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Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment

Main Report

Prepared by LUC
January 2016

Project Title: Sustainability Appraisal of the Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan

Client: Basildon Borough Council

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report has been prepared by LUC, on behalf of Basildon Borough Council (the Council) as part of the integrated Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Basildon Borough Local Plan.
- 1.2 This report relates to the Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan (January 2016), containing Strategic and Spatial Policies, Site Allocations and Development Management.

Context for the Basildon Borough Local Plan

- 1.3 Basildon Borough is located in South Essex, 30 miles east of the City of London. It covers an area of 87km² and has a population of approximately 172,040. The main settlement is Basildon, a Mark 1 New Town designated in 1948 and built in a number of phases over 50 years. The New Town area, to the south of the Borough includes the neighbourhoods of Basildon, Laindon, Vange, Pitsea, Steeple View and Noak Bridge. Basildon has the largest population in the Borough with approximately 103,600 residents. Two smaller independent towns are situated to the north of the Borough, Billericay and Wickford. Billericay (including Great Burstead & South Green and Break Egg Hill) has a population of approximately 34,040 and Wickford (incorporating Shotgate) approximately 29,600. The urban areas are enveloped by rural countryside containing three serviced villages and fifteen smaller plotland settlements set within the Green Belt¹.
- 1.4 The Borough's landscape comprises urban development, arable farmland, permanent grazing with hedgerows, woodland and a large area of Thames Estuary marshland. It also contains significant areas of plotland landscape, characterised by a mosaic of scrub, grassland and relict woodland habitats with small-scale communities of a rural nature.
- 1.5 Basildon Borough is served by two railway services running through the north and south of the Borough, both terminating in the City of London. National Express East Anglia, provides services out of London Liverpool Street, which serves Billericay and Wickford with connections to Chelmsford, via Shenfield to the west. Rail services from Billericay/ Wickford already connect with Stratford, connecting the Borough to Eurostar services at Stratford International and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. In the south of the Borough, the rail franchise 'c2c', operates out of Fenchurch Street London and serves Grays, Chafford Hundred (for Lakeside Shopping Centre), Stanford le Hope and Corringham, via Upminster. London Underground services on the District line depart from Upminster, with connections to the Jubilee line available from West Ham.
- 1.6 Basildon Borough is well connected to the regional and national road network with two major road routes, the A127 and A13, linking South Essex with the M25. Both these 'A' roads continue eastwards to Southend on Sea. The A130 in the east of the Borough together with the recent £63m investment in the new Sadlers Farm Junction provides dual carriageway access to Chelmsford, north Essex and Canvey Island.

Basildon Borough Local Plan

- 1.7 Basildon Borough Council, as the Local Planning Authority (LPA), is preparing a Local Plan in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004, and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012².
- 1.8 The new style Basildon Borough Local Plan will eventually replace the Local Plan Saved Policies, which were approved by a Direction from the Secretary of State, as adopted local planning

¹ Basildon Borough Council, Settlement Hierarchy Review, August 2015

² Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 767

policies, saved from the Basildon District Local Plan 1998, which expired on 27th September 2007, as well as saved policies from the Essex Waste and Minerals Plans.

- 1.9 The Basildon Borough Local Plan is being prepared in accordance with the approved Local Development Scheme.
- 1.10 The Local Plan is a Borough wide plan to coordinate the development and growth requirements of the Borough for the period 2014 to 2034. Chapters 1 to 4 of the Draft Local Plan include an introduction, the policy context including Government policy, a spatial portrait of the Borough, and a description of the drivers for change that the Council has taken into account when preparing the Local Plan.
- 1.11 The vision and objectives for future development and change within Basildon Borough are set out in Chapter 5 of the Draft Local Plan, and these are followed by a series of chapters that contain the planning policies that set out the approach to growth, distribution and management of development across the Borough in order to achieve a sustainable development:
 - Chapter 6 – Achieving sustainable development.
 - Chapter 7 – Building a strong and competitive economy.
 - Chapter 8 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres.
 - Chapter 9 – Promoting sustainable transport.
 - Chapter 10 – Supporting high quality communications infrastructure.
 - Chapter 11 – Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes.
 - Chapter 12 – Requiring good design.
 - Chapter 13 – Promoting healthy communities.
 - Chapter 14 – Protecting Green Belt land.
 - Chapter 15 – Meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding.
 - Chapter 16 – Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.
 - Chapter 17 – Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
- 1.12 The implementation, monitoring and review arrangements for the Draft Local Plan are contained in Chapter 18.
- 1.13 The Local Plan includes the following types of policies:
 - Strategic Policies: These set out the framework for joint working, managing development and supporting service provision, provide a borough-wide approach for guiding development to designated parts of the Borough, along with mechanisms for delivering infrastructure and protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment.
 - Allocation Policies: These identify specific locations where development and change will occur. Criteria developed for each allocation set out the types of development which may occur, along with any mitigation and infrastructure provision necessary to support the development.
 - Development Management Policies: These are intended to be applied throughout the development management process, setting out how the development will be managed to ensure it contributes towards the vision and objectives.
- 1.14 Supplementary Planning Documents and Neighbourhood Plans may also be prepared to further support the policies within the Local Plan.
- 1.15 The Draft Local Plan identifies the need for between 15,260 and 16,740 homes to be delivered within the Borough in the period from 2014 to 2034. In order to achieve this the minimum requirement of 15,260 homes, the Draft Local Plan recognises that between 8,000 and 8,500 homes will need to be provided on sites on edge of the Borough's main settlements, requiring the extent of the Green Belt to be amended. The Local Plan provides for a net increase of 8,600 jobs over the plan period, which equates to approximately 49ha of additional employment land, of which the Borough's existing urban capacity could yield approximately 36 to 38ha through intensification of existing employment, with the remaining 11ha to 14ha to be provided by land

released from the Green Belt. The Draft Local Plan allocates a series of sites for development to meet the identified housing and economic needs, focused primarily on Basildon, but also with some sites allocated at Billericay and Wickford.

- 1.16 The Draft Local Plan will undergo public consultation (known as Regulation 18), followed by pre-submission consultation on 'soundness' (Regulation 19) and will subsequently be submitted to an independent inspector for examination. The Local Plan will be accompanied by an SA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report at each stage in the process.
- 1.17 The Draft Local Plan and this SA Report will be made available for public consultation from January 2016 to March 2016.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.18 In 2001, the European Union approved new legislation (Directive 2001/42/EC, the 'SEA Directive') which introduced the requirement to assess the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. SEA is designed to provide a high level of protection to the environment and to integrate environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development. The SEA Directive was transposed into UK law in 2004 through the SEA Regulations³.
- 1.19 Sustainability Appraisal (SA), on the other hand, is a methodical evaluation that considers the social, economic and environmental effects of certain plans, programmes or proposals. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), LPAs must undertake a SA for each of their Local Plan Documents (LPDs)⁴.
- 1.20 Whilst the objectives of SEA and SA are different, their methodologies are similar and can be co-beneficial. Simply put, SEA focuses only on the likely environmental effects of a plan whilst SA includes a wider range of considerations, extending to social and economic impacts. The Government's Plan Making Manual⁵ shows how it is possible to satisfy both requirements by undertaking a joint SA/SEA process, and to present an SA report that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations.

Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive

- 1.21 This SA Report includes some of the required elements of the final 'Environmental Report' (the output required by the SEA Directive), which needs to be available alongside formal consultations on the Local Plan. **Table 1.1** below signposts the relevant sections of the SA Report that are considered to meet the SEA Directive requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA of the Local Plan). This table will be included in the SA Report at each stage of the SA to show how the SEA Directive requirements have been met at each stage in the SA process.

Table 1.1: Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this SA Report?
<p>Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex I):</p>	
<p>a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;</p>	<p>Chapters 1, 2 and 3 and Appendix 1.</p>

³ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI No. 1633)

⁴ The Planning Act 2008 amended the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: SA/SEA is no longer required for Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).

⁵ Hosted on the Planning Advisory Service's website: www.pas.gov.uk

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this SA Report?
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Chapter 3.
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Chapter 3.
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.;	Chapter 3.
e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Chapter 3 and Appendix 1.
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);	Chapter 5 and Appendix 4.
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Chapters 5 and 7 and Appendix 4.
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Chapter 4.
i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;	Chapter 6.
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	A separate non-technical summary document has been produced to accompany this SA report.
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2)	Addressed throughout Scoping Report and Environmental Report.
<p>Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4) 	Chapter 2 and Appendix 2.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2) 	Consultation has been undertaken in relation to each stage of the Core Strategy preparation, accompanied by SA reports and notes as described in Chapter 2 and 4.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment 	Not relevant to the Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan.

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

Purpose and structure of the report

- 1.22 This report is the SA/SEA report for the Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan. It has been prepared using an integrated approach to SEA and SA. Throughout the report, the abbreviation 'SA' should therefore be taken to refer to 'SA incorporating the requirements of SEA'.
- 1.23 This chapter provides an introduction to the SA of the Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan. The remainder of this report is structured into the following chapters:
- **Chapter 2 – Methodology**, describes the stages of the SA process, the approach used for the specific SA tasks, including the sustainability framework used in the appraisal.
 - **Chapter 3 – Sustainability context for development in Basildon**, summarises the Draft Local Plan's relationship with other relevant plans, policy and strategies, summarises the social, economic and environmental characteristics of Basildon, and identifies the key sustainability issues relating to development within Basildon.
 - **Chapter 4 – Evolution of the options**, describes how the Draft Local Plan has been formulated, drawing on earlier work undertaken, and the results of SA work and consultation to date.
 - **Chapter 5 – Sustainability Appraisal findings**, sets out the main findings from the SA of the Draft Local Plan. It draws conclusions from the findings of the appraisals and presents outstanding recommendations for the Local Plan to maximise the benefits of the plan and minimise any adverse effects.
 - **Chapter 6 – Monitoring**, makes recommendations regarding the approach to monitoring the significant sustainability effects of implementing the Draft Local Plan.
 - **Chapter 7 – Conclusions**, summarises the overall effects of the Draft Local Plan and next steps.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 In addition to complying with legal requirements, the approach taken to the SA of the Basildon Borough Local Plan is based on current best practice and the guidance on SA/SEA set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance, which involves carrying out SA as an integral part of the plan-making process.
- 2.2 **Table 2.1** sets out the main stages of the plan-making process and shows how these correspond to the SA process.

Table 2.1: Corresponding stages in plan making and SA

Local Plan Step 1: Pre-production - Evidence Gathering
SA stages and tasks
<p>Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives • A2: Collecting baseline information • A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems • A4: Developing the SA Framework • A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA
Local Plan Step 2: Production
SA stages and tasks
<p>Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1: Testing the Plan objectives against the SA Framework • B2: Developing the Plan options • B3: Predicting the effects of the Plan • B4: Evaluating the effects of the Plan • B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects • B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Plans
<p>Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1: Preparing the SA Report
<p>Stage D: Consulting on the Draft Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D1: Public participation on draft Plan and the SA Report • D2(i): Appraising significant changes
Local Plan Step 3: Examination
SA stages and tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations

Local Plan Step 4 & 5: Adoption and Monitoring

SA stages and tasks

- D3: Making decisions and providing information

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan

- E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring
- E2: Responding to adverse effects

- 2.3 The methodology set out below describes the SA work that has been undertaken to date for the Basildon Borough Local Plan and provides information on the subsequent stages of the process.

Stage A: Scoping

- 2.4 A Scoping Report was originally prepared by Basildon Borough Council and published for consultation in 2007. This was further updated and adopted in 2011. These scoping documents were prepared in house by Basildon Borough Council.
- 2.5 In light of key plan and policy changes (for example, publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and revocation of the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy) and baseline data updates (e.g. release of 2011 Census data), a further update was made to the Scoping Report in July 2013. The 2013 Scoping Report⁶ was prepared by LUC on behalf of Basildon Borough Council, drawing on the scoping material which was previously prepared and consulted upon, and provides detail on the scope of the SA/SEA of the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report.
- 2.6 The scoping stage of the SA includes compiling and understanding the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan area as well as the sustainability policy context and key sustainability issues, and to keep these up-to-date throughout the plan preparation and SA process. The following tasks and outputs have been updated as part of this SA Report:
- Policies, plans and programmes (PPP) of relevance to the Local Plan were identified and the relationships between them were considered, enabling any potential synergies to be exploited and any potential inconsistencies and incompatibilities to be identified and addressed.
 - In line with the SEA Directive requirements, baseline information was collected on the following 'SEA topics': biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; water; soil; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage and the landscape. Data on social and economic issues were also taken into consideration. This baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely effects of the plan and helps to identify alternative ways of dealing with any adverse effects identified.
 - Drawing on the PPP review and the baseline information gathered, key sustainability issues were highlighted (including environmental problems, as required by the SEA Directive).
 - A Sustainability Appraisal framework was then developed, setting out the SA objectives against which the Local Plan policies and options, are appraised at each stage of the plan preparation process. The SA Framework provides a way in which the impacts on sustainability of the implementation of the Local Plan can be described, analysed and compared. The SA Framework is designed to set out a series of sustainability objectives and associated questions that can be used to 'interrogate' options and policies drafted during the plan preparation process. These SA objectives define the long-term aspirations of the county with regard to social, economic and environmental considerations. Under the SA, the performances of the plan policies and options are assessed against these SA objectives and appraisal questions.

⁶ For 2013 Scoping Report (LUC) see link: <http://www.basildon.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=5222&p=0>

- 2.7 The PPP review and baseline information has been updated as necessary at different stages during the SA, and the most up to date versions are now included in **Chapter 3** and **Appendix 1** of this SA Report.
- 2.8 Table 2.2 shows the 19 main SA objectives in the SA Framework along with their associated questions.

Table 2.2: SA Framework for the Basildon Borough Local Plan

SA Objective	Key Prompt Question
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces of Basildon Borough.	<p>Will it contribute towards achieving qualitative improvement to the landscape and character of the urban and rural area?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the achievement of high-quality landscapes that reflect local distinctiveness and quality of place?</p>
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	<p>Will it protect and/or enhance sites, features, buildings and/or areas of historical, archaeological, landscape and cultural importance?</p>
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	<p>Will it conserve or enhance SSSIs?</p> <p>Will it maintain or enhance Priority Habitats and/or Species?</p> <p>Will it conserve and enhance any other natural/ semi-natural habitats?</p> <p>Will it conserve or enhance Local Wildlife Sites?</p> <p>Will it lead to the creation of new areas of habitat?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance woodland cover and/or management?</p>
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	<p>Will it improve business development and enhance the competitiveness of the Borough?</p> <p>Will it improve the resilience of the Borough's business and the wider economy?</p> <p>Will it generate new jobs for the Borough?</p> <p>Will it create or contribute to the creation of high-skilled jobs in the Borough?</p> <p>Will it encourage inward investment?</p> <p>Will it improve economic performance in both advantaged and disadvantaged areas?</p> <p>Will it reduce unemployment?</p> <p>Will it help to improve average earnings?</p> <p>Will it encourage the diversification of the workforce?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the improvement of local people's skills?</p> <p>Will it help ensure more people can enjoy a better standard of living?</p>
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	<p>Will it encourage uses in town centres to diversify?</p> <p>Will it make land in town centres available for housing, retail, leisure and related commercial development?</p> <p>Will it help encourage community spirit and civic pride?</p> <p>Will it ensure that through sequential testing, the most appropriate location can be considered for development?</p>
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	<p>Will it help reduce poverty and social exclusion?</p> <p>Will it result in capacity issues, in for example, local schools?</p> <p>Will it improve the qualifications, skills and therefore employability of young people?</p> <p>Will it improve the quality and diversity of learning and training opportunities?</p>

SA Objective	Key Prompt Question
<p>7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.</p>	<p>Will it contribute to the reduction of the number of unfit homes?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards increasing the opportunities for people forced to live in temporary accommodation?</p> <p>Will it increase the provision of more affordable housing for all social groups, including key workers?</p> <p>Will it increase the provision of authorised sites for gypsies & travellers and travelling showpeople?</p> <p>Will it increase the net availability of new homes in the Borough?</p> <p>Will it reduce the number of households living in fuel poverty?</p>
<p>8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.</p>	<p>Will it reduce health inequalities?</p> <p>Will it contribute to the reduction of mortality rates?</p> <p>Will it improve access to high quality health facilities?</p> <p>Will it encourage healthier lifestyles?</p> <p>Will it increase access to recreation facilities and open space?</p> <p>Will it improve air, water or environmental quality?</p> <p>Will it reduce the number of households living in fuel poverty?</p>
<p>9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.</p>	<p>Will it help encourage community spirit and civic pride?</p> <p>Will it help the development of community level activities and organisations?</p> <p>Will it contribute to increasing participation in community activities?</p> <p>Will it help to improve the satisfaction people have with their neighbourhoods as places to live?</p> <p>Will it help to reduce crime rates?</p> <p>Will it help to address people's fear of crime?</p> <p>Will it improve the safety of the built or natural environment?</p> <p>Will it improve road safety to road users?</p> <p>Will it improve the safety of roads to other users?</p> <p>Will it help to reduce inequality within the Borough (e.g. between different groups or urban and rural areas) and wider afield (e.g. between the East of England region and more disadvantaged parts of the country or world)?</p> <p>Will it contribute to a high quality, well designed, living environment?</p>
<p>10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.</p>	<p>Will it improve the quality of life for people living in the Borough?</p> <p>Will it improve the quality of the local housing stock?</p> <p>Will it improve the local environment?</p> <p>Will it improve job prospects for local people?</p> <p>Will it contribute to a high quality, well-designed, living environment?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards any regeneration initiatives, or benefit any deprived areas?</p>
<p>11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.</p>	<p>Will it improve the accessibility for all to key local services (schools, hospitals, health centres, leisure and sports facilities etc.)?</p> <p>Will it improve accessibility for all to shopping facilities?</p> <p>Will it encourage journeys to be taken by more walking, cycling and/or using of public transport?</p>
<p>12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of</p>	<p>Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land in the Borough?</p> <p>Will it encourage development on Previously Developed Land?</p>

SA Objective	Key Prompt Question
materials from previous buildings.	<p>Will it encourage the repair and re-use of buildings?</p> <p>Will it minimise the loss or damage to soils from development?</p> <p>Will it lead to more appropriate or efficient uses of land?</p> <p>Will it minimise development on Grade 3a agricultural land?</p> <p>Will it involve development of areas designated as Mineral Safeguarding Areas?</p>
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	<p>Will it take account of and mitigate against the potential impacts of flooding, and more storms?</p> <p>Will it reduce the risk of damage to property and health from flooding and storm events?</p> <p>Will it lead to development in lower flood risk areas?</p>
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	<p>Will it reduce traffic volumes?</p> <p>Will it increase the proportion of journeys using alternative transport modes to private vehicles?</p> <p>Will it improve the accessibility to key local services?</p> <p>Will it ensure buildings are designed so that they use and waste less energy?</p> <p>Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?</p> <p>Will it reduce the burden on natural resources during the construction and operation of developments?</p>
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	<p>Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other air-borne pollutants?</p> <p>Will it improve air quality?</p> <p>Will it reduce noise levels, including those from roads and transport?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?</p>
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	<p>Will it improve river quality?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the reduction of water consumption?</p> <p>Will it encourage water efficiency, including recycling and re-use?</p>
17. Encourage adopting building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is better prepared for the impacts of climate change	<p>Has it taken account of potential effects brought about by climate change (e.g. flooding, higher temperatures, more storms)?</p> <p>Will it encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems?</p> <p>Will it encourage green infrastructure, (such as green roofs) and the planting of trees?</p> <p>Will it provide shelter in the public realm from adverse weather conditions?</p>
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	<p>Will it contribute towards the reduction in the consumption of materials and resources?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the reduction of waste sent to household & commercial waste?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the reduction of household, construction and demolition waste going to landfill?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the increase of waste recovery and recycling?</p> <p>Will it encourage the re-use or recycling of products and packaging?</p> <p>Will it make use of, or increase the demand for, recycled materials?</p> <p>Will it reduce the generation of hazardous waste?</p>
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to	<p>Will it contribute towards the reduction of traffic volumes?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the reduction of traffic congestion?</p> <p>Will it increase the proportion of journeys made using alternative transport</p>

SA Objective	Key Prompt Question
sustainable locations.	<p>modes to private vehicles?</p> <p>Will it encourage more journeys to be made by walking, cycling or travelling by bus or train?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the improvement of air quality?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards the reduction of distances people need to travel to access work and other lifestyle pursuits?</p> <p>Will it reduce the need to travel?</p>

- 2.9 Public and stakeholder participation is an important element of the SA and wider plan-making processes. It helps to ensure that the SA reports are robust and have due regard for all appropriate information that will support the plan in making a contribution to sustainable development. A summary of the consultation responses received in response to the earlier versions of the SA Scoping Report is provided in the July 2013 Scoping Report. It should be noted that the earlier consultation responses reflect a point in time and in many instances documents and data referred to have been removed or replaced by new policies, plans, guidance and data. The July 2013 Scoping Report sought to consolidate the earlier consultations into a single document. The July 2013 Scoping Report was issued to the statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage) and other relevant parties. Consultee responses (and the responses to these) were summarised in Appendix 2 of the December 2013 SA report.
- 2.10 Following the Council's decision to prepare a single Local Plan, rather than separate Development Plan Documents, a Scoping letter was issued to the three statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) in September 2015 to supplement the July 2013 Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Update (recognising the Council's intention to prepare a single Local Plan), addressing the further changes and their implications for the SA work to be undertaken.
- 2.11 The Scoping Letter stated that:
- "..The strategic site and policy options for the new Local Plan will be subject to SA using the methodology that was described in the July 2013 Scoping Report Update and that was used for the SA of the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options. Each reasonable option will be appraised against the 19 SA objectives in the SA framework that were presented in Table 2.2 of the Sustainability Appraisal (December, 2013).."*
- "...It is considered that the method used for the SA to date has been fit for purpose. No amendments were suggested by the statutory consultation bodies to the SA framework or assumptions used for the SA of Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options following consultation on the Preferred Options SA Report. Therefore, to maintain consistency with the earlier stages of the SA and to provide a robust audit trail, it is proposed to continue using the same method of approach for the appraisal of the draft single Local Plan..."*
- 2.12 The following responses were received from the statutory consultees:
- Natural England*
- "Natural England is satisfied that the criteria used for the previous December 2013 Sustainability Appraisal would be appropriate for the forthcoming Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan. The overall approach to Sustainability Appraisal described in your letter is also acceptable. One point we would wish to raise for consideration in the Sustainability Appraisal exercise is that Natural England has some concerns over recreational pressure to habitats at Langdon Hills Country Park including part of Basildon Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest, areas of Local Wildlife Site and other areas of priority habitat. It is possible that the SSSI will be expanded in the future to include other areas of habitat within the Country Park. It should be possible to assess such potential impacts under SA Objective 3 and the associated prompt questions."* Natural England provided maps illustrating the areas of search for the potential extension to the Basildon Meadows SSSI. A review of these areas of search revealed that none of the proposed site allocations outlined in the new Local Plan directly affected the potential expansion of this SSSI.

Historic England

"...We have had the opportunity to review the previous SAs (dated July 2013 and December 2013) for background information, our previous comments on the two previous consultations dated 19th September 2013 and 1st April 2014, and the new proposed structure of the SA (as outlined in your letter dated 21st August 2015) and can offer the following comments. I can advise that we have no objection to the proposed structure of the SA, as outlined within your letter dated 21st August 2015. To ensure that the Historic Environment is adequately covered within the new SA we would strongly recommend the use of our guidance on the Historic Environment within SAs..."

Environment Agency

"We understand that the strategic site and policy options for this new Local Plan will be subject to the same methodology described in the July 2013 Scoping Report Update. We did not raise any concerns regarding the SA methodology following consultation on the Preferred Options SA Report in December 2013. As it is proposed to use the same method of approach for the appraisal of the new Local Plan, we have no comments to make on the revised scope of the SA, as set out in the letter from LUC."

- 2.13 Following the consultation period, it was necessary to update the SA Framework Assumptions included in Appendix 3 of the December 2013 SA Report and in the September 2015 Scoping Update letter. This was primarily required because the previous assumptions were tailored to the appraisal of broad site locations and the spatial distribution of development, whereas the new Local Plan contains more detailed policies for multiple and mixed land-uses, outlining site-specific measures to minimise adverse effects and enhance the positive effects of developments. Furthermore, the assumptions have been updated to reflect the Borough's latest evidence base and national planning policy guidance, including the guidance documents promoted by the statutory consultees following the SA Scoping consultation carried out in September 2015.
- 2.14 The updated assumptions continue to be set within the SA Framework outlined in Table 2.2 above. The updated assumptions used in the SA of the Local Plan are presented in **Appendix 3** of this SA Report.

SA Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

- 2.15 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process usually involving a number of consultations with the public and stakeholders. Consultation responses and the SA can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for a plan.
- 2.16 Regulation 12 (2) of the SEA Regulations requires that:
- "The (environmental or SA) report must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of—*
- (a) implementing the plan or programme; and*
- (b) reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme"*
- 2.17 It should be noted that any alternatives considered to the plan need to be "reasonable". This implies that alternatives that are "not reasonable" do not need to be subject to appraisal. Examples include alternatives that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the National Planning Policy Framework), or are not within the geographical scope of the plan. In addition, the SEA Regulations do not require all reasonable alternatives to be subject to appraisal, just "reasonable alternatives".
- 2.18 It also needs to be recognised that the SEA and SA findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining a preferred option to take forward in a plan. There will often be an equal number of positive or negative effects identified for each option, such that it is not possible to 'rank' them based on sustainability performance in order to select a preferred option. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability, conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting preferred options for their plan.

Alternatives considered in the preparation of the Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan

- 2.19 The options or reasonable alternatives considered during development of the Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan included the overall spatial strategy for the Borough, potential areas for new housing and employment development within and as urban extensions to Basildon, Billericay and Wickford, and alternative policy approaches for proposed policies. There have been a number of stages in developing and refining the plan options as listed below and described in **Chapter 4: Evolution of Options**:
- Core Strategy Issues Paper (Autumn 2007) (Regulation 18 consultation).
 - Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation (February 2012) (Regulation 18 consultation).
 - Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report (December 2013) (Regulation 18 Consultation).
 - Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan (January 2016) (Regulation 18 consultation) (the focus of this current consultation).
- 2.20 As described above, public and stakeholder participation is an important element of the SA and wider plan-making processes. A summary of the consultation responses on the SA received with respect to the previous round of consultation (December 2013), and how these have been taken into account, is provided in **Appendix 2** of this SA Report.

SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report

- 2.21 This SA Report describes the process undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the Basildon Borough Local Plan. It sets out the findings of the appraisal, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative, and taking into account likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects), making recommendations for improvements and clarifications that may help to mitigate negative effects and maximise the benefits of the plan, and outlining proposed monitoring measures.
- 2.22 Each policy option and its reasonable alternative in the Draft Local Plan was assessed against each SA objective, and a judgement was made with regards to the likely effect that the option would have on that objective. These judgements were recorded as a colour coded symbol, as shown below in **Figure 2.1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA of the Basildon Borough Local Plan**. The sustainability effects are presented in a matrix for each allocation and policy, in **Appendix 4**, along with a justification of the judgement made.
- 2.23 Assumptions were set out to assist with the appraisal of the site allocation policies and ensure objectivity and consistency in the judgments of effects. The assumptions were developed initially during the appraisal of the Broad Locations for development when the Council intended to adopt a Core Strategy. These assumptions were subsequently updated to respond more appropriately to the greater levels of detail outlined with in the Draft Local Plan's policies, to reflect the Borough's latest evidence base and national planning policy guidance. The assumptions are provided in **Appendix 3**.

Figure 2.1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA of the Basildon Borough Local Plan

++	The policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on the SA objective(s).
+	The policy is likely to have a positive impact on the SA objective(s).
0	The policy is likely to have a negligible or no impact on the SA objective(s).
-	The policy is likely to have a negative impact on the SA objective(s).
--	The policy is likely to have a significant negative impact on the SA objective(s).

