 5.66 East Dorset is the least deprived of all the Dorset local authorities. In a national ranking of local authorities in England (where 1 is the most deprived and 354 is the least), East Dorset ranks 325, placing it within the top 10 percent. There are, however, pockets of deprivation, with Ferndown, Tricketts Cross East falling within the ten percent most deprived areas in

Dorset, whilst Wimborne Leigh Park, Verwood, Potterne & Woolsbridge and Allen Valley fall within the 25 percent most deprived Super Output Areas in Dorset.

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant SA Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>Access to essential facilities and services is an issue that needs to be considered in the light of the ageing population. Changes in the provision of services and facilities over the last 30 years have put pressure on local amenities, reducing their economic viability. This problem is particularly acute in the rural areas.</p> <p>29) How can access to facilities be maintained and improved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Rural Facilities Survey • Community Plans • Local Plans 	<p>9 Help communities to support social cohesion.</p> <p>11 Maintain and enhance local distinctiveness.</p>
<p>The two Districts on average are not deprived. However, particular pockets of deprivation exist.</p> <p>30) How should deprivation be reduced in identified areas of need?</p>		

Crime

Baseline

- 5.67 The crime rate in Christchurch is 58 crimes per 1,000 people. This is compared to a rate for Dorset of 69 and an average of 104 for England and Wales. (Dorset police 2008/09) The Dorset Crime Audit 2004 shows that the Borough experienced a higher increase in recorded crime (2003-2004) than many of its neighbours and attributes this largely to increases in vehicle crime and criminal damage. The Grange ward is identified as experiencing the highest increases in crime in the Borough.
- 5.68 Although not generally meeting the threshold of 'criminal' behaviour, anti-social behaviour intrudes upon the quality of residents' lives. In Christchurch the rate of anti-social behaviour in 2006 was 56 reported incidents per 1,000 people. This compares with the Dorset (including Bournemouth and Poole) average of 69. (The Dorset Data Book)
- 5.69 Evidence drawn from the Community Safety Survey in 2003 show that in Christchurch (in common with the rest of the county), feelings of safety were slightly lower than the previous year and concern over certain types of crime had increased.
- 5.70 The crime rate in East Dorset is very low, indeed the lowest in the County and one of the lowest of any local authority in England and Wales, at 37 crimes per 1,000 population. (Dorset police 2008/09)
- 5.71 In East Dorset the rate of anti-social behaviour in 2007 was 43 reported incidents per 1,000 people. (The Dorset Data Book)
- 5.72 Evidence drawn from the Community Safety Survey in 2001 showed that over 97% of residents in East Dorset said that they felt safe living in their neighbourhood. Although this figure has decreased to 96% in 2003, the fear of crime remains low compared with County averages. (Dorset Crime Audit 2004)

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant SA Objectives (See Stage A4)
Although crime levels and fear of crime are low in the Districts it is important for residents that this is maintained.		6 Provide a safe and secure environment. 9 Help communities to support social cohesion.

Key Issue	Source	Relevant SA Objectives (See Stage A4)
31) How can crime levels and fear of crime be maintained at a low level?		

Education

Baseline

- 5.73 Christchurch has a total of 11 state primary schools, 3 of which have separate infant and junior departments. There are 3 state secondary schools all of which are comprehensive schools: The Grange School, Twynham School and Highcliffe School. Three quarters of all 16 year olds go straight into full-time education or training. There is one independent school; Portfield School (Wessex Society for Autistic Children).
- 5.74 In 2006, 60% of Christchurch 15 year olds passed at least 5 GCSEs at grades A* to C. In contrast, Christchurch has the highest proportion of people with poor basic literacy and numeracy skills in the County. The 2001 Census showed that 28% of people aged 16-74 have no qualifications, compared with 29.1% in England and Wales. This figure may be indicative of the proportion of elderly in the population, since research has shown that the number of people leaving education without qualifications has decreased steadily over time. 17% of 16-74 in Christchurch have at least level 4/5 qualifications (degree or above) compared with the national average of 20%.
- 5.75 East Dorset has a total of 22 state first schools, 7 state middle schools and 2 secondary schools, Ferndown Upper School and Queen Elizabeth CE VC School. Additionally, there are 3 independent schools and 1 special school. (Dorsetforyou web site) In 2004, around 66% of East Dorset's 15 year olds achieved grades A*to C in 5 or more GCSEs.
- 5.76 Dorset Adult Education Service provides courses for life long learning with centres in Christchurch, Wimborne and Ferndown.
- 5.77 It is predicted that there will continue to be an increase in the population for both Districts (ONS). This could be further increased by options for new neighbourhoods to meet the needs of the conurbation as a whole. This will put pressure on education facilities.

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant SA Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>Projected population growth could put pressure on existing education facilities.</p> <p>32) How can we provide for the long term education needs of the population?</p> <p>33) What role can school facilities provide for the needs of the wider population and what can be done to enhance this?</p>		<p>5 Provide access to meet people's needs.</p> <p>9 Help communities to support social cohesion.</p>

Culture, Leisure & Recreation

Baseline

- 5.78 Christchurch has a range of cultural, leisure and recreational facilities which are used by both residents and visitors to the town. They include the Red House Museum and Gardens, the Electricity Museum, the Aviation Museum, Highcliffe Castle and the Regent Centre. The latter is a venue for professional and local amateur companies providing a diverse programme of around 400 events each year.
- 5.79 The Two Rivers Meet Leisure Centre provides a 25 metre swimming pool, 10 metre training pool, fitness suite and sauna, 4 squash courts and a main hall used for a range of sports. It is a base for a variety of clubs and courses.
- 5.80 There is a range of outdoor sports and recreation facilities including recreation grounds, sports pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens and golf courses. The natural amenities of Christchurch lend themselves to recreational activities with riversides, harbour and coastal locations used for water sports and fishing. The rural areas of the Borough provide opportunities for informal recreation (walking, bird and wildlife spotting, picnicking) whilst some areas have been subject to diversification into recreational uses such as golf courses and driving ranges, equestrian centres and a ski centre with artificial ski slopes.

- 5.81 All leisure activities contribute to the quality of life of residents, providing amenity and opportunities for enhancing intellectual, spiritual and physical well being. Additionally, they represent a tourism asset and their provision can result in economic benefits to the Borough.
- 5.82 East Dorset also has a wide range of cultural, leisure and recreational facilities. This includes the Priests House Museum, the Tivoli Theatre, Kingston Lacy House and gardens, which houses a major art collection, and several other country houses of note that open to the public during the year. There are numerous recreation facilities, including sports centres, golf courses, equestrian centres and sports pitches. The rural areas provide significant opportunity for informal recreation.
- 5.83 There is a conflict in both Districts between recreation and the protection of the heath lands for their nature conservation assets. Suitable alternative open space is required to reduce the number of people wishing to use the heaths for their recreation.

