

Local Development Framework

Core Strategy

Issues Consultation: Results

19th March 2008



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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This publication summarises the responses made to the Basildon District Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy Issues Consultation and a Citizens' Panel Survey. These took place between 22nd October and 30th November 2007 (Issues Consultation) and between 6th June and 20th June 2007 (Citizens' Panel Survey).

2 Next Steps and Further Information

Next Steps

- 2.1 The results of the Issues Consultation will be taken forward to the next stage of preparation of the Core Strategy. This will involve the development of a range of options to deal with the Issues.
- 2.2 The Citizens' Panel Survey results, along with much other survey and study information, will form part of the growing 'evidence base' which will contribute to the eventual version of the Core Strategy that will be submitted to the Government.

Further Information

- 2.3 For further information on the Core Strategy and LDF, you may wish to look at the Planning Policy pages of the Council's website: www.basildon.gov.uk/ldf
- 2.4 If you have any queries, you can:
- email the Forward Plans Team: ldf@basildon.gov.uk
 - write to the Forward Plans Team at the Council's address
 - or telephone the Forward Plans Team: 01268 294748
- 2.5 You can also use these ways of contacting us if you wish to be notified about further consultations and be added to the LDF mailing list.

3 Statutory Consultation Statement

- 3.1** This Consultation Statement is the Consultation Statement prepared under Regulation 28(1)(c) & (d) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 for:
- **Core Strategy Issues Paper Consultation (October - November 2007)**
 - **Joint Local Development Framework /Sustainable Community Strategy Citizens' Panel Questionnaire (June 2007)**
- 3.2** These two consultations form part of the Issues and Options preparation phase of the Core Strategy as governed by Regulation 25 of the relevant regulations about how LDFs should be prepared. The full report, with appendices covers:
- (i) which of the bodies they have consulted pursuant to Regulation 25(1),
 - (ii) how these bodies, and any other persons whom the authority have consulted, were consulted,
 - (iii) a summary of the main issues raised in those consultations, and
- 3.3** Part (iv) "how those main issues have been addressed in the DPD" will be reported with the next consultation document.

4 Core Strategy Issues Paper Consultation: Results

Core Strategy Issues Paper: Summary of Responses

Responses received

- 4.1** 2,177 comments were made by 103 consultees during the Issues Paper consultation, which ran for 6 weeks from the 22nd October to 30th November 2007.
- 4.2** The consultees replied by the following methods:
- 59% of consultees responded via the on-line consultation system,
 - 22% used the paper version of the comments form,
 - 16% responded by letter and
 - 3% responded by email.
- 4.3** The consultation asked whether people agreed or disagreed that the issues suggested should be included in the Core Strategy. Of the 2,177 comments made:
- 1,662 Agreed,
 - 497 Disagreed,
 - 18 No opinion.
- 4.4** Not everyone answered all 45 questions asked, some focused on what they felt were the most relevant issues. In addition, some consultees provided comments on the issues paper as a whole, or on particular chapters or sections.
- 4.5** Of the issues posited, question 6 on housing supply had the most responses at 76 and the highest number of "agrees" at 65. The lowest number of responses was made on question 38 in relation to Billericay Town Centre. The issue with the highest number of "disagrees" was question 9 on setting smaller site size thresholds for affordable housing (23 responses).
- 4.6** Summaries of the main points raised during the Issues Paper consultation are given below.
1. Where written comments were made, these have been reproduced in this summary in the same "agree" or "disagree" category that the consultee placed them in.
 2. Some consultees agreed / disagreed with particular chapters or sections. These have been summarised either separately (as in the case of the Issues Paper Overall), or within the next relevant question, if the comments made repeated those made to the question, or where the consultees agreed or disagreed without making additional comments. These are indicated as: (plus 1 on ... chapter) in the text.

Issues Paper Overall

- Agree - 8
- Disagree - 13
- No opinion - 11

General points raised on the Issues Paper:

- All of these issues should contribute towards the preparation of the Core Strategy, but it will not be necessary, or appropriate to consider all the issues to the same level of detail. Should consider issues holistically, not individually.
- The Issues Paper emphasises problems without balancing the analysis with successes. These could help define a strong and positive vision for the future of the District.
- **Infrastructure issues raised:** water resources, road capacity and congestion, telecommunications, green infrastructure (Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy).
- **Other issues raised:** Minerals and Waste Management, sustainable waste management, historic environment, sustainable use of resources in construction, re-use of buildings, improving design quality, protecting the character of the area, Plotlands, and dwelling extensions.
- Need to identify a vision for the future of the area that responds to local challenges and opportunities, translating this into spatial programmes and policies, and identifying the mechanisms and resources required for delivery.
- The issues that the Core Strategy addresses need to flow from an analysis of these challenges and opportunities, and from the other strategies relevant to the area's future (both strategic and local). This provides the basis for a logical trail from evidence through to the identification of issues, the vision/objectives that respond to these, the options available, and finally the policies and implementation measures required for delivery.
- The issues raised in the issues paper are not dealt with in a sufficiently strategic manner. The Issues Paper focused on quite narrow questions rather than taking a broad view of the key issues.
- Further work should be the identification of alternative options for accommodating growth. As part of this we would expect to see options for the proportion of housing growth to be accommodated in the main settlements, the scope to re-use previously developed land, how much (if any) residual greenfield land is required and the reasonable alternative options for locating this, all underpinned by evidence of how the options perform in sustainability terms. Similarly, the broad options for accommodating planned business, retail and other key land uses will need to be identified.
- Need to ensure that genuine questions and options facing the area are debated.
- The end date of 2021 does not allow for a 15 year land supply, the Plan period should be extended to beyond 2021.
- Concern that a two stage Regulation 25 will delay the progress of the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations DPD.

Green Belt

- Disagree - 1

General points raised:

- Given existing and future housing need, rigid and inflexible Green Belt restrictions are no longer sustainable.
- Ensure that any Green Belt boundary adjustments take account of long-term housing needs.
- Localised readjustments of inner Green Belt boundaries will be necessary.

Q1. Should the future of the two Areas of Special Reserve (ASRs) (areas at Dry Street and Barn Hall) be an issue for consideration in the Core Strategy

- Agree - 62 (plus 1 agree comment on ASRs in general)
- Disagree - 10
- No opinion - 1

Agree:

- Establish the future for these areas once and for all to end current uncertainty.
- Policy has altered significantly with Sustainability issues driving the location of new development. It is necessary to review all of the available options again. The ASRs have not been subject to a full sustainability appraisal and should be carefully reviewed as part of the process of preparing the Core Strategy. Other sites may prove to be more sustainable and appropriate.
- Due to their potential to deliver housing it is appropriate to consider these sites.
- Since these areas have already been ear-marked for development, then LDF them.
- Rigid and inflexible Green Belt restrictions are no longer sustainable.
- Ensure that any Green Belt boundary adjustments take account of long-term housing needs.
- These sites should be reclassified as Green Belt.
- These areas should be protected for their wildlife, landscape and open space importance and for their contribution to community health and well-being.

Disagree:

- This is not a Green Belt issue.
- Areas of Special Reserve should not be given any special status.
- Once the extent of a Green Belt has been approved, it should be altered only in exceptional circumstances. A lack of immediate need cannot constitute exceptional circumstances to revert safeguarded land to Green Belt.
- Core Strategy should set out the sequential approach to release sites for development. The ASRs should be considered alongside any other sites to accommodate the housing shortfall.
- Dry Street is a bad location for housing. In Green Belt areas alternative transport choices tend to be limited and the reliance on the private car is often higher than in urban centres.

- Concerns were raised over the lack of infrastructure to support the development of these sites.

Q2. Should relaxing the current limits on the size of extensions to dwellings and replacement dwellings in the Green Belt set out in the BDLP, be an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 39
- Disagree - 18
- No opinion - 1

Agree:

- Should be considered, but limited relaxation.
- Current restrictions place a significant restraint on the ability of the current housing stock to replenish and modernise. The current limit is not sufficient for modern living.
- It is in the best interest of the areas to permit development to existing properties.
- Possible to allow reasonable sized extensions and still retain the character of the areas.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD.
- There should be no relaxation of the limits to extensions to dwellings and replacement dwellings in the Green Belt.

Q3. Do you think that allowing new housing development in gaps between existing dwellings along roads in the Green Belt Plotlands is an issue that should be considered in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 45
- Disagree - 16
- No opinion - 1

Agree:

- The future of the Plotlands settlements requires consideration.
- Spatial location of development should be an issue for Core Strategy.
- Any release of land within the Green Belt should be comprehensively considered; all potential constraints, such as flood risk, must be considered.
- There should be core policy that addresses environmental quality and landscape character of the Plotlands, defining whether it is intended to have a Plotland Area Action Plan or Supplementary Planning Document.
- Should be considered in the Core Strategy - allowing infill would contribute greatly to the government target for homes.
- Controlled development would enhance the area and may/may not lead to upgrading of services in these areas, eg road improvements, street lighting etc.
- Will help with the problem of Travellers.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD
- Land in the Green Belt Plotlands is only one of several options that could be considered.
- The Green Belt should not be eroded / over developed.
- Plotlands are a unique part of our Green Belt heritage. The special character of the Plotlands exists because of the random spaces of undeveloped land. Any more development means they will neither be Plotlands nor Green Belt. It would create urbanisation in areas which should be safeguarded as semi-rural locations.
- The ad-hoc infilling of the Green Belt settlements could result in development with limited access to sustainable transport modes. Additional dwellings would put a strain on the services and access roads.

Q4. Is the future of these areas of degraded landscape an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 50
- Disagree - 6
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- The future of degraded sites should be addressed in the Core Strategy due to their importance as previously developed land and as potential sites for development. Removing land that does not really belong in the Green Belt may also allow a fairer spread of development.
- A comprehensive strategy must be produced to address the future use of these areas.
- A policy of reinstating such degraded land to acceptable Green Belt uses should be included.
- Support any opportunities to improve the landscape and biodiversity value of these sites.
- Priority should be given to these areas over infill development and Greenfield sites. These have the advantage of better utilisation of the space available than single / infill developments.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Site Allocation or Development Control DPD.
- The possibility of identifying development land on areas of degraded landscape is only one of several options that could be considered.
- The Green Belt should not be eroded. These areas should not be considered for new housing.

Q5. Do you think that the current level of community services to the rural settlements and Green Belt Plotland areas of the District is an issue for inclusion in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 32
- Disagree - 21
- No opinion - 1

Agree:

- There should be a hierarchical approach that identifies the rural settlements and the community infrastructure / facilities / services provided in those locations.
- Access to services is a critical issue for a sustainable community, their absence can contribute to inequalities.
- There is limited scope for improvement without compromising the semi-rural nature of these areas. Using this as a backdoor means to develop the Green Belt should be avoided.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it would be better addressed through SPD. The Core Strategy is not the appropriate document for establishing the level of developer contributions to increase service provision in rural settlements.
- There are advantages of living in rural areas but we cannot also expect all the services as provided in the town.
- Concerned that new housing development leading to increased population is highlighted as one method to achieve a better range of community services. Encouraging development in rural areas risks establishing an unsustainable and inappropriate growth strategy.
- Object to any development that risks eroding the rural qualities of these villages or settlements.

Q6. Do you think that the identification of sites sufficient for 4,886 units is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 65
- Disagree - 11
- No opinion - 0 (plus 1 on housing chapter)

Agree:

- This must be an essential part of the LDF. Strategic housing locations need to be determined in the Core Strategy. Council must ensure that adequate housing land is available, developable and deliverable.
- Core Strategy should seek to define a settlement hierarchy with the more significant levels of housing growth being focused on the larger more sustainable settlements.
- Core Strategy should identify strategic sites and broad locations for future growth on a key diagram.
- Core Strategy should provide a 15 year supply of housing land from date of adoption e.g. to 2025 (= 10,700 plus 2,140 = 12,840 units).

- Land supply assumptions need to be tested through a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.
- This level of housing growth should be seen as a minimum not an absolute target.
- More details required:
 - How many of the units need to be built on Green Belt Land?
 - Query figure of 1,144 units from windfall sites for 2017-2021.
- Suggested sources of land: Greenfield, Town and District Centres, Green Belt, Urban extensions, Billericay, NOT Wickford.

Disagree:

- Core Strategy should provide a 15 year supply of housing land from date of adoption e.g. to 2025 (= 10,700 plus 2,140 = 12,840 units).
- Unacceptable to suggest that unidentified brownfield sites and windfall constitute part of the total identified supply. It is inaccurate / speculative to be looking at housing provision from windfall for 2017-2021. Windfall allowance should be taken out of the calculation.
- Core Strategy should identify broad locations of growth for this Plan period.
- More details need to be provided.
- Land supply suggestions:
 - Proportional based approach to identify new housing land for Basildon, Billericay and Wickford,
 - Review inner Green Belt boundaries,
 - Increase greenfield allocations (urban extensions).

Q7. Bearing in mind that lower density housing means greater land take, do you feel that rather than simply leaving it to the market to decide, the Core Strategy should include as an issue the circumstances in which certain categories of dwelling types should be developed on major housing development sites?

- Agree - 42
- Disagree - 15
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Core Strategy should attempt to describe the required mix of housing types on major development sites to create sustainable mixed communities.
- The Council should have regard to the mix and type of housing provided within the District as part of the Core Strategy, informed by a Strategic Housing Market Assessment. Policy should be sufficiently flexible to respond to changes in demand throughout the life of the Core Strategy.
- More flats should be built - higher density is preferable to encroachment on the Green Belt.
- There is enough high density housing in the area. Cramming in a high number of dwellings does not take into account the affects it has on the people living in these areas.
- Need to balance high and low density housing.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD.
- The final mix of any major housing development should reflect housing needs at the time and not be prescribed through the Core Strategy - the planning system does not provide sufficient flexibility to meet changing demands.
- The open market should decide.
- The Strategic Housing Market Assessment will help identify specific deficiencies in particular types of housing provision. The Council should not seek to impose rigid or inflexible demands for specific percentages of different types of housing.
- Support lower / medium density developments creating greater opportunities for family housing on Green Belt release sites.

Q8. Do you think that the setting of separate targets for affordable housing is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 49
- Disagree - 14
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- It is appropriate for the Core Strategy to set targets for affordable housing and the composition of this element but these need to be adaptable.
- Providing separate targets for the mix of the types of tenure provides greater certainty for developers.
- Targets and thresholds can be included in a Core Strategy or alternatively in a Housing DPD/SPD or a planning obligations DPD/SPD.
- This should be an issue, otherwise housing development may not meet the needs of local people - a range of tenures is required.
- This particularly applies to Billericay, where properties are expensive.
- Without these targets, market forces alone are unlikely to produce the affordable units required.
- The low level of recent provision requires robust targets for the delivery of socially rented housing.
- Affordable housing should be calculated on an individual site basis.

Disagree:

- This is too detailed an issue for the Core Strategy, it should be dealt with in a Development Control / Housing / Planning Obligations DPD.
- Need separate targets on sites smaller than 15 units.
- Location of developments will determine what affordable housing targets are required.
- Needs to be adaptable to take account of changing housing needs.
- Affordable housing should be considered on a site by site basis only.

Q9. Do you think that the setting of an affordable housing threshold lower than 15 is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 29
- Disagree - 23
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Many smaller sites would be exempt from affordable housing provision without this.
- Given the recent low level of affordable housing delivery recently in the district, a lower threshold is needed. This is a sufficiently important issue for the Core Strategy.
- Only set lower a affordable housing threshold if it is proven necessary and viable.
- A flat rate tariff should be paid on any developments under 15 units.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD.
- It is obviously an issue but may not be necessary in Basildon New Town which already has a significant proportion of affordable housing.
- It is vital that the Council takes the issue of site viability into account.
- Setting a higher percentage requirement is likely to act as a deterrent to development.

Q10. Do you feel that varying the affordable housing threshold across the District is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 33
- Disagree - 20
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Affordable housing is required throughout the district.
- Should encourage higher targets in appropriate locations.
- Should address affordable housing, possibly setting different thresholds for different parts of the District.
- Could be included in the Core Strategy or in Area Action Plans.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD.
- Too difficult to determine variable threshold levels across sites in Basildon.

- The policy framework could acknowledge that within individual developments the proportion and type of affordable housing should respond to site characteristics and local need.
- It should NOT be varied across the district.

Q11. Do you think that offsetting contributions towards affordable housing elsewhere in the District is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 31
- Disagree - 19
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Offsetting contributions towards affordable housing elsewhere in the District should be an issue for the Core Strategy.
- Core Strategy should contain a number of flexible ways that affordable housing can be achieved.
- Affordable housing provision might not always be most appropriate on-site. Off-site contributions may be acceptable.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD.
- All developments over the minimum threshold are sufficiently viable to provide affordable housing at the target level.
- Such a policy would inevitably undermine the principle of mixed and balanced communities.
- Will stifle development.