?	It is uncertain what effect the policy will have on the SA objective(s), due to a lack of data.
+/-	The policy is likely to have a mixture of positive and negative impacts on the SA objective(s).

- 2.24 The SA findings for the Draft Local Plan are summarised in **Chapter 5**, including an assessment of the potential cumulative effects of the Draft Local Plan as a whole and likely effects in combination with other plans and programmes.

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

- 2.25 Basildon Borough Council is inviting representations on the Draft Local Plan and this SA Report as part of the formal consultation stage under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Following the consultation, any preferred policy approaches that the Council intends to include in the next version of the Local Plan will need to be subject to further SA, and the SA Report will need to be updated. Any comments made on this SA Report will also need to be addressed during the next iteration of the SA and reported in the subsequent version of the SA Report.

SA Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the Local Plan

- 2.26 This SA Report sets out initial recommendations for monitoring the sustainability effects of the Draft Local Plan once adopted. However, these recommendations will need to be revisited at each stage in the SA to reflect the final set of significant effects identified as likely to occur as a result of implementing the Draft Local Plan. The monitoring proposals are considered within the context of the broader monitoring framework for the Basildon Borough Local Plan and the data collection for Basildon Borough Council's Annual Monitoring Report.

Next Steps

- 2.27 Following consultation on the Draft Local Plan, any changes that the Council proposes to make to the Plan's policies will be re-appraised against the SA framework and a revised SA report will be produced alongside further versions of the Local Plan (this will be a further iteration of Stages B-D in the SA process). There will be at least one further statutory stage of consultation before the Local Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State to be examined by the Planning Inspectorate (examination is expected to be in the Spring of 2017). Final adoption of the Local Plan is expected in the Spring of 2018.

3 Sustainability context for development in Basildon

Review of plans, policies and programmes

- 3.1 The Local Plan is a Borough wide plan aiming to coordinate the development and growth requirements of the Borough for the period 2014 to 2034. The vision and objectives for future development and change within Basildon Borough are accompanied by an initial suite of policies that set out the strategic approach to growth and distribution of development across the Borough in order to achieve a sustainable development.
- 3.2 The Local Plan must be consistent with national planning policy, specifically the National Planning Policy Framework. The Local Plan must also take account of sub-regional, county and local plans of relevance. This includes the Essex County Minerals Local Plan (adopted July 2014), the Essex County Waste Local Plan (final consultation on the Replacement Waste Local Plan is likely to occur in early 2016), the Essex Local Transport Plan (updated 2011) and the Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036.
- 3.3 Understanding the relationship of the Local Plan to other plans and programmes is an essential component in establishing the context for the Local Plan, as well as determining what the primary objectives or indicators should be.
- 3.4 Whilst these combinations of legislation, plans and programmes can impose constraints on development possibilities, they also present opportunities for potential links to be reinforced.
- 3.5 A detailed review of the relevant International, National, Sub-regional and Local plans, policies and programmes was undertaken during the Scoping stage of the SA and has since been updated. The updated review of relevant plans, policies and programmes can be seen in **Appendix 1**, and is summarised below.

National policy

- 3.6 The most significant development in terms of the policy context for the Local Plan has been the 2012 publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which replaced the suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs). The NPPF is intended to streamline national planning policy, having reduced over a thousand pages of policy down to 65 pages. The Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. It states that:
"Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development."
- 3.7 However, it should also be noted that according to the NPPF, the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives is being considered, planned or determined.
- 3.8 It is intended that the adoption of the Basildon Borough Local Plan will comply with the NPPF's requirements for local-plan making. The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be "aspirational but realistic". This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.
- 3.9 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:
 - the homes and jobs needed in the area;

- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

3.10 In addition, Local Plans should:

- plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework;
- be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date;
- be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations;
- indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map;
- allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate;
- identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation;
- identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance; and
- contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.

Baseline information

3.11 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them.

3.12 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires information to be provided on:

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

3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.

4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive [92/43/EEC].

Climatic factors

UK climate

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

Borough climate

- 3.14 Increasing temperatures in the summer and winter months, coupled with changes in rainfall patterns are likely to encourage the take-up of more outdoor lifestyles, placing greater demands on open spaces for recreational pursuits. The management and operation of these spaces, will in turn, need to adapt as some vegetation and habitat types face increased water stress and susceptibility to decline due to warmer temperatures and less rainfall. These changes are likely to also mean air and water pollution could get a lot worse, leading to further effects on the environment and human health.
- 3.15 Finally, increasing seasonal temperatures could also lead to changes in energy demands, with more people wishing to cool buildings in the summer months and use less energy than previously for heating during the winter months.

Energy use and carbon emissions

- 3.16 CO₂ emissions are produced when fossil fuels such as coal or gas are burnt or processed. In 2005, a DEFRA study concluded that 396kT CO₂ was generated domestically in Basildon Borough, equivalent to 8% of the Essex domestic total. In addition, 497kT of CO₂ originated from industrial and commercial sources - 11% of the Essex Industrial and Commercial total. Road transport accounted for the smallest proportion of emissions at 289kT, which equalled 7% of the Essex total.
- 3.17 Between 2005 and 2013, the average domestic electricity and gas consumption of a Basildon Borough resident fell by 610kWh and 5,060kWh, respectively. In 2013 domestic electricity consumption was 230kWh per person more than the national average of 3,940kWh, whereas domestic gas consumption was 790kWh less than the national average of 13,680kWh. Between 2005 and 2013, the average industrial and commercial energy consumer in the District reduced their electricity consumption by 15MWh, bringing the total annual amount to 81MWh, 5MWh higher than the national average. Industrial and commercial gas consumption went down over the same time period from 544MWh to 525MWh; the 2013 total is 145MWh lower than the average national commercial and industrial consumer⁷.
- 3.18 Between June 2010 and December 2014, the number of domestic solar photovoltaic installations in the Borough increased from 3 to 1,133, 308 less than the national average⁸.
- 3.19 During 2011, 849.2GWh of energy was generated from renewable sources in the county of Essex. This equated to 26% of all the energy generated from renewables in the East of England in 2011. Only Cambridgeshire generated more (28%)⁹.

Flood risk

- 3.20 Both urban and rural parts of the Borough will become more vulnerable to fluvial and coastal flooding, water supply deficiencies, subsidence and sea level rises, as the local climate continues to change. The Rivers Crouch and Wid, together with their tributaries are the main sources of fluvial flooding. The River Thames poses a tidal flooding risk in the south of the Borough, although this area is predominantly uninhabited marshland.
- 3.21 Increasing risks of flooding could lead to negative impacts on local habitats or species and pose a threat to an increasing number of properties. All new buildings will therefore need to be built in appropriate locations that minimise, or successfully mitigate against these risks, as well as being designed in such a way to maximise their adaptability to climate change in the future.
- 3.22 A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was prepared for the Borough in 2011¹⁰. The Level 1 SFRA confirmed that the primary mechanism of flooding in the Borough is pluvial (surface water) flooding in the urban centres of Billericay, Wickford and Basildon, which often coincides with fluvial flooding associated with the River Crouch and its tributaries (flood risk is most pronounced in Wickford Town Centre). The Washland System created as part of the development of Basildon New Town and the expansion of Wickford and Billericay, performs a surface water management

⁷ Statistics provided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change Statistics [accessed 2015] http://tools.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/local_auth/interactive/domestic_ge/index.html

⁸ Statistics provided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change Statistics [accessed 2015] http://tools.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/local_auth/interactive/domestic_solar/index.html

⁹ Sustainability East, East of England Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Capacity Study (2011)

¹⁰ URS/Scott Wilson - Levels 1 & 2 South Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, 2010/2011

function for the urban area, however, the capacity of this system is dependent on continued maintenance.

- 3.23 Fluvial flooding tends to occur when high rainfall in the upper catchment of the River Couch coincides with high tide levels to produce higher volume fluvial flows and elevated water in the River and its tributaries. A notable extent of the floodplain is in rural areas, however, parts of Wickford and the North of Basildon are also affected by fluvial flooding.
- 3.24 The southern part of the Borough is next to the tidal estuaries of Vange Creek and East Haven Creek. This area is protected from tidal flooding by flood defence walls and two mechanical flood barriers.
- 3.25 The Level 2 SFRA¹¹ built on the findings of the Level 1 report exploring the risks associated with tidal breach along the southern boundary of the Borough. The Level 2 SFRA concluded that in the event of a failure of these flood barriers, floodwaters would inundate the southern part of the Borough including the Vange marshes, Pitsea marshes and Bowers marshes. Further review of the surface water flood risk revealed increased risks along the corridors of the River Crouch and River Wid and the topographic tributaries that lead into these watercourses to be the key areas of increased risk of surface water flooding.
- 3.26 Further assessment of the risk of flooding from surface water has been undertaken as part of the Surface Water Management Plan for South Essex¹² which resulted in the designation of the Borough's Critical Drainage Areas (CDAs) where multiple or interlinked sources of flood risk cause flooding during a severe rainfall event, affecting houses, businesses and/or infrastructure and where mitigation measures may be implemented to reduce the impact of flooding. 22 CDAs have been identified within Basildon Borough Council, 11 of which were subjected to further assessment for having the greatest risk in South Essex (BAS 1, 3, 4, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22). Those areas identified to be at more significant risk have been delineated into Potential Surface Water Flooding Hotspots (PSFWHs) representing the key area at risk of surface water flooding, contributed to by the rainwater falling within the area of the wider CDA. Pluvial modelling undertaken as part of the SWMP identified that flooding is typically shallow and widely dispersed.

Sustainability issues

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

¹¹ URS/Scott Wilson - Levels 2 Basildon Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, 2010/2011

¹² URS/Scott Wilson - South Essex Surface Water Management Plan Phase II, III, IV, FINAL 2012.

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

Population, health and social characteristics

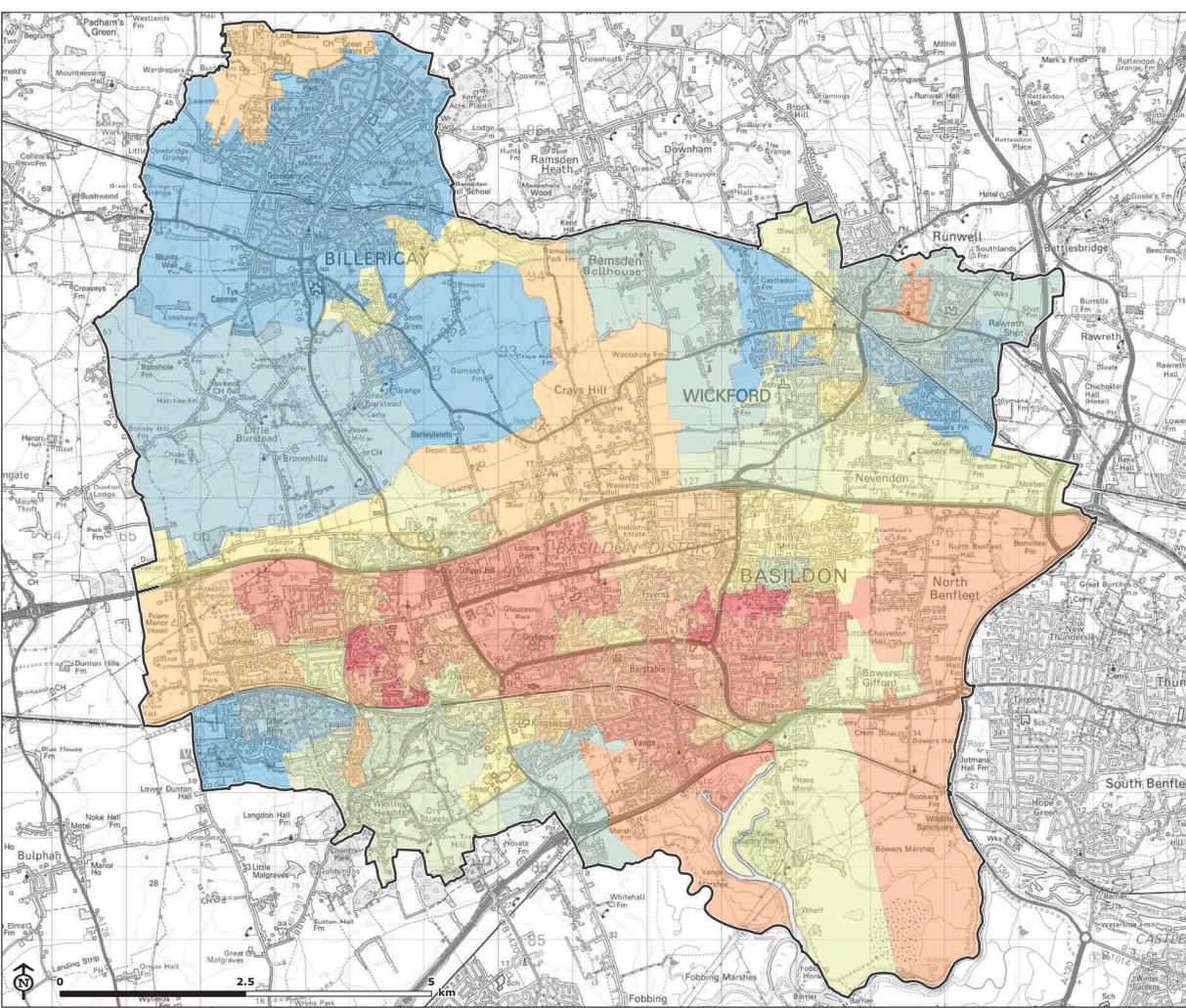
- 3.27 The Borough's population has increased dramatically over the last 60 years, following the phased-construction of Basildon New Town (this began in 1949 following the passage of the New Towns Act in 1946) and the expansion of the older settlements of Billericay and Wickford over a similar timeframe. The Borough's population will continue to grow, albeit at a much slower rate. Sub-national population projections suggest that the Borough's population will continue to grow with 205,000 people projected to live in the Borough by 2037¹³.
- 3.28 The Borough's population is much less ethnically diverse than the average for the East of England or nationally, with notably smaller proportions of people from Asian, Black or Chinese ethnic groups.
- 3.29 The Borough's age structure has been changing in line with national trends, with a decreasing proportion of young people and an increasingly ageing population. In the future, this change will see different demands placed upon support and care services (e.g. schools, health, social care etc.) and may lead to changes in future housing and service provision needs.
- 3.30 In the 2015 English Indices of Multiple Deprivation¹⁴, Basildon Borough was ranked the 113th most deprived borough or district in England, where a rank of 1 is given to the most deprived borough or district and a rank of 326 is given to the least deprived borough or district. Under the average scores measure, Basildon was scored as the 98th most deprived district or borough in England, indicating that it has higher concentrations of deprivation with the Borough compared to those authorities where deprivation is more evenly spread through the borough or district. **Figure 3.1: Indices of Multiple Deprivation** shows the range and distribution of deprivation across the Borough.
- 3.31 One of the most important things in life is health and wellbeing. From a health perspective, the Borough benefits from having a regional acute medical facility in the form of Basildon University Hospital. In June 2007, a major new addition to the hospital was completed, the Essex Cardio-Thoracic Unit, offering specialist care to patients with heart problems.
- 3.32 In the Borough there are significantly lower rates of infant deaths, people feeling "in poor health" and poor mental health than the national averages. However, the numbers of people with diabetes, teenage pregnancy, those who eat healthily, adults who are physically active, early deaths through cancer and hip fractures in the elderly are worse than regional and national levels. There are also clear links between deprivation and poor health.
- 3.33 In terms of life expectancy in the Borough, women, on average, live longer than men. Life expectancy has increased for men and women, a change that could be attributed to a mixture of changing lifestyles, advancing medical science and improved safety in the home, workplace and the wider environment. Even so, men and women living in the poorest wards in the Borough die, on average, 8.9 years and 6.8 years respectively, earlier than those living in the more affluent wards.¹⁵
- 3.34 Over half the wards in the Borough are considered deprived in respect of education, skills and training in England. There is significant spatial variation in deprivation levels across the Borough with higher levels of deprivation in central and southern parts of the Borough. Childhood obesity is lower than the national average. Levels of teenage pregnancy, GCSE attainment and breast feeding initiation are worse than the England average. The level of alcohol-specific hospital stays among those under 18 is better than the England average. Estimated levels of adult physical activity and obesity are worse than the England average.
- 3.35 The Borough has 11 secondary schools in total (10 ECC funded and 1 privately funded) and 55 primary schools. The number of pupils attending primary schools has increased since 2009 by around 400 whilst the number of pupils attending secondary schools has fallen by around 750

¹³ ONS Subnational Population Projections, 2012-based predictions, 2012

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015> (accessed 08/01/16)

¹⁵ Basildon Health Profile, Public Health England, 2014

Figure 3.1: Indices of Multiple Deprivation



Basildon Borough boundary

IMD Percentage

- 0-10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50-60
- 60-70
- 70-80
- 80-90
- 90-100

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pupils over the same period. This is an indicator of the changing demographic profile of Borough's households and residents¹⁶.

- 3.36 Capacity figures for primary schools indicate that there are currently enough surplus places within schools in the Borough to accommodate new pupils arising from new housing developments or new people moving into the area. However, it is recognised that the level of surplus school places vary in different parts of the Borough. Thus, it cannot be assumed that because there is a Borough-wide surplus that any school has the capacity to accommodate further pupils. The increased birth rate over recent years has started to put pressure on the available school places in Basildon town, Laindon/ Langdon Hills and Pitsea/Bowers Gifford areas. This pressure will be increased by new housing in these areas. Capacity figures for secondary schools indicate that the schools in Billericay and Wickford are currently operating at close to their capacity, whilst there is a significant level of surplus places in Basildon town.
- 3.37 Educational achievement also varies considerably depending on school location in the Borough. The schools in Billericay and Wickford out-perform the schools in Basildon and are above the county and national averages for GCSE results.
- 3.38 Qualifications gained at 'A' level or higher are also much lower than the national and regional averages, particularly with regard to academic degrees. If this situation does not improve, this could have a negative impact on the economic competitiveness of the Borough and could affect people's long-term employability. It may also result in the more skilled jobs being taken by people who live outside the Borough.
- 3.39 Poverty impacts upon entire families and has significant impacts on health, education, skills and life chances. Efforts to lift people out of poverty will be a challenge, especially as it is linked to so many other factors such as income levels, cost of living and family size. Basildon Borough has a higher level of benefit claimants of working age (18.5%), than the national (17.8%) and regional (14.3%) averages¹⁷.
- 3.40 Reflecting the fact that there are affluent areas within the Borough, the average part and full-time annual earnings in Basildon Borough are just under £800 more per week than the regional average and over £1,400 greater than the national average. There is, however, significant variation in earnings across the Borough and there are income inequalities between local men in the Borough and local women¹⁸.
- 3.41 Residents indicate that they are, on the whole, satisfied that Basildon Borough is a good place to live. Even though there is a relatively high fear of crime locally, Basildon Borough is comparably a safe place to live, with relatively low crime levels compared to other parts of the county or country. Some crimes, such as theft of and from motor vehicles, do however occur more frequently than at the regional or national levels. The lowest crime rates in the Borough are found in Billericay.
- 3.42 Road safety remains a significant local issue and needs to improve. Of the 662 Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) on roads in Essex in 2010, 8.76% had an accident in Basildon Borough. There were 3 motorcycle, 10 young driver and 4 drink driving incidents in the Borough in 2010.

Sustainability issues

- 10 An adequate housing supply, incorporating a mix of housing types will be required to meet the growing population.
- 11 There may be changes in the demand for, as well the operational impacts on, key services, such as housing, health, education and social care. This is affected further by the changing demographic profile of the Borough's residents.
- 12 There are significant local health issues concerning teenage pregnancies, levels of physical activity and early deaths through cancer.
- 13 Tackling deprivation and achieving social inclusion will be challenging in parts of the Borough, given the disparities in how well some parts of the Borough perform over others.

¹⁶ Department for Education Annual School Census January, 2013

¹⁷ ONS, 2011

¹⁸ ONS, 2011

- 14 There are poor levels of GCSE educational achievement, especially in schools in Basildon, which can affect entry into further education, skill levels and economic potential.
- 15 There is currently some spare capacity in a number of the Borough's primary schools; however, an increasing number of schools are experiencing pressure on available places due to the recent increases in the birth rate, their popularity and additional housing.
- 16 Comparatively fewer qualifications/training gained at 'A' level or higher in the Borough than the region or country. If this continues it could have a negative impact on the economic competitiveness of the Borough and may lead to more jobs going to people from outside the Borough and affect local people's long-term employability.
- 17 There are high local levels of working age benefit claimants.
- 18 There are income inequalities between local men and women, which could present difficulties to improving quality of life and reducing poverty particularly for single parents.
- 19 Theft from and of vehicles is relatively high in the Borough which affects general perceptions of the Borough, with regards to safety and crime.
- 20 The safety of motorists and other road users must improve.

Housing

- 3.43 At the time of the last Census, there were over 72,700 households in the Borough, 50,537 of which contain 'families', 44.3% of these families include children, which is greater than the regional and national averages¹⁹. Of this 44.3%, just over 15% are single parent households.
- 3.44 The New Town's legacy of family orientated neighbourhoods means that residents in the Borough are more likely to live in a house or bungalow. 35.3% of the housing stock is terraced, 25.8% semi-detached and 21.8% detached. Only 16.7% of the Borough's housing stock is in the form of flats, most of which are purpose built blocks, rather than converted buildings²⁰. A full range of housing sizes, types and tenures are required to meet local housing needs.
- 3.45 The emerging South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (2015) examines population projections up to 2037. It is predicted that there will be an increase in the population in the Borough of 26,766 people between 2014 and 2037. The emerging SHMA concludes that the Borough's objectively assessed need is at between 763 and 837 homes per annum, or between 15,260 and 16,740 homes over the plan period 2014 to 2034. ²¹.
- 3.46 The availability of local housing to buy and rent is dependent on affordability, as well as availability. Local house prices are between seven and eight times more than the average local salary. This is an increase from five times the income in 2002. This means that suitable housing is out of reach for many first time buyers, or single person households. For those who cannot afford to buy, local families can wait as long as eight years for a suitable home in the Borough through the Council's Housing Register. New affordable housing units constructed as part of new developments is proportionally very low, when compared to the overall completions of new dwellings in the Borough and the number of families in priority need on the Council's Housing Register. Waiting lists are unlikely to change unless more affordable units are built.
- 3.47 The provision of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers in the Borough has dramatically increased since 1990. The population of Gypsies and Travellers has grown faster in Basildon Borough than in Essex as a whole, the Eastern Region or England. The BBLNAA²² identified existing provision comprising of 25 pitches on the public site on Courtauld Road, 90 private pitches with planning permission, 8 private pitches with temporary planning permission and 13 private pitches which do not benefit from planning permission but have been present for a substantive period of time. The BBLNAA identifies the need for pitch provision within the Borough to 2033. It identifies a requirement arising from population growth on existing authorised sites, existing temporary sites and small scale unauthorised sites of 104 pitches. The Council is also required to identify the need

¹⁹ ONS, 2011

²⁰ ONS, 2011

²¹ Emerging South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment, 2015

²² Basildon Borough Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Needs Accommodation Assessment (BBLNAA), December 2013

arising from the large scale unauthorised site at Dale Farm which has now been cleared through enforcement action. This has been identified through the BBLNAA as 136 additional pitches.

- 3.48 The Council predict that the number of people registered as homeless is likely to continue to grow. This increase is believed to be largely as a result of reasons such as the economic climate, increased costs of both private and owner occupied accommodation, and the government's welfare reforms. The continued rise of homelessness within the Borough is seen by the Council as being unsustainable and unlikely to fall without intervention.²³
- 3.49 The physical standard of dwellings is showing signs of improvement throughout the Borough with the number of dwellings determined to be unfit falling year on year since 2004.
- 3.50 Housing completions have been low, both in the context of historic trends and housing requirement. This is due to a lack of large sites being brought forward for development.
- 3.51 Delivery of brownfield sites for housing (for example, sites in town centres) can take longer to realise due to the need to mitigate environmental effects (e.g. remediate contaminated land, mitigate effects on biodiversity etc.) or site assembly issues.

Sustainability issues

- 21 Providing a mix of housing types and sizes for the differing demands of the local population.
- 22 The delivery rate of affordable housing is low, compared to high levels of local needs.
- 23 Estate renewal programmes in the Borough may result in increases in the number of affordable houses being granted permission in the Borough, but they also result in temporary losses, whilst replacement dwellings are being built.
- 24 The construction rate of new dwellings is lower than the annual average rate required to meet minimum targets by 2021. The net increase in new dwellings has been historically low, partially attributed to mass demolition as part of three major estate renewal programmes that has occurred in the last 10 years.
- 25 Potential residential capacity from brownfield sites (e.g. town centres) could take longer to realise, particularly if there are site assembly issues, the sites affect significant biodiversity or cultural heritage interest, require existing uses to be relocated or need to be decontaminated before new units can be built.
- 26 The increase in house prices is not reflected in increasing wage levels in the Borough.
- 27 The number of unauthorised pitches for Gypsies and Travellers in the Borough is the greatest in Essex.

Economic development

- 3.52 The main source of employment in Basildon New Town in its early development years was manufacturing. Companies wishing to redevelop or expand their manufacturing capacity were directed, out of London to the new and expanding towns being built on its edge. In this way, companies such as Yardley's, Carreras, Ford Tractors, STC and Ilford Films, all became established in the New Town's northern industrial belt (A127 Corridor). With the exception of the Tractor Plant (now Case New Holland) all these major manufacturing employers have since closed and their premises have been redeveloped. Existing major employers in the Borough include Ford (its research and development Technical Centre is located at Dunton), Selex Galileo and New Holland Agriculture. Established industrial estates are located along the A127 Corridor. Existing employment sites continue to perform well across the Borough with lower than average vacancies²⁴.
- 3.53 The Borough's key employment sectors are wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, manufacturing and public health and social work. Recently, growth in employment has been strong in education and electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply sectors over the period 2008-2011²⁵. In contrast, finance and insurance activities and administration and support

²³ Housing Prevention Strategy, January 2014, Basildon District Council

²⁴ Basildon Borough Employment Land and Premises Study Atkins, 2013

²⁵ Basildon Borough Employment Land and Premises Study, Atkins, 2013

services have experienced a decline that is above the County and Regional averages over the period 2008 – 2011.

- 3.54 Basildon Borough is within the national regeneration area of Thames Gateway and is identified, along with Castle Point, as the South Essex 'Business Hub'. To this end, Basildon Borough is the largest employment area in Thames Gateway South Essex.
- 3.55 There are over 76,000 people employed in the Borough²⁶ with an annual rate of growth of 1.4% over the period 1998–2011. 7% of the population gained employment between 2001 and 2011.²⁷ Data from the Office of National Statistics shows that the number of unemployed people between 2009 and 2011 fell in Borough by 41.9% to 6,100, compared to a 2.1% rise regionally and 0.7% nationally²⁸.
- 3.56 A significant number of new jobs in the Borough have resulted from the expansion of local firms (e.g. Waymade - a pharmaceutical company), the relocation to Basildon Borough of companies from other parts of south Essex (e.g. First Data Resources and Royal Bank of Scotland from Southend, International Financial Data Services from Brentwood), and the expansion of commercial leisure (e.g. Festival Leisure Park) and healthcare facilities (e.g. Basildon University Hospital).
- 3.57 The Basildon Borough Employment Land and Premises Study²⁹ looked at demand-led housing scenarios for future growth in the Borough. It indicates that there is a need for a net increase of 8,600 jobs with the majority provided within the B1a (most offices) and B1b (R&D of products and processes) sectors. The job growth equates to approximately 49ha of additional employment land.
- 3.58 Most people who live in the Borough work for other people (as opposed to being self-employed). There are fewer managers, directors and senior officials in Basildon Borough compared to the regional and national averages, whereas individuals in more elementary occupations are marginally more common in the Borough.
- 3.59 The proportion of Professional occupations is 3.8% lower than the national average, a potential indication that lower levels of education achievement and poor take up of further education are affecting the job and career choices of residents. This range of occupations, and the proportions of residents who are employed in them, are an indication that there is a need to improve the skills base of the local labour market, to improve both the jobs prospects and the long-term prosperity of residents.
- 3.60 The Borough is likely to face competition in the future from the neighbouring centres of Thurrock and Brentwood and from the future development of major new projects such as Thurrock (DP World and Tilbury Port). The Borough's town centres face competition from established centres in neighbouring boroughs, including Chelmsford and Brentwood. Office accommodation in the Borough is considered to be poor quality with limited car parking facilities.

