



Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment

Non-Technical Summary

Basildon Borough Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

December 2021

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1	Final	O. Dunham	T. Livingston	T. Livingston	16.12.2021

Note that this report has been formatted to meet the requirements of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1) to Level AA, following the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations (2018).



Land Use Consultants Limited

Registered in England. Registered number 2549296. Registered office: 250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD. 100% recycled paper

Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment

Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report Non-Technical Summary has been prepared by LUC, on behalf of Basildon Borough Council (the Council) as part of the integrated Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Basildon Borough Local Plan.

1.2 This Non-Technical Summary relates to the SA of the Basildon 2022 Local Plan, containing Strategic and Spatial Policies, Site Allocations and Development Management Policies and addenda. It is a summary of the full SA Report and should be read in conjunction with the updated version of the Local Plan, known as the Post Submission Modifications version of the Basildon Borough Local Plan (hereafter referred to as the “2022 Local Plan”).

1.3 It should be noted that this report is in an ‘Accessible format’, which means it has been formatted to meet the requirements of the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations (2018), as set out in the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1). This means it has to have larger font, larger spacing between lines and headings, less information presented in tables, ‘alt text’ provided for all figures and it is able to be read by screen-reading software.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.4 An SA is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of a Local Plan. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against

Non-Technical Summary

reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.

1.5 This process is an opportunity to consider ways by which the Local Plan can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have. By doing so, it can help make sure that the proposals in the plan are the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives. It can be used to test the evidence underpinning the plan and help to demonstrate how the tests of soundness have been met. SA should be applied as an iterative process informing the development of the Local Plan at each stage.

1.6 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Local Plans. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations [\[See reference 1\]](#) and amended by the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232). As set out in the explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Brexit amendments [\[See reference 2\]](#), they are necessary to ensure that the law functions correctly following the UK's exit from the EU. No substantive changes were made by this instrument to the way the SEA regime currently operates.

1.7 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process, as has been done for the Basildon SA, and for ease, the term SA is used in the SA report and this Non-Technical Summary to mean SA, incorporating SEA. This Non-technical Summary is also a requirement of the SEA Regulations, and must include a summary of all the information that is required to be presented in the full SA/SEA Report; therefore, it is necessarily longer than an Executive Summary style document.

Basildon Borough

1.8 Basildon Borough is located in South Essex, 30 miles east of the City of London. It covers an area of 87km² and has a population of approximately 187,500. The main settlement is Basildon, a Mark 1 New Town designated in 1948 and built in a number of phases over 50 years. The New Town area, to the south of the Borough includes the neighbourhoods of Basildon, Laindon, Vange, Pitsea, Steeple View and Noak Bridge. Basildon has the largest population in the Borough. Two smaller independent towns are situated to the north of the Borough: Billericay (including Great Burstead & South Green and Break Egg Hill) is the second largest settlement followed closely by Wickford (incorporating Shotgate). The urban areas are enveloped by rural countryside containing two serviced villages and thirteen smaller plotland settlements set within the Green Belt [\[See reference 3\]](#).

Basildon Borough Local Plan

1.9 The Basildon Borough Local Plan is being prepared in accordance with the approved Local Development Scheme (2021-2023) [\[See reference 4\]](#).

1.10 The Local Plan is a Borough wide plan to coordinate the development and growth requirements of the Borough for the period 2014 to 2034. Chapters 1 to 4 of the Local Plan include an introduction, the policy context including Government policy, a spatial portrait of the Borough, and a description of the drivers for change that the Council has taken into account when preparing the Local Plan.

1.11 The vision and objectives for future development and change within Basildon Borough are set out in Chapter 5 of the Local Plan, and these are followed by a series of chapters that contain the planning policies that set out the approach to growth, distribution and management of development across the Borough in order to achieve a sustainable development:

Non-Technical Summary

- Chapter 6: Achieving Sustainable Development.
- Chapter 7: Building a Strong, Competitive Economy.
- Chapter 8: Ensuring the Vitality of Town Centres.
- Chapter 9: Promoting Sustainable Transport.
- Chapter 10: Supporting High Quality Communications Infrastructure.
- Chapter 11: Delivering a Wide Choice of High Quality Homes.
- Chapter 12: Requiring Good Design.
- Chapter 13: Promoting Healthy Communities.
- Chapter 14: Protecting Green Belt Land.
- Chapter 15: Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change and Flooding.
- Chapter 16: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
- Chapter 17: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment.

1.12 The implementation, monitoring and review arrangements for the Local Plan are contained in Chapter 18.

1.13 The Local Plan includes the following types of policies:

- **Strategic Policies:** These set out the framework for joint working, managing development and supporting service provision, provide a borough-wide approach for guiding development to designated parts of the Borough, along with mechanisms for delivering infrastructure and protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment.
- **Allocation Policies:** These identify specific locations where development and change will occur. Criteria developed for each allocation set out the types of development which may occur, along with any mitigation and infrastructure provision necessary to support the development.
- **Development Management Policies:** These are intended to be applied throughout the development management process, setting out how the

Non-Technical Summary

development will be managed to ensure it contributes towards the vision and objectives.

1.14 Supplementary Planning Documents and Neighbourhood Plans may also be prepared to further support the policies within the Local Plan.

1.15 The Basildon Borough Local Plan allocates land to provide 20,190 homes, therefore meeting the minimum housing need for the Borough over the 20 year plan period. Policy SD2 identifies two broad locations for potential housing growth which will be considered in the next review of the Local Plan once sustainable development proposals have been identified that incorporate, and are supported by, the necessary infrastructure provision emerging through the forthcoming South Essex Plan. Policy SD3 allocates minimum housing targets for two neighbourhood plan areas within the Borough: 1,350 within the Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet Neighbourhood Plan Area and 39 homes within the Ramsden Bellhouse Neighbourhood Plan Area. The 2022 Local Plan provides for a net increase of 20,000 jobs over the plan period, which equates to 80ha of employment land, meeting the Borough's employment needs. The 2022 Local Plan allocates a series of sites for development to meet the identified housing and economic needs, focused primarily on Basildon, but also with some sites allocated at Billericay and Wickford.

1.16 The Draft Local Plan underwent public consultation (known as Regulation 18 consultation) in January 2016. A publication version of the Local Plan, called the Revised Publication Local Plan was consulted upon (known as Regulation 19 consultation) in November 2018 and was subsequently submitted for examination (known as Regulation 22) in March 2019. Since the Local Plan was submitted the Council has updated several pieces of evidence and through communication with the Inspector has been instructed to undertake a technical consultation on the new evidence and the proposed modifications to the Local Plan that have arisen from the new evidence.

1.17 The Local Plan has been accompanied by an SA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report at each stage of this process.

Non-Technical Summary

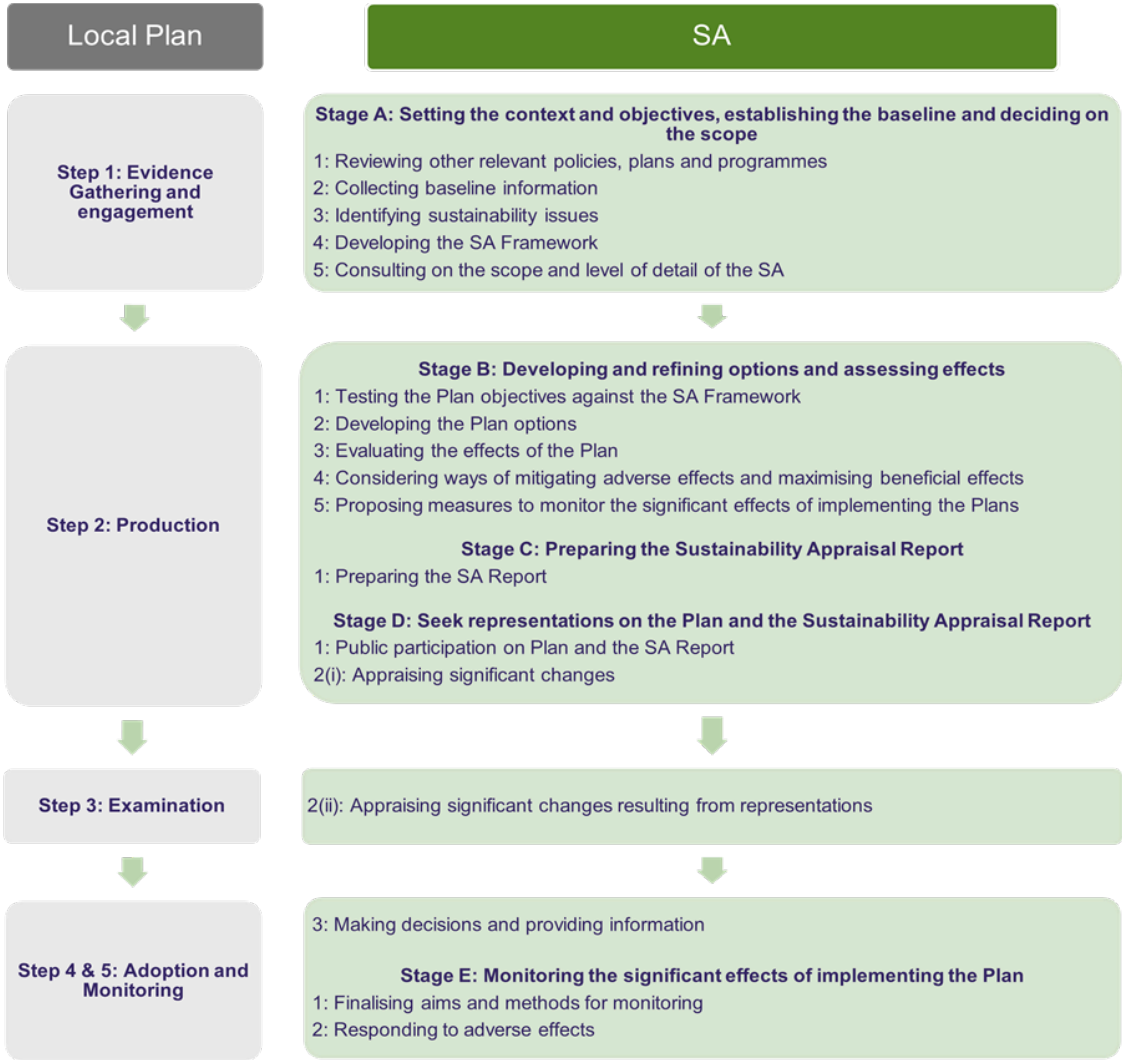
1.18 The latest iteration of the Local Plan which includes the post submission modifications (the “2022 Local Plan”), and this SA Report will be made available for public consultation in early 2022.