Q12. Setting broad locational criteria for site selection would assist in the identification of specific sites in the Gypsy and Traveller DPD. Do you think that this should be included as an issue in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 30 (plus 1 on Gypsy & Traveller section)
- Disagree - 11
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- This is a key issue. If the Core Strategy does not set the criteria then who would set it?
- Core Strategy should set out criteria for the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites which will be used to guide the allocation of sites in the relevant DPD.
- Overall principles should be set at this level, as this land use is contentious and requires agreement in principle about locations at this early stage.
- Locational criteria may assist public sector partners in planning the provision of services.

- Core Strategy should indicate broadly what level of provision is to be provided for through allocations, and should also set out fair, reasonable and realistic criteria to guide the allocation of sites.
- Basildon District must provide its fair share of Traveller sites - but no more.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD.

Q13. Do you think that the Core Strategy should identify those estates that, in the period up to 2021, should be renewed, perhaps by redevelopment of the poor quality housing, or possibly by allowing new housing to take place on undeveloped land?

- Agree - 36
- Disagree - 5
- No opinion - 1

Agree:

- Redeveloping poor quality estates has a two-fold benefit of renewing communities in social decline and increasing housing density to avoid Green Belt development.
- These estates should be identified as part of the overall strategic housing supply picture. Broad locations should be identified in the Core Strategy; estates could have their own detailed SPD.
- Council should target estate renewal to address local inequalities.
- The Core Strategy could address the subject of non-decent homes.

Disagree:

- No comments made

Q14. Ahead of the statutory requirement for new build houses to meet level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes by 2016, is the sustainability of homes an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 38
- Disagree - 12 (plus 1 on climate change chapter)
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- A strong policy on sustainable construction and design should be incorporated that promotes the use of the Code.
- To offset carbon emissions at the local level you could incorporate a policy, but it would be necessary to have the background evidence required to back up the local need.
- Sustainability of homes should be an issue for the Core Strategy. Important that the Core Strategy plays its part in sustainable development and climate change.
- Will assist in addressing fuel poverty, which impacts significantly on health.

- ALL new properties, developments and extensions should be made as fully "green" as possible so that solar power, water efficiency measures, water recycling, wind power, etc are MADE to be a part of such developments.
- All new building must meet Level 6 criteria.
- Policies for the provision of renewable energy should be flexible, especially on the issue of viability to ensure schemes are deliverable.
- Increasing the level of renewable energy use from 0.6% to 44% by 2020 represents a huge challenge, as does limiting CO2 emissions. The Core Strategy should acknowledge that this will not be achieved through focusing solely on new development.

Disagree:

- This is a an issue for national policy, not local policy.
- Could be dealt with in a Development Control DPD.
- Concerned that regions and local authorities are seeking to amend and shorten the agreed zero-carbon timeframe.
- It should not duplicate or exceed current Building Regulations standards.
- Need to consider PPS1 Supplement on Planning & Climate Change and PPS22 Renewable Energy.

Q15. In relation to major development, do you think that the setting of a threshold higher than 10% of emissions of carbon dioxide to be offset through on-site renewable energy generation should be an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 28
- Disagree -19
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Include a broad sustainability policy, or you could have an overarching renewable energy policy. Include a flexible policy in the Core Strategy to require the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions through on-site renewable energy generation on major sites in accordance with the emerging East of England Plan.
- Include a flexible policy to require the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions through on-site renewable energy generation on major sites.
- Supportive of on-site renewable energy provided that the impact on the landscape and wildlife habitats is minimised. We need to do as much as possible as early as possible.
- It is impossible to see how a commitment could be given to use wind or tidal sources for electricity by 2010, given the lead-in times.
- Sites such as industrial areas, supermarkets and rural garages should have wind generators / solar power.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD.

- The Council should only introduce policies in the Core Strategy that are reflective of current National policy, which refers to a minimum of 10%; a higher figure is not appropriate.
- Planning policies should not try to “back winners” by specifying one type of energy generation or renewable energy generation technology over another.
- Policy should be concerned solely with removing barriers to the siting of, or development of, new innovations such as wind turbines, CHP plants and other energy generation development. It should not seek to control the use of power within dwellings (which is unenforceable) or be concerned with the fabric of the building, which is covered by the Code for Sustainable Homes.
- In such a fast moving field of technological innovation, planners and the planning system should be open to discussion about the most appropriate issues and solutions on a site by site basis.
- If carbon emissions are to be properly tackled then there needs to be a concerted effort to reduce carbon emissions from the existing housing stock.

Q16. Do you think that the Core Strategy should include as an issue, the identification of broad locations for installations using renewable technologies generating electricity primarily to the National Grid?

- Agree - 25
- Disagree -13
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Planning does have a role to play in allocating sites suitable for renewable energy generation (eg wind farms and district CHP plants) and housing development areas that may benefit from access to renewable sources for on site generation.
- Should be considered, but we don't want windfarms or nuclear power stations.
- New district wide facilities should be invested in to provide free electricity to all residents.

Disagree:

- Identification of locations for renewable energy generation plants is a matter to be dealt with at national / regional level.
- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD. It is a matter for planning applications and development control policy.
- Not evident that BDC has the resources or expertise to undertake this work.

Q17. Do you think that the solar orientation of dwellings is an issue that should be considered in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 27
- Disagree -14
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Could form part of an overarching sustainable development policy.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD.
- May be difficult to achieve an appropriate density on site, especially on brownfield locations, if a building's orientation is controlled.
- There are social reasons why regimented housing estates are disadvantageous.

Q18. Do you think that adaptation to climate change is an issue for inclusion in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 34
- Disagree -11
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- The adaptation to climate change should be an issue for the Core Strategy. Should set out a strategic objective.
- Prevent any further development on the floodplain.
- Would be counterproductive and short-sighted if the Core Strategy promoted development on the flood plain merely to seek to maximise the amount of housing provided on previously developed land.
- Development should not be encouraged on flood plains within existing built-up areas merely as a device to prevent land being released from the Green Belt.
- Create natural flood water sinks such as wet woodlands, reedbeds and low lying pastures in flood risk areas. Increase the network of green corridors linking isolated nature conservation sites to aid the dispersal of species that will need to move as climate change renders their existing habitat unsuitable.

Disagree:

- This is an issue for national policy, not local policy.
- Inaccurate science should not be used to determine the Core Strategy.

Natural & Built Environment

Disagree -2

Chapter omissions:

- Does not include the issue of landscape. The Landscape Character Assessment of Essex (2002) should be used as part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy. LCAs are a tool to understand the intrinsic character of the landscape and direct appropriate sustainable development.
- Need an Historic Environment policy to build on the Thames Gateway Characterisation work and issues identified in other analyses of the historic environment, such as conservation area appraisals.

Q19. Do you think that the future protection and/or use of local wildlife sites, some of which are brownfield in character, are an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 43
- Disagree -5
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Should include a strategic reference to the future protection and / or use of local wildlife sites. This should set out the Council's commitment to maintaining, enhancing, restoring and adding to the biodiversity of the District. Specific criteria relating to the protection / use of local wildlife sites should be included in the Development Control DPD.
- The Core Strategy is important in providing a context for the protection and enhancement of designated natural environment sites and areas. Greatest weight should be given to nationally designated areas.
- Consider a policy relating to the improvement of green infrastructure. This will tie into a number of other recognised issues, eg flood risk management, adapting to climate change, Green Grid, open space and maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity.
- The Basildon Biodiversity Action Plan (2006 – 2009) targets and recommendations must be given full consideration in the policy wording. Should include 5 year action plans with targets aimed at conserving and enhancing biodiversity across the District.
- Concerned that some brownfield sites are very important to wildlife and should be protected.
- Brownfield sites to be maintained and restored to conservation or recreational sites.
- We want to avoid turning the whole area into a tarmac covered housing estate without trees or wildlife! It would have a significant impact on the quality of life.
- None of these sites - even the brownfield sites, should be disturbed.
- Each site should be re-evaluated and an up to date assessment made. Flora/fauna might benefit in the long term by being shifted to new more sustainable environments which provides better long term protection.
- This issue is not of the highest priority.

Disagree:

- No comments made

Q20. Do you think that allowing development that has the potential, through planning agreements, to promote the biodiversity of such areas, is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 33
- Disagree -10
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Creation of wildlife corridors is an issue. Policy should encourage conservation management focused on individual site protection, seek to rebuild the fabric of the landscape in which individual sites sit. Reducing habitat fragmentation and creating green corridors for wildlife help to achieve this. This policy could link to a wider policy on Green Infrastructure.
- Allowing development that has potential to promote biodiversity should be strategic.
- The potential to promote and enhance biodiversity should be a material consideration when determining planning applications, may be more appropriate to include any criteria to help assess proposals on this basis in the Development Control Policies DPD.
- Potential opportunities for enhancement to these areas could be delivered through various mechanisms, including comprehensive new development and associated planning obligations. Biodiversity and creation of wildlife corridors could be promoted by housing development in the Green Belt.
- Such development must be very strictly controlled.
- Sustain existing biodiversity. Proposed plans are an outrage.

Disagree:

- This is a an issue for national policy, not local policy.
- May be more appropriate to include criteria to assess proposals in the Development Control Policies DPD. Biodiversity details should be included in detailed DPDs.
- Question seems to allow the possibility of planning permission only for biodiversity reasons.
- Ridiculous to put development where agriculture has been.

Q21. Having regard to the scale of development and the particular vulnerability of the waste water network to surface water penetration, in order to reduce the incidence of pollution of water courses, should the attenuation of surface water run off from new development be considered as issue in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 44
- Disagree -3
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Significant impacts on water resources, and the timing and extent of the improvement works, will need careful consideration to meet development timetables and to ensure that any environmental impacts are minimised.
- Consider both Surface Water Run-off and Development in Flood Plains. Strategic approach to surface water management should be adopted - PPS 25 / Strategic Flood Risk Assessment should inform the Core Strategy.
- Have a general policy approach to minimising environmental and health impacts. Flooding can have an impact on human health. Higher density development will need more attention to surface water disposal.
- All new development should adopt a SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage System) type approach. Wherever possible surface water discharges should be directed to open watercourses. Should be natural enclosures to allow for water runoff and to calm and soften the scene. SUDS can provide open space and wildlife habitat around areas of vegetation, water channels and storage ponds.
- SuDS may not be acceptable on some sites due to contamination associated with past uses. Production of a risk assessment will be important in informing the design of the surface water drainage system on many brownfield sites.
- Brick paving gardens/ large open areas with total disregard to rainfall should be discouraged. Large areas of hard surface should be avoided. Any development to be obliged to select permeable options to reduce flooding impact.
- Wickford's historic flooding needs to be taken into account in any strategy. Development in Wickford under the Masterplan seems to have completely ignored this issue.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control / Housing / Planning Obligations DPD.
- Attenuation of surface water runoff is a key issue. More appropriate to include planning policy on water and drainage infrastructure in the Development Control Policies DPD. This would provide more detailed guidance to assist developers.

Q22. Do you think that development in the flood plains of the District is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 45
- Disagree -29
- No opinion - 1

Agree:

- Use the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) to inform flood risk policies. Revise SFRA to take account of all potentially significant sources of flood risk including fluvial flooding, and new climate change scenarios.
- Strategic policy should be considered.
- Detailed flood risk assessment should be undertaken on a site-by-site basis. Infrastructure is a consideration when development occurs in the flood plain.
- Development in flood plains should be avoided - Health and Safety considerations need to be taken into account.
- Wickford masterplan is disgraceful, suggesting that there can be a waterside development in the town without addressing the major flooding problems that will occur. Planning policy framework needs to minimise the provision of new development in Wickford Town Centre.
- Core Strategy should not promote development on flood plains merely because the land concerned is categorised as previously developed land. Paragraph 3.2 suggests Wickford town centre is perceived as a location for the accommodation of additional housing. This approach is plainly at odds with the comment at paragraph 5.6 in that Wickford town centre is vulnerable to flooding.
- The Core Strategy will be unsound if it seeks to direct new housing to locations, such as Wickford town centre, where there is a significant risk of flooding.
- Building on flood plains should not be disregarded, as long as appropriate flood prevention measures are put in place. Specialist processes allow for houses to be developed in the flood plain - namely floating houses.

Disagree:

- No comments made.
- Detailed guidance on the consideration of specific flood risk can be included in the Development Control DPD.

Q23. Do you think that the preparation / adoption of design guides is an issue that should be considered in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 35
- Disagree - 7
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Community-led plans should be taken into consideration, and community participation should be encouraged.
- Development principles policy / objective should link to design guide. Design guides can be a useful tool for developers, as long as they are consistent with adopted policy.
- Design issues raised:
 - health,
 - accessibility,
 - water efficiency and grey water recycling systems,
 - tall structures that overwhelm existing buildings,
 - building should be in character with its surroundings,
 - high quality design is critical to raise aspirations,
 - development should be “good enough to approve”, locally distinctive and make a positive contribution to the character of the area, using the opportunities presented by the location.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD.
- Would the LPA have the resources to produce their own guide? Would it be significantly different from the Essex Design Guide? Could adopt The Essex Design Guide as SPD.
- Lead to further bureaucracy and delay.
- Design strategies should not be used as a device to discourage mixed development. Risk that BDC's "in-house" design guidance might be highly subjective/ might block developer's creativity if it is too rigid.
- Does not seem to be possible to adopt the Billericay Design Supplement .

Q24. Should the setting of maximum building heights throughout the District, not just the town centres, be an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 34
- Disagree -10
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Height should be considered in the context of getting a balance between delivering housing needs and targets and too rigid a policy on height.
- Height should be set for the benefit of residents and not be set at a level designed just to deter development. Design strategies should not be used as a device to discourage mixed development.
- Should be controlled in line with existing dwellings in the vicinity. New tall buildings should be clustered around existing tall buildings and not interrupt the skyline.
- Three storeys should be the limit in Wickford and Billericay.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control or Site Allocations DPD.
- Setting of maximum building heights throughout the District, should not be an issue for the Core Strategy.
- Capping storey height will frustrate the ability of the District to raise densities and housing numbers, which in turn will lead to a larger land take.
- Controls over building heights must fully comply with PPS3. It would not be appropriate to prevent high-rise high-density development on sites in appropriate urban locations.
- Policy should have an element of flexibility and not be prescriptive.
- Maximum heights of development should be approached on a site by site basis responding to their characteristics, rather than through a generic approach that could possibly unduly restrict development.

Q25. Do you think that the provision of additional cemetery space is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 31
- Disagree -10
- No opinion - 1

Agree:

- Older tradition cemeteries unsustainable. Need to change to a more practical idea of burial.
- As part of overall land allocation within the District.
- These sites could tie into the Green Grid if they are correctly positioned and managed as multi-functional spaces.

- If there is a particular known problem then a general policy with reference to development control policies could be considered.
- Environmental issues should be considered.
- Alternatives suggested:
 - modern methods of cremation ie freezing should be encouraged. A facility capable of this should be provided within the district,
 - cremation should be encouraged,
 - green burials,
 - woodland cemeteries could be a way to develop new community woodlands.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Site Allocations or Development Control DPD.
- Burying bodies 'whole' is not sustainable for the future. Encouraging cremation should be the priority.
- Green burial site exists at Herongate, less than a mile outside the District boundary - no need for one within District.

Employment Chapter

- Disagree - 1
- Need to identify the broad spatial issues that flow from the district's business, skills and employment prospects, rather than focusing on a couple of site-specific matters.

Q26. Do you think that the allocation of additional land for business purposes, including that at Gardiners Lane South, is an issue that should be included in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 42
- Disagree -8
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Provision of employment land needs to be assessed at a strategic level. Sites which have a strategic role should be identified in the Core Strategy, other sites should be allocated in a Site Allocations DPD.
- GLS should be considered as an option.
- Previously Developed Land, including the land at Gardiners Lane South, should be protected for business purposes to deliver 11,000 additional jobs for the period 2001-2021.

Disagree:

- Core Strategy should identify broad areas for development, with specific sites identified in the Site Allocations DPD.

Q27. Do you think that the future planning status of the land to the north and east of Ford Dunton is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 39 (plus 1 on Ford Dunton section)
- Disagree -5
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Provision of employment land needs to be assessed at strategic level. Should be considered under the Options in general policy terms and addressed under any proposed Site Allocations DPD or Action Area Plan.
- This area is strategic in nature and its future has potential implications for how the District meets its housing and employment targets.
- The landowner should not be rewarded because they do not require it for the purpose for which it was taken out of the Green Belt.
- Long-term use of the land should be identified to enable strategic sewerage infrastructure to be planned.
- Development on this site may have an adverse effect on the landscape character of the rural areas to the north of the A127.
- If the Council is considering the re-designation of the Ford Dunton site, it should give due consideration to other redundant Green Belt sites, too.
- Suggested Uses for the site:
 - if it is not required for the purpose of development then it should be returned to Green Belt,
 - this land should be included in the overall allocation of available sites for residential, commercial, industrial or utility purposes,
 - must be restricted to Research and Development on site,
 - retain the landscaping as a barrier to development to the north and east.

