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# **Basildon Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options**

## **Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment**

### **Non-Technical Summary**

Prepared by LUC  
December 2013

**Project Title:** Sustainability Appraisal of the Basildon Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (Non-Technical Summary)

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## Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report (Non-Technical Summary) relates to the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report, which is being produced by Basildon Borough Council. The Core Strategy sets out the long-term spatial vision and objectives for the Borough as well as the policies and Primary Areas of Development Change (PADCs) that are required to deliver that vision over the period up to 2031.
- 1.2 Plans and strategies such as the Basildon Core Strategy are subject to a process called Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which assesses the potential impacts of a plan on social, economic, and environmental issues. Basildon Council has commissioned independent consultants (LUC) to carry out SA of the emerging Core Strategy on its behalf. This Non-Technical Summary relates to the full SA Report for the Draft Core Strategy (2013), and should be read alongside those two documents.

## The Revised Basildon Core Strategy

- 1.3 The Basildon Core Strategy will form part of the Local Plan for Basildon along with other development plan documents and neighbourhood development plans, including the Local Plan Site Allocations and Development Management Policies and the Local Plan Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Policies.
- 1.4 The Basildon Core Strategy proposes to help deliver **16,000 homes** and **49 hectares** (ha) of employment land over the plan period (2012-2031), a figure which the Council believes would meet growth aspirations while also being realistic and deliverable. This figure represents the objectively assessed housing need for the Borough which all local authorities are required to identify in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This level of new housing development would help to address the current imbalance in the population structure of the Borough by encouraging new homes to be built for people of working age and younger families to come to the Borough. A range of housing types and tenures will be provided to help respond to demographic changes in the Borough including an increase in older people requiring specialist housing and a need for affordable dwellings.
- 1.5 In order to deliver the 16,000 homes, the Council reviewed existing permissions/developments awaiting construction and noted that 2,675 units have either been built or have planning permission and are awaiting construction. There is an urban capacity for a further 1,300 units identified through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) that meet the **NPPF tests of being 'suitable, available and achievable'**. **The Borough's urban PADCs provide an additional 2,925 units** (of which 800 have already been built or have planning permission but await construction). The total urban dwelling unit capacity for the Borough over the plan period comes to 6,900 homes (i.e. number of homes which can be delivered outside the Green Belt).
- 1.6 In terms of employment land, approximately 1ha of land has either already been built or has planning permission but awaiting construction. In addition, there is approximately 37ha of land within or on the edges of existing designated employment areas that is either vacant, underused or used for a non-employment purpose and could be converted. Consequently, the total urban capacity for employment land within the Borough over the plan period is 38ha (i.e. amount of employment land that can be delivered outside the Green Belt, predominantly on brownfield locations).
- 1.7 **The Borough's finite urban capacity means that the Borough's Green Belt will need to be considered for the source of the remaining 9,100 housing units and 11ha of employment land.**
- 1.8 **The Council carried out a range of studies to examine whether the Borough's Green Belt has the capacity to accommodate objectively assessed need including:**
  - The Green Belt Study – this study evaluates areas of Green Belt within the Borough to determine how far the areas comply with the five purposes of Green Belt as defined in the NPPF and whether the areas have potential to accommodate development.

- The Green Landscape Character Assessment and Green Belt Landscape Capacity Study – this study forms part of the Green Belt Study and considers landscape character as well as whether different types of development can be accommodated in Green Belt areas, including the mitigation and management required and
  - Various environmental studies such as Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2011, Water Cycle Study 2010, Surface Water Management Plan 2012 and Historic Environment Characterisation Assessment 2010.
- 1.9 In addition, the Council has given consideration to cross boundary planning issues such as settlement coalescence, landscape character and sensitivity, service provision, highways and transportation.
- 1.10 Collectively, these studies concluded that there are areas of Green Belt Land around the **Borough’s existing settlements that could be released for development, providing certain** mitigation such as design and landscaping measures are carried out.
- 1.11 As such, eight strategic urban extensions were identified for Green Belt release around the main urban area of Basildon and the main towns of Billericay and Wickford. Minor amendments to the Green Belt would be permitted for sites of 99 units or less outside these strategic urban extensions at a scale and in a location that will not lead to the coalescence of the existing settlements with another. Furthermore, limited residential infill would be permitted in the **Borough’s thirteen Plotland settlements.**
- 1.12 The Core Strategy includes a **Vision “..to make Basildon Borough a fair and inclusive place, where communities have a healthy safe place to live and work and to improve the quality of life now and for future generations..”** This vision is underpinned by 10 strategic objectives under similar themes, which set the framework for the spatial strategy and policies in the rest of the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy document is then divided into chapters, as follows:
- Core Policy 1: Settlement Housing Distribution*
- 1.13 **Core Policy 1** sets out the settlement hierarchy and housing/employment distribution in order to deliver the 16,000 homes and 49ha of employment land. Most development would be directed to Basildon (including Laindon and Pitsea): 10,125 houses and 48 ha of employment land in total; 2,500 houses and 0.3ha employment land to Billericay; 2,800 houses and 0.7ha of employment land to Wickford, 200 houses to the services settlements (Crays Hill, Ramsden Bellhouse and Bowers Gifford) and 375 houses to the 13 unserviced plotland developments.
- Primary Areas of Development Change*
- 1.14 **Primary Areas of Development Change (PADC) Policies** are policies which set out the requirements for urban extensions in the Green Belt, town centre developments, and the requirements at other strategic locations (e.g. South Essex Marshes). This includes development specific requirements and mitigation.
- There are 15 PADCs in total, including three PADCs which seek to deliver town centre regeneration (**PADC 1: Basildon Town Centre; PADC2: Laindon Town Centre and PADC 8: Wickford Town Centre**).
  - **PADC 3: A127 Enterprise Corridor** seeks to deliver new and achieve intensification of existing employment along the A127 corridor, as well as a mixed use development to the west of Gardiners Lane South.
  - **PADC 4: Nethermayne Urban Extension** seeks to deliver a sustainable urban extension to the south of Basildon on a greenfield location.
  - **PADCs 5 & 6 (West Basildon and North East Basildon Urban Extension)** seek to deliver 2,300 and 2,000 homes respectively as well as 5.5ha of employment land in each location.
  - **PADC 7: South Essex Marshes** seeks to transform this vast marshland complex into a publicly accessible Thameside wilderness connected to nature reserves in neighbouring Castle Point, Thurrock and Greater London by a new Thames Estuary Pathway.
  - **PADCs 9-12** seek to develop urban extensions for housing to the North East, South, West and North West of Wickford

- **PADCS 13 & 14** seek to develop urban extensions for housing to the South East and East of Billericay.
  - Finally, **PADC 15** proposes a 'Deferred Area of Search' to the West of Billericay for at least 1,400 homes subject to highway mitigation testing.
- 1.15 The Core Strategy also includes 20 Core Policies to manage development including policies on Housing (affordable housing and housing mix); Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs; Conservation and the Natural Environment, Green Belt, Health and Wellbeing, Supporting and Sustaining the Local Economy and Transport Infrastructure.

## Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.16 Basildon Council is required by law to carry out Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the emerging Core Strategy, and has appointed LUC to do this on its behalf. The Government recommends that these two requirements are met through one integrated process, referred to as Sustainability Appraisal (or SA).
- 1.17 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through the better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. It should be viewed as an integral part of good plan making, involving ongoing iterations to identify and report on the potential social, economic and environmental effects of the plan and the extent to which sustainable development is expected to be achieved.
- 1.18 This Non-Technical Summary relates to the SA Report for the Draft version of the Basildon Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (2014). The SA Report has been produced alongside the emerging Core Strategy in order to provide sustainability guidance during its development.
- 1.19 SA should be conducted in accordance with Government guidance, and must meet the requirements of the European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive<sup>1</sup>. A description of the method used in carrying out the SA of the Basildon Core Strategy is set out below.

### Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on scope

- 1.20 The SA process started in 2007 with Basildon Council producing a Scoping Report. In light 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), a further update was made to the Scoping Report in July 2013. The Scoping Report was prepared by LUC on behalf of Basildon Borough Council, drawing on the scoping material which was previously prepared and consulted upon, and provides detail on the scope of the SA/SEA of the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report.
- 1.21 The Scoping Report decided what the SA should cover by reviewing a wide range of relevant policy documents (including international, national and local policies), and by examining data and information to help identify what the key sustainability issues are in Basildon and likely future trends. It also presented **the SA 'framework'** – a set of 19 SA objectives which would be used to structure the latter stages of the appraisal (the SA framework is presented later in this Non-Technical Summary).
- 1.22 The 2013 Scoping Report was issued for consultation with various stakeholders including the three statutory consultees for SEA - Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage. A summary of the consultation responses received and the response to these is provided in the main SA report.

### Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing their effects

- 1.23 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process usually involving a number of consultations with the public and stakeholders. The SA process can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options that are being considered for a plan. The

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<sup>1</sup> European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'.

options/reasonable alternatives for Basildon's Core Strategy included three spatial options to distribute the 16,000 homes and 49ha of employment land around the Borough.

- 1.24 Spatial Option 2A sought to achieve a Proportionate Distribution of Development relative to the **size of the Borough's Main Towns; Spatial Option 2B sought to focus growth to Billericay and Wickford** and Spatial Option 2C sought to focus growth to Basildon. Each of these options was tested through the SA process and the Council chose Option 2A (Proportionate Distribution of Development) as the preferred option for delivering growth. The Council considered that Spatial Option 2A would provide a fair level of opportunity for all settlements within the Borough and has the potential for infrastructure to be provided to all settlements/upgraded more easily. The Council was also of the view that this option enables the areas of highest historic and environmental importance to be retained and improves areas of deprivation, whilst ensuring that one settlement is not overburdened with development it cannot accommodate or deliver.
- 1.25 Other reasonable alternatives included alternative locations for urban extensions in order to deliver Spatial Option 2A; as well as alternative Core Policy approaches.
- 1.26 There have been a number of stages in developing and refining the plan options, as outlined below. Further detailed information about the work undertaken at each stage can be found in **Chapter 2: Methodology** and **4: Evolution of Options** of the full SA report.