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant SA Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>There is a potential conflict between the desire for recreation and the quality of the lowland heaths in relation to nature conservation.</p> <p>34) Where should open space be provided and in what form to act as an alternative to the heathlands for recreation?</p> <p>35) Is there a need to plan for more/particular types of community or cultural facilities in the Districts?</p>		<p>9 Help communities to support social cohesion.</p> <p>10 Protect and enhance historic buildings and archaeological sites.</p>

Economic Baseline and Considerations

Economy

Baseline

- 5.84 Christchurch has a large thriving business base with over 1,800 companies. Some of the major employers are: BAE Systems, Channel Express, FR Aviation, Revvo Castor Co. and VAI Industries. Between 1994 and 2004, 12.89 hectares of industrial land has been developed in Christchurch. The total area of land with permission and allocated in the current local plan is 81.97 hectares, a large proportion being located at Bournemouth Airport which lies to the north-west of the town. (The Dorset Data Book)
- 5.85 The Borough provides employment for 17,700 people, 68% being full-time and 32% being part-time jobs. (The Dorset Data Book). The average unemployment rate is 1%, which is less than half the national average, and is concentrated in the urban areas of the Borough such as Grange, Portfield and the town centre.
- 5.86 5.87 Since 1999, the service sector in Christchurch has been expanding, but in 2003, it still employed proportionately fewer people (77%) than the county average (79%), the South West average (81%) and the average for Great Britain (81%). The proportion of employees in manufacturing continues to decline at national, regional and local level, but in Christchurch, the proportion employed in manufacturing (18%) is the second highest in Dorset and is higher than the averages for the County, the South West and Great Britain (each 13%). (The State of Christchurch 2005)
- 5.88 The 'Knowledge Economy' refers to the shift away from wealth-creating economies based on physically based industries to those that are based on knowledge. Knowledge based industries (KBI) include businesses focusing on information technology, life sciences and health care, media and entertainment, and advanced manufacturing and materials. KBIs are perceived as pivotal to sustaining the UK's economic prospects. In 2005, 21% of employees in Christchurch were engaged in knowledge-driven industries, the highest proportion in Dorset outside Bournemouth and Poole (average 17%) and comparable to averages in the South West (21%) and in Great Britain (23.3%).
- 5.89 East Dorset has approximately 3,880 firms, 88% of which are micro-firms (employing ten or less people). Some of the major employers are FR Aviation/Cobhams, Key Industries, Farrow and Ball and Rollalong.
- 5.90 The District provides employment for around 30,000, 59% in full time employment and 56% of all employees are male. (East Dorset, A profile of the economic and labour market 2005) Levels of unemployment are low with an average rate of 0.7%, being lower than Christchurch which is, itself about half the national average (Dorset Data Book).

5.91 As in Christchurch, the economy in East Dorset is centred on the service sector which accounts for 71% of employment. Of this, distribution, hotels and restaurants account for 29.6% of total employment (31.3% in Christchurch). This is closely followed by banking, finance and insurance at 23%. This sector is a particular strength of East Dorset compared with 14% of employment in Dorset as a whole. Knowledge-based industries account for 19% of employment which is comparable with the Dorset average (lower than the regional and national averages).

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant SA Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>The economy has the potential to grow in the next twenty years. It is predicted that the working age population will reduce. Current employment levels are very high, with very little unemployment. Many businesses are finding it hard to recruit and it is predicted that this problem is going to increase over the next twenty years. This is a particular problem in relation to the loss of young people from the area.</p> <p>36) What should be done to provide the necessary skilled labour supply to sustain the economy and meet the needs of the community?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census 2001 	<p>5 Provide access to meet people's needs.</p> <p>12 Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy.</p>
<p>It is predicted that the economy will continue to grow significantly over the next twenty years. To accommodate this there will be a need to make land available in the right locations.</p> <p>37) How can suitable land and premises be made available to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Plans 	<p>12 Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy.</p>

Key Issue	Source	Relevant SA Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>meet the needs of the economy?</p>		
<p>There have been significant changes in the rural economy caused by the decline in agriculture. A high proportion of those living in the rural areas commute to work in urban areas.</p> <p>38) Should the rural economy be diversified to provide more local employment opportunities to reduce commuting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Plans, Policies and Programmes 	<p>11 Maintain and enhance local distinctiveness.</p> <p>12 Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy.</p>
<p>The role of Bournemouth Airport is recognised in the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Christchurch Borough Local Plan as a strategic employment centre. There are however, significant obstacles to development including infrastructure provision.</p> <p>39) What types of employment development should be located at Bournemouth Airport, and what infrastructure or other safeguards need to be considered?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan 	<p>11 Maintain and enhance local distinctiveness.</p> <p>12 Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy.</p>

Shopping

Baseline

5.92 Shopping facilities exist at various local shopping parades throughout the Borough of Christchurch in addition to the main shopping centre in the town centre. The primary shopping cores are: Saxon Square/High Street/Church Street/Castle

Street, Bargates, Barrack Road and Highcliffe. There is one major retail park: Barrack Road Retail Park and smaller retail parks at Stoney Lane and Somerford Road. According to the Venuescore 'National Rank' of 2,000 shopping locations, Christchurch ranked 506 in 2006.

- 5.93 There are two main town centres within East Dorset at, Wimborne Minster and Ferndown. Additionally, there are smaller centres at Verwood, West Moors and a scatter of shops throughout Corfe Mullen. Rural retail facilities are scarce, being mainly centred on the villages of Sixpenny Handley, Cranborne, Alderholt and Sturminster Marshall. Both Alderholt and St Leonards and St Ives are major settlements with very limited local facilities. According to Venuescore, Wimborne Minster is ranked 737 and Ferndown 820 (2006).

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant SA Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>The town centres provide the hub of community life. They are under continued pressure from external forces, such as out of town supermarkets. It is important to make sure that the town centres are strong enough to adapt and remain vital and viable.</p> <p>39) How can town centres maintain their vitality and viability to provide for the needs of the community?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Plans 	<p>11 Maintain and enhance local distinctiveness.</p> <p>12 Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy.</p>
<p>Many rural communities have lost their shops, which means that residents have to rely on provision within towns. This encourages car journeys, but also disadvantages those without easy access to the car.</p> <p>40) How can retail provision be maintained and enhanced within rural areas to meet the basic needs of the community?</p>		<p>11 Maintain and enhance local distinctiveness.</p> <p>12 Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy.</p>

Tourism

Baseline

5.94 Tourism is important to the economy of Christchurch, with the Borough attracting 192,000 staying visitors and 792,137 day visitors per year, collectively generating around £180 million for the local economy.

- 5.95 The rich historic and cultural heritage of Christchurch is an important factor in defining the character of the town for both residents and visitors with, for example, the 11th century Priory Church attracting almost 70,000 visitors per annum. Other heritage attractions include The Castle and Constable's House (Scheduled Monuments), Highcliffe Castle and the Red House Museum and Gardens.
- 5.96 Christchurch's natural capital, in the form of its coastal setting of harbour and beaches, riverside walks and wildlife areas, also serves to attract visitors for a range of outdoor activities including water sports, rambling, wildlife viewing etc.
- 5.97 There are over 900 overnight bed spaces in the Borough, consisting of 8 hotels and 75 guest houses, inns and bed and breakfast establishments. There are 11 caravan and camping parks providing 48 self catering units, over 1,000 tent or towing caravan pitches and over 400 static caravan pitches (The Dorset New Forest Tourism Project 2005).
- 5.98 Tourism is even more significant for East Dorset. Moors Valley Country Park is the second most popular attraction in Dorset, with Avon Heath Country Park being third (English Tourism Council). Other significant attractions in the District include Kingston Lacey House, Stapehill Abbey and Wimborne Minster. The area has a major resource in the form of caravan sites offering accommodation in static vans and chalets, or on touring pitches.