Sustainability issues

28 Local economy is not diverse and relies upon large multi-national companies.

29 Requirement to make provisions for jobs growth in line with increases to housing provision, whilst having regard to biodiversity and the wider environment.

30 Basildon is within the national regeneration area of the Thames Gateway, and is identified, along with Castle Point, as the South Essex 'Business Hub', with specific development and regeneration aspirations that it is encouraged to achieve.

31 The ability to enhance the vitality and viability of town centres, whilst meeting various development needs and regeneration aspirations, within social and environmental constraints.

32 There is a need to increase the take up rate of further education courses and diversity the skills base of the local labour market, to ensure local business sectors are able to diversity and improve the long term prosperity of residents.

²⁶ Business Registrar and Employment Survey, Nomis, 2011

²⁷ ONS, 2011

²⁸ ONS, 2011

²⁹ Basildon Borough Employment Land and Premises Study, Atkins, 2013

Cultural heritage and landscape

- 3.61 Basildon Borough Historic Environment Characterisation Project reports on the Borough's well-preserved historic landscape character which contains a rich resource of historic features of high sensitivity³⁰. There are 13 Historic Environment Character Areas in the Borough. Many of the Green Belt areas are entirely of pre 18th century origin with numerous local historic features. They contain intact field patterns of Anglo-Saxon or medieval in origin, and a number of historic churches and other listed buildings are located throughout the Borough.
- 3.62 There are 129 Listed Buildings, only two of which are deemed to be "At Risk" and 3 Scheduled Monuments. The greatest concentration of listed buildings is in Billericay High Street, which is also a Conservation Area. **Figure 3.2: Cultural Heritage** shows the key cultural heritage assets in the Borough.
- 3.63 There are four Conservation Areas (CAs – Billericay, Great Burstead, Little Burstead and Noak Bridge) all of which are located entirely or in part in the north west of the Borough. All have Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Plans.
- 3.64 The Billericay CA is characterised by a collection of buildings dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries, modest in scale and rarely above two storeys in height, many of which have been used as High Street shops³¹. The CA Appraisal labels the High Street in the Billericay CA fragile with a number of derelict buildings in the CA and the mid twentieth century rows of shops have diluted the character of the town centre visually.
- 3.65 The focal point of the Great Burstead CA is the Church owing to its height, mass, form and materials. The rest of the Conservation Area is more mixed; the older houses providing a link with the village's history which has been eroded to some extent by infill and rebuilding in 'modern' styles³². The CA Appraisal labels the CA fragile and under threat, being very small and surrounded by modern suburbia.
- 3.66 The majority of buildings in Little Burstead CA are dwelling houses, ranging from semidetached cottages to large high-status buildings, many of which have extensions and converted outbuildings³³. Although these are usually well executed in appropriate materials, a number have been positioned where they are very prominent when viewed from the road increasing the risk of suburban creep in the CA.
- 3.67 The Noak Bridge CA is an unusual and special place, with a unique character which has made it very popular with residents³⁴. Noak Bridge is a residential suburb of Basildon New Town. There are no listed buildings, scheduled areas, other heritage assets or known archaeological sites in Noak Bridge. The total enclosure of Noak Bridge is important to preserving its separate identity and attractive setting.
- 3.68 The Borough's archaeological heritage is a finite and fragile resource and should be protected and where possible enhanced. There are over 500 archaeological records in the Borough dating from as early as the Palaeolithic Period (500,000-10,000 BC) to the Post-Medieval Period (1538-1900), with reasonably significant concentrations of Roman and Medieval find spots in Billericay and Wickford³⁵.
- 3.69 The Basildon Borough Landscape Character Assessment and Green Belt Landscape Capacity Study³⁶ concluded that much of the Borough's topography is not well-suited to accommodating development as a large proportion of the Green Belt areas are either flat estuary marshes, lower valley slopes of the River Crouch or ridges and prominent slopes on valley sides with limited enclosure, such as the Langdon Hills. The estuary marshland and restored landfill areas in the south of the Borough and the Upper Crouch Valley are open landscapes with little mature vegetation to provide enclosure and screening of potential development sites.

³⁰ Basildon Historic Environment Characterisation Project, Basildon Council and Essex County Council, 2010-2011

³¹ Billericay Conservation Character Appraisal, Beacon Planning and Basildon Council, 2011

³² Great Burstead Conservation Character Appraisal, Beacon Planning and Basildon Council, 2011

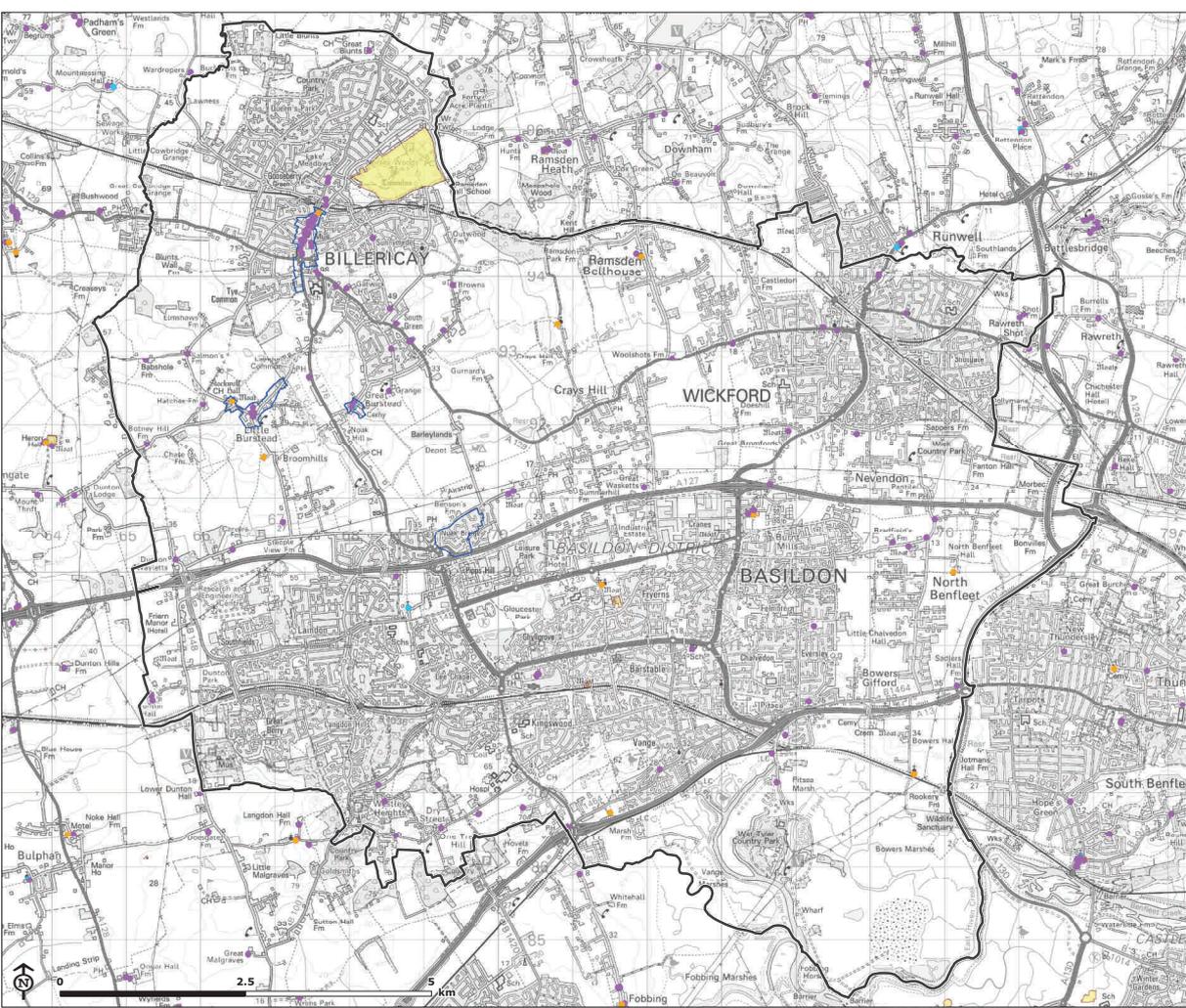
³³ Little Burstead Conservation Character Appraisal, Beacon Planning and Basildon Council, 2011

³⁴ Noak Bridge Conservation Character Appraisal, Basildon Council, 2010

³⁵ Basildon Historic Environment Characterisation Project, Basildon Council and Essex County Council, 2010-2011

³⁶ Basildon Borough Landscape Character Assessment and Green Belt Landscape Capacity Study, The Landscape Partnership, 2013

Figure 3.2: Cultural Heritage



- Basildon Borough boundary
- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building (by grade)**
- I
- II*
- II

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- 3.70 The north-west of the Borough around Billericay and the south-west in the Langdon Hills area, have some substantial areas of mature vegetation and woodland blocks which create a more enclosed landscape which could assist in screening new development. Much of the landscape in the Borough is of medium scale and complexity which is generally considered to be of medium sensitivity. Smaller scale and more complex areas are typically on the edges of settlements and historic areas, such as around parts of Billericay and in the Langdon Hills.
- 3.71 Development within the Borough is well concentrated in the three main settlements (Basildon, Billericay and Wickford) and there is currently in most locations a clear sense of separation between these settlements. However, the distance between each of the settlements is small (e.g. 1km between Wickford and Basildon) and the potential for merging/coalescence is high if further development takes place.
- 3.72 Maintaining the rural landscape and natural landforms will be dependent on being able to preserve and conserve ancient woodlands, unimproved grasslands, protected lanes, commons and hedge-rowed field patterns, as well as the ridges and hilltops from inappropriately located or designed development, changing agricultural practices and seasonal climate change. The urban landscapes can be conserved by maintaining green spaces, landscaping and trees and implementing good design practices in new developments.

Sustainability issues

33 There is a need to protect the cultural heritage resource in the Borough from further destruction or degradation, and conserve and enhance heritage assets through a positive strategy for the historic environment in line with the NPPF³⁷.

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

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

- 3.73 In a relatively urbanised area such as Basildon Borough, the retention of natural features is especially important to maintain a balanced environment.
- 3.74 Whilst there are no internationally or European protected wildlife sites in the Borough, there are a number of sites that fall within 5km. These are:
- **The Crouch and Roach Estuaries** (designated as a Ramsar, Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EC Birds Directive and Special Area of Conservation (SPA) site under the EC Habitats Directive, recognising the importance of the estuarine and saltmarsh habitats and internationally important populations of overwintering waterfowl occurring at the estuaries).
 - **Benfleet and Southend Marshes** (designated as a SPA and Ramsar site recognising the importance of the saltmarsh, mudflat and grassland habitats and internationally important numbers of wintering wildfowl and waders occurring at the marshes).
 - **The Thames Estuary and Marshes** (designated as a SPA and Ramsar site recognising the importance of the estuarine, saltmarsh and grazing marsh habitats and internationally important assemblages of wintering and breeding waterfowl occurring at the marshes).
- 3.75 The Habitats Regulations Assessment, which is being prepared to accompany the consultation of the Draft Local Plan document, considers the potential impacts of development on each of these sites (as well as other sites occurring within 15km of the Borough boundary). In the case of Abberton Reservoir SPA (which has a role to play in water supply for the Borough) the buffer distance is extended beyond 15km. This is consistent with the HRA which was undertaken for the adopted Local Plan.
- 3.76 The Borough is an important location for various nationally and locally important habitats and species. There are six SSSIs. They form part of the national network, representing the diversity of wildlife, range of habitats and geological and physiographical features, which occur naturally in England. SSSIs have an invaluable role in scientific research and education, as well as supporting

³⁷ Paragraph 126, National Planning Policy Framework, 2012

habitats and populations of plants and animals that are often under threat in the wider countryside.

- 3.77 In comparison with 77.3% regionally, and 75.4% nationally, 100% of the Borough's SSSIs are in "favourable" or "improving" condition³⁸. Grazing methods, scrub control, ditch management, water level management, personal watercraft activity and landfill operations are regarded as significant threats to SSSIs unit condition.
- 3.78 There are no National Nature Reserves in the Borough.
- 3.79 There are 54 Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) in the Borough which have been identified as sites important for conserving local nature³⁹, an increase of 8 sites since 2005.
- 3.80 Between 2007 and 2009, all Basildon Borough LoWS were surveyed annually to monitor change and disturbance from development and other practices and to identify any new sites which may qualify for designation. This resulted in three new sites in Wickford, Vange and Basildon being added to the Borough LoWS Register in 2007. Proactive management and monitoring of LoWS is essential to prevent adverse change brought about by actions such as agricultural practices, inappropriate management, road-widening and recreational activities.
- 3.81 There are 16 Ancient Woodlands either within or adjoining the Borough, covering an area of 247ha⁴⁰. These habitats are of particular importance, in that they have evolved unique characteristics and qualities through the centuries and, once destroyed, are irreplaceable. Those remaining should be protected and enhanced for historic and aesthetic value, for their contribution to wildlife, species diversity and for informal recreation **Figure 3.3: Nature Conservation** illustrates nature conservation designations in the Borough.
- 3.82 Endangered species and habitats are protected through the compilation and delivery of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) at national, regional and local levels. Priority Habitats and Species are regarded as the most important habitats and species that need to be conserved across the country. In 2009 the map of UK BAP Priority Habitats across the Borough was brought up to date. A total of 113 were recorded, covering some 868ha, 82% of which is protected as LoWS and 16% SSSI⁴¹.

Sustainability issues

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

³⁸ Basildon Borough Local Development Monitoring Report, 2013

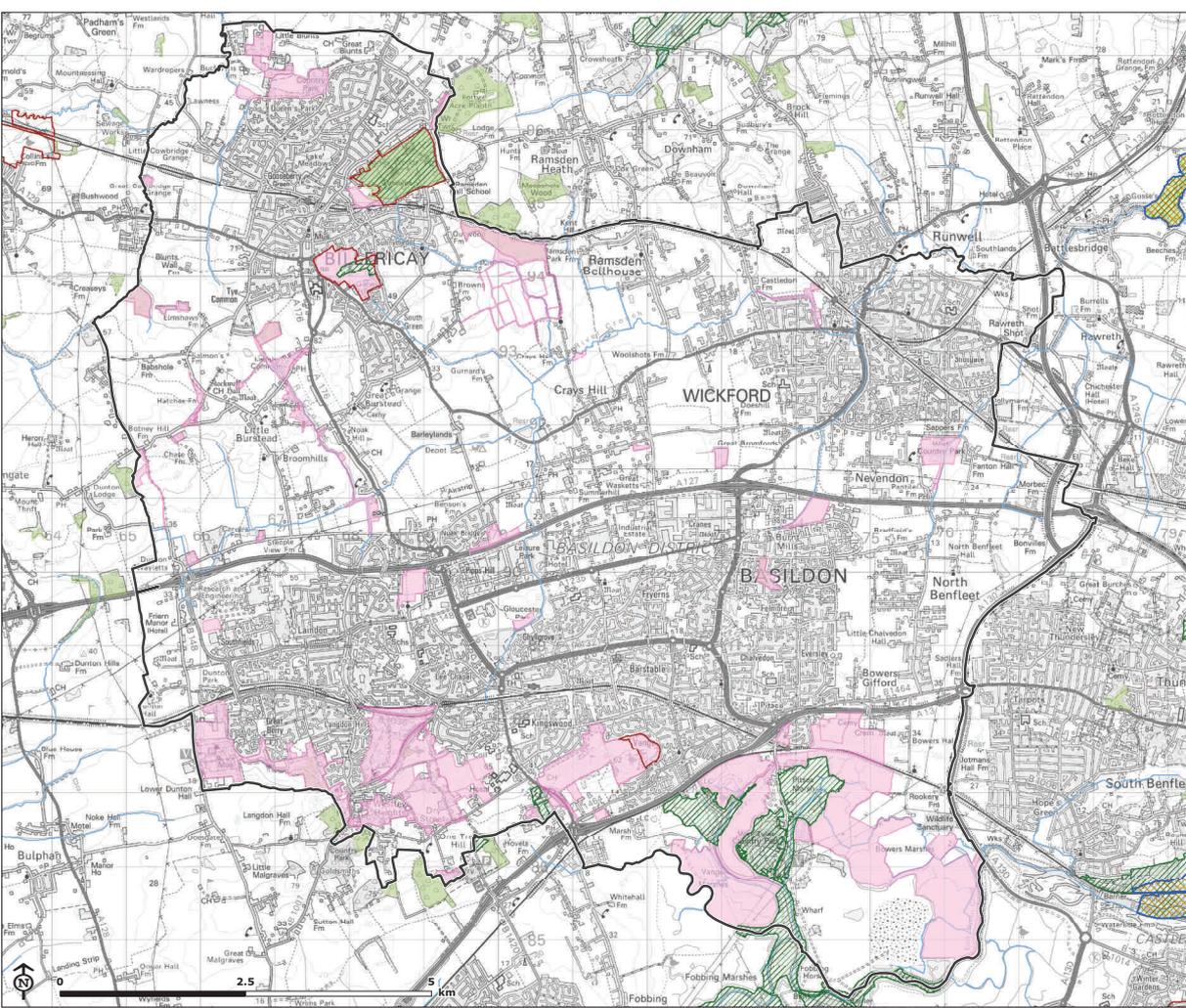
³⁹ Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Report, 2009

⁴⁰ Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Report, 2009.

⁴¹ Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Report, 2009.

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Figure 3.3: Nature Conservation



- Basildon Borough boundary
- Ramsar
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- SSSI
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Ancient Woodland

Map Scale @ A3: 1:50,000



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CB:EL EBI:ndak_e LUCEDI FIG3-3.72 NatureConservation_A3_17/01/2016 Source: Basildon Council, Natural England

Difficulties encountered and data gaps

- 3.83 Analysis of cross-boundary biodiversity effects outside of the Borough of Basildon has been restricted to national designations due to difficulty in collating consistent and up-to-date local datasets on local designations from neighbouring local authorities.

Air and noise

- 3.84 Human health, quality of life and the environment can all be negatively affected by air and noise pollution. Despite the fact that there has not been the need to establish any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) in the Borough, air quality is closely monitored.
- 3.85 Transport or combustion processes, such as electricity generation, also produce Nitrogen Dioxide, commonly associated with respiratory illnesses, such as asthma.. The most recent air quality monitoring progress report found that no pollutants exceeded the Borough's Air Quality Objectives (AQOs)⁴². In March 2013, First Bus Essex added 19 Low Carbon Emission Buses (Volvo 1900H) to their existing fleet which operates within the Borough. At full capacity, these buses emit 30% less greenhouse gases than a standard Euro 3 diesel bus of the same capacity⁴³.
- 3.86 Particulates including PM₁₀ are fine particles present in the air that are derived from various natural and human processes. Fuel combustion (e.g. from road traffic), suspended soil particles, pollen grains, and construction dust are the most common sources. Concentrations in the air of PM₁₀ must not exceed 50 micro g/m³ more than 35 times per year. In 2010, annual mean concentrations of PM₁₀ were recorded at 28.85 µg/m³, only exceeding the daily mean four times⁴⁴. In 2015, no PM₁₀ monitoring was undertaken within the Basildon Borough Council area.
- 3.87 The greatest cause for complaint in the Borough with regards to excessive noise is that more commonly associated with domestic sources (e.g. barking dogs) rather than and industry or commerce. Noise arising from road traffic, aircraft noise and construction work do not represent significant reported local problems.

Sustainability issues

- 42 Need to continue to minimise and contain excess noise from domestic and industrial sources in the Borough.

Difficulties encountered and data gaps

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

Water

- 3.89 The Water Cycle Study for South Essex, conducted in 2011, revealed that 18% of surface waters in the Anglian River Basin District achieved a minimum of 'Good' status. The majority of the remaining 82% (681 water bodies) failed to achieve 'Good' status due to high phosphate levels⁴⁵. With regards to groundwater bodies 65% achieved 'Good' status with the remainder being rated as 'Poor'.
- 3.90 The majority of the Borough's water supply is provided by Essex and Suffolk Water from its Hanningfield Reservoir, 3 miles north of the Borough. A small proportion of the water supply for Billericay comes directly from Abberton Reservoir, near Colchester. In the hillier parts of the Borough in Langdon Hills and Billericay, smaller reservoirs and/ or water towers are also required to maintain water pressure and distribute a constant supply to customers. To cope with increasing demands for water supplies, due to population growth and development targets, Abberton

⁴² Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment, 2015.

⁴³ John Baron MP Press Release [accessed 16th July 2013] <http://pressreleases.johnbaron.co.uk/archives/1689>

⁴⁴ Air Quality Progress Report, 2011

⁴⁵ South Essex Water Cycle Study, URS, 2011

Reservoir is in the process of being expanded. The Appropriate Assessment of the Abberton scheme concluded that there would be no adverse effect on designated conservation sites from the Abberton scheme, and the same can therefore be concluded for the increased water resource demands of the proposed growth in Basildon Borough.

- 3.91 A chalk aquifer underneath Billericay is designated as a Groundwater Vulnerability Area. These are protected by the Environment Agency through the planning and environmental consent systems to safeguard against excessive pollution, abstraction, or interference. This aquifer is not used for domestic water supplies as it is regarded as having been over-abstracted.
- 3.92 Water consumption rates per household are still mainly composed of flushing toilets, washing clothes or taking a bath or shower. Water consumption has hardly altered since 2001, despite water saving measures being promoted and more water efficient appliances available from manufacturers.
- 3.93 The assessment of wastewater transfer and treatment capacity identified that Wickford and Basildon have no capacity to accept and treat additional flows, but Billericay has within the existing discharge consent capacity for the level of growth proposed. While some of the proposed development areas could not support the levels of growth proposed at the current time, with the provision of additional infrastructure it may be possible to support the new development.

Sustainability issues

- 43 Not all surface and groundwater bodies currently meet 'Good' status in respect of water quality (required through the Water Framework Directive).
- 44 Need to provide adequate foul water capacity to meet existing and future domestic and commercial needs to ensure the water environment is protected.
- 45 Need to provide an adequate water supply available to meet the domestic consumption needs of existing and future residents.
- 46 Ensure that Groundwater Vulnerability Areas in the North of the Borough are protected, directly or indirectly from adverse development impacts.
- 47 Improve the efficiency of water use and reduce local water wastage.

Soils and geology

- 3.94 The most versatile and most productive agricultural land in the country is classified as Grade 1, 2 and 3a. Basildon Borough does not have any Grade 1 or 2 land unlike neighbouring boroughs/districts. Most of the land in the Borough is classified as Grade 3. Grade 3 land is subdivided into 3a, which is considered as 'best and most versatile' and 3b, which is not, indicating that some parts of the Borough could contain high quality agricultural land.
- 3.95 Essex has extensive deposits of sand and gravel, with localised deposits of silica sand, chalk, brickearth and brick clay. Within Essex there are 20 permitted sand and gravel sites, one silica sand site, two brick clay sites, and one chalk site⁴⁶. In respect of underlying minerals, the Borough has 23 Sand and Gravel Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs), the main clusters of which are located around the centre and south of Billericay and east and south of Wickford⁴⁷. Smaller clusters are dotted within the countryside between the two settlements and to the west and south of Basildon.

Sustainability issues

- 48 Minimise the amount of development located on Grade 3a agricultural land; and liaise with Essex County Council regarding development located on mineral reserves.

Difficulties encountered and data gaps

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

⁴⁶ Essex Minerals Local Plan, Essex County Council. July 2014.

⁴⁷ Essex Replacement Minerals Local Plan (Pre-submission Draft), 2013 (Appendix 10)

Material assets⁴⁸

- 3.97 The development of Previously Developed Land (PDL) in Basildon Borough is focused towards sites in town centres or in existing housing estates that are subject to wider regeneration schemes. Basildon's New Town's comprehensive development legacy has, to some extent, meant that there has been a relatively small supply of PDL in the Borough, compared to more industrialised areas. The National Land Use Database identified 0.39ha of land as derelict and 6.43ha as vacant within the Borough in 2010⁴⁹.
- 3.98 The Borough has over 1,300 ha of open space available for use by its residents, people who work in the Borough and visitors. As a Mark I New Town, Basildon was planned with a considerable amount of open space as part of the New Town Masterplanning, much of which is still used for the purpose it was set aside for and now provides a range of health, biodiversity, landscape and flood defence benefits. No parks have however yet been awarded the qualitative Green Flag Award.
- 3.99 The PPG17 Open Space Assessment⁵⁰ undertaken for Basildon Borough in 2010 notes that the Basildon Settlement Area has the greatest supply of open space per head of population and the majority of these are spaces of high quality. Clusters of lower quality open spaces exist around Eastern Pitsea, South of the A127, Laindon Park/Lee Chapel North and Vange. A relative deficit exists in this settlement area for Outdoor Sports Provision equating to 0.27ha per 1,000 people (an under provision of 26ha).
- 3.100 Basildon Borough has a number of indoor sports facilities including nine indoor swimming pools, 12 sports halls, 12 health and fitness centres and eight indoor tennis courts. By 2021, the demand for all of these facilities is expected to exceed the existing supply. The quality of the current indoor sports facilities is mixed with scores ranging from 43% to 84% in terms of quality (where 100% = highest quality)⁵¹.
- 3.101 Billericay and Burstead have an above Borough average provision of natural green space and outdoor sports facilities but has an undersupply of urban parks & gardens and smaller amenity space. Generally the quality of spaces is good, with poor quality open space noted in Little Burstead, Eastern Mountnessing Fringe and Barleylands Farm (North of Southend Road).
- 3.102 The Noak Bridge & Ramsden Area contains a high proportion of the Borough's overall sports pitch provision, but lacks an urban park. Most open spaces in this settlement area which is mostly rural in nature, are of a high quality.
- 3.103 Wickford has a slight over-provision of urban parks and gardens, but a high under supply of natural and semi-natural open space, outdoor sports space and amenity green space. The quality of open spaces is mixed, although two open spaces are considered to be 'excellent' – Wickford Memorial Park and The Wick Country Park. The Wat Tyler Project at the Wat Tyler Country Park is currently transforming the site into a centre of excellence which attracts 350,000 visitors per year. The project involves significant enhancements to the existing facilities which will provide more opportunities for individual, schools, organisations and businesses to visit the Park. In 2011 the Park was the winner of the Environmental Awareness category at the Basildon Business Awards.
- 3.104 The Towngate Theatre located within Basildon Town Centre is the only theatre within the Borough. The business plan for the Theatre was approved by the Council in January 2012 and will see over £1million invested into the theatre with the intention of creating a top class venue.
- 3.105 At present 47.9% of Essex's domestic waste is still sent to landfill sites, one of which is located in the south of the Borough at Pitsea. These are however rapidly filling up and will continue to be a source of local green-house gas emissions for many years to come. In 2006-2007, there was a significant fall in the amount of waste being collected per head in the Borough, which can be partially attributed to the increase in the availability of doorstep recycling schemes to Borough households, which have encouraged residents to separate and recycle elements of their general domestic waste. In recent years however rates have decreased slightly with 27% of Basildon

⁴⁸ The definition of 'material assets' can be defined widely. In this case, it is taken to mean 'infrastructure' in the Borough including 'green' infrastructure such as open spaces.

⁴⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-land-use-database-of-previously-developed-land-2010-nlud-pdl>

⁵⁰ PPG17 Open Space Assessment, Part 1, Basildon Borough Council (March, 2010)

⁵¹ Basildon Borough Indoor Sports and Recreation Study, Ashley Godfrey Associates, 2011

Borough's waste being reused and recycled in 2013-2014, down 0.4% on the previous year and 1.6% below the regional average⁵². However in 2013-2014 25.85% of household waste within Basildon was composted, 2.3% above the regional average⁵³.