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

- 1.27 Preparatory work began on the Local Development Framework in 2006, following the withdrawal of the Basildon District Replacement Local Plan – 2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit.
- 1.28 A Core Strategy Issues Paper was published in August 2007. It also launched its first Call for Sites for landowners to submit sites to the Local Planning Authority for consideration for development. One of the main comments arising **from the 'Issues' consultation concluded that the Core Strategy needed to be more strategic and focussed in future iterations.**
- 1.29 No SA work on the Issues was undertaken at this stage, although a SA Scoping Report was prepared and consulted upon (and subsequently updated in 2011 and 2013).
- 1.30 Between 2008 and 2012, the Council carried out a further Call for Sites and several studies/evaluations of the local environment and development requirements to assemble a robust and credible Evidence Base.

#### ***Core Strategy Development Plan Document (February 2012)(Regulation 18)***

- 1.31 In February 2012 the Council approved for consultation the Basildon Borough Core Strategy **Preferred Options Report. The 2012 Core Strategy set out the Council's preferred options in respect of the quantum and spatial distribution of development, preferred 'Primary Areas of Development Change' (PADCs) and through a set of preferred Core Policies to manage development in the PADCs.** The preferred spatial option in this version of the Core Strategy (option A) sought to provide a minimum of **6,500 additional dwellings** between 2011 and 2031, split between the Major Urban Area of Basildon (80%), and the towns of Billericay (1.5%) and Wickford (15.5%) with no encroachment into the Green Belt.
- 1.32 The Core Strategy was accompanied by a SA Report, prepared by Basildon Borough Council, which set out the likely effects of delivering the preferred options and the reasonable alternatives to these.
- 1.33 The consultation generated around 3,400 comments by 370 consultees, including an area specific petition of 2,302 signatures. Whilst the consultation showed significant support from local communities to the approach proposed by the Council, there was strong objection from neighbouring authorities, statutory bodies, service providers and developers that the low scale of growth proposed was not based on the development needs of the Borough or compliant with national policy. The Council considered the validity of the representations and in November 2012 accepted that its Preferred Option had not taken account of its evidence base and was not compliant with national planning policy. Further work, including updates to evidence base and responding to requirements of the NPPF (i.e. identifying an objectively assessed housing need for the Borough) was undertaken in 2013 and a Revised Preferred Options Core Strategy was prepared which is the subject of this consultation and SA.



### SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report

- 1.34 The full SA Report and this Non-Technical Summary describe the process undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the Basildon Core Strategy. They set out the findings of the appraisal, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative), make recommendations for improvements and clarifications that may help to reduce the potential negative effects and maximise the potential benefits of the Core Strategy, and outline proposed monitoring measures.
- 1.35 Each PADC and policy (and the reasonable alternatives to these) in the Draft Core Strategy was assessed against each SA objective, and a judgement was made regarding the likely effect that the policy would have on that objective. The sustainability effects are presented in a matrix for each policy, in **Appendices 5 and 6** to the full SA report, along with a brief justification of the judgement made. The likely effects are also summarised in the main SA report.
- 1.36 The SA findings for the Draft Core Strategy are summarised in **Chapter 5** of the full SA report and later in this Non-Technical Summary.

### SA Stage D: Consultation on the Basildon Core Strategy and the SA Report

- 1.37 Basildon Council is now inviting comments on the Draft Revised Preferred Options Core Strategy and the SA Report. Those two documents and this Non-Technical Summary are being published on Basildon Council's website during the consultation period.

### Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy

- 1.38 Proposals for monitoring the sustainability effects of the Core Strategy are set out **Chapter 6** of the full SA Report and are summarised later on in this Non-Technical Summary.

## Policy Context

- 1.39 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 should reflect the contents of other plans and programmes where relevant, to assist in their implementation. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at the international, national and sub-regional levels. It is a requirement of the SEA process that relevant international, national, regional, sub-regional and local plans are reviewed in relation to their objectives, targets and indicators and their implications for the Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal. The full review of plans, policies and programmes can be seen in **Appendix 1** of the full SA Report.
- 1.40 There are a large number of plans and programmes that are potentially relevant to the preparation of the Basildon Core Strategy. In particular, the Core Strategy must adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which has replaced the suite of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance. The NPPF is intended to streamline national planning policy, having reduced over a thousand pages of policy down to around 50 pages. The Basildon 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."*
- 1.41 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.
- 1.42 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan (in this case the Core Strategy). 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.

1.43 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
- contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.

1.44 The Core Strategy will be supported by a number of other plans 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.

1.45 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.

1.46 Other policy documents that are relevant to the Basildon Core Strategy and the SA process **include The Natural Environment White Paper which sets out the Government's approach to** protecting and enhancing the environment in the UK, the European Birds and Habitats Directives which seek to protect internationally important wildlife sites and species, and the Water Framework Directive, which aims to improve water quality in rivers. There are many other similar environmental protection strategies and documents, plus others that are more concerned with social and economic objectives that have been taken into account in the SA.

## Baseline Information

1.47 It is a further requirement of the SEA process that consideration should be given to the current state of the environment in Basildon, and for the SA process, social and economic information should also be taken into account. A short summary of the environmental, social and economic characteristics of Basildon is provided below, but detailed baseline information for the Borough is provided in **Chapter 3** of the full SA Report, and has been regularly updated throughout the SA process in order to ensure that it remains up-to-date. That information enabled the key sustainability issues for Basildon to be identified, in order to develop a locally appropriate SA framework for appraising the emerging Core Strategy policies (see below).

- 1.48 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. Five Boroughs border it – Brentwood, Chelmsford, Rochford, Castle Point and Thurrock. 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.
- 1.49 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>2</sup>. Of this 44.3%, just over 15% are single parent households. 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>3</sup>. Suitable housing is out of reach for many first time buyers. 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.
- 1.50 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.
- 1.51 There are 129 Listed Buildings in the Borough, only two of which are deemed to be "At Risk" and 3 Scheduled Monuments. The greatest concentration of listed buildings is in Billericay High Street, which is also a Conservation Area.
- 1.52 There are four Conservation Areas (CAs – Billericay, Great Burstead, Little Burstead and Noak Bridge) all of which are located entirely or in part in the north west of the Borough. All have Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Plans.
- 1.53 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.
- 1.54 100% of the Borough's SSSIs are in "favourable" or "improving" condition<sup>4</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.
- 1.55 There are no National Nature Reserves in the Borough.
- 1.56 There are 54 Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) in the Borough which have been identified as sites important for conserving local nature<sup>5</sup>, an increase of 8 sites since 2005.
- 1.57 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.

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<sup>2</sup> ONS, 2011

<sup>3</sup> ONS, 2011

<sup>4</sup> Basildon Borough Local Development Monitoring Report, 2013

<sup>5</sup> Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Report, 2009

## Key Sustainability Issues and Evolution without the Plan

- 1.58 The key sustainability issues for Basildon have been drawn from those issues identified in the SA Scoping Report and reviewed drawing on the baseline information above. In recognition of the SEA Directive requirement (Annex 1 b) that the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme must be described in the Environmental Report, **Table 1** shows the likely evolution of these key sustainability issues if the Basildon Borough Local Plan were not adopted.

**Table 1: The likely evolution of Basildon’s environment without implementation of the Core Strategy**

Baseline Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
Recognising the likely impacts of <b>climate change on the Borough’s built</b> and natural environment – ensuring that adaptation, design and siting and other mitigation measures can enhance energy efficiency, internal comfort, and lower carbon footprints.	In the absence of an up to date Local Policy Framework it will be difficult to command higher 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. However, emissions from new development are likely to be progressively reduced due to initiatives such as the Code for Sustainable Homes. The NPPF requires local authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and actively support energy efficiency improvements without the implementation of relevant DPDs.
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.	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.
Being able to manage and mitigate against all sources of flooding (fluvial, tidal, ground and surface water) and their different effects across the Borough.	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. The NPPF would still apply without the implementation of <b>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).</b> The severity and likelihood of flooding is likely to increase with current trends of climate change.
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.	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. The NPPF would still apply without the implementation of <b>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).</b> The severity and likelihood of flooding is likely to increase with current trends of climate change.
Increasing demands placed on outdoor recreation and wildlife areas due to	With population of the Borough increasing, pressure on recreation and wildlife areas is likely to be exacerbated.

Baseline Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
warmer and drier weather patterns.	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. Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of <b>the Borough's environmental assets.</b>
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).	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.
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.	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.
<b>The Borough's varied urban, rural and natural landscapes</b> are vulnerable to adverse effects from urban expansion, increasing recreational pressures, seasonal climate change as well as agricultural and land management practices.	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. Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of <b>the Borough's environmental assets, including the Borough's most sensitive landscapes.</b>
An adequate housing supply, incorporating a mix of housing types will be required to meet the growing population.	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.
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 <b>demographic profile of the Borough's residents.</b>	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.
There are significant local health issues concerning teenage pregnancies, levels of physical activity, and early deaths through cancer.	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

Baseline Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
	balance of use types in town centres (for example, minimising the likelihood of overconcentration of any one use type).
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.	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.
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.	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.
There is currently some spare capacity in a number of <b>the Borough's primary</b> schools; however, an increasing number of schools are experiencing pressure on available places due to the recent increases in the birth rate, their popularity and additional housing.	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.
Comparably fewer qualifications/ <b>training gained at 'A' Level or higher</b> 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 <b>local people's long-term</b> employability.	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.
There are high local levels of working age benefit claimants.	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.
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.	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.
Theft from and of vehicles is relatively high in the Borough, which affects general perceptions of the Borough, with regards to safety and crime.	<b>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).</b> 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.