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant SA Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>Tourism is a major part of the local economy, particularly for Christchurch, Wimborne and the rural areas.</p> <p>41) How can tourism be used to help the economy without harming the environmental assets of the area?</p>		<p>5 Provide access to meet people's needs.</p> <p>9 Help communities to support social cohesion.</p> <p>10 Protect and enhance historic buildings and archaeological sites.</p> <p>11 Maintain and enhance local distinctiveness.</p> <p>12 Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy.</p>

Transport

Baseline

- 5.99 The A338 runs northwards through the Borough of Christchurch to link with the A31 which, in turn provides access to the M3 and M25 for London and the South East. The A34 and M40 provide good access to and from the Midlands and the A35 links Christchurch to Southampton and Bournemouth, Poole and the South West region.
- 5.99 The railway station is located approximately 500 metres north west of the town centre and served by South West Trains which connects to major stations across the west of the county and provides fast and reliable services to Southampton and London. The station has around 50 parking spaces and is served by 3 taxi companies.
- 5.100 Bournemouth Airport lies within the north west of the Borough, about 10 minutes drive from the town centre. It is one of the fastest growing regional airports in the country with passenger numbers exceeding one million in 2006. (Manchester Airport Group) In 2005, it handled 11,600 tons of freight and mail. Total aircraft movements were 83,000 in 2005 (Airport Masterplan 2007. Scheduled and charter flights are available primarily to European destinations and operators include: Palmail, Ryanair, Easyjet, Flybe and Thomsonfly.
- 5.101 Car ownership is relatively high at 1.21 cars per household compared with national averages, but below county and regional averages. Over the last 20 years traffic in the Borough has grown by 40% and congestion is a problem with some roads having reached capacity. The A35 Christchurch by-pass (west) takes around 47,000 vehicles per day. (Christchurch in Profile 2005)
- 5.102 Christchurch is served by two bus companies, Wilts and Dorset and Yellow Buses which provide direct journeys to a number of destinations within and outside the Borough. A 'Dial-a-Bus' service operates for residents in the east of the Borough which collects eligible people from their homes taking them to the town centre for a few hours. It operates on one day of the week and can accept wheel-chair bound residents.
- 5.103 East Dorset is poorly served by public transport. There are no railways and bus services are sporadic, with many suburban and rural areas having no service at all. The District consequently has the highest level of car ownership in the Country.
- 5.104 The A31 Trunk Road runs east-west across the District, linking West Dorset and parts of Devon to London, the South East and the Midlands. This is a major route that suffers from a high incidence of accidents and significant amounts of congestion. The links from the A31(T) to the Port and employment centres of Poole are very important, but poor, leading to conflict with residential amenity and congestion.

Plans, Policies and Programmes

Key Issue	Source	Relevant SA Objectives (See Stage A4)
<p>Car dependency in the area is amongst the highest in the UK, particularly in the rural areas of East Dorset. There are serious congestion problems in key locations, such as Christchurch Town Centre, the Spur Road and A31. Systems need to be put in place to manage the potential for increased road traffic. Latest information indicates that there are significant flows of commuting in and out of the area.</p> <p>42) How can congestion, journey times and the reliance on the private car be contained and possibly reduced?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census 2001 • Local Plans • Local Transport Plans • National Plans, Policies and Programmes • National Planning Policy Statements • Census 2001 (Travel to Work Patterns) 	<p>5 Provide access to meet people's needs.</p>
<p>Bournemouth Airport is predicted to expand in terms of the numbers of flights. Additionally, land adjacent to the Airport is identified as a strategic employment site, to meet the needs of the wider conurbation. Access to the site is currently congested and almost wholly reliant upon private transport. The delivery of these schemes therefore has widespread transport implications.</p> <p>43) How can sustainable access to the Airport and the adjacent employment site be improved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christchurch Local Plan • The Future of Air Transport – White Paper 	<p>5 Provide access to meet people's needs. 12 Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy.</p>

Stage A4: Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 6.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework is a means of describing, analysing and comparing sustainability effects. It consists of objectives and a series of indicators by which progress against these objectives can be measured. The Sustainability objectives are distinct from the objectives within the Local Development Framework although some may overlap.
- 6.2 The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework is to see how the Local Development Framework objectives and the various policy options that emerge will perform in sustainability terms.
- 6.3 The objectives are based on a combination of national and local objectives. Their relationship to Strategic Environmental Appraisal is set out below. There is no suggestion that these are in any priority order.
- 6.4 In future the Sustainability Appraisal objectives and indicators may be revised as baseline data is collected and sustainability issues are identified, and can be used in monitoring the implementation of the Local Development Framework including the Core Strategy Development Plan Document.

Table 3 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

1	Protect, enhance and expand habitats and protected species (taking account of climate change), avoiding damage to designated wildlife and geological sites and protected species on which they depend.
2	Make sustainable use of resources.
3	Minimise pollution (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light).
4	Minimise factors contributing to climate change.
5	Provide access to meet people's needs.
6	Provide a safe and secure environment (including coastal protection, major hazards e.g. blast zones, crime / fear of crime and flooding).
7	Create conditions to improve health, promoting healthy lifestyles, especially routine daily exercise and reducing health inequalities.
8	Help make suitable housing available and affordable for everybody.
9	Help communities to support social cohesion through a reduction in the fear of crime and the provision of basic services and facilities, learning, training, skills, knowledge and culture.
10	Protect and enhance historic buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features.
11	Maintain and enhance local distinctiveness and create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look well.
12	Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy for the District that creates economic and employment opportunity, as well as providing for vital and viable town centres.

Table 3

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
ENVIRONMENTAL	<p>1 Bio-diversity, Fauna and Flora</p> <p>Other relevant SEA Topics 2, 3, 5, 6, 8</p>	<p>PPS1 PPS9</p>	<p>1 Protect, enhance and expand habitats and protected species (taking account of climate change), avoiding damage to designated wildlife and geological sites and protected species which depend on them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal protect and enhance designated sites? • Will the policy or proposal limit pressures on designated sites arising from recreational and other uses? • Will the policy or proposal allow biodiversity to adapt to the effects of climate change? • Will the policy or proposal avoid harm to rare and vulnerable species? • Will the policy or proposal maintain biodiversity levels? 	<p>No. and total area of SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar.</p> <p>% of SSSI SAC, SPA and Ramsar in favourable condition</p> <p>% of SSSI SAC, SPA and Ramsar in unfavourable recovering</p> <p>% of SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar in unfavourable no change</p> <p>% of SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar unfavourable declining</p> <p>% of SSSI SAC, SPA and Ramsar in unfavourable condition by development related reasons</p> <p>Number, total area and conditions of RIGGs</p> <p>% and spatial</p>	<p>DERC NE GIS Map</p>

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
					<p>distribution of urban/residential land more than 500m from accessible natural greenspace that is over 2ha in size and is not heathland SSSI</p> <p>% of 1km squares containing SSSIs where air quality exceeds the critical level for acidification or eutrophication of the natural vegetation</p> <p>Number, total area and condition of SNCI; LNR and Conservation Verge.</p> <p>Total area of Ancient Woodland.</p>	
	<p>2 Soil</p> <p>Other relevant SEA Topics</p> <p>1, 3, 6</p> <p>3 Air</p> <p>Other relevant SEA Topics</p> <p>5, 6</p>	<p>PPS1</p> <p>PPS3</p> <p>PPS7</p> <p>PPG13</p> <p>PPS23</p> <p>PPS24</p>	<p>2 Make sustainable use of resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal ensure that development takes place on brownfield sites • Will the policy or proposal use land efficiently • Will the policy or proposal protect and enhance the best and 	<p>% of development on brownfield sites.</p> <p>Density of new major developments.</p> <p>Area of grade I and II agricultural land lost to development.</p> <p>Areas covered by mineral extraction (ha)</p>	<p>Dorset Data Book</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report</p>

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
	4 Water Other relevant SEA Topics 5, 6			most versatile agricultural land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal limit the loss of soil to development • Will the policy or proposal maintain and enhance the quality of soil? • Will the policy or proposal allow for the reuse of old material in new construction? • Will the policy or proposal reduce water consumption? 		
			3 Minimise pollution (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal result in a site being de-contaminated? • Will the policy or proposal reduce the risk of land being contaminated? • Will the policy or proposal limit waste generation? • Will the policy or proposal encourage recycling of waste 	% of Contaminated land Total waste tonnage arising % of waste recycled % of waste to landfill Level of CO2 emissions NOx levels % of river length meeting river quality (biological and	EDDC & CBC Environment Health DCC Data book

