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# **Basildon Borough Local Plan**

## **Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Update**

Prepared by LUC  
July 2013

**Project Title:** Basildon Borough Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Update

**Client:** Basildon Borough Council

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# Basildon Borough Local Plan

## Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Update

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July 2013

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
	Introduction	1
	Basildon Borough Local Plan	1
	Role and Structure of Scoping Report	5
	Consultation	6
	What Happens Next?	10
	Further Information and Assistance	10
<b>2</b>	<b>Stage A1 - Contextual Review</b>	<b>11</b>
	The Core Strategy and its Relationship to other Plans and Programmes	11
	Environmental, Social and Economic Policy Objectives	11
	Key Messages from the Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes	12
<b>3</b>	<b>Stage A2 - Baseline Information</b>	<b>21</b>
	Introduction	21
	Overview of Basildon Borough	22
	Baseline Profile	23
<b>4</b>	<b>Stage A3 - Sustainability Issues and their Likely Evolution without the Plan</b>	<b>36</b>
	Introduction	36
	Sustainability Issues in Basildon Borough	36
<b>5</b>	<b>Stage A4 - Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Objectives</b>	<b>64</b>
	Introduction	64
	Developing Objectives for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy	64
	Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	64
	Sustainability Appraisal Framework	65
<b>6</b>	<b>Proposed Approach to SA</b>	<b>71</b>
	Assessment of Reasonable Alternatives	71
	Approach to the Assessment	72
	Consultation on the SA Report	73
	Final SA Report	74
	Monitoring	74
	<b>Appendix 1 Scoping Report Consultees</b>	<b>75</b>
	<b>Appendix 2 Stage A1 - Review of Plans, Policies and Programme</b>	<b>77</b>

## Tables

Table 1-1: Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Directive.....	3
Table 1-2: Consultation Responses from the 2011 Scoping Report Update .....	8
Table 4-1: Principal Sustainability Issues Facing Basildon Borough.....	36
Table 5-1: Basildon Borough Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework .....	66

**Figures**

Figure 1-1: Five Stages of Sustainability Appraisal .....5

Figure 1-2: Sustainability Appraisal - Stage A.....6

# 1 Introduction

## Introduction

- 1.1 This Scoping Report sets out Stage A: Scoping requirements of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process (incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive) for the Basildon Borough Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report Development Plan Document (hereafter referred to as the Local Plan Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report<sup>1</sup>). It is intended that a separate Scoping Report will be produced for each of the subsequent Local Plan Documents (e.g. Site Allocations, Development Management Policies and Gypsies, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Policies).
- 1.2 A Scoping Report was originally published for consultation in 2007 and updated and adopted in 2011. This report updates the previous versions taking account of key plan and policy changes (for example, publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and revocation of the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy) and baseline data updates (e.g. release of 2011 Census data) and provides detail on the scope of the SA/SEA of the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report (CSRPOR) due for consultation by the end of 2013.
- 1.3 This Scoping Report has been updated by LUC on behalf of Basildon Borough Council drawing on the scoping material which was previously prepared and consulted upon.

## Sustainable Development

- 1.4 Sustainable Development embraces social, economic and environmental concerns and covers a range of issues from a global to a local level. It has been defined as "*Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*"<sup>2</sup>
- 1.5 In 2005, the Government published the UK Sustainable Development Strategy: Securing the Future.<sup>3</sup> It built upon four aims established in 1999<sup>4</sup> that sought to deliver:
  - Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
  - Effective protection of the environment;
  - Prudent use of natural resources; and
  - Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.
- 1.6 The Strategy introduced four priorities for action throughout UK policy. These are:
  - Sustainable Consumption and Production;
  - Climate Change and Energy;
  - Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement; and
  - Sustainable Communities.

## Basildon Borough Local Plan

- 1.7 Basildon Borough Council, as Local Planning Authority (LPA) is preparing a Local Plan in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004.

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<sup>1</sup> This is applicable to all 'Development Plan Documents', which will hereafter be referred to as Local Plan

<sup>2</sup> Report of the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) Our Common Future (also known as The Brundtland Report)

<sup>3</sup> DEFRA, (2005) Securing the Future: UK Government Strategy for Sustainable Development

<sup>4</sup> HM Government, (1999) A Better Quality of Life – A Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK

- 1.8 The new style Basildon Borough Local Plan will eventually replace the Local Plan Saved Policies, which were approved by a Direction from the Secretary of State, as adopted local planning policies, saved from the Basildon District Local Plan 1998, which expired on 27th September 2007.
- 1.9 The Basildon Borough Local Plan will be prepared in accordance with the approved Local Development Scheme.

### Basildon Borough Core Strategy

- 1.10 The Core Strategy is the first Local Plan Document being prepared for Basildon Borough. It will set out the strategic spatial policies for the coordination of development in the Borough until at least 2031, its policy choices informed by a robust and credible evidence base.
- 1.11 The Core Strategy will be accompanied by a SA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), and will undergo public consultation (known as Regulation 18), followed by pre-submission (Regulation 19) and will subsequently be submitted to an independent inspector for examination. The Core Strategy will be accompanied by an SA and HRA Report at each stage in the process.
- 1.12 The Core Strategy sits within the context of national planning policy and the aspirations of Basildon Borough's Community Strategy 2012-2036.
- 1.13 A Core Strategy Preferred Options Report was published for consultation in February 2012. A significant number of consultation responses were received raising concerns relating to the scale of growth proposed and the soundness of the preferred option. Following the resolution of Cabinet on 8 November 2012 to formally acknowledge the representations made, it was approved that the Core Strategy would be revised and informed by a more robust and expanded evidence base. The Council is now preparing a Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report for consultation by the end of 2013.

### The Relationship between Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and the Basildon Borough Local Plan

- 1.14 In 2001, the European Union approved new legislation (Directive 2001/42/EC, the 'SEA Directive') which introduced the requirement to assess the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. SEA is designed to provide a high level of protection to the environment and to integrate environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development. The SEA Directive was transposed into UK law in 2004 through the SEA Regulations<sup>5</sup>.
- 1.15 Sustainability Appraisal (SA), on the other hand, is a methodical evaluation that considers the social, economic and environmental effects of certain plans, programmes or proposals. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), LPAs must undertake a SA for each of their Local Plan Documents (LPDs)<sup>6</sup>.
- 1.16 Whilst the objectives of SEA and SA are different, their methodologies are similar and can be co-beneficial. The continual SA process for each LPD will incorporate the assessment requirements of the SEA Regulations, ensuring sustainability and environmental issues are embedded in the strategic decision-making process.

### Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive

- 1.17 This Scoping Report includes some of the required elements of the final 'Environmental Report' (the output required by the SEA Directive). **Table 1.1** below signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Directive requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SAs of the Core Strategy and subsequent LPDs). This table will be included in the full SA Report at each stage of the SA to show how the SEA Directive requirements have been met through the SA process.

<sup>5</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI No. 1633)

<sup>6</sup> The Planning Act 2008 amended the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: SA/SEA is no longer required for SPDs.

**Table 1-1: Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Directive**

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<p><b>Preparation of an environmental report</b> in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex I):</p>	<p>The full SA Reports for Basildon Core Strategy and subsequent DPDs will constitute the 'environmental report' as well, and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;</p>	<p>Chapters 1 and 2.</p>
<p>b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;</p>	<p>Chapters 3 and 4.</p>
<p>c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;</p>	<p>Chapter 3.</p>
<p>d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.;</p>	<p>Chapter 3.</p>
<p>e) The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;</p>	<p>Chapters 2, 4 and Appendix 2.</p>
<p>f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2)</p>	<p>This Scoping Report and the Environmental Reports will adhere to this requirement.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation:</li> <li>• authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4)</li> </ul>	<p>Consultation with the relevant statutory environmental bodies is being undertaken in relation to this Scoping Report between July and August 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2)</li> </ul>	<p>Further public consultation on the Basildon Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options and accompanying SA is currently proposed for autumn 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7).</li> </ul>	<p>Unlikely to be relevant to the Basildon Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options document.</p>



SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<b>Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8)</b>	
<p><b>Provision of information on the decision:</b> When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art.7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the plan or programme as adopted</li> <li>• a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and</li> <li>• the measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9)</li> </ul>	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
<b>Monitoring</b> of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

### Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.18 Under Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) land-use plans, including LPDs, are also subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. The HRA process for the Basildon Borough CSRPO and subsequent LPDs will be undertaken by LUC during the production of the LPDs and the findings will be taken into account in the SA where relevant.

### Health Impact Assessments

- 1.19 An important element in determining if a LPD is sustainable is to consider whether it has positive or negative impacts upon health.
- 1.20 It is important to understand the factors that influence health and causes to poor health in order to maximise the well-being of the population. It is therefore recognised as essential that the Local Plan takes into account its potential impact on people's health, minimises any negative effects it may have, and where possible actively contributes to improvements to health and well-being in the Borough.
- 1.21 Whilst not a legal requirement, Health Impact Assessments are recommended as a way in which to achieve this. To this end, health indicators and issues have been included within the SA.

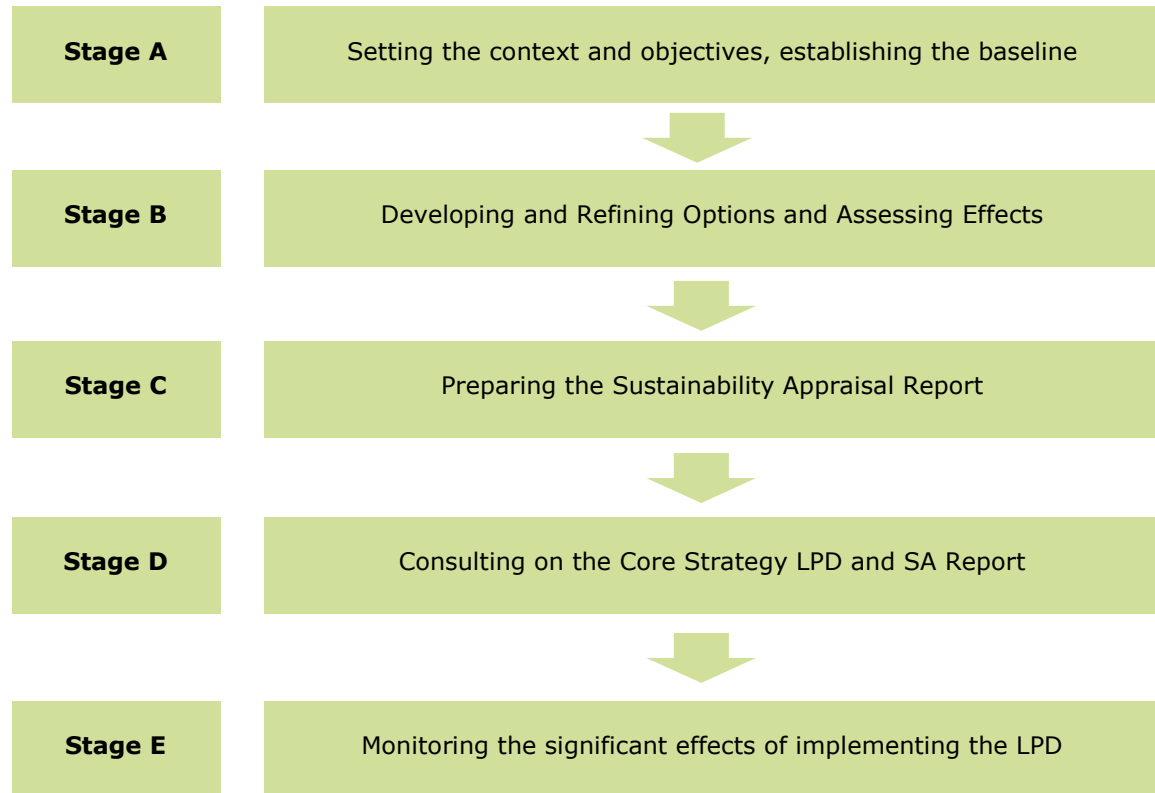
### Service Impact Assessments (Equalities Impact Assessments)

- 1.22 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council to pay 'due regard' to the nine protected characteristics, namely race, sex, gender reassignment, religion/belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, age, disability and marriage and civil partnerships. The Council uses Service Impact Assessments (SIA) as a means of ensuring 'due regard', promoting equality and eliminating discrimination. SIAs require teams and services to think carefully about the impact that functions or policies will have on different groups of residents and services users as well as staff and employees.
- 1.23 An SIA will be undertaken during the preparation of the Core Strategy, in line with the relevant legislation, regulations and Council's Equality Policy.

## Role and Structure of Scoping Report

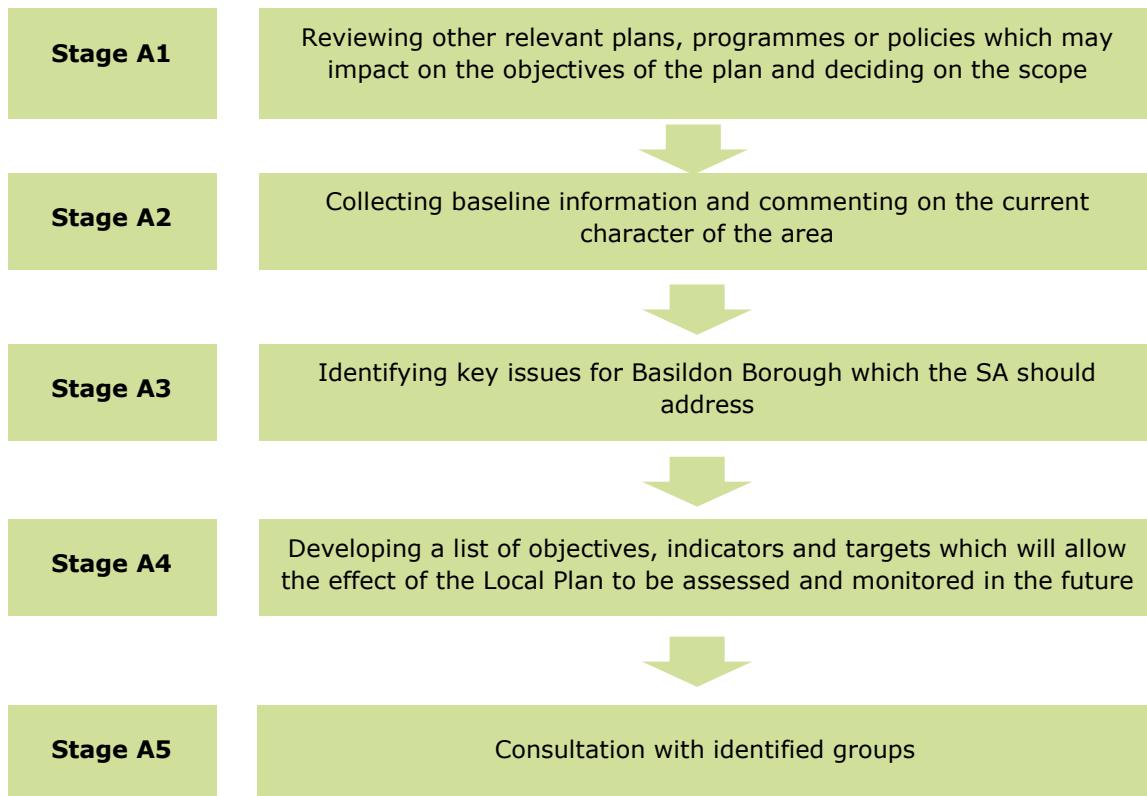
- 1.24 This updated Scoping Report forms Stage A of the five stage assessment process, set out below in **Figure 1.1**. It illustrates how the SA is being carried out for the Core Strategy LPD during its development. Given the amount of time that has passed since the 2007 Scoping Report was prepared and the policy changes since the 2011 update was approved, Basildon Borough Council is of the view that the Scoping Report needs to be updated to remain fit for purpose in informing the preparation of the Core Strategy LPD.

**Figure 1-1: Five Stages of Sustainability Appraisal**



- 1.25 The updated Scoping Report records the findings from Stage A and sets out the Framework that will be used to appraise the LPD in accordance with the proposed sustainability objectives, indicators and targets. Stage A is further explained in **Figure 1.2** below.

**Figure 1-2: Sustainability Appraisal - Stage A**



## Consultation

- 1.26 Public consultation plays an important role in SA. Therefore, to ensure that the scope and level of detail of the SA is fit for purpose consultees and relevant stakeholders are being given an opportunity to comment on this updated Scoping Report.
- 1.27 As already described, a Scoping Report for Basildon Borough's Core Strategy was consulted on previously in 2007 and 2011. A summary of the key consultation responses received on both the 2007 and 2011 Scoping Reports are provided below for reference.

### Consultation Responses from August 2007 Scoping Report

- 1.28 In accordance with the SEA Regulations, a Draft Scoping Report (August 2007) was sent to the four consultation bodies that must be consulted throughout the SA process, for their comments and feedback:<sup>7</sup>
- The Environment Agency.
  - The Countryside Agency.
  - English Nature.
  - English Heritage.
- 1.29 The Draft Scoping Report was accompanied by a Draft LDF Contextual Baseline Report (August 2007), which was also sent to the consultation bodies. Both the Draft Scoping Report and the Draft Contextual Baseline Report were also made available for wider public consultation.
- 1.30 The responses of each consultee are summarised below.

<sup>7</sup> In October 2006, the Countryside Agency, English Nature and the Rural Development Commission were merged to form a new natural environment body for England and Wales: Natural England. Even so, a copy of the Report and any Core Strategy documents were sent to each office of the former organisations.

1.31 In total, eight organisations made 48 comments on the Draft Scoping Report. Half the consultees responded using the Council's LDF on-line consultation system, and the remainder responded in writing. The 'Basildon Borough LDF Core Strategy Draft Scoping Report - Public Consultation Report - May 2008' sets out the comments made, together with which organisation made them and whether any changes to the Scoping Report have been made as a result of the feedback. A summary of the responses from each consultee is set out below:

- **The Environment Agency**

- suggested additional national and regional plans and programmes which needed to be reviewed and included in Stage A1 of the Sustainability Appraisal.
- agreed with Questions 2 - 7 and 9 posed in the 2007 Scoping Report.
- clarified that the South Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) referred to in the LDF Contextual Baseline Report was not compliant with (the now replaced) PPS25 and the Environment Agency does not own the mapping of Flood Zones.
- suggested that the Water, Soil and Air Chapter of the LDF Contextual Baseline Report<sup>8</sup> should also consider flood risk and gave potential indicators for low carbon development.

- **Natural England**

- suggested additional European plans and programmes which needed to be reviewed and included in Stage A1 of the Sustainability Appraisal.
- agreed that on the whole the baseline data was appropriate, except the treatment of open space, which was deemed to be inadequate.
- suggested information should be provided on the extent of open space and the adequacy of provision; presented in terms of English Nature's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities; for playing fields, the National Playing Fields Association standards; and green space provision in connection with the South Essex Green Grid initiative.
- suggested additional wording and some changes to sections of the accompanying LDF Contextual Baseline Report and the Key Sustainability Issues to improve the description of the situations presented.
- felt that the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives were comprehensive. Advised the Council that a Habitats Regulations Assessment may be necessary, at least for policies that promote residential growth or increased waterside recreation.
- suggested a way additional indicators could be developed to measure landscape change.

- **English Heritage**

- were content with the scope of the review of relevant plans and programmes and with the sustainability objectives.
- felt that the baseline information presented for the historic environment could be expanded to refer to the Thames Gateway Historic Landscape Characterisation study

- **Essex County Council**

- acknowledged that whilst a relevant range of policies, plans and programmes had been reviewed, some documents had been updated, replaced, or needed to reflect the County Council's service provision better.
- suggested additional data was available from Essex County Council that could inform the LDF baseline, including historic environment records, education, and transportation.

- **Essex Wildlife Trust**

- were satisfied that the relevant Biodiversity Action Plans had been reviewed.
- agreed with Questions 2-9.

- **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**

- agrees the relevant messages have been drawn out of the policy, plan and programme review, but suggested ambiguity over which messages related to specific laws or guidance.

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<sup>8</sup> It was the intention of Basildon Borough Council to prepare and update a LDF Contextual Baseline Report on an annual basis. This has not been possible for a number of reasons. This updated Scoping Report and subsequent versions of the SA/SEA report will include up to date baseline information.

- agreed with Questions 2, & 4-7.
- **Highways Agency**
  - had no comments to make on the draft Scoping Report.
- **House Builders' Federation**
  - House Builders' Federation reminded the Council that a Strategic Housing Market Assessment is required with the full involvement of the property industry, as well as a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.
  - remarked that the Council must recognise that the overall housing targets set out in the draft RSS are minimum figures.
  - remarked on the Council's poor performance, with regards to housing delivery.

### Consultation Responses from the 2011 Scoping Report Update

1.32 In 2011 the Council consulted on an updated version of the Core Strategy SA/SEA Scoping Report (recognising the time that had elapsed since the 2007 version of the Scoping Report) and also consulted on the proposed Site Assessment Methodology and Criteria which would be used to appraise proposed development sites (this consultation was known as the '2011 check-up consultation'). Natural England provided a number of comments which were responded to in a consultation statement which can be found on the Council's website. A summary of Natural England's comments and the Council's response to these is provided below:

**Table 1-2: Consultation Responses from the 2011 Scoping Report Update**

Natural England Comment	Officer Response/Changes
NE draw the Council's attention to the requirements of Regulation 12(3) and Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations and urge them to ensure that the final draft of the SA-SEA clearly demonstrates how these requirements will be addressed	No change.  As explained in the introduction of the Scoping Report, it incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive. It therefore fully assesses the likely significant effects of the Core Strategy on the environment, including: climatic factors; population; health and social characteristics; housing; economic development; cultural heritage and landscape; biodiversity, flora and fauna; air and noise; water; soil and geology; material assets (transport, school provision, open spaces, waste); and energy.
NE understands there is no data available on Priority Species nor that it is possible to measure local population trends for birds and that the measurement of wild bird populations is not measured locally. NE recommend to include consultation with Essex Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency and reference to the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) to the evidence for it to be robust and credible enough to support the Core Strategy.	Noted.  Essex Wildlife Trust as part of the 2007-2009 Service Level Agreement, carried out yearly monitoring of Local Wildlife Sites within which they surveyed the sites' condition, and proposed the inclusion of new sites if appropriate. The site extent of all UK BAP Priority Habitats in the Borough was also captured.  We will update the baseline to integrate this information.  The relevant sections of the Essex BAP are already noted in the baseline and in turn contribute to the strategic evidence base.
NE agree with the selection of indicators to monitor its interests and the LDF contextual baseline report annual update to ensure that the LDF, its Sustainability Appraisals and Annual Monitoring Report reflect and respond to the different environmental, social and economic characteristics of the Borough.	No change.
NE have reviewed their responses to the summer 2008 consultation on the draft Site Assessment Methodology and Criteria in the context of the current consultation and report that their views remain unchanged.  • Agree with the scoring system as set out in the	Noted.

Natural England Comment	Officer Response/Changes
<p>SA/SEA document;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement with the assessment criteria as set out in the document;</li> <li>• With respect to the priority ratings given to the criteria, they broadly agree with the continued caveat that the potential biodiversity of brownfield land should be acknowledged in the document;</li> <li>• Advocate that both weighting scores should be used in the appraisal (noting the exchanges between Essex County Council and Basildon Borough Council over the details of how they will be applied proportionately); and</li> <li>• Were satisfied with the proposed method of the presentation of results (colour-coded matrices and appraisal tables).</li> </ul>	

- 1.33 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. This 2013 Scoping Report seeks to consolidate the earlier consultations into a single document.