Baseline Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
The safety of motorists and other road users must improve.	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.
Providing a mix of housing types and sizes for the differing demands of the local population.	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, all new housing developments would need to meet the requirements of Lifetime Homes.
The delivery rate of affordable housing is low, compared to relatively high levels of local need.	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.
The net increase in new dwellings has been historically low, partially attributed to mass demolition as part of three major estate renewal programmes that has occurred in the last 10 years.	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.
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.	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 allocation will help select those sites which are both suitable (e.g. with fewer environmental constraints) and deliverable.
The increase in house prices is not reflected in increasing wage levels in the Borough.	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.
The number of unauthorised pitches for Gypsies and Travellers in the Borough is the greatest in Essex.	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.
Local economy is not diverse and relies upon large multi-national companies.	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 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.  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

Baseline Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
	types of business and enterprise in rural areas, and promoting the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.
Requirement to make provisions for jobs growth in line with increases to housing provision, whilst having regard to biodiversity and the wider environment.	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. Strategic developments allocated through the Core Strategy will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local <b>integrity of the Borough's environmental assets.</b>
Basildon is within the national regeneration area of the Thames Gateway, and is identified, along with Castle Point, as the South Essex <b>'Business Hub', with specific</b> development and regeneration aspirations that it is encouraged to achieve.	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.
The ability to enhance the vitality and viability of town centres, whilst meeting various development needs, regeneration aspirations, within social and environmental constraints.	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 absence of the Plan.
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.	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). 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. 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.
There is a need to protect the cultural heritage resource in the Borough from further destruction or degradation, and conserve and enhance heritage assets through a positive strategy for the historic environment in line with the NPPF.	Destruction or degradation would be likely to continue and may be exacerbated without a planned local approach to development. National policy should help to protect and enhance heritage assets but whether or not this will help specific sites is uncertain.
<b>The Borough's varied urban, rural and</b> natural landscapes are vulnerable to adverse effects from urban expansion, increasing recreational pressures, seasonal climate change, as well as agricultural and land management practices.	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



Baseline Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
	<p>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 <b>the Borough's environmental assets, including the Borough's most sensitive landscapes.</b></p>
<p>There are European and International habitats and species of designated interest within 5km of the Basildon Borough administrative boundary.</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. 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 <b>integrity of the Borough's environmental assets, including biodiversity.</b> 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.</p> <p>Furthermore, without the Core Strategy, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife.</p>
<p>Unsympathetic grazing methods, ditch management and water level management are regarded as factors that have negative effects on existing SSSI units.</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 <b>integrity of the Borough's environmental assets. A Core Strategy</b> 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>
<p>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.</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 <b>integrity of the Borough's environmental assets. A local plan</b> 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>
<p>There is a need for continued</p>	<p>Strategic developments allocated through the Core</p>

Baseline Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
preservation and long-term management of Ancient Woodlands in the Borough.	Strategy will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local <b>integrity of the Borough's environmental assets, such as ancient woodland.</b> Without the Core Strategy, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife.
The Thames Marshes and unimproved grasslands of Vange, Bowers and Pitsea represent 10% of this habitat type in Essex and are of national and international significance to the species they support. They must be suitably conserved from adverse impacts of development.	Strategic developments allocated through the Core Strategy will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local <b>integrity of the Borough's environmental assets, such as the Thames Marshes and unimproved grasslands of Vange, Bowers and Pitsea.</b> Without the Core Strategy, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife.
A need to ensure Priority Habitats/Species and other locally endangered species are protected from destruction by inappropriate development or land management practice.	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. A coordinated approach to strategic development through the Core Strategy will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the <b>local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets</b> (including protected species). A Core Strategy approach would strengthen national policy, further safeguarding nature conservation sites and habitats of local importance. Without the Core Strategy, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife.
Water Quality and Foul Water Capacity can have significant impacts on the <b>status of SSSI's and other designated / sensitive sites</b> and the water environment in general.	Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, as well as prevent both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs, local designations and protected species in the Borough. A coordinated approach to strategic development through the Core Strategy will provide a more structured framework for managing foul water capacity and in turn water quality capacity without compromising the local integrity of the <b>Borough's environmental assets</b> (including protected species). A Core Strategy approach would strengthen national policy, further safeguarding nature conservation sites and habitats of local importance from water pollution.
Some localised air quality issues in the Borough (e.g. PM <sub>10</sub> levels exceeding permitted levels on a small number of occasions).	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.
Need to continue to minimise and contain excess noise from domestic and industrial sources in the Borough.	The Building Regulations aim to manage the impact of noise from new domestic and industrial developments through good design. Furthermore, the increasing

Baseline Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
	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).
Not all surface and groundwater bodies currently meet 'Good' status in respect of water quality (required through the Water Framework Directive).	This pressure will continue in the absence of Core Strategy.
Need to provide adequate foul water capacity to meet existing and future domestic and commercial needs to ensure the water environment is protected.	Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to prevent both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability, which may afford some protection to the water environment in and around the Borough. A Core Strategy would strengthen national safeguards by adding an important strategic spatial dimension to this local issue. Part of the local plan approach will be to liaise with utility companies over the level of growth proposed to ensure that wastewater infrastructure can be adequately upgraded/enhanced in advance of new development.
Need to provide an adequate water supply available to meet the domestic consumption needs of existing and future residents.	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. Part of the local plan approach will be to liaise with utility companies over the level of growth proposed to ensure that water resources are adequate to supply the needs of new development.
Ensure that Groundwater Vulnerability Areas in the north of the Borough are protected, directly or indirectly, from adverse development impacts.	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.
Improve the efficiency of water use and reduce local water wastage.	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.
Minimise the amount of development located on Grade 3a agricultural land and on important mineral reserves.	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. National Policy (the NPPF) restricts development on higher grade agricultural land, however, it there is understood to be limited Grade 3a land in Basildon. 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.
Maximising the use of Previously	Housing shortfall is likely to continue without a positive and

Baseline Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
Developed or Derelict Land in the Borough, whilst recognising that brownfield sites may include Priority Habitats and/or support significant biodiversity interest.	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.
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.	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.
Reducing domestic waste generation in the Borough and increasing access to recycling.	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 Code for Sustainable Homes will also have a positive contribution.
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 <b>across the Borough's road network</b> . This is compounded by over half of the <b>Borough's residents working outside of the Borough</b> .	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.
Reducing the reliance on non-renewable energy sources to meet the <b>Borough's energy demands (mainly electricity)</b> , including using on-site renewables and improving efficiency.	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. 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) where there is a demonstrated local need and provide a positive policy approach to the consideration renewable energy applications. 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.

### Method and Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 1.59 The review of other policies, plans and programmes and baseline data helped to identify key sustainability issues for Basildon, as described above. These key sustainability issues, and input from stakeholders, provided the basis for developing a set of SA objectives. The SA objectives, which have been the main tool used at each stage of the SA for assessing the likely effects of the options and draft policies in the Core Strategy, are set out in **Table 2** below.

**Table 2: SA Framework for the Basildon Core Strategy**

<b>SA Objectives</b>
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. <b>Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.</b>
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.
5. <b>Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.</b>
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 in most need locally.
8. <b>Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents</b> 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 in 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 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.

**Use of the SA Framework**

- 1.60 Within the assessment matrices which set out the likely sustainability effects of the Core Strategy policies, symbols and colour-coding have been used against each SA objective to show whether an effect is likely to be significant, positive and/or negative, or uncertain, as shown in **Table 3** below.

**Table 3 Key to SA scores**

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

- 1.61 The potential effects of the Core Strategy need to be determined and their significance assessed, which requires a series of judgments to be made. Attempts have been made to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown above. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either ++ or -- has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -), this is because the effect of the policy in question on an SA objective is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that SA objective.
- 1.62 It is a requirement to consider whether the potential effects predicted are likely to be secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium or long-term, permanent or temporary. Where relevant, reference has been made to effects being either direct or indirect, the latter is taken to cover 'secondary' effects. Cumulative effects refer to the potential to increase overall effects due to adding one effect onto another. The cumulative effects of the Core Strategy policies have been considered in **Chapter 5** of the full SA Report and are described further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary. Consideration is also given to the timescales over which effects are likely to occur.

## Potential Effects of the PADCs and Policies in the Draft Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report

### What are the sustainability effects of the Core Strategy likely to be?

- 1.63 The Draft Core Strategy and implementation of its policies is likely to have a number of positive effects on sustainability issues in Basildon, particularly on the social and economic objectives as the Council is seeking to meet its objectively assessed need for housing and employment. The potential effects of each of the PADCs and Core Policies in the Core Strategy on each of the SA Objectives are summarised in **Tables 4** and **5** overleaf (using the symbols and colour coding referred to in **Table 3** above). A description of the key findings of the SA for the Vision and Strategic Objectives, the Spatial Options, PADCs and Core Policies in the Core Strategy follows **Table 5**.

**Table 4: Summary of SA Scores for the PADCs**

SA Objectives	Green Belt PADCs											Town Centre PADCs			A12 Enter prise Corrid or
	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	2	8	3
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 <b>enhance the Borough's</b> biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	-	+/-/?	+/-/?	++/?	+/-/?	+/-/?	+/-/?	+/-/?	+/-/?	+/-/?	-/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/-/?
4) Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++/?	++	++	++
<b>5) Ensure the Borough's</b> 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	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++/?	+	+	+/?