Methodology

1.19 In addition to complying with legal requirements, the approach being taken to the SA of the Basildon Borough Local Plan is based on current best practice and the guidance on SA/SEA set out in the Government’s Planning Practice Guidance, which involves carrying out SA as an integral part of the plan-making process.

1.20 The SA process comprises a number of stages, as shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Corresponding stages in plan-making and SA



1.21 How these stages have been met during the preparation of the Basildon Borough Local Plan is also described below.

Stage A: Scoping (SA Framework)

1.22 The scoping stage of the SA includes compiling and understanding the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan area as well as the sustainability policy context and key sustainability issues, and to keep these up-to-date throughout the plan preparation and SA process.

Non-Technical Summary

1.23 A Scoping Report was originally prepared by Basildon Borough Council and published for consultation in 2007. This was further updated and adopted in 2011. These scoping documents were prepared in house by Basildon Borough Council.

1.24 In light of key plan and policy changes (for example, publication of the National Planning Policy Framework and revocation of the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy) and baseline data updates (e.g. release of 2011 Census data), a further update was made to the Scoping Report in July 2013. The 2013 Scoping Report [\[See reference 5\]](#) was prepared by LUC on behalf of Basildon Borough Council, drawing on the scoping material which was previously prepared and consulted upon, and provided detail on the scope of the SA/SEA of the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report.

1.25 The plan, policy and programme review and baseline information has been updated as necessary at different stages during the SA, and the most up to date versions are now included in Chapter 3 and Appendix A of the full SA Report.

1.26 The 19 SA objectives in the SA Framework are shown below. Additional appraisal questions relating to each SA objective that help to guide the assessment of sites and policies are set out in Chapter 2 of the full SA Report. It should be noted that two appraisal questions have been added (one for each of SA objectives 4 and 5) to reflect the latest baseline information and key issues identified in this SA Report relating to behavioural changes due to the Covid pandemic.

SA Framework for the Basildon Borough Local Plan

- SA Objective 1: Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces of Basildon Borough
- SA Objective 2: Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough

Non-Technical Summary

- SA Objective 3: Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it
- SA Objective 4: Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration
- SA Objective 5: Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development
- SA Objective 6: Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough
- SA Objective 7: Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally
- SA Objective 8: Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment
- SA Objective 9: Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced
- SA Objective 10: Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough
- SA Objective 11: Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities
- SA Objective 12: Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings
- SA Objective 13: Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring
- SA Objective 14: Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels

Non-Technical Summary

- SA Objective 15: Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures
- SA Objective 16: Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management
- SA Objective 17: Encourage adopting building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is better prepared for the impacts of climate change
- SA Objective 18: Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used
- SA Objective 19: Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations

1.27 Public and stakeholder participation is an important element of the SA and wider plan-making processes. It helps to ensure that the SA reports are robust and have due regard for all appropriate information that will support the plan in making a contribution to sustainable development. A summary of the consultation responses received in response to the earlier versions of the SA Scoping Report is provided in the July 2013 Scoping Report and a summary can be found in Chapter 2 of the Draft Local Plan SA Report on the Council's website [[See reference 6](#)]. It should be noted that the earlier consultation responses reflect a point in time and in many instances documents and data referred to have been removed or replaced by new policies, plans, guidance and data.

SA Stage B: Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

1.28 The options or reasonable alternatives considered during development of the Basildon Borough Local Plan included the overall spatial strategy for the Borough, potential areas for new housing and employment development within and as urban extensions to Basildon, Billericay and Wickford, and alternative

Non-Technical Summary

policy approaches for proposed policies. There have been a number of stages in developing and refining the plan options as listed below and described in Chapter 4 of the full SA Report:

- Core Strategy Issues Paper (Autumn 2007) (Regulation 18 Consultation).
- Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation (February 2012) (Regulation 18 Consultation).
- Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report (December 2013) (Regulation 18 Consultation).
- Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan (January 2016) (Regulation 18 Consultation).
- Basildon Borough Publication Local Plan (March 2018) (Approved for Regulation 19 Consultation but later rescinded by the Council).
- Basildon Borough Revised Publication Local Plan (November 2018) (Regulation 19 Consultation) was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in March 2019. An SA addendum was prepared for submission alongside the Revised Publication Local Plan, appraising 28 omission site options promoted during the Regulation 19 consultation.
- Basildon Borough 2022 Local Plan (January 2022) (Technical Consultation) (the focus of this current consultation).

SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

1.29 The full SA Report describes the process undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the Basildon Borough Local Plan. It sets out the findings of the appraisal, highlighting any likely significant effects, making recommendations for improvements and clarifications that may help to mitigate negative effects and maximise the benefits of the plan, and outlining proposed monitoring measures.

Non-Technical Summary

1.30 Each policy and their reasonable alternatives have been assessed against each SA objective, and a judgement made with regards to the likely effects that the option would have on that objective. These judgements were recorded as a colour coded symbol, as shown below in Table 1. The sustainability effects of the 2022 Local Plan are summarised below. The assessment of potential cumulative effects of the 2022 Local Plan as a whole and likely effects in combination with other plans and programmes is also summarised below. The SA findings for all appraised reasonable alternatives are summarised in Appendices D, E and F of the full SA report.

Table 1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA of the Basildon Borough Local Plan

Symbol and	Description
++	The policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on the SA objective(s).
+	The policy is likely to have a positive impact of the SA objective(s).
0	The policy is likely to have a negligible or no impact on the SA objective(s).
-	The policy is likely to have a negative impact on the SA objective(s).
--	The policy is likely to have a significant negative impact on the SA objective(s).
?	It is uncertain what effect the policy will have on the SA objective(s), due to a lack of data.
+/-	The policy is likely to have a mixture of positive and negative impacts on the SA objective(s).

1.31 The SA assumptions set out in Appendix C of the full SA Report to assist with the appraisal of the site allocation policies and ensure objectivity and consistency in the judgments of effects were initially developed during the appraisal of the Broad Locations for development when the Council intended to

Non-Technical Summary

adopt a Core Strategy. These assumptions were subsequently updated to respond more appropriately to the greater levels of detail outlined within the Draft Local Plan's policies, to reflect the Borough's latest evidence base and national planning policy guidance.

SA Stage D: Consultation on the Basildon Borough Local Plan and this SA Report

1.32 Public and stakeholder participation is an important element of the SA and wider plan-making processes. A summary of the consultation responses on the SA at the Regulation 19 stage in 2018 is provided in Appendix B of the SA report. Summaries of previous rounds of consultation can be found in earlier iterations of the full SA Report.

1.33 Subject to approval by the Council, representations will be invited on the modifications proposed within the 2022 Local Plan and this SA Report as part of a technical consultation being undertaken during the Examination stage of the Basildon Borough Local Plan, as requested by the appointed Planning Inspector Paul Griffiths. All comments received will be sent to the Planning Inspector for consideration.

SA Stage E: Monitoring Implementation of the Local Plan

1.34 Chapter 6 of the full SA Report sets out recommendations for monitoring the sustainability effects of the Basildon Borough Local Plan once adopted. The monitoring proposals are considered within the context of the broader monitoring framework for the Local Plan and the data collection for Basildon Borough Council's Authorities' Monitoring Report.

Sustainability Context for Development in Basildon

Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

1.35 The Local Plan must be consistent with national planning policy, specifically the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance. The Local Plan must also take account of sub-regional, county and local plans of relevance.

1.36 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic policies for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- “Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and
- Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.”

1.37 A detailed review of the relevant international, national, plans, policies and programmes can be seen in Appendix A of the full SA Report.

Baseline Information

1.38 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them. The review of baseline information covered the following topics and is set out in Chapter 3 of the full SA Report:

- Climatic Factors, including climate change, energy use and carbon emissions, and flood risk.
- Population, Health and Social Characteristics.
- Housing.
- Economic Development.
- Cultural Heritage and Landscape.
- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.
- Air and Noise.
- Water.
- Soils and Geology.
- Material Assets, comprising services and facilities, infrastructure and open spaces.
- Transport.