Disagree:

- Core Strategy should identify broad areas for development, with specific sites identified in the Site Allocations DPD.
- Consideration should be given to alternative strategic locations.

Q28. Do you think that the District's indoor sports provision should be an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 33)
- Disagree -9
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Include a strategic policy promoting recreation.
- Council should prepare a PPG17 compliant strategy which identifies indoor sports facility needs in the district and sets out proposals for meeting these needs. This would provide the evidence base for supporting such a policy.
- Policy is needed on indoor sports provision in view of the proposals for the Sporting Village at Gloucester Park, proposed closure of the existing swimming pool at Gloucester Park, Markhams Chase, South Essex Gym Club. Implications of Academy and Building Schools for the Future programme and Further Education College developments need to be considered. These will affect existing indoor sports facilities and/or involve new facilities that can meet community needs.
- Sport and leisure centres should be retained locally not centralised. People simply don't have the time/money to travel to a central point, travel would add to congestion, too. Facilities provided should be affordable for the population that it serves.
- Provision of Olympic standard facilities should be made as these generate profit from their rental / hiring.
- Developer contributions could be sought towards projects such as the Sporting Village.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Site Allocations or Development Control DPD.
- This should not be a priority for BDC - the private sector should take the lead.

Q29. Do you think that reorganising the distribution of playing pitches in the District is an issue for consideration in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 26
- Disagree -17
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Include a strategic policy to provide playing pitches as well as other forms of recreation facilities. Council's playing pitch strategy has identified a range of playing pitch deficiencies which the LDF can help to address
- While the concentration of playing pitches on large sites in a few locations can offer benefits, consideration needs to be given to how individual playing fields are used before decisions are

made about whether they should be developed and replaced. Replacement provision would need to be in place before development could take place on existing sites.

- Local sports pitches must be retained so that young people can easily access them.
- A review of the provision of playing pitches could potentially help encourage and allow more people to participate in sport in Basildon.
- Relocation of playing fields is necessary to facilitate some of the strategic development proposals in the district.

Disagree:

- Core Strategy should identify broad areas for recreation provision, with specific sites identified in the Site Allocations DPD.
- Any review must not detract from local accessibility.

Q30. Do you feel that the provision of landscaped areas within housing developments is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 38
- Disagree -7
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Provision of landscaped areas within housing developments is an issue for the Core Strategy. Policy should promote a net gain in green infrastructure and not permit development that could compromise the integrity of the green infrastructure network.
- Development should incorporate sufficient new green space in accordance with Natural England's Natural Green Space Standards. Retain as many existing wildlife features as possible and new features such as green roofs created.
- Provide clear guidance on the the quantity and type of open space to be available and to be provided with new development.
- Without control, developers will cram housing into every piece of land leaving no green space on new developments.
- Contributes to quality of life and a sense of pride in location. Landscaped areas cost money but they add much to our environment.
- Ensure it does not contribute to a rise in crime or the fear of crime.
- Small "pockets" of land should be developed into "Breathing Spaces". All too often these areas are marked for development and built on.
- Act as a sump for surface water run-off created by high density development.
- Support multi-functional spaces that have a recreational, drainage, flood risk management and biodiversity role.
- Should provide green space above the national average.
- Maintain existing tree belts and provide landscape opportunities in new development.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Site Allocations / Development Control / Housing / Planning Obligations DPD.

Q31. Do you think that the future of redundant and surplus areas of open space in the District is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 40
- Disagree -5
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Prepare a PPG17 compliant open space assessment / audit as the evidence base for informing decisions about the future of open space.
- Basildon has a large amount of open space and it is important to review whether some of this land may not be fulfilling a beneficial role for the public and could potentially be improved or used more appropriately and efficiently.
- Open space may provide opportunities for meeting other land use needs in the district. Whilst some open space may not be needed for the original type of open space it was provided for, it may be suitable for meeting other open space needs for which there are deficiencies. Surplus open space could meet any existing open space needs before consideration is given to allocating it for development.
- Could be improved and enhanced and linked to a wider Green Grid network of open spaces, footpaths, amenity areas, river corridors etc.
- There is no surplus of formal open space. There is a deficiency of 148.7ha (462 acres).
- These areas should be marked clearly as building sites.
- Either use as an asset for the people of the district, or dispose of.
- Allowing residents to purchase amenity land adjoining their gardens may have a detrimental effect on some neighbourhoods. This policy should be debated.

Disagree:

- No case has yet been made that there are significant areas of open space that are of no benefit to the public or to wildlife.

Q32. Do you consider that the relative lack of informal recreation land in and around Wickford is an issue which should be included in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 34
- Disagree -7
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- There is a general principle about ensuring sufficient recreation land, to encourage physical activity as well as child development. Important to have areas to relax and enjoy open natural spaces.
- Opportunities should be taken to link this area with the wider green infrastructure network and improve access to the countryside.
- Suggestions:
 - extend Memorial Park over the river and create a country park. A landscaped riverside walk would be a pleasant feature,
 - could promote improved access to the countryside,
 - designate a defined area for informal recreation,
 - circular routes for recreation should be considered. BDC would then have 3 separate zones, the New Town, Historic Billericay and Green Wickford; all would have a symbiotic relationship,
 - return "Barn Hall" to Green Belt status. Lack of informal recreation land in and around Wickford would support this.

Disagree:

- This is an issue for the whole District.
- Could be dealt with in a Wickford Area Action Plan (AAP).

Town Centres, Retailing and Leisure

- Disagree - 1

Against:

- The provision of District and Neighbourhood Centres is not addressed. Requirement for local authorities to plan for the development of a hierarchy and network of centres. It will be necessary to ensure a more even distribution of town centre uses that are able to meet people's everyday needs at a local level.

Q33. Do you think that discouraging certain types of retail activity such as the sale of bulky goods (e.g. DIY retail warehouses) from the District's town centres should be included as an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 29
- Disagree -11
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Should be addressed as part of a comprehensive planning policy approach to retail activity in the District.
- Concerned if the Core Strategy sought to relocate certain types of retail activity remoter locations away from sustainable transport hubs. May increase travel demand and an associated increase in car trips.
- Strategy should locate high trip-generating uses in town centres with good access to public transport.
- Balance the mix of uses within town centres with significant residential element to ensure that demand for travel is reduced.
- There is still a role for these retailers in town centres.
- This type of retailing should be restricted to out of town sites where there is adequate parking facilities.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD.
- Not be too prescriptive in retail matters. Market can decide.

Q34. Do you think that encouraging leisure development (including extensions to existing units), cultural and entertainment activities, pubs, cafes, restaurants and hotels in town centre locations is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 29
- Disagree -10
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Need an overarching policy to promote and protect existing community, cultural and leisure facilities in the District, particularly in Town Centres. Policy should provide for new development of community facilities to provide for the health, welfare, social, educational, leisure and cultural needs of the community.
- Balance the mix of uses within town centres. Strategy should locate high trip generating uses in town centres where there is good access to public transport.
- Town centres are about more than just shops and retailing. Basildon should provide a range of functions such as leisure and culture (restaurants, pubs, clubs, theatres, cinemas, libraries and museums). A balanced leisure scene will entertain and stimulate visitors, residents and

local businesses, with visiting audiences enlivening the surrounding area in the evening, and providing regular custom for local bars and restaurants outside normal working and shopping hours.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control DPD or Town Centre AAP
- Wickford and Billericay can well do without night clubs and restaurants around every corner – at night these can attract people with no allegiances to the area. Vandalism and crime follow.

Q35. Do you think that the relative lack of diversity of uses in Basildon Town Centre is an issue that should be addressed in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 34
- Disagree -6
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- The lack of diversity within the town centres as a whole should be addressed. Pitsea Town Centre sets a precedent to address the key strategy for regeneration and diversification of the local centres.
- Should consider the inclusion of a policy that supports the recent masterplan for the town centre to help facilitate its redevelopment.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it is a matter for Development Control or a Town Centre Area Action Plan.
- Basildon has enough diversity already.
- The policy approach for Basildon, within the identified hierarchy of centres, should be set out.

Q36. Do you think that the relative lack of vitality of Basildon town centre at night is an issue that should be considered in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 29
- Disagree -9
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- A policy that promotes a vibrant and diverse evening economy in town centres throughout the District would address the lack of vitality during the evening in Basildon.
- Carefully consider the range and scale of any leisure developments, their potential impacts, and adopt an integrated approach to the night time economy.

- Safety issues at night need to be addressed.
- Impossible to ignore – may be impossible to resolve too.
- Complementary evening and night time economies should be encouraged.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it is a matter for a Development Control DPD.
- Policy should identify Basildon's opportunities as a Key Centre.
- Excess night life brings vandalism and crime with it.

Q37. Do you think that the poor relative retail performance and lack of diverse evening economy in Wickford Town Centre is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 28
- Disagree - 10
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Town centre has deteriorated over the years. Urgent action is now needed to reverse that decline. This is an opportunity to identify Wickford Town Centre as a centre where development and investment will be focused in order to help strengthen its function and role. The way forward has to be in terms of a public / private partnership.
- Consumer / customer experiences are woefully poor in comparison to other local towns like Billericay and Chelmsford.
- Would love to see the High Street regenerated and improved, but I would hate for Wickford to become over-developed.
- More specialised shops should be encouraged.
- Family orientated evening culture should be created.
- The retail and evening economy are crucial to its overall success.
- The master plan was produced to tackle this and other issues, but is turning out to be a disaster for the people of Wickford.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it is a matter for Development Control. Detailed approach should be taken forward in an Area Action Plan.
- Commercial interests will address this issue more efficiently than BDC.
- Most of Wickford's "new" residents work in London or outside the district and shop elsewhere. It is BDC's job to recognise that, not to resist it.

Q38. Do you think that the balance between new development and conservation in Billericay Town Centre that currently exists is an issue for inclusion in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 28
- Disagree -7
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Core Strategy should address the need for a balance between the pressure for new development and conservation in Billericay Town Centre.
- There is scope for new development in Billericay which would ensure a vibrant and economically successful community, although it might have some effect on the current character of the town.
- Any redevelopment that may take place in Billericay should retain the character of the historic town.
- No intensive redevelopment schemes should be proposed.
- Independent retail needs support.
- Car parking is an issue which should be addressed.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it is a matter for Development Control.
- Should have a more general policy identifying it as a Key Centre.

Q39. Do you think that the focusing of Pitsea and Laindon Town Centres on meeting their local community needs is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 35
- Disagree -6
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Core Strategy should focus on whether Pitsea and Laindon Town Centres are meeting their local community needs.
- Strategy should locate high trip-generating uses in town centres with good access to public transport. Balance the mix of uses within town centres, with a significant residential element, in order to ensure that demand for travel is reduced.
- Community needs are paramount and override any commercial aspects.
- Future development of these two town centres is important and particularly in the case of Laindon which is privately owned and previous proposals for development have come to nothing.
- Council should take a more pragmatic view of regeneration opportunities in the town centre and should look to consider a growth strategy that a more comprehensive link between the existing railway station and the proposed Laindon Centre redevelopment.

- Consider identifying Laindon as a future growth area within the District.
- Pitsea Town Centre Master Plan sets out the strategy for the regeneration of Pitsea Town Centre.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Town Centre AAP.

Transport Chapter

- Disagree - 1
- Matters that are not within the direct remit of the Council are dismissed too readily as issues to be addressed. The potential impact of SERT as a potential key driver of spatial change within the District should be recognised rather than being seen as a matter for site-specific assessment.

Q40. Do you think that encouraging sustainable modes of transport through the appropriate design of site layouts relating to major new development should be an issue for inclusion in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 42
- Disagree - 4
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Core Strategy should be limited to strategic issues – detailed guidance should be in other documents, such as Development Control DPD, Site Allocations DPD or Design Guides.
- This must be integral to any development. Major new developments must encourage efficient movement by varied means. Should inform the strategic relationship between land use and transport.
- The inter-relationship between the spatial strategy and the transport strategy must be considered, to develop linked spatial and transport policies and proposals to address sustainability issues. The Core Strategy needs to refer to transport infrastructure which focuses on sustainable access, having regard to the need for improvements to tackle congestion, to keep key arteries moving and to encourage modal shift from the car to other forms of transport where feasible.
- Core Strategy is a key document in supporting funding bids for transport proposals that assist its implementation. It should identify and positively support transport proposals that contribute to the realisation of the vision for the District. It will also need to consider the value for money and feasibility of these schemes. Proposals for the South Essex Rapid Transit need to be included in the Core Strategy.
- Suggested topics for inclusion:
 - adequate street parking, cycle lanes, etc,

- site layouts to enable sustainable transport,
- car parking standards,
- good or priority access for public transport (including access to bus stops),
- clear policy approach to 'safe routes to schools',
- footpaths and cycle-ways should be provided in new developments to contribute to sustainable transport, provide informal recreation opportunities and improve the health and well-being of residents.
- Travel Plan to accompany all employment developments,
- Park & Ride Schemes.
- Promote sustainable transport modes as part of major new development, particularly in areas where further enhancement would be beneficial to the community as a whole.
- Reduce the need to travel and minimise traffic generation, by allowing development in the most sustainable locations, close to town centres, along public transport corridors, and through mixed-use land allocations.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it is a matter for Development Control, a Design Guide or a Sustainable Transport SPD.

Q41. Do you think that providing guidance in broad terms as to the circumstances and amount of car parking provided in relation to the major categories of development should be included as an issue in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 38
- Disagree -5
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Car parking standards need to be based on an assessment of accessibility.
- Do not increase the level of car parking in the District. Restricted parking facilities diminish attractiveness of private car trips and boost the viability of sustainable transport modes.
- All too often the parking areas around communities are built on. Although provision is made in the new development, no thought is given to the local people who used these areas to park their vehicles. Once these spaces are removed, the cars are then moved to the roads causing congestion.
- You cannot massively increase population and not provide additional car parking. Town Centre flats are particularly low in parking provision, which results in shortage of public parking.
- Instead of thinking horizontally, think vertically: Make developers provide off road underground car parking spaces in their developments.
- The growth in the number of older people in Basildon will impact on car travel and parking needs to access services.
- The provision of out-of-town "Park and Ride" schemes should be considered.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control / Housing / Planning Obligations DPD.

Q42. The following are identified as potential issues for the Core Strategy. Are these appropriate?

- Agree - 35 (plus 1 social issues chapter)
- Disagree -20
- No opinion - 0

| The following are identified as potential issues for the Core Strategy. Are these appropriate? | Agree | Agree but change wording | Disagree |
|---|------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| A. Reducing criminal and anti-social activity in the District; | 27 | | 8 |
| B. The reduction of opportunities for criminal activity by appropriate building and site layout design; | 32 | | 4 |
| C. The reduction of cardio vascular conditions, diabetes and obesity, all conditions associated to a greater or lesser extent with insufficient exercise; | 24 | 1 | 12 |
| D. The approach to be adopted towards the provision of healthcare in new ways, for example, out-patient mini-hospitals / poly clinics; | 30 | 1 | 6 |
| E. In view of the District's ageing population, the degree of support to be given to the development of residential accommodation that meets the needs of the elderly; | 32 | 1 | 4 |
| F. Also in view of the District's ageing population and changing cultural habits, the number / distribution of community centres in the district;. | 28 | 1 | 7 |
| G. Overcoming social exclusion in the District; | 24 | | 10 |
| Totals: | 197 | 4 | 51 |

Agree:

- These are essential if we are to build sustainable communities rather than just houses and offices.
- Social considerations need to be given equal balance as part of sustainable development.
- Need to address social issues to achieve the strategic aims of the Community Strategy

Disagree:

- Not all of the issues put forward are strategic, or relevant to a Core Strategy.

Are there any additional issues that should be considered in the Core Strategy?**Suggestions:****General**

- Need key diagram, strategic objective and vision.
- Needed for social cohesion.
- Must be appropriate for the area.
- People need to feel safe.
- Recycling of waste.

Infrastructure

- Local amenities and infrastructure for additional development.
- Coordinate planning with education, highways etc.
- Road expansion.
- Better & more diverse facilities for young people to reduce obesity, social exclusion & anti social behaviour, including provision for growth of youth organisations & sports clubs.
- The Council appear to be obsessed with centralised building in its master plans and not with improving simple but adequate local facilities and developing sustaining of facilities such as the Basildon nature trail and the footpaths across and around the golf course.
- Provision of local facilities to reduce car journeys.
- Providing sufficient high quality school and pre-school places at appropriate locations throughout the District. Consider the future development needs of educational organisations.