3.106 From a transport perspective, 16% of residents travel to work by train, London being the predominant location. This demonstrates the Borough's reliance on the City of London as an employment base for residents.⁵⁴ Most residents travel to work by car or private vehicle, despite fewer residents than the national average owning their own car or van. Whilst many residents work in the Borough, a significant proportion of the Borough's workforce travel in from neighbouring areas (e.g. Castle Point, Rochford and Southend) and this can lead to congestion, particularly at peak times on parts of the Borough's road network.

3.107 Detailed modelling assessments of Public Transport availability has shown that:

- All of the Borough is within 30 minutes of businesses with over 50 employees, using public transport.
- Most of the Borough is within 30 minutes of a hospital.
- Most of the Borough is within 30 minutes of a college or sixth form.

Sustainability issues

49 Maximising the use of Previously Developed Land or Derelict Land in the Borough whilst recognising that brownfield sites may include Priority Habitats and/or support significant biodiversity interest.

50 Improving the quality and availability of the open spaces, social, leisure and cultural facilities in the Borough, based on local needs and demands and recognising localised disparities within the Borough.

51 Reducing domestic waste generation in the Borough and increasing access to recycling.

52 Almost half of the local workforce live outside the Borough (mostly Castle Point, Rochford and Southend) and travel by private vehicle, which leads to congestion at peak times across the Borough's road network. This is compounded by over half of the Borough's residents working outside of the Borough.

Difficulties encountered and data gaps

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

Key sustainability issues

3.109 The key sustainability issues for Basildon have been drawn from those issues identified in the SA Scoping Report and reviewed drawing on the baseline information above. In recognition of the SEA Directive requirement (Annex 1 b) that the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme must be described in the Environmental Report, **Table 3.1** shows the likely evolution of these key sustainability issues if the Basildon Borough Local Plan were not adopted.

⁵² Essex Recycling and Composting Performance, 2013-2014

⁵³ Essex Recycling and Composting Performance, 2013-2014

⁵⁴ ONS, 2012

Table 3.1: Key sustainability issues facing Basildon Borough

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
<p>1. Recognising the likely impacts of climate change on the Borough's built and natural environment – ensuring that adaptation, design and siting and other mitigation measures can enhance energy efficiency, internal comfort, and lower carbon footprints.</p>	<p>The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); European Directive Energy Performance of Buildings 2010/31/EU (DCLG, 2012); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Marine and Coastal Access Act (MMO, 2009); Marine Policy Statement (MMO, 2011); Draft East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans (MMO, 2013).</p>	<p>In the absence of an up to date Local Policy Framework it will be difficult to command higher standards of building design. It will also be difficult to take a strategic approach to the siting of development ensuring that locations less vulnerable to the future effects of climate change can be chosen.</p> <p>However, emissions from new development are likely to be progressively reduced due to initiatives such as the Code for Sustainable Homes.</p> <p>The NPPF requires local authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and actively support energy efficiency improvements without the implementation of relevant DPDs.</p>
<p>2. Ensuring that all new homes built in the Borough are zero carbon and adopt building designs that can adapt to a changing climate.</p>	<p>The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); European Directive Energy Performance of Buildings 2010/31/EU (DCLG, 2012).</p>	<p>Carbon reduction is a national concern driven by national targets that are influencing the industry, for example zero carbon standards for new homes by 2016. The Local Plan has some role to play in increasing the rate of local mitigation and adaptation in the context of regional and national improvements.</p>
<p>3. Reducing the reliance on non-renewable energy sources to meet the Borough's energy demands (mainly electricity), including using on-site renewables and improving efficiency.</p>	<p>UK Sustainable Development (DEFRA 1999/2005); Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010/31/EU; Energy Act (2011); Energy Bill (2012); Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (DECC, 2012); UK Renewable Energy Strategy, 2009 (DECC, 2009); NPPF (DCLG, 2012).</p>	<p>National renewable energy and carbon reduction targets and the NPPF require local authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and actively support energy efficiency and renewable energy.</p> <p>The Local Plan and subsequent LPDs can contribute to improved energy efficiency and increased take up of renewable energy through policies which require higher sustainability standards (e.g. for larger allocations) where there is a demonstrated local need and provide a positive policy approach to the consideration renewable energy applications.</p> <p>Emissions from new development are likely to be progressively reduced due to initiatives such as the Code for Sustainable Homes and the national target of achieving zero carbon homes by 2016.</p>
<p>4. Being able to manage and mitigate against all sources of flooding (fluvial, tidal, ground and surface water) and their different effects</p>	<p>European Directive: Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC; National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (Environment Agency, 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country</p>	<p>Without the benefits of local spatial strategy it will be more difficult to manage the effects of developments on flood risk, although all developments would need to take account of National policy on flood risk.</p>

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
across the Borough.	Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); North Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009); South Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009); South Essex Surface Water Management Plan (ECC, 2012); Essex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (ECC, 2013).	<p>The NPPF would still apply without the implementation of the DPDs and states that "inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere" (paragraph 100).</p> <p>The severity and likelihood of flooding is likely to increase with current trends of climate change.</p>
5. Concern over the long-term ability of all of man-made flood storage areas (washlands) to manage urban drainage and contain storm water across the drainage basin, particularly if some are affected by poor maintenance standards or the poor condition of related infrastructure.	The Floods Directive 2007 (2007/60/EC); National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (Environment Agency, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); North Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009); South Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009); Essex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (ECC, 2013).	<p>Without an up to date local policy framework, it will be more difficult to take a strategic approach to siting development in areas of lower flood risk. . This may mean more development occurring in unsuitable locations, placing greater pressure on existing defences.</p> <p>The NPPF would still apply without the implementation of the DPDs and states that "inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere" (paragraph 100).</p> <p>The severity and likelihood of flooding is likely to increase with current trends of climate change.</p>
6. Increasing demands placed on outdoor recreation and wildlife areas due to warmer and drier weather patterns.	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA, 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); "UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA, 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Marine and Coastal Access Act (MMO, 2009); Marine Policy Statement (MMO, 2011); Draft East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans (MMO, 2013); Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy (TGSE Partnership, 2005); Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2010-2020 (ECC, 2011).	<p>With population of the Borough increasing, pressure on recreation and wildlife areas is likely to be exacerbated. Without an up to date Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of open green spaces/green networks for recreation, walking and cycling networks, and wildlife.</p> <p>Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets.</p>
7. Recognition that changes to the climate will bring new challenges to recreation and wildlife areas in the Borough due to extended	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA, 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA, 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Country Side and Rights of Way	The severity and likelihood of adverse impacts on local ecosystems is likely to increase with current trends of climate change. Without an up to date Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to managing the effects of this change through careful

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
growing seasons and increased vulnerability of some native species and the migration of new species (including the potential for alien introductions).	(CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Marine and Coastal Access Act (MMO, 2009); Marine Policy Statement (MMO, 2011); Draft East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans (MMO, 2013); Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy, TGSE Partnership, 2005); Essex BAP 2010-2020 (ECC, 2011); Basildon District Playing Pitch Strategy Technical Addendum 2011 (BBC, 2011).	site allocations and targeted wildlife conservation and enhancement initiatives.
8. Adverse environmental and health impacts associated with increases in air, soil and water pollution from human activities, made worse by increasing temperatures and less rainfall.	Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC, which contains European Directive Limit Values for SO ₂ , NO _x , PM ₁₀ and Lead; Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC; The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA, 2007); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Draft Soil Strategy (DEFRA, 2008); Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (Defra, 2009); Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008); Country Side and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Marine and Coastal Access Act (MMO, 2009); Marine Policy Statement (MMO, 2011); Draft East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans (MMO, 2013); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (EA, 2009); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action plan for Anglian Region (EA, 2009).	Climate change and a rising local population are in combination, at certain times of the year, likely to increase the sources, pathways and receptors of harmful pollutants independently of any local plan. However, without a planned approach to development through the Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach that would manage and reduce the risk of further health impacts.
9. The Borough's varied urban, rural and natural landscapes are vulnerable to adverse effects from urban expansion, increasing recreational pressures, seasonal climate change as well as agricultural and land management practices.	European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; European Landscape Convention (2002); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Country Side and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Marine and Coastal Access Act (MMO, 2009); Marine Policy Statement (MMO, 2011); Draft East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans (MMO, 2013); Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy (TGSE Partnership, 2005); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); The Thames Gateway Delivery Plan (DCLG 2007); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 – Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008).	The severity and likelihood of adverse impacts on local ecosystems and landscapes is likely to increase with current trends of climate change and the rising population of the Borough. These impacts are at risk of being exacerbated without a planned approach to development. Without the Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of open green spaces/green networks for recreation, walking and cycling networks, and wildlife. Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets, including the Borough's most sensitive landscapes.

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
10. An adequate housing supply, incorporating a mix of housing types will be required to meet the growing population.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Basildon Borough Council Corporate Plan 2012/16 (BBC); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Housing shortfall likely to continue without a positive and proactive approach to delivery of local housing through an up to date Local Plan for the Borough. A coordinated spatial strategy to housing allocation is essential.
11. There may be changes in the demand for, as well as the operational impacts on key services, such as housing, health, education and social care. This is affected further by the changing demographic profile of the Borough's residents.	European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our strategy for public health in England (Dept. of Health, 2010); Joint Essex Health and Well Being Strategy 2013-2018, (Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, 2013); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group Integrated Plan 2013 – 2015 (2013).	Likely to continue without appropriate policy responses. For example, responding to the needs of an ageing population may be less co-ordinated in the absence of the Plan. However, all new housing developments would need to meet the requirements of Lifetime Homes.
12. There are significant local health issues concerning teenage pregnancies, levels of physical activity, and early deaths through cancer.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA, 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our strategy for public health in England (Dept. of Health, 2010); Joint Essex Health and Well Being Strategy 2013-2018, (Essex Partnership, 2012); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Basildon Borough Council Corporate Plan 2012/16 (BBC); Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group Integrated Plan 2013 – 2015 (2013).	Likely to continue without appropriate policy responses at the national and local level. Consideration of healthy lifestyles (including responding to issues such as obesity) will occur at the National level. Local level initiatives e.g. family planning and public health strategies will seek to respond to Basildon-specific issues. An up to date Local Plan for the Borough can contribute to some of the wider determinants of health e.g. improvements to poor quality housing, access to suitable green spaces and the balance of use types in town centres (for example, minimising the likelihood of overconcentration of any one use type).
13. Tackling deprivation and achieving social inclusion will be challenging in parts of the Borough, given the disparities in how well some parts of the Borough perform over others.	Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities. The issue of social exclusion in relation to Gypsies and Travellers specifically should also be addressed through specific Gypsy and Traveller site allocations.
14. There are poor levels of GCSE educational	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Essex	The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
achievement, especially in schools in Basildon, which can affect entry into further education, skill levels and economic potential.	Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities.
15. There is currently some spare capacity in a number of the Borough's primary schools; however, an increasing number of schools are experiencing pressure on available places due to the recent increases in the birth rate, their popularity and additional housing.	Commissioning School Places in Essex 2012/17 (ECC, 2013).	With the rising population of the Borough, pressures on existing schools are likely to rise. Adopting a spatial approach to the allocation of development will ensure development is located in areas where existing education capacity is good and identify those areas where new facilities are required. This will ensure that development of new housing is planned in parallel with the development of new schools/upgrades to existing facilities.
16. Comparably fewer qualifications/ training gained at 'A' Level or higher in the Borough than the region or country. If this continues it could have a negative impact on the economic competitiveness of the Borough and may lead to more jobs going to people from outside the Borough and affect local people's long-term employability.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities.
17. There are high local levels of working age benefit claimants.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities.
18. There are income inequalities between local men and women, which could present difficulties to improving quality of life and reducing poverty particularly for single	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to increasing affordable housing, socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities. Gender inequality is more difficult to

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
parents.		respond to at a local level. There are, however, national initiatives which seek to redress the balance.
19. Theft from and of vehicles is relatively high in the Borough, which affects general perceptions of the Borough, with regards to safety and crime.	NPPF (DCLG, 2012); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Essex Police Strategy (2012-2015) and Plan 2012-2013 (Essex Police, 2012); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	The NPPF requires good design that creates "safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion" (paragraph 58). However, the spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities. This should have indirect, positive effects on actual crime and fear of crime.
20. The safety of motorists and other road users must improve.	Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (DfT, 2013); Essex Transport Strategy: the local transport plan for Essex (ECC, 2011); Essex Police Strategy (2012-2015) and Plan 2012-2013 (Essex Police, 2012).	Local patterns and spatial distributions of road accidents, linked to age and social deprivation, require a coordinated local policy response linked to socio-economic regeneration and providing relevant community services and facilities including education facilities. National initiatives aimed at improving road safety for all road users are likely to continue.
21. Providing a mix of housing types and sizes for the differing demands of the local population.	NPPF (DCLG, 2012); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities - The future (DETR, 2000); Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic House Market Assessment (TGSE, 2013); Joint Essex Health and Well Being Strategy 2013-2018 (Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, 2013); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group Integrated Plan 2013 - 2015 (2013); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Basildon District Council Strategic Improvement Plan 2010-2013 (BDC, 2010).	Likely to continue without appropriate local policy responses. For example, responding to the needs of an ageing population may be less co-ordinated in the absence of the Plan. However, all new housing developments would need to meet the requirements of Lifetime Homes.
22. The delivery rate of affordable housing is low, compared to relatively high levels of local need.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Thames Gateway South Essex Interim Housing Strategy 20012-2015 (2012); Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic House Market Assessment (TGSE, 2013); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	Affordable housing shortfall is likely to continue without a positive and proactive approach to local housing through the Local Plan, which includes assessing the capacity and feasibility of regenerating existing brownfield land. A coordinated spatial strategy for housing allocation is essential ensuring there are sufficient sites to meet demand and respond to historically low

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
		rates of construction.
23. Estate renewal programmes in the Borough may result in increases to the number of affordable houses being granted permission in the Borough, but they also result in temporary losses, whilst replacement dwellings are being built.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012) Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Thames Gateway South Essex Interim Housing Strategy 2012-2015 (2012).	Very much a local issue that requires a carefully planned local policy response alongside on-going monitoring and management.
24. The construction rate of New Dwellings is lower than the annual average rate required to meet minimum targets by 2021. The net increase in new dwellings has been historically low, partially attributed to mass demolition as part of three major estate renewal programmes that has occurred in the last 10 years.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic House Market Assessment (TGSE, 2013); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Thames Gateway South Essex Interim Housing Strategy 2012-2015 (2012).	A continued under delivery of new homes likely to continue without a positive and proactive approach to local housing through the Local Plan. A coordinated spatial strategy for housing allocation is essential ensuring there are sufficient sites to meet demand and respond to historically low rates of construction.
25. Potential residential capacity from brownfield sites (e.g. town centres) could take longer to realise, particularly if there are site assembly issues, the sites affect significant biodiversity or cultural heritage interests, require existing uses to be relocated, or need to be decontaminated before new units can be built.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Thames Gateway South Essex Interim Housing Strategy 2012-2015 (2012); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Wickford Town Centre Masterplan (BDC, 2006); Gardiners Lane South SPG, (BDC, 2003); Basildon Town Centre Masterplan (Basildon Town Centre Regeneration (BBC, 2012); Pitsea Town Centre Masterplan (BDC, 2007); Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Service level Agreement Report (EECOS, 2009); Basildon District Regeneration Framework 2007-2021 (BRP, 2007).	Housing shortfall likely to continue without a positive and proactive approach to local housing through the Local Plan, which includes assessing the capacity and feasibility of regenerating existing brownfield land. A coordinated local spatial strategy to housing allocation will help select those sites which are both suitable (e.g. with fewer environmental constraints) and deliverable.
26. The increase in house prices is not reflected in increasing wage	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic House Market Assessment (TGSE,	Likely to continue at the regional and national scale. Can be somewhat mitigated by a positive and proactive approach to local housing through the Local Plan, for

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
levels in the Borough.	2013); Basildon Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	example, through delivery of a range of dwelling types and tenures to meet need. A coordinated local spatial strategy to housing allocation is essential.
27. The number of unauthorised pitches for Gypsies and Travellers in the Borough is the greatest in Essex.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, August 2015).	Without the adoption of local Gypsy and Traveller site allocations through local development planning, there will be less certainty relating to the delivery of authorised pitches. Without the adoption of the Plan, the trend is therefore likely to continue.
28. Local economy is not diverse and relies upon large multi-national companies.	European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Gardiners Land South SPG (BDC, 2003).	Employment trends likely to continue in current economic climate without significant local intervention. In urban areas, local planning interventions can help improve access to a range of employment and increase delivery of affordable housing, which in turn can increase the available workforce which may encourage new employers to locate in Basildon Borough. A local plan response can also identify areas in need of regeneration and put forward a renewal programme to achieve this. This in turn may encourage new businesses to locate in Basildon. With regards to Basildon Borough's rural economy, paragraph 28 of the NPPF supports the rural economy by supporting the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, and promoting the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.
29. Requirement to make provisions for jobs growth in line with increases to housing provision, whilst having regard to biodiversity and the wider environment.	UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Country Side and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Basildon Borough Corporate Plan 2012/16 (BBC); Gardiners Lane South SPG, (BDC, 2003).	Employment trends likely to continue in current economic climate without significant local intervention. Local planning interventions can help improve access to a range of employment and increase delivery of affordable housing, which in turn can increase the available workforce which may encourage new employers to locate in Basildon Borough. A local plan response can also identify areas in need of regeneration and put forward a renewal programme to achieve this. This in turn may encourage new businesses to locate in Basildon Borough. Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets.

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
<p>30. Basildon is within the national regeneration area of the Thames Gateway, and is identified, along with Castle Point, as the South Essex 'Business Hub', with specific development and regeneration aspirations that it is encouraged to achieve.</p>	<p>European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Marine and Coastal Access Act (MMO, 2009); Marine Policy Statement (MMO, 2011); Draft East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans (MMO, 2013); Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy (TGSE Partnership, 2005); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Basildon Borough Corporate Plan 2012/16 (BBC); Gardiners Lane South SPG (BDC, 2003).</p>	<p>Basildon is likely to benefit from its inclusion in the Thames Gateway regeneration area without further local policy intervention. There is however opportunity to maximise the potential of its inclusion through local planning policy, through targeted socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing necessary infrastructure and community services and facilities including education facilities.</p>
<p>31. The ability to enhance the vitality and viability of town centres, whilst meeting various development needs, regeneration aspirations, within social and environmental constraints.</p>	<p>UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Thames Gateway South Essex Interim Housing Strategy 2012-2015 (2012); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC); Wickford Town Centre Masterplan (BDC, 2005); Gardiners Lane South SPG, (BDC, 2003); Basildon Town Centre Masterplan (Basildon Town Centre Regeneration (BBC, 2012); Pitsea Town Centre Masterplan (BDC, 2007); Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Service level Agreement Report(EECOS, 2009).</p>	<p>With the exception of the Thames Gateway regeneration initiative, there is unlikely to be significant benefits from sub-regional and national policies, plans and programmes. The Local Plan can specify the balance and mix of uses which are appropriate in town centres. This is less to happen in a coordinated, planned way in the absence of the Plan.</p>
<p>32. There is a need to increase the take-up rates of further education courses and diversify the skills base of the local labour market, to ensure local business sectors are able to diversify and improve the long-term prosperity of residents.</p>	<p>European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities - The future (DETR, 2000); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 – Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).</p>	<p>Improving the education and skills base of Borough residents requires a range of interventions, some of which will happen in the absence of the Plan (for example, national initiatives in respect of education). However, a planned approach to development (e.g. targeting regeneration and new employment to areas of higher deprivation) which may indirectly improve education and skills levels is less likely in the absence of the Plan. The spatial distribution of deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough is likely to continue without an appropriate local policy response, linked to providing community services and facilities including education facilities.</p>
<p>33. There is a need to protect the cultural heritage resource in the Borough from further destruction or</p>	<p>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valetta, 1992); European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF</p>	<p>Destruction or degradation trend would be likely to continue and may be exacerbated without a planned local approach to development. National policy should help to protect and enhance heritage assets but</p>

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
<p>degradation, and conserve and enhance heritage assets through a positive strategy for the historic environment in line with the NPPF.</p>	<p>(DCLG, 2012); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plan SPDs for Billericay (2011), Great Burstead (2011), Little Burstead (2011) and Noak Bridge (2010).</p>	<p>whether or not this will help specific sites is uncertain.</p>
<p>34. The Borough's varied urban, rural and natural landscapes are vulnerable to adverse effects from urban expansion, increasing recreational pressures, seasonal climate change, as well as agricultural and land management practices.</p>	<p>European Spatial Development Perspective 1999; European Landscape Convention (2002); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Marine and Coastal Access Act (MMO, 2009); Marine Policy Statement (MMO, 2011); Draft East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans (MMO, 2013); Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid Strategy (TGSE Partnership, 2005); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001); The Thames Gateway Delivery Plan (DCLG 2007); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 – Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008).</p>	<p>The severity and likelihood of adverse impacts on local ecosystems and landscapes is likely to increase with current trends of climate change and the rising population of the Borough. These impacts are at risk of being exacerbated without a planned approach to development. Without the Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of open green spaces/green networks for recreation, walking and cycling networks, and wildlife.</p> <p>Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets, including the Borough's most sensitive landscapes.</p>
<p>35. There are European and International habitats and species of designated interest within 5km of the Basildon Borough administrative boundary.</p>	<p>EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC; The Birds Directive 79/409/EEC (transposed into UK law by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 [as amended 2012]); Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Marine and Coastal Access Act (MMO, 2009); Marine Policy Statement (MMO, 2011); Draft East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans (MMO, 2013); Essex Strategy 2008-2018 – Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Essex Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2020 (ECC, 2011).</p>	<p>Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs and local designations in the Borough. The Habitats and Birds Directives provide protection to the internationally designated biodiversity sites in proximity to the Borough.</p> <p>Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets, including biodiversity. A Local Plan would strengthen national policy, further safeguarding nature sites. Adopting a strategic, local approach to the allocation of development will ensure that the impacts of development (both singularly and in combination) on all nature conservation interest can be better managed.</p> <p>Furthermore, without the Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife.</p>

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
<p>36. Unsympathetic grazing methods, ditch management and water level management are regarded as factors that have negative effects on existing SSSI units.</p>	<p>Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); State of Nature Report (2013); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Marine and Coastal Access Act (MMO, 2009); Marine Policy Statement (MMO, 2011); Draft East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans (MMO, 2013); Essex Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2020, (Essex Biodiversity Project, 2010); Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Service level Agreement Report (EECOS, 2009).</p>	<p>Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs and local designations in the Borough.</p> <p>However, strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets. A Local Plan would strengthen national policy, further safeguarding nature sites.</p> <p>Without the Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife. As Local Wildlife Sites are only afforded protection by the planning system (unless the need for development, outweighs their continued conservation), it may also result in adverse impacts on these sites from unregulated activities such as recreation or agriculture.</p>
<p>37. Local Wildlife Sites in the Borough are being negatively affected by actions such as agricultural practices, inappropriate management, road-widening, and recreational activities. If this continues, it could affect their wildlife value and the contribution they make to biodiversity, landscapes and the natural environment.</p>	<p>Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Essex BAP 2010-2020 (ECC, 2011); Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Service level Agreement Report (EECOS, 2009).</p>	<p>Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs and local designations in the Borough.</p> <p>However, strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets. A local plan would strengthen national policy, further safeguarding nature sites.</p> <p>Without the Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife.</p>
<p>38. There is a need for continued preservation and long-term management of Ancient Woodlands in the Borough.</p>	<p>UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Essex BAP 2010-2020, (ECC, 2011); Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Service level Agreement Report (EECOS, 2009).</p>	<p>Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets, such as ancient woodland.</p> <p>Without the Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green</p>

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
		networks for wildlife.
<p>39. The Thames Marshes and unimproved grasslands of Vange, Bowers and Pitsea represent 10% of this habitat type in Essex and are of national and international significance to the species they support. They must be suitably conserved from adverse impacts of development.</p>	<p>EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora 79/409/EEC; The Birds Directive 79/409/EEC (transposed into UK law by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 [as amended 2012]); Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA 2011); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Marine and Coastal Access Act (MMO, 2009); Marine Policy Statement (MMO, 2011); Draft East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans (MMO, 2013).</p>	<p>Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets, such as the Thames Marshes and unimproved grasslands of Vange, Bowers and Pitsea.</p> <p>Without the Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife.</p>
<p>40. A need to ensure Priority Habitats/Species and other locally endangered species are protected from destruction by inappropriate development or land management practice.</p>	<p>Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Country Side and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Essex BAP 2010-2020, (ECC, 2011); Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Service level Agreement Report (EECOS, 2009).</p>	<p>Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs, local designations and protected species in the Borough.</p> <p>A coordinated approach to strategic development through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of the Borough's environmental assets (including protected species). A Local Plan approach would strengthen national policy, further safeguarding nature conservation sites and habitats of local importance.</p> <p>Without the Local Plan, there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of green networks for wildlife.</p>
<p>41. Water Quality and Foul Water Capacity can have significant impacts on the status of SSSI's and other designated / sensitive sites and the water environment in general.</p>	<p>Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA 2011); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Essex BAP 2010-2020, (ECC, 2011); Basildon District Habitat and Biodiversity Service level Agreement Report (EECOS, 2009). European Water Directive Framework 2000/60/EC; Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA 2008); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales</p>	<p>Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, as well as prevent both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs, local designations and protected species in the Borough.</p> <p>A coordinated approach to strategic development through the Local Plan will</p>

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
	(EA, 2009); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action Plan for Anglian Region (EA, 2009); Country Side and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Marine and Coastal Access Act (MMO, 2009); Marine Policy Statement (MMO, 2011); Draft East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans (MMO, 2013).	provide a more structured framework for managing foul water capacity and in turn water quality capacity without compromising the local integrity of the Borough’s environmental assets (including protected species). A Local Plan approach would strengthen national policy, further safeguarding nature conservation sites and habitats of local importance from water pollution.
42. Need to continue to minimise and contain excess noise from domestic and industrial sources in the Borough.	European Directive Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise 2002/49/EC; The Building Regulations 2010 and Building (Approved Inspectors etc.) Regulations 2010; The NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); Marine and Coastal Access Act (MMO, 2009); Marine Policy Statement (MMO, 2011); Draft East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans (MMO, 2013).	The Building Regulations aim to manage the impact of noise from new domestic and industrial developments through good design. Furthermore, the increasing prevalence of sustainability standards such as BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes will also have a positive contribution. Development of an up to date local planning framework will ensure that Local Plan and development management policies seek to address the current sustainability issues (including noise).
43. Not all surface and groundwater bodies currently meet ‘Good’ status in respect of water quality (required through the Water Framework Directive).	European Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA 2008); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (EA, 2009); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action Plan for Anglian Region (EA, 2009); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); South Essex Surface Water Management Plan (ECC, 2012); South Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009).	This pressure will continue in the absence of Local Plan.
44. Need to provide adequate foul water capacity to meet existing and future domestic and commercial needs to ensure the water environment is protected.	European Water Directive Framework 2000/60/EC; Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA 2008); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (EA, 2009); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action Plan for Anglian Region (EA, 2009); Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000); Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006).	Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to prevent both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability, which may afford some protection to the water environment in and around the Borough. A Local Plan would strengthen national safeguards by adding an important strategic spatial dimension to this local issue. Part of the local plan approach will be to liaise with utility companies over the level of growth proposed to ensure that

