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1. Preface

This is an update of Gravesham's Local Development Scheme (LDS) prepared by:

Planning Policy
Civic Centre,
Windmill Street,
Gravesend,
Kent DA12 1AU

E-mail: planning.policy@gravesham.gov.uk

2. Introduction

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended ('the Act') requires the Council to prepare and maintain a 'local development scheme'. This document is the revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) for Gravesham Borough Council which replaces the LDS for the Borough published in September 2011.

The Gravesham LDS sets out the development plan documents that Gravesham Borough Council is preparing, or intends to prepare, as part of the local planning policy framework. It is the Council’s project plan for preparing spatial plans for the Borough. It explains:

- The statutory planning documents (called ‘development plan documents’) the Council intends to prepare or review;
- The subject matter and geographical area for each of the documents; and
- The timetable for the preparation and revision of each document.

In addition to development plan documents that together form the Gravesham Local Plan, the Council proposes to prepare or review additional planning documents but there is no long a legal requirement to include them in this LDS.

Since the September 2011 LDS was published, there have been significant changes in the planning system at the national level. The changes include:

- Abandoning the term ‘Local Development Framework’ and replacing it with the term ‘Local Plan’, which refers to all development plan documents prepared for a local planning authority area;
- Introducing the ability for neighbourhood forums to prepare neighbourhood plans;
- Replacing most of the national planning policy guidance notes and planning policy statements with a single document called the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); and
- Removing the requirement for local planning authorities to submit their LDS to the Secretary of State.

It has become necessary to review the September 2011 Gravesham LDS timetable again to take account of:

- Changes to the legislation (e.g. through the Localism Act 2011 and new regulations);
- The publication of the NPPF in March 2012.
Additional evidence requirements resulting from the recommendations from Cabinet in February 2012 that:

- the plan period should run from 2011 to 2028; and
- a locally derived housing target is to be used rather than the housing requirement in the South East Plan

This LDS has been prepared having regard to the Act and its associated Regulations, which set out precisely what needs to be in a Local Development Scheme. The Council will keep the LDS under review to ensure it is as up to date as possible.

### 3. Current Development Plan

The current Development Plan for Gravesham comprises the Regional Spatial Strategy (the South East Plan 2009) and saved policies in the following adopted local plans:

- Gravesham Local Plan First Review (adopted 1994)
- Kent Minerals Local Plan: Construction Aggregates (adopted 1993)
- Kent Minerals Local Plan: Chalk and Clay (adopted 1997)
- Kent Minerals Local Plan: Oil and Gas (adopted 1997)
- Kent Waste Local Plan (adopted 1998)

The Gravesham Local Plan Second Review (Deposit Version) was adopted for the purposes of development control on 8 March 2000. The first period for public consultation ran from 8 June to 21 July 2000. With the introduction of reforms under the P &CP Act, the Borough Council resolved to suspend work on the Second Review in November 2004, in order to concentrate on the preparation of the Gravesham LDF.

The Government has announced its intention to abolish regional strategies and the legal arrangements are being put in place, but, at the time of writing, the South East of Plan remains part of the development plan for Gravesham. A new Duty to Cooperate has been introduced through the Localism Act 2011 (S.110), which requires local planning authorities to work together constructively, actively and on an on-going basis on strategic, cross-boundary matters in the preparation of DPDs. The Duty came into effect in November 2011. When the RSS is finally abolished, the Duty to Cooperate will be the means through which cross boundary issues will be dealt with.

Whilst Gravesham Borough Council is responsible for much of the planning system for the Borough, Kent County Council remains responsible for preparing a minerals and waste development scheme. Further advice on that scheme can be obtained from the County Council via [http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning_in_kent/minerals_and_waste/development_scheme.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning_in_kent/minerals_and_waste/development_scheme.aspx)

A list of current Supplementary Planning Guidance and Supplementary Planning Documents is available on the Council’s website via the below link:

4. The Purpose and Content of the Local Development Scheme

The Local Development Scheme has three main purposes. These are:

- To inform the public about documents that will make up the planning policy framework for Gravesham, and the timescales for the preparation of these documents;
- To establish and reflect Council priorities and to enable work-programmes to be set for the preparation of documents; and
- To set a timetable for the review of the documents once they have been prepared.