Natural environment / green infrastructure

- Expand protection to country parks, protected species, biodiversity, trees, hedgerows and ancient woodlands as well as LoWS.
- Policy to protect and enhance landscape – a Landscape Character Assessment should accompany any major planning application.
- Promote access to countryside.
- Preserve formal open space and sports pitches in accessible locations.
- Policy on Green Infrastructure.

Transport

- Action plans to address school run, dangerous & inconsiderate parking near schools.
- Public transport – integrate town centres, leisure & cultural sites, transport hubs to link bus and rail stations.
- Encourage use of public transport.

Older people

- Make allowances for people who want to care for their old folk by taking them in.
- Ageing population - increase number of community centres & facilities.

Health

- Add mental health to health issues.
- Respond to the Strategic Needs Assessment for health and social care.

Development control issues

- Limit impact of golf courses, golf driving ranges, noisy and disturbing sports on the Green Belt.
- Light & noise pollution.
- Retain Areas of Special Development Control.
- Have a minimum design standard for the whole district.

Q43. Do you think that the profile of socio-economic factors across the District is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 31
- Disagree -8
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- This is absolutely central to creating sustainable communities. Many of the issues are inter-linked and can be addressed through the planning process.
- It should be considered as key background information for the Core Strategy. However, policies should be strategic and not focus on specific details which might be more appropriately addressed in other DPDs.
- Only in terms of allocation of land resources, distribution and location of development, and access to jobs and facilities.
- Yes, although some of these factors are out of the Council's control.
- I think it should be an issue, but it's a very difficult subject, and I'm not sure the appropriate skills are available.
- These factors should be evened out across the district.
- Communities should have local facilities and be encouraged to help themselves. Centralised facilities will not help enough people and there will be transport and other costs in getting there.
- Yes, in order to redress inequalities and target provision where it is most needed. It may also reinforce the view that over-development must not take place in areas already faced with a number of problems and that development must be spread more evenly across the District.

Disagree:

- No, not at all.
- There are more important issues, some of which are outside the control of a single local authority.

Q44. Do you think that extending the range of activity funded by s106 agreements to include improvements to education, health policing / crime reduction, and recreation is an issue for the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 39
- Disagree -10 (plus 1 on planning gain)
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- Only in general policy terms, should the key infrastructure elements be identified and explained. How delivery will be achieved and by whom should be included in a DPD/SPD.
- The range of activity funded by section 106 agreements should be a consideration of the Core Strategy.
- This idea should not be used to decide how to select developers or developments.
- Work with the development industry to ensure that the scope of contributions sought are reasonable and will not stifle development. Section 106 agreements are a critical planning tool but must not be used to penalise developers.
- It needs to be recognised that the overall size of any planning gain pot is unlikely to significantly alter. Therefore, if monies are to be sought for additional types of facilities and services, this is likely to result in a redirection of funds away from those existing facilities and services that are currently funded.
- Should consider the contribution that Planning Gain can make to implementation and delivery of the Core Strategy.
- The traditional use of S106 monies for highways and schools overlooks the need to provide other aspects of public service which are essential to promoting access. It ought therefore to be included in the core strategy.
- Must be justified, relevant and reasonable. Improvements should be funded in the area where the development is taking place.

Suggested uses of Section 106 monies

- Youth drop in centres.
- Recreation projects.
- Wildlife sites & environmental projects.
- Long term management of greenspace.
- Contributions towards flood risk management where appropriate.
- Community and cultural infrastructure.
- Don't just focus on highways and schools.
- Community infrastructure.
- Sports facilities (indoor and outdoor).
- Health services.

Disagree:

- Core Strategy should look at implementation and delivery, but it is not the place for detailed policies on S106 obligations.

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control / Planning Obligations DPD.
- Need to consider mechanisms for implementing the strategy more broadly and ensure the early commitment of key delivery agencies.
- S106 agreements should be used in reference to infrastructure. Question the validity of any approach to use developer monies to fund 'social', as opposed to physical, improvements.
- These are considerations for other principal bodies than BDC and the funding activities should be for those responsible.
- Incentives for poor development are unacceptable. Might have too much influence on planning decisions.
- Planning gain should be directly applied to the related project. People need help close to where they live.

Note: Questions 44 and 45 are two aspects of the same topic: planning gain, and similar issues were raised on each. Where an issue is raised in both 44 and 45, it is not repeated in 45.

Q45. Do you think that changing the basis on which planning gain from development is secured is an issue for inclusion in the Core Strategy?

- Agree - 41
- Disagree -7
- No opinion - 0

Agree:

- it is a key strategic consideration - the broad principles / flexible framework for planning gain and S.106 Agreements should be explored. Core Strategy needs to provide the framework and justification for the range of infrastructure that planning obligations fund.
- Consideration should be given to standard charges / formulae / tariffs for securing infrastructure provision. This would provide certainty to developers and the community about what infrastructure / service provision will be provided by a development from the outset.

Disagree:

- This is not a strategic issue, it should be dealt with in a Development Control / Planning Obligations DPD.
- Core Strategy should look at implementation and delivery, it is not the place for detailed policies.
- No change is needed.

5 Citizens' Panel Survey: Results

Summary of Results

Introduction

- 5.1** In 2007 Planning Services and the Corporate Services Improvement Team ran a joint Citizens' Panel Survey for the Local Development Framework and the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Survey ran from 6th to 20th June 2007 (3 weeks). 381 questionnaires were returned (30% response rate), which is a good response rate locally, for a survey of this length.
- 5.2** The questionnaire itself was piloted with a Citizens' Panel Focus Group, on 10th May 2007, to ensure that it was understandable from a lay-person's point of view.

ASK, LISTEN, ACT!

Basildon District Citizens' Panel

The Basildon District Citizens' Panel provides a platform through which the Council can listen to local people and take on board their views.

The Basildon District Citizens' Panel was set up in September 2005 and is made up of 1,260 local residents who are representative of the population at large. Members of the panel are drawn proportionately from residents belonging to different demographic backgrounds and geographic areas across the District.

The Citizens' Panel are sent up to four questionnaires a year, and, from time to time, are invited to take part in a range of other consultation activities hosted by the Council. Results from the surveys are used to help influence and improve the planning and delivery of local services.

The overall aim of the Citizens' Panel is to empower all local communities and enable them to express their views and opinions on a range of issues which have an impact on the quality of life in the District. In addition:

- The panel provides regular and quick access to a representative group of residents who have agreed to participate in a range of postal surveys and focus groups.
- It is an excellent source of reliable data and regular information
- It is one of the main mechanisms to coordinate consultation activity effectively across the District.
- It enables local people to "have their say" and get involved in the decision making process of the Council.

Summary of Results

Providing Homes for the Future

1 What types of homes do you think are needed the most?

The Citizens' Panel came down firmly on the side of small and family sized houses (66% and 62%), closely followed by housing for elderly people (55%). Homes for people with disabilities and flats were ranked almost equally (at around 25%). A minority of people thought that sites for Gypsies and Travellers, live-work units, or a mix of all the types of homes were required. The least popular option was for large, executive style homes (3.4%).

2 Which options for accessing homes are needed the most?

By a factor of two, starter homes / homes for first time buyers were viewed as being the most important housing type needed in the District (63%). Homes to rent and homes for key workers were also viewed as being needed, followed by homes to buy. It was also recognised that a mix of all housing types was needed.

3 To encourage development that minimises the need to travel, land in the existing built up areas of the District will be considered first. What types of sites in the towns do you think should be considered for housing development?

The following types of brownfield sites were considered by the Citizens' Panel as being suitable for housing development:

- Conversions, such as offices to flats (the most popular option at 75%)
- Industrial areas and business estates (61%)
- Sites in town centres (49%)
- Sites between buildings (48%)

The Citizens' Panel felt other types of brownfield sites were unsuitable for housing development:

- Demolish some residential areas and rebuild them to higher densities (the least popular choice at 63%)
- Large gardens behind existing houses (59%)
- Car Parks (54%)
- Local Shopping Parades (45%)

In comparison, the Citizens' Panel sent a very clear message that greenfield sites should not be used for housing development. Around three-quarters of people did not want school playing fields, formal or informal open space being used for housing development.

4 Which of the following should be a priority for the future design of homes?

This question looked at "future-proofing" new homes by making them more adaptable to changes in the future, and improving estate layouts. The Citizens' Panel ranked the options in the following order (1 being the most important):

1. Increasing energy efficiency
2. Improving new estate layouts to enhance the safety of children, pedestrians and cyclists
3. Requiring homes to be designed to meet the needs of all ages
4. Requiring installation on new dwellings of renewable energy sources
5. Ensuring that new houses are easily extendable

5. There are different options for locating new homes across the District. How do you think the new homes should be distributed? (CHOOSE UP TO TWO BOXES)

This question asked about how housing should be distributed across the District. The option of dividing the housing between the towns and villages according to their local need and infrastructure capacity was the most popular choice (55%), followed by equally splitting the housing between the three towns (31%). Few people thought that the housing should be built mostly in one town.

6 If we cannot find enough land within the three towns, how much do you agree or disagree with the options listed below as alternative development sites?

The Citizens' Panel did not want any Green Belt lost to development, whether it was adjacent to a town or village, or in a more isolated location. 38% did not want Greenbelt considered for development under any circumstances.

7 New housing developments above a certain size are required to incorporate a percentage of "affordable" housing. Examples of "affordable" housing include Local Authority or Housing Association homes for rent, shared ownership, and key worker housing. What do you think about the need for affordable housing in the District?

The majority of people (59%) thought that the number of affordable homes should be set according to the local need in each town or village. A fifth of people thought that the number required on each site should be more than the 35% target proposed in the East of England Plan.

Supporting Jobs and Businesses

8 How can we meet the changing needs of businesses and improve the skills and employment opportunities of the local workforce?

The Citizens' panel ranked the options in the following order of importance (1 being the most important):

1. Apprenticeship Schemes (65%)
2. Adult numeracy / literacy skills training (49%)
3. Development of Trade Schools (48%)
4. Support business sponsorship of skills training schemes for employees and the community (45%)

5. Provision of careers advice and guidance (41%)
6. Support small business start-ups and local enterprise (38%)
7. Promote the take up of post 16 education (30%)

9 How much do you agree or disagree with the following options for how land to meet employment needs is developed in the District?

The Citizens' Panel strongly agreed with the following options for employment land:

- Re-use derelict or under used industrial areas and business estates (80%)
- New employment sites should be easily accessible by public transport, walking and cycle paths (68%)
- Ensure that the town centres maximise their potential for job creation (60%)
- New employment sites should have easy access to major roads to retain employment in the District (45%)
- Build on undeveloped land within industrial areas and business estates (33%)

In comparison, 58% strongly disagreed with creating new employment areas on Green Belt sites adjoining the edge of the existing built up areas.

Environment, Transport, Energy and Design

Protecting the environment is an important issue for the District, in particular, safeguarding wildlife, waste management and pollution.

10 Which of the following options for protecting the environment for the future should or should not be considered?

The Citizens' Panel were emphatic that new developments should have a strong foundation in environmental protection. All but two of the environmental protection measures suggested received 75% or more of the Panel's votes.

- New developments should be in locations easily accessible by public transport (89%)
- Promote the provision of greenspace and landscaping in new developments (87%)
- Sites with significant wildlife value should be protected from development (86%)
- Wildlife Corridors should be created in those parts of the District lacking nature conservation interest (82%)
- Require new housing developments to collect rain water from roofs for use on gardens and for flushing toilets (80%)
- Increase the amount of space in new housing developments for recycling (78%)
- New developments should be designed to accommodate solar heating / power panels, wind turbines etc. (75%)
- Require a minimum proportion of electricity consumed to be generated from on site renewable energy sources, such as wind turbines (60%)

The Citizens' Panel was split down the middle (42% for, 44% against) on the option "to encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport, reduce the number of parking spaces at new developments".

11 The following list sets out a range of options that could be adopted to encourage the use of alternatives to car travel. Which of these options do you consider most desirable?

From the "most desirable" responses the three most favoured options were:

- Improving public transport by the establishment of new services
- Providing safe and direct pedestrian and cycle links as part of new development
- Provide safe cycle parking in key locations; followed by

- Improving existing cycle and pedestrian routes
- Providing new cycle and pedestrian routes where there are gaps in the network ; and with

- Prioritise the needs of pedestrians over vehicle movement and parking in the design of new developments as the least favoured

Promoting Healthy Communities

12 Access to health facilities is an important issue. Please select your preferred option for future health facilities in the District.

Two options were offered: to concentrate healthcare facilities in highly accessible locations where a broad range of facilities can be provided, or, to widely distribute them throughout the built up areas, with no co-location of facilities. 52% of respondents opted for concentrating healthcare facilities, compared to 42% who wanted them widely distributed.

13 Which health issues do you think should be a priority for the District?

The four options the Panel prioritised were (with 1 being the highest priority):

1. Drugs and alcohol
2. Equal access to health facilities for all members of the community
3. Provision of care for vulnerable people
4. Improving leisure and sports facilities to encourage people to become more active

The four options that the Panel felt were the least important were:

- Mental health
- Obesity
- Smoking
- Sexual health services / advice (least important of all at 12%)

14 As the population ages, the demand for residential care facilities and homes for the elderly will increase. Please indicate which approach you most agree with for the District.

The Citizens' Panel very much supported facilities for home based care (80%) and focusing on smaller scale provision dispersed around the District, to meet local needs (65%). They were, however, divided on the issue of large scale residential care facilities, such as retirement villages, with 30% being for, and 33% against the concept.

Education Provision

15 The possibility of using schools to provide other community uses, and future co-location of educational, health and leisure facilities needs to be considered. Please select which statement you most agree with.

Of all the questions asked, this question resulted in the closest vote, with only 1 vote separating the two options. This question investigated whether there would be public support for co-locating educational, health and leisure facilities together, or whether the public would prefer them to be on separate sites. Co-location received 185 votes, whilst separate sites received 184 votes.

16 How important to you are the following educational options in supporting your community? Score 1 for not important to 5 for very important.

This question asked the Panel to prioritise various educational options, ranging from the quality of schools to opportunities for adult education. The Panel prioritised the following options as "very important:"

- Improving the quality of schools in the District (72%)
- Reducing truancy levels across the District (63%)
- Ensuring that those with educational disabilities are supported (62%)
- More opportunities for skills based learning (58%)
- Improving the level of educational attainment in the District (54%)
- Ensuring equality of education provision, so the needs of all members of the community are met (54%)
- Helping parents engage in children's education (51%)
- Accessible careers advice to all residents (41%)
- Providing more opportunities for lifelong learning (38%)
- Increasing the number of students entering further education (34%)

Community Issues

17 The reduction and prevention of crime is a priority for the District. What is most important to you?

78% of people thought that tackling anti-social behaviour was the the most important issue, twice as many as for any other suggestion. Next came crime prevention activity (38%) and providing a safer physical environment (36%). Reducing the fear of crime (28%) and working with communities to identify community safety priorities (17%) were given the lowest priority by the Panel.

18 Local communities are changing and developing across the District. How important do you think each of the following are for the District?

This question asked the Panel to prioritise various community issues. Reducing teenage pregnancy, increasing the numbers of young people in training, service provision for vulnerable groups and having low unemployment were the Panel's main priorities. Interestingly, the Panel prioritised having low unemployment over increasing income. The Panel prioritised the following issues as "very important:"

- Reducing teenage pregnancy (61%)
- Increasing the number of young people in education / training / employment (61%)
- Service provision for vulnerable groups (e.g. elderly, disabled) (60%)
- Low unemployment levels (59%)
- Equal access to services for all members of the community (53%)
- Tackling child poverty (47%)
- Service provision for carers (46.5%)
- Availability of children's services (43%)
- Increase income levels (38%)
- Supporting different communities in living together (27%)

Profile of Respondents

- The majority of the respondents were over 40, with almost 40% being over 60.
- The age profile of the respondents does not mirror that of the District. 95% of respondents were over 30, whereas in 2001¹⁾ 61% of the District's population was over 30 and around 19% were over 60.
- Gender wise, respondents were just about evenly split, reflecting the proportions of men and women in the District.
- The respondents represented a good mix of different socio-economic groups.
- The ethnicity of the respondents in general, reflected the make-up of the District, with 95% of questionnaires being returned by persons of White British background. A good level of response was made by people of mixed background. However, the response rate from people of Asian, Black and Chinese backgrounds were below that required to fully represent the ethnic make up of the District.