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
				<p>materials?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal limit the risk of air, noise or light pollution? • Will the policy or proposal reduce the need to travel or transport goods by car, lorry or air. • Will the policy or proposal limit the risk of water pollution? • Will the policy or proposal maintain the quality of water? • Will the policy or proposal reduce water resources? • Will the policy or proposal increase rain water/grey water use? • Will the policy or proposal encourage water saving schemes? • Will the policy or proposal reduce water resources? 	<p>chemical)</p> <p>River biodiversity</p> <p>Number of applications granted with sustainable drainage system</p> <p>Amount of water abstracted m3 per LA area per year</p> <p>Quality and quantity of groundwater.</p> <p>No. of applications granted with water consumption saving schemes</p>	

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
	<p>5 Climatic Factors</p> <p>Other relevant SEA Topics 1, 3, 4</p>	<p>PPS1 PPS22</p>	<p>4 Minimise factors contributing to climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal result in the generation of renewable energy? • Does the policy or proposal result in the generation of non-renewable energy? • Will the policy or proposal encourage energy efficient building construction and layout? • Will the policy or proposal reduce the need to travel by car, lorry or air? • Will the policy or proposal encourage the use of alternative modes of transport to cars, lorries and aircraft? 	<p>CO2 emission level</p> <p>% of energy used from renewable energy sources</p> <p>% of new build and retro-fit homes meeting EcoHomes very good and excellent standards</p> <p>% of commercial buildings meeting BREEAM very good standards</p> <p>% of development to occur within limits of Catchment Flood Management Plan /Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.</p>	<p>DCC Research & Info</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report</p>
<p>SOCIAL</p>	<p>6 Population and human health</p> <p>Other relevant SEA Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9</p>	<p>PPS1 PPS3 PPG13 PPG17</p>	<p>5 Provide access to meet people's needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal promote mixed used development • Will the policy or proposal provide a pattern of 	<p>% of households within walking distance of hourly daytime bus service, or better.</p> <p>No. of applications with mixed</p>	<p>Annual Monitoring Report</p> <p>DCC Data Book</p>

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
				<p>development that allows people to easily access facilities, such as post offices, shops, community facilities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal avoid development that generates further road or air traffic? • Will the policy encourage more efficient use of car travel (e.g. car sharing etc.)? • Will the policy or proposal provide a development pattern that reduces the need to travel by car, lorry, or air? • Will the policy or proposal ensure that transport infrastructure serves local needs? • Will the policy or proposal improve provision of public transport? • Will the policy or proposal improve 	<p>development scheme granted</p> <p>Proportion of travel by mode</p> <p>Access to outdoor recreational facilities</p> <p>Access to indoor recreational facilities</p> <p>Access to the countryside and coast</p> <p>No. of and location of outdoor recreational facilities within walkable distance (500m covering over 2ha in size)</p> <p>Access to library services</p> <p>Access to health care</p> <p>Access to employment</p> <p>Access to basic retail facilities.</p> <p>Access to public transport.</p> <p>Access to leisure facilities.</p>	

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
				provision for cyclists and pedestrians? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal encourage more walking and cycling? • Will the policy or proposal improve access to meet educational needs? • Will the policy or proposal improve access to employment? • Will the policy or proposal improve access for library facilities? • Will the policy or proposal improve access to outdoor and indoor recreation facilities for all? • Will the policy or proposal improve recreational access to the countryside and coast within environmental constraints? • Will the policy or 		

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
				proposal improve access to health care? • Will the policy or proposal improve access to leisure facilities? • Will the policy or proposal improve access to retail needs?		
		PPS1 PPS25	6 Provide a safe and secure environment (including coastal protection, major hazards e.g. blast zones, crime / fear of crime and flooding).	• Will the policy or proposal limit new development within areas of risk of flooding? • Will the policy or proposal reduce the risks of flooding? • Will the policy or proposal ensure that the environment does not encourage crime? • Will the policy or proposal increase risks from major hazards?	Areas/no. of properties at risk of flooding No of applications refused because of the risk of flooding Level of crime	Flood risk maps Annual Monitoring Report DCC Data book

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
		PPS1 PPG13 PPG17	7 Create conditions to improve health, promoting healthy lifestyles, especially routine daily exercise and reducing health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal improve access to health care? • Will the policy or proposal improve access to leisure facilities? • Will the policy or proposal encourage walking and cycling? • Will the policy or proposal reduce noise, air, water and ground pollution? • Will the policy or proposal improve the quality and range of health services available? • Will the policy or proposal improve the environmental quality of deprived areas? 	Life expectancy at birth Percentage of people describing their health as good Access to a GP or primary care profession Access to local green space Access to the countryside Proportion of journeys on foot or by cycle Access and participation in sport and cultural activities	DCC Data book PPG 17 Open Space Survey

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
		PPS1 PPS3	8 Help make suitable housing available and affordable for everybody.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal meet identified housing needs? • Will the policy or proposal provide for special accommodation needs? (elderly / disabled / agricultural and forestry / gypsies / travelling show people / key workers). • Will the policy or proposal ensure adequate standards of residential accommodation? 	No. of housing completions. Number of affordable houses developed. Number of special needs housing provided. % of houses in decent condition Average housing price Average income Ratio of bottom quartile incomes to bottom quartile family housing prices Ratio of annual housing requirement Market entry housing purchase and rental price	EDCC & CBC monitoring Housing Needs Survey ONS

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
		PPS1 PPG17	9 Help communities to support social cohesion through a reduction in the fear of crime and the provision of basic services and facilities, learning, training, skills, knowledge and culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal provide for adequate educational needs? • Will the policy or proposal provide for adequate library facilities? • Will the policy or proposal increase provision of employment training? • Will the policy or proposal lead to an increase in the fear of crime? • Will the policy or proposal encourage local cultural traditions? • Will the policy or proposal provide new cultural facilities? • Will the policy or proposal improve the quality and provision of sporting facilities and open space? • Will the policy or proposal ensure 	<p>% of residents defined within a distance of 500m (15 min. walk) from basic services</p> <p>Access to GPs, Schools and Hospitals by public transport</p> <p>% of working age graduates with NVQ Level 4 and above</p> <p>% of 17 to 19 years old enrolling at universities</p> <p>No of people suffering from fear of crime</p> <p>No of cultural facilities</p> <p>No of people using cultural facilities</p> <p>No of outdoor and indoor sporting facilities</p> <p>No of good quality outdoor and indoor sporting facilities</p> <p>No. of non sporting</p>	<p>PPG17 Open Space Survey</p> <p>DCC Accessibility Data</p> <p>DCC Adult Services</p> <p>DCC Data book</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report</p> <p>PPG17 Open Space Survey</p> <p>District & Borough Art Officers</p>

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
				<p>adequate provision of, and maintenance of outdoor and indoor recreation facilities for all?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the policy or proposal improve the quality and quantity of public amenity space? 	recreational facilities	
	<p>7 Cultural Heritage Other relevant SEA Topics 6, 8</p>	<p>PPS1 PPS15 PPG16</p>	<p>10 Protect and enhance historic buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the policy or proposal protect, maintain and enhance listed buildings and their settings, conservation areas, archaeological sites and historic landscapes? 	<p>No. of listed buildings No. of listed buildings at risk No. of conservation area and archaeological sites No. of archaeological sites at risk No. of applications refused in conservation areas, because of their adverse effects</p>	<p>(GIS) English Heritage Annual Monitoring Report</p>
	<p>8 Landscape Other relevant SEA Topics 1</p>	<p>PPS1 PPS3 PPS7</p>	<p>11 Maintain and enhance local distinctiveness and create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the policy or proposal enhance and contribute to local building traditions? Will the policy or proposal lead to the merging of 	<p>No. of applications refused because of adverse effects to local setting Number of Special Character Areas</p>	<p>Annual Monitoring Report</p>