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
		wastewater infrastructure can be adequately upgraded/enhanced in advance of new development.
45. Need to provide an adequate water supply available to meet the domestic consumption needs of existing and future residents.	European Water Directive Water Framework 2000/60/EC; UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (EA, 2009); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action Plan for Anglian Region (EA, 2009); Water Efficiency in New Buildings Policy Statement (DEFRA and DCLG 2007); Final Water Resources Management Plan 2010-2035 (Essex and Suffolk Water, 2010); South Essex Water Cycle Study (URS, 2011).	Without the Plan it will be more difficult to adopt a co-ordinated approach to adapting to climate change, including the need to use water sustainably. Conversely, new development needs to meet higher water efficiency standards and water companies must plan to reduce leaks from the water supply network as well as improve water efficiency. Part of the local plan approach will be to liaise with utility companies over the level of growth proposed to ensure that water resources are adequate to supply the needs of new development.
46. Ensure that Groundwater Vulnerability Areas in the north of the Borough are protected, directly or indirectly, from adverse development impacts.	European Water Directive Framework 2000/60/EC; Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA 2008); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (EA, 2009); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action Plan for Anglian Region (EA, 2009).	Strategic developments allocated through the Local Plan will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments without compromising the local integrity of groundwater vulnerability areas. A Local Plan would strengthen national safeguards by adding an important strategic spatial dimension to this local issue.
47. Improve the efficiency of water use and reduce local water wastage.	European Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC; Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA 2008); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (EA, 2009); Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action Plan for Anglian Region (EA, 2009).	Without the Plan it will be more difficult to adopt a co-ordinated approach to adapting to climate change, including the need to use water sustainably. Conversely, new development needs to meet higher water efficiency standards and water companies must plan to reduce leaks from the water supply network as well as improve water efficiency.
48. Minimise the amount of development located on Grade 3a agricultural land and on important mineral reserves.	NPPF, paragraph 112 and core planning principles in respect of brownfield land "...encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided it is not of high environmental value) (DCLG, 2012); Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex 2007 to 2032 (ECC, 2008); Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan 2013 (Pre-submission Draft) (ECC, 2013).	Minerals and waste planning is undertaken by Essex County Council who would be statutory consultees in respect of development in Basildon Borough which is on or close to minerals safeguarding areas. National Policy (the NPPF) restricts development on higher grade agricultural land, however there is understood to be limited Grade 3a land in the Basildon. Adopting a strategic approach to development planning through the Revised Local Plan should enable adverse impacts on minerals and higher grade agricultural

Baseline Sustainability Issue	Relevant Plan, Policy or Programme	Likely Evolution of the issue without the Plan
		land to be minimised.
49. Maximising the use of Previously Developed or Derelict Land in the Borough, whilst recognising that brownfield sites may include Priority Habitats and/or support significant biodiversity interest.	NPPF, paragraph 112 (DCLG, 2012); Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England (Defra, 2009); The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Defra, 2011); Essex BAP 2010-2020, (ECC, 2011).	Housing shortfall is likely to continue without a positive and proactive approach to local housing through the Local Plan, which includes assessing the capacity and feasibility of developing existing brownfield land. A coordinated local spatial strategy to housing allocation would maximise the use of previously developed land, whilst protecting and enhancing priority habitats and species.
50. Improving the quality and availability of the open spaces, social, leisure and cultural facilities in the Borough, based on local needs and demands and recognised localised disparities within the Borough.	Essex Strategy 2008-2018 Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives (Essex Partnership 2008); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	With the rising population of the Borough, pressures on the quality and availability of open space are likely to continue without a planned approach to development. Without the Local Plan there is less opportunity to adopt a co-ordinated, spatial approach to the development of open green spaces/green networks for recreation, walking and cycling networks, and wildlife.
51. Reducing domestic waste generation in the Borough and increasing access to recycling.	Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC; Waste Strategy (DEFRA 2007); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); NPPF (DCLG, 2012); Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex 2007-2032; Essex & Southend on Sea Waste Local Plan (ECC, 2001); Basildon Borough Community Strategy 2012-2036 (BBC).	The Basildon Local Plan is unlikely to make a significant contribution to this issue. Essex County Council is the Waste Planning Authority for the County, which includes Basildon Borough. The requirements of national sustainability standards such as BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes will also have a positive contribution.
52. Almost half of the local workforce live outside the Borough (mostly Castle Point, Rochford and Southend) and travel in by private vehicles which leads to congestion at peak times across the Borough's road network. This is compounded by over half of the Borough's residents working outside of the Borough.	The Future of Transport White Paper: A Network for 2030 (DfT, 2004); UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (DEFRA 2005); Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (DfT, 2013); Essex Transport Strategy: the Local Transport Plan for Essex (ECC, 2011); A Vision for the Future (TGSE Partnership, 2001).	Such a sub-regional, cross-boundary issue requires a coordinated approach between Basildon Borough and its neighbouring local authorities. The Local Plan provides a mechanism to prioritise improvements to the public transport in order to discourage reliance on the private car. This would be coordinated in conjunction with County-wide transport planning undertaken by Essex County Council.

4 Evolution of options

- 4.1 This chapter of the SA Report summarises the work undertaken to date on the Local Plan, and how it has evolved. The preparation of the Local Plan has taken many years, and has involved a considerable amount of options testing (including through the SA process), both formally during the public consultation process and also informally during each version of the plan preparation stage.
- 4.2 The account below is an abbreviated description of the work undertaken to date. A fuller account up to the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options stage (December 2013) can be found in the SA Report that was published at that time⁵⁵. A comprehensive account will be provided in the SA Report that will accompany the Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) Local Plan.

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

- 4.3 Preparatory work began on the Local Development Framework in 2006, following the withdrawal of the Basildon District Replacement Local Plan – 2nd Deposit.
- 4.4 A Core Strategy Issues Paper was published in August 2007. The Council also launched its first Call for Sites for landowners to submit sites to the Local Planning Authority for consideration for development. One of the main comments arising from the 'Issues' consultation concluded that the Core Strategy needed to be more strategic and focussed in future iterations.
- 4.5 No SA work on the Issues was undertaken at this stage, although a SA Scoping Report was prepared and consulted upon (and subsequently updated in 2011 and 2013).
- 4.6 Between 2008 and 2012, the Council carried out a further Call for Sites and several studies/evaluations of the local environment and development requirements to assemble a robust and credible evidence base. This looked at cross boundary issues such as Water Cycle and Flood Risk, as well as Borough specific matters such as open space provision, historic character and biodiversity.

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

- 4.7 In February 2012 the Council approved for consultation the Basildon Borough Core Strategy Preferred Options Report which set out three alternative growth options for the Borough for the period 2011-2031. The 2012 Core Strategy was consulted upon for 6 weeks until 11th April 2012 and included eight public road shows, focus groups and forums.
- 4.8 The 2012 Core Strategy set out the Council's preferred options in respect of the quantum and spatial distribution of development, preferred 'Primary Areas of Development Change' (PADCs) and through a set of preferred Core Policies to manage development in the PADCs. The preferred spatial option in this version of the Core Strategy (Option A) sought to provide a minimum of 6,500 additional dwellings between 2011 and 2031, split between the Major Urban Area of Basildon (80%), and the towns of Billericay (1.5%) and Wickford (15.5%) with no encroachment into the Green Belt. Two alternative spatial options proposed different amounts of new housing and employment development that would have required development within the Borough's Green Belt over the next 20 years (these were Option B which sought to deliver 10,100 additional dwellings and up to 14 ha of additional economic land, and Option C which sought to deliver 21,600 additional dwellings and up to 26 ha of employment land).
- 4.9 The Core Strategy was accompanied by a Sustainability Report, prepared by Basildon Borough Council, which set out the likely effects of delivering the preferred options and the reasonable alternatives to these (please refer to the SA Report February 2012 which is available on the Council's website).

⁵⁵ See: <http://www.basildon.gov.uk/article/2014/Appraisals-and-Assessments>

- 4.10 The SA tested the Core Strategy Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives against the SA framework, seeking to identify compatibilities and incompatibilities which were denoted using a √/X approach (with a √ suggesting a policy or development area was compatible with an SA objective and an X suggesting incompatibility).

Summary of SA of Core Strategy 2012 Spatial Options

- 4.11 The appraisal of the Spatial Options concluded the following:
- *"Option A's main purpose is to protect the Borough's environmental assets, especially the Green Belt. Its overall lower growth rate means it will have less impact on the natural environment of the Borough.*
 - *The three Options perform well economically, with Option B and C having a better impact on economic development.*
 - *Socially, Options B and C perform better than Option A, which could have negative impacts on housing, health and education.*
 - *Overall, Options B and C perform better than Option A which is the least sustainable option, particularly in relation to economic growth, although Option A performed well in relation to environmental issues due to the lower level of growth and complete protection of the Green Belt.*
 - *Whilst Option B and C offer similar measures, the high level of housing densities promoted in Option C could lead to more negative impacts on the conservation of existing natural features..."*
- 4.12 The 2012 SA Report also included a table summarising the sustainability effects of the Core Policies and the PADCs.

Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report (December 2013)

- 4.13 A revised Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report was prepared in 2013 to respond to the extensive consultation responses. This included updates to respond to national policy requirements (notably the need to identify an objectively assessed housing need for the Borough), taking account of Census 2011 data and economic change. A suite of new evidence documents were also prepared.
- 4.14 The format of the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report was similar to the 2012 version. The Plan was underpinned by a vision and strategic objectives and the overall spatial strategy for the Borough was supported by 15 PADCs and a set of Core Policies. There were a number of changes to the Vision, Strategic Objectives, Spatial Strategy, and Core Policies.
- 4.15 In terms of quantum of development, the 2013 Draft Local Plan Core Strategy provided for 16,000 new dwellings and 49ha of new employment land, representing the up-to-date objectively assessed need for the Borough. Three spatial options were considered:
- Option 2a (the preferred option at this stage), which was a proportionate distribution of the 16,000 dwellings and 49ha of new employment land relative to the size of the Borough's Main Towns – Basildon (including Laindon and Pitsea), Billericay and Wickford. 6,900 homes and 38ha of industrial land were planned for within the settlements' existing urban areas. 9,100 homes and 11ha of industrial land were planned for within the Borough's Green Belt, split into urban extensions around the towns, between the serviced villages of Crays Hill, Bowers Gifford and Ramsden Bellhouse and infill development in the fifteen Plotland settlements scattered around the Borough.
 - Option 2b, which focussed the 16,000 dwellings and 49ha of new employment land towards Billericay and Wickford where feasible, with Basildon taking less than a proportionate scale of growth. The remainder of growth would be split between the serviced settlements of Crays Hill, Ramsden Bellhouse and Bowers Gifford and some allowance for infill in the Plotlands.
 - Option 2c, which focussed the 16,000 dwellings and 49ha of new employment land towards Basildon, with a smaller proportion of the remaining growth directed to Billericay and Wickford. A small proportion would be split between the serviced settlements of Crays Hill, Ramsden Bellhouse and Bowers Gifford and some allowance for infill in the Plotlands.

- 4.16 The 2013 Draft Local Plan Core Strategy also included changes to the PADCs in terms of scale and type of development proposed, plus new PADCs in the Green Belt at Basildon, Billericay and Wickford.
- 4.17 In order to identify the PADCs, Broad Locations for urban capacity were identified using SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis for each settlement and the SHLAA's urban capacity data. The urban Broad Locations with opportunities for growth were identified as:
- Basildon Town Centre.
 - Laindon Town Centre.
 - Nethermayne Urban Extension, Basildon.
 - Wickford Town centre.
- 4.18 To identify PADCs in the Green Belt, the Council used 73 Green Belt areas identified through the Green Belt Study 2013 to determine the boundaries of Broad Locations for growth in the Green Belt. 26 Broad Locations were identified as suitable using the findings from various complete and emerging evidence base documents at the time. This resulted in 26 areas being identified as possible locations for development needs (the remaining 47 locations were not considered reasonable by the Council). A map of the Broad Locations is provided in **Figure 4.1**.
- 4.19 The 26 Broad Locations were used to consider alternative ways of distributing the required dwellings. Each of the 26 Broad Locations was appraised on its own merits, using the SA Framework, and before any mitigation. 26 of the Broad Locations were considered as possible mixed use sites and 10 as potential employment sites using possible housing capacities proposed by the Council.
- 4.20 The Council cross-matched the Broad Locations with the spatial findings from the evidence base considering the following:
- Environmental constraints/characteristics (landscape sensitivity, historic context, Green Belt, nature designations).
 - Infrastructure provision (flood risk, surface water management, water supply, waste water treatment works capacity, waste water network, power network, education provision, health).
 - Delivery factors (viability, landownership, recent promotion).
 - The outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 4.21 The findings helped the Council to rule out Broad Locations with the lowest potential for development and focus consideration as to which Broad Locations should be considered as Policy Areas for Development and Change (PADCs). Three of the Broad Locations with lowest potential (7, 12 and 19) were considered as potential alternatives to the PADCs. Broad Locations 25 and 26 together and part of 17 were also considered as alternatives.
- 4.22 15 PADCs in total were included in the 2013 Draft Local Plan Core Strategy, including three PADCs to deliver town centre regeneration (PADC 1: Basildon Town Centre; PADC2: Laindon Town Centre and PADC 8: Wickford Town Centre). The other PADCs were:
- PADC 3: A127 Enterprise Corridor to deliver new and achieve intensification of existing employment along the A127 corridor, as well as a mixed use development to the west of Gardiners Lane South.
 - PADC 4: Nethermayne Urban Extension to deliver a sustainable urban extension to the south of Basildon on a greenfield location.
 - PADCs 5 & 6 (West Basildon and North East Basildon Urban Extension) to deliver 2,300 and 2,000 homes respectively as well as 5.5ha of employment land in each location.
 - PADC 7: South Essex Marshes to transform this vast marshland complex into a publicly accessible Thameside wilderness connected to nature reserves in neighbouring Castle Point, Thurrock and Greater London by a new Thames Estuary Pathway.
 - PADCs 9-12 to develop urban extensions for housing to the North East, South, West and North West of Wickford

- PADCS 13 & 14 to develop urban extensions for housing to the South East and East of Billericay.
 - PADC 15 proposed a 'Deferred Area of Search' to the West of Billericay for at least 1,400 homes subject to highway mitigation testing.
- 4.23 The 2013 Draft Local Plan Core Strategy also included 20 Core Policies to manage development including policies on Housing (affordable housing and housing mix); Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs; Conservation and the Natural Environment, Green Belt, Health and Wellbeing, Supporting and Sustaining the Local Economy and Transport Infrastructure.
- Summary of SA of the Draft Local Plan Core Strategy 2013*
- 4.24 The SA found that the effects between the three Spatial Options did not differ markedly in many respects. The SA objectives relating to landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity were the ones that were most likely to be affected negatively, because of the permanent loss of greenfield land to development, although it is recognised that development can also offer opportunities to deliver investment in green infrastructure and also in community facilities and services. The likelihood of significant adverse effects increased depended on which town was being considered under which Spatial Option. The SA found that focusing development on a particular town (or to the north or south of the Borough) would be more likely to have significant adverse effects against the environmental SA objectives in relation to that part of the Borough.
- 4.25 At this stage of the plan preparation process, the Council selected the proportionate growth option (Spatial Option 2A) to underpin the Revised Preferred Options Report as the most balanced and appropriate strategy – in effect, it spread both the positive effects and the negative effects, rather than concentrating them on one or two towns in the Borough. The SA found that this option performed as well as the other two options against many of the SA objectives, although inevitably there were some differences. There remained concerns over traffic issues, and potential congestion, which needed to be resolved, and further work was also required on water issues although it was thought that these can be addressed. Flood risk was a concern in some locations, which would need careful assessment, planning and design to ensure that avoid it becoming an issue in the future.
- 4.26 Provision of development through the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report was found to have the potential to result in a number of cumulative significant positive effects on the social and economic SA objectives, especially:
- Objective 4: Economic growth and regeneration.
 - Objective 5: Town centres.
 - Objective 6: Education and social inclusion.
 - Objective 7: Meeting housing need.
 - Objective 8: Health and wellbeing.
 - Objective 9: Vibrant communities.
 - Objective 10: Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas.
- 4.27 Provision of up to 16,000 homes and 49ha of employment land in Basildon was found likely to result in a number of significant adverse cumulative effects. These were predicted in respect of:
- Objective 13: Flood risk, although this was uncertain.
 - Objective 15: Air, land and noise pollution (although effects are anticipated to be short term only).
 - Objective 19: Traffic congestion.
- 4.28 Significant mixed effects (+ +/--) were predicted in respect of the following SA objectives:
- Objective 1: Landscape, countryside and green spaces.
 - Objective 2: Cultural heritage.
 - Objective 3: Biodiversity.

- Objective 11: Access to services and facilities.
- Objective 12: Re-use of previously developed land and buildings.
- Objective 14: Greenhouse gas emissions.

4.29 The Council identified a range of alternatives to the preferred policies in the 2013 Draft Local Plan Core Strategy, and where these were considered to be reasonable alternatives they were also subject to SA.

Draft Local Plan 2016

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

4.31 Since the publication of the 2013 Draft Local Plan Core Strategy there have been a number of new land parcels submitted to the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) for consideration for their development potential. There have also been updates to the Local Plan evidence base such as the Landscape Study and Green Belt Study. As such the Council undertook a review of broad areas of search formerly known as BLs which it named Strategic Sites to avoid confusion with the previous work undertaken.

Strategic Sites

4.32 The starting point for this exercise was the HELAA evidence base followed by the specific findings of the revised landscape study and Green Belt study, in contrast to the earlier exercise for identifying Broad Locations which looked at a broad range of evidence and spatial areas.

4.33 Individual sites or clusters of sites promoted through the Council's HELAA with an initial combined capacity of 200 homes or more were identified as strategic sites where (a) they were considered within the HELAA to be suitable and available for development or (b) they were considered within the HELAA to be available for development, and were only not considered suitable for Green Belt and/or landscape reasons. Those sites falling under definition (b) were appraised as part of this assessment to ensure that the findings of the earlier Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment could be applied to smaller development sites within the larger Green Belt areas appraised in 2013.

4.34 Of the 26 Broad Locations previously identified only two were not identified as Strategic Sites currently within the Green Belt. This was based on the lack of suitable and available HELAA sites in these locations to be able to accommodate 200+ dwellings. The remaining 24 Broad Locations were included, either fully or in part, in the 30 Strategic Sites. Strategic site 18 covered a larger area than Broad Location 6 and strategic sites 9, 10 and 20 were new locations that hadn't previously been considered but reflected the updated evidence base.

4.35 The strategic sites are shown on **Figure 4.1**.

Allocations

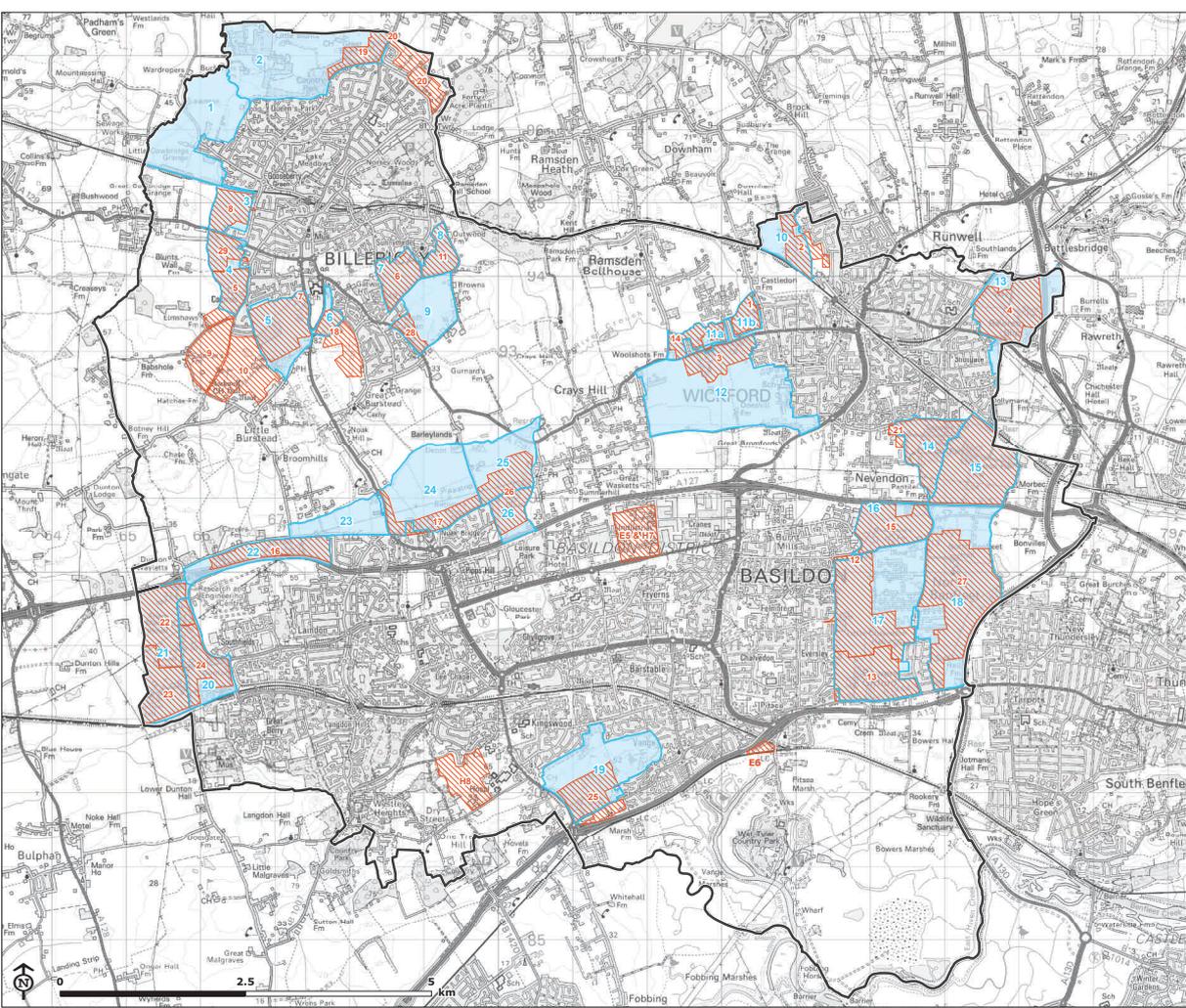
4.36 Following a similar method to the identification of PADCs the Strategic Sites were cross-matched with the spatial findings from the evidence base to identify the development site allocations. The following evidence was taken into consideration:

- Environmental constraints/characteristics, including the findings from ecology site appraisals and landscape sensitivity site appraisals.
- Infrastructure provision.
- HELAA.
- The Sustainability Appraisal.

4.37 This exercise identified specific site allocations. In many cases the allocations form smaller areas than the full extent of the strategic sites. The exceptions were sites 22, 23 and 24 which form the West Basildon Urban Extension and 12 and 13 which form the East of Basildon allocation. This is because the evidence identified constraints within the majority of the strategic sites, such as landscape sensitivities, which made parts of them less/not suitable for development. A total of 18

Figure 4.1: Broad Locations and Strategic Sites

-  Basildon Borough boundary
-  Broad location
-  Strategic site



Map Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

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LB/EL/EB/16/06/8 & LUC/ED1/FIG4-1.12 Strategic Sites Strategic Plan A33 11/01/2016

Source: Basildon Council

allocations were identified within the existing Green Belt as urban extensions to the three main settlements (Basildon, Wickford and Billericay).

- 4.38 In general the allocations correlate well with the PADCs identified in the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options which were strategic growth areas with no defined boundaries. The key differences between the PADCs and the allocations relate to the area identified to the east of Basildon which was PADC 6 and is now H13 and the area to the east of Billericay which was PADC 14. The location of the urban extension for east Basildon has changed from being land to the north east of Basildon to land to the east. This is primarily due to the findings of the landscape appraisals which found strategic site 15 unsuitable on landscape grounds although the relationship of this site with existing residential communities also weighed against its selection. It is also from the landscape appraisal findings that strategic site 11, formerly PADC 14 was not identified as an allocation. Again, the poor relationship of this site with the existing urban area also weighed against it.
- 4.39 The site allocations are shown in **Figure 4.2**. A summary of the evolution in the identification of the allocations during the various plan-making stages to date is provided in **Table 4.1**.

Distribution of development

- 4.40 Taking into account homes that have already been delivered, the Draft Local Plan provides for 8,835 homes at Basildon, 1,860 at Billericay, 3,300 at Wickford, and 908 homes elsewhere including a village extension to Bowers Gifford amounting to around 600 homes and 218 homes in the Plotland settlements.
- 4.41 This represents a slight shift in distribution compared to the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report (December 2013). Basildon and Billericay will receive fewer homes, both in terms of numbers as a proportion of the total, and Wickford will receive more homes, also in terms of numbers as a proportion of the total. Other settlements will also receive more (most notably Bowers Gifford and the Plotland settlements). The amount of employment land and its distribution between settlements remains unchanged.