Key Sustainability Issues

1.39 The baseline information contributed to the identification of a set of key sustainability issues for Basildon, which in turn helped to develop a locally appropriate SA framework (i.e. a set of SA objectives) that would be used for appraising the emerging Local Plan policies. The key sustainability issues for the Borough are set out in Chapter 3 of the full SA Report. In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, Chapter 3 of the full SA report also sets

Non-Technical Summary

out the likely evolution of each issue if the Local Plan were not to be implemented. Fifty-seven key issues were identified covering a number of baseline topics i.e.:

- Climatic factors.
- Housing.
- Population, Health and Social Characteristics.
- Economy.
- Historic Environment.
- Biodiversity.
- Air and Noise Pollution.
- Water Quality.
- Soils and Geology.
- Landscape.
- Transport.

1.40 In general, without the implementation of the 2022 Local Plan, policies are present in the adopted Local Plan (2007) to help address the key sustainability issues identified. The trends identified for the Plan area including the effects of climate change, the demand for housing and employment opportunities, increasing pressures biodiversity assets and heritage and landscape features could be addressed to some degree in this manner. However, the 2022 Local Plan presents the opportunity to update these policies to better meet the current circumstances of the Borough and expected future evolution of the key sustainability issues. This might be achieved by directing new development to more sustainable locations and through the inclusion of policies which require design measures and site improvements which will address the needs of the Borough.

Evolution of Options

1.41 The preparation of the Local Plan has taken many years and involved a considerable amount of options testing (including through the SA process), both formally during the public consultation process and also informally during each version of the plan preparation stage. The account below summarises the work undertaken, more detail is provided in Chapter 4 of the full SA Report.

Core Strategy Issues Paper (Autumn 2007) (Regulation 18 Consultation)

1.42 Preparatory work began on the Local Development Framework in 2006, following the withdrawal of the Basildon District Replacement Local Plan – 2nd Deposit.

1.43 A Core Strategy Issues Paper was published in August 2007. The Council also launched its first Call for Sites for landowners to submit sites to the Local Planning Authority for consideration for development.

1.44 No SA work on the Issues Paper was undertaken at this stage, although a SA Scoping Report was prepared and consulted upon (and subsequently updated in 2011 and 2013).

1.45 Between 2008 and 2012, the Council carried out a further Call for Sites and several studies/evaluations of the local environment and development requirements to assemble a robust and credible evidence base. This looked at cross boundary issues such as the water cycle and flood risk, as well as Borough specific matters such as open space provision, historic character and biodiversity.

Core Strategy Development Plan Document (February 2012) (Regulation 18 Consultation)

1.46 In February 2012 the Council consulted upon the Basildon Borough Core Strategy Preferred Options Report which set out three alternative high-level growth options for the Borough for the period 2011-2031, drawing on three potential population growth forecasts.

1.47 The 2012 Core Strategy set out the Council's preferred options in respect of the quantum and spatial distribution of development, preferred 'Policy Areas of Development and Change' and through a set of preferred Core Policies to manage development in the Policy Areas of Development and Change. The preferred spatial option in this version of the Core Strategy (Option A) sought to provide a minimum of 6,500 additional dwellings between 2011 and 2031, split between the Major Urban Area of Basildon (80%), and the towns of Billericay (1.5%) and Wickford (15.5%) with no encroachment into the Green Belt. Two alternative spatial options proposed different amounts of new housing and employment development that would have required development within the Borough's Green Belt over the next 20 years (these were Option B which sought to deliver 10,100 additional dwellings and up to 14ha of additional economic land, and Option C which sought to deliver 21,600 additional dwellings and up to 26ha of employment land).

Summary of SA of Core Strategy 2012 Spatial Options

1.48 The appraisal of the Spatial Options concluded the following:

- "Option A's main purpose is to protect the Borough's environmental assets, especially the Green Belt. Its overall lower growth rate means it will have less impact on the natural environment of the Borough.

Non-Technical Summary

- The three Options perform well economically, with Option B and C having a better impact on economic development.
- Socially, Options B and C perform better than Option A, which could have negative impacts on housing, health and education.
- Overall, Options B and C perform better than Option A which is the least sustainable option, particularly in relation to economic growth, although Option A performed well in relation to environmental issues due to the lower level of growth and complete protection of the Green Belt.
- Whilst Option B and C offer similar measures, the high level of housing densities promoted in Option C could lead to more negative impacts on the conservation of existing natural features...”

1.49 The 2012 SA Report also included a table summarising the sustainability effects of the Core Policies and the Policy Areas of Development and Change.

Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report (December 2013)

1.50 A revised Core Strategy Preferred Options Report was prepared in 2013 to respond to the extensive consultation responses. This included updates to respond to national policy requirements (notably the need to identify an objectively assessed housing need for the Borough), taking account of Census 2011 data and economic change. A suite of new evidence documents were also prepared.

1.51 The format of the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report was similar to the 2012 version. The Plan was underpinned by a vision and strategic objectives and the overall spatial strategy for the Borough was supported by 15 Policy Areas of Development and Change and a set of Core Policies. There were a number of changes to the Vision, Strategic Objectives, Spatial Strategy, and Core Policies.

Non-Technical Summary

1.52 In terms of quantum of development, the 2013 Draft Local Plan Core Strategy provided for 16,000 new dwellings and 49 hectares of new employment land, representing the up-to-date objectively assessed need for the Borough. Three spatial options were considered:

- Option 2a (the preferred option at this stage), which was a proportionate distribution of the 16,000 dwellings and 49 hectares of new employment land relative to the size of the Borough's Main Towns – Basildon (including Laindon and Pitsea), Billericay and Wickford. 6,900 homes and 38 hectares of industrial land were planned for within the settlements' existing urban areas. 9,100 homes and 11ha of industrial land were planned for within the Borough's Green Belt, split into urban extensions around the towns, between the serviced villages of Crays Hill, Bowers Gifford and Ramsden Bellhouse and infill development in the fifteen Plotland settlements scattered around the Borough.
- Option 2b, which focussed the 16,000 dwellings and 49 hectares of new employment land towards Billericay and Wickford where feasible, with Basildon taking less than a proportionate scale of growth. The remainder of growth would be split between the serviced settlements of Crays Hill, Ramsden Bellhouse and Bowers Gifford and some allowance for infill in the Plotlands.
- Option 2c, which focussed the 16,000 dwellings and 49 hectares of new employment land towards Basildon, with a smaller proportion of the remaining growth directed to Billericay and Wickford. A small proportion would be split between the serviced settlements of Crays Hill, Ramsden Bellhouse and Bowers Gifford and some allowance for infill in the Plotlands.

1.53 The 2013 Draft Local Plan Core Strategy also included changes to the Policy Areas of Development and Change in terms of scale and type of development proposed, plus new Policy Areas of Development and Change in the Green Belt at Basildon, Billericay and Wickford. 26 Broad Locations were identified as possible locations for development needs (the remaining 47 locations were not considered reasonable by the Council). A map of the Broad Locations is provided in Figure 4.1 of the full SA report.

Non-Technical Summary

1.54 The 26 Broad Locations were used by the Council to consider alternative ways of distributing the required dwellings. Each of the 26 Broad Locations was appraised by LUC on its own merits, using the SA Framework, and without considering any mitigation.

1.55 The SA findings and other evidence helped the Council to rule out Broad Locations with the lowest potential for development and focus consideration as to which Broad Locations should be considered as Policy Areas of Development and Change.

1.56 The 2013 Draft Local Plan Core Strategy also included 20 Core Policies to manage development including policies on Housing (affordable housing and housing mix); Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs; Conservation and the Natural Environment, Green Belt, Health and Wellbeing, Supporting and Sustaining the Local Economy and Transport Infrastructure.

Summary of SA of the Draft Local Plan Core Strategy 2013

1.57 The SA carried out by LUC found that the effects between the three Spatial Options (2a, 2b and 2c) did not differ markedly in many respects. The SA objectives relating to landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity were the ones that were most likely to be affected negatively, because of the permanent loss of greenfield land to development, although it is recognised that development can also offer opportunities to deliver investment in green infrastructure and also in community facilities and services. The likelihood of significant adverse effects increased depended on which town was being considered under which Spatial Option. The SA found that focusing development on a particular town (or to the north or south of the Borough) would be more likely to have significant adverse effects against the environmental SA objectives in relation to that part of the Borough.

Non-Technical Summary

1.58 At this stage of the plan preparation process, the Council selected the proportionate growth option (Spatial Option 2A) to underpin the Revised Preferred Options Report as the most balanced and appropriate strategy – in effect, it spread both the positive effects and the negative effects, rather than concentrating them on one or two towns in the Borough. The SA found that this option performed as well as the other two options against many of the SA objectives, although inevitably there were some differences. There remained concerns over traffic issues, and potential congestion, which needed to be resolved, and further work was also required on water issues although it was thought that these can be addressed. Flood risk was a concern in some locations, which would need careful assessment, planning and design to ensure that avoid it becoming an issue in the future.

Draft Local Plan (January 2016) (Regulation 18 Consultation)

1.59 The Draft Local Plan identified specific site allocations whereas the previous Core Strategy identified broad areas for growth. The change in the type of Plan being prepared led to additional detailed evidence gathering being undertaken so that site boundaries could be determined.