Table 1 Summer 2007 Citizens' Panel - Age of Respondents

| Age | Total | Under 20 | 20-30 | 30-40 | 40-50 | 50-60 | 60-65 | 65+ |
|-------------------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number | 381 | 1 | 18 | 42 | 84 | 88 | 74 | 74 |
| Percentage | 100% | 0.26% | 4.7% | 11% | 22% | 23.1% | 19.4% | 19.4% |

Table 2 Summer 2007 Citizens' Panel - Gender of Respondents

| Gender | Total | Male | Female |
|-------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Number | 381 | 176 | 205 |
| Percentage | 100% | 46.2% | 53.8% |

1 District wide population data is from the Office of National Statistics website neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Table 3 Summer 2007 Citizens' Panel - Approximate Social Grade of Respondents

| Approximate Social Grade ⁽²⁾ | Total | AB Higher and intermediate managerial / administrative / professional | C1 Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial / administrative / professional | C2 Skilled manual workers | DE Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers / On state benefit, unemployed, lowest grade workers | No Response |
|--|-------|--|--|---------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Number of Respondents | 381 | 56 | 156 | 79 | 84 | 6 |
| Percentage of Respondents | 100% | 14.7% | 40.9% | 20.7% | 22% | 1.6% |
| For comparison: Basildon District (2001) - Approximate Social Grade percentage | | | | | | |
| Percentage | 100% | 20.6% | 30.5% | 15.7% | 33.1% | |

Table 4 Summer 2007 Citizens' Panel Survey - Ethnicity of Respondents

| Ethnic Group | Number | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| White - British | 362 | 95% |
| White - Irish | 1 | 0.26% |
| Any Other White Background | 6 | 1.6% |
| Mixed - White and Black Caribbean | 1 | 0.26% |
| Mixed - White and Black African | 3 | 0.8% |
| Mixed - White and Asian | 2 | 0.52% |
| Any Other Mixed Background | 1 | 0.26% |
| Asian or Asian British | - | - |
| Pakistani | - | - |
| Bangladeshi | 1 | 0.26% |
| Any Other Asian Background | - | - |
| Black or Black British Caribbean | - | - |
| African | - | - |
| Any Other Black Background | - | - |
| Chinese or Other Ethnic Group Chinese | - | - |
| Any Other Background | - | - |
| No Response | 4 | 1% |
| Total | 381 | 100% |

2 Office for National Statistics classification (dataset UV50). Social Grade is the socio-economic classification used by the Market Research and Marketing Industries, most often in the analysis of spending habits and consumer attitudes. Although it is not possible to allocate Social Grade precisely from information collected by the 2001 Census, the Market Research Society has developed a method for using Census information to provide a good approximation of Social Grade.



Local Development Framework

Core Strategy

Issues Consultation Results: Appendices



Appendix A Core Strategy Issues Paper: Consultation Arrangements

Consultation Arrangements

Consultation dates

- A.1** The Core Strategy Issues Paper consultation ran for six weeks from 22nd October 2007 to 30th November 2007. A Call for Sites ran from 5th November to 14th December 2007⁽³⁾

Press briefing

- A.2** A press briefing was given on the 10th Oct 2007, the day before Cabinet approved the Issues Paper, which was picked up by local papers. The Council also issued a press release.

Notification letters / emails

- A.3** Notification letters / e-mails were sent out to everyone on the LDF mailing list. ⁽⁴⁾ Close to 900 notifications were sent out in the initial mail shot:
- 515 letters (posted 2nd class on 17 October 2007)
 - 381 emails (e-mailed out on 19 October 2007)
 - Total = 895
- A.4** Notification letters / emails were sent to the relevant "specific consultees" as listed in the relevant Regulations, including the Parish / Town Councils (both in and adjacent to the District), individuals, assorted community groups and a varied range of organisations and businesses.
- A.5** The Council's Economic Development Team e-mailed businesses on the "Foundations" business newsletter mailing list, letting them know about the consultations.

Adverts

- A full page advert on the Issues Paper and Call for Sites was placed in the Yellow Advertiser (YA), which is a weekly free paper delivered to homes across the District, on Thursday 25th October 2007.
- A half page advert on the Issues Paper and Call for Sites was published in the Basildon Echo, a local daily paper, on Monday 22nd October 2007.
- An advert on the Call for Sites was also placed in Estates Gazette, a national, weekly, property journal.

3 Note: All the advertising / posters / notification letters for the Issues Paper consultation also covered the Call for Sites exercise.

4 The LDF mailing list consists of people / organisations who had either been a consultee on the draft Replacement Local Plan (RLP), or had expressed an interest in being on the LDF mailing list. After the draft RLP was withdrawn, everyone who had responded to the RLP were asked if they wanted to remain on the mailing list. As not everybody did, the mailing list does not include everyone who responded to the RLP.



- Reminder adverts for the Issues Paper were published in the YA on, 15th November 2007 and Echo on Monday 19th November 2007.
- Further Call for Sites reminder adverts were placed in the YA on Thursday 29th November and the Echo on Monday 3rd December.

A.6 Parish / Town Councils in the District, the Billericay District Residents Association, libraries, community halls and leisure centres were sent posters for their notice boards.

Access to paper copies

A.7 Copies of the consultation documents were available in the public libraries in the District, at Planning Reception (Basildon Centre) and in the Area Housing Offices for viewing. Copies could also be picked up from the main libraries and Planning Reception. Paper copies of the issues paper were available free of charge, on request, for those without access to the internet.

Internet access

A.8 The consultation was predominantly an on-line consultation using Limehouse software, with consultees encouraged to make representations electronically. The on-line consultation system could be accessed from the Council's Homepage and its planning pages.



Appendix B Core Strategy Issues Paper: Consultees List

Consultees

Organisations consulted

B.1 Under Regulation 25, the Council must consult with a wide range of bodies before embarking upon the Preferred Options stage. The following tables list the Specific and General, Government and Other bodies that were consulted in accordance with PPS12. A large number of members of the public were also consulted although they are not listed below.

B.2 Specific Consultation Bodies ⁽⁵⁾

B.3 Each of the specific consultation bodies, to the extent that the LPA thinks that the proposed subject matter of the DPD affects the body (25 (1) (a)):

- Natural England (formerly Countryside Agency & English Nature)
- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Department of Transport - Rail Group (previously Strategic Rail Authority) – via GO East.
- Highways Agency
- East of England Development Agency (EEDA)
- East of England Regional Assembly (EERA)
- GO-East
- Telecommunication Operators (via the Mobile Operators Association)
- Strategic Health Authority (East of England Strategic Health Authority)
- Electricity companies in the area - National Grid
- Gas companies in the area - National Grid
- Anglian Water Services Ltd (sewerage undertaker)
- Essex & Suffolk Water (water undertaker)

- Town and Parish Councils within the District
 - Ramsden Crays Parish Council
 - Billericay Town Council
 - Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council
 - Little Burstead Parish Council
 - Great Burstead & South Green Parish Council
 - Shotgate Parish Council

- Adjacent local authorities, including Parish, District & Borough Councils, & Essex County Council (ECC)

5 A wider group of relevant specific and general consultation bodies were asked if they wished to be consulted. Unfortunately, a number of organisations did not respond to the enquiry. Some, such as the Human Rights and Equality Commission, declined the invitation. In some cases, a current contact address could not be found.



- Rochford District Council
- Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
- Castle Point Borough Council
- Brentwood Borough Council
- Chelmsford Borough Council
- Essex County Council
- Thurrock Borough Council
- Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation

- Runwell Parish Council
- Herongate & Ingrave Parish Council
- West Horndon Parish Council
- Mountnessing Parish Council
- Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council
- Rettendon & Battlesbridge Parish Council
- South Hanningfield Parish Council
- Stock Parish Council
- Rawreth Parish Council
- Rayleigh Town Council
- Canvey Island Town Council

B.4 Such of the **general consultation bodies** as the LPA considers appropriate (25 (1) (b)). These are:

- **voluntary bodies** some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the authority's area (see topic list below)
- bodies which represent the interests of different **racial, ethnic or national groups** in the authority's area
 - Dale Farm Housing Association
 - Friends, Families and Travellers
 - Irish Travellers Movement in Britain
- bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the authority's area
 - Diocese of Chelmsford (Church of England)
 - Basildon Islamic Centre
 - South East Essex Cultural Centre
 - Roman Catholic Diocese of Brentwood
 - Christ Church, Billericay
 - Living Word Community Church
 - St. Mary's Church PCC Ramsden Bellhouse

- bodies which represent the interests of **disabled** persons in the authority's area
 - DIAL Basildon & South Essex
 - Basildon Rainbow Club for the Blind & Partially Sighted
 - Guide Dogs for the Blind
- bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on **business** in the authority's area
 - Business Association of Basildon & District
 - Wickford Business Association

Relevant Government Departments

- Department for Children, Schools and Families (via GO-East)
- Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (via GO-East)
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (via GO-East)
- Department for Transport (via GO-East)
- Department of Health (through relevant Regional Public Health Group)
- Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (via GO-East)
- Ministry of Defence (Defence Estates)
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport (via Eng Heritage & SportEngland)

Planning Agents / Consultees

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A S Planning Ltd | JB Planning Associates Ltd |
| Addendum Ltd | Jennifer Lampert Associates Ltd |
| Andrew Martin Associates | Jones Lang Lasalle |
| Ashley House PLC | Knight Frank LLP |
| ASP | Lambert Smith Hampton |
| Atkins Ltd | Land Securities Trillian |
| Ayshford Sansome | Longstaff Design Associates |
| Barker Parry Town Planning | Metropolis PD |
| Barton Willmore | Michael Benham |
| Bidwells Planning Consultants | Michael East |
| Boyer Planning | Mono Consultants |
| Broadway Malyan | Pegasus Planning Group |
| Carter Jonas | PHD Chartered Town Planners |
| CGMS Consulting | Phillip Jeans Homes |
| Charles Planning Associates Ltd | Planning Potential |
| Clive Richardson Associates | PRC Architects Ltd |
| Cluttons LLP | Preston Bennett |



A S Planning Ltd
Connells
Courtley Consultants Ltd
Croudace Strategic
Daniel Rinsler & Co
Dedman Planning & Regeneration Ltd
Design Associates
Development Planning Partnership
DLA Town Planning Ltd
DPP
Drivers Jonas
Entec UK Ltd
Essex Site Finders
Fenn Wright
First Plan
Framptons
Fusion Online Ltd
GH Chartered Surveyors
GL Hearn
Gough Planning Services

Graham Jolley Ltd
Hallam Land Management Ltd
Hayhurst Town Planning Services
Hepher Dixon Ltd
Iceni Projects Ltd
Indigo Planning

JB Planning Associates Ltd
Ray Chapman Associates
Raymond Stemp
Robert Leonard Group PLC
Robinson Escott Planning
Rona Partnership
Savills
Savills Commercial Ltd
Savills Commercial Planning
Scott Wilson
Smart Planning Ltd
Smith Stuart Reynolds
Stan Patching
Stewart Ross Associates
Strutt and Parker
Tetlow King Planning
The John Daldry Partnership
The JTS Partnership LLP
The Planning Bureau Ltd
The Planning Law Practice
Tillet, Burns & Hughes Chartered Surveyors
Tribal MJP
WA Fairhurst and Partners
Warburton Property Solutions
Whirledge & Nott
Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd



Core Strategy Topic Areas

Housing

- House Builders Federation - East Midlands & Eastern Region
- Showman's Guild of GB
- Shelter

- Housing Associations:
 - Circle Anglia
 - East Thames Housing Group
 - Estuary Housing Association
 - Family Mosaic
 - Genesis Housing Group
 - Moat Homes Ltd
 - St George's Community Housing
 - Swan Housing Group
 - The Guinness Trust

- Local, Regional & National Developers and House Builders on the LDF mailing list, including:
 - Redrow Homes
 - Gleeson Homes
 - Taylor Wimpey
 - Martin Grant Homes
 - Countryside Properties
 - Fairview New Homes Ltd
 - Philip Jean Homes
 - Bellway Homes
 - George Wimpey East London
 - Carter & Ward of Wickford Ltd
 - Sherewood Homes
 - Barratt Homes Eastern Counties
 - Hyde built Homes Ltd
 - Moody Homes Ltd

- English Partnerships
- Housing Corporation
- Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership



Climate Change

- Veolia
- ECC Waste & Minerals (via ECC Planning)
- British Wind Energy Association (BWEA)
- Renewables East

Green Belt, Natural & Built Environment

- Basildon & Thurrock Friends of the Earth
- Basildon Natural History Society
- Basildon Wildlife & Countryside Forum
- Billericay Archaeological and Historical Society
- Billericay Mast Watch
- CABE
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- CPRE Basildon
- Essex County Council (Planning)
- ECC Heritage, Conservation, Design, Archaeology (via ECC Planning)
- Essex Wildlife Trust
- Forestry Commission
- Friends of the Earth
- Green Action Group (Wickford)
- Health & Safety Executive
- Lafarge Aggregates
- National Farmers Union
- Norsey Wood Society
- South East Essex Friends of the Earth
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Wickford Action Group
- Wickford North Green Action Group

Employment

- Health & Safety Executive
- Essex Development & Regeneration Agency (Exdra)
- Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation
- Ford Motor Company
- Local Companies on the LDF mailing list



Recreation

- Sport England (East Region)
- Basildon and District Bowls Association
- Basildon Rifle & Pistol Club
- Basildon Rugby Club
- Basildon Sports Council
- British Horse Society
- Fields in Trust (formerly NPFA)
- Ford Sports and Social Club (Essex)
- Ramblers Association
- South Essex Gymnastics Club
- sportessex
- Trinity Utd Football Club

Town Centres, Retail & Leisure

- The Theatres Trust
- Basildon Town Centre Management Company
- British Retail Consortium
- Basildon Renaissance Partnership
- Billericay Arts Association
- Local/National Town Centre, retail & leisure related businesses on the LDF mailing list, including:
 - WM Morrison Supermarkets PLC
 - Tesco Stores
 - Sainsbury's
 - Lidl UK Ltd

Transport

- Network Rail
- Arriva Southern Counties
- First Essex Buses Ltd
- Essex Ford Group
- Nelson Coaches
- Sustrans
- Freight Transport Assoc
- Road Haulage Assoc
- ECC Highways



Social

- Community Associations.
 - Basildon Community Resource Centre
 - Billericay District Residents Association
 - Church View Residents Association
 - Hovefields Residents Association
 - Laindon Community Association
 - Lee Chapel North Community Centre
 - Pitsea Mount Community Association
 - Pounders Community Association
 - South Green Community Association
 - Trenham Community Association
 - Wickford Community Association
- Health
 - Southwest Essex Primary Care Trust
 - South Essex Partnership Trust
 - Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
 - Epilepsy Action Basildon & Thurrock Branch
 - Diabetes UK (Basildon & District Voluntary Group)
 - NHS Estates
 - East of England Strategic Health Authority
- Education
 - Adult Community Learning
 - Adult Community Learning South Essex
 - Billericay School, Billericay
 - Essex County Council Schools Service
 - James Hornsby High School, Basildon
 - Learning and Skills Council
 - The Bromfords School, Wickford
 - Thurrock and Basildon College, Basildon
- Other social / community organisations
 - Essex County Council, Community Planning and Regeneration
 - Home Start Basildon District
 - Parents Aid
 - Relate South Essex
 - Age Concern- Essex
 - Billericay Good Companions Senior Citizens Club
 - The Salvation Army Endeavour Lunch Club
 - Citizens Advice Bureaux in the District
 - Basildon, Billericay & Wickford CVS
 - Police – Architectural Liaison
 - Police – Strategic Development
 - National Offender Management Service
 - Essex Fire Authority (Basildon Commander)
 - Essex Fire Authority (Property Services)



Appendix C Core Strategy Issues Paper: Consultation Letter

Note: The same wording was used for email notification

Sample Letter

Date: 17th October 2007

Please ask for:

Department: Planning Services

Tel. No. 01268 294748

E-Mail: ldf@basildon.gov.uk

Ref: 07/00046/FPLANS

Dear Sir or Madam

BASILDON DISTRICT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

CORE STRATEGY ISSUES PAPER CONSULTATION

Consultee ID:

Consultee User Name:

As you may be aware, Basildon District Council has begun preparation of the Core Strategy – the first Development Plan Document (DPD) forming part of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF is a collection of documents that will form the planning strategy for the District to 2021.

What is the Core Strategy Issues Paper?

The prime purpose of the Core Strategy is to set out the main planning issues facing the District over the next 15 years, together with policies and proposals to address them. Included in the issues would be the need to identify broad locations for development to meet District targets and requirements. Only policies and proposals which deal with those issues finally approved by the Council, following its consideration of all the representations made in respect of the consultation exercise, will be included in the Core Strategy.

Why is the Council consulting on the Issues Paper?



Based on an assessment of relevant evidence and local knowledge, the Core Strategy Issues Paper represents the Council's initial view of the District's major planning issues. This consultation exercise intends to find out the views of residents and other interested parties on whether there are any additional issues that should be dealt with in the Core Strategy and whether some of the identified issues should not be included, or revised. The paper does not contain any development proposals or policy options; these will be included in the later stages of the Core Strategy.

The issues set out in the paper relate to the following topics:

- Green Belt
- Housing
- Climate Change & Renewable Energy
- Natural & Built Environment
- Employment
- Recreation
- Town Centres, retailing and leisure
- Transport
- Social Factors

How can you take part?