Table 4.1: Summary of the evolution of site allocations

Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report (December 2013)			Draft Local Plan (January 2016)		
Broad Locations	Preferred Areas of Development Change	PADC Alternatives	Strategic Sites	Allocation Policy Blue text = housing or mixed-use development site allocations Red text = employment development site allocations Green text = retail development site allocations Black text = reasonable alternative development site allocations not included in the Draft Local Plan	
1	15 – Deferred Area of Search	-	-	-	
2		-	19	Reasonable alternative to Policy H19	
3		-	8	H22 – Housing development site – Land west of Mountnessing Road, Billericay	
4		-	-	5 – extends south outside of BL4	H20 – Housing development site – Land west of Tye Common Road, Billericay
				29	H21 – Housing development site – Land south of London Road, Billericay
5		-	7	H23 – Housing development site – Land east of Frithwood Lane, Billericay	
-	-	-	20	H19 – Housing development site – Land north of Potash Road, Billericay Also includes reasonable alternatives to H19	

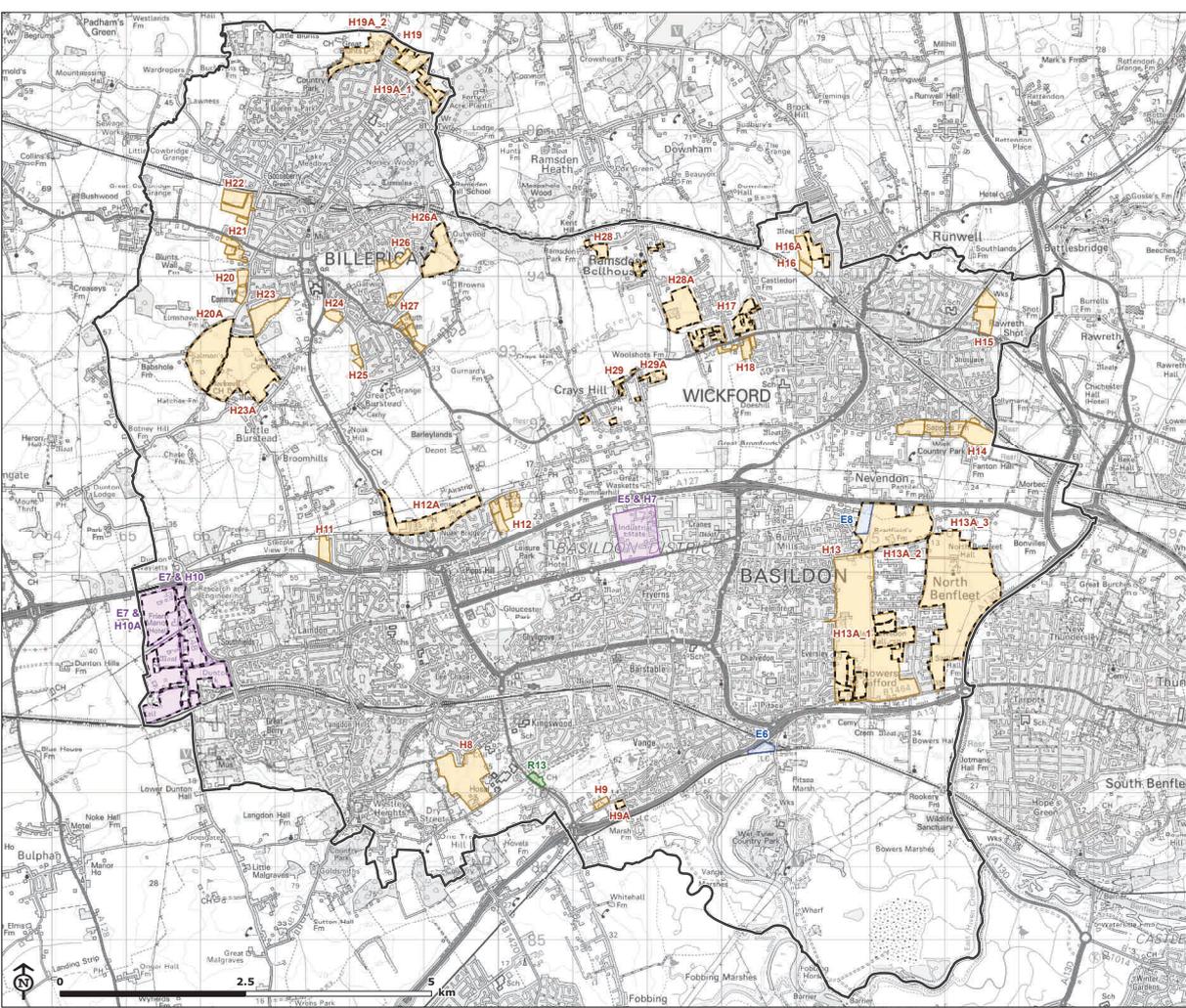
Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report (December 2013)			Draft Local Plan (January 2016)	
6	-	-	18	H24 – Housing development site – Land south of Windmill Heights, Great Burstead and South Green
-	-	-		H25 – Housing development site – Land west of Kennel Lane, Great Burstead and South Green
7	-	Urban extension on land adjacent to Mill Meadows (Snails Hall Farm) – Alternative to PADC 13 and 14	6	H26 – Housing development site – Land east of Greens Farm Lane, Billericay
8	14 – East Billericay Urban Extension	-	11	Reasonable alternative to H26
9	13 – South Billericay Urban Extension	-	28	H27 – Housing development site – Land east of Southend Road, Great Burstead and South Green
-	-	-	9	Reasonable alternative to H20
-	-	-	10	Reasonable alternative to H23
10	12 – North West Wickford Urban Extension	-	2	H16 – Housing development site – Land east and south of Barn Hall, Wickford
11a	11 – West Wickford Urban Extension	-	14	Reasonable alternative to H17
11b		-	1	H17 – Housing development site – Land north of London Road, Wickford
12	-	South West Wickford Urban Extension – Alternative to PADC 9, 10, 11 and 12	3	H18 – Housing development site – Land south of London Road, Wickford

Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report (December 2013)			Draft Local Plan (January 2016)	
13	9 – North West Wickford Urban Extension	-	4	H15 – Housing development site – Land north of Southend Road, Shotgate
14	10 – South Wickford Urban Extension	-	21	H14 – Housing development site – Land south of Cranfield Park Road, Wickford
15				
16	6 – North East Basildon Urban Extension	-	15	E8 – Employment Allocation on land East of Burnt Mills Also includes reasonable alternative to H13
17	Partly included within 6 – North East Basildon Urban Extension	-	12	H13 – Housing development site – East of Basildon Also includes reasonable alternatives to H13
	-	South East Extension – between Pitsea and Bowers Gifford - Alternative to PADC 5 and 6		
	-	-	13	
18	Included part of 6 – North East Basildon Urban Extension	-	27	Reasonable alternative to H13
	-	-		
19	-	Southern Extension Vange – Alternative to PADC 5 and 6	25	Reasonable alternative to H9
-	-	-	25	H9 – Housing development site – Land north and south of London Road, Vange

Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report (December 2013)			Draft Local Plan (January 2016)	
20	5 – West Basildon Urban Extension	-	24	H10 – Mixed use development site – West Basildon Urban Extension Site includes employment allocation E7 – Dunton Extension
		-	22	
21		-	22	
		-	23	
22		-	16	H11 – Housing development site – Land west of Steeple View, Dunton Road, Laindon
23	-	-	-	
24	-	-	17	Reasonable alternative to H12
25	-	Northern Extension – North and east of Noak Bridge and Steeple View – Alternative to the amount of development in PADC 5	26	H12 – Housing development site – Land east of Noak Bridge, Wash Road, Basildon
26	-			
-	-	-	-	H7 – Mixed use development site – Land west of Gardiners Lane South and Site includes employment development allocation E5 – Land west of Gardiners Lane South
-	-	-	-	H8 – Housing development site – Land north of Dry Street
-	-	-	-	H28 – Housing development site – Housing growth in Ramsden Bellhouse Also includes reasonable alternative locations to H28
-	-	-	-	H29 – Housing development site – Housing growth in Crays Hill Also includes reasonable alternative locations to H29

Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report (December 2013)			Draft Local Plan (January 2016)	
-	-	-	-	E6 – Employment Allocation at Terminus Drive
-	-	-	-	R13 – Hotel Allocation on land adjacent to Basildon Golf Course

Figure 4.2: Development Allocations



- Basildon Borough boundary
- Allocation type**
- Housing site
- Mixed-use site
- Hotel site
- Alternative site

Map Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

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CB/EL EB/nehak, e LUCEDI FIG4-2, J2, Assessment, Sheet, A3, 11/01/2016

Source: Basildon Council

5 Sustainability Appraisal findings

- 5.1 This chapter describes the findings of the SA of the Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan. A detailed assessment of each strategic, allocation and development management policy in the Draft Local Plan has been undertaken, considering their likely effects against each of the SA objectives. Detailed appraisal matrices for each policy and its reasonable alternatives can be found in **Appendix 4**. The earlier SA work which supported the detailed appraisal of Spatial Options, PADCs and Core Policies is published on the Council's website.
- 5.2 Summary tables of the preferred policy appraisal scores are provided at the end of each sub-section. These tables are accompanied by text descriptions of the significant effects identified in the appraisal process, details of the measures outlined in the Draft Local Plan that will contribute towards mitigating any significant adverse effects, a comparison of the assessed effects of preferred policies and their reasonable alternatives and, finally, outstanding recommendations on how policies within the Draft Local Plan might be improved further.
- 5.3 Revisions and additions to policy wording were recommended as a consequence of the Sustainability Appraisal. Only recommendations which have yet to be incorporated in to the Draft Local Plan are reported within this SA Report chapter.

Vision and objectives

- 5.4 The overall Vision for Basildon sets a general aspiration to become a fair and inclusive Borough where communities have a healthy and safe place to live and work and an improving quality of life now and for future generations. This Vision is likely to have a positive effect on all of the SA objectives as shown in **Table 5.1**. The general wording of the Vision is unlikely to lead to any significant adverse effects on the SA objectives. The success of the Vision in helping to achieve the sustainability objectives depends on the implementation of the policies in the Core Strategy.
- 5.5 The majority of the Local Plan Strategic Objectives are unlikely to have an effect or are compatible with minor positive effects on the SA objectives (as shown in **Table 5.1**). All the Strategic Objectives (SOs) have at least one significant positive effect where they directly address SA objectives (SAs).
- 5.6 Increases in waste and car travel associated with increased housing (SO6: Deliver new homes in the Borough), development of employment and tourism (SO5: Strengthen the competitiveness of local economy and SO7: Capitalising on local tourism opportunities) may have negative effects on SA objectives relating to greenhouse gas emissions (SA14) and pollution (SA15), although there may be opportunities for new sustainable waste management and other supporting infrastructure (SO10: Secure the delivery of supporting infrastructure) to be incorporated into the design of new homes, which would have minor positive effects against (SA16: Improve water efficiency and water resource management); however, the positive effects associated with new sustainable infrastructure are uncertain.
- 5.7 The release of Green Belt for development is likely to have a negative effect against SA1, SA2 and SA3 which relate to the conservation and enhancement of nature, cultural heritage and landscape. However, overall, this effect is mixed with significant positive effects associated with aspirations to improve the quality and value of the remaining Green Belt in the Borough. Focusing development in town centres (SO4) and capitalising on tourism opportunities (SO7) may increase travel from rural areas and from further away, which may have negative effects associated with car traffic on SA objectives relating to traffic congestion (SA19), greenhouse gas emissions (SA14) and air and noise pollution (SA15). However, focusing development in urban areas may also offer more sustainable transport choices, which would benefit residents and tourists alike, with minor positive effects. Similarly, increases in employment land (SO5), residents (SO6) and tourists (SO7) could have negative effects on SA objectives aimed at conserving and enhancing

local landscapes (SA1), protected species and habitats (SA3). As with the Vision, the success of the Strategic Objectives depends on the implementation of the policies in the Draft Local Plan.

5.8 **Table 5.1** overleaf summarises the SA scores for the appraisal of the Vision and Strategic Objectives for Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan.

Draft Local Plan Chapter 6 – Achieving sustainable development

Policies appraised

5.9 Chapter 6 of the Draft Local Plan sets out the Council's policies on achieving sustainable development:

- Policy SD1: A Strategic Approach to Sustainable Development in Basildon Borough.
- Policy SD2: Settlement Hierarchy and the Distribution of Growth.
- Policy SD3: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development.

Significant effects

5.10 The appraisal of policies SD1 and SD2 identified the following significant effects:

- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies SD1 and SD2 against SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces), 2 (cultural heritage) and 3 (biodiversity) as the Plan is seeking to deliver to 8,000 to 8,500 new homes and 14ha of employment land on greenfield land potentially affecting the Borough's landscapes, heritage assets and ecology. These effects are uncertain until the detailed design and layout of development and landscaping are known, with uncertain mixed effects overall.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies SD1 and SD2 under SA objectives 4 (economic growth and regeneration) and 5 (town centres). This is because the Draft Local Plan seeks to deliver sufficient employment land to provide jobs to accommodate the Borough's objectively assessed housing need by delivering a proportionate amount of growth to each of the main settlements, including their town centres.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies SD1 and SD2 under SA objective 7 (meeting housing need) as the policies set out the Borough's strategy to meet the overall objectively assessed need for 15,260 homes, albeit at the lower end of the range of need identified.
- Significant positive effects were identified for both policies SD1 and SD2 against SA objective 9 (vibrant communities) due to both policies committing to the delivery of new housing and employment land and ensuring development is adequately phased to help create and sustain vibrant communities and support development in the larger settlements, followed by growth in the serviced settlements and limited growth in the un-serviced settlements. This should ensure that the existing well-served settlements are supported and maintained. The effect recorded for SD2 is a mixed effect overall as there is potential for adverse effects, particularly in Dunton and Bowers Gifford, as the Borough's smaller communities become larger. This mixed effect is uncertain as it could be viewed positively or negatively depending on perception.
- A significant positive effect is identified for SD2 against SA objective 10 (regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas). This is because the policy directs around 62% of overall housing growth and nearly 98% of overall employment growth to Basildon. This part of the Borough includes areas of higher deprivation and hence growth and regeneration could have more of an impact.
- A significant positive effect is identified for SD2 against SA objective 11 (access to services and facilities). This is because the policy supports development in the larger settlements, followed by growth in the serviced settlements and limited growth in the un-serviced settlements. This should ensure that the existing well-served settlements are supported and maintained. In addition, around 600 homes would be directed to the serviced settlement of Bowers Gifford and the policy states that this development would be accompanied by a new local centre, open space and community facilities.
- Significant adverse effects are identified for both policies SD1 and SD2 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) as up to 8,500 homes will be developed on greenfield land, including land in the Green Belt. Recognising that the Council

has sought to maximise the use of urban sites, these adverse effects are somewhat offset by positive effects, resulting in mixed effects for both policies. A significant positive effect is recorded for SD2 because the policy seeks to maximise available urban land for development first (enabling approximately 6,500-7,000 homes to be accommodated and 36-38ha of employment land to be delivered within the urban areas rather than greenfield land). Furthermore, various evidence base studies and surveys have been undertaken to support the capacity of land in the Green Belt to accommodate the residual development needs (without harming the overall purpose of the Green Belt).

- Significant adverse effects are identified for both policies SD1 and SD2 against SA objective 13 (flood risk). This is because both policies seek to deliver 8,000 to 8,500 new homes and 11 to 14ha of employment land on greenfield land, including in the Green Belt. A minor positive effect (making a mixed effect overall) is recorded for policy SD1 in recognition of the policy's sequential approach to locating development. However, the scale of growth proposed will significantly increase the area of built development in the Borough which is expected to exacerbate flood risk. Furthermore, the scale of growth is likely to increase the number of people and properties at risk.
- A significant adverse effect is identified for policy SD1 against SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions). Again, this is because the policy outlines in broad strategic terms the Plan's delivery of up to 8,500 new homes and 14ha of employment land on greenfield land. The scale of growth is such that greenhouse gas emissions (including from car-based travel) are likely to increase. However, the policy also states that the Council will optimise the use of previously developed land in the urban areas where it is suitable for development purposes, optimising the potential to reduce journey times, with minor positive effects and a mixed effect overall.

5.11 No significant effects were identified for preferred policy SD3.

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

5.12 The significant adverse effects identified under SA objectives 1, 2, 3, 12, 13 and 14 are likely to be mitigated in part if not completely through the detailed mitigation measures outlined within the individual strategic site allocation policies and the implementation of other strategic and development management policies in the Local Plan, notably SD3, DES1 and DES2, GB1 and GB4, CC1 – CC5, NE1 – NE7 and HE1 – HE5. The use of greenfield land to accommodate development to meet the objectively assessed housing and economic needs of the Borough cannot be mitigated, notwithstanding the prioritisation given to development within the existing urban areas.

Reasonable alternatives

5.13 The preferred policies outlined in Chapter 6 generally score the same or better than their reasonable alternatives. However, preferred policy SD1 scores significantly worse than its reasonable alternatives against SA objective 3 (biodiversity). This is due to the fact that in order to accommodate all the growth set out in the policy, indirect and direct impacts on Local Wildlife Sites, protected species and BAP priority (as well as locally important) habitats are predicted, whereas the policy's reasonable alternatives (no development in the Green Belt and accommodating more urban development to reduce Green Belt loss) would significantly reduce the amount of greenfield land development and therefore impacts on local ecology. However, overall across all SA objectives, preferred policy SD1 scores significantly better.

Outstanding recommendations

5.14 One outstanding recommendation is made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 6:

- **Policy SD1** - Reword criterion 5 of the policy as follows: *"In order to ensure that the local people and the economy can thrive, growth will be phased, aligned with the provision of the SERVICES and infrastructure needed to keep people and businesses connected and moving, and enabling local residents to stay healthy and fulfil their potential"*. It would also be useful to define what is meant by 'services' and 'infrastructure' in the supporting text.

Table 5.2: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 6 – Achieving sustainable development

SA objectives	SD1	SD2	SD3
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	--/+/?	--/+/?	+
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	--/?	--/+/?	+
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	--/?	--/?	+
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	++	++	+
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	++	++	+
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	+/?	?	+
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	++/?	++	+
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	+/?	?	+
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	++	++/-/?	+
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	+	++	+
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	+/?	++	+
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings.	+/-	++/-	+
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	+/-	--/?	+

SA objectives	SD1	SD2	SD3
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	+/--/?	+/?	+
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	-/+	-/+	+
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	?	?	+
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	0	0	+
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	-	-	+
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	?	+/?	+

Draft Local Plan Chapter 7 – Building a strong competitive economy

Policies appraised

5.15 Chapter 7 of the Draft Local Plan sets out the Council's planning policies for building a strong, competitive economy:

- Policy E1: Economic Growth Strategy.
- Policy E2: Existing Employment Areas for General B-Class Uses.
- Policy E3: Existing Employment Area for Research and Development Uses.
- Policy E4: New Employment Sites.
- Policy E5: Land West of Gardiners Lane South, Basildon.
- Policy E6: Terminus Drive.
- Policy E7: Dunton Extension.
- Policy E8: Burnt Mills Extension.
- Policy E9: Rural Enterprise Sites.
- Policy E10: Untidy Industry Zone, Burnt Mills.
- Policy E11: Locations for Employment Development.
- Policy E12: Non B-Class Uses in Employment Areas.
- Policy E13: Aligning Skills & Jobs.
- Policy E14: Offices.

Significant effects

5.16 The appraisal of the Draft Local Plan's 14 preferred policies within this chapter identified the following significant effects⁵⁶:

- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies E2 and E4 against SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces). Policy E2 promotes the expansion of existing employment sites into neighbouring land, including existing open and green spaces which will be lost, e.g. the Amenity Green Space to the north of Miles Gray Road, reducing the area available to the public for recreation. Policy E4 promotes four new employment sites on greenfield land for development within the plan period, including the mixed-use allocation described in E7/H11. Policy E4 has a mixed effect overall due to the promotion a sequential approach to the delivery of new employment sites in the Borough favouring the intensification of previously developed, vacant and underutilised land within existing employment sites before new areas, with minor positive effects.
- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies E2 and E3 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity). Both policies E2 and E3 promote the expansion of existing employment sites into neighbouring land, some of which is designated as BAP Priority Habitat and Protected Species Alert Areas.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies E1 – E4 against SA objective 4 (economic growth and regeneration) as all four policies deal specifically with promoting and facilitating economic growth and the delivery of new jobs in the Borough.
- A significant positive effect was recorded for policy E14 against SA objective 5 (town centres) as this policy focusses on office development in town centres and requires a sequential/impact test to be taken for proposals outside of town centres.

⁵⁶ Draft Policies E5 and E7 represent the employment development component of two mixed-use development sites. The housing and employment components of these development allocations are outlined in equivalent policies in Chapter 11 (H8 and H11). Therefore, their significant effects are described in the section on Chapter 11 below.

- Significant positive effects were identified for policy E1 and E13 against SA objective 6 (education and social inclusion). Criteria (e) and (f) of policy E1 seek to facilitate training and education of local people and establish and maintain relationships between local businesses and local training and education. Policy E13 supports increased opportunities for local people to be engaged in the local economy through skills and training to avoid low skilled residents becoming marginalised in the labour market, promoting educational attainment and social inclusion.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies E1 – E4 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) as all four policies seek to encourage the use of land within the existing employment areas, intensification of previously developed land and the realisation of vacant sites or land uses.

Significant effects of development allocations

- 5.17 **Policies E5 Land West of Gardiners Lane South, Basildon, E6 Terminus Drive, E7 Dunton Extension, and E8 Burnt Mills Extension** represent allocations for employment development in the Borough. Policies E5 and E7 represent the employment components of mixed-use allocations also allocated in Chapter 11 in allocation policies H7 Land West of Gardiners Lane South, Basildon, and H10 West Basildon Urban Extension. Significant effects associated with these two mixed-use allocations are described in the section on Chapter 11 below.
- 5.18 No significant effects were identified for employment development allocation E6.
- 5.19 A significant adverse effect was identified for policy E8 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) as all the land within this strategic site allocation is classified as Grade 3 agricultural land (moderate to good agricultural land). This significant adverse effect is uncertain as it is not known whether the land is Grade 3a (i.e. Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land) or Grade 3b (which is not Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 5.20 The significant adverse effects identified under SA objectives 1, 3 and 12 are likely to be mitigated through the detailed mitigation measures outlined within the individual strategic site allocation policies and the implementation of other strategic and development management policies in the Local Plan, notably SD3, DES1 and DES2, GB1 and GB4 and NE1 – NE7. However, the use of greenfield land to accommodate employment uses cannot be mitigated, notwithstanding the prioritisation given to development within the existing urban areas.

Reasonable alternatives

- 5.21 The preferred policies outlined in Chapter 7 score the same or better than all the reasonable alternatives.

Outstanding recommendations

- 5.22 No outstanding recommendations are made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 7.

Table 5.3: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 7 – Building a strong competitive economy

SA objectives	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	E12	E13	E14		
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	0	--	-	+/-	See Appraisal of Mixed-Use Site H7	0/?	See Appraisal of Mixed-Use Site H10	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	0	0	0	+/-		0/?		0/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	0	--	--	+/-		-/?		-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	++	++	++	++		+		+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	+	+	0	+		0		0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	++
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	++	0	0	0		+		+	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	+	+/-	+/-	+/-		+		+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	+	0	0	0		0		0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	+	+	0	+		+		+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	E12	E13	E14
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	+	+	0	+		-/?		-/?	+	0	+	0	0	+
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings.	++	++	++	++		+/-		--/?	+	0	0	+	0	+
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	+	-	-	-		-		-	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	+/-	-	-	-		-/?		-/?	+/-	0	0	0	0	0
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	-	-	-	-		-/?		-/?	-	+/-/?	0	0	0	0
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	0	-	-	-		?		?	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	0	0	0	0		?		?	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	+/-	+/-	-	-		+/-/?		+/-/?	+/-	+	+	0	0	+

Draft Local Plan Chapter 8 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres

Policies appraised

- 5.23 Chapter 8 of the Draft Local Plan sets out the Council's planning policies on maintaining and enhancing the Borough's Town centres as centres for retail and leisure:
- Policy R1: Retail and Leisure Strategy.
 - Policy R2: Basildon Town Centre Regeneration.
 - Policy R3: Laindon Town Centre Regeneration.
 - Policy R4: Pitsea Town Centre Regeneration.
 - Policy R5: Wickford Town Centre Regeneration.
 - Policy R6: Billericay Town Centre Enhancement.
 - Policy R7: Town Centre Boundaries.
 - Policy R8: Primary Shopping Frontages.
 - Policy R9: Secondary Shopping Frontages.
 - Policy R10: Local Centres.
 - Policy R11: Out of Centre Retail Areas.
 - Policy R12: Festival Leisure Park.
 - Policy R13: Hotel Development Site – Land adjacent to Basildon Golf Course.
 - Policy R14: Locations for Town Centre Uses.
 - Policy R15: Existing Local Shops.
 - Policy R16: Hot Food Takeaways.
 - Policy R17: Betting offices.

Significant effects

- 5.24 The appraisal of the Draft Local Plan's 17 preferred policies identified the following significant effects:
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies R2, R3 and R5 against SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces) due to their promotion of the need to enhance existing public realm within town centres and create new public green spaces. All three significant positive effects are mixed overall as there is potential for the policies to have adverse effects on the existing character of the Borough's townscapes due to the provision of new dwellings and employment uses.
 - Significant positive effects were identified for policies R1 – R6 and R10 against SA objective 4 (economic growth and social inclusion) due to the role these policies will play in regenerating existing centres, creating new centres and significantly increasing the provision of retail, leisure and entertainment uses and supporting the diversification of uses.
 - Significant positive effects were identified for policies R1 – R9 and R14 against SA objective 5 (town centres) because of the role that these policies will play in promoting the Borough's existing town centres as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development, contributing to their vitality and viability in the long term.
 - Significant positive effects were identified for policies R2 and R17 against SA objective 6 (education and social inclusion) due to the former supporting the provision of a new further education college in a town centre, significantly contributing to education and the later significantly contribution to social inclusion by ensuring that new betting offices are not permitted within 400m of existing ones.

- A significant positive effect was identified for policy R2 against SA objective 7 (meeting housing need) because of the policy's plans to deliver between 1,500-2,000 dwellings within Basildon town centre.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy R16 against SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing) due to the policy's focus on inhibiting the densification and expansion of hot food takeaways within town and local centres; however, this effect is uncertain, as it is ultimately dependent on individual's behaviour.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies R1 – R6, R8 and R17 against SA objective 9 (vibrant communities) because of the general role that these policies play in promoting the Borough's centres, and therefore its communities, as vibrant places to live, work and enjoy leisure activities in the long term by encouraging diversity of uses, etc.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies R1 – R5 against SA objective 10 (regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas) due to the general role that these policies play in promoting the regeneration of the Borough's deprived and disadvantaged centres and communities.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies R2, R3, R10 and R14 against SA objective 11 (access to services and facilities). Policies R2 and R3 seek to significantly improve the quality, quantity and accessibility of local services and facilities in Basildon's and Laindon's town centres, respectively. Policy R10 outlines criteria supporting the establishment of new local centres where appropriate and promotes residential, business or community uses on the upper floors of units within local centres where there will be no adverse effects on the functioning of the ground floor retail. Policy R14 focusses on concentrating future retail uses (Use Class A1) within existing town centres, out of centre shopping areas, or on accessible sites well connected to the town centre. However, this significant positive effect is mixed overall due to the potential for the restriction of A1 uses out of centres where there is a local need, with minor adverse effects.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies R2 and R3 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) as both policies specifically encourage the redevelopment and modernisation of existing premises, increasing the density of development in Basildon and Laindon before developing on greenfield land.
- A significant mixed positive and adverse effect was identified for policy R2 against SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions). The significant positive effect can be attributed to the policy's encouragement of the provision of a number of key services in Basildon town centre, reducing reliance on the car and thus reducing car-based greenhouse gas emissions. The significant adverse effect can be attributed to the policy's plans to deliver a significant number of new dwellings in the centre and the planned improvements to the road network, which could result in a significant increase in car based travel.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy R3 against SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions). This is because the policy seeks to enhance Laindon town centre, improving public transport links and local services and facilities; however this significant positive effect is somewhat offset by the provision of at least 150 new residential units which may increase car use in the area.

Significant effects of development allocations

5.25 **Policy R13 Hotel Development Site – Land adjacent to Basildon Golf Course** represents the only development allocation within Chapter 8. Two significant effects were identified in the appraisal of this allocation:

- A significant adverse effect was identified for policy R13 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity) due to this strategic allocation being located on wooded land recognised for its ecological value. Furthermore, the policy makes no provision for mitigating adverse effects on ecology. This effect is considered uncertain until such time as the detailed design, scale and layout of the new development are known.
- A significant adverse effect was identified for policy R13 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings). This is because R13 proposes the allocation of new

hotel development on wooded greenfield land; however, this effect is uncertain as it is not known whether the location is Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land (i.e. Grade 3a rather than Grade 3b).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 5.26 The significant adverse effects identified under SA objectives 3 for policy R13 and SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions) for policy R2 are likely to be mitigated through the implementation of other policies in the Local Plan, notably SD3, NE1, NE4 – NE6 and T1, T3 and T6. It is unlikely that the loss of greenfield land for the hotel development adjacent to Basildon Golf Course can be mitigated, although it is recognised that it is on the edge of the urban area.

Reasonable alternatives

- 5.27 The preferred policies outlined in Chapter 8 generally score the same or significantly better than their reasonable alternatives. Reasonable alternatives which score similarly to the preferred options tend to have greater uncertainty attached to their positive effects. Policy R13 represents the only preferred policy within the chapter which scores significantly worse against SA objectives 3 (biodiversity) and 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) when compared to its reasonable alternative, which seeks no allocation on this site. Under the reasonable alternative there will be no change in current conditions, and as a result negligible effects are identified.

Outstanding recommendations

- 5.28 The following outstanding recommendations are made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 8:
- **Policy R2** – Ensure there is a requirement within the Plan for development to positively manage surface water issues, particularly where development is proposed within a Critical Drainage Area. Ensure the Plan supports delivery of public transport improvements alongside delivery of large-scale housing.
 - **Policy R3** – Ensure there is a requirement within the Plan for development to positively manage surface water issues, particularly where development is proposed within a Critical Drainage Area.
 - **Policy R5** – Ensure there is a requirement within the Plan for development to positively manage surface water issues, particularly where development is proposed within a Critical Drainage Area.
 - **Policy R13** – Include measures to mitigate the significant adverse effects on biodiversity by incorporating habitats within the development and enhancing habitats in the neighbouring Vange Hill and Golf Local Wildlife Site and Basildon Meadows SSSI.
 - **Policy R16** – Consider the role of open spaces in improving health, i.e. have a more restrictive policy where open spaces are used specifically for exercise/sport/recreation.
- 5.29 In addition, no significant positive effects were identified from the implementation of policy R13. Therefore, the Council should consider including additional enhancement measures to improve the performance of this development allocation across a number of objectives.