There are six different types of planning document that could potentially be prepared. Their content varies between policies for the use of land, policies for involving the public in planning, guidance, and information and this is explained in the following paragraphs.

- Development plan documents (DPDs) and policies map;
- Neighbourhood plans;
- Supplementary planning documents (SPDs);
- A Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule.
- A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI); and
- An Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).

5. Proposed LDS

The following types of Local Plan document are included in this LDS. In deciding what to prepare, both the needs of the area and the resources available have been taken into account. The LDS explains how this has been done.

The first type of planning document is called a development plan document (DPD). Together, DPDs form the Local Plan for a local authority area. All DPDs are subject to independent examination of their soundness by a Planning Inspector.

**Core Strategy DPD**

The Core Strategy is the overarching strategic document and the other DPDs and SPDs will sit below the Core Strategy and will need to be in conformity with it. The policies in the Core Strategy will replace a number of existing saved policies from the adopted Gravesham Local Plan First Review 1994. Remaining saved policies from the adopted Local Plan will continue to operate until they are replaced or revoked.

The Core Strategy sets out the Council's long term spatial vision for the Borough. The Core Strategy covers the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2028. It outlines the strategic objectives for the Borough based on the characteristics of the area and the key issues to be addressed. It sets out a delivery strategy for achieving the objectives. It identifies the areas where major change is likely to take place and allocates key sites for development which are considered key to the achievement of this strategy. It also defines areas where policies of restraint will apply and those places or characteristics that will be preserved and / or enhanced to ensure that the Borough's unique sense of place and local distinctiveness remains the permanent foundation upon which our local community can grow and prosper.
The Core Strategy must be consistent with national planning policy, in particular the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. It must also have regard to the sustainable community strategies produced by the Borough Council and Kent County Council.

**Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD**

The Local Plan will need to include policies that guide development management decisions and allocate land. Much of this guidance will cascade from the Core Strategy.

The Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD will include a number of policies setting out the detailed considerations against which planning applications that accord with the strategic policies will be assessed. It will also contain non-strategic land allocations.

It cannot reach any formal stage until after the Core Strategy has been adopted as this must provide the overall context. Where appropriate, these policies will be supplemented with more detailed guidance in Supplementary Planning Documents.

Until the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD is produced, the adopted development plan for the Borough will include saved policies from the Gravesham Local Plan 1st Review 1994.

**Joint Traveller DPD**

The Council has commissioned a new Traveller Accommodation Assessment (TAA) using a common methodology with adjoining local authorities. The revised target will be included in a future Development Plan Document (DPD). This assessment of need is expected to be completed in 2013. Updated needs assessments will be carried out on a regular basis over the Plan period.

In line with national policy, the Council proposes to work with neighbouring planning authorities to allocate sufficient sites to meet the needs identified in the updated assessment. This will widen opportunities and provide flexibility for new site provision. It will also assist in focusing transit site provision in areas of greatest need. The Council will either work with its neighbours to produce a Joint Traveller DPD, or, if this is not feasible, Traveller site allocations and a criteria-based policies will be included within the Gravesham's Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD).

**Policies Map**

The purpose of the Policies Map is to illustrate geographically the application of the policies in the adopted development plan. As the Gravesham Local Plan is being produced in 2 parts – the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD – the policies map will need to be updated once each component of the Local Plan is adopted.

In addition to the Policies Map, the Core Strategy will contain a key diagram showing the strategic policies and allocations in the Core Strategy.

**Neighbourhood Plans**

This is a new type of planning document introduced by the Government through the Localism Act 2011 and supporting regulations. The provisions of the Localism Act for neighbourhood planning came into force on 6th April 2012. They allow a community
to prepare a plan for its neighbourhood, provided the plan is in general conformity
with strategic policies in the local plan for the area. The plan is subject to
independent examination and a referendum. At present there are no neighbourhood
plans under preparation in Gravesham although there are communities considering
the issue.

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule**

CIL allows local authorities to raise funds from developers to pay for the
infrastructure that is needed as a result of new development. CIL takes the form of a
tariff per m2 of additional floorspace. The level of the tariff is set by the local authority
based on the needs identified in its infrastructure plan, but also tested to ensure that
it will not affect the viability of developments. Payments will be collected into a fund to
pay for infrastructure. CIL is not intended to pay for all infrastructure – it is merely
intended to fill the funding gaps that remaining once other sources of funding have
been explored. CIL can only be charged to meet the needs of new development and
not existing deficiencies. Also, if a piece of infrastructure is required to meet the
needs of a specific development, this should be done through S106 and not CIL.