1.60 Between the publication of the 2013 Draft Local Plan Core Strategy and the 2016 Draft Local Plan a number of new land parcels were submitted to the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment for consideration for their development potential. There were also a number of updates to the Local Plan evidence base, such as the Landscape Study, Green Belt Study and LUC's Ecology Study. As such the Council undertook a review of broad areas of search renaming the new versions Strategic Sites to avoid confusion with the previous work undertaken.

Strategic Sites

1.61 The starting point for this exercise was the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment evidence base followed by the specific findings of the revised landscape study and Green Belt study. Individual sites or clusters of sites promoted through the Council's Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment with an initial combined capacity of 200 homes or more were identified as strategic sites. This resulted in the identification of 30 Strategic Sites.

1.62 The strategic sites are shown on Figure 4.1 of the full SA report.

Allocations

1.63 Following a similar method to the identification of Policy Areas of Development and Change the Strategic Sites were cross-matched with the spatial findings from the evidence base to identify the development site allocations. This exercise identified specific draft site allocations. The draft site allocations form smaller areas than the full extent of the Strategic Sites. This is because the evidence identified constraints within the majority of the Strategic Sites, such as landscape sensitivities, which made parts of them less/not suitable for development. In the Draft Local Plan a total of 18 allocations were identified within the existing Green Belt as urban extensions to the three main settlements (Basildon, Wickford and Billericay).

1.64 The draft site allocations consulted upon in January 2016 are shown alongside the reasonable alternatives in Figure 4.2 of the full SA report.

Distribution of Development

1.65 Taking into account homes that had already been delivered, the Draft Local Plan provided for 8,835 homes at Basildon, 1,860 at Billericay, 3,300 at

Non-Technical Summary

Wickford, and 908 homes elsewhere including a village extension to Bowers Gifford amounting to around 600 homes and 218 homes in the Plotland settlements. In total, this delivered the minimum housing requirement of the objectively assessed housing need range at the time: 15,260 to 16,740 homes. The amount of employment land and its distribution between settlements remained unchanged.

1.66 Appendix D of the full SA Report presents the findings of the SA of the Draft Local Plan published in January 2016, including the updated draft site allocation appraisal findings in light of the updated evidence and new site allocation options.

Revised Publication Local Plan (November 2018) (Regulation 19 Consultation)

1.67 In between the publication of the Draft Local Plan in 2016 and the publication of the Revised Publication Local Plan in November 2018, two key evidence base documents were published:

- Archaeological Assets Impact Assessment for Potential Growth Locations within Basildon Borough (2016).
- Updated national Indices of Multiple Deprivation data (2015).

1.68 The evidence base updates were used to reappraise all draft site allocations and their reasonable alternatives in relation to SA objectives 2 (Historic Environment) and 10 (Reducing Deprivation) respectively. Twenty-three new site options were appraised for comparison against the draft site allocations and the other reasonable alternatives in 2017.

1.69 Basildon Borough Council prepared a High Level Development Framework for the areas of land previously allocated in the Draft Local Plan 2016. Further

Non-Technical Summary

options were tested, including consolidating the four individual allocations into a larger strategic allocation including a new relief road to alleviate current and mitigate future road congestion within Billericay.

1.70 A summary of the appraisal findings of the contents of the Revised Publication Local Plan, including all site allocations is provided within Appendix E of the full SA report. Figure 4.3 of the full SA report illustrates the location of the Revised Publication site allocations.

Reasons for Choosing the 2022 Local Plan

1.71 The 2022 Local Plan builds on the earlier work undertaken in respect of the Core Strategy, the Draft Local Plan (2016) and Revised Publication Local Plan (2018). Consequently, the scale and spatial distribution do not vary significantly from that earlier work, and the general locations of development have remained broadly the same, although there are variations around specific sites in relation to their allocation and the extent of land to be provided. There are a number of matters that have contributed to the variations arising and the Council's decisions taken in formulating the 2022 Local Plan. These are as follows:

- The housing need in Basildon has increased since that earlier work was undertaken. This has given rise to the Council having to scrutinise the deliverability of sites in more detail.
- Given the increased need for housing the capacity of the urban area and the densities applied on development sites has been reviewed. The urban capacity has increased as a consequence, whilst the land take from the current extent of the Green Belt has remained similar to that set out in the Draft Local Plan. Whilst the 2022 Local Plan does not score well in relation to the use of Previously Developed Land as a consequence of the greenfield land take, the objective of the Sustainability Appraisal in this regard has driven the decision making process to ensure land is used effectively.

Non-Technical Summary

- Considerations of Green Belt harm and settlement coalescence have resulted in the extent of development to the west of the Basildon Urban area being reduced. This is largely to off-set the potential impact of the Dunton Hills Garden Village proposals adjacent to the Borough's boundary in Brentwood Borough.
- Infrastructure delivery has also been a significant consideration. The proposals for Gardiners Lane South (H5), West Basildon (H8), Noak Bridge (H10), East Basildon (H11 and E5), South Wickford (H12) and South West Billericay (H17) are all aligned and predicated upon the delivery of key pieces of infrastructure including highways, schools and sports facilities. There are therefore instances where in order to create the critical mass or opportunities for infrastructure provision some environmental harm, primarily to the landscape has been accepted to enable this to occur.
- Overall, however, the Council has sought to limit environmental harm to that of landscape harm through consideration of the Sustainability Appraisal, and other site specific assessments. Proposals within the 2022 Local Plan therefore avoid areas of flood risk, historic and nature conservation designations, for example. Additionally, the site selection process has considered matters of sustainable accessibility, as detailed in the Sustainability Appraisal, in order to direct development to places where residents do not have to rely on the private car for every journey undertaken.
- This is not to say, however, that poor development would not still give rise to harm. Consequently, the 2022 Local Plan has been used to introduce new requirements on development around good quality design, and mitigation of environmental harm. The recommendations of earlier versions of the Sustainability Appraisal have helped direct that policy development.
- To incorporate changes in national Use Classes and Sustainable Urban Drainage Guidance.
- To reflect updates in the Council's Local Plan evidence base, in particular further transport modelling and mitigation work, an updated Retail Study, new Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan proposals, an updated

Non-Technical Summary

Gypsy and Traveller Availability Assessment, the Council's Climate Change and Air Quality Topic Paper and Local Wildlife Site Review.

- The removal of site allocation H7a (35 homes) was due to its impact on a nearby listed building as recommended in a new Heritage Impact Assessment. Furthermore, the update to the housing number of Site H7b is to accommodate requirements of the allocation's Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Policy E4: Protection of Existing Employment Areas for B2 Manufacturing and Industrial Uses has been removed as it is covered by Policy E2: Existing Employment Areas.
- Policy DES6: Public Art and Cultural Interpretation has been removed and incorporated into the remaining 2022 Local Plan Design Policies.
- Policy NE7: Air Quality has been added as a new policy to reflect the Climate Change and Air Quality Topic Paper.

Sustainability Appraisal Findings of Post Submission Local Plan (January 2022) (Technical Consultation)

1.72 In between the publication of the Revised Publication Local Plan in November 2018 and the Post Submission Modifications version of the Basildon Local Plan in January 2022, additional omission sites promoted during consultation on the Revised Publication Local Plan in 2018 were appraised in 2019. Details on these additional sites and their effects can be found in Appendix F of the full SA report. No new site allocation policies were allocated as a result of this exercise, but the Council did undertake further detailed assessment work in 2020 and 2021 in and around the site allocations identified in the Revised Publication Local Plan. Figure 4.4 of the full SA report illustrates the location of the 2022 Local Plan site allocations.

Non-Technical Summary

1.73 A detailed assessment of each strategic, allocation and development management policy in the 2022 Local Plan has been undertaken alongside their reasonable alternatives, considering their likely effects against each of the SA objectives. This is presented in Chapter 5 of the full SA Report.

1.74 A summary of the likely sustainability effects identified for all of the policies in the 2022 Local Plan are presented by chapter of the Local Plan, in Tables 2 to 16 overleaf. This includes the effects of the site allocations included in the Local Plan, taking into account the mitigation provided through the site allocation policies. By considering the expected sustainability effects for all policies in the 2022 Local Plan it is possible to describe the cumulative effects of the Local Plan as a whole, as presented in Table 17 below.

Non-Technical Summary

Table 2: Summary of SA effects for the Vision and Strategic Objectives

SA Objective	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15	SA16	SA17	SA18	SA19
Local Plan Vision and Ambitions	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SO1: Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+
SO2: Improve the quality and value of the Green Belt	++/-	++/-	++/-	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+
SO3: Minimise our impact on the environment	++	+	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
SO4: Creating vibrant and thriving town centres	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	+	++	++	++	++	0	+/-/?	+/-/?	0	+	0	+/-/?
SO5: Strengthening the competitiveness of the local economy	-/?	0	-/?	++	+	0	0	+	+	++	+	0	0	+/-/?	+/-/?	0	0	-/?	-/?
SO6: Deliver new homes	-/?	0	-/?	+	0	0	++	0	+	++	0	0	0	+/-/?	0	+/?	+	-/?	-/?
SO7: Capitalising on local tourism opportunities	-/?	+	-/?	++	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	-/?	-/?	0	0	-/?	-/?
SO8: Help local people maintain healthier lifestyles	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+
SO9: Enhancing the quality of life of all	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+
SO10: Securing the delivery of supporting infrastructure	+/?	0	+/?	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	0	0	+	+/?	0	0	0	+/?

