Item 1 Appendix 2 - Summary of changes to Preferred Options Draft Plan

- The draft policies have been divided into ‘Strategic’ and ‘Detailed Development Management’ categories.
- Included specific reference to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) within Sustainable Development policy (ST1).
- Revised the Spatial Strategy policy (ST4) and settlement hierarchy to be more specific around the provision of principal residence or affordable housing within the Local Centres and also the Smaller Villages.
- Revised the policy on conversion of buildings in open countryside to specifically include the provision of principal residence housing provided the building is located within an existing group of buildings (including an existing residential unit) and would not be in an isolated location (see DM6). This policy now also refers to the conversion of buildings within identified settlements.
- Removed reference to ‘family dwellings criteria’ from the same conversions policy (outside settlements/open countryside) as this was considered too prescriptive (see DM6).
- Included Rochester within the revised settlement hierarchy as a ‘Local Centre’ (see policy ST4).
- Ensured that disproportionate residential extensions were not permitted (see policy DM2).
- Now just one affordable housing policy relating to rural exceptions sites (see policy DM3).
- Provided a clearer approach to the provision of housing by including a new strategic housing policy (ST5).
- Included principal residence housing within new strategic housing policy (ST5) rather than it being a stand-alone policy.
- Included replacement housing within new strategic housing policy (ST5) rather than it being a stand-alone policy.
- Included a revised rural economy policy with specific reference to employment uses in addition to the development and diversification of rural and land-based enterprises (DM7).
- Included reference to home-based businesses in a revised rural economy and diversification policy (DM7).
- Included a new ‘Agricultural Development’ Policy (DM8).
- Included a new ‘Archaeological Heritage’ Policy (DM16).
- Incorporated Flood Risk policy (25) into new strategic sustainable development policy (ST1).
- Included reference to any new transport routes to take account of existing ecological networks and green corridors and include measures to facilitate the safe movement of species across open spaces incorporated into revised Transport and Accessibility policy (DM10).
- Merged policies 27 (Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage) and 28 (Conserving Heritage Assets) into a new Historic Landscape Assets and Built Heritage policy (DM15) with specific reference to Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site.
- Included a new ‘Archaeological Heritage’ Policy (DM16).
- Revised draft policy 22 to be more explicit with reference to ecosystem services and net biodiversity gain and also include the hierarchy of sites, from international to national to local within a revised ‘Habitats, Biodiversity and Geodiversity’ policy (DM11).
- Included more detailed reference to the design of outside lighting within revised ‘Landscape, Tranquillity and Dark Night Skies’ policy (DM12).
- Included more specific reference to the differences between ‘small-scale’ and large-scale productive forestry plantations in relation to their potential impact on the landscape of the National Park (see supporting text to policy DM13).
- A more detailed policy outlining our approach to development proposals that would affect historic landscape assets and the built heritage of the National Park has been included (with specific reference to Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site – see DM15). A new policy dealing with proposals that could potential affect the National Park’s Archaeological Heritage has also been added (see DM16).