The key reports needed before a charging schedule can be produced are:

- Infrastructure Delivery Schedule
- Viability Assessment

Once the Community Infrastructure Plan and Viability Assessment have been
produced, the Council will need to go through the following stages:

- Produce Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule for consultation
- Produce Draft Charging Schedule for consultation
- Examination
- Adoption

**Statement of Community Involvement**

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) establishes in general terms who
the local communities and stakeholders are and identifies how they will be involved in
the Local Plan and Development Management process. It was adopted in March
2007 but is still applicable.

**Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)**

Supplementary planning documents (SPD) do not form part of the statutory
development plan but they are considered as material considerations and provide
additional detail to policies set out in development plan documents or in national or
regional policy. It is not a requirement that SPDs be listed in an LDS and this enables
local planning authorities to prepare them as circumstances change. SPDs are not to
subject to independent examination, but they are subject to public consultation by the
Council before they are adopted.

**Authority Monitoring Report**

This has replaced the Annual Monitoring Report. All local planning authorities are
required to prepare and publish an Authority Monitoring Report at least every twelve
months, to report progress on implementing the LDS and implementing policies in plans.
6. Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

All DPDs must be subject to sustainability appraisal (SA) which has to meet the requirements of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) directive. They must also be subject to Appropriate Assessment where they may have a significant effect on protected nature conservation sites of European importance.

As Gravesham has Ramsar, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation within its boundaries and therefore Appropriate Assessments are fundamental components on the plan-making process.

SAs themselves consider the social, economic and environmental effects of the policies and proposals contained in each of the DPDs. The aim of the appraisal is to assess document in relation to how it contributes to sustainable development. Options need to be appraised as each document is developed. These options may be strategies or may be particular sites to be evaluated for their development potential. They should include a “do nothing” option. DPDs as they evolve will be expected to respond to the SA and SAs in turn should shape the DPD.

SAs are a continuous evaluation process. They form part of the evidence base and require the following key actions:
- Collating baseline data on environmental, social and economic issues,
- Identifying the likely key sustainability issues and consulting on them,
- Developing a SA framework which should include sustainability objectives, targets and indicators,
- Producing a scoping report for consultation,
- Assessing the likely effects of the DPD prior to public consultation,
- Re-evaluation of the assessment following post consultation changes,
- Monitoring SA indicators of the DPDs.

While documents containing policy (DPDs) must be subject to SA, Supplementary Planning documents do not need to be, as they inform policies that will have been assessed elsewhere.
### 7. Schedule of Local Development Documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Title</th>
<th>Statement of Community Involvement</th>
<th>Core Strategy</th>
<th>Site Allocations and Development Management Policies</th>
<th>Joint Traveller</th>
<th>Policies Map</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td>Non DPD</td>
<td>DPD</td>
<td>DPD</td>
<td>DPD</td>
<td>DPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time period</strong></td>
<td>2011-2028</td>
<td>2011-2028</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>Boroug and neighbouring authorities</td>
<td>Boroug-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geographical coverage</strong></td>
<td>Borough-wide</td>
<td>Borough-wide</td>
<td>Borough-wide</td>
<td>Borough and neighbouring authorities</td>
<td>Borough-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Sets out the Borough Council's strategy for consulting and engaging the community in the LDF process and with major planning applications</td>
<td>Sets out the spatial strategy for development in the Borough, comprising the vision and objectives. Includes strategic land allocations.</td>
<td>Sets out the non-strategic land allocations and detailed policies for the consideration of planning applications</td>
<td>Sets out the non-strategic land allocations and detailed policies for the consideration of planning applications for Traveller sites</td>
<td>Depicts the strategic and non-strategic site allocations and land to which policies apply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chain of Conformity</strong></td>
<td>Must conform to Regulations and Council's Community Engagement and Communications Strategies</td>
<td>Core Strategy</td>
<td>Core Strategies</td>
<td>This will be prepared and updated to accompany the Core Strategy and subsequent Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. Must conform with the adopted DPDs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consulting statutory bodies on the scope of the</strong></td>
<td>Stage already undertaken</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Chain of Conformity:

