

02

PLANNING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IN KENT + MEDWAY

THE BASIS OF THE FRAMEWORK

THE GIF DRAWS TOGETHER INFORMATION AND DATA FROM A RANGE OF SOURCES. IT SEEKS TO ILLUSTRATE A STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE OF GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION IN KENT AND MEDWAY AT THE PRESENT TIME AND 20 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE.

It draws upon the following information:

- Existing and emerging information, strategies and plans from local authorities across Kent + Medway
- GIS database information provided by Kent County Council, districts, boroughs and Medway Council
- Kent County Council's Integrated Infrastructure Financing Model (IIFM)
- Kent County Council's Strategic Projects Update Database (SPUD)
- Adopted and emerging Local Plans and Infrastructure Delivery Plans for all Local Authorities within Kent + Medway.
- Local authorities' Local Plan evidence bases
- Documents produced by the South East Local Economic Partnership (LEP)
- Documents provided by the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership
- Information from other infrastructure provider's plans including utility providers, the Environment Agency,

Network Rail, Highways England and the National Health Service (NHS).

The framework is based on a detailed analysis of issues in Kent + Medway relating to growth and infrastructure current to May 2015. It should be recognised that this presents a snapshot in time and has no legal basis.

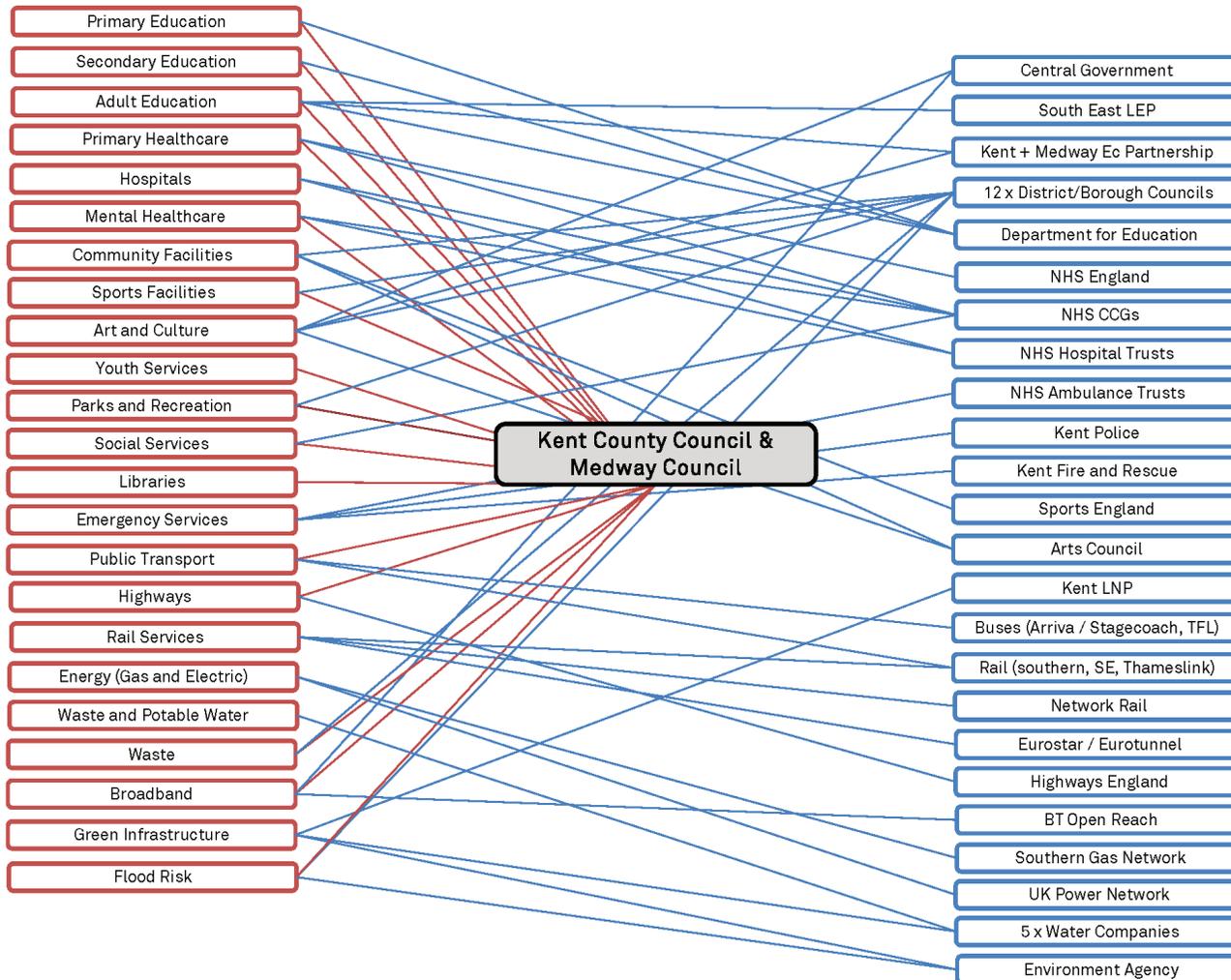


FIGURE 2.1 - THE COMPLEX PATTERN OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION IN KENT +

INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDERS

Figure 2.1 shows the complex relationship between infrastructure requirements and providers in Kent. Kent County, Medway and the district and borough councils play a vital role in the supply of infrastructure in Kent. In addition a number of public and private organisations have responsibility to provide infrastructure to support existing population and proposed growth.

This framework covers the following aspects of infrastructure provided by Kent + Medway.

- Education (primary, secondary, community learning)