SA Objectives	Green Belt PADCs											Town Centre PADCs			A127 Enter prise Corrid or	
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 in most need locally.	+	++	++	0	+	+	+	+	+/?	+/?	++/?	++	+	+	+	
8) Improve the health and wellbeing 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 in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/?	++/?	++/?	++	+	
10) Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	+	++	
11) Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	++/-	+/-/?	++/-/?	+	++/-/?	++?	+/-/?	++/?	++/?	+/-/?	++/-/?	++/-/?	++/-/?	++/-/?	+	
12) Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	++	+	+	++	



SA Objectives	Green Belt PADCs											Town Centre PADCs			A127 Enter prise Corridor
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.	0	--/?	--/?	++	-/?	-/?	-/?	0/?	-/?	0/?	-/?	0	0	0	-/?
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 and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	-	-	-	++/-/?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+/-
16) Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

SA Objectives	Green Belt PADCs											Town Centre PADCs			A127 Enter prise Corridor
17) Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
18) Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
19) Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?

**Table 5: Summary of SA Scores for the Core Policies**

SA Objectives	Core Policies																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1) Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	++/- -/?	+	-/?	0	-?	+/-/?	+/-	+	++	++	--/?	++/?	++	0	+	+	+	-/?	+/-	+/?
2) Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	+/- /?	+	-?	0	-/?	+/-/?	+/-	+	+	+	+/- /?	++/?	++	0	+/?	0	0	-/?	+/-	0
3) Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	+/- /?	+	-?	0	-/?	+/-/?	+/-	0	++	++	+/-/?	+	+	+	+	+	+	-/?	+/-	+/?
4) Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	++	+	+/?	+	+	+/?	++	++/-	-/?	+/-	++	?	+/-/?	+/-/?	-/?	+	0	0	++	+/-/?
5) Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	++/?	+	+/-/?	+/-?	0	?	++/?	++	+/-	++/?	+	++	+	+/?	+	+/?	0	0	++/?	0
6) Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the	++	+	+	+	+	+/?	++	0	0	+	0	?	+/?	0	0	0	+	++	+?	+/?

SA Objectives	Core Policies																			
Borough.																				
7) Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	++/- /?	+	++/?	++/- /?	++/- -	++/?	0	0	-/?	0	++	?	+/-/?	+/-/?	-/?	+	0	-/?	0	+/-/?
8) Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	+	+	+/?	+/?	+	+/?	+	+/-	++	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	++	+	++/-	+/?
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.	++	+	+	+	+	+/?	+/?	+/-	0	+/-	+	+	++	0	0	0	+	++	+	+/?
10) Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	++	+	+	+	+/?	+/?	+	+	0	+	+	?	+/-/?	+/?	-/?	0	+/?	++	+?	+/-/?
11) Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	++/- -/?	+	0	0	+	+/?	+	+	0	+	+/-	+	++	0	0	0	++	++	++	++/?
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	++/-	+	0	0	+/-	+/?	++/-	++	0	++	+/-	+/?	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0

SA Objectives	Core Policies																			
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.	--/?	+	0	0	-/?	+/?	-/?	0	+/?	++	-/?	0	+	+/?	+	++	0	0	0	+/?
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.	++/- -/?	+	0	0	-/?	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	++/- -/?	?	+	++	+/?	0	0	0	+/-	+/-/?
15) Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	-	+	0	0	+?	+	-	+/-	0	+/?	-	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	+/-	+/?
16) Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	+/?	+	0	0	+?	+	0	0	0	+/?	+	0	0	++	+	++	0	0	0	+/?
17) Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of	+	+	0	0	?	+	0	?	0	+	0	0	+/?	0	+	+	0	0	?	0

SA Objectives	Core Policies																			
climate change.																				
18) Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	+/?
19) Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	--/?	?	0	0	-?	?	+/-/?	+/-/?	0	+	--/?	0	+/?	+/?	0	0	0	0	++/?	+/-/?

## Vision and Strategic Objectives

- 1.64 The overall Vision for Basildon sets a general aspiration to become a fair and inclusive Borough where communities have a healthy and safe place to live and work and a better quality of life now and for future generations. This Vision is likely to have a positive effect on the majority of the SA objectives. The general wording of the Vision is unlikely to lead to any significant adverse effects on the SA objectives. The success of the Vision in helping to achieve the sustainability objectives depends on the implementation of the policies in the Core Strategy.
- 1.65 The majority of the Core Strategy Strategic Objectives are unlikely to have an effect or are compatible with minor positive effects on the SA. All the Strategic Objectives (SOs) have at least one significant positive effect where they directly address SA objectives (SAs). Potential incompatibilities relate to **SA Objective 14 (Climate Change)**; **15: (Reduce Air, Land and Noise Pollution)** and **19: (Transport)** relating to development in town centres, delivery of housing and employment which could increase car based travel and hence increase pollution from car based greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.66 The success of the Vision and the Strategic Objectives depends on the implementation of the policies in the Core Strategy.

## Spatial Options

- 1.67 The three Spatial Options (described earlier in this Non-Technical Summary) propose the same **overall quantum of growth (16,000 homes, of which 9,100 would be required in the Borough's Green Belt)** and 49 ha of employment land (of which 11ha would be required in the Green Belt). As such, the effect of varying the distribution of this development does not always significantly differ between the options. The paragraphs below seek to summarise the main differences.
- 1.68 In respect of **SA objective 1: Landscape** significant adverse effects are predicted under all options. These are likely to be more pronounced in Billericay and Wickford under Spatial Option 2B (Billericay and Wickford focus), and more pronounced in Basildon under Spatial Option 2C (Basildon focus).
- 1.69 Similarly in respect of **SA objective 2: Cultural Heritage**, each option is predicted to result in adverse effects (potentially significant) on one or more settlements. However, depending on the mitigation required to offset Transport Capacity issues, there is potential for the historic character of Billericay to be significantly eroded under Spatial Option 2B (Billericay and Wickford focus).
- 1.70 Significant adverse effects are predicted under all options in respect of **SA objective 3: Biodiversity**.
- 1.71 In respect of **SA objective 10: Regenerate and Renew Disadvantaged Areas where People Live or Work in the Borough**, Spatial Option 2C (Basildon focus) is likely to result in most positive effects as it directs most development to Basildon town where levels of deprivation are greatest.
- 1.72 In terms of **SA objective 12: Improve Efficiency of Land Use, through the reuse of Previously Developed Land and Existing Buildings, including the Re-Use of Materials from Previous Buildings**, the Green Belt Study suggests that most parcels of land fulfilling all Green Belt purposes are located around Billericay. As such, those options that deliver less development to Billericay (Options 2A and 2C) are likely to perform better against this objective.
- 1.73 Flood risk (**SA objective 13**) is an issue throughout the Borough, and all options would affect this to some extent. However, potential issues may be worse under the options which direct more development to Basildon (Options 2A and 2C).
- 1.74 All options are likely to increase car travel, significantly adversely increasing car based greenhouse gas emissions and hence resulting in adverse effects against **SA objective 14: Reduce the Local Contribution to Climate Change**.
- 1.75 **SA Objective 16: Improve Water Efficiency and Achieve Sustainable Water Resource Management** Anglian Water has highlighted potential constraints on the delivery of upgrades/improvements to the WWTW, foul sewerage and surface water network. As such, there is significant uncertainty in relation to this objective (this reflects all options as the quantum of development is the same for each).

- 1.76 **Objective 19: Transport** – Whilst all options would result in capacity issues at junctions in the Borough, the extent to which these can be mitigated will depend on further transport modelling. However, relatively speaking, Spatial Option 2B (Billericay and Wickford focus) is considered to perform worst overall and Spatial Option 2C (Basildon focus) best.

### **Core Policy 1: Settlement Housing Distribution**

- 1.77 Core Policy 1 sets out the housing and employment numbers required to distribute a proportionate amount of growth to the main towns in line with the settlement hierarchy. There are two alternatives to this policy 2B (Billericay and Wickford focus) and 2C (Basildon focus), which **reflect the other two alternatives described above under 'Spatial Options'**.

- 1.78 The potential effects arising from implementation of **Core Policy 1** are set out below.

#### *Objective 1: Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough*

- 1.79 Significant mixed effects (+ +/--/? ) are predicted for CP1, reflecting Green Belt development through PADCs as well as extensive development of around 2,200 homes in the town centres of Basildon, Laindon and Wickford (as well as 725 homes through the Nethermayne Urban Extension PADC 4) which could adversely affect landscape/townscape character and sensitivity in the countryside and in the urban areas of Basildon. Mitigation is provided in PADCs and Core Policies, which is reflected in the positive scores.

#### *Objective 2: Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough*

- 1.80 Mixed effects (+/--/? ) are predicted for CP1 similar to SA objective 1 above through the potential for significant indirect adverse effects on the setting of cultural heritage features. Longer term positive effects are predicted through regeneration of the town centres.

#### *Objective 3: Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it*

- 1.81 Mixed effects (+/--/? ) are predicted for CP1 recognising that development, particularly around Billericay or East and West of Basildon could significantly indirectly affect Local Wildlife Sites as well as sites of national interest to the south of the Borough and east of Billericay. The positive effects reflect potential mitigation through Core Policies CP9 (Conservation and the Natural Environment) and CP10 (Green Infrastructure).

#### *Objective 4: Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration*

- 1.82 Significant positive (+ +) effects are anticipated for CP1. This reflects the intention to deliver all of **the Borough's objectively assessed housing need, meet the land requirements set out in the Employment Land and Premises Study**, and deliver the necessary transport and social infrastructure.

