

Planning Policy and Environment Service Plan

What we do

Planning Policy / Economic Development and Tourism

- Prepare a planning policy framework for delivery of development through preparation of Local Development Documents in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement and timescales set out in the adopted Local Development Scheme.
- Provide planning policy guidance in relation to matters which are likely to impact on Wealden District Council or on the Wealden District area as a whole including significant development proposals and Government consultation papers.
- To ensure coherence between the Core Strategy / LDF documents and the Council's approved sustainability strategy and climate change policy
- To ensure that the core strategy has regards to the Councils approved Sustainable Community Strategy
- Develop, co-ordinate and promote economic development and tourism initiatives through strategic partnerships and proactive support in accordance with the Councils agreed priorities for the service.
- Provide economic development and tourism development and market towns regeneration advice and input to the Local Development Framework process.

Landscape and arboriculture/ conservation and design

- Provide specialist advice and guidance on (a) landscape, arboriculture and biodiversity matters and (b) on conservation and design matters in respect of policy formulation and development control matters.
- Fulfill statutory duties and obligations in respect of the built and natural environment.

The service is planning to reach the following outcomes by March 2011:

- Delivery of Housing/ dwelling numbers across the District to meet requirements set out in the South East Plan
- Maximise the opportunity for the delivery of affordable housing within all new housing developments
- Reduction of carbon emissions
- Raised economic performance across the district
- Increased promotion and greater uptake of sustainable transport within the district
- Protection and promotion of the rural character/sensitive environment of the district
- Raising the quality and design of development within the District
Promotion of sustainable, inclusive, vibrant communities
- Independent assurance of the quality of our services ensuring that these are in line with the highest standards nationally
- Improved value for money based on the opinions of our customers and when our performance is compared to other local authorities
- Leading our communities in reducing the local impact of development on the environment
- Value for money efficiency savings year on year
- Working more efficiently, meeting agreed key priorities, and cutting 'red tape' wherever possible

What we plan to do

Target for 2010/11	Baseline	2008/09 Milestone	2009/10 Milestone
Publish our shared vision with our partners for the Hailsham-Eastbourne Triangle master plan to improve infrastructure, technology and skills in the south of the district.	n/a	Autumn2008	n/a
With partners, conclude, by summer 2008, the feasibility study into the reinstatement of the Uckfield-Lewes rail link	n/a	Concluded summer 2008	n/a
Produce a Pre-Submission Core Strategy document	n/a	Summer 2009	progression as submission document
Promote the construction of 1,250 affordable homes to meet local needs through the planning consent regime. Target 100 for 2009/10 (dependent upon market conditions)	15	50	100

Target for 2010/11	Baseline	2008/09 Milestone	2009/10 Milestone
Influence the delivery of regional development targets during 2008-11 to help sustain the District's communities, through continued support for south east districts' initiatives input to the emerging South East Plan.	Cabinet response to draft SE Plan	Autumn 2008 - responses to draft SE Plan amendments	Use of approved SE Plan in development control and to guide Core Strategy production
Improve design consultation to ensure that the best possible developments are achieved in line with the new Design Guide.	Draft Guide to consultation 2007	Adopted Design Guide – October 2008	Use of Guide / review. Training seminars on the Design Guide
Work with partners to develop a clear vision and strategy for our five towns and rural parishes, as part of progressing the Local Development Framework	n/a	Autumn 2008	Ongoing within LDF/ Core Strategy
Develop customer surveys to help improve our services in Conservation and Design and Landscape and Arboriculture	n/a	Implemented April 2008	Monitoring/ongoing
Monitoring and reporting of returns to sustainability checklists	n/a	December 2008	Monitoring/ongoing
Deliver 3% cashable efficiency savings year-on-year	n/a	£34,000	£34,000

Impacts of our actions - considerations

Sustainability-local development documents produced as part of the Councils Local Development Framework are required to be subject of formal sustainability appraisal process

Rural impact- policies within the LDF will be expected to deliver positive benefits to the rural communities and vitality of the villages whilst also protecting environmental assets