- Social infrastructure (community centres and libraries, adult social services and youth services, public health)

- Highways
- Waste

In addition, other provider's requirements have been investigated including:

- Healthcare (NHS)
- Further Education
- Highways (Highways England)
- Railway and bus operators
- Utility providers
- District services (community, leisure, open space etc.)
- Other significant infrastructure providers (e.g. Environment Agency, Port of Dover)

PLANNING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Changes to government legislation have modified how infrastructure planning is undertaken and placed greater emphasis on the link between the Local Plan and the delivery of infrastructure.

In Kent it is the district and borough Councils (plus Medway as a unitary authority) who have responsibility for producing Local Plans as local planning authorities (LPA's).

Kent County Council is a statutory consultee as an infrastructure provider, but does not have a statutory responsibility for plan making (with the exception of Minerals and Waste planning).

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that LPA's should work with other authorities and providers to assess the quality and capacity of a range of infrastructure types and its ability to meet forecast demands; and take account of the need for strategic infrastructure within the LPA area (para. 162).

Local Plan policies on infrastructure delivery and development are required to operate together, in order to ensure deliverability in a timely fashion; and where possible the NPPF recommends Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charges should be developed and assessed alongside the Local Plan (para. 177).

The NPPF also sets out a duty to cooperate across boundaries enshrining the need for local authorities to engage with different organisations on strategic planning issues (para.179), in particular infrastructure providers.

As illustrated in Figure 2.3, all local planning authorities in Kent are at varying stages in terms of having up-to-date Local Plans. Some have been adopted while others are in the process of being prepared. The majority are accompanied by an "Infrastructure Delivery Plan" which sets out infrastructure required to support growth and funding regimes.