#### Information that has been updated

- 1.34 In order to ensure the SA reflects the most up-to-date information from International to Local policy levels, a review of relevant plans, policies and programmes has been undertaken. The baseline information has also been updated where relevant to reflect current environmental, economic and social data.
- 1.35 The updated policy review and baseline information has not required changes in the SA/SEA objectives, which still remain relevant.
- 1.36 This updated version of the Scoping Report is being issued to the statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage), and other relevant parties in July 2013. A complete list of the Draft Scoping Report consultees is set out in **Appendix 1: Scoping Report Consultees**.

#### Draft Scoping Report Questions

- 1.37 Consultation questions on the Draft Scoping Report (July 2013) are set out below. The Council invites comments or suggestions on these to inform this Stage A1 Scoping Report and shape the SA Framework for appraisal of the CRPDR.

## Questions

1. Do you agree or disagree that all relevant policies, plans and programmes have been reviewed?
2. Do you agree or disagree that the baseline data presented is appropriate for the Core Strategy SA? Is it at the right level and of sufficient coverage?
3. Do you agree that there are no errors in the data presented?
4. Do you agree or disagree with the list of key sustainability issues facing Basildon Borough?
5. Do you agree or disagree that the proposed Sustainability Objectives are suitable in the context of Basildon Borough and the Core Strategy?
6. Do you agree or disagree that the draft Sustainability Appraisal Framework of objectives and indicators is suitable and thorough enough, to produce a rigorous and accurate Sustainability Appraisal?
7. Do you agree or disagree that the proposed baseline indicators provide a relevant measure for the associated objective?
8. Do you agree or disagree that the Core Strategy Scoping Report and Sustainability Appraisal Framework meet the requirements of the NPPF and the SEA Directive?
9. Do you agree or disagree that the Scoping Report has been well structured and clearly written to ensure it is understandable?
10. Do you have any other comments, which you would like to make on the Scoping Report in general?

## What Happens Next?

- 1.38 Because the Council intends to prepare a CSRPO, this will need to be subject to SA along with reasonable alternatives, drawing on earlier work undertaken. As a result, the Council is still in Stage B of the plan preparation process (refer to **Figure 1.1** above). When the CSRPO is consulted upon, this will be accompanied by a draft SA Report (Regulation 18<sup>9</sup>). The Council will then prepare its proposed submission Core Strategy, which will take into account consultation comments, and will also be subject to SA. The proposed submission version of the Core Strategy will be accompanied by the final SA report (Regulation 19), which will set out among other things the significant effects of implementing the proposed submission Core Strategy and of reasonable alternatives, and why the proposed submission Core Strategy was chosen in light of reasonable alternatives considered.

## Further Information and Assistance

- 1.39 Further information or assistance on the Basildon Borough Local Plan or Sustainability Appraisal process is available from:

The Planning Policy Team, Planning Services, Basildon Borough Council, The Basildon Centre, St Martin's Square, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1DL

Tel: 01268 294155 | Website: [www.basildon.gov.uk](http://www.basildon.gov.uk) Email: [ldf@basildon.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@basildon.gov.uk)

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<sup>9</sup> Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 relates to all consultation on the Plan and SA undertaken prior to proposed submission (Regulation 19). In this case the consultation into the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options will represent part of the Regulation 18 consultation.

## 2 Stage A1 - Contextual Review

### The Core Strategy and its Relationship to other Plans and Programmes

The Environment Report should include:

“an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes”

(SEA Regulations Schedule 2(1))

- 2.1 The Core Strategy forms part of the overall Local Plan for the Borough and will set out its long-term spatial vision. The Core Strategy will be supported by a number of other LPDs including the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies and the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Policies which will set out the detailed allocations and policies necessary for delivery of the spatial vision.
- 2.2 The Core Strategy must be consistent with national planning policy, specifically the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Core Strategy must also take account of sub-regional, county and local plans of relevance. This includes the Adopted and Emerging Waste and Mineral Local Plans for Essex, the Essex Local Transport Plan and the Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036.
- 2.3 Understanding the relationship of the Core Strategy to other plans and programmes is an essential component in establishing the context for the Core Strategy, as well as determining what the primary objectives or indicators should be.
- 2.4 Whilst these combinations of legislation, plans and programmes can impose constraints on development possibilities, they also present opportunities for potential links to be reinforced.

### Environmental, Social and Economic Policy Objectives

The Environment Report should include:

“The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.

(SEA Regulations Schedule 2(5))

- 2.5 A detailed review of the relevant International, National, Sub-regional and Local plans, policies and programmes has been undertaken (refer to **Appendix 2: Review of Plans, Policies and Programme**) seeking to identify the key sustainability objectives which may influence preparation of the Core Strategy and development of the SA.
- 2.6 Through this process it has been possible to establish:
  - Social, economic or environmental objectives that should be included or reflected in the sustainability framework.
  - Other external factors, including sustainability issues that can be addressed by the Core Strategy and
  - Whether policies in other plans and programmes could lead to cumulative effects in combination with Core Strategy options.



- 2.7 When considering the Contextual Review, it is important to have regard to four factors:
- The Review can never be exhaustive. The Scoping Report identifies what the main relevant policies, plans and programmes are (at the time of preparation) and extracts their key messages for dissemination in the SA.
  - Policies, plans and programmes often exist as part of a hierarchy descending from International/ European to Local levels. During this descent, the implications for the SA become more specific, and tuned to a particular problem or set of issues/ aspirations.
  - The enforceability of policies, plans and programmes also differs at each level of the hierarchy. International Agreements, European Conventions/ Directives represent specific legislation to support the achievement of certain policies, plans or programmes. The UK Government has, by signing them or enacting them, agreed to continually deliver their objectives or achieve their targets by a specific time. They are, or will eventually, be accompanied by complementary UK legislation, which the Government, its authorities/ agencies, private companies or individuals must adhere to. National legislation, policies and strategies are enforceable by the Government, and influence policy approaches at lower levels. As the hierarchy descends however, the policies, plans, and programmes take the form of guidance which will have less legal enforcement, but may be related to the achievement of specific targets/ aspirations set out at higher tiers.
  - The Contextual Review is dynamic. New or revised relevant policies, plans or programmes emerge on a regular basis, for example the replacing of the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.8 It is recognised that it will not always be possible to achieve absolute consistency with the aspirations and objectives of other plans. This review seeks to clearly identify compatibility and inconsistency and how they will be addressed in the SA Report.

## Key Messages from the Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

### International and European Policies, Plans and Programmes

- 2.9 **Appendix 2: Review of Plans, Policies and Programme** sets out the main International agreements, European Directives and Conventions that could potentially influence the development of the Core Strategy and the SA process. Both International Agreements and European Directives have, in most cases, already been integrated into complementary UK legislation or policy to ensure their aims and objectives can be achieved and their targets enforced. Their key messages are set out in the box below arranged under a set of Sustainability Appraisal Themes. The Sustainability Appraisal Themes were established in earlier versions of the Scoping Report and have been retained in this Scoping Report update. The themes broadly accord with the topics listed in the SEA Regulations (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage and landscape). A link is also provided to the proposed SA objectives (refer to the detailed SA framework provided in Section 5, **Figure 5.1**).

International and European Key Messages	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
<b>Climatic Factors &amp; Energy</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise and Respond to the challenges posed by climate change</li> <li>• Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions by 34% by 2020 of 1990 levels</li> <li>• Mitigate the effects of increased extreme weather events</li> <li>• Promote generation and use of renewable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO13; SO14; SO17; SO19.</li> </ul>

International and European Key Messages	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
<p>energy, alongside energy efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share of renewables to be 15% of final energy demand by 2020</li> <li>• Minimum target of 10% bio-fuels in transport by 2020</li> </ul>	
<b>Population, Health &amp; Social Characteristics</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eradicate poverty</li> <li>• Fight disease and reduce threats to public health</li> <li>• Achieve gender and racial equality</li> <li>• Secure adequate housing</li> <li>• Increase employment opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO4; SO5; SO6; SO7; SO8; SO9; SO10; SO11; SO13; SO15.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage and Landscape</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance landscape diversity</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance cultural heritage</li> <li>• Protect, manage and enhance landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO1; SO2</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment, particularly in respect of habitats/species of International and European importance e.g. Special Protection Areas, Special Conservation Areas, Ramsar sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO3.</li> </ul>
<b>Air &amp; Noise</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control and reduce air / noise pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO14; SO15; SO16.</li> </ul>
<b>Water, Soil and Geology</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent pollution of, and improve the quality of, water resources and the soil</li> <li>• Ensure water is used in a sustainable way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO3; SO11; SO12; SO16; SO17: SO18: SO19.</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve resource efficiency and the development of more sustainable patterns of consumption</li> <li>• Improve sustainable transport modes</li> <li>• Improve energy efficiency of buildings</li> <li>• Minimise waste generation and ensure waste is disposed of in a sustainable way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO12; SO14; SO16; SO17; SO18.</li> </ul>

## National Policies, Plans and Programmes

- 2.10 Relevant Government Departmental and Cross-Departmental and national agency policies, White Papers and strategies have also been reviewed to identify the ways in which the Core Strategy can contribute to their achievement at a local level, and whether they have any particular implications for the SA. The Government establishes its broad planning policies and guidelines for Planning in the NPPF (2012)<sup>10</sup>. A summary of the NPPF is provided below and a more detailed review is provided in **Appendix 2: Review of Plans, Policies and Programme**. Key messages arising from the review of all national plans and policy documents (including the NPPF) is provided below.
- 2.11 The NPPF replaced the suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs). The purpose of the NPPF was to streamline national planning policy, having reduced over a thousand pages of policy down to around 50 pages. As part of Basildon Borough Council's emerging Local Plan, the Core Strategy must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. It states that:
- "Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development."
- 2.12 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be 'aspirational but realistic'. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.
- 2.13 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:
- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
  - the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
  - the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
  - the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
  - climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.
- 2.14 In addition, Local Plans should:
- plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework;
  - be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date;
  - be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations;
  - indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map;
  - allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate;
  - identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation;
  - identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance; and

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<sup>10</sup> DCLG, 2012, National Planning Policy Framework

- contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.

2.15 Key messages are set out in the box below arranged under the Sustainability Appraisal Themes.

National Key Messages	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for the effects of climate change in terms of flood risk, agricultural output and public health</li> <li>• Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 34% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050 below 1990 levels</li> <li>• Ensure that all new homes are carbon neutral by 2016</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO7; SO8; SO12; SO13; SO14; SO17.</li> </ul>
<b>Population, Health &amp; Social Characteristics</b>	
<p>Provide a high quality of life for all by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing health inequalities and improving health services</li> <li>• Pursuing social improvements</li> <li>• Valuing open spaces, sport and recreation facilities for, amongst other things, their contribution to healthy lifestyles</li> <li>• Improving skills and educational attainment levels and standards</li> <li>• Improving community safety and reducing crime rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO1; SO4; SO6; SO8; SO9; SO10; SO11; SO13.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide better quality housing</li> <li>• Increase the number of homes built</li> <li>• Significantly increase affordable housing provision</li> <li>• Conform to the Code for Sustainable Homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO7; SO10.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Development</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase and widen employment opportunities to meet the needs of all</li> <li>• Regenerate town centres by making them the focus for mixed-use development in order to ensure they are vibrant places to live, work and visit</li> <li>• Improve access to jobs</li> <li>• Provide a supply of land suitable for the needs of different businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO4; SO5; SO6; SO10; SO11; SO19.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage &amp; Landscape</b>	

National Key Messages	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and enhance the quality and character of urban and rural settlements with distinctive qualities</li> <li>• Protect and enhance rural and urban landscapes of particular value</li> <li>• Provide effective protection to all aspects of the historic environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO1; SO2.</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity, Fauna &amp; Flora</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity, including habitats that support it, of International, European, national and local importance</li> <li>• Protect, conserve and enhance geodiversity of European, national and local importance</li> <li>• Target action on Priority Species and Habitats</li> <li>• Ensure value of ecosystem services are fully reflected in decision-making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO3.</li> </ul>
<b>Air &amp; Noise</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce, control and mitigate air and noise pollution</li> <li>• Reduce and manage exposure to air and noise pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO14; SO15; SO19.</li> </ul>
<b>Water, Soil and Geology</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce water usage to 120-130 litres, per person, per day, by 2030</li> <li>• Minimise and mitigate the contamination of soil and pollution of water courses</li> <li>• Improve land, soil and water quality</li> <li>• Improve water efficiency in new buildings</li> <li>• Improve effectiveness of surface water drainage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO3; SO13; SO14; SO15: SO16.</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use natural resources, particularly land, prudently</li> <li>• encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value</li> <li>• Channel development into sustainable and suitable locations</li> <li>• Ensure that communities are serviced with necessary utilities and communications networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO1; SO5; SO9; SO11; SO12; SO16; SO18; SO19.</li> </ul>

National Key Messages	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the need to travel</li> <li>• Promote more sustainable modes of transport, reduce the reliance on motor cars, and improve public transport</li> <li>• Minimise waste by increasing focus on waste prevention and re-use, increase recycling, and ensure waste is disposed of in a sustainable way</li> <li>• Sustain, enhance and revitalise villages</li> <li>• Ensure development supports existing communities</li> <li>• Improve quality of public realm through good design</li> <li>• Protect and enhance open space and ensure that recreational facilities meet the needs of the wider community</li> <li>• Recognise that a network of green infrastructure makes a contribution to quality of life</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate resources are available to deliver development related infrastructure needed to create sustainable communities</li> <li>• Ensure communities are secure and protected from hazardous development such as high pressure pipe lines, gas compounds and COMAH sites</li> </ul>	
<b>Energy</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote renewable energy generation both at national and local levels.</li> <li>• Improve the energy efficiency of buildings and reduce their carbon emissions</li> <li>• Reduce the number of households living in fuel poverty</li> <li>• Generate 20% of energy from renewable energy sources by 2020</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO14; SO17.</li> </ul>

### Local Plans, Programmes and Proposals

- 2.16 A suite of local documents have been reviewed many of which have been produced and/or adopted by Basildon Borough Council. These documents detail specific aims, objectives and actions on local issues. All of these documents are in some way related to sustainable development in the Borough. The Local Plan, and to an extent the SA, should draw from these documents and transpose their aims and objectives into its policies and proposals.
- 2.17 All of these local level plans are relevant to the development of the SA Framework and have been taken into account throughout the contextual review process. They are locally applicable to the Basildon Borough itself and to the achievement of cross-cutting themes of national and regional and sub-regional policies. Their key messages are set out in the box below arranged under the Sustainability Appraisal Themes.

Local Key Messages	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
<b>Population, Health &amp; Social Characteristics</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve an overall improvement in Quality of Life for all residents</li> <li>• Create a Borough which is safe and feels safe</li> <li>• Improve access to health and social care services</li> <li>• Enhance the health of people living in the Borough</li> <li>• Provide quality education and training opportunities to all</li> <li>• Secure a fairer and cohesive society, regardless of ethnicity, racial, or national origin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO4; SO6; SO8; SO9; SO10; SO11.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the quality of the Borough's housing</li> <li>• Improve the provision of homes, including affordable housing, having regard to housing needs and homelessness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO7; SO10.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Development</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the vitality and vibrancy of the Borough's town centres through regeneration</li> <li>• Improve the economic stability of the Borough and diversify the employment base and skills development opportunities</li> <li>• Deliver major social, physical and economic regeneration projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO4; SO5; SO6; SO7; SO10; SO11; SO19.</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity, Fauna &amp; Flora</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and enhance the quality of the local environment and biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO1; SO3.</li> </ul>
<b>Air &amp; Noise</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce, limit and mitigate air pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO14; SO15; SO19.</li> </ul>
<b>Water, Soil and Geology</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise and mitigate the contamination of land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO15.</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the development of, improve access to and increase the enjoyment of social,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO5; SO11; SO18; SO19.</li> </ul>

Local Key Messages	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
community, leisure and cultural facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve public transport facilities and accessibility to them</li> <li>• Increase the recycling of waste in the Borough</li> </ul>	
<b>Energy</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote domestic energy efficiency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SO14; SO17.</li> </ul>

2.18 Within these broad goals, there are potential challenges, not least of all due to the competing nature of all the plans and programmes that are driving forward social or economic progress, which may impact upon the wider environment.





## 3 Stage A2 - Baseline Information

### Introduction

- 3.1 The collection and continued review of baseline information is a key component of the SA process and a requirement of the SEA Directive. Baseline information acts as a platform from which to predict the effects of and monitor the Plan's policies and proposals, helping to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.

The 'Environmental Report' should include:

- "the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected"
- "any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, including in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as any areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive."

SEA Regulations Schedule 2 (3 and 4)

- 3.2 To enable the effects of the CRPORA to be adequately predicted, sufficient baseline data has to be assembled on the current and future state of the Borough. A key aim is to ensure that, where possible, each of the SA objectives is supported by comprehensive and up-to-date baseline information. This should also provide the basis for monitoring effects, as well as for identifying ways of dealing with any sustainability problems that arise.
- 3.3 It should not be assumed that all baseline data are currently available, or, if it is missing that it will be able to be collected in the future. SEA Guidance recognises that data gaps will exist, but suggests that where baseline information is unavailable or unsatisfactory, authorities should consider how it will affect their assessments and determine how to improve it for use in the assessment of future plans. Where there are data gaps in the baseline presented below this is highlighted in the text.
- 3.4 The collection and analysis of baseline data is regarded as a continual and evolving process, given that information can change or is updated on a regular basis.
- 3.5 The baseline information below is organised by SA theme. Following the review of each SA theme a set of sustainability issues are identified.

### Local Plan Evidence Base

- 3.6 The Core Strategy must be supported by a robust and credible evidence base. In addition to the SA indicators and spatial GIS maps, the Local Plan evidence base will also include other research or technical studies. Studies which have already been commissioned, or will be in the future, include:
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Review 2012/2013 (SHLAA)<sup>11</sup>;
  - Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA);
  - Employment Land and Premises Study 2013;
  - Landscape Character and Sensitivity Study 2013;
  - Green Belt Review 2013;
  - Transport Modelling 2013;

<sup>11</sup> Subject to an annual update in line with NPPF requirements

- Phase 1 Habitat Survey 2005 (with LoWS and UK BAP Habitat updates in 2007, 2008 and 2009);
- South Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2011;
- South Essex Water Cycle Study 2011;
- South Essex Surface Water Management Plan 2012;
- Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Needs Accommodation Assessment 2013;
- Leisure, Arts, Culture and Tourist Accommodation Study and Retail Capacity Update, 2010;
- Basildon Historic Environment Characterisation Assessment 2010;
- Basildon District PPG17 Open Space Assessment (Part 1 and Part 2) 2010;
- Basildon Borough Council Play Pitch Strategy Review 2011;
- Basildon Borough Council Indoor Sports and Recreation Study 2011.

3.7 Other studies or assessments may be carried out in the future, where necessary, to inform the wider Local Plan process.

## Overview of Basildon Borough

- 3.8 Basildon Borough is located in South Essex, 30 miles east of the City of London. It covers an area of 87km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 174,497.<sup>12</sup> 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 with approximately 107,000. Two smaller independent towns are situated to the north of the Borough, Billericay and Wickford. Billericay (including Little Burstead and Great Burstead) has a population of around 34,000 and Wickford (including Crays Hill and Ramsden Bellhouse) approximately 33,000. The urban areas are enveloped by rural countryside containing six villages and eleven smaller plotland settlements set within the Green Belt.
- 3.9 The Borough's landscape comprises urban development, arable farmland, permanent grazing with hedgerows, woodland and a large area of Thames Estuary marshland. It also contains significant areas of plotland landscape, characterised by a mosaic of scrub, grassland and relict woodland habitats with small-scale communities of a rural nature.
- 3.10 There are no internationally or European protected sites in the Borough. However, there are Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation within 5km of the Borough boundary. There are six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), ranging from Ancient Woodland and rich grasslands to coastal marsh in Vange, Fobbing and Pitsea. There are over 50 Local Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves and Country Parks, in addition to over 150km of Rights of Way that provide a means of accessing the open countryside around the main towns and its rich biodiversity reserves.
- 3.11 The strategic transport network in South Essex is mainly of a west-east linear nature, largely due to the presence of London to the West. Basildon Borough is served by two railway services running through the north and south of the Borough, both terminating in the City of London. National Express East Anglia, provides services out of London Liverpool Street, which in south Essex terminate at Southend Victoria. This line also serves Billericay and Wickford with connections to Chelmsford, via Shenfield to the west. Rail services from Billericay/ Wickford already connect with Stratford, connecting the Borough to Eurostar services at Stratford International and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. In the south of the Borough, the rail franchise 'c2c', operates out of Fenchurch Street London and terminates at Shoeburyness, with services to Grays, Chafford Hundred (for Lakeside Shopping Centre), Stanford le Hope and Corringham, via Upminster. Crossrail services will be operational from 2018 and will connect Shenfield (one stop from Billericay) to Maidenhead via a number of stations including Liverpool

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<sup>12</sup> Census 2011

Street, Paddington and Heathrow Airport. London Underground services on the District line depart from Upminster, with connections to the Jubilee line available from West Ham. Docklands Light Railway connections are also available from Limehouse, one stop from London Fenchurch Street providing direct connections to London Docklands.

- 3.12 Basildon Borough is well connected to the regional and national road network with two major road routes, the A127 and A13, linking South Essex with the M25. Both these 'A' roads continue eastwards to Southend on Sea. The A130 in the east of the Borough together with the recent £63m investment in the new Sadlers Farm Junction provides dual carriageway access to Chelmsford, north Essex and Canvey Island.

## Baseline Profile

- 3.13 The LDF Contextual Baseline Report published in 2007 established a detailed platform of information arranged into various topics. The baseline information included within this Report supersedes the baseline profile published in 2007. The baseline outputs summarised in this updated SA Scoping Report have used the most up-to-date data sources available where possible, providing a snapshot of the current social, economic and environmental situation in the Borough including the key sustainability issues of relevance to each theme. This section has been structured by SA theme (as mentioned previously, these 'themes' broadly accord with the topics listed in the SEA regulations).

### Climatic Factors

#### *UK Climate*

- 3.14 There is widespread scientific consensus that the Earth's climate is changing and that human activity could be the principal cause. Scientific forecasts suggest that the UK's climate will continue to get warmer and that heavy rainfall will be more frequent. Weather extremes, such as heat waves would become more common and others such as snowfall would become less common. Sea levels will continue to rise and storm surges will become more frequent, increasing the risk of flooding in coastal areas.

#### *Borough Climate*

- 3.15 Both urban and rural parts of the Borough will become more vulnerable to fluvial and coastal flooding, water supply deficiencies, subsidence and sea level rises, as the local climate continues to change. The Rivers Crouch and Wid, together with their tributaries are the main sources of fluvial flooding. The River Thames poses a tidal flooding risk in the south of the Borough, although this area is predominantly uninhabited marshland.
- 3.16 Increasing risks of flooding could lead to negative impacts on local habitats or species and pose a threat to an increasing number of properties. All new buildings will therefore need to be built in appropriate locations that minimise, or successfully mitigate against these risks, as well as being designed in such a way to maximise their adaptability to climate change in the future.
- 3.17 Increasing temperatures in the summer and winter months, coupled with changes in rainfall patterns are likely to encourage the take-up of more outdoor lifestyles, placing greater demands on open spaces for recreational pursuits. The management and operation of these spaces, will in turn, need to adapt as some vegetation and habitat types face increased water stress and susceptibility to decline due to warmer temperatures and less rainfall. These changes are likely to also mean air and water pollution could get a lot worse, leading to further effects on the environment and human health.
- 3.18 Finally, increasing seasonal temperatures could also lead to changes in energy demands, with more people wishing to cool buildings in the summer months and use less energy than previously for heating during the winter months.