Communication information on services from within policy and environment is regularly updated on the website (inc. LDF pages, Tourism/ Economic Development pages) Specific events/activities are subject of publicity

Engagement (consultation)- The way in which people can get involved in the LDF and development control process is set out in the council's published Statement of Community Involvement

Risk

The Local development scheme sets out a risk assessment in respect of production of LDF documents

Health and safety

N/a

Equalities

The service has undertaken equalities risk assessments and has acted upon these where specific actions have been identified

Standards

These are set out in published charters for the policy and environment and also the economic development and tourism services

Resources and budget

Staff

	Planning Policy	Conservation	Landscape and Biodiversity	Economic Development and Tourism	Total
FTE Staff	10.03	3.83	4.0	2.8	20.66

Budget

2007/08 £(000)		2008/09 £(000)	2009/10 £(000)	2010/11 £(000)
87	Tourism Development	90	90	90
89	Economic Development	104	103	103
15	Partnership Funded Schemes	15	-	-
24	South Downs Joint Committee	24	24	24
152	Building Preservation & Conservation	157	157	158
587	Local Development Scheme	483	651	651
984		873	1,025	1,025

Performance indicator targets

PI No.	Description	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
NI151	Overall employment rate	79.1%	80%	80%
NI152	Working age people out of work on benefits	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
NI154	Net additional homes provided (as set out in current Local Area Agreement)	400	480	480
NI159	Supply of ready to develop housing sites	154%	120%	120%
NI170	Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years	0.93% (based on 2006 data - latest available)	0.93%	0.93%
NI171	New business registration rate	50	40	50
NI172	Percentage of small businesses showing employment growth (we are dependent upon Office for National Statistics for data)	52.57% (2007 data - latest available)	Subject to 2008/09 baseline	Subject to 2008/09 baseline
NI173	Flows onto incapacity benefits from employment	No Information	No Information	No Information
NI197	Improved Local Biodiversity – proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented	No Information Available	No Information Available	No Information Available
	Local Indicators			
WLI ED01	Website hits on Enjoy Sussex Tourism website	60,000	100,000	120,000
WLI ED02	Business Support to Wealden Businesses from EDEAL	100	120	120
WLI PP01	Responses by Conservation and Design team to consultations on planning applications within 21 days	100%	100%	100%
WLI PP02	Responses by Landscape and Arboriculture team to consultations on planning applications within 21 days	100%	100%	100%

Previous year's performance data can be viewed on the Council's website.

Other key reference documents for the service

Local Development Scheme/Local Development Framework

This sets out the timetable and work programme for the Council's production of Planning Policy Documents-Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

Statement of Community Involvement

Explains how people can become involved in planning policy documents and planning applications . The document sets out how the Council will carry out it's consultation on all planning matters

Issues and Options

This major public consultation document/ exercise was carried out in Summer 2007 sought the views of a number of statutory consultees and the public on the major issues and options facing the district council in planning for future growth to meet the requirements of the SE Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Sets out the broad sustainability objectives against which planning policy documents will require to be assessed

Local Development Framework Evidence Base Studies

These specialist studies cover a wide range of topics including Housing Market assessment, Flood risk assessment, employment land, retail impact and landscape evaluation. Together they will provide an important evidence base for the Core Strategy .

Wealden Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (October 2008)

Provides detailed guidance and advice to promote high quality and sustainable development within the District .The guide covers both small scale householder applications as well as major development schemes .Use of the Guide will enhance the quality of schemes submitted for planning permission .

Sustainable Community Strategy

A strategy agreed by the Local Strategic partnership to improve the quality of life for all communities . The document sets out agreed objectives and priorities for the future.

Wealden Tourism Strategy

This strategy details the issues and priorities to be addressed by the Council's tourism service. The current strategy runs until Spring 2009 and a refreshed strategy is being commissioned .

WDC Tree Preservation Order Policy and Procedures

A Policy which sets out clearly how the Council will prioritise and deal with the making of Tree Preservation Orders. The procedures set out what is involved in the assessment and making of a TPO and how affected landowners and others may submit their representations to the Council on such matters .