#### *Objective 5: Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development*

- 1.83 Significant positive uncertain (+ +/? ) are predicted for CP1. This reflects the overall strategy which directs development to available land in the urban centres of Basildon and Wickford with significant town centre development planned for Basildon, Laindon and Wickford. This would be supported by necessary transport infrastructure.

#### *Objective 6: Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived parts of the Borough*

- 1.84 Significant positive effects (+ +) are anticipated in relation to CP1 which is supported by a number of PADCs which make provision for contributions to existing or provision of new educational facilities, and PADC 1: Basildon Town Centre supports the relocation of South Essex College to a more accessible, town centre location. Furthermore, CP18 (Education, Community, Leisure and



Cultural Facilities) will ensure all new development takes account of the need to provide for new/enhance existing facilities.

*Objective 7: Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally*

- 1.85 Mixed effects (+ +/ -/?) are predicted for CP1. The significant positive effects reflect the fact that **the policy seeks to deliver all of the Borough's objectively assessed housing need (16,000)**. The adverse score (-) recognises that the Borough would not meet the objectively assessed need for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. The uncertainty (?) associated with CP1 reflects uncertainty in delivery of all housing, particularly the 1,400 homes associated with the Billericay West Deferred Area of Search (it is not currently clear whether transport mitigation could be achieved to respond to the predicted traffic levels at junctions in this town). There is also currently uncertainty in the ability to deliver wastewater, foul sewerage and surface water infrastructure to meet the growth needs.

*Objective 8: Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and environment*

- 1.86 A positive effect (+) is predicted for CP1 recognising the indirect health benefit of delivering housing in order to meet local need (including affordable).

*Objective 9: Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.*

- 1.87 Significant positive (++) effects are anticipated in respect of CP1 through supporting existing centres and regenerating town centres in Basildon, Laindon and Wickford.

*Objective 10: Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough*

- 1.88 Significant positive (++) effects are anticipated in respect of CP1, reflecting the fact that over 10,125 homes and 48ha of employment land would be directed to Basildon (including Laindon and Pitsea) which includes some of the most deprived parts of the Borough.

*Objective 11: Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities*

- 1.89 Significant mixed (+ +/ -/?) are predicted for CP1 which reflects development through PADCs which are less well located to existing services and centres (e.g. PADC 5: West Basildon Urban Extension and PADC 11: West Wickford Urban Extension) and/or where there is no additional provision in the PADC policies for new/enhanced centres. Furthermore, CP1 makes provision for **up to 375 dwellings in the 'unserved Plotland' settlements.**

*Objective 12: Improve efficiency of land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings*

- 1.90 Mixed (+ +/ -) effects are predicted for CP1 as this recognises that whilst up to 9,100 homes would be developed in the Green Belt, development within the existing areas is prioritised, and the locations for Green Belt development have been selected on the basis of evidence through the Green Belt study for the Borough – selecting locations that are considered to perform less well in respect of Green Belt function. However, adverse effects will occur as development will still encroach into Green Belt, including employment east and west of Basildon (although existing employment sites would need to be utilised first).

*Objective 13: Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment from flood events*

- 1.91 Significant adverse (- -/ -/?) effects are predicted for CP1. This particularly reflects the development of 2,300 and 2,000 homes to the west and east of Basildon. Both PADCs lie close to, or are within, high flood risk zones. Some mitigation would be provided through CP16 (Flood Risk and Drainage Management). However, it is uncertain whether development can be accommodated without the risk of flooding in these locations.

*Objective 14: Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings, and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels*

- 1.92 Significant mixed (+ +/--/? ) effects are predicted for CP1. This reflects the strategy to meet all urban capacity need first, before developing in the Green Belt. Development to existing urban areas and town centres would put new residents in close proximity to existing services and facilities which should enable journeys to be made by sustainable modes. However, meeting the objectively assessed housing need (including 9,100 dwellings in the Green Belt) is likely to result in increased car use with consequent increases in car based emissions.
- 1.93 A greater focus on provision of transport by sustainable modes (including public transport is necessary to reduce this potential significant adverse effect).

*Objective 15: Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures*

- 1.94 A minor adverse effect (-) is predicted for CP1. This reflects the proximity of new Green Belt development to potential sources of pollution including the strategic road network, railways and existing sewage treatment works.

*Objective 16: Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management*

- 1.95 A minor positive uncertain (+/? ) is proposed for CP1. Initial discussions have been undertaken with Anglian Water in respect of wastewater/ the foul network/surface water capacity which suggests there are some potential pinch points in respect of delivering the required growth levels. Discussions are ongoing and it is assumed that a solution can be reached, however, this uncertain at present.

*Objective 17: Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change and Objective 18: Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or reused*

- 1.96 A minor positive (+) effect is predicted for CP1 in respect of both SA Objectives. A positive policy approach to securing climate change mitigation would be beneficial given the amount of development planned.

*Objective 19: Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations*

- 1.97 Transport Modelling undertaken for the Borough indicates that a number of junctions in the Borough (particularly in Billericay and Wickford) will be over-capacity following development of the objectively assessed housing need. As such, a significant adverse effect (--/? ) is predicted against CP1. There is uncertainty as it may be possible to provide mitigation to reduce the impact to an acceptable level. Further modelling is necessary to establish this.

**Primary Areas of Development Change (PADCs)**

- 1.98 An appraisal has been undertaken of all the PADCs (and their reasonable alternatives) against the SA Framework.
- 1.99 It is clear from the Summary Table (see Table 4 above) that a range of significant positive (++) and positive (+) effects are predicted through delivery of the preferred PADCs, particularly in relation to the social and economic objectives (**SA objective 4: Economic Growth; SA objective 5: Town Centres; SA objective 6: Education; SA objective 7: Housing; SA objective 8: Health & Wellbeing; SA objective 9: Vibrant Communities and SA objective 10: Regenerate and Renew Disadvantaged Areas**).
- 1.100 Significant adverse effects (including mixed effects) are predicted in respect of **SA objective 1: Landscape; SA objective 2: Cultural Heritage; SA objective 3 Biodiversity; SA objective 11: Access to services; SA objective 13: Flood risk; SA objective 14: Climate change; and SA objective 19: Transport**.

*Objective 1: Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough*

- 1.101 All of the Green Belt PADCs (5-6; 9-15) are predicted to have adverse effects on this objective, reflecting large-scale development in the Green Belt. Significant adverse effects (--/? ) are predicted for PADCs 5 & 6 as these are the two largest urban extensions to the west and north east of Basildon and would accommodate 2,300 and 2,000 units respectively. Whilst mitigation is proposed, the scale of development means that it will be difficult to mitigate effects entirely. A significant negative (--/+) effect is predicted for PADC 4: Nethermayne Urban Extension, reflecting its greenfield location outwith the Green Belt, but surrounded by areas to the south of Basildon which are considered to have no/very low capacity for development. A 13ha open space is proposed to accompany this development which could have a mitigating (minor positive) effect.
- 1.102 Mixed effects (++/-/ and ++/-/? ) are predicted for the Town Centre PADCs (1, 2 & 8). The minor adverse effect reflects short term effects on the urban landscape/townscape during construction; however, significant positive improvements in the long term are also likely.

*Objective 2: Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough*

- 1.103 Significant negative effects (+/--/? ) are predicted for all the Green Belt PADCs (with the exception of PADC 7: South Essex Marshes) which reflects the presence of designated assets within or in close proximity to PADCs and where setting could be affected. The positive effect (+) reflects mitigation which seeks to minimise effects as well as mitigating core policies such as CP12 (Conserving the Historic Environment). Significant negative effects (+/--) are also predicted for PADC 1: Basildon Town Centre reflecting the listed assets which could be adversely affected during construction of up to 2,000 homes, although mitigation would apply to mitigate effects.

*Objective 3: Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it*

- 1.104 Significant negative effects (+/--/? ) are predicted in relation to PADCs 5 & 6 (urban extensions to the west and north east of Basildon). This reflects the substantial growth to the west and north east of the town (2,300 and 2,000 dwellings respectively) which could result in indirect effects (e.g. through recreational pressure) on the biodiversity interest to the south of the town which includes a number of SSSIs, local wildlife sites and ancient woodland. This incorporates part of the Greater Thames Estuary Nature Improvement Area. Mitigation is within the proposed PADC policy which should minimise effects to some degree and is reflected by a (+) score against this objective.
- 1.105 Fewer homes are proposed under PADC4: Nethermayne Urban Extension, which also lies to the south of the town and hence minor adverse effects (-) are predicted. Mixed effects (+/--/? ) are anticipated for the other Green Belt PADCs (with the exception of PADC 15: Billericay West Deferred Area of Search) reflecting potential impacts on biodiversity but recognising that mitigation should be possible. An adverse effect is predicted for PADC 15: Billericay West Deferred Area of Search – this reflects the biodiversity interest including a number of Listed **Wildlife Sites (such as Queen's Country Park) which would fall within the broad area of search.** However, it is assumed that direct impacts on these can be avoided given the broad area available to accommodate up to 1,400 dwellings.
- 1.106 Significant positive, uncertain effects (++/? ) are predicted for PADC 7: South Essex Marshes, as the policy seeks to protect, enhance and restore nationally valuable habitats and increase the populations of priority species. The policy also seeks to make the area publicly accessible which could provide a recreational space for new residents. It is assumed that this will be managed to maintain and enhance the biodiversity interest of the area, however this is uncertain and there could be adverse effects on the biodiversity interest of the area.

*Objective 4: Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration*

- 1.107 Significant positive or positive effects are predicted for all the PADCs reflecting the delivery of land for employment in accordance with the Employment Land and Premises Study undertaken for the Borough.