Table 5.4: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 8 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres

SA objectives	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14	R15	R16	R17
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	+	++/-	++/-	+	++/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-/?	+	+	+	+
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	+	+/-	+/-/?	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-/?	+	+	+	+
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	0	+/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	--/?	0	0	0	0
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	++	+	0	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+/?	0	0	++	0	+/-	+
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	0	++	+	0	+	0	+/-	0	0	+/?	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0

SA objectives	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14	R15	R16	R17
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	0	+	+	0	+/?	0	0	0	0	+/?	0	0	+	0	0	++/?	+
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	+	0	+	0	+/-	+	+	++
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+/-	0	+/?	+
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	+	++	++	+	+	+	+/?	+	+	++	+	0	-/?	++/-	0	+	+
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings.	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	+/?	0	0	--/?	0	+	0	0
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	0	-/?	-/?	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of	0	++/- -	++/- /?	+/-/?	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	0	+	0	-/?	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14	R15	R16	R17
greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.																	
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	0	+/-	+/-	+/-/?	+/-	+/-	+/-/?	0	0	0	+	0	-/?	0	0	0	0
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	0	+	+	0/?	0/?	0/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	+	+/-/?	+/-	+/-/?	+/-	+/-	+/-/?	0	0	0	+	0	+/-/?	0	0	0	0

Draft Local Plan Chapter 9 – Promoting sustainable transport

Policies appraised

5.30 Chapter 9 of the Draft Local Plan presents the Council's planning policies on promoting sustainable transport:

- Policy TS1: Transport Strategy.
- Policy TS2: Improvements to Carriageway Infrastructure.
- Policy TS3: Improvements to Footpaths & Cycle Infrastructure.
- Policy TS4: Improvements to Public Transport Infrastructure & Services.
- Policy TS5: Safeguarded Areas for Transport Improvements.
- Policy TS6: Managing Congestion.
- Policy TS7: Safe & Sustainable Access.
- Policy TS8: Parking Standards.
- Policy TS9: Access for Servicing.

Significant effects

5.31 The appraisal of this chapter's nine preferred policies identified the following significant effects:

- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies TS2 and TS5 for SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces) and 3 (biodiversity). This is because the policies promote infrastructure improvements in rural and sensitive landscapes, which contain a number of Local Wildlife Sites that could be affected, both through physical disturbance and from air pollution from vehicles. The significance of the effects is uncertain as it will depend upon the precise routing and design of the highways infrastructure.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy TS1 against SA objective 4 (economic growth and regeneration). This is because the policy seeks to deliver an enhanced and better integrated transport network which is particularly important to support and promote economic growth and investment, especially as commercial developments often require improved transport infrastructure connections for their establishment and subsequent success.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy TS4 against SA objective 6 (education and social inclusion). This is because the policy states that the enhancement and delivery of a public transport network will be delivered by improving equality of access to transport for everyone. This is likely to be of particular benefit to those who currently do not have reasonable access to public transport routes/services and those who are reliant on private car to gain access to services and facilities.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy TS4 against SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because the policy seeks to protect and enhance pedestrian routes, cycle networks and Public Rights of Way as a means of improving public transport infrastructure. This is likely to encourage people to lead more active lifestyles. Moreover, by encouraging public transport use through improved transport infrastructure and providing greater access to such, there is likely to be less need to travel by private car which would have indirect benefits on health through reduced traffic emissions.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy TS7 against SA objective 9 (vibrant communities). This is because the policy seeks to improve road safety and a safe travelling environment in the Borough. As this policy is directly related to this objective a significant positive effect is likely.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies TS1, TS3 and TS4 against SA objective 11 (access to services and facilities). This is because the main purpose of Policy TS1 is to deliver an enhanced and better integrated transport network that provides accessibility to key services and facilities across the Borough; Policy TS3 encourages the development of footpath

and cycle infrastructure which facilitates access to nearby residential, commercial, retail, educational and leisure facilities; and Policy TS4 seeks to ensure that everyone in the Borough has access to public transport which would provide everyone with access to services and facilities such as education, healthcare and jobs. In addition, Policy TS4 also seeks to protect and enhance pedestrian routes, cycle networks and Public Rights of Way, and this would provide people in the Borough with a wider range of access options.

- Significant positive effects were identified for policies TS2, TS5 and TS6 against SA objective 19 (traffic congestion). This is because the primary purpose of Policies TS2 and TS5 are to alleviate congestion and support proposed development in the Local Plan. However, overall, both effects on this objective for TS2 and TS5 are mixed as improvements to the road network have the potential to make the road network more attractive for car journeys that otherwise would not have taken place, offsetting some of these benefits, with minor adverse effects on this objective. The effect on SA objective 19 for Policy TS6 is recorded solely as significant positive because the policy ensures that new developments do not contribute to traffic congestion and ensure that mitigation measures are put in place to offset any impacts on the transport network.

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 5.32 The significant adverse effects identified under SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces) and 3 (biodiversity) are likely to be mitigated in whole or in part through the detailed mitigation measures outlined within the individual strategic site allocation policies and the implementation of other strategic and development management policies in the Local Plan, notably SD3, GB1 and GB4 and NE1 – NE7.

Reasonable alternatives

- 5.33 The preferred policies outlined in Chapter 9 score the same or better than all the reasonable alternatives.

Outstanding recommendations

- 5.34 No outstanding recommendations are made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 9.

Table 5.5: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 9 – Promoting sustainable transport

SA objectives	TS1	TS2/ TS5	TS3	TS4	TS6	TS7	TS8	TS9
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	?	--/?	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	?	+/-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	?	--/?	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	++	+	0	+	+	+	0	+
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+/-
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	+	0	+	++	0	+	+	0
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	+/-	+/-	+	++	+	+/-	+/-	0
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	0	+/-	+	+	+	++	0	0
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	+/?	0	0	+/?	0	0	0	0
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	+
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings.	0	-/?	+	0	0	0	0	0
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	TS1	TS2/ TS5	TS3	TS4	TS6	TS7	TS8	TS9
and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.								
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	+/-	++/-	+	+	++	+/-	+/-	+

Draft Local Plan Chapter 10 – Supporting high quality communications infrastructure

Policies appraised

- 5.35 Chapter 10 of the Draft Local Plan sets out the Council's planning policies on supporting high quality communications infrastructure:
- Policy COM1: Communications Infrastructure Strategy.
 - Policy COM2: Determining Applications for Telecommunications Equipment.
 - Policy COM3: Communications Infrastructure in New Developments.

Significant effects

- 5.36 The appraisal of the Draft Local Plan's three preferred policies identified no significant effects.

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 5.37 The sustainability appraisal of the Plan's three preferred policies within Chapter 10 identified no significant adverse effects, therefore mitigation is not necessary.

Reasonable alternatives

- 5.38 The preferred policies outlined in Chapter 10 score the same or better than their reasonable alternatives. Preferred policies COM1 and COM 2 score very similarly to their reasonable alternatives; however, there is potential for minor adverse effects and uncertainty attached to the positive effects assessed in their reasonable alternatives.
- 5.39 The preferred policy COM2 scores four minor positive effects and four more uncertain minor adverse effects against eight separate SA objectives. Its reasonable alternative proposes no policy and therefore has a negligible score across all SA objectives.

Outstanding recommendations

- 5.40 No outstanding recommendations are made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 10.

Table 5.6: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 10 – Supporting high quality communications infrastructure

SA objectives	COM1	COM2	COM3
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	0	+	0
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	0	+	0
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	0	0	0
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	+	-/?	+
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	+	-/?	+
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	+	-/?	+
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	0	0	0
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	0	+	0
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	0	0	0
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	+	0	0
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	+	-/?	+
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings.	0	+	0
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	0	0	0

SA objectives	COM1	COM2	COM3
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	0	0	0
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	0	0	0
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	0	0	0
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	0	0	0
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	0	0	0
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	0	0	0

Draft Local Plan Chapter 11 – Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes

Policies appraised

- 5.41 Chapter 11 of the Draft Local Plan provides the Council’s planning policies on delivering a wide choice of high quality homes for the Borough’s growing population:
- Policy H1: Housing Strategy.
 - Policy H2: Specialist Accommodation Strategy.
 - Policy H3: Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Strategy.
 - Policy H4: Established Residential Areas.
 - Policy H5: Established Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites.
 - Policy H6: New Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision.
 - Policy H7: Mixed Use Development Site - Land West of Gardiners Lane South, Basildon.
 - Policy H8: Housing Development Site - Land North of Dry Street, Basildon.
 - Policy H9: Housing Development Sites - Land North and South of London Road, Vange.
 - Policy H10: Mixed Use Development Site - West Basildon Urban Extension.
 - Policy H11: Housing Development Site - Land West of Steeple View, Dunton Road, Laindon.
 - Policy H12: Housing Development Site - Land East of Noak Bridge, Wash Road, Basildon.
 - Policy H13: Housing Development Site - East of Basildon.
 - Policy H14: Housing Development Site - Land South of Wickford.
 - Policy H15: Housing Development Site - Land North of Southend Road, Shotgate.
 - Policy H16: Housing Development Site - Land at East and South of Barn Hall, Wickford.
 - Policy H17: Housing Development Site - Land North of London Road, Wickford.
 - Policy H18: Housing Development Site - Land South of London Road, Wickford.
 - Policy H19: Housing Development Site - Land North of Potash Road, Billericay.
 - Policy H20: Housing Development Site - Land West of Tye Common Road, Billericay.
 - Policy H21: Housing Development Site - Land South of London Road, Billericay.
 - Policy H22: Housing Development Site - Land West of Mountnessing Road, Billericay.
 - Policy H23: Housing Development Site - Land East of Frithwood Lane, Billericay.
 - Policy H24: Housing Development Sites - Land South of Windmill Heights, Great Burstead and South Green.
 - Policy H25: Housing Development Site - Land West of Kennel Lane, Great Burstead and South Green.
 - Policy H26: Housing Development Site - Land East of Greens Farm Lane, Billericay.
 - Policy H27: Housing Development Site - Land East of Southend Road, Great Burstead and South Green.
 - Policy H28: Housing Growth in Ramsden Bellhouse.
 - Policy H29: Housing Growth in Crays Hill.
 - Policy H30: The Location of Residential Development.
 - Policy H31: The Location of New Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites.
 - Policy H32: New Park Home Sites for Non Travelling Gypsy and Travellers.

- Policy H33: The Size and Types of Homes.
- Policy H34: Affordable Housing Provision.
- Policy H35: Quality in the Private Rented Sector.
- Policy H36: Houses in Multiple Occupation and the Subdivision of Family Homes.
- Policy H37: Maximising the Housing Stock.

Significant effects

5.42 The appraisal of the Chapter's six strategic policies and eight development management policies identified the following significant effects:

- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies H1, H3, H6 and H30 against SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces). Policies H1 and H30 and policies H3 and H6 provide the Borough's overall strategy for the delivery of housing and gypsy and traveller sites, respectively. As already set out in policy SD1, a significant proportion of these will be on greenfield land within the Borough's Green Belt, resulting in significant adverse effects on the Borough's natural landscapes and countryside. Overall, the effects of policy H1 are uncertain and mixed because criterion 5b of the policy supports the provision of integrated formal public open space and the enhancement of the Green Infrastructure network as part of development proposals, which could result in minor positive effects. All these effects are uncertain until the exact design, form and layout of new housing proposals are known.
- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies H1 and H30 against SA objectives 2 (cultural heritage) and 3 (biodiversity). Policies H1 and H30 set out the Borough's overall strategy for the delivery of housing policy. The significant quantity and extent of new housing development within the Borough could adversely affect the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of the Borough. Overall, the effects of policy H1 are uncertain and mixed because criterion 5a of the policy supports the provision of high standards of design resulting in the potential for positive impacts, and criterion 5b of the policy supports the provision of integrated formal public open space and the enhancement of the Green Infrastructure network as part of development proposals, potentially resulting in minor positive effects (due the potential for biodiversity benefits). All these effects are uncertain until the exact design, form and layout of new housing proposals are known.
- A significant positive effect was recorded for policy H1 against SA objective 4 (economic growth and regeneration). This is because the policy sets out a strategy for the delivery of a significant number of new homes, which will attract higher skilled and professional workers to live in the Borough.
- A significant adverse effect was identified for H3 against SA objectives 6 (education and social inclusion) and 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because the policy seeks to meet the need of all authorised sites and small unauthorised sites for gypsies and travellers (104 pitches), meeting the remaining unmet need on large unauthorised sites through working with other local authorities as part of the duty to cooperate. However, the policy does not seek to meet the needs arising from the large scale unauthorised site at Dale Farm (136 pitches). Overall, this effect is mixed with some uncertainty as the provision on new pitches will have positive effects. It is, however, uncertain how significant these positive effects will be until an agreement is reached with the Borough's Duty to Co-operate partners.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies H1, H2, H30-H34 and H37 for SA objective 7 (meeting housing need). This is because these policies facilitate and promote the delivery of a significant number of new homes across the Borough over the Plan period. Overall, the effects of policies H1, H34 and H37 are mixed and uncertain against this objective. This is because the strategy for affordable housing (delivery of 3,508 units, around 22% of objectively assessed need including options for off-site delivery where on-site would not be viable) could restrict delivery of genuinely mixed communities and potentially result in an under-delivery of affordable homes overall with potential for adverse impacts on those in need of such housing. Furthermore, there is uncertainty in achievement of annual delivery rates of housing noting that only 119 homes were delivered in Basildon in 2014.

- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies H3 and H6 against SA objective 7 (meeting housing need). This is because these policies do not plan on meeting the whole of the objectively assessed need of the gypsy and traveller community within the Borough and it is uncertain whether this need will be met elsewhere within the Plan period. These effects are mixed as the provision of some pitches within the Borough in the Plan period will generate some positive effects.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy H1 against SA objective 9 (vibrant communities). This because policy H1 is likely to make a significant positive contribution to creating and sustaining vibrant communities through delivery of a range of housing types. Criterion 5 of policy H1 specifically seeks to ensure new homes respond to the needs of local residents, and contribute towards the creation of sustainable communities. However, overall, this effect is mixed due to the potential for adverse effects as private developers may not be required to deliver affordable homes on-site, potentially resulting in development locations which solely comprise affordable housing.
- Mixed significant positive and significant adverse effects were identified for policies H1, H3 and H6 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings). This is because the policies set out the Borough's overall strategy for delivery of housing and gypsy and traveller pitches. As already specified in policy SD1, a significant proportion of these homes will be within the Borough's Green Belt, resulting in significant adverse effects. However, a large proportion of housing will also be directed to existing urban areas, with significant positive effects also predicted.
- A significant adverse effect was identified for policy H30 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings). As above, this is because the policies set out the Borough's overall strategy for delivery of housing, a significant proportion of which will be within the Borough's Green Belt. However, overall, the effect is considered to be minor positive, because criterion (a) of Part 2 of this policy states that housing development will be supported in urban areas if the site is unlikely to be re-used for its allocated purpose. Housing will also be supported above shops within shopping frontages in town centres and local shopping parades, making use of existing buildings.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy H37 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings). This is because the policy supports bringing empty homes back to residential use and the redevelopment of residential properties for alternative uses if the proposal furthers other sustainable development objectives.
- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies H1, H3 and H6 against SA objective 13 (flood risk). This is because the policies set out the Borough's overall strategy for delivery of housing and gypsy and traveller pitches. As already specified in policy SD1, a significant proportion of these homes will be within the Borough's Green Belt, resulting in the significant loss of permeable greenfield land and the extension of urban areas into parts of the Borough vulnerable to surface water flooding and poor drainage, particularly in the Borough's Critical Drainage Areas.
- A significant adverse effect was identified for policy H1 against SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions). This is because the policy sets out the Borough's strategy for the delivery of 15,260 new homes, a significant proportion of which will be within the Borough's Green Belt. Delivery of such a large quantum of housing is expected to make a significant negative contribution to greenhouse gas emissions through increased car use. Overall, this effect is considered to be mixed with some uncertainty due to the policy also supporting the enhancement of the Green Infrastructure network "*.. to offer a range of environmental benefits including the management of the impacts of and impacts of climate change...*" The Policy also seeks to identify opportunities through the location and design of development to achieve the wider objectives of the Plan including "*The wider use of public transport and active modes of transport to access employment, education, services and recreation opportunities.*" This is expected to result in minor positive impacts.
- A significant adverse effect was identified for policy H1 against SA objective 19 (traffic congestion). This is because the policy sets out the Borough's strategy for the delivery of 15,260 new homes, a significant proportion of which will be within the Borough's Green Belt. Delivery of such a large quantum of housing is expected to contribute significantly negatively

to increasing traffic congestion. Overall, this effect is considered to be mixed with some uncertainty as criterion 3 of the policy seeks to align provision of homes with new strategic and supporting infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population and increased traffic on the road network which should help reduce congestion. Furthermore, criterion 5c aims to realise opportunities through the location and design of development to achieve the wider objectives of the Plan including *"..the wider use of public transport and active modes of transport to access employment, education, services and recreation opportunities"*.

Significant effects of development allocations

5.43 Chapter 11 contains 23 housing development allocation policies, two of which are mixed-use developments also containing allocations for employment land (policies E5 and E7). The appraisal of these 23 preferred housing and mixed-use development allocations identified the following significant effects:

- **Policy H7 Land West of Gardiners Lane South, Basildon**, scored significant adverse effects against SA objectives 3 (biodiversity) and 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) and significant positive effects against SA objectives 4 (economic growth and regeneration), 6 (education and social inclusion) and 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because the allocation contains greenfield land designated for its ecological value; land which is likely to be lost to development. This loss will be somewhat mitigated by the integration of green infrastructure within the new development, with minor positive effects. Despite this, the allocation will deliver a significant area of new employment land, which should generate new jobs and contribute significantly to the local economy and the skills of the local population, with significant indirect benefits on the health of the local population.
- **Policy H8 Land North of Dry Street, Basildon**, scored significant adverse effects against SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces), 2 (cultural heritage) and 3 (biodiversity) and significant positive effects against SA objectives 6 (education and social inclusion), 8 (health and wellbeing), 11 (access to services and facilities), 14 (greenhouse gas emissions), 15 (air, land and noise pollution) and 19 (traffic congestion). This is because the allocation is located on a large area of greenfield land recognised for its ecological value and in close proximity to heritage assets. Most of these adverse effects are uncertain until the exact design, form and layout of new housing proposals are known. Despite these adverse effects, significant positive effects are likely to be generated through the development's contributions to the relocation of Basildon College and its close proximity to existing and planned local services and facilities, including health and recreation facilities. The development's close proximity to these facilities is likely to make it easier for new residents to access them via less carbon intensive, more healthy and less noisy modes of transport than the private car, contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, local air and noise pollution and traffic congestion.
- **Policy H9 Land North and South of London Road, Vange**, scored significant adverse effects against SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces) and 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) and a significant positive effect against SA objective 8 (health and well-being). This is because the policy plans to deliver homes on greenfield land in an area of landscape sensitivity. However, the new development would be in close proximity to a good range of health and recreation facilities.
- **Policy H10 West Basildon Urban Extension** scored significant adverse effects against SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces), 3 (biodiversity) and 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) and scored significant positive effects against SA objectives 6 (education and social inclusion), 7 (meeting housing need) and 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because the policy plans to deliver homes on greenfield land designated for their ecological value and in an area of landscape sensitivity. However, this large allocation would deliver a significant number of new homes within the Plan period, contributing significantly to the Borough's housing need. The site's proximity to existing and planned education facilities combined with the employment component of the development, have the potential to generate significant opportunities for local education, work-based training and skills development. Furthermore, the new development would be in close proximity to a good range of health and recreation facilities.

- **Policy H11 Land West of Steeple View, Dunton Road, Laindon**, scored a significant adverse effect against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings). This is because land within the allocation is greenfield land.
- **Policy H12 Land East of Noak Bridge, Wash Road, Basildon** scored significant adverse effects against SA objectives 2 (cultural heritage), 3 (biodiversity) and 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) and a significant positive effect against SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because the allocation is located on greenfield land recognised for its ecological value and in close proximity to heritage assets. Most of these adverse effects are uncertain until the exact design, form and layout of new housing proposals are known. Despite these adverse effects, significant positive effects are likely to be generated through the development's close proximity to existing and planned health and recreation facilities.
- **Policy H13 East of Basildon** scored significant adverse effects against SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces), 2 (cultural heritage), 3 (biodiversity) and 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) and significant positive effects on SA objectives 6 (education and social inclusion), 7 (meeting housing need) and 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because the allocation is located on greenfield land with ecological value and in close proximity to heritage assets. Furthermore, the landscape sensitivity of the area is considered to be too high to accommodate the number of homes proposed. Most of these adverse effects are uncertain until the exact design, form and layout of new housing proposals are known. However, this large allocation would deliver a significant number of new homes within the Plan period, contributing significantly to the Borough's housing need. The site's proximity to existing and planned education facilities has the potential to generate significant opportunities for local education. Furthermore, the new development would be in close proximity to a good range of health and recreation facilities.
- **Policy H14 Land South of Wickford** scored a significant adverse effect on SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) and significant positive effects on SA objectives 6 (education and social inclusion), 7 (meeting housing need) and 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because the land allocated is greenfield land. However, this large allocation would deliver a significant number of new homes within the Plan period, contributing significantly to the Borough's housing need. The site's proximity to existing and planned education facilities has the potential to generate significant opportunities for local education. Furthermore, the new development would be in close proximity to a good range of health and recreation facilities.
- **Policy H15 Land North of Southend Road, Shotgate** scored significant adverse effects on SA objectives 2 (cultural heritage) and 3 (biodiversity) and significant positive effects on SA objectives 8 (health and wellbeing), 11 (access to services and facilities), 14 (greenhouse gas emissions), 15 (air, land and noise pollution) and 19 (traffic congestion). This is because the allocation is located on land with ecological value and in close proximity to heritage assets. These adverse effects are uncertain until the exact design, form and layout of new housing proposals are known. Despite these adverse effects, significant positive effects are likely to be generated due to the allocations close proximity to existing and planned local services and facilities, including health and recreation facilities. The development's close proximity to these facilities are likely to make it easier for new residents to access them via less carbon intensive, healthier and noisy modes of transport than the private car, contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, local air and noise pollution and traffic congestion.
- **Policy H16 Land at East and South of Barn Hall, Wickford**, scored significant adverse effects on SA objectives 2 (cultural heritage) and 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) and a significant positive effect on SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because the land allocated for development is greenfield land located in close proximity to heritage assets. However, the new development would be in close proximity to a good range of health and recreation facilities.
- **Policy H17 Land North of London Road, Wickford**, scored significant adverse effects on SA objectives 2 (cultural heritage) and 3 (biodiversity). This is because the allocation is located on land with ecological value and in close proximity to heritage assets.

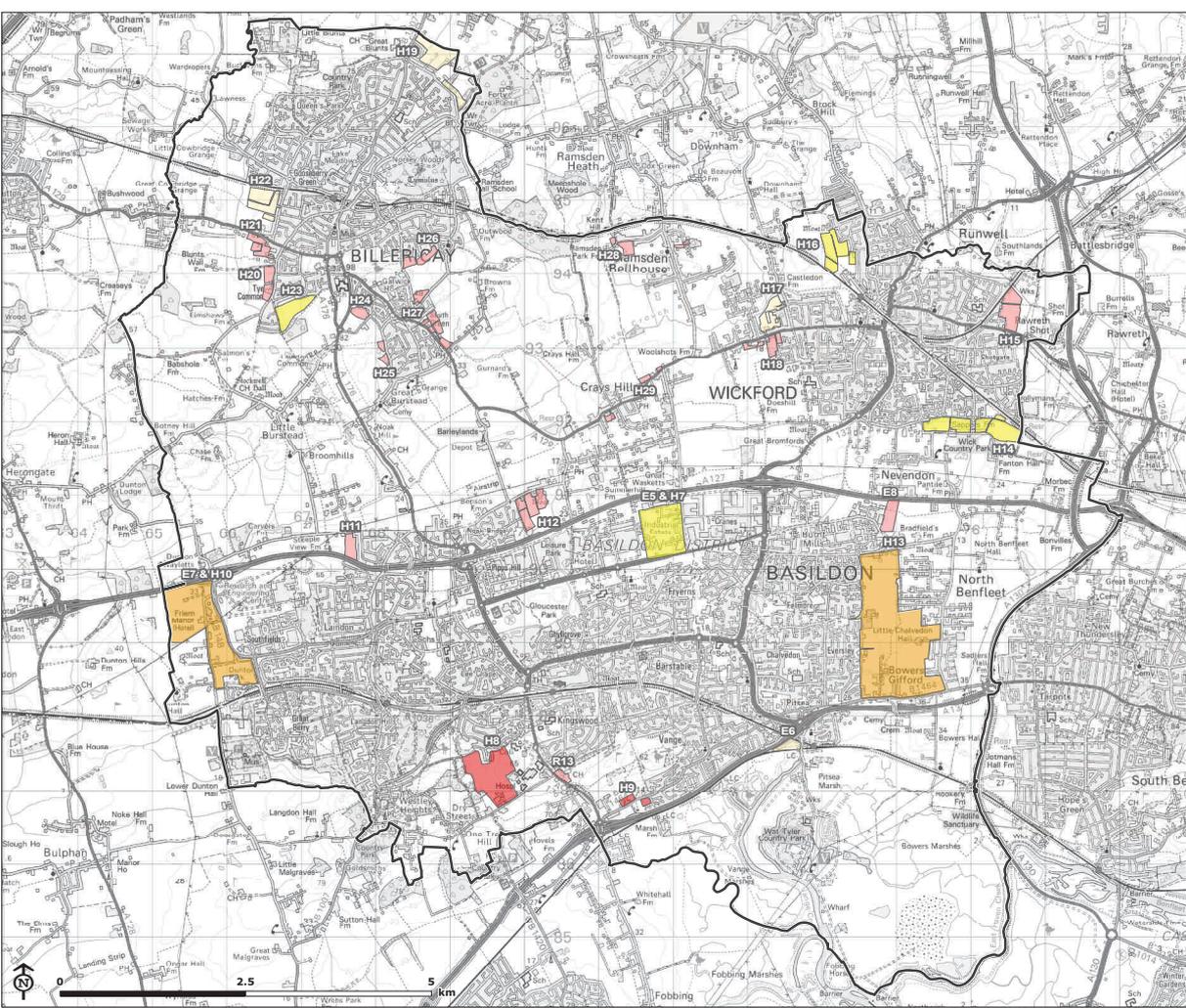
- **Policy H18 Land South of London Road, Wickford**, scored a significant adverse effect on SA objective 2 (cultural heritage). This is because the allocation is located in close proximity to heritage assets.
- **Policy H19 Land North of Potash Road, Billericay**, scored significant adverse effects on SA objectives 3 (biodiversity) and 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings). This is because the allocation is located on greenfield land of ecological value.
- **Policies H20 Land West of Tye Common Road, Billericay, H21 Land South of London Road, Billericay and H22 Land West of Mounnessing Road, Billericay**, scored a significant adverse effect on SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) and a significant positive effect on SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because the policies plan to deliver homes on greenfield land. However, the new developments would be in close proximity to a good range of health and recreation facilities.
- **Policies H23 Land East of Frithwood Lane, Billericay and H24 Land South of Windmill Heights, Great Burstead and South Green**, scored a significant adverse effect on SA objective 3 (biodiversity) because these allocations are located on land of ecological value. This adverse effect is uncertain until the exact design, form and layout of new housing proposals are known. Significant positive effects on SA objectives 8 (health and wellbeing), 11 (access to services and facilities), 14 (greenhouse gas emissions), 15 (air, land and noise pollution) and 19 (traffic congestion) are expected to arise. The significant positive effects are likely to be generated through the developments' close proximity to existing and planned local services and facilities, including health and recreation facilities making it easier for new residents to access them via less carbon intensive, healthier and noisy modes of transport than the private car, contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, local air and noise pollution and traffic congestion.
- **Policy H25 Land West of Kennel Lane, Great Burstead and South Green**, scored a significant adverse effect on SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) and a significant positive effect on SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because the land allocated is greenfield land. However, the new development would be in close proximity to a good range of health and recreation facilities.
- **Policy H26 Land East of Greens Farm Lane, Billericay**, scored significant adverse effects on SA objectives 2 (cultural heritage), 3 (biodiversity) and 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) and a significant positive effect on SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because the allocation is located on land of ecological value and in close proximity to heritage assets. Most of these adverse effects are uncertain until the exact design, form and layout of new housing proposals are known. Despite these adverse effects, significant positive effects are likely to be generated through the development's close proximity to existing and planned health and recreation facilities.
- **Policy H27 Land East of Southend Road, Great Burstead and South Green**, scored significant adverse effects on SA objectives 2 (cultural heritage) and 3 (biodiversity) and a significant positive effect on SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because the allocation is located on land of ecological value and in close proximity to heritage assets. These adverse effects are uncertain until the exact design, form and layout of new housing proposals are known. Despite these adverse effects, significant positive effects are likely to be generated through the development's close proximity to existing and planned health and recreation facilities.
- **Policy H28 Housing Growth in Ramsden Bellhouse**, scores significant adverse effects on SA objectives 3 (biodiversity) and 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings). This is because the allocations are largely located on greenfield land of ecological value.
- **Policy H29 Housing Growth in Crays Hill**, scored a significant adverse effect on SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings). This is because the allocations are largely located on greenfield land.