Non-Technical Summary

Table 3: Summary of SA effects for the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 6 – Achieving Sustainable Development

SA Objectives	SD1	SD2	SD3a	SD3b	SD4
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	--/+/?	--/+/?	--/?	-/?	+
2. Cultural heritage	--/+/?	--/+/?	--/?	--/?	+
3. Biodiversity	--/+/?	--/+/?	--/?	--/?	+
4. Economic growth and regeneration	++	++	+	+	+
5. Town centres	++	++	+/?	0	+
6. Education and social inclusion	+/?	+/?	++	+	+
7. Meeting housing need	++	++	++	0	+
8. Health and wellbeing	+/?	+/?	++/?	+	+
9. Vibrant communities	++	++	0	0	+
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	+	+	++	+	+
11. Access to services and facilities	+/?	+/?	+/?	-/?	+
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	++/--	++/--	--/?	--/?	+
13. Flood risk	--/+/?	--/+/?	-	0	+
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	+/-/?	+/-/?	+/?	-/?	+
15. Air, land and noise pollution	+/-	+/-	+/?	-/?	+
16. Water resources	+/-/?	+/-/?	?	?	+

Non-Technical Summary

SA Objectives	SD1	SD2	SD3a	SD3b	SD4
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	+/-/?	+/-/?	?	?	+
18. Waste	+/-/?	+/-/?	?	?	+
19. Traffic congestion	+/-/?	+/-/?	+/?	-/?	+

Non-Technical Summary

Table 4: Summary of SA effects for the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 7 – Building a Strong, Competitive Economy

SA Objectives	E1	E2	E3	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	0	--	--	--/?	0	0	0	0	0
2. Cultural heritage	0	0	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0
3. Biodiversity	0	--	--	-/?	0	0	0	0	0
4. Economic growth and regeneration	++	++	++	++	+	0	+	0	+
5. Town centres	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
6. Education and social inclusion	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	++
7. Meeting housing need	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Health and wellbeing	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	0	0	0	0
9. Vibrant communities	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
11. Access to services and facilities	+	+	0	-/?	+	0	+	0	0
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	++	++	++	--/?	+	0	0	+	0

Non-Technical Summary

SA Objectives	E1	E2	E3	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10
13. Flood risk	+	-	-	--	0	0	0	0	0
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	+/-	-	-	-/?	+/-	0	0	0	0
15. Air, land and noise pollution	-	-	-	-/?	-	+/-/?	0	0	0
16. Water resources	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	0	-	-	?	0	0	0	0	0
18. Waste	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0
19. Traffic congestion	+/-	+/-	-	+/-/?	+/-	+	+	0	0

For E4, see scoring of mixed-use site H5 in Table 8 below.

Non-Technical Summary

Table 5: Summary of SA effects for the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 8 – Ensuring the Vitality of Town Centres

SA Objectives	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14	R15
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	+	++/-	++/-	+	++/-	+	+	+	+	+	-/?	+	+	+	+
2. Cultural heritage	+	+/-	+/-/?	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	-/?	+	+	+	+
3. Biodiversity	0	+/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	-?	0	0	0	0
4. Economic growth and regeneration	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	0	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-
5. Town centres	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+/?	0	+	++	0	+/-	+
6. Education and social inclusion	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
7. Meeting housing need	+	++	+	0	+	0	+/-	+/?	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0
8. Health and wellbeing	0	+	+	0	+/?	0	0	+/?	0	0	+	0	0	++/?	+
9. Vibrant communities	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	0	+	0	+/-	+	+	++
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	0	0	+	+/-	0	+/?	+
11. Access to services and facilities	+	++	++	+	+	+	+/-/?	++	0	0	+/-/?	++/-	0	+	+
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+/?	0	0	--/?	0	+	0	0
13. Flood risk	0	0	-/?	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	+/-	++/-/?	++/-/?	+/-/?	++/-/?	+/-	0	0	-	0	-/?	0	0	0	0
15. Air, land and noise pollution	+/-	++/-?	+/-	+/-/?	+/-	+/-	+/-/?	0	-	0	-/?	0	0	0	0
16. Water resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	0	+/-	+	0/?	0/?	0/?	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0
18. Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0
19. Traffic congestion	+/-?	++/-?	+/-	+/-/?	+/-	+/-/?	+/-/?	0	-	0	+/-/?	0	0	0	0

Non-Technical Summary

Table 6: Summary of SA effects for the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 9 – Promoting Sustainable Transport

SA Objective	T1	T2/T5	T3	T4	T6	T7	T8	T9	T10	T11
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	+	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Cultural heritage	?	+/-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Biodiversity	+	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Economic growth and regeneration	++	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	+
5. Town centres	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	+/-
6. Education and social inclusion	+	0	+	++	0	+	+	0	0	0
7. Meeting housing need	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Health and wellbeing	+/-	+/-	+	++	+	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	0
9. Vibrant communities	0	+/-	+	+	+	++	0	0	0	0
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	+/?	0	0	+/?	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Access to services and facilities	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	0	-/?	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. Flood risk	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Non-Technical Summary

SA Objective	T1	T2/T5	T3	T4	T6	T7	T8	T9	T10	T11
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	-	+	+
15. Air, land and noise pollution	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+/-	-	+	+
16. Water resources	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Traffic congestion	+/-	++/-	+	++	++	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+

Non-Technical Summary

Table 7: SA effects for policies in the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 10 – Supporting High Quality Communications Infrastructure

SA Objectives	COM1	COM2	COM3
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	0	+	0
2. Cultural heritage	0	+	0
3. Biodiversity	0	0	0
4. Economic growth and regeneration	+	-/?	+
5. Town centres	+	0	+
6. Education and social inclusion	+	-/?	+
7. Meeting housing need	0	0	0
8. Health and wellbeing	0	+	0
9. Vibrant communities	0	0	0
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	+	0	0
11. Access to services and facilities	+	-/?	+
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	0	+	0
13. Flood risk	0	0	0
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	+/?	0	0
15. Air, land and noise pollution	+/?	0	0
16. Water resources	0	0	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	0	0	0
18. Waste	0	0	0
19. Traffic congestion	+/?	0	0

Non-Technical Summary

Table 8: SA effects for policies in the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 11 – Delivering a Wide Choice of High Quality Homes

SA Objectives	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	H10	H11	H12	H13	H14
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	--/+/?	0	-/?	-/?	+/-/?	--/?	--/?	--/?	-/?	-/?	--/+/?	+/-/?	-/?	+/-/?
2. Cultural heritage	--/+/?	0	-/?	-/?	0/?	--/?	-/?	-/?	+/?	-/?	--/?	0/?	--/?	--/?
3. Biodiversity	--/+/?	0	-/?	--/?	-/?	--/?	+/-/?	-/?	-/?	+/-/?	--/+/?	+/-/?	--/+/?	+/-/?
4. Economic growth and regeneration	++/-/?	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
5. Town centres	+/?	0	0	0	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?
6. Education and social inclusion	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	++	+	+
7. Meeting housing need	++	++	++/--/?	--/+/?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+
8. Health and wellbeing	+	+	+	+	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?	+	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?
9. Vibrant communities	++/-/?	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	+	0	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++
11. Access to services and facilities	++	+/?	+/-	+/-	+/?	++/?	++/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	+/?	+/?	++/?	+/?
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	++/--	0	++/--/?	++/--/?	--/?	-	--/?	--/?	--/?	--/?	--/?	--/?	-	--/?
13. Flood risk	--/+/?	0	-/?	-/?	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0	0
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	+/-/?	0	-/?	-/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	+/?	+/?	++/?	+/?
15. Air, land and noise pollution	+/-	0	+/-/?	+/-/?	+/?	++?	+/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	+/?	+/?	++/?	+/?
16. Water resources	+/-/?	0	0/?	0/?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	+/-/?	0	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
18. Waste	+/-/?	0	0/?	0/?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
19. Traffic congestion	+/-/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	+/-?	-/?	-/?	+/?	+/?	++/?	+/?

