

Annex 3: Draft Settlement Hierarchy – NB Tiers 1-4 are considered to be sustainable settlements

Settlement Category	Description	Settlement name
Principal Service Centre (or an urban area that is directly related to and adjacent to a main urban area located outside the borough)	A key urban area providing a wide range of community infrastructure such as nursery, primary, and secondary schools, a good range of public transport options including train services to London as well as offering a retail and employment function, offering all services and facilities to meet community needs for those living within the urban area and wider.	Tonbridge and Hilden Park, Medway Gap, Walderslade
Service Centre	A sustainable and accessible settlement (by road and public transport) that provides a very high level of community infrastructure including primary schools, shops and health services. Settlement meets the majority of its own needs and also meets the day-to-day services and facilities needs of surrounding smaller settlements.	Borough Green, Snodland, West Malling, Kings Hill
Primary Village	Sustainable locations with a good range of services and facilities, but residents may travel to larger centres to meet wider shopping, leisure and employment needs.	Hildenborough, Hadlow, East Malling, East Peckham, Watlington, Wouldham
Secondary Village	Sustainable settlements that have a more limited access to infrastructure and services, but where day-to-day needs can be met. Residents will depend upon other centres to meet a broader range of needs, with accessibility to those centres via road or public transport.	Aylesford Village, Hale Street, Burham, Plaxtol, Snoll Hatch, Wrotham, Eccles, Leybourne Chase, Peter's Village, Platt, Ightham, Birling, Ryarsh, Mereworth & Herne Pound

Other rural settlements	Unsustainable settlements with very few or no services or public transport connectivity and with no/limited access to higher tier settlements in walkable distance, typically in isolated locations.	Stansted, Offham , Shipbourne, Fairseat , Addington, Addington Clearway, Golden Green, West Peckham, Wrotham Heath, Dunks Green, Crouch, Trottiscliffe, Blue Bell Hill