### *Flood Risk*

- 3.19 A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was prepared for the Borough in 2011<sup>13</sup>. The SFRA confirmed that the primary mechanism of flooding in the Borough is pluvial (surface water) flooding in the urban centres of Billericay, Wickford and Basildon, which often coincides with fluvial flooding associated with the River Crouch and its tributaries (flood risk is most pronounced in Wickford Town Centre). The Washland System created as part of the development of Basildon New Town and the expansion of Wickford and Billericay, performs a surface water management function for the urban area, however, the capacity of this system is dependent on continued maintenance.
- 3.20 Fluvial flooding tends to occur when high rainfall in the upper catchment of the River Crouch coincides with high tide levels to produce higher volume fluvial flows and elevated water in the River and its tributaries. A notable extent of the floodplain is in rural areas, however, parts of Wickford and the North of Basildon are also affected by fluvial flooding.
- 3.21 The southern part of the Borough is next to the tidal estuaries of Vange Creek and East Haven Creek. This area is protected from tidal flooding by flood defence walls and two mechanical flood barriers.

### *Sustainability Issues*

- 1 Recognising the likely impacts of climate change on the Borough's built and natural environment – ensuring that adaptation, design and siting and other mitigation measures can enhance energy efficiency, internal comfort and lower carbon footprints.
- 2 Ensuring all new homes built in the Borough by 2016 are zero carbon and adopt building designs that can adapt to a changing climate.
- 3 Being able to manage and mitigate against all sources of flooding (fluvial, tidal, ground and surface water) and their different effects across the Borough.
- 4 Concern over the long term ability of all man-made flood storage areas (washlands) to manage urban drainage and contain storm water across the drainage basin, particularly if some are affected by poor maintenance standards or the poor condition of related infrastructure.
- 5 Increasing demands placed on outdoor recreation and wildlife areas due to warmer and drier weather patterns.
- 6 Recognition that changes to the climate will bring new challenges to recreation and wildlife areas in the Borough due to extended growing seasons, increased vulnerability of some native species and the migration of new species (including the potential for alien introductions).
- 7 Adverse environmental and health impacts associated with increases in air, soil and water pollution from human activities, made worse by increasing temperatures and less rainfall.
- 8 The Borough's varied urban, rural and natural landscapes are vulnerable to adverse effects from urban expansion, increasing recreational pressures, seasonal climate change, as well as agricultural and land management practices.

### **Population, Health and Social Characteristics**

- 3.22 The Borough's population has increased dramatically over the last 60 years, following the phased-construction of Basildon New Town (this began in 1949 following the passage of the New Towns Act in 1946) and the expansion of the older settlements of Billericay and Wickford over a similar timeframe. The Borough's population will continue to grow, albeit at a much slower rate. Sub-national population projections, suggest that the Borough's population will continue to grow with 188,000 people projected to live in the Borough by 2021<sup>14</sup>.
- 3.23 The Borough's population is much less ethnically diverse, than the East of England region or country, with notably smaller proportions of people from Asian, Black or Chinese ethnic groups.

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<sup>13</sup> URS/Scott Wilson - Levels 1 & 2 South Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, 2010/2011

<sup>14</sup> ONS Subnational Population Projections, Interim 2011-based, 2011

- 3.24 The Borough's age structure has been changing in line with national trends, with a decreasing proportion of young people and an increasingly ageing population. In the future, this change will see different demands placed upon support and care services (e.g. schools, health, social care etc.) and may lead to changes in future housing and service provision needs.
- 3.25 One of the most important things in life is health and wellbeing. From a health perspective, the Borough benefits from having a regional acute medical facility in the form of Basildon University Hospital. In June 2007, a major new addition to the hospital was completed, the Essex Cardio-Thoracic Unit, offering specialist care to patients with heart problems.
- 3.26 In the Borough, there are significantly lower rates of infant deaths, people feeling "in poor health" and poor mental health than the national averages. However, the numbers of people with diabetes, teenage pregnancy, those who eat healthy, adults who are physically active, early deaths through cancer and hip fractures in the elderly are worse than regional and national levels. There are also clear links between deprivation and poor health.
- 3.27 In terms of life expectancy, Borough women, on average, live longer than Borough men. Life expectancy has increased for men and women, a change that could be attributed to a mixture of changing lifestyles, advancing medical science and improved safety in the home, workplace and the wider environment. Even so, men and women living in the poorest wards in the Borough die, on average, 10.1 years and 7.3 years respectively, earlier than those living in the more affluent wards.<sup>15</sup>
- 3.28 Over half the wards in the Borough are considered deprived in respect of education, skills and training in England. There is significant spatial variation in deprivation levels across the Borough with higher levels of deprivation in central and southern parts of the Borough. Childhood obesity is lower than the national average. Levels of teenage pregnancy, GCSE attainment and breast feeding initiation are worse than the England average. The level of alcohol-specific hospital stays among those under 18 is better than the England average. Estimated levels of adult physical activity and obesity are worse than the England average.
- 3.29 There are 55 primary schools and 9 secondary schools in the Borough serving 15,052 and 10,338 pupils respectively.<sup>16</sup>
- 3.30 The numbers of pupils attending primary schools has increased since 2008 by around 450 pupils, whilst the numbers attending secondary school has fallen by nearly 600 over the same period<sup>17</sup>. This is an indicator of the changing demographic profile of Borough's households and residents.
- 3.31 Capacity figures suggest that on a Borough wide basis there are enough surplus places within schools in the Borough to accommodate new pupils, arising from new development or new people moving into the area. However, it is recognised that surplus and deficit numbers vary school-to-school and town by town. Thus, it cannot be assumed that because there is a Borough-wide surplus, that any school has the capacity to accommodate further pupils. Schools in Wickford especially have and continue to experience pressure on available places due to their popularity and additional housing.
- 3.32 Educational achievement also varies considerably depending on school location in the Borough. The schools in Billericay and Wickford out-perform the schools in Basildon and are above the county and national averages for GCSE results.
- 3.33 Qualifications gained at 'A' level or higher are also much lower than the national and regional averages, particularly with regard to academic degrees. If this situation does not improve, this could have a negative impact on the economic competitiveness of the Borough and could affect people's long-term employability. It may also result in the more skilled jobs being taken by people who live outside the Borough.
- 3.34 Poverty impacts upon entire families and has significant impacts on health, education, skills and life chances. Efforts to lift people out of poverty will be a challenge, especially as it is linked to so many other factors such as income levels, cost of living and family size. Basildon Borough has a

<sup>15</sup> Basildon Health Profile, Public Health England, 2012

<sup>16</sup> Essex County Council, Commissioning School Places in Essex, 2012-2017

<sup>17</sup> Essex County Council, Commissioning School Places in Essex, 2012-2017

higher level of benefit claimants of working age (18.5%), than the national (17.8%) and regional (14.3%) averages<sup>18</sup>.

- 3.35 Reflecting the fact that there are affluent areas within the Borough, the average part and full-time annual earnings in Basildon Borough are just under £800 more per week than the regional average and over £1,400 greater than the National average. There is, however, significant variation in earnings across the Borough and there are income inequalities between local men in the Borough and local women<sup>19</sup>.
- 3.36 Residents indicate that they are, on the whole, satisfied that Basildon Borough is a good place to live. Even though there is a relatively high fear of crime locally, Basildon Borough is comparably a safe place to live, with relatively low crime levels, compared to other parts of the county or country. Some crimes, such as theft of and from motor vehicles, do however occur more frequently than at the regional or national levels. The lowest crime rates in the borough are found in Billericay.
- 3.37 Road safety remains a significant local issue and needs to improve. Of the 662 Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) on roads in Essex in 2010, 8.76% had an accident in Basildon Borough. There were 3 motorcycle, 10 young driver and 4 drink driving incidents in the Borough in 2010.

### *Sustainability Issues*

- 9 An adequate housing supply, incorporating a mix of housing types will be required to meet the growing population.
- 10 There may be changes in the demand for, as well the operational impacts on key services, such as housing, health, education and social care. This is affected further by the changing demographic profile of the Borough's residents.
- 11 There are significant local health issues concerning teenage pregnancies, levels of physical activity and early deaths through cancer.
- 12 Tackling deprivation and achieving social inclusion will be challenging in parts of the Borough, given the disparities in how well some parts of the Borough perform over others.
- 13 There are poor levels of GCSE educational achievement, especially in schools in Basildon, which can affect entry into further education, skill levels and economic potential.
- 14 There is spare capacity in many of the Borough's schools. However, schools in Wickford have and continue to experience pressure on available places due to their popularity and due to increased housing numbers.
- 15 Comparatively fewer qualifications/training gained at 'A' level or higher in the Borough than the region or country. If this continues it could have a negative impact on the economic competitiveness of the Borough and may lead to more jobs going to people from outside the Borough and affect local people's long-term employability.
- 16 There are high local levels of working age benefit claimants.
- 17 There are income inequalities between local men and women, which could present difficulties to improving quality of life and reducing poverty particularly for single parents.
- 18 Theft from and of vehicles is relatively high in the Borough which affects general perceptions of the Borough, with regards to safety and crime.
- 19 The safety of motorists and other road users must improve.

### **Housing**

- 3.38 There are over 72,700 households in the Borough, 50,537 of which contain 'families', 44.3% of these families include children, which is greater than the regional and national averages<sup>20</sup>. Of this 44.3%, just over 15% are single parent households.

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<sup>18</sup> ONS, 2011

<sup>19</sup> ONS, 2011

<sup>20</sup> ONS, 2011

- 3.39 The New Town's legacy of family orientated neighbourhoods means that residents in the Borough are more likely to live in a house or bungalow. 35.3% of the housing stock is terraced, 25.8% semi-detached and 21.8% detached. Only 16.7% of the Borough's housing stock is in the form of flats, most of which are purpose built blocks, rather than converted buildings<sup>21</sup>. A full range of housing sizes, types and tenures are required to meet local housing needs.
- 3.40 In May 2013, the Council published the Basildon Borough Housing Trajectory and 5 Year Land Supply Report. It sets out Borough's position on meeting the NPPF's requirement of identifying a 5 year land supply, presented as a 20 year trajectory to deliver the former Regional Spatial Strategy target of 10,700 dwellings. This revoked figure has been used by the Council in its trajectory given that it is the last, publically tested housing target applicable in the Borough and is therefore a good benchmark. It lists the source, quantum and timing of future housing delivery. Of the 10,700 dwellings required within the 20 year period 2001-2021, 4,476 had been delivered. The remaining shortfall of 6,224 must be met in the next 8 years, which is equivalent to 778 dwellings per annum<sup>22</sup>.
- 3.41 The availability of local housing to buy and rent is dependent on affordability, as well as availability. Local house prices are between seven and eight times more than the average local salary. This is an increase from five times the income in 2002. This means that suitable housing is out of reach for many first time buyers, or single person households. For those who cannot afford to buy, local families can wait as long as eight years for a suitable home in the Borough through the Council's Housing Register. New affordable housing units constructed as part of new developments is proportionally very low (13 units in 2007 - due to the effect of demolition of affordable units related to estate renewal), when compared to the overall completions of new dwellings in the Borough and the number of families in priority need on the Council's Housing Register. Waiting lists are unlikely to change unless more affordable units are built.
- 3.42 The provision of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers in the Borough has dramatically increased since 1990. The population of Gypsies and Travellers has grown faster in Basildon Borough than in Essex as a whole, the Eastern Region or England. A national Gypsy and Traveller caravan count is undertaken bi-annually. In January 2013, there were 190 caravans on 121 authorised pitches and 59 caravans on 23 unauthorised pitches within the Borough which accommodated Gypsies. There is an additional unauthorised encampment which is not tolerated with 21 caravans<sup>23</sup>.
- 3.43 There were also 6 authorised pitches with 16 caravans accommodating Travelling Show People<sup>24</sup>.
- 3.44 Borough residents spend less time in temporary accommodation than on average nationally. There are not any recorded incidences of homeless<sup>25</sup>.
- 3.45 The physical standard of dwellings is showing signs of improvement throughout the Borough with the number of dwellings determined to be unfit falling year on year since 2004.
- 3.46 Housing completions have been low, both in the context of historic trends and housing requirement. This is due to a lack of large sites being brought forward for development. The now defunct East of England Regional Spatial Strategy put forward a housing target of 10,700 (minimum) for Basildon Borough in the 2001-21 plan period.
- 3.47 Delivery of brownfield sites for housing (for example, sites in town centres) can take longer to realise due to the need to mitigate environmental effects (e.g. remediate contaminated land, mitigate effects on biodiversity etc.) or site assembly issues.

### *Sustainability Issues*

20 Providing a mix of housing types and sizes for the differing demands of the local population.

21 The delivery rate of affordable housing is low, compared to high levels of local needs.

<sup>21</sup> ONS, 2011

<sup>22</sup> Basildon Borough Housing Trajectory and 5yr Housing Supply, April 2013

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gypsy-and-traveller-caravan-count-january-2013>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gypsy-and-traveller-caravan-count-january-2013>

<sup>25</sup> Homelessness Strategy, 2008-2013, Basildon District Council



- 22 Estate renewal programmes in the Borough may result in increases in the number of affordable houses being granted permission in the Borough, but they also result in temporary losses, whilst replacement dwellings are being built.
- 23 The construction rate of new dwellings is lower than the annual average rate required to meet minimum targets by 2021.
- 24 Potential residential capacity from brownfield sites (e.g. town centres) could take longer to realise, particularly if sites affect significant biodiversity or cultural heritage interest, require existing uses to be relocated or need to be decontaminated before new units can be built.
- 25 The increase in house prices is not reflected in increasing wage levels in the Borough.
- 26 The number of unauthorised pitches for Gypsies and Travellers in the Borough is the greatest in Essex.

### **Economic Development**

- 3.48 The main source of employment in Basildon New Town in its early development years was manufacturing. Companies wishing to redevelop or expand their manufacturing capacity were directed, out of London to the new and expanding towns being built on its edge. In this way, companies such as Yardley's, Carreras, Ford Tractors, STC and Ilford Films, all became established in the New Town's northern industrial belt (A127 Corridor). With the exception of the Tractor Plant (now Case New Holland) all these major manufacturing employers have since closed and their premises have been redeveloped. Existing major employers in the Borough include Ford (its research and development Technical Centre is located at Dunton), Selex Galileo and New Holland Agriculture. Established industrial estates are located along the A127 Corridor. Existing employment sites continue to perform well across the Borough with lower than average vacancies<sup>26</sup>.
- 3.49 The Borough's key employment sectors are wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, manufacturing and public health and social work. Recently, growth in employment has been strong in education and electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply sectors over the period 2008-2011<sup>27</sup>. In contrast, finance and insurance activities and administration and support services have experienced a decline that is above the County and Regional averages over the period 2008 – 2011.
- 3.50 Basildon Borough is within the national regeneration area of Thames Gateway and is identified, along with Castle Point, as the South Essex 'Business Hub'. To this end, Basildon Borough is the largest employment area in Thames Gateway South Essex.
- 3.51 There are over 76,000 people employed in the Borough<sup>28</sup> with an annual rate of growth of 1.4% over the period 1998-2011. 7% of the population gained employment between 2001 and 2011.<sup>29</sup> Data from the Office of National Statistics shows that the number of unemployed people between 2009 and 2011 fell in Borough by 41.9% to 6,100, compared to a 2.1% rise regionally and 0.7% nationally<sup>30</sup>.
- 3.52 A significant number of new jobs in the Borough have resulted from the expansion of local firms (e.g. Waymade - a pharmaceutical company), the relocation to Basildon Borough of companies from other parts of south Essex (e.g. First Data Resources and Royal Bank of Scotland from Southend, International Financial Data Services from Brentwood), and the expansion of commercial leisure (e.g. Festival Leisure Park) and healthcare facilities (e.g. Basildon University Hospital).
- 3.53 Basildon Borough Employment Land and Premises Study<sup>31</sup> identifies a net growth of 3,767 jobs in the Borough to 2031 using the Baseline Scenario.

<sup>26</sup> Basildon Borough Employment Land and Premises Study Atkins, 2013

<sup>27</sup> Basildon Borough Employment Land and Premises Study, Atkins, 2013

<sup>28</sup> Business Registrar and Employment Survey, Nomis, 2011

<sup>29</sup> ONS, 2011

<sup>30</sup> ONS, 2011

<sup>31</sup> Basildon Borough Employment Land and Premises Study, Atkins, 2013

- 3.54 Most people who live in the Borough work for other people (as opposed to being self-employed). There are fewer managers, directors and senior officials in Basildon Borough compared to the regional and national averages, whereas individuals in more elementary occupations are marginally more common in the Borough.
- 3.55 The proportion of Professional occupations is 3.8% lower than the national average, a potential indication that lower levels of education achievement and poor take up of further education are affecting the job and career choices of residents. This range of occupations, and the proportions of residents who are employed in them, are an indication that there is a need to improve the skills base of the local labour market, to improve both the jobs prospects and the long-term prosperity of residents.
- 3.56 The Borough is likely to face competition in the future from the neighbouring centres of Thurrock and Brentwood and from the future development of major new projects such as Thurrock (DP World and Tilbury Port). The Borough's town centres face competition from established centres in neighbouring boroughs, including Chelmsford and Brentwood. Office accommodation in the Borough is considered to be poor quality with limited car parking facilities.

#### *Sustainability Issues*

- 27 Local economy is not diverse and relies upon large multi-national companies.
- 28 Requirement to make provisions for jobs growth in line with increases to housing provision, whilst having regard to biodiversity and the wider environment.
- 29 Basildon is within the national regeneration area of the Thames Gateway, and is identified, along with Castle Point, as the South Essex 'Business Hub', with specific development and regeneration aspirations that it is encouraged to achieve.
- 30 The ability to enhance the vitality and viability of town centres, whilst meeting various development needs and regeneration aspirations, within social and environmental constraints.
- 31 There is a need to increase the take up rate of further education courses and diversity the skills base of the local labour market, to ensure local business sectors are able to diversify and improve the long term prosperity of residents.

#### **Cultural Heritage and Landscape**

- 3.57 The Borough has a limited number of built heritage assets, which need to be respected and sensitively managed for the future. There are 129 Listed Buildings, only two of which are deemed to be "At Risk". There are four Conservation Areas, all of which have management plans. There are also 3 Scheduled Monuments and over 500 archaeological records. The greatest concentration of Listed Buildings is in Billericay High Street, which is also a Conservation Area. The Borough's archaeological heritage is a finite and fragile resource and should be protected and where possible enhanced.
- 3.58 The Borough's landscape has an eclectic character with a mixture of historic rural villages, farmland and meadows, dispersed woodlands and coastal marsh, commons and village greens, which envelop, and in places weave into the three urban settlements of Basildon, Billericay and Wickford.
- 3.59 Overall, the Borough's landscape is sensitive to different changes in different places. Maintaining the rural landscape and natural landforms will be dependent on being able to preserve and conserve ancient woodlands, unimproved grasslands, protected lanes, commons and hedge-rowed field patterns, as well as the ridges and hilltops from inappropriately located or designed development, changing agricultural practices and seasonal climate change.
- 3.60 The urban landscapes can be conserved by maintaining green spaces, landscaping and trees and implementing good design practices in new developments.
- 3.61 A landscape sensitivity study for the Borough is currently under preparation and will provide an important, updated source of information on the Borough's landscape as the SA evolves.

#### *Sustainability Issues*

- 32 There is a need to protect and conserve the cultural heritage resource in the Borough from further destruction or degradation.

33 The Borough's varied urban, rural and natural landscapes are vulnerable to adverse effects from urban expansion, increasing recreational pressures, seasonal climate change as well as agricultural and land management practices.

### **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**

- 3.62 In a relatively urbanised area such as Basildon Borough, the retention of natural features is especially important to maintain a balanced environment.
- 3.63 Whilst there are no internationally or European protected wildlife sites in the Borough, there are a number of sites that fall within 5km. These are:
- **The Crouch and Roach Estuaries** (designated as a Ramsar, SPA and SAC site recognising the importance of the estuarine and saltmarsh habitats and internationally important populations of overwintering waterfowl occurring at the estuaries).
  - **Benfleet and Southend Marshes** (designated as a SPA and Ramsar site recognising the importance of the saltmarsh, mudflat and grassland habitats and internationally important numbers of wintering wildfowl and waders occurring at the marshes) and
  - **The Thames Estuary and Marshes** (designated as a SPA and Ramsar site recognising the importance of the estuarine, saltmarsh and grazing marsh habitats and internationally important assemblages of wintering and breeding waterfowl occurring at the marshes).
- 3.64 The HRA, which will be prepared to accompany the consultation into the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report document, will consider the potential impacts of development on each of these sites (as well as other sites occurring within 15km of the Borough boundary). In the case of Abberton Reservoir SPA (which has a role to play in water supply for the Borough) the buffer distance will be extended beyond 15km. This is consistent with the HRA which was undertaken for the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report document which was consulted on in 2012.
- 3.65 The Borough is an important location for various nationally and locally important habitats and species. There are six SSSIs. They form part of the national network, representing the diversity of wildlife, range of habitats and geological and physiographical features, which occur naturally in England. SSSIs have an invaluable role in scientific research and education, as well as supporting habitats and populations of plants and animals that are often under threat in the wider countryside.
- 3.66 100% of the Borough's SSSIs are in "favourable" or "improving" condition<sup>32</sup>, compared to 77.3% regionally and 75.4% nationally. Grazing methods, scrub control, ditch management, water level management, personal watercraft activity and landfill operations are regarded as significant threats to SSSIs unit condition.
- 3.67 There are no National Nature Reserves in the Borough.
- 3.68 There are 54 Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) in the Borough which have been identified as sites important for conserving local nature<sup>33</sup>, an increase of 8 sites since 2005.
- 3.69 Between 2007 and 2009, all Basildon Borough LoWS were surveyed annually to monitor change and disturbance from development and other practices and to identify any new sites which may qualify for designation. This resulted in three new sites in Wickford, Vange and Basildon being added to the Borough LoWS Register in 2007. Proactive management and monitoring of LoWS is essential to prevent adverse change brought about by actions such as agricultural practices, inappropriate management, road-widening and recreational activities.
- 3.70 There are 16 Ancient Woodlands either within or adjoining the Borough, covering an area of 247ha<sup>34</sup>. These habitats are of particular importance, in that they have evolved unique characteristics and qualities through the centuries and, once destroyed, are irreplaceable. Those remaining should be protected and enhanced for historic and aesthetic value, for their contribution to wildlife, species diversity and for informal recreation.

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<sup>32</sup> Basildon Borough Local Development Monitoring Report, 2013

<sup>33</sup> Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Report, 2009

<sup>34</sup> Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Report, 2009.

- 3.71 Endangered species and habitats are protected through the compilation and delivery of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) at national, regional and local levels. Priority Habitats and Species are regarded as the most important habitats and species that need to be conserved across the country. In 2009 the map of UK BAP Priority Habitats across the Borough was brought up to date. A total of 113 were recorded, covering some 868ha, 82% of which is protected as LoWs and 16% SSSI<sup>35</sup>.