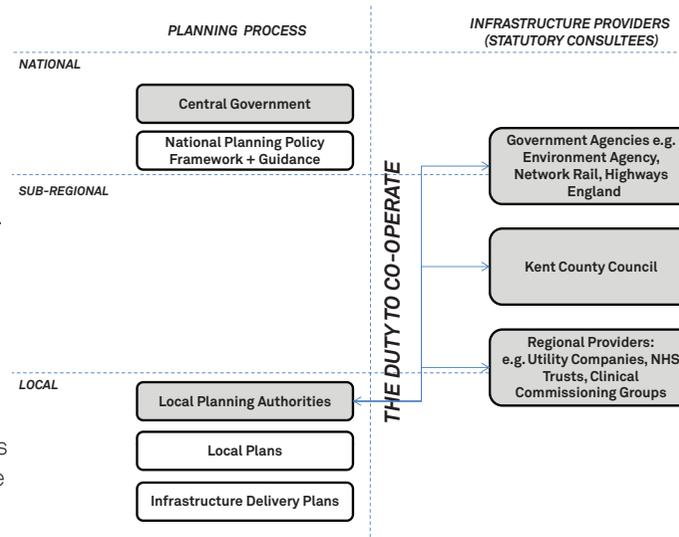


FIGURE 2.2 - THE CURRENT PLANNING PROCESS VS INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION IN KENT

Although the duty to co-operate is in place to ensure co-ordination between local authorities and infrastructure providers, there is no body in place to provide strategic co-ordination of growth across local authority boundaries, or strategic infrastructure.

This document will assist with the “Duty to Cooperate” responsibility and begin to piece together a co-ordinated understanding of growth and infrastructure across Kent and Medway.

A number of overarching planning principles are supported in the delivery of growth and infrastructure across the County:

Environmental Protection - Kent's Environment Strategy sets out future priorities for environmental management. The County Council will not support proposals which contribute to unrestricted urban sprawl and the coalescence of settlements. This form of development also results in the unsustainable provision of local infrastructure and has a detrimental impact on the day-to-day lives of local residents and businesses.

Place Shaping - Poor design fails to grasp the opportunity to improve the character and appearance of an area, the way it functions to meet the needs of communities and how it can contribute to a high quality environment. New development should aspire to restore and enhance the connection between people and places whilst seamlessly integrating into the natural, built and historic environment of Kent's urban areas and countryside. Collaborative working across the Kent and Medway authorities with proactive initiatives such as South East Design coupled with strong relationships with Kent Developers Group, help to take forward the countywide shared vision of quality communities and environments.

Transport - Demand management and support for a modal shift to public transport, cycling and walking will help reduce pressure on this infrastructure and extend their capacity over a longer timeframe and provide air quality and health benefits.

Water - Around 73% of Kent's public water supply is taken from ground water, most notably from chalk aquifers. The rest is generally drawn from rivers. Most of these finite resources are currently at capacity and in some parts of the county are being exceeded. As Kent is in one of the driest parts of the country, this water stress will be exacerbated by a growing population and climate change. Opportunities to improve water efficiency and reduce Kent's usage of water, as well as identifying alternative water sources, will be needed to ensure water resources are available to support growth. Furthermore, as Kent's drainage capacity is constrained in a number of settlement, there is an increased risk of surface water flooding when it does rain. As such, the County Council has been leading work with other South East Councils in developing guidance for integrating more sustainable drainage approaches into development.

Energy - Kent currently generates the equivalent of around 12% of the county's energy demands. Through the Kent Environment Strategy and Kent Renewable Energy Action plan, KCC will seek to ensure that additional low carbon and renewable energy infrastructure, along with increased uptake of energy demand reduction initiatives, will be needed if the county is to play a proportionally representative role in meeting the UK's carbon reduction target and renewable energy generation target of 15% by 2020.

Green Infrastructure and the Natural Environment - KCC take a holistic view of green infrastructure including the natural assets that make up the countryside. These assets provide a range of productive, regulatory and cultural services that have tangible economic value for the County. Growth should be accommodated in a way which not only does not diminish the Natural Capital that supports these services but should help reinforce it. Kent's work in developing their Natural Capital Account will help provide an evidence base for minimising the impact of development and direct investment for improvements.