The Council welcomes your views on the Issues Paper. All comments will be taken into consideration by the Council before finalising the issues to be addressed by the Core Strategy.

You can view and comment on the Issues Paper by using the new online LDF consultation system at www.basildon.gov.uk/ldf, from 22nd October 2007. Please use your username to access the on-line consultation. Paper copies are available at all the public libraries in the District and the Council's Planning Reception at the Basildon Centre (see address below). If you do not have computer access, the Issues Paper is available from Forward Plans, on request.

The deadline for comments on the Issues Paper is 30th November 2007 at 5pm.

Coming Soon...


Call for Sites

The Council will be shortly making a Call for Sites. If you are aware of a suitable site or sites for future development, and wish to put it forward for consideration, we would welcome your suggestions.

If you wish to propose a particular site or sites, we require the completion of the on-line Call for Sites form. If you do not have computer access, the Call for Sites form is available from Forward Plans, on request.

You are requested to complete the form in as much detail as possible. Substantial, detailed site appraisals are not required at this stage. The Call for Sites form can be found at www.basildon.gov.uk/callforsites, from Monday 5th November 2007. **The closing date for the Call for Sites is Friday 14th December 2007, at 5pm.**

Please note, that site(s) proposed by landowners for development may not necessarily be selected for inclusion at the Preferred Option stage of the Core Strategy or Site Allocations DPD.



If you need any further information on either of these consultations, please contact the Forward Plans Team, whose contact details are at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Ian Syers

Assistant Manager of Planning Services

Basildon District Council

The Basildon Centre, St Martin's Square

Basildon, Essex SS14 1DL

Tel: 01268 533333



Appendix D Citizens' Panel Survey: Numerical and Percentage Results

Citizens' Panel Results

CITIZENS' PANEL SURVEY

SUMMER 2007

Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Development Framework

Providing Homes for the Future

| Q1. What type of homes do you think are needed the most in the District? (CHOOSE UP TO THREE BOXES) | Numerical Results | Percentage Results |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Flats | 95 | 24.9% |
| Small houses (1-2 bedrooms) | 250 | 65.6% |
| Family housing (3-4 bedrooms) | 235 | 61.7% |
| Large, executive style houses | 13 | 3.4% |
| Elderly persons housing (e.g. bungalows, sheltered housing, retirement complexes, etc) | 11 | 55.4% |
| Homes for people with disabilities (e.g. specially designed houses, care homes etc) | 97 | 25.5% |
| Live-Work units (e.g. homes with working space, such as an office or workshop) | 23 | 6.0% |
| Authorised sites for gypsies and travellers | 32 | 8.4% |
| A mix of all of these | 31 | 8.1% |
| Other | 15 | 3.9% |
| No reply | 3 | 0.8% |

"Other" comments made on Q1: ⁽⁶⁾⁽⁷⁾

- No more homes, the district is already choked (x4)
- No more buildings on green spaces
- Council houses for young people, first time homeowners
- Youth accommodation, 21y+ bedsits / apartments
- Affordable homes for low income people (x3)
- Shared ownership
- Improvements to existing housing estates (Vange)
- Redevelop areas that are all ready built on
- You cannot buck the market

6 Comments are made once, unless other wise stated by numbers in brackets.

7 Some respondents may have made more than one comment. Therefore the number of comments made may not directly relate to the percentage of respondents who made comments.

- Different needs in different areas
- No more authorised gypsies / travellers sites (x3)
- Travellers should have no rights if they don't pay council tax

| Q2. Which options for accessing homes are needed the most in the District? (CHOOSE UP TO TWO BOXES) | Numerical Results | Percentage Results |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Homes to buy | 101 | 26.5% |
| Homes to rent | 135 | 35.4% |
| Homes for Key workers (e.g. nurses, teachers, emergency services staff, etc) | 136 | 35.7% |
| Starter homes / homes for first time buyers | 240 | 63.0% |
| A mix of all of these | 65 | 17.1% |
| Other | 10 | 2.6% |
| No reply | 3 | 0.8% |

"Other" comments made on Q2:

- No more houses (x2)
- Low rent for low income families
- Shared ownership (x3)
- Council houses for people who have lived in the area for years (x2)
- If no improvements to Vange + other estates then demolish and start again
- You cannot buck the market , (much)



Q3. To encourage development that minimises the need to travel, land in the existing built up areas of the District will be considered first. What types of sites in the towns do you think should be considered for housing development?

| Brownfield Sites (land that has been previously built upon) | Yes | No | Don't know | No Reply |
|---|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Car parks | 83 (21.8%) | 205 (53.8%) | 36 (9.4%) | 57 (15.0%) |
| Sites between buildings | 184 (48.3%) | 101 (26.5%) | 47 (12.3%) | 49 (12.9%) |
| Large gardens behind existing houses | 77 (20.2%) | 226 (59.3%) | 24 (6.3%) | 54 (14.2%) |
| Industrial areas and business estates | 232 (60.9%) | 88 (23.1%) | 22 (5.8%) | 39 (10.2%) |
| Sites in town centres | 185 (48.6%) | 115 (30.2%) | 24 (6.3%) | 57 (15.0%) |
| Local shopping parades | 113 (29.7%) | 170 (44.6%) | 41 (10.8%) | 57 (15.0%) |
| Conversions, such as offices to flats | 286 (75.1%) | 29 (7.6%) | 19 (5.0%) | 47 (12.3%) |
| Demolish some residential areas and rebuild them to higher densities (higher numbers / closer together) | 58 (15.2%) | 238 (62.5%) | 22 (5.8%) | 63 (16.5%) |
| | Response | | No Response | |
| Other | 11 (2.9%) | | 370 (97.1%) | |
| Greenfield Sites (land previously undeveloped) | Yes | No | Don't know | No Reply |
| School Playing Fields | 22 (5.8%) | 294 (77.2%) | 14 (3.7%) | 51 (13.4%) |
| Formal Open Space (e.g. sports pitches) | 21 (5.5%) | 295 (77.4%) | 16 (4.2%) | 49 (12.9%) |
| Informal open space (e.g. parks, grassed areas within housing areas) | 47 (12.3%) | 275 (72.2%) | 13 (3.4%) | 46 (12.1%) |
| | Response | | No Response | |
| Other | 18 (4.7%) | | 363 (95.3%) | |

"Other" comments made on Q3:

- Only where estates are run down (x3)
- Homes on brownfield sites only
- Proximity to public transport
- Sites that have not been used for 10 years or more (x3)
- Travellers sites (x2)
- Above the existing shops in shopping parades

| Q4. Which of the following should be a priority for the future design of homes? (CHOOSE UP TO TWO BOXES) | Numerical Results | Percentage Results |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ensuring new houses are easily extendable | 58 | 15.2% |
| Increasing energy efficiency | 227 | 59.6% |
| Requiring installation on new dwellings of renewable energy sources e.g. wind turbines or solar heating | 90 | 23.6% |
| Requiring houses to be designed to meet the needs of a full age range | 181 | 47.5% |
| Improving new estate layouts to enhance the safety of children, pedestrians and cyclists | 189 | 49.6% |
| Other | 10 | 2.6% |
| No reply | 4 | 1.0% |

"Other" comments made on Q4:

- Also the elderly
- Better sound proofing between houses and adequate car parking off road as well (x3)
- Blend with existing properties
- New homes (Vange) slum's (x2)
- Ensure that there is enough road capacity for location of new estates (x2)
- Depending on cost of installation



| Q5. There are different options for locating new homes across the District. How do you think the new homes should be distributed? (CHOOSE UP TO TWO BOXES) | Numerical Results | Percentage Results |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Divide between the towns and villages, according to their local need and infrastructure capacity (roads, water supply, schools etc) | 209 | 54.9% |
| Equally split between the three towns | 118 | 31.0% |
| Mostly in Basildon | 30 | 7.9% |
| Mostly in Billericay | 19 | 5.0% |
| Mostly in Wickford | 12 | 3.1% |
| Other | 2 | 0.5% |
| No Reply | 2 | 0.5% |

"Other" comments made on Q5

- In proportion to existing town size
- Build a new town with all their own facilities (x3)
- Shared between all three towns
- Located in the areas that have the biggest housing problems (x2)
- Basildon is full
- More houses for Basildon residents only
- None in Billericay
- More houses needed in Billericay
- Affordable 1st time buyers 2 bed houses

Q6. If we cannot find enough land within the three towns, how much do you agree or disagree with the options listed below as alternative development sites?

| | Strongly Disagree 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Strongly Agree 5 | No Reply |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Greenbelt sites adjoining the edge of existing built up areas | 171 (44.9%) | 39 (10.2%) | 74 (19.4%) | 35 (9.2%) | 23 (6.05) | 39 (10.2%) |
| Greenbelt sites on the edge of villages | 156 (40.9%) | 59 (15.5%) | 54 (14.2%) | 36 (9.4%) | 21 (5.5%) | 55 (14.4%) |
| A completely new settlement in the Greenbelt | 207 (54.3%) | 35 (9.2%) | 35 (9.2%) | 17 (4.5%) | 26 (6.8%) | 61 (16.0%) |
| Isolated sites located in the Greenbelt | 175 (45.9%) | 52 (13.6%) | 47 (12.3%) | 24 (6.3%) | 26 (6.8%) | 57 (15.0%) |
| Greenbelt should not be considered under any circumstances | 97 (25.5%) | 27 (7.1%) | 46 (12.1%) | 32 (8.4%) | 146 (38.3%) | 33 (8.7%) |
| | Response | | | No Response | | |
| Other | 7 (1.8%) | | | 374 (98.2%) | | |

"Other" comments made on Q6

- Redevelop existing stock
- Land that supermarkets acquire for future development
- Along Thames Area, Grays , Tilbury etc.
- Houses/ apartments near railway stations
- Do not touch greenbelt
- Any proposal on greenbelt requires careful individual consideration - no blanket proposals (x2)
- No more houses to be built on flood plains



New housing developments above a certain size are required to incorporate a percentage of “affordable” housing. Examples of “affordable” housing include local authority or Housing Association homes for rent, shared ownership, and key worker housing.

| Q7. What do you think about the need for affordable housing in the District? (CHOOSE ONE BOX ONLY) | Numerical Results | Percentage Results |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Use the regional target (35%) of affordable homes required on each development site | 46 | 12.1% |
| Reduce the number of affordable homes required on each development site. | 12 | 3.1% |
| Increase the number of affordable homes required on each development site. | 80 | 21.0% |
| Set the number of affordable homes according to local need in each town or village | 225 | 59.1% |
| Don't know. | 16 | 4.2% |
| No reply | 2 | 0.5% |

"Other" comments made on Q7

- Must also provide and improve services ie: Doctor, Dentist, Schools, Transport etc, first. (x12)
- Improvement in roads (x7)
- Leave the green spaces alone ,more trees and small plants (x5)
- Safe Access for kids to go to school
- Don't build anymore flyovers or subways
- Better sound proofing between houses, also better security systems in houses (x3)
- Better & safer car parking / disabled car access
- Retain the idea of play areas on housing estates (x2)
- Future homes to be built above sea level
- Make people clear front gardens
- Homes must be related to work, above shops. Houses in school grounds for teachers (x2)
- No flats (x28)
- Homes for the future should be decided locally , not by the government (x9)
- A greater percentage of discount on council homes for 1st time buyers, Fixed council mortgages (x6)
- Build more good quality council houses for young couples/ families on low income. Not just for single mums on benefit (x17)
- Shared purchase homes get young people onto the property ladder (x19)
- Get someone with common sense to plan housing, more spaces between houses and back gardens (x15)
- Council houses should not be left unlet, modernise and redevelop (x2)
- Priority given to people who have lived in the district for many years (15+) (x5)
- Use old buildings renovation + redevelopment, 5-Links area (x4)
- Affordable family 1-2 Bedroom houses needed + energy efficient (x14)
- Build more old peoples bungalows and move them out of 2-3 bedroom rented houses, then rent to families (x3)

- Build 'quick chalet' style housing like old pre-fab homes
- Home owners are more responsible with regard to maintenance of the property & area
- Vange estate left incomplete, should be done ASAP (x2)
- Move travellers on to alternative sites
- Build on travellers site (Oak Road)
- Why not limit immigration, won't need as many houses (x2)
- Please stop randomly housing unemployed, criminals, alcoholics, rapist and drug-users (x3)

Supporting Jobs and Businesses

| Q8. How can we meet the changing needs of businesses and improve the skills and employment opportunities of the local workforce? Please indicate on a scale of 1-5 how important you think the following opportunities are for the District. Score 1 not important to score 5 very important. | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | Not Important 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important 5 | No Reply |
| Adult numeracy / literacy skills training | 6 (1.6%) | 23 (6.0%) | 82 (21.5%) | 72 (18.9%) | 187 (49.1%) | 11 (2.9%) |
| Promote the take-up of post 16 education | 9 (2.4%) | 28 (7.3%) | 111 (29.1%) | 90 (23.6%) | 114 (29.9%) | 29 (7.6%) |
| Development of trade schools | 5 (1.3%) | 10 (2.6%) | 60 (15.7%) | 109 (28.6%) | 184 (48.3%) | 13 (3.4%) |
| Apprenticeship schemes | 3 (0.8%) | 3 (0.8%) | 26 (6.8%) | 86 (22.6%) | 249 (65.4%) | 14 (3.7%) |
| Provision of careers advice & guidance | 4 (1.0%) | 20 (5.2%) | 81 (21.3%) | 98 (25.7%) | 156 (40.9%) | 22 (5.8%) |
| Support business sponsorship of skills training schemes for employees and the community | 6 (1.6%) | 16 (4.2%) | 51 (13.4%) | 128 (33.6%) | 170 (44.6%) | 10 (2.6%) |
| Support small business start-ups and local enterprise | 5 (1.3%) | 21 (5.5%) | 92 (24.1%) | 109 (28.6%) | 143 (37.5%) | 11 (2.9%) |
| | Response | | | No Response | | |
| Other | 21 (5.5%) | | | 360 (94.5%) | | |

"Other" comments made on Q8

- Provide free training in conjunction with job centre (x5)
- Go back to having a good apprenticeships, better pay (x2)
- Technical colleges to train young people in plumbing , bricklaying etc (x3)
- Wickford or Billericay needs its own higher / adult education centre
- More Skills= more job opportunities (x2)

- Support the little man, the big guy can look after themselves
- More medium size business
- More schools + Doctors surgery to go with the houses built (x3)
- Unemployed to clean streets and clear up rubbish (x2)
- Provide appropriate + affordable premises and housing
- Provide jobs in other parts of the UK
- Employers employing people with criminal records

Q9. How much do you agree or disagree with the following options for how land to meet employment needs is developed in the District?

| | Strongly Disagree 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Strongly Agree 5 | No Reply |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Re-use derelict or under used industrial areas and business estates | 3 (0.8%) | 3(0.8%) | 18 (4.7%) | 39 (10.2%) | 304 (79.8%) | 14 (3.7%) |
| Build on undeveloped land within the existing employment areas | 37 (9.7%) | 28(7.3%) | 91 (23.9%) | 80 (21.0%) | 125 (32.8%) | 20 (5.2%) |
| Create new employment areas within the urban areas | 38 (10.0%) | 48 (12.6%) | 116 (30.4%) | 72 (18.9%) | 83 (21.8%) | 24 (6.3%) |
| Create new employment areas on Greenbelt sites adjoining the edge of existing built up areas | 221 (58.0%) | 80 (21.0%) | 33 (8.7%) | 18 (4.7%) | 11 (2.9%) | 18 (4.7%) |
| Use land in the urban areas that is currently used for other purposes | 58 (15.2%) | 79 (20.7%) | 124 (32.5%) | 57 (15.0%) | 37 (9.7%) | 26 (6.8%) |
| Ensure that the town centres maximise their potential for job creation | 4 (1.0%) | 5 (1.3%) | 31 (8.1%) | 96 (25.2%) | 230 (60.4%) | 15 (3.9%) |
| Promote working from home, with clear guidelines to minimise potential nuisance and protect the quality of life for neighbours | 29 (7.6%) | 65 (17.1%) | 111 (29.1%) | 81 (21.3%) | 76 (19.9%) | 19 (5.0%) |
| New employment sites should have easy access to major roads to retain employment in the District | 3 (0.8%) | 14 (3.7%) | 66 (17.3%) | 111 (29.1%) | 173 (45.4%) | 14 (3.7%) |
| New employment sites should be easily accessible by public transport, walking and cycle paths | 4 (1.0%) | 7(1.8%) | 32 (8.4%) | 70 (18.4%) | 258 (67.7%) | 10 (2.6%) |
| | Response | | | No Response | | |
| Other | 3 (0.8%) | | | 378 (99.2%) | | |