### *Sustainability Issues*

- 34 There are European and International habitats and species of interest within 5km of the Basildon Borough administrative boundary.
- 35 Grazing methods, ditch management and water level management are regarded as factors than have negative effects on existing SSSI units. In addition to this, other factors regarded as significant threats include personal watercraft activity and landfill operations.
- 36 Local Wildlife Sites in the Borough are being negatively affected by actions such as agricultural practices, inappropriate management, road widening, and recreational activities. If this continues, it could affect their wildlife value and contribution they make to biodiversity, landscapes and the natural environment.
- 37 There is a need for continued preservation and long-term management of Ancient Woodlands in the Borough.
- 38 The Thames Marshes and unimproved grasslands of Vange, Bowers and Pitsea represent 10% of this habitat type in Essex and are of international and national significance in respect of the species they support. They must be suitably conserved from the potential adverse impacts of development
- 39 A need to ensure Priority Habitats/Species and other locally endangered species are protected from destruction by inappropriate development or land management practice.

### **Air and Noise**

- 3.72 Human health, quality of life and the environment can all be negatively affected by air and noise pollution. Despite the fact that there has not been the need to establish any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) in the Borough, air quality is closely monitored.
- 3.73 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are produced when fossil fuels such as coal or gas are burnt or processed. In 2005, a DEFRA study concluded that 396kT CO<sub>2</sub> was generated domestically in Basildon Borough, equivalent to 8% of the Essex domestic total. In addition, 497kT of CO<sub>2</sub> originated from industrial and commercial sources - 11% of the Essex Industrial and Commercial total. Road transport accounted for the smallest proportion of emissions at 289kT, which equalled 7% of the Essex total.
- 3.74 Transport or combustion processes, such as electricity generation, also produce Nitrogen Dioxide, commonly associated with respiratory illnesses, such as asthma. In 2010, annual mean concentrations of NO<sub>x</sub> were recorded at 34.38 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The most recent air quality monitoring report found that no pollutants exceeded the Borough's Air Quality Objectives (AQOs)<sup>36</sup>. In March 2013, First Bus Essex added 19 Low Carbon Emission Buses (Volvo 1900H) to their existing fleet which operates within the Borough. At full capacity, these buses emit 30% less greenhouse gases than a standard Euro 3 diesel bus of the same capacity<sup>37</sup>.
- 3.75 Particulates including PM<sub>10</sub> are fine particles present in the air that are derived from various natural and human processes. Fuel combustion (e.g. from road traffic), suspended soil particles, pollen grains, and construction dust are the most common sources. Concentrations in the air of PM<sub>10</sub> must not exceed 50 micro g/m<sup>3</sup> more than 35 times per year. In 2010, annual mean concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> were recorded at 28.85 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, only exceeding the daily mean four times<sup>38</sup>.

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<sup>35</sup> Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Report, 2009.

<sup>36</sup> Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment, 2012.

<sup>37</sup> John Baron MP Press Release [accessed 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013] <http://pressreleases.johnbaron.co.uk/archives/1689>

<sup>38</sup> Air Quality Progress Report, 2011

- 3.76 The greatest cause for complaint in the Borough with regards to excessive noise is that more commonly associated with domestic sources, e.g. barking dogs, rather than and industry or commerce. Noise arising from road traffic, aircraft noise and construction work do not represent significant reported local problems.

#### *Sustainability Issues*

- 40 Some localised air quality issues in the Borough (e.g. PM10 levels exceeding permitting levels on a small number of occasions)
- 41 Need to continue to minimise and contain excess noise from domestic and industrial sources in the Borough.

#### *Data Gaps*

- 3.77 The availability of locally measured air quality data is limited. The Council does not collect local data on every Greenhouse Gas and only has one Air Quality Monitoring station in the Borough. It is therefore difficult to show a comprehensive status of air quality for the baseline, which may pose difficulties when evaluating whether policies are having any effect on air quality in the future. If local pollutant measuring is not extended, indicators on air quality may have to rely on secondary information, such the decline of high polluting industries, the use of low emission public transport vehicles in the Borough and changing patterns of car ownership.

#### **Water, Soil and Geology**

- 3.78 The Water Cycle Study for South Essex, conducted in 2011, revealed that 18 % of surface waters in the Anglian River Basin District met Good status or better. 82% did not meet Good status (681 water bodies). 65 per cent of groundwater bodies are at Good status with the rest being rated as 'Poor'. The majority of surface water bodies that fail to meet good status fail because of high phosphate levels<sup>39</sup>.
- 3.79 The majority of the Borough's water supply is provided by Essex and Suffolk Water from its Hanningfield Reservoir, 3 miles north of the Borough. A small proportion of the water supply for Billericay, comes directly from Abberton Reservoir, near Colchester. In the hillier parts of the Borough in Langdon Hills and Billericay, smaller reservoirs and/ or water towers are also required to maintain water pressure and distribute a constant supply to customers. To cope with increasing demands for water supplies, due to population growth and development targets, Abberton Reservoir is in the process of being expanded.
- 3.80 A chalk aquifer underneath Billericay is designated as a Groundwater Vulnerability Area. These are protected by the Environment Agency through the planning and environmental consent systems to safeguard against excessive pollution, abstraction, or interference. This aquifer is not however used for domestic water supplies as it is regarded as having been over-abstracted.
- 3.81 Water consumption rates per household are still mainly composed of flushing toilets, washing clothes or taking a bath or shower. Water consumption has hardly altered since 2001, despite water saving measures being promoted and more water efficient appliances available from manufacturers.
- 3.82 The most versatile and most productive agricultural land in the country is classified as Grade 1, 2 and 3a. Basildon Borough does not have any Grade 1 or 2 land unlike neighbouring boroughs/ districts. Most of the land in the Borough is classified as Grade 3. Grade 3 land is subdivided into 3a, which is considered as 'best and most versatile' and 3b, which is not, indicating that some parts of the Borough could contain high quality agricultural land.
- 3.83 In respect of underlying minerals, the Borough has 23 Sand and Gravel Areas with deposits which may have to be extracted prior to development. The main clusters of these areas are located around the centre and south of Billericay and east and south of Wickford<sup>40</sup>. Smaller clusters are dotted within the countryside between the two settlements and to the west and south of Basildon.

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<sup>39</sup> South Essex Water Cycle Study, URS, 2011

<sup>40</sup> Essex Replacement Minerals Local Plan (Pre-submission Draft), 2013 (Appendix 10)

### *Sustainability Issues*

- 42 Not all surface and groundwater bodies currently meet 'Good' status in respect of water quality (required through the Water Framework Directive).
- 43 Need to provide an adequate water supply available to meet the domestic consumption needs of existing and future residents.
- 44 Ensure that Groundwater Vulnerability Areas in the North of the Borough are protected, directly or indirectly from adverse development impacts.
- 45 Improve the efficiency of water use and reduce local water wastage.
- 46 Minimise the amount of development located on Grade 3a agricultural land; and liaise with Essex County Council regarding development located on mineral reserves.

### *Data Gaps*

- 3.84 There are no indicators for contaminated land, but the Council has a Contaminated Land Strategy and maintains a Contaminated Land database, which can be interrogated spatially to determine areas of the Borough which may be contaminated due to previous uses or forms of development.

### **Material Assets<sup>41</sup>**

- 3.85 The development of Previously Developed Land (PDL) in Basildon Borough is focused towards sites in town centres or in existing housing estates that are subject to wider regeneration schemes. Basildon's New Town's comprehensive development legacy has, to some extent, meant that there has been a relatively small supply of PDL in the Borough, compared to more industrialised areas. The National Land Use Database identified 0.3ha of land as derelict and 2.79ha as vacant within the Borough in 2009.
- 3.86 The Borough has over 1,300 ha of open space available for use by its residents, people who work in the Borough and visitors. As a Mark I New Town, Basildon was planned with a considerable amount of open space as part of the New Town Masterplanning, much of which is still used for the purpose it was set aside for and now provides a range of health, biodiversity, landscape and flood defence benefits. No parks have however yet been awarded the qualitative Green Flag Award.
- 3.87 The PPG17 Open Space Assessment<sup>42</sup> undertaken for Basildon Borough in 2010 notes that the Basildon Settlement Area has the greatest supply of open space per head of population and the majority of these are spaces of high quality. Clusters of lower quality open spaces exist around Eastern Pitsea, South of the A127, Laindon Park/Lee Chapel North and Vange. A relative deficit exists in this settlement area for Outdoor Sports Provision equating to 0.27ha per 1,000 people (an under provision of 26ha).
- 3.88 Basildon Borough has a number of indoor sports facilities including nine indoor swimming pools, 12 sports halls, 12 health and fitness centres and eight indoor tennis courts. By 2021, the demand for all of these facilities is expected to exceed the existing supply. The quality of the current indoor sports facilities is mixed with scores ranging from 43% to 84% in terms of quality (where 100% = highest quality)<sup>43</sup>.
- 3.89 Billericay and Burstead have an above Borough average provision of natural green space and outdoor sports facilities but has an undersupply of urban parks & gardens and smaller amenity space. Generally the quality of spaces is good, with poor quality open space noted in Little Burstead, Eastern Mountnessing Fringe and Barleylands Farm (North of Southend Road).
- 3.90 The Noak Bridge & Ramsden Area contains a high proportion of the Borough's overall sports pitch provision, but lacks an urban park. Most open spaces in this settlement area which is mostly rural in nature, are of a high quality.
- 3.91 Wickford has a slight over-provision of urban parks and gardens, but a high under supply of natural and semi-natural open space, outdoor sports space and amenity green space. The quality of open spaces is mixed, although two open spaces are considered to be 'excellent' – Wickford

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<sup>41</sup> The definition of 'material assets' can be defined widely. In this case, it is taken to mean 'infrastructure' in the Borough including 'green' infrastructure such as open spaces.

<sup>42</sup> PPG17 Open Space Assessment, Part 1, Basildon Borough Council (March, 2010)

<sup>43</sup> Basildon Borough Indoor Sports and Recreation Study, Ashley Godfrey Associates, 2011

Memorial Park and The Wick Country Park. The Wat Tyler Project at the Wat Tyler Country Park is currently transforming the site into a centre of excellence which attracts 350,000 visitors per year. The project involves significant enhancements to the existing facilities which will provide more opportunities for individual, schools, organisations and businesses to visit the Park. In 2011 the Park was the winner of the Environmental Awareness category at the Basildon Business Awards.

- 3.92 The Towngate Theatre located within Basildon Town Centre is the only theatre within the Borough. The business plan for the Theatre was approved by the Council in January 2012 and will see over £1million invested into the theatre with the intention of creating a top class venue.
- 3.93 47.5% of Essex's domestic waste is still sent to landfill sites, one of which is located in the south of the Borough at Pitsea. These are however rapidly filling up and will continue to be a source of local green-house gas emissions for many years to come. In 2006-2007, there was a significant fall in the amount of waste being collected per head in the Borough, which can be partially attributed to the increase in the availability of doorstep recycling schemes to Borough households, which have encouraged residents to separate and recycle elements of their general domestic waste. A fact echoed by the Borough recycling rates doubling since 2002. 27.4% of the Borough's waste is reused and recycled, 0.3% above the regional average<sup>44</sup>. 25.1% is composted, 1.9% above the regional average<sup>45</sup>.
- 3.94 From a transport perspective, 16% of residents travel to work by train, London being the predominant location. This demonstrates the Borough's reliance on the City of London as an employment base for residents.<sup>46</sup> Most residents travel to work by car or private vehicle, despite fewer residents than the national average owning their own car or van. Whilst many residents work in the Borough, a significant proportion of the Borough's workforce travel in from neighbouring areas (e.g. Castle Point, Rochford and Southend) and this can lead to congestion, particularly at peak times on parts of the Borough's road network.
- 3.95 Detailed modelling assessments of Public Transport availability has shown that:
- All of the Borough is within 30 minutes of businesses with over 50 employees, using public transport.
  - Most of the Borough is within 30 minutes of a hospital.
  - Most of the Borough is within 30 minutes of a college or sixth form

#### *Sustainability Issues*

- 47 Maximising the use of Previously Developed Land or Derelict Land in the Borough whilst recognising that brownfield sites may include Priority Habitats and/or support significant biodiversity interest.
- 48 Improving the quality and availability of the open spaces, social, leisure and cultural facilities in the Borough, based on local needs and demands and recognising localised disparities within the Borough.
- 49 Reducing domestic waste generation in the Borough and increasing access to recycling.
- 50 Almost half of the local workforce live outside the Borough (mostly Castle Point, Rochford and Southend) and travel in by private vehicles which leads to congestion at peak times across the Borough's road network. This is compounded by over half of the Borough's residents working outside of the Borough.

#### *Data Gaps*

- 3.96 Data and statistics provided by the Department for Transport relate to the Local Transport Plan (LTP). Basildon Borough is covered by the Essex LTP, prepared by Essex County Council (ECC). Most published data is therefore captured at a county level. Distances from key services are only available at a local level and data on modes of transport are not available on a Borough basis.

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<sup>44</sup> Essex Household Recycling Performance, 2012-2013

<sup>45</sup> Essex Household Recycling Performance, 2012-2013

<sup>46</sup> ONS, 2012

## Energy

- 3.97 Between 2005 and 2011, the average domestic electricity and gas consumption of a Basildon Borough resident fell by 490kWh and 4,560kWh, respectively. Domestic electricity consumption is 100kWh per person lower than the national average, whereas domestic gas consumption is 750kWh less than the national average. Between 2005 and 2011, the average industrial and commercial energy consumer in the District reduced their electricity consumption by 17MWhs, bringing the total annual amount to 79MWhs, 4Mhrs higher than the national average. Industrial and commercial gas consumption went up over the same time period from 544MWh to 564MWh; however the 2011 total is still 16w MWhs lower than the average national commercial and industrial consumer<sup>47</sup>.
- 3.98 Between June 2010 and March 2013, the number of domestic solar photovoltaic installations in the Borough increased from 3 to 692, 241 less than the national average<sup>48</sup>.
- 3.99 During 2011, 849.2GWh of energy was generated from renewable sources in the county of Essex. This equated to 26% of all the energy generated from renewables in the East of England in 2011. Only Cambridgeshire generated more (28%)<sup>49</sup>.

## Sustainability Issues

- 51 Reducing the reliance on non-renewable energy sources to meet the Borough's energy demands (mainly electricity), including using on site renewables and improving efficiency.

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<sup>47</sup> Statistics provided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change Statistics (2012)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/series/interactive-maps-trends-in-fuel-poverty-energy-use-and-energy-efficiency-measures>

<sup>48</sup> Statistics provided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change Statistics (2012)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/series/interactive-maps-trends-in-fuel-poverty-energy-use-and-energy-efficiency-measures>

<sup>49</sup> Sustainability East, East of England Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Capacity Study (2011)



## 4 Stage A3 - Sustainability Issues and their Likely Evolution without the Plan

### Introduction

- 4.1 Following on from the review of the policies, plans and programmes in Chapter 2 and the update to the baseline information in Section 3 a number of sustainability issues were identified. These are reproduced in **Table 4.1** below along with:
- A link to the relevant SEA topic.
  - The key plans, policies or programmes of relevance to the sustainability issue and
  - Consideration of how the sustainability issues would evolve without development of the Basildon Borough Core Strategy (known as the likely evolution with the Plan).
- 4.2 The final column of the table provides a link to the relevant SA objective (the full SA framework is set out in **Figure 5.1**).

The 'Environmental Report' should include:

"The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme"

The SEA Regulations Schedule 2 (2)

### Sustainability Issues in Basildon Borough

**Table 4-1: Principal Sustainability Issues Facing Basildon Borough**

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
1	Recognising the likely impacts of climate change on the Borough's built and natural environment – ensuring that adaptation, design and siting and other mitigation measures can enhance energy efficiency, internal comfort, and lower carbon footprints.	The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); European Directive Energy Performance of Buildings 2010/31/EU2010/31/EU; (DCLG, 2012); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011).	Climatic Factors; Material Assets.	SO1; SO2; SO3; SO12; SO13; SO14; SO16; SO17; SO19.

#### Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:

In the absence of an up to date Local Policy Framework it will be difficult to command higher

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
<p>standards of building design. It will also be difficult to take a strategic approach to the siting of development ensuring that locations less vulnerable to the future effects of climate change can be chosen.</p> <p>However, emissions from new development are likely to be progressively reduced due to initiatives such as the Code for Sustainable Homes.</p> <p>The NPPF requires local authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and actively support energy efficiency improvements without the implementation of relevant DPDs.</p>				
2	Ensuring that all new homes built in the Borough by 2016 are zero carbon and adopt building designs that can adapt to a changing climate.	The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); European Directive Energy Performance of Buildings 2010/31/EU2010/31/EU; The Code for Sustainable Homes: Setting the Standard in Sustainability for New Homes (DCLG, 2008); Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (DCLG 2007).	Climatic Factors.	SO7; SO14; SO17.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Carbon reduction is a national concern driven by national targets that are influencing the industry, for example zero carbon standards for new homes by 2016. The core strategy has some role to play in increasing the rate of local mitigation and adaptation in the context of regional and national improvements.</p>				
3	Being able to manage and mitigate against all sources of flooding (fluvial, tidal, ground and surface water) and their different effects across the Borough.	European Directive: Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC; National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (Environment Agency, 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); North Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009); South Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009); South Essex Surface Water Management Plan	Climatic Factors; Population; Human Health; Water; Soil; Material Assets.	SO13; SO17.

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
		(ECC, 2012); Essex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (ECC, 2013).		
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Without the benefits of local spatial strategy it will be more difficult to manage the effects of developments on flood risk, although all developments would need to take account of National policy on flood risk.</p> <p>The NPPF would still apply without the implementation of the DPDs and states that “inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere” (paragraph 100).</p> <p>The severity and likelihood of flooding is likely to increase with current trends of climate change.</p>				
4	Concern over the long-term ability of all of man-made flood storage areas (washlands) to manage urban drainage and contain storm water across the drainage basin, particularly if some are affected by poor maintenance standards or the poor condition of related infrastructure.	The Floods Directive 2007 (2007/60/EC); National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (Environment Agency, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); North Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009); South Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009); Essex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (ECC, 2013).	Climatic Factors; Water, Soil; Material Assets.	SO13.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Without an up to date local policy framework, it will be more difficult to take a strategic approach to siting development in areas of lower flood risk. . This may mean more development occurring in unsuitable locations, placing greater pressure on existing defences.</p> <p>The NPPF would still apply without the implementation of the DPDs and states that “inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere” (paragraph 100).</p> <p>The severity and likelihood of flooding is likely to increase with current trends of climate change.</p>				
5	Increasing demands placed on outdoor recreation and wildlife areas due to warmer and	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA, 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of	Climatic Factors; Material Assets; Cultural Heritage;	SO1; SO3; SO11.

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
	drier weather patterns.	Nature (Defra, 2011); "UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA, 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy (TGSE Partnership, 2005); Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2010-2020 (ECC, 2011).	Landscape; Biodiversity; Flora; Fauna.	
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>With population of the Borough increasing, pressure on recreation and wildlife areas is likely to be exacerbated. Without an up to date Core Strategy, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of open green spaces/green networks for recreation, walking and cycling networks, and wildlife.</p> <p>Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets.</p>				
6	Recognition that changes to the climate will bring new challenges to recreation and wildlife areas in the Borough due to extended growing seasons and increased vulnerability of some native species and the migration of new species (including the potential for alien introductions).	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA, 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA, 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012) Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy, TGSE Partnership, 2005); Essex BAP 2010-2020 (ECC, 2011); Basildon District Playing Pitch Strategy Technical Addendum 2011 (BBC, 2011).	Climatic Factors; Material Assets; Cultural Heritage; Landscape; Biodiversity, Flora; Fauna.	SO1; SO3; SO14.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>The severity and likelihood of adverse impacts on local ecosystems is likely to increase with current trends of climate change. Without an up to date Core Strategy, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to managing the effects of this change through careful site allocations and targeted wildlife conservation and enhancement initiatives.</p>				
7	Adverse environmental and health impacts associated with increases in air,	Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC, which contains European Directive Limit Values for SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> and Lead; Water Framework	Climatic Factors; Population; Human Health; Air	SO8; SO13; SO14;

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
	soil and water pollution from human activities, made worse by increasing temperatures and less rainfall.	Directive 2000/60/EC; The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA, 2007); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Draft Soil Strategy (DEFRA, 2008); Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (Defra, 2009); Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (EA, 2009); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action plan for Anglian Region (EA, 2009).	Water, Soil.	SO15; SO16; SO19.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Climate change and a rising local population are in combination, at certain times of the year, likely to increase the sources, pathways and receptors of harmful pollutants independently of any local plan. However, without a planned approach to development through the Core Strategy, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach that would manage and reduce the risk of further health impacts.</p>				
8	The Borough's varied urban, rural and natural landscapes are vulnerable to adverse effects from urban expansion, increasing recreational pressures, seasonal climate change as well as agricultural and land management practices.	European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; European Landscape Convention (2002); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy (TGSE Partnership, 2005); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); The Thames Gateway Delivery Plan (DCLG 2007); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 –	Climatic Factors; Cultural Heritage; Landscape; Biodiversity; Flora; Fauna.	SO1; SO2.

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
		Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008).		
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>The severity and likelihood of adverse impacts on local ecosystems and landscapes is likely to increase with current trends of climate change and the rising population of the Borough. These impacts are at risk of being exacerbated without a planned approach to development. Without the Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of open green spaces/green networks for recreation, walking and cycling networks, and wildlife.</p> <p>Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets, including the Borough's most sensitive landscapes.</p>				
9	An adequate housing supply, incorporating a mix of housing types will be required to meet the growing population.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Basildon Borough Council Corporate Plan 2012/16 (BBC); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Population; Human Health; Material Assets.	SO7; SO10.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Housing shortfall likely to continue without a positive and proactive approach to delivery of local housing through an up to date Core Strategy for the Borough. A coordinated spatial strategy to housing allocation is essential..</p>				
10	There may be changes in the demand for, as well as the operational impacts on key services, such as housing, health, education and social care. This is affected further by the changing demographic profile of the Borough's residents.	European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our strategy for public health in England (Dept. of Health, 2010); Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities - The Future (DETR, 2000); Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future (DEFRA, 2000); Joint Essex Health and Well Being Strategy 2013-2018, (Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, 2013); A Vision for the	Population; Human Health; Material Assets.	SO6; SO7; SO8; SO9; SO10; SO11.

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
		Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group Integrated Plan 2013 – 2015 (2013).		
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Likely to continue without appropriate policy responses. For example, responding to the needs of an ageing population may be less co-ordinated in the absence of the Plan. However, all new housing developments would need to meet the requirements of Lifetime Homes.</p>				
11	There are significant local health issues concerning teenage pregnancies, levels of physical activity, and early deaths through cancer.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA, 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our strategy for public health in England (Dept. of Health, 2010); Joint Essex Health and Well Being Strategy 2013-2018, (Essex Partnership, 2012); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Basildon Borough Council Corporate Plan 2012/16 (BBC); Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group Integrated Plan 2013 – 2015 (2013).	Population; Human Health; Material Assets.	SO8.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Likely to continue without appropriate policy responses at the national and local level. Consideration of healthy lifestyles (including responding to issues such as obesity) will occur at the National level. Local level initiatives e.g. family planning and public health strategies will seek to respond to Basildon-specific issues. An up to date Core Strategy for the Borough can contribute to some of the wider determinants of health e.g. improvements to poor quality housing, access to suitable green spaces and the balance of use types in town centres (for example, minimising the likelihood of overconcentration of any one use type).</p>				
12	Tackling deprivation and	Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-	Population; Human	SO4;

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
	achieving social inclusion will be challenging in parts of the Borough, given the disparities in how well some parts of the Borough perform over others.	2036 (BBC).	Health.	SO6; SO7; SO8; SO9; SO10; SO11.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities. The issue of social exclusion in relation to Gypsies and Travellers specifically should also be addressed through specific Gypsy and Traveller site allocations.</p>				
13	There are poor levels of GCSE educational achievement, especially in schools in Basildon, which can affect entry into further education, skill levels and economic potential.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities – The Future (DETR, 2000); Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England (DEFRA, 2000); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Population; Human Health.	SO6.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities.</p>				
14	There is spare capacity in many of the Borough's schools. However schools in Wickford have and continue to experience pressure on available places due to their popularity and	Commissioning School Places in Essex 2012/17 (ECC, 2013).	Material Assets.	SO11.



Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
	additional housing.			
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>With the rising population of the Borough, pressures on existing schools are likely to rise. Adopting a spatial approach to the allocation of development will ensure development is located in areas where existing education capacity is good and identify those areas where new facilities are required. This will ensure that development of new housing is planned in parallel with the development of new schools/upgrades to existing facilities.</p>				
15	Comparably fewer qualifications/training gained at 'A' Level or higher in the Borough than the region or country. If this continues it could have a negative impact on the economic competitiveness of the Borough and may lead to more jobs going to people from outside the Borough and affect local people's long-term employability.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities – The future (DETR, 2000); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 – Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Population; Human Health.	SO4; SO6.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities.</p>				
16	There are high local levels of working age benefit claimants.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Population; Human Health.	SO4; SO5; SO6; SO7; SO8; SO9; SO10; SO11.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to socio-economic regeneration, locating</p>				

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities.				
17	There are income inequalities between local men and women, which could present difficulties to improving quality of life and reducing poverty particularly for single parents.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Population; Human Health.	SO4; SO6; SO10; SO11.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to increasing affordable housing, socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities. Gender inequality is more difficult to respond to at a local level. There are, however, national initiatives which seek to redress the balance.</p>				
18	Theft from and of vehicles is relatively high in the Borough, which affects general perceptions of the Borough, with regards to safety and crime.	NPPF (DCLG, 2012); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Urban White the Borough, Paper: Our Towns and Cities – The future (DETR, 2000); Essex Police Strategy (2012-2015) and Plan 2012-2013 (Essex Police, 2012); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Population; Human Health.	SO9.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>The NPPF requires good design that creates "safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion" (paragraph 58).</p> <p>However, the spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities. This is should have indirect, positive effects on actual crime and fear of crime.</p>				
19	The safety of motorists and other road users	Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (DfT,	Population; Human Health.	SO11; SO19.

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
	must improve.	2013); Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities - The future (DETR, 2000); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); Essex Transport Strategy: the local transport plan for Essex (ECC, 2011); Essex Police Strategy (2012-2015) and Plan 2012-2013 (Essex Police, 2012).		
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p>				
<p>Local patterns and spatial distributions of road accidents, linked to age and social deprivation, require a coordinated local policy response linked to socio-economic regeneration and providing relevant community services and facilities including education facilities. National initiatives aimed at improving road safety for all road users are likely to continue.</p>				
20	Providing a mix of housing types and sizes for the differing demands of the local population.	NPPF (DCLG, 2012); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities - The future (DETR, 2000); Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic House Market Assessment: Update Report (TGSE, 2010); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); Joint Essex Health and Well Being Strategy 2013-2018 (Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, 2013); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group Integrated Plan 2013 – 2015 (2013); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Basildon District Council Strategic Improvement Plan 2010-2013 (BDC, 2010).	Population; Human Health.	SO7; SO10.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p>				
<p>Likely to continue without appropriate local policy responses. For example, responding to the needs of an ageing population may be less co-ordinated in the absence of the Plan. However,</p>				

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
all new housing developments would need to meet the requirements of Lifetime Homes.				
21	The delivery rate of affordable housing is low, compared to relatively high levels of local need.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Thames Gateway South Essex Interim Housing Strategy 20012-2015 (2012); Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic House Market Assessment: Update Report (TGSE, 2010); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Population.	SO4; SO7; SO10.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Affordable housing shortfall is likely to continue without a positive and proactive approach to local housing through the Core Strategy, which includes assessing the capacity and feasibility of regenerating existing brownfield land. A coordinated spatial strategy for housing allocation is essential ensuring there are sufficient sites to meet demand and respond to historically low rates of construction.</p>				
22	Estate renewal programmes in the Borough may result in increases to the number of affordable houses being granted permission in the Borough, but they also result in temporary losses, whilst replacement dwellings are being built.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012) Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Thames Gateway South Essex Interim Housing Strategy 2012-2015 (2012).	Population.	SO4 SO7 SO10.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Very much a local issue that requires a carefully planned local policy response alongside on-going monitoring and management.</p>				
23	The net increase in new dwellings has been historically low, partially attributed to mass	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic House	Population.	SO4 SO7; SO10.

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
	demolition as part of three major estate renewal programmes that has occurred in the last 10 years.	Market Assessment: Update Report (TGSE, 2010); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Thames Gateway South Essex Interim Housing Strategy 2012-2015 (2012).		
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>A continued under delivery of new homes likely to continue without a positive and proactive approach to local housing through the Core Strategy. A coordinated spatial strategy for housing allocation is essential ensuring there are sufficient sites to meet demand and respond to historically low rates of construction.</p>				
24	Potential residential capacity from brownfield sites (e.g. town centres) could take longer to realise, particularly if sites affect significant biodiversity or cultural heritage interests, require existing uses to be relocated, or need to be decontaminated before new units can be built.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Thames Gateway South Essex Interim Housing Strategy 2012-2015 (2012); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Wickford Town Centre Masterplan (BDC, 2006); Gardiners Lane South SPG, (BDC, 2003); Basildon Town Centre Masterplan (Basildon Town Centre Regeneration (BBC, 2012); Pitsea Town Centre Masterplan (BDC, 2007); Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Service level Agreement Report (EECOS, 2009); Basildon District Regeneration Framework 2007-2021 (BRP, 2007).	Population; Biodiversity, Flora; Fauna.	SO2; SO3; SO7; SO10; SO12; SO15.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Housing shortfall likely to continue without a positive and proactive approach to local housing through the Core Strategy, which includes assessing the capacity and feasibility of regenerating existing brownfield land. A coordinated local spatial strategy to housing</p>				

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
allocation will help select those sites which are both suitable (e.g. with fewer environmental constraints) and deliverable.				
25	The increase in house prices is not reflected in increasing wage levels in the Borough.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic House Market Assessment: Update Report (TGSE, 2010); Basildon Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Population.	SO4; SO6; SO7; SO10.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Likely to continue at the regional and national scale. Can be somewhat mitigated by a positive and proactive approach to local housing through the Core Strategy, for example, through delivery of a range of dwelling types and tenures to meet need. A coordinated local spatial strategy to housing allocation is essential.</p>				
26	The number of unauthorised pitches for Gypsies and Travellers in the Borough is the greatest in Essex.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (CLG, March 2012).	Population.	SO7; SO10.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Without the adoption of local Gypsy and Traveller site allocations through local development planning, there will be less certainty relating to the delivery of authorised pitches. Without the adoption of the DPD, the trend is therefore likely to continue.</p>				
27	Local economy is not diverse and relies upon large multi-national companies.	European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Gardiners Land South SPG (BDC, 2003).	Population.	SO4; SO5; SO6; SO10.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Employment trends likely to continue in current economic climate without significant local intervention. In urban areas, local planning interventions can help improve access to a range of employment and increase delivery of affordable housing, which in turn can increase the available workforce which may encourage new employers to locate in Basildon Borough. A</p>				

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
<p>local plan response can also identify areas in need of regeneration and put forward a renewal programme to achieve this. This in turn may encourage new businesses to locate in Basildon.</p> <p>With regards to Basildon Borough’s rural economy, paragraph 28 of the NPPF supports the rural economy by supporting the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, and promoting the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.</p>				
28	Requirement to make provisions for jobs growth in line with increases to housing provision, whilst having regard to biodiversity and the wider environment.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities - The future (DETR, 2000); Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future (DEFRA, 2000); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Basildon Borough Corporate Plan 2012/16 (BBC); Gardiners Lane South SPG, (BDC, 2003).	Climatic Factors; Population; Human; Cultural Heritage; Landscape; Biodiversity; Flora; Fauna; Air; Water; Soil; Material Assets.	SO1; SO2; SO3; SO4; SO5; SO7; SO10; SO11; SO19.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Employment trends likely to continue in current economic climate without significant local intervention. Local planning interventions can help improve access to a range of employment and increase delivery of affordable housing, which in turn can increase the available workforce which may encourage new employers to locate in Basildon Borough. A local plan response can also identify areas in need of regeneration and put forward a renewal programme to achieve this. This in turn may encourage new businesses to locate in Basildon Borough.</p> <p>Strategic developments allocated through the Core Strategy will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough’s environmental assets.</p>				
29	Basildon is within the national regeneration area of the Thames Gateway, and is	European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; NPPF (DCLG, 2012) Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy	Population.	SO4; SO5; SO6;

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
	identified, along with Castle Point, as the South Essex 'Business Hub', with specific development and regeneration aspirations that it is encouraged to achieve.	(TGSE Partnership, 2005); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Basildon Borough Corporate Plan 2012/16 (BBC); Gardiners Lane South SPG (BDC, 2003).		SO7 SO10; SO11; SO19.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Basildon is likely to benefit from its inclusion in the Thames Gateway regeneration area without further local policy intervention. There is however opportunity to maximise the potential of its inclusion through local planning policy, through targeted socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing necessary infrastructure and community services and facilities including education facilities.</p>				
30	The ability to enhance the vitality and viability of town centres, whilst meeting various development needs, regeneration aspirations, within social and environmental constraints.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Thames Gateway South Essex Interim Housing Strategy 2012-2015 (2012); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Wickford Town Centre Masterplan (BDC, 2005); Gardiners Lane South SPG, (BDC, 2003); Basildon Town Centre Masterplan (Basildon Town Centre Regeneration (BBC, 2012); Pitsea Town Centre Masterplan (BDC, 2007); Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Service level Agreement Report( EECOS, 2009).	Population; Human Health; Cultural Heritage; Landscape; Biodiversity, Flora; Fauna; Air; Water, Soil; Material Asset.	SO1; SO2; SO3; SO4; SO5; SO6; SO7; SO8; SO10.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>With the exception of the Thames Gateway regeneration initiative, there is unlikely to be significant benefits from sub-regional and national policies, plans and programmes. The Core Strategy (and subsequent DPDs) can specify the balance and mix of uses which are appropriate in town centres. This is less to happen in a coordinated, planned way in the</p>				



Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
absence of the Plan.				
31	There is a need to increase the take-up rates of further education courses and diversify the skills base of the local labour market, to ensure local business sectors are able to diversify and improve the long-term prosperity of residents.	European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities - The future (DETR, 2000); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 – Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Population; Human Health.	SO4; SO6.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Improving the education and skills base of Borough residents requires a range of interventions, some of which will happen in the absence of the Plan (for example, national initiatives in respect of education).</p> <p>However, a planned approach to development (e.g. targeting regeneration and new employment to areas of higher deprivation) which may indirectly improve education and skills levels is less likely in the absence of the Plan.</p> <p>The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to providing community services and facilities including education facilities.</p>				
32	There is a need to protect and conserve the cultural heritage resource in the Borough from further destruction or degradation.	European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valetta, 1992); European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plan SPDs for Billericay (2011), Great Burstead (2011), Little Burstead (2011) and Noak Bridge (2010).	Cultural Heritage; Landscape.	SO2.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Likely to continue and may be exacerbated without a planned local approach to development.</p>				

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
National policy should help to protect and enhance heritage assets but whether or not this will help specific sites is uncertain.				
33	The Borough's varied urban, rural and natural landscapes are vulnerable to adverse effects from urban expansion, increasing recreational pressures, seasonal climate change, as well as agricultural and land management practices.	European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; European Landscape Convention (2002); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy (TGSE Partnership, 2005); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); The Thames Gateway Delivery Plan (DCLG 2007); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 – Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008).	Climatic Factors; Cultural Heritage; Landscape; Biodiversity; Flora; Fauna.	SO1; SO2.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>The severity and likelihood of adverse impacts on local ecosystems and landscapes is likely to increase with current trends of climate change and the rising population of the Borough. These impacts are at risk of being exacerbated without a planned approach to development. Without the Core Strategy, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of open green spaces/green networks for recreation, walking and cycling networks, and wildlife.</p> <p>Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets, including the Borough's most sensitive landscapes.</p>				
34	There are European and International habitats and species of designated interest within 5km of the Basildon Borough administrative boundary.	EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC; The Birds Directive 79/409/EEC (transposed into UK law by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 [as amended 2012]); Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA 2011);	Biodiversity; Flora; Fauna.	SO3.

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
		The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 – Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Essex Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2020 (ECC, 2011).		

**Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:**

Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs and local designations in the Borough. The Habitats and Birds Directives provide protection to the internationally designated biodiversity sites in proximity to the Borough.

Strategic developments allocated through the Core Strategy will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough’s environmental assets, including biodiversity. A Core Strategy would strengthen national policy, further safeguarding nature sites. Adopting a strategic, local approach to the allocation of development will ensure that the impacts of development (both singularly and in combination) on all nature conservation interest can be better managed.

Furthermore, without the Core Strategy, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife.

35	Grazing methods, ditch management and water level management are regarded as factors that have negative effects on existing SSSI units. In addition to this, other factors regarded as significant threats include personal watercraft activity and landfill operations.	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); State of Nature Report (2013); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); Essex Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2020, (Essex Biodiversity Project, 2010); Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Service level Agreement Report ( EECOS, 2009).	Biodiversity; Flora; Fauna.	SO3.
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**Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:**

Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs and local designations in the Borough.

However, strategic developments allocated through the Core Strategy will provide capacity for

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
<p>new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets. A Core Strategy would strengthen national policy, further safeguarding nature sites.</p> <p>Without the Core Strategy, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife. As Local Wildlife Sites are only afforded protection by the planning system (unless the need for development, outweighs their continued conservation), it may also result in adverse impacts on these sites from unregulated activities such as recreation or agriculture.</p>				
36	Local Wildlife Sites in the Borough are being negatively affected by actions such as agricultural practices, inappropriate management, road-widening, and recreational activities. If this continues, it could affect their wildlife value and the contribution they make to biodiversity, landscapes and the natural environment.	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); Essex BAP 2010-2020 (ECC, 2011); Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Service level Agreement Report (EECOS, 2009).	Cultural Heritage; Landscape; Biodiversity; Flora; Fauna.	SO3.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs and local designations in the Borough.</p> <p>However, strategic developments allocated through the Core Strategy will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets. A local plan would strengthen national policy, further safeguarding nature sites.</p> <p>Without the Core Strategy, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife.</p>				
37	There is a need for continued preservation and long-term management of Ancient Woodlands in the Borough.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); Essex BAP 2010-	Biodiversity; Flora; Fauna.	SO1; SO3.



Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
	practice.	Agreement Report (EECOS, 2009).		
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs, local designations and protected species in the Borough.</p> <p>A coordinated approach to strategic development through the Core Strategy will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets (including protected species). A Core Strategy approach would strengthen national policy, further safeguarding nature conservation sites and habitats of local importance.</p> <p>Without the Core Strategy, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife.</p>				
40	Some localised air quality issues in the Borough (e.g. PM <sub>10</sub> levels exceeding permitted levels on a small number of occasions).	Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC, which contains European Directive Limit Values for SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> and Lead; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Defra, 2007) ; Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (DfT, 2013); NPPF (DCLG, 2012).	Population; Human Health; Air; Material Assets.	SO8; SO11; SO12; SO15; SO19.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Trend likely to continue, although future designations of AQMAs through the Core Strategy in combination with planning policies to improve public transport services and infrastructure may prevent worsening of the issue. A coordinated approach to the allocation of development ensures future developments are well located in terms of accessibility to existing services and facilities and public transport.</p>				
41	Need to continue to minimise and contain excess noise from domestic and industrial sources in the Borough.	European Directive Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise 2002/49/EC; The Building Regulations 2010 and Building (Approved Inspectors etc.) Regulations 2010; The NPPF (DCLG, 2012).	Population; Human Health; Air.	SO15.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>The Building Regulations aim to manage the impact of noise from new domestic and industrial</p>				

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
<p>developments through good design. Furthermore, the increasing prevalence of sustainability standards such as BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes will also have a positive contribution. Development of an up to date local planning framework will ensure that Core Strategy and development management policies seek to address the current sustainability issues (including noise).</p>				
42	<p>Not all surface and groundwater bodies currently meet 'Good' status in respect of water quality (required through the Water Framework Directive).</p>	<p>European Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA 2008); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (EA, 2009); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action Plan for Anglian Region (EA, 2009); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); South Essex Surface Water Management Plan (ECC, 2012); South Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009).</p>	Water; Soil.	SO3; SO15; SO16.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b> This pressure will continue in the absence of Core Strategy.</p>				
43	<p>Need to provide an adequate water supply available to meet the domestic consumption needs of existing and future residents.</p>	<p>European Water Directive Water Framework 2000/60/EC; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (EA, 2009); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy –</p>	Climatic Factors; Water; Soil; Population; Material Assets.	SO15; SO16.

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
		Regional Action Plan for Anglian Region (EA, 2009); Water Efficiency in New Buildings Policy Statement (DEFRA and DCLG 2007); Final Water Resources Management Plan 2010-2035 (Essex and Suffolk Water, 2010); South Essex Water Cycle Study (URS, 2011).		
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p>				
<p>Without the Plan it will be more difficult to adopt a co-ordinated approach to adapting to climate change, including the need to use water sustainably. Conversely, new development needs to meet higher water efficiency standards and water companies must plan to reduce leaks from the water supply network as well as improve water efficiency.</p>				
44	Ensure that Groundwater Vulnerability Areas in the north of the Borough are protected, directly or indirectly, from adverse development impacts.	European Water Directive Framework 2000/60/EC; Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA 2008); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (EA, 2009); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action Plan for Anglian Region (EA, 2009).	Water; Soil.	SO15; SO16.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p>				
<p>Strategic developments allocated through the Core Strategy will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of groundwater vulnerability areas. A Core Strategy would strengthen national safeguards by adding an important strategic spatial dimension to this local issue.</p>				
45	Improve the efficiency of water use and reduce local water wastage.	European Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC; Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA 2008); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (EA, 2009); Water for People and the Environment: Water	Climatic Factors; Water; Soil; Population; Material Assets.	SO16.



Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
		Resources Strategy – Regional Action Plan for Anglian Region (EA, 2009).		
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Without the Plan it will be more difficult to adopt a co-ordinated approach to adapting to climate change, including the need to use water sustainably. Conversely, new development needs to meet higher water efficiency standards and water companies must plan to reduce leaks from the water supply network as well as improve water efficiency.</p>				
46	Minimise the amount of development located on Grade 3a agricultural land and on important mineral reserves.	NPPF, paragraph 112 and core planning principles in respect of brownfield land "...encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided it is not of high environmental value) (DCLG, 2012); Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex 2007 to 2032 (ECC, 2008); Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan 2013 (Pre-submission Draft) (ECC, 2013).	Soil.	SO12; SO15.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Minerals and waste planning is undertaken by Essex County Council who would be statutory consultees in respect of development in Basildon Borough which is on or close to minerals safeguarding areas.</p> <p>National Policy (the NPPF) restricts development on higher grade agricultural land.</p> <p>Adopting a strategic approach to development planning through the Revised Core Strategy should enable adverse impacts on minerals and higher grade agricultural land to be minimised.</p>				
47	Maximising the use of Previously Developed or Derelict Land in the Borough, whilst recognising that brownfield sites may include Priority Habitats and/or support significant biodiversity interest.	NPPF, paragraph 112 (DCLG, 2012); Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England (Defra, 2009); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); Essex BAP 2010-2020, (ECC, 2011).	Material Assets; Biodiversity; Flora; Fauna.	SO3; SO12.

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Housing shortfall is likely to continue without a positive and proactive approach to local housing through the Core Strategy, which includes assessing the capacity and feasibility of developing existing brownfield land. A coordinated local spatial strategy to housing allocation would maximise the use of previously developed land, whilst protecting and enhancing priority habitats and species.</p>				
48	Improving the quality and availability of the open spaces, social, leisure and cultural facilities in the Borough, based on local needs and demands and recognised localised disparities within the Borough.	Essex Strategy 2008-2018 Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Material Assets.	SO1; SO5; SO8 SO10; SO11.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>With the rising population of the Borough, pressures on the quality and availability of open space are likely to continue without a planned approach to development. Without the Core Strategy there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of open green spaces/green networks for recreation, walking and cycling networks, and wildlife.</p>				
49	Reducing domestic waste generation in the Borough and increasing access to recycling.	Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC; Waste Strategy (DEFRA 2007); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex 2007-2032; Essex & Southend on Sea Waste Local Plan (ECC, 2001); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Material Assets.	SO18.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>The Basildon Core Strategy is unlikely to make a significant contribution to this issue. Essex County Council is the Waste Planning Authority for the County, which includes Basildon Borough. The requirements of national sustainability standards such as BREEAM and the</p>				

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
Code for Sustainable Homes will also have a positive contribution.				
50	Almost half of the local workforce live outside the Borough (mostly Castle Point, Rochford and Southend) and travel in by private vehicles which leads to congestion at peak times across the Borough's road network. This is compounded by over half of the Borough's residents working outside of the Borough.	The Future of Transport White Paper: A Network for 2030 (DfT, 2004); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (DfT, 2013); Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement Structure Plan (saved policies) (ECC, 2001); Essex Transport Strategy: the Local Transport Plan for Essex (ECC, 2011); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001).	Material Assets.	SO7; SO19.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>Such a sub-regional, cross-boundary issue requires a coordinated approach between Basildon Borough and its neighbouring local authorities. The Core Strategy provides a mechanism to prioritise improvements to the public transport in order to discourage reliance on the private car. This would be coordinated in conjunction with County-wide transport planning undertaken by Essex County Council.</p>				
51	Reducing the reliance on non-renewable energy sources to meet the Borough's energy demands (mainly electricity), including using on-site renewables and improving efficiency.	UK Sustainable Development (DEFRA 1999/2005); Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010/31/EU; Energy Act (2011); Energy Bill (2012); Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (DECC, 2012); UK Renewable Energy Strategy, 2009 (DECC, 2009); NPPF (DCLG, 2012) .	Climatic Factors; Population.	SO14; SO17.
<p><b>Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan:</b></p> <p>National renewable energy and carbon reduction targets and the NPPF require local authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and actively support energy efficiency and renewable energy.</p> <p>The Core Strategy and subsequent LPDs can contribute to improved energy efficiency and increased take up of renewable energy through policies which require higher sustainability standards (e.g. for larger allocations) and provide a positive policy approach to the consideration renewable energy applications.</p>				

Issue Ref.	Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective
Emissions from new development are likely to be progressively reduced due to initiatives such as the Code for Sustainable Homes and the national target of achieving zero carbon homes by 2016.				

## 5 Stage A4 - Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

### Introduction

- 5.1 SA is based on an objectives-led approach whereby the potential impacts of a plan are assessed against a series of sustainability objectives. The SA objectives therefore provide the benchmark from which to assess the effects of the Core Strategy and subsequent LPDs.
- 5.2 The SA and Core Strategy objectives are not supposed to be the same, as the two processes and outputs are different. The SA looks for outcomes, therefore its objectives will focus on outcomes, whereas the Core Strategy objectives will need to consider how such outcomes will be achieved.

### Developing Objectives for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy

- 5.3 In 2001, the (former) East of England Regional Assembly approved the Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England. It set out nine regional objectives to deliver sustainable development across all regional plans and strategies. The nine objectives provided the basis for formulating local objectives for the original Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal. Despite the fact that Regional Assemblies (including the East of England) have been disbanded, the existing suite of SA objectives are still considered fit for purpose. The original SA objectives were drafted to be locally focused and to be sufficiently flexible to respond to subsequent iterations of the Core Strategy and future LPDs.

### Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

- 5.4 The Sustainability Objectives for the Basildon Borough Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal are set out below. Chapters 3: 'Baseline Information' and 4: 'Sustainability Issues and their Likely Evolution without the Plan' provide a link from the baseline review and identified sustainability issues to the SA objectives. The list of SA objectives has been amended slightly since these were originally consulted upon and agreed back in June 2011 by Cabinet. The key changes are:
- Splitting the original objective which covered landscape and cultural heritage into two separate objectives (i.e. there are now separate objectives for landscape and cultural heritage). This recognises that while these topics are linked, they cover different and wide ranging issues. This is consistent with the list of topics in SEA Regulations - landscape and cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage) are separate topics.
  - Deleting previous objective 10 'Ensure all development is delivered in the most sustainable and suitable locations and to high standards of design and construction' because its component parts are captured by other SA objectives – to include this would result in double-counting of effects and the appraisal as a whole will be seeking to address this point by bringing the component parts together into an overall conclusion.
  - Containing all the aspects relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions into one SA objective (no. 14) rather than having them spread around various objectives.
  - Revising SA objective 17 so it simply deals with adaptation to climate change, rather than mixing up both mitigation and adaptation (which are separate issues) but retaining SA objective 13 (flood risk) as its own discrete objective because of its significance and also

because flood risk is not necessarily linked to climate change, although it could be exacerbated by it.

5.5 These changes will benefit the SA framework, and make it easier and clearer to use.

### Sustainability Objectives for the Basildon Borough Core Strategy Sustainability

#### Appraisal

1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces of Basildon Borough
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration
5. Ensure the Borough's town centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those most in need locally
8. Improve the health and well-being of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live or visit them and where crime is reduced
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities
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
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring
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.
15. Reduce air, land, water and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management
17. Encourage adopting building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is better prepared for the impacts of climate change
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations

## Sustainability Appraisal Framework

5.6 A Sustainability Appraisal Framework has been prepared to enable an effective Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan Core Strategy. **Table 5.1** lists the nineteen SA Objectives, as well as

the evidence sources which would be used to inform each SA objective (this list of evidence is not exhaustive and will be updated as the SA progresses).

5.7 In order to evaluate the Core Strategy's performance against the SA objectives, Key Prompt Questions have been devised, originally informed by the Regional Sustainable Development Framework, the Toolkit East<sup>50</sup> and Stages A1-A3 of this Scoping Report.

5.8 The Key Prompt Questions *may not always* be relevant to the proposal or policy being assessed; they will be used as and when necessary. The SA will clearly indicate which of the prompt questions are applicable.

**Table 5-1: Basildon Borough Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework**

Ref.	SA Objective	List of Evidence	Key Prompt Question
1	Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces of Basildon Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape Character Assessment and Sensitivity Study (2013)</li> <li>Thames Gateway Historic Landscape Characterisation Study (2004)</li> <li>Proximity to designated heritage assets and open spaces (using a GIS published map file)</li> </ul>	<p>Will it contribute towards achieving qualitative improvement to the landscape and character of the urban and rural area?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the achievement of high-quality landscapes that reflect local distinctiveness and quality of place?</p>
2	Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basildon Historic Environment Characterisation Assessment 2010</li> <li>Thames Gateway Historic Landscape Characterisation Study (2004)</li> <li>Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans 2010/2011</li> <li>Landscape Character Assessment and Sensitivity Study (2013)</li> </ul>	<p>Will it protect and/or enhance sites, features, buildings and/or areas of historical, archaeological, landscape and cultural importance?</p>
3	Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proximity to designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites (using a GIS published map file)</li> <li>SSSI condition statements</li> <li>Essex Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>Basildon District Nature Conservation Reference Guide 2005 (including Phase 1 Habitat Survey) and Annual Reports 2007-2009</li> </ul>	<p>Will it conserve or enhance SSSIs?</p> <p>Will it maintain or enhance Priority Habitats and/or Species?</p> <p>Will it conserve and enhance any other natural/semi-natural habitats?</p> <p>Will it conserve or enhance Local Wildlife Sites?</p> <p>Will it lead to the creation of new areas of habitat?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance woodland cover and/or management?</p>
4	Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basildon Employment Land and Premises Study (2013)</li> <li>Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Mapping</li> <li>ONS/Nomis Data</li> <li>Other Economic/Employment studies at the sub-regional/local level</li> </ul>	<p>Will it improve business development and enhance the competitiveness of the Borough?</p> <p>Will it improve the resilience of the Borough's business and the wider economy?</p> <p>Will it generate new jobs for the Borough?</p> <p>Will it create or contribute to the creation of high-skilled jobs in the Borough?</p> <p>Will it encourage inward investment?</p> <p>Will it improve economic performance in both advantaged and disadvantaged areas?</p>

<sup>50</sup> An appraisal tool developed by the UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development (UK CEED) designed for use under the Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England [www.toolkit-east.org.uk](http://www.toolkit-east.org.uk)

Ref.	SA Objective	List of Evidence	Key Prompt Question
			<p>Will it reduce unemployment?</p> <p>Will it help to improve average earnings?</p> <p>Will it encourage the diversification of the workforce?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the improvement of local people's skills?</p> <p>Will it help ensure more people can enjoy a better standard of living?</p>
5	Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basildon Local Development Monitoring Report (LDMR) (formerly AMR)</li> <li>Town Centre Masterplans</li> <li>Leisure, Arts, Culture and Tourism Study with Retail Capacity Update, 2010</li> </ul>	<p>Will it encourage uses in town centres to diversify?</p> <p>Will it make land in town centres available for housing, retail, leisure and related commercial development?</p> <p>Will it help encourage community spirit and civic pride?</p> <p>Will it ensure that through sequential testing, the most appropriate location can be considered for development?</p>
6	Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMD Mapping</li> <li>Educational Statistics and Reports</li> <li>Commissioning School Places in Essex 2012/17</li> </ul>	<p>Will it help reduce poverty and social exclusion?</p> <p>Will it result in capacity issues, in for example, local schools?</p> <p>Will it improve the qualifications, skills and therefore employability of young people?</p> <p>Will it improve the quality and diversity of learning and training opportunities?</p>
7	Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LDMR (housing completions)</li> <li>Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments</li> <li>Basildon Housing Strategy</li> <li>Strategic Housing Market Assessment</li> <li>Basildon Borough Housing Trajectory and 5 Year Land Supply, 2013</li> </ul>	<p>Will it contribute to the reduction of the number of unfit homes?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards increasing the opportunities for people forced to live in temporary accommodation?</p> <p>Will it increase the provision of more affordable housing for all social groups, including key workers?</p> <p>Will it increase the provision of authorised sites for gypsies &amp; travellers and travelling showpeople?</p> <p>Will it increase the net availability of new homes in the Borough?</p> <p>Will it reduce the number of households living in fuel poverty?</p>
8	Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMD Maps</li> <li>Proximity to primary and tertiary healthcare facilities (GIS published map file)</li> <li>Proximity to social and community facilities, including open space</li> <li>Proximity to key environmental assets</li> </ul>	<p>Will it reduce health inequalities?</p> <p>Will it contribute to the reduction of mortality rates?</p> <p>Will it improve access to high quality health facilities?</p> <p>Will it encourage healthier lifestyles?</p> <p>Will it increase access to</p>



Ref.	SA Objective	List of Evidence	Key Prompt Question
		<p>including designated nature conservation sites, rivers etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active People data - <a href="http://www.noo.org.uk/data_sources/physical_activity/activepeople">http://www.noo.org.uk/data_sources/physical_activity/activepeople</a></li> <li>National Obesity Observatory e-Atlas: <a href="http://www.noo.org.uk/visualisation/eatlas">http://www.noo.org.uk/visualisation/eatlas</a></li> </ul>	<p>recreation facilities and open space?</p> <p>Will it improve air, water or environmental quality?</p> <p>Will it reduce the number of households living in fuel poverty?</p>
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMD maps</li> <li>LDMR</li> <li><a href="http://www.crime-statistics.co.uk/">http://www.crime-statistics.co.uk/</a></li> <li><a href="http://www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood/basildon_district.aspx">http://www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood/basildon_district.aspx</a></li> </ul>	<p>Will it help encourage community spirit and civic pride?</p> <p>Will it help the development of community level activities and organisations?</p> <p>Will it contribute to increasing participation in community activities?</p> <p>Will it help to improve the satisfaction people have with their neighbourhoods as places to live?</p> <p>Will it help to reduce crime rates?</p> <p>Will it help to address people's fear of crime?</p> <p>Will it improve the safety of the built or natural environment?</p> <p>Will it improve road safety to road users?</p> <p>Will it improve the safety of roads to other users?</p> <p>Will it help to reduce inequality within the Borough (e.g. between different groups or urban and rural areas) and wider afield (e.g. between the East of England region and more disadvantaged parts of the country or world)?</p> <p>Will it contribute to a high quality, well designed, living environment?</p>
10	Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMD Maps</li> </ul>	<p>Will it improve the quality of life for people living in the Borough?</p> <p>Will it improve the quality of the local housing stock?</p> <p>Will it improve the local environment?</p> <p>Will it improve job prospects for local people?</p> <p>Will it contribute to a high quality, well-designed, living environment?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards any regeneration initiatives, or benefit any deprived areas?</p>
11	Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proximity to existing centres</li> <li>Proximity to primary and tertiary healthcare facilities</li> <li>Proximity to public transport e.g. rail stations</li> <li>Proximity to rights of way and open spaces</li> </ul>	<p>Will it improve the accessibility for all to key local services (schools, Hospitals, health centres, leisure and sports facilities etc.)?</p> <p>Will it improve accessibility for all to shopping facilities?</p>

Ref.	SA Objective	List of Evidence	Key Prompt Question
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infrastructure Capacity Studies</li> </ul>	Will it encourage journeys to be taken by more walking, cycling and/or using of public transport?
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location of brownfield sites</li> <li>Location of Mineral Safeguarding Areas</li> <li>Location of Grade 3 Agricultural Land</li> </ul>	<p>Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land in the Borough?</p> <p>Will it encourage development on Previously Developed Land?</p> <p>Will it encourage the repair and re-use of buildings?</p> <p>Will it minimise the loss or damage to soils from development?</p> <p>Will it lead to more appropriate or efficient uses of land?</p> <p>Will it minimise development on Grade 3a agricultural land?</p> <p>Will it involve development of areas designated as Mineral Safeguarding Areas?</p>
13	Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2011</li> <li>South Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan</li> <li>South Essex Surface Water Management Plan 2012</li> <li>Essex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2012</li> </ul>	<p>Will it take account of and mitigate against the potential impacts of flooding, and more storms?</p> <p>Will it reduce the risk of damage to property and health from flooding and storm events?</p> <p>Will it lead to development in lower flood risk areas?</p>
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proximity to existing centres, public transport nodes, rights of way, healthcare facilities etc</li> <li>LDMR data in respect of permissions for renewable energy developments</li> <li>ReStats from DECC <a href="http://restats.decc.gov.uk/app/pub/map/map/">http://restats.decc.gov.uk/app/pub/map/map/</a></li> </ul>	<p>Will it reduce traffic volumes?</p> <p>Will it increase the proportion of journeys using alternative transport modes to private vehicles?</p> <p>Will it improve the accessibility to key local services?</p> <p>Will it ensure buildings are designed so that they use and waste less energy?</p> <p>Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?</p> <p>Will it reduce the burden on natural resources during the construction and operation of developments?</p>
15	Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Health performance data e.g. in respect of complaints raised due to noise or air quality issues</li> <li>Basildon Contaminated Land Strategy</li> <li>LDMR data</li> </ul>	<p>Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other air-borne pollutants?</p> <p>Will it improve air quality?</p> <p>Will it reduce noise levels, including those from roads and transport?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?</p>
16	Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Essex Water Cycle Study 2011</li> <li>Anglian River Basin Management Plan</li> <li>South Essex CFMP</li> <li>Main Rivers (from GIS published map file)</li> </ul>	<p>Will it improve river quality?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the reduction of water consumption?</p> <p>Will it encourage water</p>

Ref.	SA Objective	List of Evidence	Key Prompt Question
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groundwater Protection Zones (from GIS published map file)</li> </ul>	<p>efficiency, including recycling and re-use?</p>
17	Encourage adopting building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is better prepared for the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy</li> <li>South Essex Surface Water Management Plan 2012</li> <li>Sustainable Drainage Board data</li> </ul>	<p>Has it taken account of potential effects brought about by climate change (e.g. flooding, higher temperatures, more storms)?</p> <p>Will it encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems?</p> <p>Will it encourage green infrastructure, (such as green roofs) and the planting of trees?</p> <p>Will it provide shelter in the public realm from adverse weather conditions?</p>
18	Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essex Waste Planning documents and related evidence base/monitoring</li> </ul>	<p>Will it contribute towards the reduction in the consumption of materials and resources?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the reduction of waste sent to household &amp; commercial waste?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the reduction of household, construction and demolition waste going to landfill?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the increase of waste recovery and recycling?</p> <p>Will it encourage the re-use or recycling of products and packaging?</p> <p>Will it make use of, or increase the demand for, recycled materials?</p> <p>Will it reduce the generation of hazardous waste?</p>
19	Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proximity to existing centres; proximity to healthcare facilities; proximity to public transport nodes; proximity to rights of way etc</li> <li>Transport Evidence Base (modelling and mitigation)g</li> <li>Essex Local Transport Plan</li> <li>Basildon Borough Settlement and Centre Hierarchies</li> </ul>	<p>Will it contribute towards the reduction of traffic volumes?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the reduction of traffic congestion?</p> <p>Will it increase the proportion of journeys made using alternative transport modes to private vehicles?</p> <p>Will it encourage more journeys to be made by walking, cycling or travelling by bus or train?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the improvement of air quality?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the reduction of distances people need to travel to access work and other lifestyle pursuits?</p> <p>Will it reduce the need to travel?</p>

## 6 Proposed Approach to SA

- 6.1 As described earlier, the SA will incorporate the requirements of the SEA Regulations. The approach to carrying out the SA/SEA of Basildon's Core Strategy will be based on current best practice and the following guidance:
- A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (September 2005), Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland.
- 6.2 The SA/SEA will be undertaken in close collaboration with those involved in preparing the Draft Core Strategy in order to fully integrate the SA/SEA process with the production of the Plan.

Part 3 of the SEA Regulations 12(5) states that: when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies.

- 6.3 The 'detail' as referenced above includes the policy, plan and programme review, the environmental baseline and sustainability issues (including their likely evolution without the Plan) as set out in earlier sections of this Scoping Report, and the information that will be included in the SA report.
- 6.4 The 'scope' includes the range of SA objectives that will be used to assess the effects of the Core Strategy (as presented in **Table 5.1**), the approach to that will be taken to the appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' and the policies and proposals in the Core Strategy (see below). This information is being consulted on as part of the consultation into this Draft Scoping Report.

### Assessment of Reasonable Alternatives

- 6.5 The SEA Regulations set out the material to be included within the SEA Environmental Report.

Part 3 of the SEA Regulations 12(2) require that:

The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of:

- (a) Implementing the plan or programme; and
- (b) Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the Plan or Programme.

- 6.6 Whilst it is recognised that there may be a large number of alternatives which could be assessed as part of the SA/SEA, the focus of the assessment will be on those options which represent the 'reasonable alternatives' moving forward. These include:
- The 'Do Nothing' or 'Business as Usual' i.e. no Core Strategy, reliance on the NPPF and 'saved local and structure plan policies'.
  - The amount of development being proposed, including in particular the net additional dwellings (including affordable housing) and the area of employment land that will be required.
  - Alternative spatial strategies, including broad locations for housing and employment. These options will be developed using the most up to date evidence including a Landscape Sensitivity Study, Green Belt Study and transport modelling due for completion later in 2013.
  - A range of Core Policy approaches, including continuation of approaches outlined in the extant Local Plan 'saved policies', assuming these are still NPPF compliant.

- 6.7 The SA will clearly set out how the reasonable alternatives perform in comparative terms, and will describe the reasons for selecting the preferred policies and proposals, and why other reasonable alternatives have been discounted, providing an audit trail of the development of the Core Strategy.
- 6.8 The results of the assessment of reasonable alternatives will be used to inform the development (alongside the results of earlier public consultation, the updated evidence base and the work of Basildon Borough planning policy officers) of a set of preferred spatial options for growth and preferred core policies. These will be consulted on in autumn 2013 alongside the Draft SA/SEA report.

## Approach to the Assessment

The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2(6) require the Environmental Report to consider:

The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as (a) biodiversity, (b) population, (c) human health, (d) fauna, (e) flora, (f) soil, (g) water, (h) air, (i) climatic factors, (j) material assets, (k) cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, (l) landscape and (m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) – (l).

- 6.9 The SA/SEA will take an 'objectives-led' approach to the assessment that will address the sustainability issues identified while ensuring all the SEA topics are covered. The assessment will focus on the likely **significant effects** of implementing the Plan and any reasonable alternatives and the final SA/SEA Report will, where possible and reasonable, distinguish between and report on the different types of effects.
- 6.10 The assessment will be carried out using a matrix based approach. For each reasonable alternative, the matrix will describe:
- The nature of the effect against each of the SA objectives, including whether it is likely to be positive or negative, permanent or temporary, and the timescale of the effect.
  - For each effect identified, the scope for mitigation (including reference to other policy or regulatory safeguards, either at the national level or through other policies in the Core Strategy).
  - Recommendations for further mitigation or improvements to the Core Strategy to provide more in the way of positive effects will be put forward.
  - The likely residual effects, taking into account mitigation.
- 6.11 Symbols will be used to summarise the effects identified as follows:

<b>++</b>	Significant positive effect likely
<b>+</b>	Minor positive effect likely
<b>0</b>	Negligible effect likely
<b>-</b>	Minor negative effect likely
<b>--</b>	Significant negative effect likely
<b>+/-</b>	Mixed effect likely
<b>?</b>	Likely effect uncertain
<b>N/A</b>	Policy is not relevant to SA objective

- 6.12 In carrying out the SA, use will be made of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) which provide mapped data of key factors of relevance to the identification of significant effects such as:
- Landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage designations.
  - Agricultural land classifications.
  - Areas at risk of flooding.
  - Mineral deposits.
  - Areas of social deprivation.
  - Location of employment, retail, community facilities (e.g. schools and hospitals), neighbourhood centres.
  - Transport network including public transport (bus, rail).
- 6.13 It will also be informed by technical studies, such as (please note this list is for illustrative purposes and is not intended to be exhaustive):
- Local Development Monitoring Reports.
  - Basildon Borough Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.
  - South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment.
  - South Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
  - South Essex Outline Water Cycle Study 2011.
  - South Essex Surface Water Management Plan
  - Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy.
  - Nature Conservation Reference Guide for Basildon District.
  - Basildon District Historic Environment Characterisation.
  - Basildon District PPG17 Open Space Assessment.
  - Basildon Borough Employment Land and Premises Study.
  - Leisure, Arts, Culture and Tourism Study with Retail Capacity Study Update.
  - Transport Studies.
- 6.14 The SA will also take into account the findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) also being undertaken by LUC<sup>51</sup>.
- 6.15 Cumulative effects will be considered by assessing the likely effects of each of the preferred spatial options and preferred core policies on each SA/SEA objective and then considering the effect of the Plan as a whole (i.e. the cumulative effect of all preferred spatial options and all preferred policies) on each SA/SEA objective. It should then be possible to make some overall conclusions on the sustainability effects of the Preferred Plan. Consideration will also be given to cumulative effects arising from proposed development in Basildon Borough alongside development in neighbouring local authorities. This will be undertaken through a review of the plans and accompanying SA reports prepared by neighbouring authorities.

## Consultation on the SA Report

- 6.16 The results of the appraisal will be reported in the SA Report prepared for public consultation at the CSRPOR (Regulation 18) stage. The CSRPOR is scheduled to be subject to consultation in autumn 2013.

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<sup>51</sup> Basildon Borough Council is required to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment of its Core Strategy under The Conservation of Habitats and Regulations 2010 (SI 2010 No. 490)

- 6.17 Consultation comments received on the Revised Preferred Core Strategy and SA Report will be taken into account by Basildon Borough Council prior to preparing the Proposed Submission Core Strategy (Regulation 19) scheduled for 2014.

## Final SA Report

- 6.18 The final SA Report will be updated to reflect the Proposed-Submission Core Strategy, assessing any new or amended reasonable alternatives and providing any necessary updates to the baseline or policy environment, recognising that the introduction at this stage of any new reasonable alternatives that are of material significance may require re-consultation (i.e. another formal Regulation 18 consultation).
- 6.19 The SA Report will include all the component parts required under Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations:
- An outline of the contents of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy and its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes, including the work already undertaken.
  - The environmental, social and economic characteristics of the plan area, including any problems and issues identified and their likely evolution without the plan.
  - Key environmental, social and economic policy objectives set at the international, national and local level.
  - The SA framework, and the assumptions used in coming to judgements on the effects of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy.
  - The reasonable alternatives considered and why these were selected, how they performed in sustainability terms, and the reasons for rejecting the alternatives included in the Proposed Submission Core Strategy.
  - Any difficulties encountered during the appraisal process, including lack of knowledge.
  - How consultation comments on the SA/SEA were taken into account from the earlier stages in the appraisal process, and how they have been dealt with.
  - The significant effects of the preferred alternatives (including cumulative effects) under each of the objectives in the appraisal framework, taking into account mitigation (which may take the form of policy safeguards in national policy, the Proposed Submission Core Strategy, or other regulatory mechanisms).
  - The influence of the SA process on the modifications to the Proposed Submission Core Strategy.
  - Proposed monitoring framework for significant effects identified (including uncertain effects where these could become significant).
  - A Non-Technical Summary (of the matters listed above).
- 6.20 The SA Report will need to reflect any proposed modifications to the Proposed Submission Core Strategy. It will also incorporate the findings of the HRA.

## Monitoring

- 6.21 The purpose of monitoring is to measure the sustainability effects of the Core Strategy (in particular the likely significant or uncertain effects), to measure the success of the Core Strategy against its objectives and to identify any unforeseen adverse effects, enabling appropriate remedial action to be taken at an early opportunity. It is recognised that the monitoring requirements typically associated with the SA process can place heavy demands on authorities. Therefore the monitoring strategy will, wherever possible, build on existing monitoring that is being undertaken, using indicators and datasets that are already being routinely collected. For example, it should be possible to utilise the monitoring that is already undertaken for the Borough as part of its Local Development Monitoring Report.