Non-Technical Summary

Table 9: SA effects for policies in the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 11 – Delivering a Wide Choice of High Quality Homes (continued)

SA Objectives	H15	H16	H17	H18	H19	H20	H21	H22	H23	H24	H25	H26	H27	H28
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	0/?	-/?	--/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	--/?	-/?	--/?	-/?	0	0	0	0
2. Cultural heritage	--/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	--/?	-/?	0	0	0	0
3. Biodiversity	--/+/?	--/+/?	--/+/?	--/+/?	--/+/?	--/+/?	--/+/?	+/-/?	--/?	-/?	0	0	0	0
4. Economic growth and regeneration	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
5. Town centres	+/?	+/?	+/?	0/?	+/?	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	+
6. Education and social inclusion	+	+	++	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	0
7. Meeting housing need	+	+	++	+	+	0	0	0	++	++	++	++/-/?	+/-	++/-
8. Health and wellbeing	+	+	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?	0	+	0	+	+/?	+/?	0	0
9. Vibrant communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+/-/?	+/-	+
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	+	+	+	+	++	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	+
11. Access to services and facilities	-/?	-/?	++/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	0	-/?	0	+	0	0	0	0
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	--/?	--/?	--/?	--/?	--/?	-	-/?	--/?	++/--	+/-/?	0	0	0	++
13. Flood risk	-/?	-	-/?	-	-	-	-	-	-/?	-/?	0	0	0	0
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	-/?	-/?	++/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	0	-/?	0/?	?	0	0	0	0
15. Air, land and noise pollution	-/?	-/?	++/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	+	0
16. Water resources	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0/?	0/?	0	0	0	0
18. Waste	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Traffic congestion	-/?	-/?	++/-/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	0	-/?	+/-	?	0	0	+	0

Non-Technical Summary

Table 10: SA effects for policies in the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 12 – Requiring Good Design

SA Objectives	DES1	DES2	DES3	DES4	DES5	DES6
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	+	++	+	++	++	+
2. Cultural heritage	++	+	+	++	++	++
3. Biodiversity	+	0	0	0	+	0
4. Economic growth and regeneration	+	0	0	0	0	0
5. Town centres	+	0	0	0	+	0
6. Education and social inclusion	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Meeting housing need	+/-	-	+	+/-	0	0
8. Health and wellbeing	++	0	0	0	+	+
9. Vibrant communities	++	0	+	+	+	++
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	+/?	0	+/?	+/?	+/?	0
11. Access to services and facilities	+	0	0	0	+	0
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	+	0	0	0	0	0
13. Flood risk	+	0	0	0	+	0

Non-Technical Summary

SA Objectives	DES1	DES2	DES3	DES4	DES5	DES6
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	+	0	0	0	+	0
15. Air, land and noise pollution	+	0	0	0	0	0
16. Water resources	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	+/?	0	0	0	+	0
18. Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Traffic congestion	+	0	0	0	+	0

Non-Technical Summary

Table 11: SA effects for policies in the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 13 – Promoting Healthy Communities

SA Objectives	HC1	HC2	HC3	HC4	HC5	HC6	HC7	HC8	HC9	HC10	HC11	HC12
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	++	++	0	0	++	++	++	++	++	0	0	-
2. Cultural heritage	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
3. Biodiversity	0	+	0	0	++	++	+	+	+	0	0	+
4. Economic growth and regeneration	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Town centres	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Education and social inclusion	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	0	+
7. Meeting housing need	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Health and wellbeing	++	+	+	+	++	++	+	++	+	+	0	+
9. Vibrant communities	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+
11. Access to services and facilities	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	++	+	+
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+

Non-Technical Summary

SA Objectives	HC1	HC2	HC3	HC4	HC5	HC6	HC7	HC8	HC9	HC10	HC11	HC12
13. Flood risk	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Air, land and noise pollution	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
16. Water resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Traffic congestion	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Non-Technical Summary

Table 12: SA effects for policies in the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 14 – Protecting Green Belt Land

SA Objectives	GB1	GB2	GB3	GB4	GB5	GB6	GB7	GB8	GB9	GB10	GB11
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	++	--	+/?	--/+/?	++/?	++/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	++
2. Cultural heritage	++	-	+/?	-	++/?	++/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	++
3. Biodiversity	+	--	+/?	-	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	0	0	++
4. Economic growth and regeneration	+/-	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	0	++	0
5. Town centres	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Education and social inclusion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Meeting housing need	-	++	-/?	++	-	+/?	0	0	0	++	0
8. Health and wellbeing	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
9. Vibrant communities	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	++	0	++	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	++
11. Access to services and facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	++	0	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	++

Non-Technical Summary

SA Objectives	GB1	GB2	GB3	GB4	GB5	GB6	GB7	GB8	GB9	GB10	GB11
13. Flood risk	+	--/?	0	--/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	0	-/?	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Air, land and noise pollution	0	-/?	0	-/?	0	0	+	0	0	0	+
16. Water resources	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Traffic congestion	+	-/?	+	-/?	0	0	+	0	0	0	+

Non-Technical Summary

Table 13: SA effects for the policies in the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 15 – Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change and Flooding

SA Objectives	CC1	CC2	CC3	CC4	CC5	CC6	CC7
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	0	0	0	0	+	0	-/?
2. Cultural heritage	+	+	+	0	+	+	-/?
3. Biodiversity	++	++	+/?	0	0	0	-/?
4. Economic growth and regeneration	+/-	+	+	+/-	0	0	0
5. Town centres	0	0	0	0	+/?	0	0
6. Education and social inclusion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Meeting housing need	+/-/?	+	+	+/-	+/-	0	0
8. Health and wellbeing	++	+	+	+	+	+	-/?
9. Vibrant communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	0	0	0	0	+/?	0	0
11. Access to services and facilities	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Non-Technical Summary

SA Objectives	CC1	CC2	CC3	CC4	CC5	CC6	CC7
13. Flood risk	++	++	++	++/?	0	+	0
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	++	0	0	0	++	+	++
15. Air, land and noise pollution	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Water resources	++	+	+	+	++	+	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	++	+	0	+	0	+	0
18. Waste	0	0	0	0	++	+	0
19. Traffic congestion	++	0	0	0	0	0	0

Non-Technical Summary

Table 14: SA effects for policies in the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 16 – Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

SA Objectives	NE1	NE2	NE3	NE4	NE5	NE6	NE7	NE8	NE9	NE10
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	++	++	++	++	++	+	0	0	-/?	++
2. Cultural heritage	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	-/?	++
3. Biodiversity	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	0	-/?	++
4. Economic growth and regeneration	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	+/-
5. Town centres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
6. Education and social inclusion	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Meeting housing need	+	-	-	-	-	+/-	0	+	+	-
8. Health and wellbeing	+	+	+	0	+	++	++	0	0	+
9. Vibrant communities	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	+	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	++
11. Access to services and facilities	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	++

Non-Technical Summary

SA Objectives	NE1	NE2	NE3	NE4	NE5	NE6	NE7	NE8	NE9	NE10
13. Flood risk	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0
15. Air, land and noise pollution	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	0
16. Water resources	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	++	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
18. Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Traffic congestion	0	0	0	0	0	+	+/?	0	0	0

Non-Technical Summary

Table 15: SA effects for policies in the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 17 - Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

SA Objectives	HE1	HE2	HE3	HE4	HE5
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	++	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?
2. Cultural heritage	++	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?
3. Biodiversity	0	+	0	0	0
4. Economic growth and regeneration	0	0	0	0	0
5. Town centres	0	0	0	0	0
6. Education and social inclusion	0	0	0	0	0
7. Meeting housing need	0	0	0	0	0
8. Health and wellbeing	0	+	0	0	0
9. Vibrant communities	0	0	0	0	0
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	0	0	+/?	0	0
11. Access to services and facilities	0	0	0	0	0
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	0	0	+/?	0	0

Non-Technical Summary

SA Objectives	HE1	HE2	HE3	HE4	HE5
13. Flood risk	0	+	0	0	0
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	0	0	0	0	0
15. Air, land and noise pollution	0	0	0	0	0
16. Water resources	0	0	0	0	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	0	0	0	0	0
18. Waste	0	0	0	0	0
19. Traffic congestion	0	0	0	0	0

Non-Technical Summary

Table 16: SA effects for policies in the 2022 Local Plan Chapter 18 – Implementation

SA Objectives	IMP1	IMP2	IMP3	IMP4
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	+	+	+	0
2. Cultural heritage	+	0	+	0
3. Biodiversity	+	+	+	0
4. Economic growth and regeneration	+	+	0	+/?
5. Town centres	+	+	0	+/?
6. Education and social inclusion	+	+	+	+
7. Meeting housing need	+	+	+	+/?
8. Health and wellbeing	+	+	+	+
9. Vibrant communities	+	+	0	0
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	+	+	0	+/?
11. Access to services and facilities	+	++	+	+
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	0	0	0	+
13. Flood risk	+	+	+	0
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	+	+	+	0
15. Air, land and noise pollution	+	+	+	0
16. Water resources	+	+	+	0
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	+	+	+	0
18. Waste	+	+	+	0
19. Traffic congestion	+	+	+	0

Duration and Scale of Sustainability Effects

1.75 The 2022 Basildon Publication Local Plan sets out how development within the Borough should look and function and how development needs will be met up to 2034, meaning that the timescales for effects resulting from policies within the Local Plan could be up to 15-20 years. In reality, some of the policies may have short-term effects (over the next 5 years), medium-term effects (over the next 10 years), or long-term effects (over the whole plan period and beyond).

Short-Term Effects of the 2022 Local Plan

1.76 The impacts of the 2022 Local Plan in the short-term would mostly relate to the initial impacts of construction, including housing, employment land, and transport schemes where these are already in progress or planned for the early part of the plan period. This could include the removal of vegetation, top soil, sub soil, and provision of infrastructure required. Such works could have negative impacts on biodiversity, local amenity (possible disruption to rights of way, traffic flows, noise generation etc.), soil quality, and the landscape. However, these impacts would be temporary in nature and should be minimised through implementation of the safeguards set out in a number of the 2022 Local Plan development management policies and the safeguards incorporated into the site allocation policies.

Medium-Term Effects of the 2022 Local Plan

1.77 Negative impacts in the medium-term include the potential implications of developments on health and local amenity (e.g. noise, dust, increased traffic etc.), although as noted above, these should be minimised through implementation of the requirements in the 2022 Local Plan. In addition, there are likely to be positive medium-term effects on health and quality of life by

Non-Technical Summary

delivering improved affordable housing availability, healthcare facilities and green infrastructure. Medium-term positive impacts also relate to the employment and economic benefits of delivering new employment land.