"Other" comments made on Q9

- Use land in the urban area currently used for other purposes but depends on purpose. What does that mean.
- Public transport within area needs to be reassessed and new routes needed
- Employment sites within walking, cycle paths is a pipe dream in current climate

Additional comments made on supporting jobs and businesses

- Basildon needs to be reassessed by all in the area
- Where will these jobs come from and at what cost to the district? (x3)
- Better bus services between housing and industrial areas also cheaper and reliable (x9)
- Encourage business to stagger working hours to relieve the rush hour on the roads
- Award business for supporting training schemes (x3)
- Better education for kids in Basildon would create a better workplace (x4)
- More important to encourage local employment rather than providing housing (x2)
- Building houses on brownfield sites leaves no site for industry to go
- Jobs + homes should be close together (x2)
- Good employment opportunities for 18y olds
- A wide variety of businesses should be encouraged and not allow over use of one business ie(restaurants) in one area (x2)
- Put light + heavy industries along motor ways
- Reduce cost ie rates etc, provide funding (x8)
- Make the provisions of social benefit less easy to claim, unless some training or work experience is completed. (clean up parks etc) (x8)

The Environment, Transport, Energy and Design

Protecting the environment is an important issue for the District. In particular safeguarding wildlife, waste management and pollution

| Q10. Which of the following options for protecting the environment for the future should or should not be considered? | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | Yes | No | Don't Know | No Reply |
| New developments should be designed to accommodate solar heating / power panels, wind turbines etc | 286 (75.1%) | 23 (6.0%) | 55 (14.4%) | 17 (4.5%) |
| Require a minimum proportion of electricity consumed to be generated from on site renewable energy sources, such as wind turbines | 227 (59.6%) | 59 (15.5%) | 76 (19.9%) | 19 (5.0%) |
| To encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport, reduce the number of parking spaces at new developments | 159 (41.7%) | 167 (43.8%) | 40 (10.5%) | 15 (3.9%) |
| Promote the provision of greenspace and landscaping in new developments | 330 (86.6%) | 13 (3.4%) | 21 (5.5%) | 17 (4.5%) |
| Increase the amount of space in new housing developments for recycling facilities | 297 (78.0%) | 30 (7.9%) | 33 (8.7%) | 21 (5.5%) |
| Require new housing developments to collect rain water from roofs for use on gardens and for flushing toilets | 303 (79.5%) | 27 (7.1%) | 36 (9.4%) | 15 (3.9%) |
| New developments should be in locations easily accessible by public transport | 339 (89.0%) | 7 (1.8%) | 18 (4.7%) | 17 (4.5%) |
| Sites with significant wildlife value should be protected from development | 329 (86.4%) | 10 (2.6%) | 28 (7.3%) | 14 (3.7%) |
| 'Wildlife corridors' should be created in those parts of the District lacking nature conservation interest. | 311 (81.6%) | 18 (4.7%) | 35 (9.2%) | 17 (4.5%) |
| | Response | | No Response | |
| Other | 14 (3.7%) | | 367 (96.3%) | |

"Other" comments made on Q10

- Recycling should be important (x3)
- Public transport increased (x3)
- Ban any wind turbines from landscape areas
- Promote fitting of solar heating / power in existing homes, also rain water collection (x2)
- Timed lighting / heating controls
- Make new developments have well insulated walls, roofs, floors
- Onsite housing for transient workers+ families

- Need for greater education on wildlife conservation
- Create more parks
- Plenty of footpaths to the countryside
- Shared car transport
- People would still use cars, causing still further problems on the streets, if parking was reduced

Q11. The following list sets out a range of options that could be adopted to encourage the use of alternatives to car travel. Which of these options do you consider most desirable? Score 1 for least desirable to 5 for most desirable

| | Least Desirable 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Most desirable 5 | No Reply |
|--|--------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Improving public transport by the establishment of new services | 7 (1.8%) | 4 (1.0%) | 46 (12.1%) | 58 (15.2%) | 254 (66.7%) | 12 (3.1%) |
| Improving existing cycle and pedestrian routes | 10 (2.6%) | 23 (6.0%) | 68 (17.8%) | 92 (24.1%) | 169 (44.4%) | 19 (5.0%) |
| Providing new cycle and pedestrian routes where there are gaps in the network | 9 (2.4%) | 18 (4.7%) | 74 (19.4%) | 96 (25.2%) | 166 (43.6%) | 18 (4.7%) |
| Providing safe and direct pedestrian and cycle links as part of new development | 4 (1.0%) | 14 (3.7%) | 50 (13.1%) | 96 (25.2%) | 200 (52.5%) | 17 (4.5%) |
| Prioritise the needs of pedestrians and cyclists over vehicle movement and parking in the design of new developments | 44 (11.5%) | 51 (13.4%) | 97 (25.5%) | 67 (17.6%) | 105 (27.6%) | 17 (4.5%) |
| Provide safe cycle parking in key locations | 12 (3.1%) | 23 (6.0%) | 64 (16.8%) | 92 (24.1%) | 171 (44.9%) | 19 (5.0%) |
| | Response | | | No Response | | |
| Other | 13 (3.4%) | | | 368 (96.6%) | | |

"Other" comments made on Q11

- Safe pedestrian link is the most desirable
- More cycle paths + cycle parking bays (x3)
- Leave alone
- Make bus + train cheaper + more convenient than the car
- Road awareness by all who use the road
- Parking wardens need to do a better job
- Promote electric cars
- Underpasses are bad in Wickford, they flood
- On site housing for transient workers
- Overhead railways



Additional comments made on Environment, Transport, Energy & Design

- The area around Pitsea station needs to become people friendly (x3)
- More public transport for housing estates + town and countryside day and night (x15)
- Public transport made cheaper, keep bus station undercover, buses to connect with trains (x8)
- Encourage workplaces to provide buses to pick up work force
- Reintroduce trams / trolley buses etc in some areas
- Job is to far away and not on a good public transport route, must use car
- Leave people the choice of transport ie; car, bus or train, people will always use cars (x7)
- No more building without adequate car parking spaces (x3)
- More provisions for disabled access and parking in Basildon
- Cut down on parking spaces near public houses (x2)
- Not all these items are important and should be incorporated into new designs for housing and commerce (x2)
- More lighting for cycle paths / walkways and improvements to surfaces, foot paths on all roads + hedge trimmed back more often (x7)
- More planting of trees/ bushes in areas that are developed
- Discourage people from paving over their front gardens, it can prevent water run off which can lead to flooding
- Only children should be able to ride bicycles on foot paths, adults on roads (x2)
- More to be done to prevent dumping shopping trollies and graffiti all over the place
- Provide housing close to railway stations links
- Make safer environment for mobility users when in town centre pedestrian areas
- None of the above will work without fundamental change in attitude

Promoting Healthy Communities

| Q12. Access to health facilities is an important issue. Please select your preferred option for future health facilities in the District. (CHOOSE ONE BOX ONLY) | Numerical Results | Percentage Results |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| Health facilities should be concentrated in highly accessible locations where a broad range of health facilities can be provided | 198 | 52.0% |
| Health facilities should be widely distributed throughout the built up areas and not co-located | 157 | 41.2% |
| Other (Please specify below) | 12 | 3.1% |
| No reply | 14 | 3.7% |

"Other" comments made on Q12

- GP need to be open more + easily accessible
- Not sure what you mean
- No preference
- Where needed more health facilities (x3)
- More car parking (x2)
- More small injury clinics
- Must have public transport services to hospital buildings

| Q13. Which health issues do you think should be a priority for the District? (CHOOSE THREE BOXES) | Numerical Results | Percentage Results |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Obesity | 85 | 22.3% |
| Smoking | 67 | 17.6% |
| Drugs & Alcohol | 203 | 53.3% |
| Mental Health | 95 | 24.9% |
| Sexual health services / advice | 46 | 12.1% |
| Provision of care for vulnerable people | 156 | 40.9% |
| Equal access to health facilities for all members of the community. | 183 | 48.0% |
| Provision of long term care | 146 | 38.3% |
| Improving leisure and sports facilities to encourage people to become more active | 149 | 39.1% |
| Other (Please specify below) | 13 | 3.4% |
| No reply | 2 | 0.5% |

"Other" comments made on Q13

- Subsidised sport + leisure facilities for not so well off (x2)
- All answers are priority (x6)
- More options for people with long term health conditions
- Air quality monitoring
- Excluding mental health, all other issues can be addressed voluntarily
- More sexual health education, rather than dealing with the consequences
- Playgrounds for younger children
- Areas for adolescents



Q14. As the population ages, the demand for residential care facilities and homes for the elderly will increase. Please indicate which approach you most agree with for the District.

| | Yes | No | Don't Know | No Reply |
|--|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Enable the provision of new large scale residential care facilities, such as retirement villages or large care homes in the District | 152 (39.9%) | 127 (33.3%) | 58 (15.2%) | 44 (11.5%) |
| Focus on smaller scale provision dispersed around the District meeting local needs | 249 (65.4%) | 33 (8.7%) | 58 (15.2%) | 41 (10.8%) |
| Support facilities for home based care where possible | 305 (80.1%) | 11 (2.9%) | 20 (5.2%) | 45 (11.8%) |
| | Response | | No Response | |
| Other (Please specify below) | 2 (0.5%) | | 379 (99.5%) | |

"Other" comments made on Q14

- Mixture, all to be considered (x2)
- Reduce the cost of care for people within their own homes (not make it means-tested)
- Give people options about moving to a smaller home
- Enlarge Dipple Centre, spend money on existing centres not on the festival park
- A Basildon D C website exclusively for health care advice would be better
- The provision of large schemes will improve security
- More midwives + other staff at Basildon Hospital
- Better transport to + from hospitals

Additional comments made on Promoting Healthy Communities

- Obesity, smoking, drug + alcohol : why should the rest of us pay for their choices? (x3)
- All in favour of home care for the elderly, provided it is a good service (x4)
- 2 Bed bungalows for elderly that are not chronically infirm and where temporary support can be given on a short term basis (x2)
- Care homes run by county council not private landlords
- Old and young people should live together not be segregated
- More local doctors surgeries better out of hours service (x4)
- More provisions should be given to those who fall out of the guidelines (more E M I beds) (x2)
- A new super hospital is a good idea but not where there is already traffic jam areas (x2)
- More dental care provided
- Local PCTs should enforce a policy of removing radios + piped music from all health facilities (x2)
- Reducing work hours would improve health

Education Provision

| Q15. The possibility of using schools to provide other community uses, and future co-location of educational, health and leisure facilities needs to be considered. Please select which statement you most agree with. (TICK ONE BOX ONLY) | Numerical Results | Percentage Results |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Co-locating educational, health and leisure facilities is the most effective way of meeting needs of the community | 185 | 48.6% |
| The needs of the community would be better met with educational, health and leisure facilities on separate sites | 184 | 48.3% |
| No reply | 12 | 3.1% |

"Other" comments made on Q15

- Education should be properly funded (x2)
- Funding by selling off greenbelt land and playing fields should be ended (x2)
- Make better use of school building while they are not in use, evening, weekends, school holidays



**Q16. How important to you are the following educational options in supporting your community?
Score 1 for not important to 5 for very important.**

| | Not Important 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important 5 | No Reply |
|---|----------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Increasing numbers of students entering into further education | 20 (5.2%) | 39 (10.2%) | 97 (25.5%) | 80 (21.0%) | 129 (33.9%) | 16 (40.2%) |
| Providing more opportunities for lifelong learning | 7 (1.8%) | 23 (6.0%) | 84(22.0%) | 109 (28.6%) | 145 (38.1%) | 13 (3.4%) |
| Improving the level of educational attainment in the district | 0 (0.0%) | 10 (2.6%) | 53 (13.9%) | 96 (25.3%) | 205 (53.8%) | 17 (4.5%) |
| Improving the quality of schools in the district | 1 (0.3%) | 8 (6.6%) | 25 (6.6%) | 61 (16.0%) | 273 (71.7%) | 13 (3.4%) |
| Helping parents engage in children's education | 3 (0.8%) | 24 (6.3%) | 47 (12.3%) | 94 (24.7%) | 194 (50.9%) | 19 (5.0%) |
| More opportunities for skills based learning | 2 (0.5%) | 5 (1.3%) | 33 (8.7%) | 107 (28.1%) | 219 (57.5%) | 15 (3.9%) |
| Reduce truancy levels across the district | 2 (0.5%) | 13 (3.4%) | 42 (11.0%) | 71 (18.6%) | 239 (62.7%) | 14 (3.7%) |
| Ensuring those with educational disabilities are supported | 0 (0.0%) | 6 (1.6%) | 40 (10.5%) | 84 (22.0%) | 235 (61.7%) | 16 (4.2%) |
| Accessible careers advice to all residents | 6 (1.6%) | 25 (6.6%) | 81 (21.3%) | 95 (24.9%) | 155 (40.7%) | 19 (5.0%) |
| Ensuring equality of education provision so the needs of all members of the community are met | 2 (0.5%) | 16 (4.2%) | 41 (10.8%) | 98 (25.7%) | 206 (54.1%) | 18 (4.7%) |

"Other" comments made on Q16 and Education Provision

- Schools in Billericay are excellent (x5)
- Helping teachers also to engage in kids education (x6)
- Reduce amount of paperwork for staff so they can concentrate on pupils work (x2)
- Unfair to special needs children and the other children to be taught in main stream schools (x2)
- Provisions for deaf + hard of hearing people would be useful (x3)
- Increase provisions for SEN children / equipment for schools (x2)
- Minimise education with a career when one has been found (x3)
- Encourage the young to learn / train it could help reduce crime / antisocial behaviour (x6)
- Parents should take more responsibility for their children's education, not leave it up to others. Drop dole money or make fines payable if they don't comply (x6)
- Get more truancy officers out on the streets in school time (x2)

- Adequate school places in walking distance from home (x2)
- Re-impose discipline in schools (x2)
- Ensuring there is no bullying in all schools (x2)
- More physical fitness in school (x2)
- Basildon Council has maintained a very good image
- Education options are great, it's down to the individuals to choose

Community Issues

| Q17. The reduction and prevention of crime is a priority for the District. What is most important to you? (CHOOSE TWO BOXES) | Numerical Results | Percentage Results |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Providing a safer physical environment for communities | 138 | 36.2% |
| Working with communities to identify community safety priorities | 64 | 16.8% |
| Crime prevention activity | 144 | 37.8% |
| Reducing the fear of crime | 105 | 27.6% |
| Tackling anti-social behaviour | 297 | 78.0% |
| Other (Please specify below). | 21 | 5.5% |
| No reply | 3 | 0.8% |

"Other" comments made on Q17

- All very important (x2)
- Bring back Basildon town unit (x2)
- More police onto streets, foot patrols in residential areas (x7)
- Education of parents of anti social children
- Remove the offender, punishment (x2)
- Stronger measures for people breaking the law (x2)
- Increase punishment for re offenders
- Make drunken behaviour a more serious offence (x2)
- Reduce late night opening of take aways etc. that attract the youth congregation (x2)
- Tackle growing graffiti
- Dealing with the perception of crime myth
- Abandon 'new urbanist' design approach
- Reintroduce the death sentence and life sentences should be for life



Q18. Local communities are changing and developing across the District. How important do you think each of the following are for the District? (Score 1 for not important to 5 for important)


| | Not Important 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important 5 | No Reply |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Availability of children's services | 4(1.0%) | 21 (5.5%) | 70 (18.4%) | 107 (28.1%) | 165 (43.3%) | 14 (3.7%) |
| Tackling child poverty | 7 (1.8%) | 30 (7.9%) | 64 (16.8%) | 91 (23.9%) | 178 (46.7%) | 11 (2.9%) |
| Reducing teenage pregnancy | 5 (1.3%) | 14 (3.7%) | 43 (11.3%) | 76 (19.9%) | 233 (61.2%) | 10 (2.6%) |
| Increasing the number of young people in education / training / employment | 1 (0.3%) | 1 (0.3%) | 34 (8.9%) | 99 (26.0%) | 233 (61.2%) | 13 (3.4%) |
| Low unemployment levels | 0 (0.0%) | 2 (0.5%) | 53 (13.9%) | 88 (23.1%) | 223 (58.5%) | 15 (3.9%) |
| Increase income levels | 4 (1.0%) | 14 (3.7%) | 107 (28.1%) | 97 (25.5%) | 146 (38.3%) | 13 (3.4%) |
| Equal access to services for all members of the community | 8 (2.1%) | 9 (2.4%) | 59 (15.5%) | 94 (24.7%) | 200 (52.5%) | 11 (2.9%) |
| Supporting different communities in living together | 21 (5.5%) | 33 (8.7%) | 104 (27.3%) | 102 (26.8%) | 103 (27.0%) | 18 (4.7%) |
| Service provision for vulnerable groups (for example elderly, disabled) | 8 (2.1%) | 4 (1.0%) | 39 (10.2%) | 91 (23.9%) | 229 (60.1%) | 10 (2.6%) |
| Service provision for carers | 8 (1.6%) | 8 (2.1%) | 47 (12.3%) | 128 (33.6%) | 177 (46.5%) | 15 (3.9%) |
| | | Response | | No Response | | |
| Other (Please specify below) | | 1 (0.3%) | | 380 (99.7%) | | |