# Appendix 1 Scoping Report Consultees

## SEA Directive Consultees

- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Natural England

## National, Regional and Local Government Consultees

- Essex County Council
- Brentwood Borough Council
- Chelmsford City Council
- Castle Point Borough Council
- Rochford District Council
- Thurrock Borough Council
- Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
- South East Local Enterprise Partnership
- Mayor of London

## Other Relevant Consultees

- Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group
- Basildon & Thurrock University Hospital Trust
- Education Funding Agency
- Skills Funding Agency
- Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)
- Home Builders Federation
- Essex Wildlife Trust
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Essex and Suffolk Water
- Anglian Water Services Ltd
- Highways Agency
- Network Rail
- Sustrans
- Essex Police
- Essex Fire and Rescue
- East of England Ambulance Service
- Marine Management Organisation



- Civil Aviation Authority
- Office of the Rail Regulator
- Transport for London

## Appendix 2 Stage A1 - Review of Plans, Policies and Programme

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>		
<b>European</b>		
SEA Directive 2001 Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	<p>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p> <p>The Directive must be applied to plans or programmes whose formal preparation begins after 21 July 2004 and to those already in preparation by that date.</p>	<b>Requirements of the Directive must be met in Sustainability Appraisals.</b>
The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010 Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	<p>This Directive lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.</p> <p>The Directive sets emission limit values for substances that are harmful to air or water.</p>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objective for reducing pollution.</p>
Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU	<p>The Directive aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units.</p> <p>It requests that member states adopt either national or regional methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.</p>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objective relating to the energy performance/efficiency of existing and proposed buildings.</p>
The Birds Directive 2009 Directive 2009/147/EC is a codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended	<p>The preservation, maintenance, and re-establishment of biotopes and habitats shall include the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of protected areas.</li> <li>• Upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should make sure that the upkeep of recognised habitats is maintained and not damaged from development.</p> <p>Avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats or any</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes.</li> <li>• Creation of biotopes.</li> </ul>	<p>other disturbances effecting birds.</p> <p>Include SA objectives for the protection of birds.</p>
The Waste Framework Directive 2008 Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	<p>Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.</p> <p>Development of clean technology to process waste and promote recycling.</p>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives that minimise waste production as well as promote recycling.</p>
The Floods Directive 2007 Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risk	<p>Establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risk, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments to be completed by December 2011. Flood Hazard Maps and Flood Risk Maps to be completed by December 2013. Flood Risk Management Plans to be completed by December 2015.</p>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives that relate to flood management and reduction of risk.</p>
The Water Framework Directive 2000 Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy	<p>Protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwaters.</p>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and minimise the impact on water quality.</p>
The Environmental Noise Directive 2002 Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise	<p>Defines a common approach to avoid, prevent and reduce the adverse effects due to the exposure to environmental noise.</p> <p>It also provides a basis for developing European wide measures to deal with noise emitted by road and rail vehicles, infrastructure, aircraft and outdoor, industrial and mobile machinery.</p> <p>Principles of the directive include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring the environmental problems.</li> <li>• Informing and consulting the public.</li> <li>• Addressing local noise issues</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to manage and reduce the impacts of noise.</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a long-term EU strategy.</li> </ul>	
The Landfill Directive 1999 Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	<p>Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.</p> <p>Reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill to 75% of the 1995 level by 2010. Reduce this to 50% in 2013 and 35% by 2020.</p>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste.</p>
The Drinking Water Directive 1998 Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	<p>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</p> <p>Member States must set values for water intended for human consumption.</p>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and enhance water quality.</p>
The Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management	<p>Avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient air pollution on human health and the environment.</p>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to maintain and enhance air quality.</p>
Air Quality Directive 2008 Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	<p>This directive sets legally binding limits for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead</li> <li>Nitrogen dioxide</li> <li>Sulphur dioxide</li> <li>Benzene</li> <li>Carbon Monoxide</li> <li>Arsenic</li> <li>Cadmium</li> <li>Nickel</li> <li>Benzo(a)pyrene</li> <li>Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons</li> <li>ozone</li> <li>Particulate matter</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to maintain and enhance air quality.</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
<p>The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 1994 Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste</p>	<p>Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.</p> <p>By June 2001 at least 50% by weight of packaging waste should have been recovered, at least 25% by weight of the totality of packaging materials contained in packaging waste to be recycled with a minimum of 15% by weight for each packaging material.</p>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to minimise the environmental impact of waste and promote recycling.</p>
<p>The Habitats Directive 1992 Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</p>	<p>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. Conservation of natural habitats and maintain landscape features of importance to wildlife and fauna.</p>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and maintain the natural environment and important landscape features.</p>
<p>The Nitrates Directive 1991 Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.</p>	<p>Reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and prevent further such pollution. Identification of vulnerable areas.</p>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to reduce water pollution.</p>
<p>The Urban Waste Water Directive 1991 Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment</p>	<p>Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.</p>	<p>Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives to reduce water pollution.</p>
<p>European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)</p>	<p>Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.</p>	<p>DPDs should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to conserve natural resources and cultural heritage.</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2002)	The convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning.	DPDs should take account of the Convention.  Include SA objectives to protect the urban and rural landscape and identify opportunities for enhancement.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992) Revision of the 1985 Granada Convention	Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater.  Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	DPDs should take account of the Convention.  Include SA objectives to protect the archaeological heritage.
<b>Other International</b>		
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all.</li> <li>• Renewable energy and energy efficiency.</li> <li>• Accelerate shift towards sustainable consumption and production.</li> <li>• Greater resource efficiency.</li> <li>• New technology for renewable energy.</li> <li>• Increase energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	DPDs should take account of the Declaration.  Include SA objectives to enhance the natural environment, promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources.
Aarhus Convention (1998)	Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The right of everyone to receive environmental information</li> <li>• The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making</li> <li>• The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.</li> </ul>	DPDs should take account of the Convention.  Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production.
<b>NATIONAL</b>		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG, 2012)	Presumption in favour of sustainable development. Delivering sustainable development by:	DPDs must be in conformity with the NPPF.  SA should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
		likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors.
	Building a strong, competitive economy.	Set out clear economic visions for that particular area.  Include a sustainability objective relating to strengthening the economy.
	Ensuring vitality of town centres.	Recognise town centres as the heart of their communities.  Include a sustainability objective relating to the vitality of town centres.
	Promoting sustainable transport	To implement sustainable transport modes depending on nature/location of the site, to reduce the need for major road transport infrastructure.  Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable transport.
	Supporting high quality communications infrastructure.	Enhance the provision of local community facilities and services by supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks.  Consider the sustainability implications of any new communications infrastructure.
	Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes.	Identify size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations.  Include a sustainability objective relating to housing availability and quality.
	Requiring good design.	Establish a strong sense of place to live, work and

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
		visit.  Include a sustainability objective relating to good design.
	Promoting healthy communities.	Promote safe and accessible environments with a high quality of life and community cohesion.  Include a sustainability objective relating to health and well-being.
	Protecting Green Belt Land.	To prevent the coalescence of neighbouring towns.  Consider the sustainability implications of any policies which may result in coalescence.
	Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding, and coastal change.	Use opportunities offered by new development to reduce causes/impacts of flooding.  Include a sustainability objective relating to climate change mitigation and adaption, to include minimising the risk of flooding.
	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.	Recognise the wider benefits of biodiversity.  Include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.
	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Sustain and enhance heritage assets and put them to viable uses consistent with their conservation. A plan may be considered unsound if there has been no proper assessment of the significance of heritage assets in the area, and the plan does not contain a positive strategy for the conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the historic environment.



Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
		<p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.</p>
	Facilitating the use of sustainable materials.	<p>Include policies which identify and safeguard mineral resources and associated infrastructure and promote the use of recycled/secondary materials prior to the extraction of primary materials.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable use of materials.</p>
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2012)	<p>This document sets out the Government’s planning policy for traveller sites, replacing ODPM Circular 01/2006: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and Circular 04/2007: Planning for Travelling Showpeople. It sets out the Government’s aims in respect of Traveller’s sites, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites.</li> <li>• To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale.</li> <li>• That plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development.</li> <li>• For local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies.</li> <li>• To increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply.</li> <li>• To reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan making and planning decisions.</li> <li>• To enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.</li> <li>• For local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.</li> </ul>	<p>The Core Strategy and Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policies will need to be in conformity with this document which sets out national policy for planning for Traveller sites.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relative to supply of housing available to all.</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
<b>White Papers</b>		
Natural Environment White Paper, 2011 The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (HM Government, 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting and improving our natural environment.</li> <li>• Growing a green economy.</li> <li>• Reconnecting people and nature.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should protect the intrinsic value of nature and recognise the multiple benefits it could have for communities.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the enhancement of the natural environment and consider the multiple benefits that the natural environment can provide (e.g. health benefits).</p>
Electricity Market Reform White Paper 2011, Planning our Electric Future: A White Paper for Secure, Affordable and Low-Carbon Electricity (DECC, 2011)	<p>This White Paper sets out the Government's commitment to transform the UK's electricity system to ensure that our future electricity supply is secure, low-carbon and affordable.</p> <p>15 per cent renewable energy target by 2020 and 80 per cent carbon reduction target by 2050.</p>	<p>DPDs should support renewable energy generation and encourage greater energy efficiency.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives to reduce carbon emissions and increase proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.</p>
The Future of Transport White Paper 2004: A network for 2030 (DfT, 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure we can benefit from mobility and access while minimising the impact on other people and the environment, now and in the future.</li> <li>• Get the best out of our transport system without damaging our overall quality of life.</li> <li>• Develop strategies that recognise that demand for travel will increase in the future.</li> <li>• Work towards a transport network that can meet the challenges of a growing economy and the increasing demand for travel but can also achieve the government's environmental objectives.</li> <li>• Provides targets for emission reductions, now superseded by later agreements. Transport is currently responsible for about a quarter of total emissions.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should provide for an increase in demand for travel whilst minimising impact on the environment. Policies also needed to promote public transport use rather than increasing reliance on the car.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives to reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of sustainable transport modes.</p>
Urban White Paper 2000, Our Towns and Cities: The Future – delivering an urban renaissance (ODPM, 2000)	<p>Provide for new sustainable homes that are attractive, safe and practical. Retain people in urban areas by, for example, making them more desirable places to live. Improve quality of life, opportunity and economic success through tailored solutions in towns and cities.</p> <p>3.8 million more homes needed by 2021. Local strategies needed to meet</p>	<p>DPDs should seek to deliver better towns and cities taking into account the key aims of the White Paper.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives to ensure that the majority of new development is built on brownfield sites and aim to improve the quality of life of</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
	the needs of local people developed through partnerships. Sets targets for development on brownfield sites and through conversion of existing buildings now superseded by the NPPF.	residents in towns and cities.
Rural White Paper 2000, Our Countryside: The Future – a fair deal for rural England (ODPM, 2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate the development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside.</li> <li>• Maintain and stimulate communities and secure access to services for those who live and work in the countryside.</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance rural landscapes.</li> <li>• Increase opportunities for people to get enjoyment from the countryside.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should help increase employment and services in the rural parts of the Borough whilst conserving the landscape.</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives that aim to improve the economies of rural areas with minimal impact to the environment.</p>
<b>Policies and Strategies</b>		
Door to Door: A Strategy for Improving Sustainable Transport Integration (DfT, 2013)	<p>The strategy focuses on four core areas which need to be addressed so that people can be confident in choosing greener modes of transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accurate, accessible and reliable information about different transport options</li> <li>• Convenient and affordable tickets</li> <li>• Regular and straightforward connections at all stages of the journey and between different modes of transport</li> <li>• Safe and comfortable transport facilities</li> </ul> <p>The strategy also includes details on how the Government is using behaviour change methods to reduce or remove barriers to the use of sustainable transport, and working closely with stakeholders to deliver a better-connected transport system.</p>	<p>DPDs should take into account their role in addressing the four core areas outlined in the Strategy.</p> <p>Include SA objectives relating to high quality, efficient sustainable transport systems.</p>
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England’s Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (DEFRA, 2011)	<p>The aim of the Strategy is to guide conservation efforts in England up to 2020. Moving further on from 2020, the ambition is to move from a net biodiversity loss to gain.</p> <p>The strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Forestry</li> <li>• Planning and Development</li> <li>• Water Management</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should take into account their role in seeking to prevent the degradation of biodiversity and ecosystem services within Basildon. DPDs should also recognise their contribution to securing a net gain in biodiversity.</p> <p>Include SA objective relating to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine Management</li> <li>• Fisheries</li> <li>• Air Pollution</li> <li>• Invasive Non-Native Species</li> </ul>	
Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2009)	<p>The vision is “by 2030, all England’s soils will be managed sustainability and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England’s soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations”.</p> <p>The Strategy highlights the areas for priority including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better protection for agricultural soils.</li> <li>• Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon.</li> <li>• Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate.</li> <li>• Preventing soil pollution.</li> <li>• Effective soil protection during construction and development.</li> <li>• Dealing with our legacy of contaminated land.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should help protect and enhance the quality of soils and seek to sustainably manage their quality for future generations.</p> <p>Include SA objective which seeks to safeguard and enhance the quality of soil.</p>
Delivering Affordable Housing (DCLG, 2006)	<p>The aim of this document is to support local authorities and other key players in delivering more high quality affordable housing within mixed sustainable communities by using all tools available to them.</p>	<p>DPDs should help deliver high quality affordable housing where there is a need.</p> <p>Include SA objectives that relate to affordable housing provision</p>
The Code for Sustainable Homes: Setting the standard in sustainability for new homes (DCLG, 2008)	<p>This sets out the assessment process and performance standards required for the Code for Sustainable Homes.</p> <p>The Code is a standard designed to improve the sustainability of new homes.</p>	<p>DPDs should take into account their roles in promoting the implementation of the Code for all residential development.</p> <p>Include SA objectives which promote sustainable development and seek to achieve higher levels of efficiency (e.g. in energy , water etc.) where appropriate.</p>
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (DCLG, 2011)	<p>Aims to provide support to deliver new homes and improve social mobility.</p>	<p>DPDs should encourage development of residential properties.</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
		Include SA objectives that assesses whether housing need is being met.
Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA, 2005)	<p>Enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life for future generations. There are 4 shared priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sustainable consumption and production;</li> <li>• climate change and energy;</li> <li>• natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and</li> <li>• sustainable communities.</li> </ul> <p>Sets out indicators to give an overview of sustainable development and priority areas in the UK. They include 20 of the UK Framework indicators and a further 48 indicators related to the priority areas.</p>	<p>DPDs should meet the aims of the Sustainable Development Strategy.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to cover the shared priorities.</p>
Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (DCLG, 2007)	This Statement confirms the government's intention to achieve 25% more energy efficient homes by 2010, 44% more efficient homes by 2013 and zero carbon (net carbon emissions should be zero per annum) homes by 2016.	<p>DPDs should ensure residential development is zero carbon by 2016.</p> <p>Include SA objectives which seek to improve the energy efficiency of proposed developments and encourage uptake of renewable energy.</p>
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (DECC, 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase our use of renewable electricity, heat and transport, and help tackle climate change.</li> <li>• Build the UK low-carbon economy, promote energy security and take action against climate change.</li> <li>• 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020.</li> <li>• Reducing UK CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 750 million tonnes by 2030.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should encourage developments that would support renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.</p> <p>Include SA objectives relating to increasing energy provided from renewable sources.</p>
The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (DECC, 2012)	<p>This is an Energy Efficiency Strategy aiming to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy.</p> <p>The Strategy identifies four barriers to energy efficiency which need to be overcome which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embryonic markets.</li> <li>• Information.</li> <li>• Misaligned financial incentives.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should seek to address the barriers identified within the Strategy and improve the existing building stock through appropriate adaptation measures.</p> <p>Include SA objectives relating to energy efficiency and adaptation of the existing building stock.</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undervaluing energy efficiency.</li> </ul> <p>The Strategy draws attention to maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21<sup>st</sup> century energy management initiatives on 19<sup>th</sup> century homes.</p>	
<p>The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013)</p>	<p>The report sets out visions for the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built Environment – “buildings and places and the people who live and work in them are resilient to a changing climate and extreme weather and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and take the opportunities from climate change”.</li> <li>• Infrastructure – “an infrastructure network that is resilient to today’s natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate”.</li> <li>• Healthy and resilient communities – “a health service, a public health and social care system which are resilient and adapted to a changing climate. Communities and individuals, including the most vulnerable, are better prepared to cope with severe weather events and other impacts of climate change. Emergency services and local resilience capability take account of and are resilient to, a changing climate”.</li> <li>• Agriculture and Forestry – “profitable and productive agriculture and forestry sectors that take the opportunities from climate change, are resilient to its threats and contribute to the resilience of the natural environment by helping maintain ecosystem services and protect and enhance biodiversity”.</li> <li>• Natural Environment – “the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides”.</li> <li>• Business – “UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change”.</li> <li>• Local Government – “Local government plays a central in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risk and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate”.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should take account of the visions set out in the Programme.</p> <p>Include SA objectives which seek to promote the implementation of adaptation measures to make Basildon more resilient to a changing climate.</p>
<p>Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our Strategy for public health in England (Department of Health, 2010)</p>	<p>Protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives; and improving the health of the poorest, fastest. Prioritise public health funding from within the overall NHS</p>	<p>Policies within the DPDs should reflect the objectives of the strategy where relevant.</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
	budget.	Include SA objectives relating to health and well-being.
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA, 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality in public spaces, which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life.</li> <li>• Render polluting emissions harmless.</li> <li>• Sets air quality standards for 13 air pollutants.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should take account of the likely impact on air quality from development.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and improve air quality.</p>
Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008)	<p>Sets out how the Government want the water sector to look by 2030 and an outline of the steps which need to be taken to get there.</p> <p>The vision for 2030 is one where we, as a country have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "improved the quality of our water environment and the ecology it supports, and continue to maintain high standards of drinking water quality from taps;</li> <li>• Sustainably managed risks from flooding and coastal erosion, with greater understanding and more effective management of surface water;</li> <li>• Ensure a sustainable use of water resources, and implement fair, affordable and cost-reflective water charges;</li> <li>• Cut greenhouse gas emissions; and</li> <li>• Embed continuous adaptation to climate change and other pressures across the water industry and water users".</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should aim to contribute to the vision set out in this Strategy.</p> <p>Include SA objectives which seek to protect, manage and enhance the water environment.</p>
Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (Environment Agency, 2009)	<p>The Strategy vision for water resource "is for there to be enough water for people and the environment, meeting legitimate needs".</p> <p>Its aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To manage water resource and protect the water environment from climate change.</li> <li>• Restore, protect, improve and value species and habitats that depend on water.</li> <li>• To contribute to sustainable development through good water management.</li> <li>• People to understand how water and the water environment contribute to their quality of life.</li> </ul>	<p>Policies within the DPD should reflect the aims of the strategy where relevant.</p> <p>Include SA objective which seeks to promote water management and efficiency.</p>

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The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (Environment Agency, 2011)	<p>This Strategy sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities.</p> <p>The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “manage the risk to people and their property;</li> <li>• Facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level – individual, community or local authority, river catchment, coastal cell or national;</li> <li>• Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development”.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should seek to reduce and manage the risk of all type of flooding.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to reduce the risk and manage flooding sustainably.</p>
Waste Strategy for England 2007 (DEFRA, 2007)	<p>Future of waste management – the government commitment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackle the amount of waste produced, by breaking the link between economic growth and waste production.</li> <li>• Put waste which is produced to good use through substantial increases in re-use, recycling, composting, and recovery of energy.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should encourage the minimisation of waste production and the maximisation of recycling and re-use of materials.</p> <p>SA objectives should seek to ensure waste is minimised and promote recycling and reuse.</p>
<b>REGIONAL</b>		
Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action Plan for Anglian Region (Environment Agency, 2009)	<p>The Strategies vision for water resource “is for there to be enough water for people and the environment”.</p> <p>“The management and use of water and land must be shown to be sustainable – environmentally, socially and economically. We require the right amount of good quality water for people, agriculture, commerce and industry and the environment”.</p> <p>The Strategy has identified four actions which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting the environment.</li> <li>• Driving water efficiency.</li> <li>• Ensuring resilience of water resources.</li> <li>• Sharing and development of water resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Policies within the DPD should reflect the actions identified within the strategy where relevant.</p> <p>Include SA objective which seeks to promote water management and efficiency.</p>
<b>SUB-REGIONAL</b>		
Essex and Southend on Sea Replacement	This Structure Plan provides the development framework for Essex and Southend-on-Sea between 1996-2011. The majority of the Plan has been	DPD should take account of the saved policies of the Structure Plan.



Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
Structure Plan (ECC, 2001)	<p>replaced by other relevant Plans. However, a number of policies have been saved and will remain in force until they are replaced by DPDs adopted by the county and district planning authorities.</p> <p>The saved policies of the Structure Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NR3: Extension of Suffolk Coast/Heaths AONB</li> <li>• CC1: Undeveloped Coast – Coastal Protection Belt</li> <li>• BIW9: Airport Development</li> <li>• LRT6: Coastal Water Recreation</li> <li>• EG1: Proposals for New Power Stations</li> <li>• T2: Transport Investment Priorities</li> <li>• T4: Passenger Transport</li> <li>• MIN4: Sterilisation and Safeguarding of Mineral Sites</li> </ul>	<p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of landscape, ecological, transport, minerals and infrastructure matters.</p>
Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex (2007 to 2032) (ECC, 2008)	<p>This Strategy sets out Essex’s approach to dealing with municipal waste up to 2032. It sets out a waste hierarchy which follows reduce, re-use, recycle, recover and dispose.</p> <p>The strategy sets out recycling targets which include recycling 60% of household waste by 2020 and reducing the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill to 131,386 tonnes by 2020 (386,319 tonnes were sent in the 2002 baseline year).</p>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should seek to implement the waste hierarchy to ensure the amount of municipal waste is reduced.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which ensure the amount of waste sent to landfills is reduced and encourage uptake of recycling and reuse of materials.</p>
Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan 2013 (Pre-submission Draft) (ECC, 2013)	<p>Overarching aim is to deliver the mineral supply hierarchy in Essex by: reducing as far as practicable the quantity of minerals used and waste generated; use as much secondary and recycled material as possible before finally securing the remainder of the demand through new primary extraction and safeguarding existing mineral facilities and resources.</p> <p>The sites identified in the plan will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40.824m tonnes of sand and gravel extraction; and</li> <li>• 0.39m tonnes of silica sand.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should take into the mineral supply hierarchy and ensure mineral supply is not compromised. Take account of mineral safeguarding areas, new primary extraction facilities and safeguarded existing facilities during the selection of land for development.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives which consider the safeguarded sites and areas for future minerals supply.</p>
A Vision for the Future (Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership, 2001)	<p>This document sets out the vision for the regeneration of the south Essex Thames Gateway which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving skills and opportunities across a range of economic sectors</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should seek to promote the regeneration of Basildon in line with the vision set out.</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
	<p>and promoting a competitive business environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leading the way in innovative infrastructure, including sustainable transport.</li> <li>• Securing investment and site development which promote urban regeneration and provide employment opportunities.</li> <li>• Creating high quality sustainable urban and rural environments which enhance the natural assets of the area.</li> <li>• Improving health and wellbeing of communities throughout the Gateway.</li> <li>• Marketing the opportunities for investment and development in the Gateway.</li> </ul> <p>The Vision sets out the key objectives for the three hubs identified in the document. For Basildon and Castle Point, the objectives comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “to make Basildon and Castle Point the centre of business excellence in South Essex...</li> <li>• to develop a leasing business support centre in Basildon to serve all of South Essex...</li> <li>• to improve the local transportation network, in particular access to and from Canvey Island and along commuting routes into Basildon, including better rail links”.</li> </ul>	<p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters.</p>
<p>Thames Gateway Delivery Plan (DCLG , 2007)</p>	<p>The Plans sets out programmes of investment around key objectives to boost the economy and improve the quality of life within the Thames Gateway.</p> <p>Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new jobs;</li> <li>• significant expansion in further and higher education;</li> <li>• substantial increase in affordable housing;</li> <li>• improvements to quality and design;</li> <li>• investment in schools and health services; and</li> <li>• transport improvements.</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account the key objectives of the Delivery Plan.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters.</p>