Long-Term Effects of the 2022 Local Plan

1.78 Long-term, permanent benefits that would result from the 2022 Local Plan include the provision of housing, employment, improved transport infrastructure which would positively impact employment, the economy and quality of life. Green infrastructure may have some long-term, permanent positive impacts for biodiversity, landscape and flooding through the creation of new habitats, enhancement of degraded sites, implementation of sustainable drainage systems and enhancement of townscape and landscape through well designed facilities.

1.79 Long-term, permanent negative impacts of the 2022 Local Plan are potentially increased waste generation overall from a growing population, climate change implications of the energy required in new housing and employment and greenhouse gas emissions from traffic, and the disturbance and/or removal of archaeological remains. However, these effects could be mitigated to some extent through implementation of the requirements in the 2022 Local Plan development management policies and the safeguards incorporated into the site allocation policies.

Cumulative Effects

Table 17: Summary of likely cumulative effects for the 2022 Local Plan

SA Objectives	Cumulative Effects for the 2022 Local Plan
1. Landscape, countryside and green space	++/--
2. Cultural heritage	++/--
3. Biodiversity	++/--
4. Economic growth and regeneration	++
5. Town centres	++
6. Education and social inclusion	++
7. Meeting housing need	++
8. Health and wellbeing	++
9. Vibrant communities	++
10. Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas	++
11. Access to services and facilities	++/--
12. Re-use of previously developed land and buildings	++/--
13. Flood risk	--?
14. Greenhouse gas emissions	++/--
15. Air, land and noise pollution	--
16. Water resources	+/?
17. Preparedness for the effects of climate change	+/?

Non-Technical Summary

SA Objectives	Cumulative Effects for the 2022 Local Plan
18. Waste	+/?
19. Traffic congestion	--?

1.80 Provision of development through the 2022 Local Plan has potential to result in a number of cumulative significant positive effects on the social and economic SA objectives, especially:

- Objective 4: Economic Growth and Regeneration.
- Objective 5: Town Centres.
- Objective 6: Education and Social Inclusion.
- Objective 7: Meeting Housing Need.
- Objective 8: Health and Wellbeing.
- Objective 9: Vibrant Communities.
- Objective 10: Regeneration and Renewal of Disadvantaged Areas.

1.81 Delivery of 20,190 homes in Basildon will meet the local housing needs of the Borough over the Local Plan period, which is why SA objective 7 has been given a significant positive effect.

1.82 The provision of at least 20,190 homes and 80ha of employment land supply in Basildon is likely to result in a number of significant adverse cumulative effects. These are predicted in respect of:

- Objective 13: Flood Risk, although none of the individual allocations are considered to have significant adverse effects on this objective on their own, cumulatively, the significant amount of greenfield development proposed within the Plan has the potential to increase surface water run-off, which could generate significant effects. This is uncertain as the Plan’s policies aim to manage flood risk arising from development.

Non-Technical Summary

- Objective 15: Air, Land and Noise Pollution (although many of these effects are anticipated to be short term, especially during construction, but also due to anticipated technological advances leading to reduced pollution over the plan period).
- Objective 19: Traffic Congestion, although this is uncertain as the plan contains improvements to the highway network to address congestion issues identified through the detailed mitigation modelling of future transport scenarios.

1.83 Significant mixed effects (++) are predicted in respect of the following SA objectives:

- Objective 1: Landscape, Countryside and Green Spaces.
- Objective 2: Cultural Heritage.
- Objective 3: Biodiversity.
- Objective 11: Access to Local Services and Facilities.
- Objective 12: Re-Use of Previously Developed Land and Buildings.
- Objective 14: Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

1.84 A significant proportion of the growth planned within the Borough will be on greenfield land within the Borough's Green Belt, potentially resulting in significant adverse effects on the Borough's wildlife, including protected species and habitats, natural and historic landscapes, townscapes and countryside. However, the 2022 Local Plan prioritises the development and regeneration of previously developed land in the existing urban areas of the Borough's settlements, including 4,738 homes in Basildon town centre, and many of the strategic allocations promote and offer opportunities to enhance the setting and special characteristics of the Borough's historic and natural environment. The opportunities extend to actively managing and reducing the Borough's greenhouse gas emissions in the face of sustained and significant population growth through the construction of energy efficient and decentralised energy networks.

Non-Technical Summary

1.85 Delivery of the homes and employment land will be dependent upon improvements to the transport infrastructure to address congestion issues, and the need for upgrades to wastewater treatment/foul network/surface water treatment facilities.

1.86 The results of the Highway Impact Assessment showed that significant parts of the road network in the Borough would operate at or above capacity as a consequence of growth. Most of the existing junctions in both Billericay and Wickford are shown to be over capacity in future years as a consequence of the levels of growth proposed in the 2022 Local Plan. Both improvements to the highway network and a modal shift towards more sustainable travel modes is therefore required in both of these settlements to enable further growth without exacerbating congestion levels. Basildon (including Laindon and Pitsea), is more able to accommodate growth within the existing road network. Nonetheless, there are still likely to be capacity issues as some junctions need to be improved in order to accommodate projected growth.

1.87 The Council has been engaged with Anglian Water Services (AWS), which is responsible for the Water Recycling Centres (WRCs), formerly known as Waste Water Treatments Works, and sewerage network within the Borough, to understand the capacity of this wastewater infrastructure to accommodate different scales and distributions of residential development. The cumulative effect of all of the growth planned within the 2022 Local Plan is likely to require enhancement to capacity and should all the available capacity be taken up at the WRC then upgrades to the works may be required.

1.88 Planned residential development within the Borough is split roughly 55% to Basildon, 15% to Billericay and 20% to Wickford, with other extensions to the smaller settlements that lie in between and in the east of the Borough. Employment growth is largely focussed in Basildon. Consequently, it is expected that cumulative effects in terms of the scale of development described above will be most pronounced in and around the town of Basildon, followed by Billericay and Wickford and, finally, the remaining rural areas. However, even though Basildon will receive more homes than Billericay and Wickford combined, in proportion to the existing size of the settlements the increase in Billericay and Wickford will be just as significant, including their effects.

In-Combination Effects

1.89 In addition to the potential effects arising from development in Basildon Borough through the 2022 Local Plan, there is also potential for the same sort of effects to arise in combination with other development planned in neighbouring boroughs and districts as well as county-wide initiatives such as transport infrastructure projects and mineral and waste development within and adjacent to Basildon Borough.

1.90 Basildon is bordered by the boroughs of Chelmsford, Brentwood, Thurrock, Castle Point and Rochford, all of which are at varying stages in their plan making. In addition, Southend-on-Sea is within the South Essex Housing Market Area. Transport and Minerals and Waste Planning is undertaken by Essex County Council. The development locations being allocated in neighbouring authorities' Local Plans could give rise to similar significant adverse and positive effects as described above in the Cumulative Effects section for the Basildon 2022 Local Plan. A significant amount of development is proposed around Basildon Borough. This includes potentially around 75,000 additional dwellings, albeit over different plan periods. This is likely to result in increased indirect pressure on Basildon's landscapes, green spaces and countryside, the Borough's biodiversity and could lead to further pressure on the historic environment. Development outside the Borough would not directly affect the Borough's assets, however, there could be indirect impacts e.g. development close to the Borough boundary could affect the setting of designated historic assets; new residents from neighbouring boroughs and districts could result in increased recreational pressure on designated biodiversity assets in Basildon and ecological networks could be further eroded.

1.91 The combined increase in traffic flows in Basildon and in neighbouring authorities could result in an intensification in noise and air pollution (including increased greenhouse gas emissions), which could in turn affect the health of existing and new residents. There is also potential for additional traffic congestion in the Borough.

Non-Technical Summary

1.92 Increased development outside the Borough could also exacerbate flood risk within the Borough, particularly to the north of the Borough.

1.93 It is assumed that the additional development would not adversely affect water resource availability in the Borough which can be met through expansion of the Abberton Reservoir. Furthermore, new development outside the Borough would be required to meet higher levels of water efficiency in line with requirements set down in the Buildings Regulations.

1.94 There is a need for the Council to work with Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and neighbouring authorities to ensure that the planned growth is taken into account in future rounds of Asset Management Planning to ensure that there is scope for the existing wastewater treatment works within and outside the Borough to be upgraded to respond to growth in Basildon and neighbouring authorities.

1.95 Additional waste will be generated through development in neighbouring boroughs and in Basildon; however this will be managed through the adopted Essex Waste Plan.

1.96 In addition, Highways England is proposing the construction of new tunnel under the Thames, called the 'Lower Thames Crossing'. The Lower Thames Crossing will almost double road capacity across the River Thames, east of London, whilst also easing congestion on the Dartford Crossing every year [See reference 7]. According to National Highways, the Lower Thames Crossing will also provide better access to existing jobs for Gravesham, Thurrock and Havering as improved journey times would bring over 400,000 more jobs within a 60-minute commute. There will no longer be a need for 470,000 HGV vehicle movements on local roads and there would be 46km of new, realigned or improved footpaths, cycleways and bridleways. Seven new green bridges will also connect footpaths, bridleways and ecological habitats. National Highways is currently running a public 'Community Impacts Consultation', whereby stakeholders and members of the public can review and comment on the proposed plans and how the impact on the local community and environment will be reduced. This national infrastructure project is likely to cause significant

Non-Technical Summary

disruption during its construction, but in the long term make a significant positive contribution to the accessibility of the region.

