



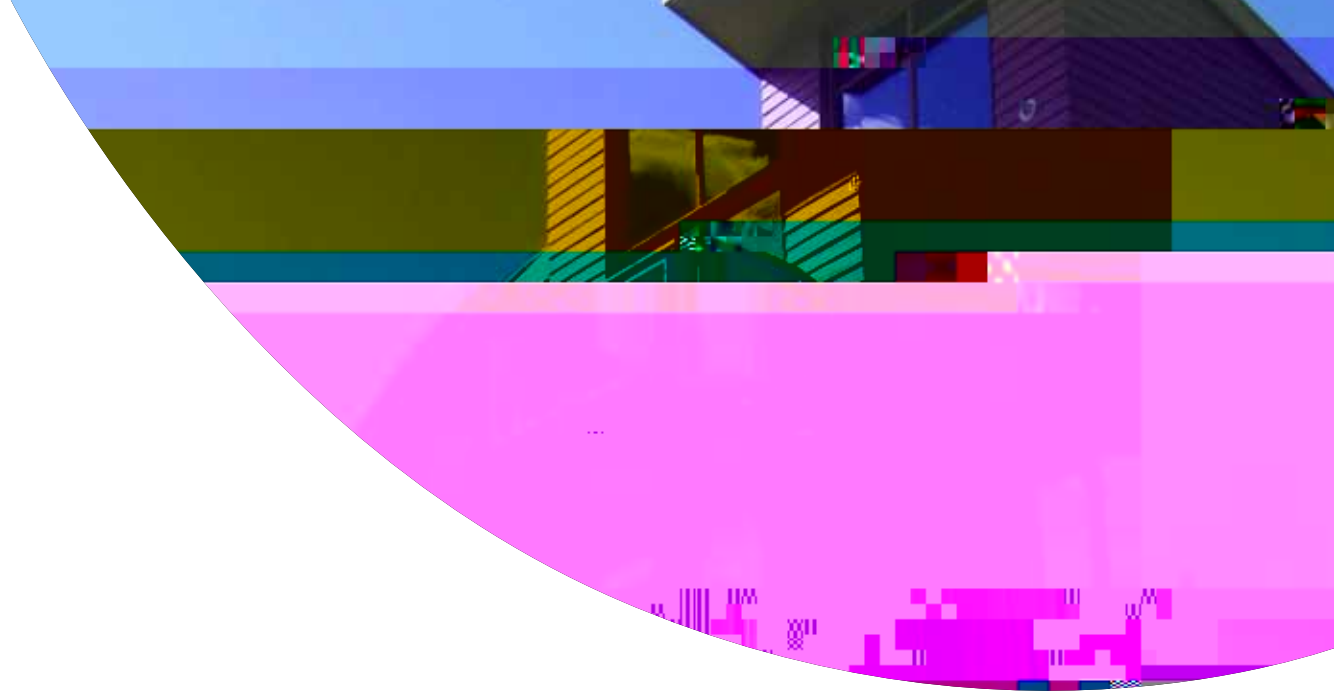
### **Summary of the Current Context**

The Crawley Borough Core Strategy and policies 'saved' from the Local Plan already provide guidance and protection for a number of positive physical features within the Borough.

Current planning policy and guidance seeks to ensure that the character and value of a place or specific feature, such as a listed building, is clearly understood and used to inform decisions on proposals for change. This approach seeks to protect or improve the quality of an area, in part by ensuring that new development is well-designed.

The Council is undertaking work to define the character of the town, and its positive and weaker features or areas, to guide development decisions and policies in the





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These issues particularly relate to the identified options, the robustness of the evidence base and the proposed policy approach.

- What physical features make a positive contribution to the character of the town and should these be protected and, where possible, improved?
- Should areas with environments that do not work well be physically changed in some way or left alone?
- Could the design of new housing schemes be improved through 'Building for Life' design quality assessments undertaken by applicants and the Council?

providing additional planting to green new development.

- EN5 – New development should protect and enhance the built environment, which includes heritage assets.
- CS1 – Taking account of community safety through the design and operation of new development.
- CS2 – Improving safety through changes to the local environment.
- NS1 – Accommodating mixed use and higher density development within the neighbourhood structure.
- NS2 – Maintaining or improving vitality and viability within the neighbourhood centres.

- The purpose of the Crawley EUS is to deliver a unique and flexible tool to aid the understanding, exploration and management of the historic qualities of Crawley.

## Crawley Built Environment Character Assessment (2009)

- The Council has commissioned consultants to carry out a baseline character assessment of the town. This will indicate the need / opportunity for further designations.
- English Heritage and West Sussex County Council have been supportive of this characterisation approach.

## Evidence Base

### Crawley Evidence Base (EUS) (2008)

- This is an archaeological, historical and historic urban character assessment of the town. It forms part of the Sussex EUS – a survey of 41 towns across Sussex – which is being prepared by a consultant on behalf of West Sussex County Council, (with funding from English Heritage).