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Essex Strategy 2008-2018 – Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives, Essex Partnership (ECC, Draft April 2008)	<p>The vision of the Essex Partnership is:</p> <p><b>"To support Essex people to liberate their potential and enjoy the best quality of life in England"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People want to be safe and healthy.</li> <li>• Our ambition is to make Essex the safest place to live in England.</li> <li>• People want to belong.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should take into account their role in supporting development which promotes a high quality of life.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters.</p>
Joint Essex Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 - 2018 (Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, 2013)	<p>"By 2018 residents and local communities in Essex will have greater choice, control, and responsibility for health and wellbeing services. Life expectancy overall will have increased and the inequalities within and between our communities will have reduced. Every child and adult will be given more opportunities to enjoy better health and wellbeing".</p>	<p>DPDs should take into account their role in providing local communities with more opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing and reduced inequality.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social and environmental matters, including health and wellbeing.</p>
Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group Integrated Plan 2013 – 2015 (2013)	<p>"The practices of the CCG [Clinical Commissioning Group] will work closely together to improve patient care, where the needs of patients should be at the very heart of clinical decision making. Members will work together with stakeholders to ensure that commissioned services are of the highest quality, making most effective use of resources bringing care closer to home."</p> <p>The Group identifies three local priorities which comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hypertension and coronary heart disease;</li> <li>• families with complex needs; and</li> <li>• increasing the utilisation of a single point of referral.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should take into account their role in supporting the mission of the CCG and assisting in tackling the three priority areas.</p> <p>The SA framework should include an objective which seeks to improve to health and wellbeing.</p>
Essex Police Strategy (2012-2015) and Plan 2012-2013 (Essex Police, 2012)	<p>The Strategy sets out the future direction for policing in Essex and outlines four strategic priorities they seek to tackle between 2012-2015. The priorities comprise:</p>	<p>DPDs should take into account their role in contributing to the priorities outlined in the Strategy and the Plan.</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tackle crime and anti-social behaviour;</li> <li>• protect people from serious harm;</li> <li>• improve satisfaction in policies; and</li> <li>• make best use of their resources.</li> </ul> <p>The 2012-2013 Plan sets out a number of key actions to address the priorities outlined in the Strategy.</p>	<p>The SA framework should include an objective which seeks to ensure communities are safe and crime rates are reduced.</p>
Commissioning School Places in Essex 2012-2017 (ECC, 2013)	<p>The documents sets out how Essex County Council commissions school places by achieving a balance between the number of places available and the number of pupils for whom they are required.</p> <p>It is expected that there will be 15,539 pupils in primary school and 9,983 pupils in secondary school in 2017.</p>	<p>DPD should take into account the need to provide a balanced number of school places to ensure forecast demand is taken into account.</p> <p>The SA framework should include social objectives/indicators which consider impacts on education including school places.</p>
Thames Gateway South Essex Interim Housing Strategy 2012-2015 (TGSE, 2012)	<p>The vision of the Interim Strategy is to “deliver a sufficient and sustainable supply of quality housing that contributes to a balanced housing and job market”.</p> <p>The priority actions of the Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “New funding models/viability/evidence base/site development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enabling the development of high quality and sustainable affordable housing in places where people want to live responding to local need and supporting the economy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Private sector housing/green belt/decent homes/empty homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improving the condition and usage of existing housing across all tenures taking into account social and environmental factors that impact on quality of life.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Planning for older people/extra care/adaptations/under occupation/homeless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enabling people to make informed choices about their housing circumstances and enabling them to meet their own housing needs. Develop links between health, well-being, employment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should ensure that they contribute and not hinder the delivery of sustainable homes which meets the housing need in Basildon.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to housing availability and quality.</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
	and housing to help prevent homelessness and support vulnerable people”.	
Final Water Resources Management Plan 2010-2035 (Essex and Suffolk Water, 2010)	<p>The Plan sets out a number of areas which Essex and Suffolk Water will prioritise to ensure water resources are sustained. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficiency of water supplies.</li> <li>• Frequency of hosepipe bans.</li> <li>• Leakage from pipes.</li> <li>• Saving water.</li> <li>• Metering in the Essex area.</li> <li>• Metering in the Suffolk area.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should take into account the priorities set out in the Water Resource Management to ensure water resources are sustained.</p> <p>The SA framework should include an objective which seeks to improve water efficiency.</p>
Essex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) (ECC, 2013)	<p>The LFRMS sets out how flood risk will be managed in Essex. The Strategy sets out nine guiding principles to manage flood risk which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on reducing disruption from flooding as well as the causes.</li> <li>• Effective flood risk management could reduce the long-term damage caused to properties and impacts on human health and well-being.</li> <li>• Decisions should be based on a sound evidence base and made against clear criteria.</li> <li>• Increase the flood risk knowledge base across all stakeholders.</li> <li>• Public organisations have a duty to inform households of their susceptibility to flooding and advise on what steps they can take to make their property more resilient.</li> <li>• Co-operation among relevant public agencies is essential for long-term comprehensive flood risk management.</li> <li>• New developments should ensure there is no increase in flood risk and seek to reduce the flood risk which already exists. Emerging local plans should direct new development away from areas of flood risk where possible.</li> <li>• Cumulative impact of small developments on flood risk is as significant</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should direct new development away from areas at risk of flooding and seek to reduce the risk of flooding overall.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to prevent an increase in flood risk.</p>

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	<p>as impacts from major developments. Both must be managed to ensure the risk of flooding does not increase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flood schemes likely to have a significant effect on a European site will only be approved if it can be confirmed the integrity of the designation will not be adversely affected.</li> </ul>	
South Essex Surface Water Management Plan (ECC, 2012)	This Plan's aim is to understand the causes of surface water flooding and agree a preferred strategy for the management of surface water flood risk.	<p>DPD should seek to reduce to the causes of surface water flooding.</p> <p>Include SA objectives which relates to minimising flood risk from all sources including pluvial.</p>
South Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) Summary Report (Environment Agency, 2009)	<p>The aim of the CFMP is to "understand the scale and extent of flooding now and in the future, and set policies for managing flood risk within the catchment".</p> <p>The CFMP "should be used to inform planning and decision making by key stakeholders" such as the Environment Agency, regional/local authorities, internal drainage boards, transportation planners, land owners/managers, the public and local businesses.</p> <p>Currently there are 109 properties at risk of flooding in Basildon during a 1% annual probability flood. This rises to 337 in 2,100 taking into account current flood defences.</p>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should seek to minimise the risk of flooding and ensure properties which are at risk of flooding are able to adapt.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to reduce the risk of flooding.</p>
North Essex CFMP Summary Report (Environment Agency, 2009)	<p>The aim of the CFMP is to "understand the scale and extent of flooding now and in the future, and set policies for managing flood risk within the catchment".</p> <p>The CFMP "should be used to inform planning and decision-making by key stakeholders" such as the Environment Agency, regional/local authorities, internal drainage boards, transportation planners, land owners/managers, the public and local businesses.</p> <p>Currently there are 2,761 properties at risk of flooding in the North Essex</p>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should seek to minimise the risk of flooding and ensure properties which are at risk of flooding are able to adapt.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to reduce the risk of flooding.</p>

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Essex Transport Strategy: The Local Transport Plan for Essex (ECC, 2011)	<p>catchment during a 1% annual probability flood. This rises to 3,760 in 2,100 taking into account current flood defences.</p> <p>This is the third Local Transport Plan and has been produced to respond to the needs of the communities in Essex.</p> <p>The vision of the Plan is “for a transport strategy that supports sustainable economic growth and helps deliver the best quality of life for the residents of Essex”.</p> <p>The Plan sets five outcomes which comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Provide connectivity for Essex communities and international gateways to support sustainable economic growth and regeneration.</li> <li>• Reduce carbon dioxide emissions and improve air quality through lifestyle changes, innovation and technology.</li> <li>• Improve safety on the transport network and enhance and promote a safe travelling environment.</li> <li>• Secure and maintain all transport assets to an appropriate standard and ensure that the network is available for use.</li> <li>• Provide sustainable access and travel choice for Essex residents to help create sustainable communities”.</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account the five outcomes of the Plan and ensure they are not compromised.</p> <p>SA objectives/indicators should seek to improve access to sustainable high quality modes of transport, ensure safety on the network is enhanced and reduce congestion.</p>
Essex Biodiversity Action Plan 2010 -2020 (Essex Biodiversity Project, 2011)	<p>The overarching aim of Biodiversity Action Plans is to “halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish more coherent ecological networks”.</p> <p>This Plan delivers a number of action plans which provide guidance for biodiversity works and relate to the 19 Priority Habitats of the Biodiversity 2020 Strategy, as well as the list of Priority Species and Habitats provided for in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. The actions plans are by habitat group and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arable field margins</li> <li>• Hedgerows</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should protect the intrinsic value of the identified habitats and seek to improve them where possible.</p> <p>The SA framework should include an objective/indicator which seeks to conserve and enhance the identified habitats and species.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional orchards (and Essex specific varieties)</li> <li>• Lowland dry acid grassland</li> <li>• Lowland meadows</li> <li>• Lowland heathland</li> <li>• Ponds</li> <li>• Rivers</li> <li>• Floodplain and coastal grazing marsh</li> <li>• Lowland raised bog</li> <li>• Reedbeds</li> <li>• Coastal saltmarsh</li> </ul>	
Green Grid Strategy (Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership, 2005)	<p>The Strategy seeks to develop a functional green space network throughout the Thames Gateway. The Strategy’s vision is to achieve “a living system threading through the urban and rural landscape, connecting places that are attractive to people, wildlife, business, and providing clean air, food, water, energy, minerals and materials”.</p> <p>The vision seeks to place landscape at the heart of the development process and environmental processes as the key pillar of sustainable development and the economy.</p>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account its role in promoting the green network across the Thames Gateway.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which seek to maintain and enhance the green network.</p>
<b>LOCAL</b>		
Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012 – 2036 (BBC, 2012)	<p>The vision of the Strategy is “to make Basildon Borough a fair and inclusive place, where the community have a healthy, safe place to live and work and to improve the quality of life now and for future generations”.</p> <p>The vision has been divided into five objectives and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “To improve the employment prospects, education and skills of local people.</li> <li>• To promote sustainable regeneration and deliver housing growth through high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable development and</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account its role in achieving the objectives set out in Basildon’s Sustainable Community Strategy.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters.</p>



Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
	<p>supporting infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support and promote the growth in local economics and businesses to benefit local people.</li> <li>• To support local people to improve their health and well-being.</li> <li>• To treat the cause of crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder and improve community safety”.</li> </ul>	
<p>Basildon District Council Strategic Improvement Plan 2010-2013 (BDC, 2010)</p>	<p>Sets out the “strategic priorities and desired outcomes that the Council will focus on delivering over the next three years to meet its vision ‘to improve the quality of life for the people of the [Borough], now and for future generations”.</p> <p>Key themes which the priorities sit within include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build and maintain vibrant town centres.</li> <li>• Renew estates and achieve Decent Homes.</li> <li>• Support and grow the local economy.</li> <li>• Improve sports and leisure infrastructure.</li> <li>• Improve street scenes.</li> <li>• Promote green issues.</li> <li>• Empower communities.</li> <li>• Improve and maintain the profile of the Borough.</li> <li>• Reduce crime and the fear of crime.</li> <li>• Tackle health inequalities.</li> </ul>	<p>DPDs should take into account their role in addressing the key themes and priorities identified within the Strategic Improvement Plan.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters.</p>
<p>Basildon Borough Council Corporate Plan 2012-2016 (BBC, 2012)</p>	<p>The overall aim of the corporate plan is to create opportunity for local people. The “ambition is for Basildon to be a good place to live and do business, where local people can enjoy the prosperity and good public services”.</p>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should seek to promote Basildon as a high quality, safe, sustainable place to live and work.</p> <p>The SA framework should include</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
	<p>The Plan's priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "To improve the employment prospects, education and skills of local people.</li> <li>• To promote sustainable regeneration and deliver housing growth through high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable developments and supporting infrastructure.</li> <li>• To support and promote the growth in local economies and businesses to benefit local people.</li> <li>• To support local people to improve their health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• To treat the cause of crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder and improve community safety".</li> </ul>	<p>objectives/indicators which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters.</p>
<p>Basildon District Regeneration Framework 2007-2021 (BDC, 2007)</p>	<p>The vision of the framework is to allow Basildon's community to "flourish in a rejuvenated District with the best access to education and skills, healthcare provision, leisure and cultural services and some of the best green and open space in the region".</p> <p>The regeneration priorities for Basildon are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regeneration of town centres.</li> <li>• Quality housing.</li> <li>• The economy.</li> <li>• Culture and the environment.</li> <li>• Health and education.</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should seek to promote the regeneration of Basildon in line with the vision and priorities set out in the Framework.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider a range of social, economic and environmental matters.</p>
<p>Basildon Community Safety Partnership 2012-2015 (BBC, 2012)</p>	<p>The vision of the Partnership is to "make Basildon a safer place, to reduce the fear of crime and the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime".</p> <p>Priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing anti-social behaviour.</li> <li>• Reducing crime and re-offending.</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should ensure measures are secured which enhance community safety and reduce the fear of crime.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective which seeks to make Basildon a safer place.</p>

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA and/or Basildon Borough DPDs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing and reducing alcohol and drug related crime.</li> <li>• Engaging with the community to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.</li> </ul>	
Basildon Social Inclusion Strategy 2006-2011 (BDC, 2006)	<p>The vision of this Strategy is to “promote and work toward an inclusive society towards that offers fair and equal life chances for all”.</p> <p>There are four key objectives which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackle exclusion.</li> <li>• Break the cycle and tackle the root causes of deprivation.</li> <li>• Work in partnership for a multi-faceted approach to social inclusion</li> <li>• Create inclusion within the Council.</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account their role in seeking to tackle exclusion and deprivation and promoting social equality.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider social exclusion and deprivation.</p>
Basildon Local Culture Strategy (BDC, 2006)	<p>The Strategy is underpinned by an overarching aim which seeks to enable “equal access to high quality cultural facilities and opportunities to participate in a wide range of leisure activities as a way of improving the quality of life for all of the people of Basildon”.</p> <p>The Strategy also has six keys aims, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To work with local health groups to ensure that the value of culture to the well-being of the community is integrated within overall health.</li> <li>• To promote a more positive image of Basildon to towns, neighbourhoods and community and engender community pride and well-being.</li> <li>• To work in partnership with the voluntary, commercial and educational sectors to ensure that cultural facilities and services are developed to meet the needs of the community.</li> <li>• To enhance the quality of urban and countryside open space.</li> <li>• To ensure that cultural resources are widely accessible, regardless of age, income, race disability or other factors.</li> <li>• To investigate ways in which culture can positively contribute to the regeneration of the physical and social infrastructure of Basildon.</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should ensure the benefits of Basildon’s culture assets are maximised whilst underperforming assets are enhanced.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives/indicators which consider the assets of Basildon.</p>

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Basildon Town Centre Masterplan (BBC, 2012)	<p>The Masterplan sets out the overall strategy and guidance for how Basildon town centre should be developed. The Plan will also inform any future planning applications submitted within the Masterplan area.</p> <p>The document specifically addresses: drivers for change, overall concept and preferred approach; land uses and quantum of development; key development sites and spaces; design; public realm; access, movement and connectivity; infrastructure (including utilities); phasing; delivery management and risk and monitoring.</p>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account the existing vision for Basildon and contribute to the regeneration of Basildon town centre.</p> <p>The SA framework should consider regeneration of key areas within Basildon Borough.</p>
Gardiners Lane South SPG (BDC, 2003)	<p>This document provides planning guidance for development management purposes of the redevelopment of the site adjacent to Gardiner Lane South.</p> <p>The vision of the site is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Promote a mixed-use and high quality urban business environment;</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for a development of a wide range of business units;</li> <li>• Include a business support centre;</li> <li>• Provide an environment that is conducive towards innovation, enterprise and sharing of knowledge and skills;</li> <li>• Incorporate good quality landscaping whilst maximising the use of land within the site;</li> <li>• Provide an opportunity for residential development;</li> <li>• Encourage sustainable transport methods; and</li> <li>• Employ the principles of sustainable development”.</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account the existing vision for Gardiners Lane South and contribute to the development of the site.</p> <p>The SA framework should consider regeneration of key areas within Basildon Borough.</p>
Pitsea Town Centre Masterplan (BDC, 2007)	<p>This Masterplan provides the long-term framework to guide the regeneration of Pitsea town centre.</p> <p>The 2022 vision of the town centre is for Pitsea to be “an attractive, thriving, exciting and modern centre serving a diverse and growing</p>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account the existing vision for Pitsea and contribute to the regeneration of Pitsea town centre.</p> <p>The SA framework should consider regeneration of</p>

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	community”.	key areas within Basildon Borough.
Wickford Town Centre Master Plan (BDC, 2006)	<p>The key principles for the development of Wickford town centre comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing shopping patterns.</li> <li>• Growth in leisure/recreation.</li> <li>• Changing socio-economic structure (including changing household composition/size)</li> <li>• Emphasis on sustainable, mixed-use development.</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account the existing vision for Wickford and contribute to the regeneration of Wickford town centre.</p> <p>The SA framework should consider regeneration of key areas within Basildon Borough.</p>
Basildon Housing Tenancy Strategy 2013 (BBC, 2013)	<p>This Strategy’s priorities are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Develop additional sustainable high quality homes of all types and tenure throughout the borough delivering a broad and improved housing offer.</li> <li>• Make the best use of existing housing stock.</li> <li>• Enable provision of housing that meets the needs and aspirations of all our residents.</li> <li>• Enable people to make choices and find solutions to their own housing problems.</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should ensure it provides dwellings which cater for all types and tenures.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to housing availability and quality.</p>
Basildon District Housing Strategy 2004-2007 (BDC, 2004)	<p>The priorities of the Housing Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Ensure sustained investment in housing stock and meet the Government’s Decent Home Standards using Housing Futures.</li> <li>• Provide more quality housing including affordable housing and ensure better quality temporary accommodation.</li> <li>• Strengthen estate and tenancy management services and improve environment of estates.</li> <li>• Improve targeting of private sector and reduce number of empty homes across the District.</li> <li>• Enhance services and information for older people, leaseholders and potential home owners through delivery of the service.</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should provide high quality, affordable homes and encourage the refurbishment of empty homes in the borough.</p> <p>SA objectives should improve access to good quality and affordable housing.</p>

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Basildon District Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013 (BDC, 2008)	<p>The aims of the Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “To prevent homelessness.</li> <li>• To secure the sufficient temporary accommodation meet the needs of people who are, or may become, homeless.</li> <li>• To maximise the provision of permanent homes to meet the needs of people who are, or may become, homeless.</li> <li>• To secure the satisfactory provision of support services for people who may become homeless or who may have been homeless and need support to stop them from becoming homeless again.</li> <li>• To ensure the processes, procedures and services provided to users are clear and accessible to all”.</li> </ul>	<p>The Basildon Borough Local Plan should take into account its role in supplying and safeguarding accommodation for the homeless.</p> <p>SA should consider use of district wide homelessness data as an indicator.</p>
Billericay Conservation Area Management Plan Interim SPD (BBC, 2011 )	<p>“The Billericay Conservation Area Management Plan outlines the special architectural and historic interest of the area and provides an assessment of its character and appearance”.</p> <p>The plan outlines the Council’s approach to managing future change in the area.</p>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account the Billericay Conservation Area Management Plan and the special features of the area.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation of historic features.</p>
Great Burstead Conservation Area Management Plan Interim SPDs (BBC, 2011)	<p>“The Great Burstead Conservation Area Management Plan outlines the special architectural and historic interest of the area and provides an assessment of its character and appearance”.</p> <p>The plan outlines the Council’s approach to managing future change in the area.</p>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account the Great Burstead Conservation Area Management Plan and the special features of the area.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation of historic features.</p>
Little Burstead Conservation Area Management Plan Interim SPDs (BBC, 2011)	<p>“The Little Burstead Conservation Area Management Plan outlines the special architectural and historic interest of the area and provides an assessment of its character and appearance”.</p> <p>The plan outlines the Council’s approach to managing future change in the area.</p>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account the Little Burstead Conservation Area Management Plan and the special features of the area.</p> <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation of historic features.</p>

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Noak Bridge Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan Interim SPDs (BDC, 2010)	This document provides an account of planning policies relevant to the management of conservation areas, a brief history of the development of the village, a description of the conservation area and an assessment of its character.	DPDs should take into account the Noak Bridge Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and the special features of the area.  Include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation of historic features.
Basildon District Playing Pitch Strategy (BDC, 2004)	The vision of this Strategy is to “protect existing pitches from inappropriate development and seek to improve the quantity and quality of provision” of playing pitches.  Strategic objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting the needs of small sided, junior, adult and girls’ and women’s’ leagues and competitions.</li> <li>• Developing access and participation initiatives to encourage play at recreational and professional levels.</li> <li>• Facilitating and encouraging the use of pitches by the community which are in education, voluntary or private ownership.</li> <li>• Accommodating the need and demand for playing pitches over the 10 years from the adoption of the Strategy.</li> <li>• Protecting existing pitches from inappropriate development.</li> <li>• Relocating existing pitches/uses on a like for like basis when major developments will result in the loss of such facilities.</li> </ul>	The Basildon Local Plan should take into account its role in protecting formal playing pitches from inappropriate development and ensuring the supply of formal playing pitches meets the demand.  Include a sustainability objective relating to the protection, enhancement, increasing provision of, increasing participation in and improving access to the Borough’s sports pitches and facilities.
Basildon District Playing Pitch Strategy Technical Addendum 2011 (BBC, 2011)	Sets out Basildon Borough Council’s approach for planning applications for new residential development which is likely to increase the demand for playing pitches.  The main objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “to determine local standards for pitch provision as specified for the individual sports agreed;</li> <li>• to determine where pitch upgrading may be required to meet the agreed local standards identifying indicative capital costs and revenue</li> </ul>	The Basildon Local Plan should take into account its role in securing additional playing pitches when new residential development comes forward.  Include a sustainability objective relating to the provision of and improving access to the Borough’s sports pitches and facilities.

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	<p>maintenance cost implications;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to advise on thresholds, distribution and costs of provision to assist the Council to determine the calculation of developer contributions for new pitches and associated facilities (for different sport types);</li> <li>• to provide capital and revenue costs to deliver individual tasks identified within the Playing Pitch Strategy Review Action Plan;</li> <li>• to formulate model policy options for the LDF Core Strategy relevant to the effective delivery of playing pitches, linking these with policies within other supporting documents; and</li> <li>• to produce GIS mapping of pitches by sport type to show geographical spread, distribution, catchments (including neighbouring local authority cross-boundary catchments)".</li> </ul>	
<p>Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Service Level Agreement (EECOS, 2009)</p>	<p>Set out the service level agreement between Essex Ecology Services Ltd and Basildon Borough Council for the administration of the Local Wildlife Site (LoWS) Network.</p> <p>The Agreement recommends that the network of LWS is reviewed after an interval of no longer than three years. Sites which are perceived to be under threat from development or adverse management could be monitored more frequently.</p> <p>A register of potential LWS should also be maintained for the purposes of planning.</p> <p>All ecological surveys which accompany a planning application should include an assessment against LoWS site selection criteria.</p>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should take into account the need to review LoWS and potential LoWS and ensure ecological surveys include an assessment against the LoWS criteria when they are required to accompany a planning application.</p> <p>The SA framework should include an objective/indicator which seeks to conserve and enhance natural environment including designated sites such as the LoWS network.</p>
<p>Basildon District Contaminated Land Strategy (BBC, last revised Jan 2013)</p>	<p>This Strategy sets out how Basildon District Council will undertake its statutory duty to identify contaminated land under section 78B of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.</p> <p>Contaminated land should be considered during the local plan process "through the undertaking of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and statutory Sustainability Appraisals".</p>	<p>The Basildon Local Plan should ensure that contaminated land is taken into account when selecting sites for development and in consideration of appropriate mitigation.</p> <p>The SA framework should include an objective/indicator which considers soils, including</p>



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		the potential for pollution of soils (e.g. from sources of contaminated land).