- Must conform to Regulations and Council's Community Engagement and Communications Strategies
- Core Strategy
- Core Strategies
- This will be prepared and updated to accompany the Core Strategy and subsequent Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. Must conform with the adopted DPDs
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<tr>
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<th><strong>Core Strategy</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Joint Traveller</strong></th>
<th><strong>Policies Map</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability Appraisal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Publication of the DPD</td>
<td></td>
<td>December 2012</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission of the DPD</td>
<td></td>
<td>May 2013</td>
<td>July 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-hearing meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>August 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hearing Sessions open</td>
<td></td>
<td>August 2013</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspector Report-Fact Check</td>
<td></td>
<td>Early November 2012</td>
<td>Early November 2015</td>
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<td>Inspector Report-Final</td>
<td></td>
<td>Late November 2012</td>
<td>Late November 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anticipated Adoption Date</td>
<td>Adopted 6 March 2007</td>
<td>December 2012</td>
<td>December 2015</td>
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</table>

Please note that the dates in italics above are indicative and will be determined by the allocated Planning Inspector.
# 8. Programme Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Core Strategy BPD</th>
<th>Site Allocations and Development Management Policies BPD</th>
<th>Joint Traveller BPD</th>
<th>Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Req. 10</td>
<td>Req. 11</td>
<td>Only DM policies</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Predicted change to national government intentions for travel in South East England</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>Predicting interim document supporting evidence</td>
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<td>Interm;</td>
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<td>Planning Proposal Submission Core Strategy and supporting evidence</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Single site (Retail)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Req. 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Further discussion needed with neighboring authorities</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Production of Joint Traveller DPD is feasible, Traveller site allocations and Development Management Policies will be embedded within Site Allocations and Development Management Policies BPD</td>
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<td>Evidence Gathering Stage</td>
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<td>Consult Public Streets BLD</td>
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<td>Initiate</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Req. 19</td>
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9. Evidence base

The main sources of information for the LDF are contained in the Evidence Base. This is a comprehensive collection of information and includes factual material and also responses received during various consultations. The evidence includes studies prepared specifically for the Gravesham LDF but also more generic material such as the Census of population. The evidence base is not static with new material added when needed for the various LDF documents. Some of the material will need to be kept under review, whilst other items will be updated by others and will be used for evidence purposes as needed.

It is worth remembering that whilst it is intended that the South East Plan be revoked, the evidence underpinning the South East Plan will still be in place.

In compiling the evidence base so far the approach has been to commission specific studies when needed and to do so by collaboration. The evidence base serves the entire LDF exercise including the sustainability appraisal.

For more information, please look at the Background Studies and Documents page on the Gravesham Borough Council website via the following hyperlink:

http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=4826

10. Resources

External consultants have been and will continue to be employed for particular tasks, especially when specialist expertise is required which is unavailable in-house. The Council is keen to ensure that the evidence is proportionate to the task.

Other staff within the Council but outside the Planning policy team may be required to contribute to the LDF and its monitoring. The inputs of other specialist officers will be available as required and as permitted by resource constraints. Planning policy staff do provide input to the Council’s other activities in addition to some other specialist roles and must also cover environmental appraisal and provide policy comments on planning applications. The following LDF tasks require the application of the above.

- Core strategy - Preparation of this is the first priority within the LDF.
- Statement of Community Involvement - Now adopted. Monitoring and updating as required but still sufficiently up to date for its purpose
- Sustainability Appraisal and AA – external consultants (Enfusion) have been used to ensure that it is independently assessed whilst ensuring that the iterative relationship between SA / SEA / AA and the LDF is maintained.
- Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD- to be delivered after Core Strategy.
- Proposals Map- will need to be prepared and then regularly updated to reflect current LDDs
- Annual monitoring Report- annually prepared to consider progress of preparation and implementation of policies
- Maintenance of/compilation of evidence base and consultation information.
11. Monitoring and Review

Monitoring and review are constant parts of the LDF process and are aided greatly by the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). This overlaps to a degree with the LDS in that it also contains a review of progress. The LDS itself is required to be monitored and may be amended if necessary.

The monitoring of the LDS in the annual monitoring report will firstly consider whether the timescales set out are being achieved. Secondly, but no less important is the monitoring of the effectiveness of the policies in the documents themselves. As there are no complete DPDs to monitor, the Borough’s AMRs to date have not included this element.

