

Core Strategy Issues and Emerging Options Topic Papers

KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Background and Aims

The Introductory Topic Paper provides the background to the Local Development Framework (LDF), the progress made on the Core Strategy for Lewes District to date and how the content of all the Topic Papers has been formulated. This included engagement with District Councillors and representatives from Town and Parish Councils.

The aim of this consultation stage is to present the emerging work on the Core Strategy and seek the views of the public and key stakeholders on the various elements of this work. The consultation will last **8 weeks**, running from the 21st May 2010 to the 16th July 2010. At the end of this paper there are a number of questions that we are keen for individuals and organisations to respond to. Details on how to respond can also be found in this part of the paper.

Purpose of this Topic Paper

"Strategic objectives should form the link between the high level vision and detailed strategy".¹
The purpose of this Paper is to outline the draft strategic objectives and invite comments from the public and key stakeholders. Readers should consider whether the objectives are likely to achieve the Spatial Planning Vision for the District (see Topic Paper 3), can be related to local issues, and are SMART (see below).

S	Specific	<i>The objectives should be clear and understandable as to what they are trying to achieve. Are they precise and well defined?</i>
M	Measurable	<i>The outcomes should be able to be monitored to demonstrate where objectives are working or need revising.</i>
A	Achievable	<i>Are the objectives able to be reached or are they too aspirational? Are there sufficient resources to achieve the objectives?</i>
R	Realistic	<i>The objectives should align with other national and regional policy.</i>
T	Time-bound	<i>Is there a clear time period within which the objectives will be achieved? Is the time frame outlined feasible?</i>

¹ DCLG (2008) PPS12: Local Spatial Planning



As well as being influenced by the content of the first three topic papers, these draft strategic objectives have also taken into consideration other local, regional and national plans such as the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and South East Plan (SEP).

The draft strategic objectives, set out below, outline the direction that the Council intends to take in its Local Development Framework to achieve its vision of Lewes District in 2026. The vision and objectives will be at the heart of the Core Strategy and must be aligned with the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement. The following draft strategic objectives are not in any order of importance:

1. To deliver the homes and accommodation for the needs of the District and ensure the housing growth requirements of the South East Plan² to 2026 are accommodated in the most sustainable way.

The Council will work with housing agencies and the private sector to meet the identified local housing need resulting from the changing demographics of the District, particularly an ageing population. A key element of this objective will be ensuring that a suitable mix of housing size, type, tenure and affordability is achieved.



2. To take advantage of the richness and diversity of the District's natural and historical assets to promote and achieve a sustainable tourism industry in and around the District.

A key part of this objective will be the creation of a beneficial working relationship between the Council (and other existing agencies) and the new South Downs National Park Authority. They will promote opportunities for public enjoyment and understanding of the National Park's special qualities. Also, they will ensure that economic, environmental and social opportunities created by the new National Park are realised across the whole of Lewes District.

² It is accepted that there could be a change (introduction of the Regional Strategy), or possibly the abolition of regional planning policy (reference to the Conservative Green Paper No. 14). When the position on this issue is clearer, this objective could be re-worded as appropriate.

3. To work with other agencies to improve the accessibility to key community services and facilities and provide the new and upgraded infrastructure that is required to create and support sustainable communities.

The Council will work jointly with the agencies responsible for provision of physical, social and green infrastructure. This will include the programming, funding and delivery of all infrastructure required to support new development. Where appropriate, the provision of new infrastructure should also benefit the wider community and redress current inequalities in provision. This includes education, healthcare provision and public transport.

4. To conserve and enhance the high quality of the District's towns, villages, and rural environment by ensuring that all new development is designed to a high standard and maintains and enhances the character, separate identity and 'sense of place' of individual settlements.

The Council will seek regular dialogue with builders, architects, designers and householders in order to raise standards of design and construction in the area. This will include publication by the Council of guidance on appropriate design, materials, construction methods and the creation of safe, legible layouts that provide inclusive access to all.