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
			<p>well and look well.</p>	<p>settlements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal enable farmers and other land workers to live in the countryside? • Will the policy or proposal protect the countryside from sub-urbanisation? • Will the policy or proposal ensure high design standards? • Will the policy or proposal contribute to an areas recognised design quality? • Will the policy or proposal enhance an area's recognised poor design? • Will the policy or proposal protect the AONB and Areas of Great Landscape Value? • Will the policy or proposal enhance the quality of poor landscape? 	<p>No. of applications refused because of poor design</p> <p>No of applications refused because of lack of provision of amenities</p> <p>No. of applications refused because of their adverse effects on their setting</p> <p>The extent of AONB areas</p> <p>The extent of Areas of Great Landscape Value</p> <p>No. of applications refused because of adverse effects on the designated landscape areas</p> <p>No. of applications refused because of impact on trees, woodland and hedgerows</p>	

SA Topic	SEA Directive Topic	Relevant National Objectives	Christchurch and East Dorset SA Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Source
ECONOMIC	9 Material Assets Other relevant SEA Topics 6	PPS1 PPS6 PPS4	12 Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy for the District that creates economic and employment opportunity, as well as providing for vital and viable town centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal provide for local convenience and comparison shopping? • Will the policy or proposal provide a wide range of diverse shopping facilities • Will the policy or proposal ensure a sufficient supply of land to meet local employment needs? • Will the policy or proposal encourage provision of diverse employment opportunities? • Will the policy or proposal enhance skill levels and provide high paid jobs? 	Retail floor area/frontages by sector Shop unit vacancy rate Amount of floor space completed retail, office and leisure development in town centres Unemployment Workforce Employment by sector Employment land available by type Lost employment land Average earnings New employment permissions Level of productivity (GVA)	Chamber of Trade/ Retail organisation data Retail Health Check survey Annual monitoring Report DCC Data Book Employment Land Survey

Stage A5: Consulting on the Scope of the SA

- 7.1 Consultation helps to ensure the Sustainability Appraisal will be comprehensive and robust enough to support the Local Development Framework during the later stages of full public consultation and examination.
- 7.2 In order to meet the statutory requirements of Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Appraisal, consultation has been carried out with the Strategic Environmental Appraisal Statutory Consultation bodies as set out below together with other appropriate social and economic consultees.
- 7.3 **Statutory Consultees (as required by Strategic Environmental Appraisal Directive):**
1. Countryside Agency (Now part of Natural England)
 2. English Heritage
 3. Natural England
 4. Environment Agency

Additional Organisations:

External:

5. East Dorset Community Partnership
6. Christchurch Community Partnership
7. Government Office for the South West (GOSW)
8. Highways Agency
9. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)
10. Planning Inspectorate (PINS)
11. Housing Corporation
12. South East England Regional Development Agency
13. South East Regional Assembly
14. South West Regional Assembly

15. South West of England Regional Development Agency
16. British Geological Survey regional office
17. British Waterways regional office
18. Forestry Commission
19. North Wessex Downs AONB Group
20. RSPB regional office
21. Sport England
22. Network Rail
23. The British Wind Energy Association
24. Wessex Water
25. Dorset Wildlife Trust
26. Manchester Airports
27. SE Dorset PCT
28. Dorset Police (Eastern Division)
29. BDPEP
30. Dorset County Council Economic Development
31. Dorset Strategic Partnership and Task Groups:
 - Affordable Housing
 - Accessibility
 - Children and Young People
 - Older People
 - Active Communities
 - Culture
 - Life Long Learning
 - Active Dorset
 - Safer and Stronger Communities
 - Drug Action Team
 - Health Gain Group

- Economy
- Environment

32. Learning and Skill Council
33. Dorset County Council Social Services
34. Dorset County Council Education Services
35. Friends of Earth (regional office)
36. Campaign to Protect Rural England (East Dorset and Christchurch group)
37. Dorset Biodiversity Partnership
38. Cranborne and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Nature Beauty
39. Dorset County Council Sustainability Officer
40. Dorset County Council Environment Officer
41. Bournemouth and West Hampshire Water Company
42. Scottish and Southern Energy
43. Dorset County Council Transport Planning
44. Dorset County Council Mineral and Waste Planning
45. Dorset County Council Strategic Planning
46. Arts Council for the South West
47. Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
48. South West Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
49. Public Art South West

Local Authorities

50. Dorset County Council
51. Hampshire County Council
52. Wiltshire County Council
53. New Forest National Park Authority
54. Bournemouth Borough Council
55. New Forest District Council

56. North Dorset District Council
57. Poole Borough Council
58. Purbeck District Council
59. Salisbury District Council

All Parish Councils and Neighbouring Parish Council

60. to 100

Internal Council Services:

East Dorset District Council:

- 101 Community Services Division
- 102 Public Health Services Division
- 103 Technical Services Division
- 104 Legal Services Division
- 105 Planning and Building Control Division

Christchurch Borough Council

- 106 Community Services Division includes:
 - ✓ Housing and Environmental Health,
 - ✓ Operations
 - ✓ Building and Development Services
 - ✓ Community and Planning Policy
 - ✓ Leisure, Parks and Countryside
 - ✓ Highways Design
- 107 Legal Services
- 108 Tourism and Economic Development

Appendix 1:

Relationship with Other Plans and Programmes (Stage A1)

This section will list those published plans and programmes that have an impact to a lesser or greater degree on the objectives of the Local Development Framework. The main issues are set out in an accompanying document identifying the broad impact.

The work is still ongoing. Additional documents are being reviewed and if appropriate will be added in due course.

Plans and Programmes of Potential Relevance to the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Development Frameworks and the Application of Sustainability Appraisal	
International/European Plans and Programmes	
I/E1	The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002)
I/E2	Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992).
I/E3	The (Ramsar) Convention on Wetlands of international Importance (1971).
I/E4	The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979) (known as the Bonn Convention)
I/E5	The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) (known as the Bern Convention, ratified by the UK in 1983)
I/E6	EC Sixth Environmental Action Program (2002)
I/E7	EC Sustainable Development Strategy Revision (2005)
I/E8	EC Spatial Perspective (1999)
I/E9	The EC Council Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds (1979) (known as the EC Birds Directive)
I/E10	The EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna & Flora (1992) (Directive 92/43/EC) (known as the EC Habitats Directive)

Plans and Programmes of Potential Relevance to the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Development Frameworks and the Application of Sustainability Appraisal	
I/E11	The EC Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC)
I/E12	The EC Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC).
I/E13	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.
I/E14	The EC Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC).
I/E15	The EC Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).
I/E16	The EC Directive to Promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001/77/EC).
I/E17	The EC Waste to Landfill Directive (99/31/EC).
I/E18	Aarhus Convention
National Plans and Programmes	
N1	Securing the Future – Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy
N2	Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change
N3	Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (2007)
N4	Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development
N5	Planning Policy Guidance Note 2: Green Belts (2001)
N6	Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (2003)

Plans and Programmes of Potential Relevance to the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Development Frameworks and the Application of Sustainability Appraisal	
N7	Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth
N8	Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.
N9	Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
N10	Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
N11	Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
N12	Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport (2001)
N13	Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)
N14	Planning Policy Guidance Note 20: Coastal Planning (1998)
N15	Good Practice on Planning for Tourism (2006).
N16	Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy
N17	Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control
N18	Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk
N19	Minerals Planning Guidance 1: General Considerations
N20	UK Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)
N21	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Plans and Programmes of Potential Relevance to the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Development Frameworks and the Application of Sustainability Appraisal	
N22	Hedgerow Regulations (1997)
N23	Rural Strategy (2004)
N24	The Future of Air Transport (White Paper: 2003) / Civil Aviation Act 2006
N25	UK Regional Air Services: A Study of the Civil Aviation Authority (2005)
N26	The Future of Transport, White Paper (2004)
N27	The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. (2007)
N28	Farming and Food Strategy 2002.
N29	Making space for water: Developing a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England (2004: a consultation exercise)
N30	Environment Agency: Groundwater Protection (GP3)
N31	The First Soil Action Plan For England: 2004-2006 (2004)
N32	BREs Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM)
N33	CROW Act (Countryside and Rights of Way Act) 2000
N34	ODPM Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
N35	Town and Country Planning (Green Belt) Direction (2005)
N36	Heritage at Risk Register