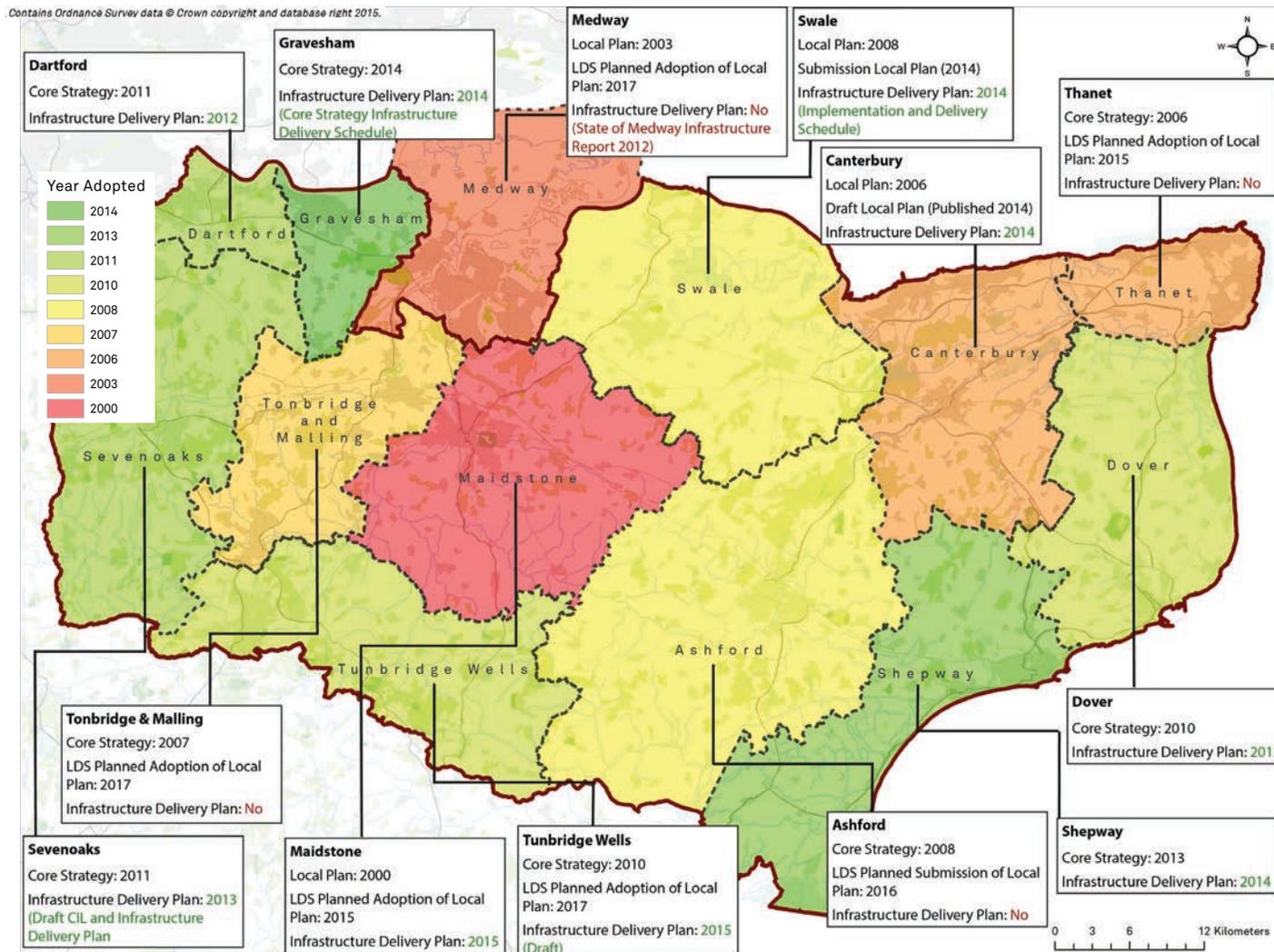


FIGURE 2.3 - LOCAL PLAN AND INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PLAN STATUS IN KENT LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MAY 2015)