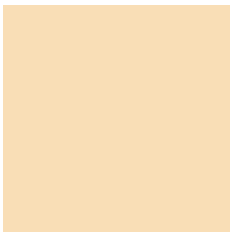
"Other" comments made on Q18

- Always be there for when we really need help

Additional comments made on Community

- Need more employment opportunities in Basildon, to encourage people to work for a living ie trade apprenticeships (x22)
- More recycling needed in the community (x12)
- More notice of voluntary organisations ie rotary, W I , church, who are willing to help (x4)
- Make this Questionnaire easier to read (x8)
- Have a facility that we can all use, all cultures (x5)
- What community - compare Basildon with Harlow (x4)

- 
-
- Better educational support and assistance for children with special needs throughout the district, classroom based support for children under 16y (x13)
 - Try to increase pride in your environment, children progress + dwellings etc Increase awareness of different age groups in the community (x7)
 - Addressing litter + graffiti more often, also drinking / drugs and vandalism (x6)
 - Implement learning / training to young offenders, if they don't take part, then lock them up
 - Affordable house for the young + low incomes
 - Publicity is mostly shown to Basildon and not Billericay and Wickford, creating community divisions
 - Wickford town centre needs updating with more health facilities + infrastructure
 - improve other areas of country not just the S E, too many people moving to S E, can't take any more
 - More lights turned off night and day
 - MO MORE houses built for unmarried teenage mums. Let their parents be responsible for them
 - More police on the streets patrolling, open up Pitsea Police Station
 - Stronger measures to tackle crime, discipline and values within the schools
 - Care in community should start in the family homes at a young age
 - All immigrants must learn English, also limit the amount of people entering this country
 - Far to many housing estate projects left unfinished (Vange, Fivelinks) take a look
 - Better council services in outer district not just town centres
 - In communal buildings where some are bought and the other are council rent, could they be extremely selective about who they rent to?
 - Green + safe parks to play in + teenagers need a youth club
 - School/ health facilities need to be built to accommodate extra housing
 - Good staff to listen/ help keeping our home up to date
 - Basildon sports council grants for young people should be made more available and affordable to make a good social environment
 - Council information should be available by post, in libraries, not only on the internet
 - Roads + pavements in Wickford badly need repairing
 - Older people should get more help
 - More speed bumps / traffic calming measures in residential areas
 - Council houses for locals, not out of area people
 - Should be paying less provisions to council workers and more into the community
 - Some people just can't or won't be helped
 - Shops + businesses closing on a Sunday would allow families to spend time together



Appendix E Citizens' Panel Survey: Questionnaire Form

Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Development Framework

E.1 HELPFUL HINTS FOR COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

- The questionnaire should be completed by the person to whom it has been addressed.
- Please read each question carefully and tick ü a box to indicate your answer.
- The survey consists of 8 pages and should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete.
- If you have any queries about the questionnaire, please do not hesitate to contact (*contact details have been removed from this document*)
- Once you have completed the questionnaire, please return in the pre-paid FREEPOST envelope supplied. You do not need to put a stamp on it and no other address details should be added.

E.2 Providing Homes for the Future

E.3 1. What type of homes do you think are needed the most in the District? (TICK UP TO THREE BOXES)

| | |
|--|----|
| Flats | .. |
| Small houses (1-2 bedrooms) | .. |
| Family housing (3-4 bedrooms) | .. |
| Large, executive style houses | .. |
| Elderly persons housing (e.g. bungalows, sheltered housing, retirement complexes, etc) | .. |
| Homes for people with disabilities (e.g. specially designed houses, care homes etc) | .. |
| Live-Work units (e.g. homes with working space, such as an office or workshop) | .. |
| Authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers | .. |
| A mix of all of these | .. |
| Other (please specify) | |

E.4 2. Which options for accessing homes are needed the most in the District? (TICK UP TO TWO BOXES)



| | |
|--|----|
| Homes to buy | .. |
| Homes to rent | .. |
| Homes for Key workers (e.g. nurses, teachers, emergency services staff, etc) | .. |
| Starter homes/homes for first time buyers | .. |
| A mix of all of these | .. |
| Other (please specify) | |

E.5 3. To encourage development that minimises the need to travel, land in the existing built up areas of the District will be considered first. What types of sites in the towns do you think should be considered for housing development?

| | Yes | No | Don't Know |
|---|-----|----|------------|
| Brownfield Sites (land that been previously built upon) | | | |
| Car parks | .. | .. | .. |
| Sites between buildings | .. | .. | .. |
| Large gardens behind existing houses | .. | .. | .. |
| Industrial areas and business estates | .. | .. | .. |
| Sites in town centres | .. | .. | .. |
| Local shopping parades | .. | .. | .. |
| Conversions, such as offices to flats | .. | .. | .. |
| Demolish some residential areas and rebuild them to higher densities (higher numbers / closer together) | .. | .. | .. |
| Other (please specify) | | | |
| Greenfield Sites (land previously undeveloped) | | | |
| School Playing Fields | .. | .. | .. |
| Formal Open Space (e.g. sports pitches) | .. | .. | .. |
| Informal open space (e.g. parks, grassed areas within housing areas) | .. | .. | .. |



| | Yes | No | Don't Know |
|------------------------------|-----|----|------------|
| Other (please specify) | | | |

E.6 4. Which of the following should be a priority for the future design of homes? (TICK UP TO TWO BOXES)

| | |
|---|----|
| Ensuring new houses are easily extendable | .. |
| Increasing energy efficiency | .. |
| Requiring installation on new dwellings of renewable energy sources e.g. wind turbines or solar heating | .. |
| Requiring houses to be designed to meet the needs of a full age range | .. |
| Improving new estate layouts to enhance the safety of children, pedestrians and cyclists | .. |
| Other (please specify)..... | |

E.7 5 There are different options for locating new homes across the District. How do you think the new homes should be distributed? (TICK ONE BOX ONLY)

| | |
|---|----|
| Divide between the towns and villages, according to their local need and infrastructure capacity (roads, water supply, schools etc) | .. |
| Equally split between the three towns | .. |
| Mostly in Basildon | .. |
| Mostly in Billericay | .. |
| Mostly in Wickford | .. |
| Other (please specify)..... | |

E.8 6. If we cannot find enough land within the three towns, how much do you agree or disagree with the options listed below as alternative development sites?

| | Strongly Disagree 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Strongly Agree 5 |
|---|------------------------|----|----|----|---------------------|
| Greenbelt sites adjoining the edge of existing built up areas | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Greenbelt sites on the edge of villages | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

| | Strongly Disagree 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Strongly Agree 5 |
|--|------------------------|----|----|----|---------------------|
| A completely new settlement in the Greenbelt | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Isolated sites located in the Greenbelt | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Greenbelt should not be considered under any circumstances | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | |

E.9 New housing developments above a certain size are required to incorporate a percentage of “affordable” housing. Examples of “affordable” housing include local authority or Housing Association homes for rent, shared ownership, and key worker housing.

E.10 7. What do you think about the need for affordable housing in the District? (TICK ONE BOX ONLY)

| | |
|---|----|
| Use the regional target (35%) of affordable homes required on each development site | .. |
| Reduce the number of affordable homes required on each development site | .. |
| Increase the number of affordable homes required on each development site | .. |
| Set the number of affordable homes according to local need in each town or village | .. |
| Don't know | .. |

Please provide any other comments you would like to add about providing homes for the future.

E.11 Supporting Jobs and Businesses

E.12 To support the local economy 11,000 new jobs are to be created in the District by 2021. In order to make the most of this opportunity, skills training for the local workforce and suitable business premises will need to be provided.



E.13 8. How can we meet the changing needs of businesses and improve the skills and employment opportunities of the local workforce?

E.14 Please indicate on a scale of 1-5 how important you think the following opportunities are for the District. Score 1 not important to score 5 very important.

| | Not Important 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important 5 |
|---|--------------------|----|----|----|---------------------|
| Adult numeracy / literacy skills training | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Promote the take-up of post 16 education | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Development of trade schools | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Apprenticeship schemes | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Provision of careers advice & guidance | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Support business sponsorship of skills training schemes for employees and the community | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Support small business start-ups and local enterprise | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | |

E.15 9. How much do you agree or disagree with the following options for how land to meet employment needs is developed in the District?

| | Strongly Disagree 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Strongly Agree 5 |
|---|---------------------|----|----|----|---------------------|
| Re-use derelict or under used industrial areas and business estates | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

| | Strongly Disagree 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Strongly Agree 5 |
|--|---------------------|----|----|----|------------------|
| Build on undeveloped land within the existing employment areas | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Create new employment areas within the urban areas | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Create new employment areas on Greenbelt sites adjoining the edge of existing built up areas | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Use land in the urban areas that is currently used for other purposes | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Ensure that the town centres maximise their potential for job creation | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Promote working from home, with clear guidelines to minimise potential nuisance and protect the quality of life for neighbours | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| New employment sites should have easy access to major roads to retain employment in the District | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| New employment sites should be easily accessible by public transport, walking and cycle paths | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | |

Please provide any other comments you would like to add about supporting jobs and businesses

E.16 The Environment, Transport, Energy and Design

E.17 Protecting the environment is an important issue for the District. In particular safeguarding wildlife, waste management and pollution.

E.18 10. Which of the following options for protecting the environment for the future should or should not be considered?

| | Yes | No | Don't Know |
|---|-----|----|------------|
| New developments should be designed to accommodate solar heating / power panels, wind turbines etc. | .. | .. | .. |
| Require a minimum proportion of electricity consumed to be generated from on site renewable energy sources, such as wind turbines | .. | .. | .. |
| To encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport, reduce the number of parking spaces at new developments | .. | .. | .. |
| Promote the provision of greenspace and landscaping in new developments | .. | .. | .. |
| Increase the amount of space in new housing developments for recycling facilities | .. | .. | .. |
| Require new housing developments to collect rain water from roofs for use on gardens and for flushing toilets | .. | .. | .. |
| New developments should be in locations easily accessible by public transport | .. | .. | .. |
| Sites with significant wildlife value should be protected from development | .. | .. | .. |
| 'Wildlife corridors' should be created in those parts of the District lacking nature conservation interest. | .. | .. | .. |
| Other (please specify) | | | |

E.19 11. The following list sets out a range of options that could be adopted to encourage the use of alternatives to car travel. Which of these options do you consider most desirable? Score 1 for least desirable to 5 for most desirable.

| | Least Desirable | 2 | 3 | 4 | Most Desirable |
|---|-----------------|----|----|----|----------------|
| | 1 | | | | 5 |
| Improving public transport by the establishment of new services | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Improving existing cycle and pedestrian routes | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

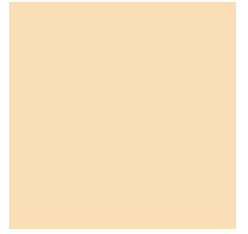
| | Least Desirable 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Most Desirable 5 |
|--|----------------------|----|----|----|---------------------|
| Providing new cycle and pedestrian routes where there are gaps in the network | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Providing safe and direct pedestrian and cycle links as part of new development | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Prioritise the needs of pedestrians and cyclists over vehicle movement and parking in the design of new developments | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Provide safe cycle parking in key locations | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | |

Please provide any other comments you would like to add about the Environment, transport, energy and design.

E.20 Promoting Healthy Communities

E.21 12. Access to health facilities is an important issue. Please select your preferred option for future health facilities in the District. (TICK ONE BOX ONLY)

| | |
|--|----|
| Health facilities should be concentrated in highly accessible locations where a broad range of health facilities can be provided | .. |
| Health facilities should be widely distributed throughout the built up areas and not co-located | .. |
| Other (please specify) | |



13. Which health issues do you think should be a priority for the District? (TICK THREE BOXES)

| | |
|---|----|
| Obesity | .. |
| Smoking | .. |
| Drugs and Alcohol | .. |
| Mental health | .. |
| Sexual health services / advice | .. |
| Provision of care for vulnerable people | .. |
| Equal access to health facilities for all members of the community | .. |
| Provision of long term care | .. |
| Improving leisure and sports facilities to encourage people to become more active | .. |
| Other (please specify) | |

E.22 14. As the population ages, the demand for residential care facilities and homes for the elderly will increase. Please indicate which approach you most agree with for the District.

| | Yes | No | Don't Know |
|--|-----|----|------------|
| Enable the provision of new large scale residential care facilities, such as retirement villages or large care homes in the District | .. | .. | .. |
| Focus on smaller scale provision dispersed around the District meeting local needs | .. | .. | .. |
| Support facilities for home based care where possible | .. | .. | .. |
| Other (please specify) | | | |

Please provide any other comments you would like to add about health.

E.23 Education Provision

E.24 15. The possibility of using schools to provide other community uses, and future co-location of educational, health and leisure facilities needs to be considered. Please select which statement you most agree with. (TICK ONE BOX ONLY)

| | |
|--|----|
| Co-locating educational, health and leisure facilities is the most effective way of meeting needs of the community | .. |
| The needs of the community would be better met with educational, health and leisure facilities on separate sites | .. |

E.25 16. How important to you are the following educational options in supporting your community? Score 1 for not important to 5 for very important.

| | Not Important 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important 5 |
|---|-----------------|----|----|----|------------------|
| Increasing numbers of students entering into further education | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Providing more opportunities for lifelong learning | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Improving the level of educational attainment in the district | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Improving the quality of schools in the district | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Helping parents engage in children's education | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| More opportunities for skills based learning | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Reduce truancy levels across the district | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Ensuring those with educational disabilities are supported | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Accessible careers advice to all residents | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Ensuring equality of education provision so the needs of all members of the community are met | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

Please provide any other comments you would like to add about education.

E.26 Community

E.27 17. The reduction and prevention of crime is a priority for the District. What is most important to you? (TICK TWO BOXES)

| | |
|--|----|
| Providing a safer physical environment for communities | .. |
| Working with communities to identify community safety priorities | .. |
| Crime prevention activity | .. |
| Reducing the fear of crime | .. |
| Tackling anti-social behaviour | .. |
| Other (please specify) | |

E.28 18. Local communities are changing and developing across the District. How important do you think each of the following are for the District? (Score 1 for not important to 5 for important)

| | Not Important 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important 5 |
|--|--------------------|----|----|----|---------------------|
| Availability of children's services | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Tackling child poverty | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Reducing teenage pregnancy | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Increasing the number of young people in education / training / employment | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Low unemployment levels | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Increase income levels | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Equal access to services for all members of the community | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Supporting different communities in living together | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Service provision for vulnerable groups (for example elderly, disabled) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Service provision for carers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | |

Please provide any other comments you would like to add about community.

E.29

Thank you for taking part in this survey.

E.30

Results will be fed back to you in the next edition of the Citizens Panel Newsletter





Appendix F Citizens' Panel Survey: Covering Letter

Sample Letter

Ref: Summer Survey 2007

Dear

We would like to thank you for your involvement in the Basildon Citizens' Panel. Your input has been extremely valuable to the Council in its drive to provide services that meet the needs of the local community.

We have enclosed the summer survey, which seeks your views on the planning for the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and the Local Development Framework (LDF).

The involvement of local residents in helping to shape the LDF is a crucial piece of consultation in working out the best ways for the District to develop and change over the next 15 years. Work is already advanced to meet the demand for additional new homes and jobs, and we want to understand what local views are on the options for different development activity throughout the District. In addition, the LDF must also ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment.

Physical development of the district also needs to support the development of the community. The Council needs to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy, working with its partners such as the Police and health, to understand the needs of local residents and community as a whole, and their priorities for the future. The SCS will outline a plan for community development over the next 25 years, and will be regularly reviewed and updated to meet the changing needs of the local community.

To help us make these important decisions it would be useful to know what your views on our priorities and options relating to the different ways development could take place in the District.

We are offering panel members who complete and return this questionnaire by 20th June the opportunity to enter our prize draw to win £50 of shopping vouchers. Four panel members will be selected, each winning £50 of shopping vouchers each.

Congratulations to xxxx, the winner of the prize draw for the Autumn survey, and to xxxx, the winner of the prize draw for the Winter survey. Results from both these surveys will be available in Spring 2007 edition of the Citizens' Panel newsletter, which will be distributed to you during July.

A Freepost envelope has been included for you to return your completed questionnaire. The closing date for receipt of questionnaires is Wednesday 20th June 2007. You can complete this questionnaire 'on-line' through our private webpage for the Basildon Citizens' Panel, which can be accessed through (*insert URL*).

We look forward to receiving your response.