*Objective 5: Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development*

- 1.108 PADCs 5 & 6 (urban extensions to the west and north east of Basildon) score significantly positively (++) against this objective as the PADC policies incorporate a requirement for contributions to existing local centres. The town centre PADCs (1, 2 & 8) also score significantly positively against this objective (++) as they seek to direct substantial housing and employment to the town centres of Basildon, Laindon and Wickford, which should help to regenerate and renew these areas.
- 1.109 Mixed effects (+/-/? ) are predicted for PADC 15: Billericay 'West Deferred Area of Search' recognising the potential for increased traffic to adversely affect the town centre if mitigation cannot be achieved. However, infrastructure and service provision is included within the policy which is assumed to complement existing centres resulting in positive effects.
- 1.110 A mixed effect (+/-) is also predicted for PADC 3: A127 Enterprise Corridor – the potential minor adverse effect reflects the inclusion in policy for a mixed use development associated with Gardiners Lane South (which includes provision of a new local centre with potential to compete with existing centres in Basildon). The positive effect reflects enhanced links to Basildon town centre and the overall policy thrust which aims to maintain the A127 Enterprise Corridor for B uses, which will ensure retail uses are retained in the existing town centres.

*Objective 6: Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived parts of the Borough*

- 1.111 All PADCs are predicted to score either significantly positively (PADC 4; PADC 6 and PADC 1) or positively against this objective. PADC 4: Nethermayne Urban Extension would facilitate the relocation of South Essex College to Basildon Town Centre (forming part of the overall regeneration of Basildon town centre through PADC 1). The significant effect recorded for PADC 6 reflects the requirement for new development to deliver two new primary schools and one secondary school to support the scale of growth to the east of the town

*Objective 7: Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally*

- 1.112 Overall Basildon is planning to meet the objectively assessed housing need of 16,000 units. Each of the PADCs contributes to this overall need. Significant positive effects are predicted for PADCs 1, 5, 6 and 15. Each of these PADCs would deliver more than 800 houses (5% of 16,000) which is considered to be a significant contribution to the overall need.
- 1.113 There is uncertainty associated with PADC 15 (++) as Transport Modelling suggests that a number of junctions will be over-capacity in the Borough following the growth proposed (with effects anticipated to be most acute in Billericay). Until it is demonstrated that satisfactory mitigation can be achieved there is uncertainty in the delivery of 1,400 homes through PADC 15 and hence uncertainty in delivery of the housing need as a whole.
- 1.114 All other PADCs score positively against this objective as each incorporates an element of residential development (except PADC 7 which does not propose housing).

*Objective 8: Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and environment*

- 1.115 All PADCs score positively against this objective as they include new health facilities as part of the PADC (or provide contributions to or promote links to existing facilities). PADC 7 (South Essex Marshes) scores significantly positively against this objective (++) as the policy seeks to create a

publicly accessible space for new and existing residents to access nature and to be physically active.

*Objective 9: Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced*

- 1.116 All PADCs perform well against this objective as the policies include provision for new community facilities and/or promote links to existing facilities. Each of the town centre PADCs (1, 2 and 8) score significantly positively against this objective as they seek to regenerate and renew the town centres of Basildon, Laindon and Wickford directly meeting this objective.
- 1.117 The potential for traffic to adversely affect Billericay town centre results in a (+/?) score against PADC 15 (at this stage it is not clear whether satisfactory mitigation can be achieved).

*Objective 10: Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough*

- 1.118 Significant positive effects are recorded for PADCs 1 & 2 (Basildon and Laindon town centres) as they offer the opportunity to deliver regeneration to these centres which fall in areas considered to be the most deprived in both the Borough and the country (0-20% most deprived). PADC 3 (A127 Enterprise Corridor) is also likely to have significant positive effects (++) as development would be directed to areas of high deprivation. PADC 4 (Nethermayne Urban Extension) also scores significantly positively as delivery of this PADC will directly contribute to the regeneration of Basildon town centre through the relocation of South Essex School.
- 1.119 Other PADCs (5, 6, 7, 8 and 15) score positively as they are within or adjacent to areas of higher deprivation. PADCs in Wickford and Billericay are generally anticipated to have a negligible effect (0) on this objective as these towns fall within areas considered to be less deprived.

*Objective 11: Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities*

- 1.120 Generally the PADCs are considered to have mixed effects (+ +/-/?) against this objective. Significant positive effects reflect good access to existing services and facilities, but also inclusion within the PADC for new facilities as appropriate. For example, PADC 6: North East Basildon Urban Extension (which provides for 2,000 units) seeks to deliver a new local centre. PADC 5: West Basildon Urban Extension and PADC 11: West Wickford Urban Extension score (+/-/?).
- 1.121 PADC 5 is separated from existing centres by existing roads and railway infrastructure which could act as a barrier to access for new residents. Furthermore, development of up to 2,300 units is proposed here and the provision of services/facilities promoted through the policy is not considered to adequately reflect the scale of development proposed. PADC 11 is also relatively remote from existing centres and further services/facilities are considered necessary here.

*Objective 12: Improve efficiency of land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings*

- 1.122 All of the Green Belt PADCs (with the exception of PADC 7: South Essex Marshes) (and PADC 4: Nethermayne Urban Extension, which is a greenfield location) score adversely against this objective. PADC 1 (Basildon Town Centre) and PADC 3 (A127 Enterprise Corridor) score significantly positive effects (++) given the scale of development proposed on existing urban/developed land.

*Objective 13: Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring*

- 1.123 Generally the PADCs are likely to score adversely (-/?) or will have a negligible effect on this objective (0) as it is considered that potential flood risk can be adequately mitigated.
- 1.124 PADCs 5 & 6 (west and north east of Basildon) are predicted to have significant adverse uncertain (-/-/?) effects reflecting the scale of growth proposed in proximity to areas of higher flood risk (PADC 5) or within areas of high flood risk (PADC 6).

- 1.125 By contrast, PADC 7 (South Essex Marshes) scores significantly positively (++) against this objective as this area would be maintained as a managed marshland providing a flood management function.

*Objective 14: Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings, and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels*

- 1.126 All the PADCs score mixed effects against this objective. Positive effects reflect access to services/provision of better links to existing services and /or provision of new centres enabling new residents to access facilities more sustainably (in line with scores provided under **Objective 11**). Further positive effects reflect the requirement for onsite renewables as part of PADC policies. All PADCs also score adversely (in some cases significantly adversely) reflecting the potential for new residents to travel by car, significantly increasing car based emissions.

*Objective 15: Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures*

- 1.127 All PADCs (except PADC 7) score adversely against this objective (-). This reflects the proximity of all PADCs to potential sources of pollution (e.g. the strategic road network and railways) which could affect new residents. Furthermore a number of the PADCs are close to wastewater treatment works (WWTWs) – PADC 9 (which incorporates Wickford WWTW); PADC 14 (Billericay WWTW) and PADC 15 (Shenfield and Hutton WWTW which lies outwith the Borough boundary). New residents could potentially be affected by odour issues. However, policy CP14 (Protecting Environmental Quality) would only permit development which would reduce pollution levels to an ‘acceptable level’ and as such significant adverse effects are unlikely.

- 1.128 Significant mixed effects (+++/-/?) are predicted for PADC 7: South Essex Marshes as the retention and management of this marshland area has potential to absorb and filtrate pollutants and provide a carbon sequestration function. The adverse effect reflects the potential for increased visitors to the area, arriving by car and potentially increasing localised air pollution.

- 1.129 Mixed effects (+/-) are predicted for PADC 3 (A127 Enterprise Corridor), this reflects potential for pollution from increased freight traffic from new B use development, but also the reuse of previously developed land and potential for remediation of contaminated sites.

*Objective 16: Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management*

- 1.130 All PADCs are considered to result in a minor positive effect against this objective reflecting the requirement in all PADCs to mitigate potential surface or groundwater pollution likely to arise through development.
- 1.131 It is assumed that the wastewater treatment network can be adequately upgraded to treat the increased flows anticipated from the planned growth. This would be required in advance of development taking place. Further discussion of this issue is provided in respect of the appraisal of the Spatial Options.
- 1.132 Furthermore, the water resource network is assumed adequate to supply water to each of the additional dwellings and commercial buildings. Policy CP15 (Maximising Energy Efficiency) requires all new residential dwellings to achieve Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 prior to 2016 (when Level 5 becomes mandatory), which places a strict requirement on water usage and requires water efficiency to be built into development design.

*Objective 17: Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change and Objective 18: Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or reused*

- 1.133 In respect of **SA objectives 17 & 18**, all new development will be required to adapt to climate change through design and to reduce waste as a first principle. There are appropriate policy hooks through CP13 (Design and the Built Environment), CP14 (Protecting Environmental Quality) and CP15 (Maximising Energy Efficiency) to achieve this.
- 1.134 PADC 7 (South Essex Marshes) is anticipated to have a significant positive effect against **SA objective 17** through retention and management of the marshes which would indirectly help the



Borough mitigate and respond to climate change e.g. by providing a flood management function (enabling the Borough respond to predicted sea level increases) and through heat absorption.

**Objective 19: Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations**

- 1.135 All PADCs are predicted to have adverse effects on this objective. Transport Modelling undertaken for the preferred spatial option (CP1/2A) has indicated that a number of junctions are predicted to be over-capacity, with the situation most acute in Billericay and Wickford. As such significant adverse effects with uncertainty (--/?) are predicted for all the Billericay and Wickford PADCs (8-15). The effects are uncertain as it may be possible to achieve satisfactory mitigation. Further work is necessary to demonstrate this.
- 1.136 PADC 7: South Essex Marshes is also predicted to result in an adverse effect against this objective (-/?), as development of the area for recreation and tourism could increase the amount of car based traffic accessing the marshes. The effect is uncertain as visitors may choose to travel by sustainable modes (e.g. walking and cycling) which are being promoted through the policy.