Plans and Programmes of Potential Relevance to the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Development Frameworks and the Application of Sustainability Appraisal	
N37	Guidance on Transport Assessment DfT (March 2007)
County Plans and Programmes	
D1	Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Structure Plan CSP28 (2001)
D2	Shaping our Future: The Community Strategy for Dorset (2007-2016)
D3	South East Dorset Local Transport Plan 2006-11 (2006)
D4	Dorset (excluding South East Dorset) Local Transport Plan (2006)
D5	Dorset Minerals and Waste Plan (1999)
D6	Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Waste Local Plan (2005)
D7	A Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset (2003)
D8	Local Agenda 21 Strategy: towards a community plan, DCC (2000)
D9	Dorset Biodiversity Strategy (2003)
D10	The Dorset Local Geodiversity Action Plan (2005)
D11	Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Draft Management Plan 2004-2009 (2004)
D12	Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Renewable Energy Strategy (2005)
D13	Dorset County Council Carbon Management Action Plan (2005)

Plans and Programmes of Potential Relevance to the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Development Frameworks and the Application of Sustainability Appraisal	
D14	Poole & Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plan
D15	Hampshire Avon Catchment Abstraction Management Plan (Environment Agency)
D16	Hampshire Avon Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency)
D17	Dorset Stour Catchment Abstraction Management Plan (Environment Agency)
D18	Dorset Stour Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency)
D19	Dorset Cultural Strategy 2009/14
D20	Heritage Strategy (undated)
D21	Dorset Sport Strategy (undated)
D22	Dorset Play Strategy (2004)
D23	Dorset Police Authority Three Year Strategy 2008/2011
D24	Dorset Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy
D25	Dorset Supporting People Strategy Refresh 2008
D26	A Strategy to Reduce Social and Health Inequalities in Dorset 2007 – 2012 Dorset PCT (Undated)
D27	The first Dorset Children and Young Peoples Plan 2009-2012
D28	Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Local Investment Plan 2010 to 2026

Plans and Programmes of Potential Relevance to the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Development Frameworks and the Application of Sustainability Appraisal

D29	Dorset Workplace Strategy (2009)
D30	Dorset and New Forest Tourism Partnership
D31	Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan 2009 to 2014
D32	Dorset Local Area Agreement (2008)
D33	Dorset Homelessness Strategy 2008 to 2013

Christchurch Context

CB1	Borough of Christchurch Local Plan Policies (2001)
CB2	Christchurch Corporate Plan
CB3	Christchurch Community Plan (2007)
CB4	Christchurch Housing Strategy (2006 to 2011)
CB5	Christchurch Homelessness Strategy
CB6	Christchurch Empty Property Strategy (2004)
CB7	Christchurch Town Centre Strategy (2003)
CB8	Christchurch Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan (2005)
CB9	Christchurch Borough-Wide Character Assessment (2003)

CB10	Use of Open Spaces Policy
CB11	Christchurch Sport Strategy
CB12	Druitt Gardens (Christchurch) Framework Document (2005)
CB13	Christchurch Parking and Access Strategy
CB14	Christchurch Arts Strategy
CB15	Christchurch Borough Asset Management Plan
CB16	CBC Recreation Service Plan
CB17	Comprehensive Equalities Policy
CB18	Licensing Policy
CB19	Youth Strategy
CB20	Contaminated Land Strategy (Feb 2001)
CB21	Christchurch Air Quality Assessments
CB22	Christchurch Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2
East Dorset Context	
ED1	East Dorset District Local Plan (2002)
ED2	East Dorset Sustainable Community Strategy (2008)
ED3	East Dorset Corporate Plan 2010

ED4	East Dorset Housing Strategy 2004-2009
ED5	Empty Homes Strategy (2006)
ED6	Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008 (2003)
ED7	Older Person's Housing Strategy
ED8	Single Person's Housing Strategy
ED9	Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy 2010 to 2015
ED10	Air Quality Review and Assessment
ED11	Contaminated Land Strategy (2005)
ED12	Social Inclusion, Diversity and Equality Strategy (2006)
ED13	East Dorset Cultural Strategy
ED14	Cranborne Chase AONB Landscape Assessment 1997
ED15	East Dorset District Council Areas of Great Landscape Value, Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 1997
ED16	19 Conservation Area Appraisals
ED17	Special Character Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance 2005
ED18	Countryside Design Summary SPG
ED19	Flood Risk, Groundwater and Sustainable Drainage SPG 2005
ED20	Affordable and Special Needs Housing and the Provision of Small Dwellings, Supplementary Planning Guidance, 2005

ED21

East Dorset Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1

Appendix 2 – Baseline Characterisation

Sustainability Appraisal Topic	Indicator	Current Christchurch Information	Current East Dorset Information	Comparators and Targets	Issues and Constraints Identified	Stage A3 Issue	Data Sources
Environment	Number of New Buildings winning national design awards e.g. Civic Trust, RIBA, Green Apple, SCALA	unknown	unknown			5	Individual Authority Data
	Loss or damage to Listed Buildings or buildings within a Conservation Area	4 (Terrace of shops with flats above) in a Conservation Area	unknown			6	LPA Enforcement Cases and Prosecutions under Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
	Number of Conservation Areas with a character assessment as a percentage of all conservation areas	1 (of 12 conservation areas)	18 Conservation Areas all with Character Appraisals.			6	Designations made under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
	Grade 1 and 2* listed buildings at risk	None	2		Very few of the large number of listed buildings are at risk.	6	English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register 2005

Sustainability Appraisal Topic	Indicator	Current Christchurch Information	Current East Dorset Information	Comparators and Targets	Issues and Constraints Identified	Stage A3 Issue	Data Sources
	% of new homes built on previously developed land	1994 -2006 79.5% on brownfield sites	1994 -2006 55.4% on brownfield sites. Although this figure in East Dorset is below the national standard of 60%, recent years have seen the percentage in the 90's.		The importance of protecting green fields from development is a key issue, acknowledged through the presence of the green belt designation.	4	The Dorset Data Book 2007 DCC
	New Development in flood risk zones per annum (number of permissions)	1 (2007)	0 (2007)		Both districts have main rivers passing through, or adjacent to urban areas.	7	LPA planning approvals granted
	% of SSSIs in favourable condition	38.9	15.7	Dorset 49.28	Both Districts, in particular East Dorset have low figures. A key issue for the LDF is how to improve the condition of SSSIs	3	Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC) English Nature
	% of land managed for nature conservation as a proportion of total open	unknown	unknown		The impact of human pressures on	3	LPA PPG17 survey

Sustainability Appraisal Topic	Indicator	Current Christchurch Information	Current East Dorset Information	Comparators and Targets	Issues and Constraints Identified	Stage A3 Issue	Data Sources
	space freely accessible to the public				the SPA heathlands is critically important. Alternative open space is required to attract people away from the heaths.		
	Losses or increases in area of Heathland (Ha/year)	unknown	unknown		Much of the heathland in the area is internationally protected. It is an important issue as to how this habitat can be protected and expanded.	3	DERC
	Percentage of new build and retro-fit homes meeting EcoHomes "very good" standard	unknown	unknown		The eco improvement of new and existing housing is important to protect scarce resources and reduce greenhouse emissions.	1, 2, 9, 11	
	Recycling rate	43%	39%		The disposal of waste is becoming more difficult due to	13	Christchurch in Profile DCC and Dorset Data Book