5. To maximise opportunities for re-using suitable previously developed land in urban areas and to plan for new development in the highly sustainable locations without adversely affecting the character of the area.

Among other development initiatives, the Council will prioritise the redevelopment of vacant and derelict sites in existing urban areas. This complements the overall aim of locating new development where it makes efficient use of suitable and available land located in sustainable locations (i.e. close to everyday services and public transport).

6. To ensure that the District reduces locally contributing causes of climate change, including through the implementation of the highest feasible standards of sustainable construction techniques in new developments.

This objective will involve the Council and other responsible agencies seeking to reduce the current carbon emissions from the existing development stock and promotion of low carbon emissions and renewable energy in new development. Key to the achievement of this objective will also be successful achievement of the sustainable transport objective.

7. To reduce the need for travel and to promote a sustainable system of transport and land use for people who live in, work in, and visit the District.

The Council will work with the relevant transportation agencies to promote alternative modes of transport to the private car, improving the provision of facilities that enable safe walking and cycling, and to improve the connectivity, capacity and frequency of public transport facilities in the District. Successful achievement of this objective will also involve the delivery of high speed and high quality e-communications across the whole of Lewes District, which enables those who wish to work from home to do so, thereby reducing the need for travel.





8. To reduce the District's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, particularly by seeking to reduce the number of properties that are at an unacceptable risk of flooding.

The Council will work closely with the Environment Agency on current and future river and sea flooding issues. An important element of this objective will be seeking to ensure that climate change impacts on biodiversity habitats and species are minimised.

9. To stimulate and maintain a buoyant and balanced local economy through regeneration of the coastal towns, support for the rural economy and ensuring that the economy does not become reliant on one or two sectors.

Key to this will be for the Council and other organisations to take advantage of the opportunities for economic growth and prosperity that exist in the District. This includes regeneration at Newhaven associated with the existing port, creating a sustainable tourism economy at Seaford that takes advantage of its seaside location and proximity to the South Downs National Park, and diversifying the economy of Lewes town so that it is less reliant on the public sector and tourism. This will require the creation of more modern and varied commercial premises to meet the needs of new and expanding local businesses.

10. To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.

The Council and the South Downs National Park Authority will work closely together to ensure that the effects of this objective cover all parts of Lewes District, and not just to the new national park.

This is your opportunity to shape your local area and input on how the District develops over the next 15 years. The Council would appreciate and value any comments you have on this document. With regards to this Topic Paper we would particularly appreciate your answers to the following questions:

- ***Do you consider that the proposed strategic objectives will achieve the vision, as set out in Topic Paper 3?***
- ***Do you consider the draft objectives to be SMART (i.e. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound)?***
- ***Are the draft objectives distinctive to Lewes District?***
- ***Can the objectives be achieved by 2026?***
- ***Will the objectives help achieve the vision and the priorities that are set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy?***



Obtaining additional copies of the Issues and Emerging Options Topic Papers

- Downloading it from www.lewes.gov.uk/corestrategy
- Emailing ldf@lewes.gov.uk
- Visiting Lewes District Council at Southover House
- Telephoning the Planning Policy Team on **01273 484417**

How to respond to the Core Strategy Issues and Emerging Options Topic Papers

Views are invited to the questions that are located at the end of each of the Topic Papers. You need only reply to any part of the questions that are of interest to you, or you may introduce other comments.

Comments may be sent to the Council by:

By email to: **ldf@lewes.gov.uk**

By fax to: **01273 484452**

By post to: Lewes District Council
Planning Policy Team
Southover House
Southover Road
Lewes
EAST SUSSEX
BN7 1AB

Comments must be received by the 16th July 2010.



LDF

Local Development Framework

Topic paper
number

4

May 2010



Lewes District Council
www.lewes.gov.uk

**This leaflet can be made available in large print, audiotape,
disk or in another language upon request.**

**Please telephone 01273 484141 or
email lewesdc@lewes.gov.uk**