**Performance of the Preferred PADCs against the Reasonable Alternatives**

- 1.137 Generally, the **town centre PADCs (1,2 and 8)** perform better than the proposed alternative ('Let the Market Decide') across a range of the social and economic SA objectives by providing a framework for the delivery of mixed use development in these centres.
- 1.138 **PADC 3: A127 Enterprise Corridor** also tends to score better than either of the alternatives ('Let the Market Decide') and ('Allow for Change of Use within the Enterprise Corridor from B-Class Uses') through certainty in delivery of new employment and protection of existing employment under the preferred policy. The preferred policy also ensures existing town centres would not be eroded through permission of other sorts of employment (i.e. retail) outside of these centres.
- 1.139 **PADC 4: Nethermayne Urban Extension** generally performs the same as the alternative ('for a greater scale of growth'); however, the alternative is likely to perform worse against *SA objective 3: Biodiversity* by directing more development close to existing designated nature conservation assets. Conversely, the preferred policy would deliver fewer homes performing less well against *SA Objective 7: Housing*.
- 1.140 The **Green Belt PADCs 5-6, 9-15** generally perform the same as the alternatives. PADCs 5 & 6 perform worse than the alternatives (Southern and South Eastern extensions) in respect of flood risk (*SA Objective 13*); PADCs 10, 12 are considered to perform better than the alternative (South West Wickford) in respect of *SA Objective 1: Landscape* as the alternative falls within an area considered to have 'No/Very Low' capacity for development.
- 1.141 Similarly, PADCs 13, 14 and 15 perform better than the alternative (urban extension on land adjacent to Mill Meadows/Snails Hall Farm) in respect of *SA Objective 3: Biodiversity* as the alternative lies adjacent to Mill Meadows SSSI.

**Core Policies**

- 1.142 An appraisal has been undertaken of all the Core Policies (and their reasonable alternatives) against the SA Framework. An overall summary table of the likely effects of the preferred Core Policies is provided in **Table 5** above.
- 1.143 It is clear from the summary table of effects that there a number of minor positive (+) and significant positive effects (++) anticipated through delivery of the Core Policies. This includes significant positives (++) in respect of *SA Objectives 1: Landscape; 2: Cultural Heritage; 3: Biodiversity; 4: Economic Growth; 5: Town Centres; 6: Educational Attainment; 7: Housing; 8: Health and Wellbeing; 9: Vibrant Communities; 10: Regenerate and Renew Disadvantaged Areas; 11: Improve and Enhance Access to Services; 12: Efficiency of Land Use; 13: Flood Risk; 14: Climate Change; 15: Air, Land and Noise Pollution; 16: Water; 18: Waste* and *19:Traffic*. In other words, all but one of the SA objectives has a significant positive effect associated with it, which suggests that the Core Policies cover the full range of sustainability issues which could affect the Borough.

- 1.144 However, there are a few significant adverse effects (--) and mixed (+/-) and mixed with significant negative effects (+/--) emerging. Potential effects are discussed in respect of each SA objective below.

*Objective 1: Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough*

- 1.145 Significant adverse effects (--/? ) are predicted in respect of CP11 (Green Belt) which reflects the release of Green Belt land for development of up to 9,100 homes. Minor adverse effects (-/? ) are predicted for development of affordable housing (CP3), housing for Gypsies & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (CP5) and through development of new social, community, leisure and cultural facilities (CP18).
- 1.146 Significant positive effects (++) are predicted for CP9 (Conservation and Natural Environment), CP10 (Green Infrastructure), CP12 (Conserving the Historic Environment) and CP13 (Design and the Built Environment) all of which seek to manage and mitigate potential adverse effects of development. CP9 seeks to ensure development responds to the requirements of the Landscape Capacity and Green Belt Study and CP10 seeks to create and enhance the network of green infrastructure in the Borough.

*Objective 2: Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough*

- 1.147 Mixed effects (+/--/? ) are predicted for CP11 (Green Belt), with the significant negative effects similar to Objective 1 above. Minor adverse effects are also predicted for CP3 (Affordable Housing), CP5 (Gypsy & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Needs) and CP18 (Education, Community Leisure and Cultural Facilities).
- 1.148 Significant positive effects are predicted in respect of CP12 (Conserving the Historic Environment) and CP13 (Design and the Built Environment) which seek to minimise detrimental impacts on the historic environment and protect and enhance **the quality and distinctiveness of the Borough's** built environment.

*Objective 3: Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it*

- 1.149 CP9 (Conservation and the Natural Environment) and CP10 (Green Infrastructure) have potential to result in significant positive effects against this objective.

*Objective 4: Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration*

- 1.150 Significant positive effects are anticipated for CP7 (Supporting and Sustaining the Local Economy), CP11 (Green Belt) and CP19 (Transport Infrastructure) – this reflects the intention to **deliver all of the Borough's objectively assessed housing need, meet the land requirements set out in the Employment Land and Premises Study and deliver the necessary social and transport infrastructure.**
- 1.151 There are no significant adverse effects associated with the objective.

*Objective 5: Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development*

- 1.152 Significant positive effects are associated with CP7 (Supporting and Sustaining the Local Economy), CP8 (Securing Centre Vitality), CP10 (Green Infrastructure), CP12 (Conserving the Historic Environment) and CP19 (Transport Infrastructure). This reflects the overall strategy which directs development to available land in the urban centres of Basildon and Wickford with significant town centre development planned for Basildon, Laindon and Wickford. This would be supported by necessary transport infrastructure. CP12 will protect the local distinctiveness and historic character of the town centres and further improvements should be achieved through expansion of the green infrastructure network.
- 1.153 No significant adverse effects are anticipated.



*Objective 6: Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived parts of the Borough*

- 1.154 Significant positive effects are anticipated in relation to CP7 (Supporting and Sustaining the Local Economy) and CP18 (Education, Community Leisure and Cultural Facilities). CP18 will ensure all new development takes account of the need to provide for new/enhance existing educational facilities.

*Objective 7: Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally*

- 1.155 Significant positive effects (++/?) are predicted in respect of CP3 (Affordable Housing), through which the Borough seeks to deliver 36% affordable housing on all developments of 10 units or more or on land of 0.2ha or more (**meeting the Borough's affordable housing need**), CP6 (Estate Renewal) and CP11 (Green Belt), which releases land to meet the Borough's objectively assessed housing need.
- 1.156 Mixed effects (++/-/?) are predicted for CP4 (Housing Mix) and significant mixed positive and adverse effects (++/--) for CP5 (Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs). The adverse score (--) associated with CP5 reflects the fact that the Borough would not meet the objectively assessed housing needs for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. A minor adverse (-) effect is also associated with CP4 (Housing Mix) - the policy would restrict sub-division of larger family homes to Housing in Multiple Occupancy which could affect the supply of housing available to single individuals and reflects the fact that the policy does not specify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations, reflecting local demand.
- 1.157 Minor adverse effects (including some mixed effects) are also associated with a number of the environmental Core Policies: CP9 (Conservation and the Natural Environment); CP13 (Design and the Built Environment); CP14 (Protecting Environmental Quality); CP15 (Maximising Energy Efficiency); CP18 (Education, Community Leisure and Cultural Facilities); and CP20 (Securing Investment in Infrastructure). This recognises that some of the requirements placed on applicants in respect of infrastructure provision and mitigation could affect the viability and hence delivery of housing schemes.
- 1.158 No significant adverse effects are anticipated.

*Objective 8: Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and environment*

- 1.159 Significant positive effects are anticipated in respect of CP9 (Conservation and Natural Environment), CP10 (Green Infrastructure) and CP17 (Health & Well-being). CP9 and CP10 seek to protect and enhance the natural environment providing opportunities for residents to be active and connect with nature. The whole thrust of CP17 is to deliver improvements in health through delivery of the necessary health infrastructure and requiring Health Impact Assessments (HIA) for all Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) developments ensuring that potential health impacts are identified at the outset so that they can be avoided or mitigated. Further benefits could be achieved through considering other policy approaches to deliver positive outcomes e.g. managing the number and distribution of use class developments such as A5 (hot food takeaways) and/or restricting the proximity of particular use class developments to sensitive receptors e.g. schools.
- 1.160 No significant adverse effects are anticipated.

*Objective 9: Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced*

- 1.161 Significant positive effects are anticipated in respect of CP13 (Design and Built Environment), which seeks to ensure new developments take account of crime and fear of crime in the design, and CP18 (Education, Community, Leisure and Cultural Facilities), which seeks to ensure new development provides new and enhances existing facilities.
- 1.162 No significant adverse effects are anticipated.

*Objective 10: Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough*

- 1.163 Significant positive effects are anticipated in respect of CP18 (Education, Community, Leisure & Cultural Facilities), which seeks to deliver the necessary services and facilities to support regeneration and renewal.
- 1.164 No significant adverse effects are anticipated.

*Objective 11: Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities*

- 1.165 Significant positive effects are anticipated for CP17 (Health and Well-being), CP18 (Education, Community, Leisure & Cultural Facilities), CP19 (Transport Infrastructure) and CP20 (Securing Investment in Infrastructure) all of which provide policy mechanisms to ensure the necessary supporting infrastructure and services/facilities are provided in step with development. A significant positive effect is also predicted for CP13 (Design and the Built Environment) which includes requirements for developers to 'support local facilities' and to 'ensure a high level of accessibility and ease of use for all users'.
- 1.166 No significant adverse effects are anticipated.