Sustainability Appraisal Topic	Indicator	Current Christchurch Information	Current East Dorset Information	Comparators and Targets	Issues and Constraints Identified	Stage A3 Issue	Data Sources
					the reduction in landfill.		2005 (EDDC)
	Permitted loss of Grade 1 or 2 Agricultural Land per year (hectares lost)	unknown	unknown		Impact on agricultural production	26	LPA planning approvals
	Number of reported noise nuisance incidents over last year	unknown	unknown		Fear of Crime	11	Environmental Health Business Unit
	Number of potentially contaminated sites remediated as a result of planning applications	Unknown for 2004/05	Unknown for 2004/05			10	Environmental Health Business Unit
	Compliance with bathing water standards	On 22/8/05 all beaches deemed to be excellent or good by EA standards	N/A			8	Dorset For You web site
	Rivers of good chemical and biological water quality	All 23km of rivers rated as good or very good	No data			12	Christchurch in Profile DCC
	Life expectancy at birth	79.7 years men 83.4 years women (2003-2005)	80.9 years men 84.1 years women (2003-2005)	England 76.8 years men 81.1 years women (2003-2005)	Above average life expectancy in area.	18	The Dorset Data Book DCC 2007
	Proportion of the population aged 60 and over	36%	31.6%	England & Wales 20.9%	Very high proportion aged 60+. This has health implications as well as limits employee supply.	18, 24	The Dorset 2001 Census Data Book DCC

Sustainability Appraisal Topic	Indicator	Current Christchurch Information	Current East Dorset Information	Comparators and Targets	Issues and Constraints Identified	Stage A3 Issue	Data Sources
	Percentage of people describing their health as good	64%	69%	Dorset 68% South West 69% England & Wales 69%	Below average good health noted in Christchurch	18	The Dorset 2001 Census Data Book DCC
	Percentage of people of working age with a limiting long-term illness	31%	33%	Dorset 37% South West 42% England & Wales 46%	Low relative level of limiting long term illness, but still significant.	18	The Dorset 2001 Census Data Book DCC
	Death rates from circulatory disease (Directly age-standardised rate)	61.6 (2003 & 2005 average)	44.9 (2003 & 2005 average)	England & Wales 91.2 (2003 & 2005 average)	Low relative level.	18	The Dorset Data Book 2007 (DCC)
	Death rates from cancer (all types) (Directly age-standardised rate)	93.4 (2003 & 2005 average)	94.1 (2003 & 2005 average)	England & Wales 119.3 (2003 & 2005 average)	Low relative level	18	The Dorset Data Book 2007 (DCC)
	Death rates from coronary Heart Disease (Directly age-standardised rate)	32 (2003 & 2005 average)	24.8 (2003 & 2005 average)	England & Wales 53 (2003 & 2005 average)	Low relative level.	18	The Dorset Data Book 2007 (DCC)
	Death rates from Stroke (Standardised mortality rate)	92 (2003 & 2005 average)	85.7 (2003 & 2005 average)	England & Wales 100.3 (2003 & 2005 average)	Low relative level	18	The Dorset Data Book 2007 (DCC)
	Number of Planning Applications resulting in loss of formally identified public open space	unknown	unknown			23	LPA Statutory Register

Sustainability Appraisal Topic	Indicator	Current Christchurch Information	Current East Dorset Information	Comparators and Targets	Issues and Constraints Identified	Stage A3 Issue	Data Sources
	Number of Planning Applications resulting in the creation of formally identified public open space	unknown	unknown			23	LPA Statutory Register
Social	Number of people declared as homeless between 1 st April and 31 st March each year	81 (2004/05)	89 (2004/05)		Need for additional affordable housing	17	Local Authority Data
	Number of families in temporary accommodation	102 Households (2004/05)	2 Households (2004/05)		Need for additional affordable housing	17	Local Authority Data
	Average House Prices	£251,262 in Sept 2007	£267,281 in Sept 2007	Dorset £250,092	Very high average house prices, causing problems of affordability.	17	Dorset Data Book 2007
	Difficulty of access to owner occupation (households who cannot afford)	91.93%	89.58%		Some of the highest ratios nationally underline the problem of affordability.	17	ONS
	% of empty homes 2006	2.3%	1.9%	Dorset 2.9% South West 2.8% England & Wales 3.2%	Very low proportion of empty homes reflects value of property and limits the scope to bring them back into occupation.	17	Census 2001 and Dorset Data Book 2007

Sustainability Appraisal Topic	Indicator	Current Christchurch Information	Current East Dorset Information	Comparators and Targets	Issues and Constraints Identified	Stage A3 Issue	Data Sources
	Number of affordable homes built in the last year (05/06)	16	11		Very few new affordable homes are being built	17	Individual Authority Data
	% of housing stock rented from Registered Social Landlords	12.41% in 2001	8.05% in 2001	Dorset 12.1% South West 13.53% England & Wales 19.19%	East Dorset has a very low percentage of social rented stock.	17	Dorset 2001 Census Data Book
	% of housing stock rented from private landlords	5.83% in 2001	4.85% in 2001	Dorset 7.75% South West 9.6% England & Wales 8.72%	Both Districts have a small stock of private rented housing.	17	Dorset 2001 Census Data Book
	% of unfit homes 2005	3.3% (732 properties)	5.2% (1,996 properties)	South West 4.1% England 4.4%	East Dorset has an above average number of unfit dwellings, whereas the Christchurch stock is in better condition	17	ONS
	Percentage of people aged 16-74 with 2 or more A levels	7.09%	7.47%	7.43% Dorset 8.27 Eng and Wales	The workforce in both Districts has below the national average number of A Levels.	24	Dorset 2001 Census Data Book

Sustainability Appraisal Topic	Indicator	Current Christchurch Information	Current East Dorset Information	Comparators and Targets	Issues and Constraints Identified	Stage A3 Issue	Data Sources
	Percentage of people with 5 GCSEs at A* to C	22%	22.48%	21.97 Dorset 19.38 Eng and Wales	The workforce in both Districts has above the national average number of GCSEs.	24	Dorset 2001 Census Data Book
	Proportion of people 16 – 74 qualified to ONS Level 4/5	17% (April 2001)	19% (April 2001)	South West 19% England & Wales 20%	The workforce in both Districts has below the national average number of ONS Level 4/5.	22, 24	ONS Neighbourhood Statistics
	Proportion of adults 16 – 74 with no qualifications	28% (April 2001)	25% (April 2001)	South West 26% England & Wales 29%	The workforce in both Districts has below the national average number of adults with no qualifications.	22, 24	ONS Neighbourhood Statistics
	Total Crime per 1,000 population	71 (2005/06)	43 (2005/06)	England & Wales 105.1 (2004/05)	Crime levels are very low compared to national figures.	21	Dorset Police Annual Recorded Crime Figures
	Fear of Crime	96% surveyed felt very or fairly safe in their area	96% surveyed felt very or fairly safe in their area			21	Community Safety Survey 2004
	% of minority groups involved in the LDF process	unknown	unknown				Survey will be required

Sustainability Appraisal Topic	Indicator	Current Christchurch Information	Current East Dorset Information	Comparators and Targets		Issues and Constraints Identified	Stage A3 Issue	Data Sources
	Access to schools	unknown	unknown				19	
	Access to GP	unknown	unknown				18, 19	
	Access to Post Office	unknown	unknown				19	
	Access for disabled people	unknown	unknown				19	
	Access to Council buildings	unknown	unknown				19	
	Access to local green space	unknown	unknown				19, 23	
	Proportion of travel by mode as a percentage of those in employment:			Dor	Provis - ion of local facilities	A large proportion of workers travel to work by car, on their own. This is particularly the case in East Dorset. Use of public transport is well below National averages, as is walking in East Dorset.	2, 30	Dorset Census Data Book 2001
	• Work from home	9.9	12.3	9.2				
	• Tram/Train/ Bus	5.6	2.1	4.0				
	• Motorbike/ Scooter	1.4	1.4	1.5				
	• Drive	64.5	70.3	61.2				
	• Passenger in a car	5.2	5.3	5.7				
	• Cycle/walk	12.6	8.0	14.3				
	Other	0.9	0.6	0.9				
	Availability of car by household	80.7% of households have access to a car,	88.4% of households have access	73.2% have access to a car in England &		Both Districts, in particular East Dorset,	2, 30	Census 2001