1.97 The NPPF expects local planning authorities to work together to address strategic, cross-boundary matters which impact on the ability to achieve sustainable levels of growth and development in an area. In 2017 the Leaders and Chief Executives (or their equivalents) of the six local planning authorities in South Essex (including Brentwood Borough), and Essex County Council, came together to create a shared vision for South Essex – South Essex 2050. The vision identified key policy themes to be supported, and six growth areas within South Essex where it is expected development will be focused. In order to deliver the vision new joint working arrangements have been established at a political and executive level covering strategic planning, industry, education and skills, infrastructure and communications.

1.98 A key task arising from the new joint working arrangements is the preparation of the South Essex Plan. The South Essex Plan will be non-statutory and set out principles and good practice examples, rather than policies. It will provide the strategic framework for development in the area up to 2038, focusing on housing numbers, type and distribution, as well as economic development needs. Sitting within the context of the South Essex Strategic Vision 2050 it will lay the foundations for further sustainable growth and investment to 2050.

1.99 Once the South Essex Plan is adopted it may be necessary to review the Basildon Local Plan, at least in parts, to ensure any opportunities for further growth and infrastructure provision in Basildon Borough identified in the South Essex Plan can be realised.

1.100 This joint working is likely to have positive effects on the future growth and management of development of Basildon and surrounding areas.

Monitoring

1.101 Monitoring should be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. A number of significant adverse and significant positive effects have been identified in relation to the 2022 Local Plan (including significant mixed effects).

1.102 The Council has prepared a monitoring framework to monitor implementation of the policies in the 2022 Local Plan. The proposed framework for monitoring potential significant effects arising from implementation of the Basildon Borough 2022 Local Plan draws on the indicators in the Council's Local Plan monitoring framework as well as others from sources such as the Authority Monitoring Report, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. It is set out in Chapter 6 of the SA Report.

Conclusions

1.103 The SA report and this NTS have been prepared to accompany the Technical Consultation for the Basildon Borough 2022 Local Plan. The SA has sought to identify significant effects emerging from the 2022 Local Plan in line with the SEA Regulations.

1.104 The 2022 Local Plan allocates sufficient homes to meet the Borough's needs (20,190). In addition to the allocation of specific sites within the Local Plan, Policy SD2 of the Local Plan identifies two broad areas for potential housing growth which will be considered in the next review of the Local Plan once sustainable development proposals have been identified that incorporate, and are supported by, the necessary infrastructure provision emerging through the forthcoming South Essex Plan.

Non-Technical Summary

1.105 The 2022 Local Plan makes provision for the delivery of at least 20,000 additional jobs, including 14,150 full time equivalent jobs in office, industrial and warehouse sectors (the Borough's employment needs and a small portion of London's unmet employment needs) during the plan period. In acknowledgement of how the employment land market works, the Council has identified a need to provide a contingency allowance to account for 'windfall losses' and 'churn'. Therefore, the 2022 Local Plan plans to deliver a total land supply of 80ha to meet the need.

1.106 Delivering at least 20,190 dwellings and 80ha of employment land supply cannot be accommodated within the Borough without the release of Green Belt land. Therefore, the 2022 Local Plan recognises that the majority of the Borough's housing needs and a significant proportion of the Borough's employment needs will need to be provided on sites on edge of the Borough's main settlements, requiring the extent of the Green Belt to be amended.

1.107 The 2022 Local Plan allocates roughly 55% of the housing development allocated in Basildon, 15% to Billericay and 20% to Wickford, with other extensions to the smaller settlements that sit in between and in the east of the Borough. Employment growth is largely focussed in Basildon.

1.108 Although the 2022 Local Plan seeks to maximise the amount of development to be delivered within the existing urban areas, the scale of development needed inevitably means that a significant amount of greenfield land, including Green Belt land, will need to be developed, leading to potential significant adverse effects on the landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage, depending on the characteristics and sensitivity of the location of the site allocation. However, the alternatives to the allocations in the 2022 Local Plan generally did not perform better against the SA objectives than those selected, and in many instances did not perform as well. The exceptions were those alternatives that proposed no or reduced development, which would result in no or fewer adverse environmental effects, but also none of the social and economic benefits of the development would be delivered.

Non-Technical Summary

1.109 The allocation policies include delivery criteria that are designed to ensure that any significant adverse effects are minimised as far as possible.

These delivery criteria are of particular importance:

- In Basildon Town Centre outlined in Policy R2, which is earmarked for the greatest scale and density of development over the Plan period (4,738 dwellings).
- To the east of Basildon within and around the development allocation outlined in Policy H11 and SD3 (1,350 homes in the Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet Neighbourhood Plan Area), where the delivery of a landscape buffer between the settlements of Pitsea and Bowers Gifford is essential to avoid coalescence of these settlements by maintaining the integrity of this strategic gap as Green Belt, green infrastructure and open space.
- To the south west of Billericay within and around the consolidated development allocations outlined in Policy H17a-H17d, where the significant scale of development in this location will facilitate the delivery of a much needed link road to alleviate congestion.

1.110 The larger scale developments will, in many instances, be capable of delivering a wider range of benefits than smaller developments, such as the inclusion of new community facilities or investment in existing community facilities (e.g. local schools and healthcare), support for public transport, and in some allocations the incorporation of employment land to allow for mixed-uses.

1.111 The 2022 Local Plan provides policy guidance and criteria on how development will be planned, delivered and managed, in order to ensure that the social, economic and environmental benefits that the Local Plan aims to deliver are actually delivered in practice. There will need to be considerable investment in infrastructure, including green infrastructure, transport and community services and facilities, and also water and sewerage services. The funding and timing of this investment will influence the phasing of delivery of the housing and employment land.

Non-Technical Summary

1.112 It also needs to be borne in mind that Basildon does not exist in isolation. Like Basildon, neighbouring districts and boroughs are also planning to deliver considerable amounts of development. This will result in in-combination effects, which will give the impression of increased urbanisation including the generation of additional traffic, and put pressure on resources, such as water, air quality, tranquillity and on ecological networks. It is therefore important that the districts and boroughs continue to work closely together on the South Essex Plan to make sure that their plans are co-ordinated to provide an integrated approach to maintaining and enhancing quality of life for all their residents, and to ensure that a rich, high quality and resilient environment is created.

Next Steps

1.113 Following the technical consultation on the 2022 Local Plan, all consultation comments received will be forwarded to the independent Planning Inspector, Paul Griffiths, to be considered as part of the ongoing Examination, along with the proposed modifications and new evidence. Assuming the Local Plan is found sound by the independent Planning Inspector, and subject to modifications which may need to be subject to further SA work and public consultation, the Council expect the Local Plan to be adopted towards the end of 2022.

LUC

December 2021

References

- 1 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1633), as amended by The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232).
- 2 Explanatory Memorandum to the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 No. 1232.
- 3 Local Government Association (2020), Basic facts about Basildon District [pdf]. Available at:
<https://reports.esd.org.uk/reports/shared?encryptedId=66D8C345D6F9F81A2C8240E0BADAD113B9A4B5D2067508BE3F3CCF7401216DC79D2B5AF5BF6ACD58C8A67C72C0EEB6BC3A7393029025C9CF158512162315F225B0D7B8618394BF7D835DE05410299424>.
- 4 Basildon Borough Council (2020) Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 – 12th Edition: https://www.basildon.gov.uk/media/10793/Basildon-Council-Local-Development-Scheme-2021-2023-12th-edition/pdf/Basildon_Council_Local_Development_Scheme_LDS_2021-2023_12th_Edition.pdf?m=637705214586700000.
- 5 LUC (2013) Basildon Borough Local Plan: Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Update:
https://www.basildon.gov.uk/media/5222/Basildon-Borough-SA-SEA-Scoping-Report/pdf/Basildon_Borough_SA-SEA_Scoping_Report.pdf?m=635193329522130000.
- 6 Basildon Borough Council (2008-2016) Appraisals and Assessments: Details of Local Plan Sustainability Appraisals, Strategic Environmental Assessments and Habitat Regulation Assessment [online]. Available at:
<http://www.basildon.gov.uk/article/2014/Appraisals-and-Assessments>
<http://www.basildon.gov.uk/article/2014/Appraisals-and-Assessments>.

References

- 7 National Highways (2021) Why is the Lower Thames Crossing important?: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/lower-thames-crossing/why-is-the-lower-thames-crossing-important/>.

Report produced by LUC

Report produced by LUC

Bristol

12th Floor, Beacon Tower, Colston Street, Bristol BS1 4XE
0117 929 1997
bristol@landuse.co.uk

Edinburgh

Atholl Exchange, 6 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EG
0131 202 1616
edinburgh@landuse.co.uk

Glasgow

37 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JJ
0141 334 9595
glasgow@landuse.co.uk

London

250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD
020 7383 5784
london@landuse.co.uk

Manchester

6th Floor, 55 King Street, Manchester M2 4LQ
0161 537 5960
manchester@landuse.co.uk

landuse.co.uk

Landscape Design / Strategic Planning & Assessment
Development Planning / Urban Design & Masterplanning
Environmental Impact Assessment / Landscape Planning & Assessment
Landscape Management / Ecology / Historic Environment / GIS & Visualisation