*Objective 12: Improve efficiency of land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings*

- 1.167 Significant positive effects are anticipated in respect of: CP8 (Securing Centre Vitality) as this promotes development in centres first through hierarchy of centres and sequential test; CP10 (Green Infrastructure) as Green Infrastructure can be considered to be an efficient use of land because of the multiple benefits it is designed to deliver; and CP14 (Protecting Environmental Quality) which seeks to promote the use of previously developed land.
- 1.168 Mixed (++/-) are predicted in respect of CP7 (Supporting and Sustaining the Local Economy) – the minor adverse effect reflects the fact that new employment development will be required in the Green Belt to the west and north east of Basildon. Other minor adverse effects (CP5: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Needs and CP11: Green Belt) reflect development in the Green Belt.
- 1.169 No significant adverse effects are predicted.

*Objective 13: Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring*

- 1.170 CP16 (Flood Risk and Drainage Management), scores significantly positive (++) against this SA objective. A significant positive (++) effect is also predicted in respect of CP10 (Green Infrastructure) which would provide a flood management function. Minor adverse (-/?) effects are also associated with policies CP5 (Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Needs), CP7 (Supporting and Sustaining the Local Economy) and CP11 (Green Belt) which would involve new development or the release of land for new development potentially in greenfield locations.

*Objective 14: Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings, and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels*

- 1.171 Significant mixed effects (++/-/?) are predicted for CP11 (Green Belt). This reflects the development to the town centres (which puts new residents in proximity to existing services and facilities which should enable journeys to be made by sustainable modes), whilst also recognising that development of up to 16,000 homes (including 9,100 in the Green Belt) is likely to result in increased car use with consequent increases in car based emissions. A significant positive effect is predicted in respect of CP14 (Protecting Environmental Quality) which seeks to maximise energy efficiency in new development.
- 1.172 A greater focus on provision of transport by sustainable modes (including public transport) is necessary to reduce this potential significant adverse effect.

*Objective 15: Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures*

1.173 A significant positive effect (++) is predicted in respect of CP14 (Protecting Environmental Quality) which seeks to minimise pollution from development to acceptable levels. Minor adverse effects are predicted for a number of Core Policies e.g. CP11 (Green Belt) – this reflects the proximity of new Green Belt development to potential sources of pollution including the strategic road network, railways and existing wastewater treatment works.

1.174 No significant adverse effects are anticipated.

*Objective 16: Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management*

1.175 Significant positive effects (++) are predicted in respect of CP14 (Protecting Environmental Quality) and CP16 (Flood Risk and Drainage Management). CP14 seeks to manage pollution arising from development (including pollution of the water environment) and CP16 seeks to incorporate sustainable drainage systems into new development.

*Objective 17: Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change*

1.176 Minor positive (+) or no effects (0) are generally anticipated in respect of this objective. A positive policy approach to securing climate change mitigation would be beneficial given the amount of development planned.

*Objective 18: Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or reused*

1.177 Generally minor positive (+) or no effects (0) are anticipated in respect of this objective. A significant positive effect is predicted for CP14 (Protecting Environmental Quality) which seeks to reduce waste growth in line with the Essex Waste Partnerships who are involved in the preparation and implementation of the Essex Waste Planning documents.

*Objective 19: Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations*

1.178 Transport Modelling undertaken for the Borough indicates that a number of junctions in the Borough (particularly in Billericay and Wickford) will be over-capacity following development of 16,000 homes in accordance with the settlement strategy in CP1. As such a significant adverse effect (--/? ) is predicted for CP11 (Green Belt). There is uncertainty as it may be possible to provide mitigation to reduce the impact to an acceptable level. Further modelling is necessary to establish this.

1.179 CP19 (Transport Infrastructure) is predicted to have a significant positive, uncertain (++) effect against this objective (the main emphasis of CP19 is on the achievement of this SA objective, by ensuring that there is an adequate level of accessibility by all modes of transport, requiring Transport Assessments for new developments likely to have significant transport implications, the promotion of sustainable modes of transport, and the mitigation of adverse environmental effects). However, given the outputs of the Transport Modelling there is currently significant uncertainty as to whether the effects of increased transport from development of 16,000 homes can be mitigated.

**Performance of the Core Policies against the Reasonable Alternatives**

1.180 Each of the preferred policies is accompanied by one or more alternative options. However, not all of these are considered reasonable (i.e. they would not accord with National Policy) and have not undergone appraisal. Key differences between the appraisals of the preferred policies and reasonable alternatives are set out below (in general the preferred policies are considered to perform the same or better than the alternatives).

1.181 The alternative policy to CP5 (Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs) seeks to provide the full 276 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches to meet the total need as identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2013, whereas the preferred policy would

provide a minimum of 30 pitches up to 2016 with a further 91 delivered through cross boundary working. As the preferred policy is not delivering all the required need, the alternative is predicted to score better in respect of **SA Objectives 4: Economic Growth** and **7: Housing**.

## Duration and Scale of Sustainability Effects

- 1.182 **Basildon's** Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report sets out how development within the Borough should look and function and how development needs will be met up to 2031, meaning that the timescales for effects resulting from policies within the Core Strategy could be up to 20 years. In reality, some of the policies may have short-term effects (over the next 5 years), medium-term effects (over the next 10 years), or long-term effects (over the whole plan period and beyond).

### *Short-term effects of the Core Strategy*

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

### *Medium-term effects of the Core Strategy*

- 1.184 Negative impacts in the medium-term include the potential implications of developments on health and local amenity (e.g. noise, dust, increased traffic etc.), although as noted above, these should be minimised through implementation of the requirements in the Core Policies. In addition, there are likely to be positive medium-term effects on health and quality of life by delivering improved affordable housing availability, healthcare facilities and green infrastructure. Medium-term positive impacts also relate to the employment and economic benefits of delivering new employment land.

### *Long-term effects of the Core Strategy*

- 1.185 Long-term, permanent benefits that would result from the Core Strategy include the provision of housing, employment, improved transport infrastructure which would positively impact employment, the economy and quality of life. Green infrastructure may have some long-term, permanent positive impacts for biodiversity, landscape and flooding through the creation of new habitats, enhancement of degraded sites, implementation of sustainable drainage systems and enhancement of townscape and landscape through well designed facilities.
- 1.186 Long-term, permanent negative impacts of the Core Strategy are potentially increased waste generation overall from a growing population, climate change implications of the energy required in new housing and employment, and the disturbance and/or removal of archaeological remains. However, these effects could be mitigated to some extent through implementation of the requirements in the Core Policies.

## Cumulative Effects

- 1.187 Provision of development through the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report has potential to result in a number of cumulative **significant positive** effects on the social and economic SA objectives, especially:
- Objective 4: Economic Growth.
  - Objective 5: Town Centres.
  - Objective 6: Education.
  - Objective 7: Housing.

- Objective 8: Health and Wellbeing.
  - Objective 9: Vibrant Communities and
  - Objective 10: Regenerate and Renew Disadvantaged Areas.
- 1.188 Provision of up to 16,000 homes and 49ha of employment land in Basildon is likely to result in a number of **significant adverse** cumulative effects. These are predicted in respect of:
- Objective 13: Flood Risk, although this is uncertain.
  - Objective 15: Reduce air, land and noise pollution (although effects are anticipated to be short term only).
  - Objective 19: Traffic.
- 1.189 **Significant mixed effects (++/--)** are predicted in respect of the following SA objectives:
- Objective 1: Landscape.
  - Objective 2: Cultural Heritage.
  - Objective 3: Biodiversity.
  - Objective 11: Access to Services.
  - Objective 12: Improve Efficiency of Land Use.
  - Objective 14: Climate Change.
- 1.190 In addition, to the potential for cumulative effects described above there is also potential for effects in combination with development in other Boroughs. This is discussed in more detail in the main SA Report (**Chapter 5**).

## Monitoring

- 1.191 The SEA Regulations require that monitoring is undertaken in relation to the significant effects of implementing the Plan in question. The monitoring framework for the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options document is currently under development and suitable indicators will be included in future iterations of the SA Report. Some suggested indicators are provided in Chapter 6 of the main SA Report.

## Conclusions

- 1.192 There is considerable uncertainty in the potential for the Borough to deliver the full objectively assessed housing need of 16,000 homes given the interim results of transport modelling which suggests that a number of junctions will be over-capacity without mitigation. The issue is likely to be most acute in Billericay and Wickford. Furthermore there may be delays in delivery of housing arising from the need for upgrades to wastewater treatment/foul network/surface water treatment facilities.
- 1.193 The Plan should make further provision for public transport through the PADCs (to be provided in advance of delivery of the PADCs) in order to promote alternatives to the car and minimise the potential increase in car based emissions. The Council may consider scope for car-free developments where appropriate.
- 1.194 There should be more consideration given to development design and layout particularly in respect of PADCs 5 and 6 to minimise the likelihood of flood risk being exacerbated. This could include providing less vulnerable uses in areas of higher flood risk and/or having less vulnerable uses on the lower floors of residential/mixed use developments.
- 1.195 Further detailed mitigation and recommendations are provided in **Chapter 7** of the main SA Report.

**What are the next steps in the preparation of the Core Strategy and its Sustainability Appraisal?**

- 1.196 The full SA Report and this Non-Technical Summary will be available for consultation alongside the Draft Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report. Following the consultation, the Core Strategy and the SA Report will be revised as appropriate, taking into account the responses received.

**Where can I find out more about the Sustainability Appraisal?**

- 1.197 More detailed information about the SA process and its findings can be found in the full SA Report which is available from Basildon Council, and on its website.

LUC

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