Sustainability Appraisal Topic	Indicator	Current Christchurch Information	Current East Dorset Information	Comparators and Targets	Issues and Constraints Identified	Stage A3 Issue	Data Sources
			to a car	Wales,	have very high numbers of households with cars. This is reflected in high car use.		
	Percentage of new employment permissions within 400m of a bus route	unknown	unknown			2, 30	LPA
	Length of designated cycle routes (including bridleways and byeways)	unknown	unknown			2, 30	LPA
Economy	Index of multiple deprivation 2007	Authority Average Score 220 <i>(1 is most deprived, 354 is least deprived)</i>	Authority Average Score 325 <i>(1 is most deprived, 354 is least deprived)</i>		Need to address disparity between neighbourhoods. Christchurch has two "Super Output Areas" (Somerford East and West) which are ranked amongst the 25% most deprived in the country	20	Office of National Statistics, Neighbourhood Profile
	Number of people in receipt of income support August 2006	990	1,180		This identifies a presence of people having to cope with low incomes.	2	ONS

Sustainability Appraisal Topic	Indicator	Current Christchurch Information	Current East Dorset Information	Comparators and Targets	Issues and Constraints Identified	Stage A3 Issue	Data Sources
	Percentage of households in fuel poverty	unknown	unknown			20	Housing Needs Survey
	Unemployment rate January 2007	1.3% average	0.8 % average	2.6% national average	These figures are some of the lowest in the Country. They reflect a buoyant economy, but signal potential problems with labour supply.	15, 24, 25, 26	The Dorset Data Book DCC 2007
	Proportion of people of working age in employment Taken as persons aged 16-74 that are economically active	61.31%	64.78%	Dorset 64.87% South West 67.51% England and Wales 66.54%	The figures for the Districts, particularly Christchurch, are low.	15, 24	The Dorset 2001 Census Data Book DCC
	Average gross weekly earnings	Residence based: £435	Residence based: £380	England & Wales: £452	Earnings are below the national average.		The Dorset Data Book DCC 2007
	Total number of all firms	1840 firms in 2003	3,880 firms in 2003			25	Dorset Data Book
	Proportion of businesses in knowledge based sector	21% (2005)	19% (2005)	Dorset Sub-Region 21% (2005)	Christchurch has an average representation of knowledge based businesses, whereas East Dorset is	25	The Dorset Data Book DCC 2007

Sustainability Appraisal Topic	Indicator	Current Christchurch Information	Current East Dorset Information	Comparators and Targets	Issues and Constraints Identified	Stage A3 Issue	Data Sources
					slightly below the County average.		
	Proportion of businesses by sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture and fishing • Energy and water • Manufacturing • Construction • Distrib/hotels/ restaurants • Transport/ communications • Banking/ finance etc • Public admin/educ/ health • Knowledge based • Tourism • Other 	unknown	unknown		The need to provide a robust broad based economy that is productive and provides good jobs for the community.	25	Dorset Data Book
	Amount of land allocated as employment land in LDF	73.23 hectares	15.21 hectares		There is a substantial supply of allocated land. However, a large proportion of this is constrained by infrastructure costs.	25	LPA
	Loss of employment land (B1, B2, B8) approved over the last year (hectares)	0	0			25	LPA

Appendix 3 - Glossary of Terms

Adoption

The final legal stage when the Council agrees a Local Development Document should be placed in the Local Development Framework and acquires statutory weight for decision making.

Area Action Plan (AAP)

A Development Plan Document for a specific geographical area.

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

A report on the progress of the progress of the Local Development Scheme and the policies of the Local Development Framework.

Community Strategy

The Community Strategy is the action plan produced by the Local Strategic Partnership.

Development Plan Document (DPD)

A Local Development Document with significant weight in the determination of planning applications. Independent scrutiny is required before its adoption.

Independent Scrutiny

Examination of a Local Development Document by a Planning Inspector.

Formal Hearing

A formal type of independent scrutiny including cross examination of witnesses.

Informal Hearing

A less formal type of independent scrutiny not including cross examination.

Local Development Document (LDD)

One of the documents in a Local Development Framework.

Local Development Framework (LDF)

The new local planning policy document, replacing the Local Plan.

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

A programme setting out the proposed documents within the Local Development Framework and the timetable for their production.

Local Plan

The old system local planning document to be replaced by the Local Development Framework.

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)

The stakeholders involved in the production of the Community Strategy.

Material Consideration

Any factor relevant to the determination of a planning application.

Planning Delivery Grant (PDG)

An annual Government grant provided to Planning Authorities for the achievement of specified targets.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

The Act which sets out the requirement to produce a Local Development Framework.

Planning Inspector

A person employed by the Planning Inspectorate to consider the appropriateness of planning policies, taking into account public consultation responses.

Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG)

National planning guidance produced by the Government under the old planning system. These will be replaced by Planning Policy Statements.

Planning Policy Statement (PPS)

National planning policy produced by the Government as part of the new planning system. They represent Government policy and therefore hold more weight in determining planning decisions than the old Planning Policy Guidance Notes.

Proposals Map

An Ordnance Survey map showing where policies and allocations apply.

Public Examination

The independent scrutiny of the Local Development Framework, considering public consultation responses.

Regional planning policy document produced under the old planning system.

Spatial Planning

Concerns all matters that affect land use and defines the scope of the Local Development Framework, in contrast to the Local Plan which could only deal with matters controlled by the approval or refusal of planning permissions.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

A Local Development Document setting out how the Council intends to engage the community and stakeholders in the Local Development Framework and determination of major applications.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

An assessment of the potential for further residential development.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The consideration of policies and proposals to assess their impact on the environment. This is to be undertaken alongside a Sustainability Appraisal.

Structure Plan

A County wide planning policy document that will be replaced by the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

A Local Development Document that holds less weight than a Development Plan Document when determining planning applications. It is not subject to public scrutiny, but is subject to public consultation.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

A document, produced under the old planning regime that sets out how the Council intends to implement planning policy.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

The consideration of policies and proposals to assess their impact on sustainable development objectives.

Sustainable Development

Development which can be accommodated to meet the needs of the present without compromising the requirements of future generations. This encompasses an understanding of the impact of development on social, environmental and economic factors.

Written Representations

An informal type of independent scrutiny where representations are provided in writing for the Inspector to consider and make a decision.

Appendix 4 - List of Acronyms

LDF Acronyms

AAP	Area Action Plan
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
DPD	Development Plan Document
EDLP	East Dorset Local Plan
LDD	Local Development Document
LDF	Local Development Framework
LDS	Local Development Scheme
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance Note
PPS	Planning Policy Statement (replacing PPG)
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEDS	South East Dorset Sub Regional Study
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance

Organisation Acronyms

DCC	Dorset County Council
EDCP	East Dorset Community Partnership
EDDC	East Dorset District Council
GOSW	Government Office for the South West
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PINS	Planning Inspectorate

Other Planning Acronyms

AGLV	Area of Great Landscape Value
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CA	Conservation Area
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Areas
GB	Green Belt
GDO	General Development Order
GIS	Geographical Information System
GSPA	Groundwater Source Protection Areas
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LTP	Local Transport Plan
NNR	National Nature Reserve
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SCA	Special Character Area
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Interest
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SUDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
UCO	Use Classes Order