12. Risk Analysis

The Council is required in this Local Development Scheme to set out firm timetables for the delivery of documents within the Local Plan. Therefore, it is important to identify the risks that could affect the work programme set out in this revised Local Development Scheme, and consider how the risks may be minimised and mitigated.

The Local Plan programme was previously revised to take account of Graveshams Borough Council’s Labour administration’s desire to have the Core Strategy in place by December 2012. This was always challenging but the scale of representations received in December 2011, policies changes and need to update the evidence, made the timetable unachievable.

Resources

The Local Plan and especially the Core Strategy is a priority for the Council but is inevitably subject to the constraints imposed by the available resources. The way in which these constraints are addressed is highlighted below:

Staff

The most immediate risk to the achievement of the LDS programme is that a lack of resources could impair its delivery. The programme has been matched to the currently available staff resources, and these have been temporarily enhanced despite staff reductions elsewhere in the Council. Staff reductions as a result of the current financial climate and the need to make additional staff savings within the Council are a potential risk. Any significant change due to prolonged absence over and above normal levels arising from natural turnover could have an impact on the programme. The team has its own specialities and if a key member were to be lost then this could make the situation worse. Some of the documents to be prepared require staff resources from outside the Planning and Regeneration Services Department and these are inevitably subject to other non-planning demands.

Responses

Issues raised within the DPDs have the potential to generate significant levels of response. All responses will have to be assembled and analysed as quickly as possible in order to keep to the timetable of the LDS. Because of the extensive and complex nature of the content of the DPDs, it is critical that areas of response are directed to specific topics if a meaningful outcome is to be realised.
Outside Agencies

There is always a possibility of delay arising from the need to take account of the views or requirements of outside agencies in a plan document. There is also the chance that advice may not be provided in the timeframes required for the LDS. This has been exacerbated by the reduction in resources that a number of outside agencies have suffered of late.

Political Dimension - National and Local

The Coalition Government has made radical changes to the planning system which has come into effect under the Localism Act and the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012. The most significant change has been for Councils’ to determine their own locally based housing requirement. Another key change has been the Coalition Government’s intention to revoke the South East Plan. Whilst at the time of writing the South East Plan has yet to be formally abolished, it is anticipated that the South East Plan will be abolished by the Secretary of State by Spring 2013 once the required legislative work has been completed. Further legislative changes between now and the Examination in Public is also a risk.

There is a risk that a High Court challenge is issued in which case adoption would be delayed by one year. This risk should be low as full and proper consultation was carried out in the Core Strategy’s development.

The ultimate control of the Council’s Policy lies with elected Members. This, quite properly, makes the Local Plan programme susceptible to change arising through political intervention but particularly during the earlier stages of its creation. Under Graveshaw Borough Council’s Labour administration, a cabinet system has been established including the creation of a Planning Delivery Committee. The emerging Core Strategy has been taken to both Planning Delivery Committee and Cabinet as required.

External intervention

Evidence for the Local Plan is drawn from a wide variety of sources, some of which are in the direct control of the Borough Council and are therefore more easily managed. Other important sources are not in the Council's direct control and delays are harder to manage. Transport infrastructure evidence is and has been a long-term issue for the team. Increasing expectations in terms of evidence may in itself create a risk. Here the issue is that Local Plan documents should not be unduly delayed. It is necessary to make a judgement of the comprehensiveness of the available evidence at a given time and proceed with the document concerned. The risk is that the incorrect balance will be struck in making this decision and that the document concerned could be found unsound at the Examination stage. This risk has been minimised by the Council using its own good judgement made in the light of Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and other guidance. Current Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and PINS guidance is most useful.

The recently published DCLG External Review of Government Planning Practice Guidance (Lord Matthew Taylor of Goss Moor – December 2012) is an example of such a risk. The emerging Local Plan has been prepared on the basis of government policy and guidance as published at the time of preparation, therefore any new, replacement or superseded planning guidance could potentially call into question the soundness of the policies contained within the Core Strategy. At the very least it may trigger a requirement to re-visit the evidence base with the associated risk of additional cost and further delays to the timetable for adoption.
## 13. Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMR</th>
<th>Authority Monitoring Report</th>
<th>An annual report that assesses progress of Local Development Framework (LDF) components against the published Local Development Scheme (LDS), as well as the overall performance of LDF components.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCS</td>
<td>Sustainable Community Strategy</td>
<td>A strategy designed to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of communities. Prepared in Gravesham’s case by the Dartford &amp; Gravesham Local Strategic Partnership which, in April 2011, was replaced by Gravesham Locality Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPD</td>
<td>Development Plan Documents</td>
<td>The main elements of the Local Plan comprising the Core Strategy, Site Specific Development Allocations, the Proposals Map, Area Action Plans and any other documents deemed necessary for the proper planning of the area. These documents are subject to strict preparation and consultation rules, a sustainability appraisal and independent examination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBC</td>
<td>Gravesham Borough Council</td>
<td>The local authority responsible for producing Gravesham’s LDF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRA / AA</td>
<td>Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) / Appropriate Assessment (AA)</td>
<td>This is an assessment of a plans potential impacts on nature conservation sites of European importance – Ramsar, SPA and SCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDD</td>
<td>Local Development Documents</td>
<td>Comprises the suite of documents which together form the Local Plan – includes documents which do and do not have development plan status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDS</td>
<td>Local Development Scheme</td>
<td>The Local Development Scheme sets out the local development documents which will be produced and when they are going to be produced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;CPA</td>
<td>Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</td>
<td>The legislative basis for the new system of LDFs – sets the core principle of the pursuit of sustainable development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PINS</td>
<td>Planning Inspectorate</td>
<td>Responsible for appointing Inspectors to conduct the independent examinations on Development Plan Documents. The Inspector’s report is binding on local planning authorities. PINS also have a key role with GOSE in agreeing the content of Local Development Schemes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsar</td>
<td></td>
<td>The UK is a signatory to the 1971 international ‘Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat’. Over the years the Ramsar Convention has broadened its remit and is now more commonly known as the Ramsar Convention. There is one Ramsar site which partly falls within Gravesham Borough – Thames Estuary and Marshes, which was designated in 2000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSS</td>
<td>Regional Spatial Strategy / South East Plan</td>
<td>The South East of England Regional Assembly (SEERA) was responsible for preparing the RSS (the South East Plan).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAC</strong></td>
<td><strong>Special Area of Conservation</strong></td>
<td>Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are sites protected under the EC Habitats Directive. They are part of a European network of important high quality conservation sites that make a significant contribution to conserving certain identified habitat types and species which are considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds). The North Downs Woodlands are designated as a SAC and part of this site falls within Gravesham Borough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saved Policies</strong></td>
<td>Policies from the old system of Local Plans which are “saved” for the transition period until they are replaced by new LDF components.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPA</strong></td>
<td><strong>Special Protection Area</strong></td>
<td>Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are sites protected under the EC Birds Directive. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds, listed in Annex I to the Directive, and for regularly occurring migratory species. The Thames Estuary and Marshes was designated as a SPA in 2000 and part of this site falls within Gravesham Borough. It forms part of the SSSI and Ramsar site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Spatial Planning** | Spatial planning is a process of place shaping and delivery. It aims to:  
• produce a vision for the future of places that responds to the local challenges and opportunities, and is based on evidence, a sense of local distinctiveness and community derived objectives, within the overall framework of national policy and regional strategies;  
• translate this vision into a set of priorities, programmes, policies, and land allocations together with the public sector resources to deliver them;  
• create a framework for private investment and regeneration that promotes economic, environmental and social well being for the area;  
• coordinate and deliver the public sector components of this vision with other agencies and processes [eg LAAs];  
• create a positive framework for action on climate change; and  
• contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development. |
| **SCI** | **Statement of Community Involvement** | This defines how the local planning authority will engage with all stakeholders in the preparation and production of its LDF. |
| **SPD** | **Supplementary Planning Documents** | SPDs provide greater detail on the policies in DPDs. They are not subject to independent examination. |
| **SPG** | **Supplementary Planning Guidance** | Documents which elaborate on saved policies in the Local Plan. They have been subject to public consultation, and are a material consideration in determining planning applications but they do not carry the weight of SPDs. They will disappear once the hooking policy is replaced by policies in DPDs. |
| **SA/SEA** | **Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment** | Sustainability Appraisal incorporates the requirements of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. It is integral to the preparation of all LDDs and is a means of assessing their potential social, environmental and economic effects. |
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