5.44 Figures showing the effects of the site allocations (including employment allocations) are shown for the following SA objectives:

- **Figure 5.1:** Landscape, countryside and green spaces.

- **Figure 5.2:** Cultural heritage.
- **Figure 5.3:** Biodiversity.
- **Figure 5.4:** Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas.
- **Figure 5.5:** Access to services and facilities.
- **Figure 5.6:** Re-use of previously developed land and buildings.
- **Figure 5.7:** Flood risk.

Figure 5.1: Site Allocation Scores for SA Objective 1 - Landscape, Countryside & Green Spaces



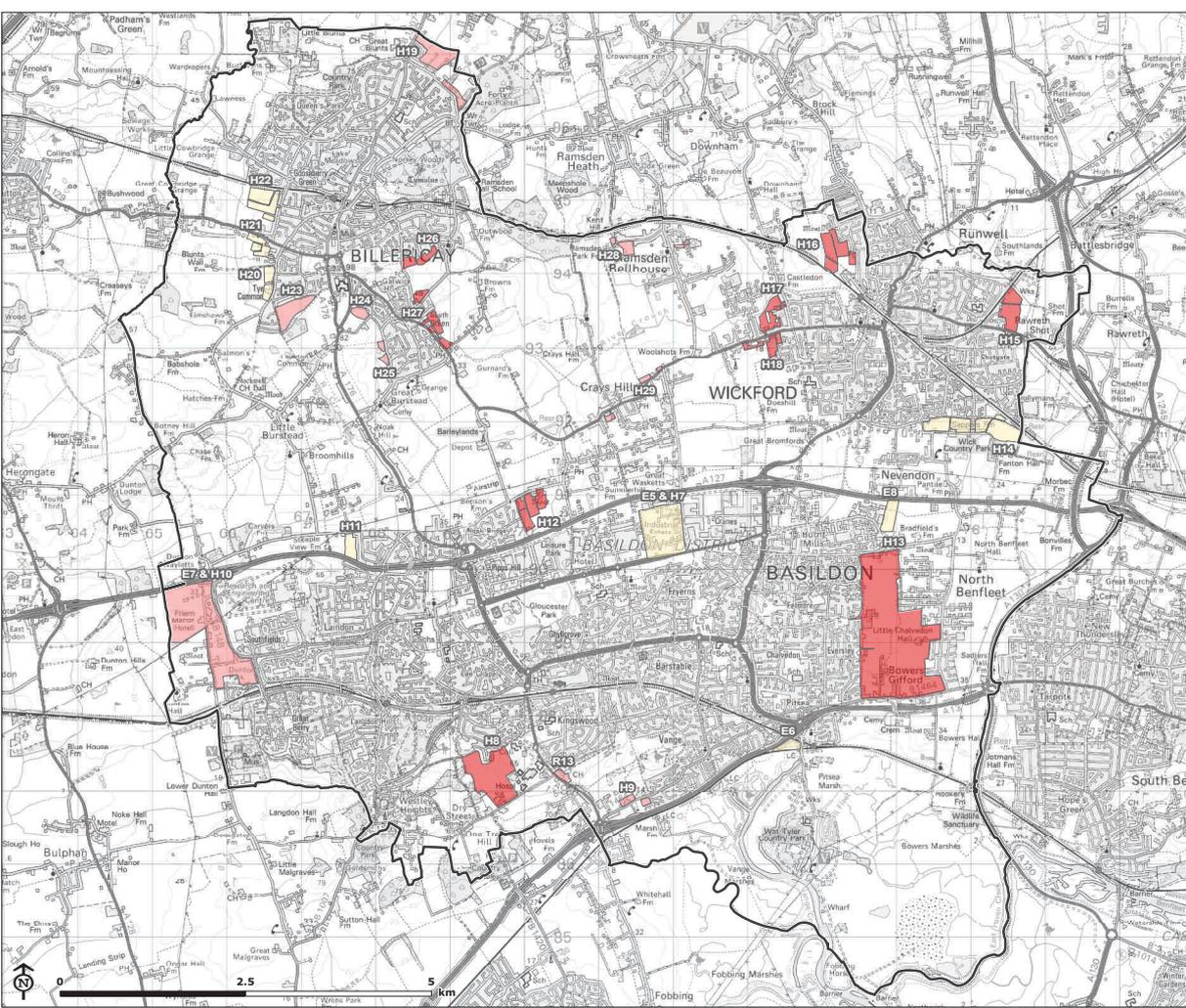
Basildon Borough boundary

Appraisal scores

- +/-
- +/-
- 0
-
-

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Figure 5.2: Site Allocation Scores for SA Objective 2 - Cultural Heritage



Basildon Borough boundary

Appraisal scores

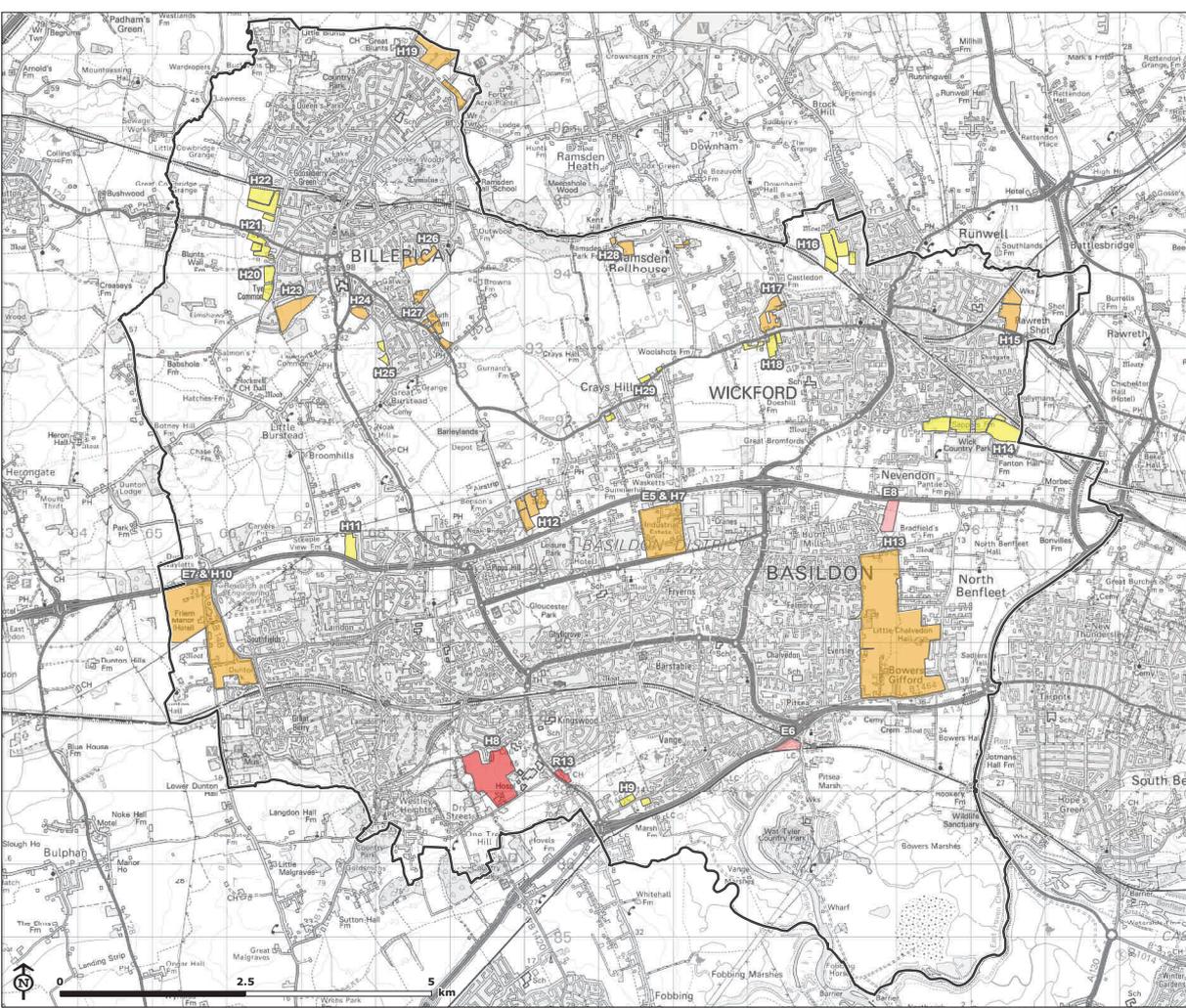
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Map Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

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Figure 5.3: Site Allocation Scores for SA Objective 3 - Biodiversity



Basildon Borough boundary

Appraisal scores

- +/-
- +/-
-
-

Map Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

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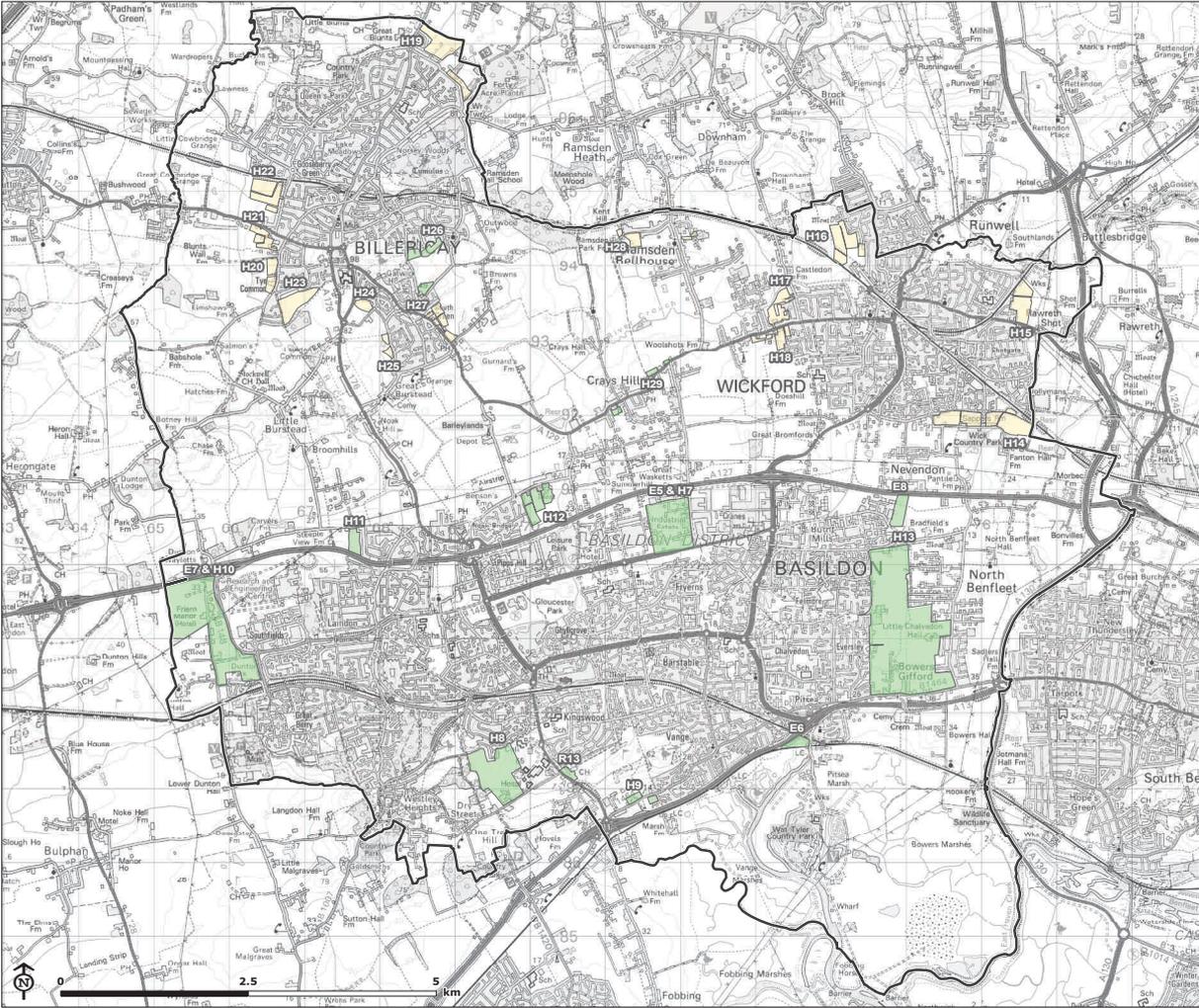
BASILDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
SA REPORT

Figure 5.4: Site Allocation Scores for SA Objective 10 - Regeneration and Renewal of Disadvantaged Areas

Basildon Borough boundary

Appraisal scores

- +
- 0



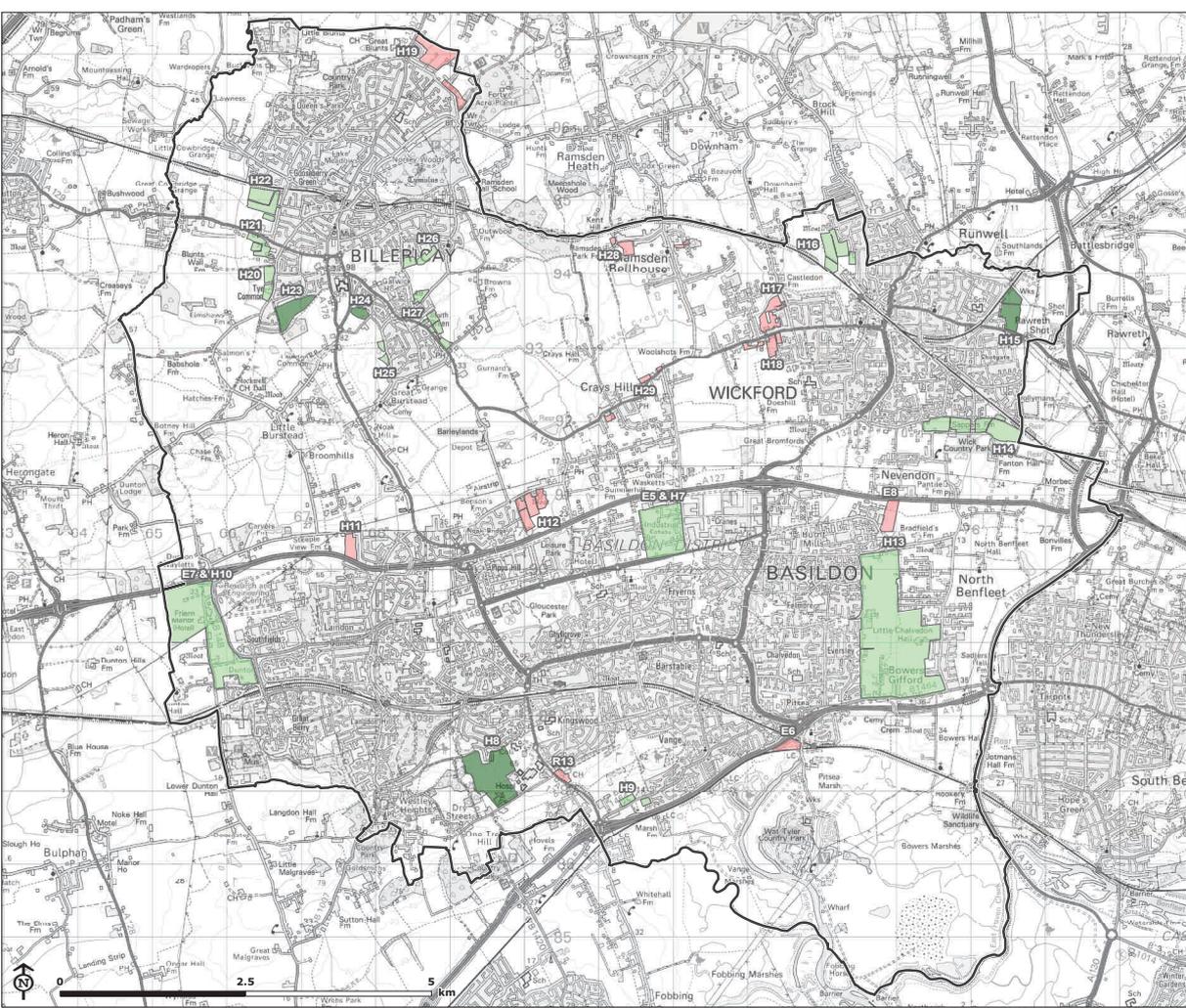
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Figure 5.5: Site Allocation Scores for SA Objective 11 - Access to Services and Facilities



Basildon Borough boundary

Appraisal scores
 ++
 +
 -

Map Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

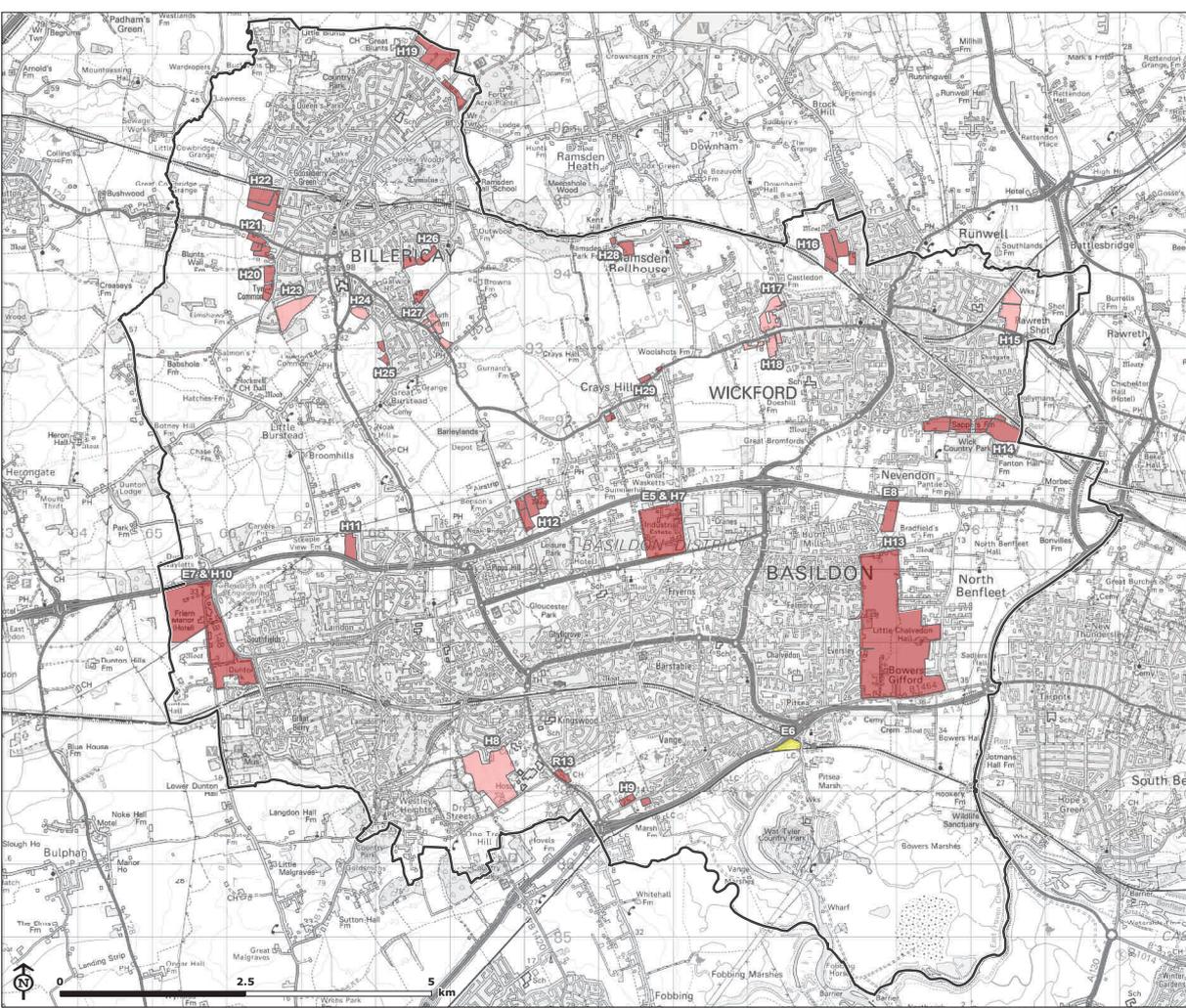


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Figure 5.6: Site Allocation Scores for SA Objective 12 - Re-use of Previously Developed Land and Buildings



Basildon Borough boundary

Appraisal scores

Yellow +/-

Light Red -

Dark Red --

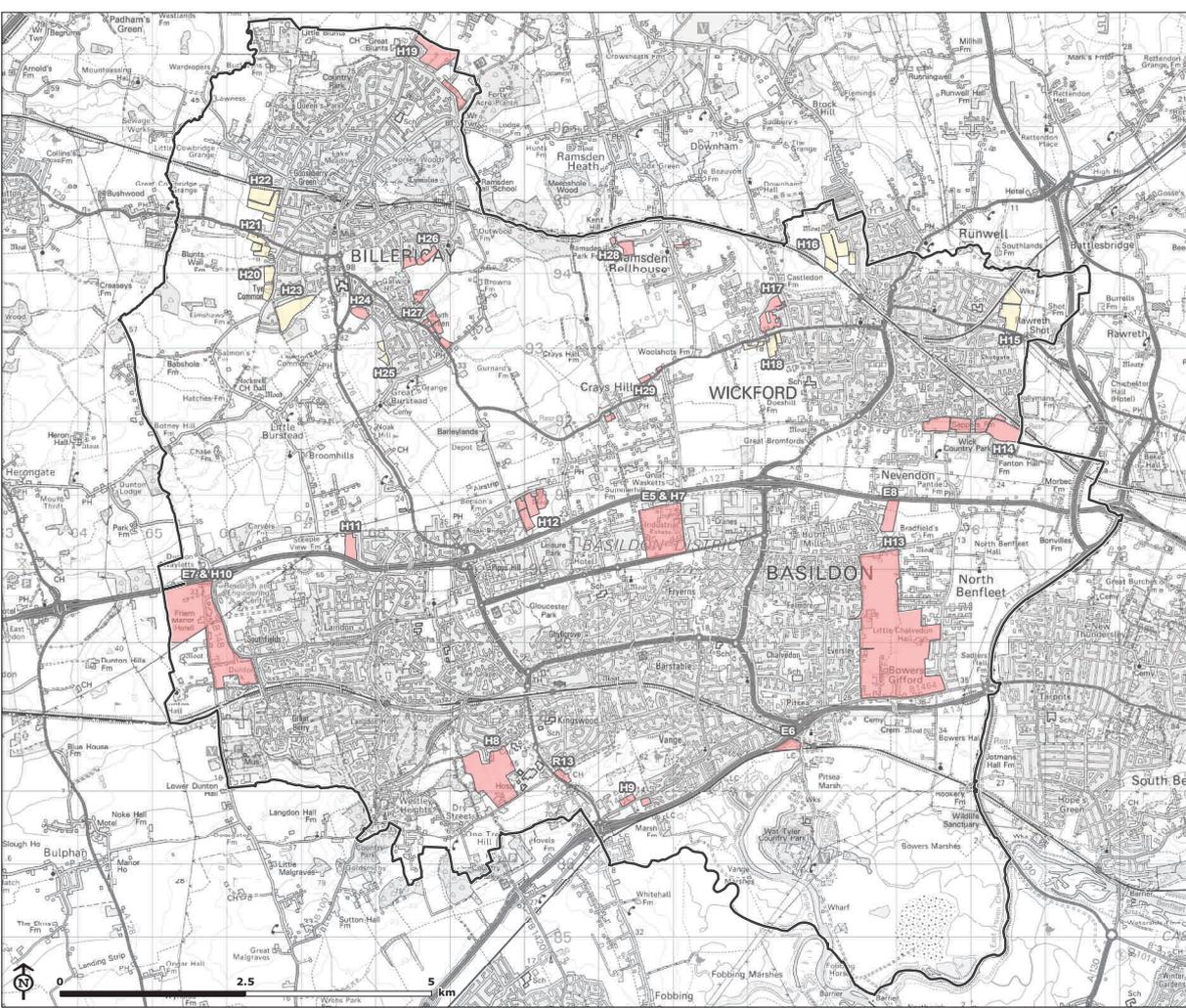
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Figure 5.7: Site Allocation Scores for SA Objective 13 - Flood Risk



Basildon Borough boundary

Appraisal scores

- 0
-

Map Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

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Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 5.45 The significant adverse effects identified under SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces), 2 (cultural heritage), 3 (biodiversity), 6 (education and social inclusion), 7 (meeting housing need), 8 (health and wellbeing), 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings), 13 (flood risk) and 19 (traffic congestion) are likely to be mitigated through the implementation of the measures outlined within the individual development allocation policies and strategic and development management policies SD3, T1-T9, DES1-DES9, HC1-HC11, GB1-GB11, CC1-CC7, NE1-NE9 and HE1-HE5. However, the significant effects on SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) will be difficult to mitigate for those allocations on greenfield land.

Reasonable alternatives

- 5.46 The preferred policies outlined in Chapter 11 generally score the same or significantly better than their reasonable alternatives; however, there are a number of exceptions where the reasonable alternatives score better:
- **Policy H3** has six reasonable alternatives: **1** - no policy; **2** - requires Green Belt sites of 100+ units to provide 1 pitch per 100 units up to a maximum of 15 pitches; **3** - proposes staggered pitch provision requirements for Green Belt sites varying in scale; **4** - requires Green Belt sites of 100+ units to provide pitches at a ratio of 1 pitch per 10 dwelling units, up to a maximum of 15 pitches per site; **5** - requires Green Belt sites of 100+ units to provide pitches at a ratio greater than 1 pitch per 100 dwelling units, up to a maximum of 15 pitches per new site; and **6** - considers allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable Gypsy or Traveller pitches using a Rural Exception Site policy to increase supply where there is a lack of affordable land to meet local needs. With the exception of alternative 1, Policy H3 scores worse than its reasonable alternatives, in particular alternatives 2 and 6. This is because the preferred options provide fewer pitches for the Borough's gypsy and traveller communities than the alternative options.
 - **Policy H9** has two reasonable alternatives: **1** - no allocation; **2** - limits development to Parcel A to the south of London Road. Policy H9 scores significantly worse than alternative option 3 against SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces). This is because policy H9 proposes the development of land to the north and south of London Road for approximately 25 and 30 homes, respectively. Despite plans to mitigate adverse effects on the landscape, the preferred level of development is still likely to have a significant adverse effect due to the particularly sensitive nature on the land allocated within parcel b. Alternative option 2 limits development to the area identified in the Outline Landscape Appraisal as being appropriate for development. Combined with the mitigation outlined in draft policy H9 this option is likely to have a negligible effect on this objective.
 - **Policy H11** has one reasonable alternative: **1** - no allocation. Policy H11 is likely to result in both positive and negative effects whereas alternative option 1 proposes no allocation, which is likely to have a negligible effect across all SA objectives.
 - **Policy H12** has one reasonable alternative: **1** - an alternative development allocation of 25ha to the north of Wash Road. Policy H12 scores significantly worse than its reasonable alternative option 3 under SA objective 3 (biodiversity). Furthermore, the preferred allocation has less accessibility to existing services and facilities, resulting in minor adverse effects for SA objectives 11 (access to services and facilities), 14 (greenhouse gas emissions), 15 (air, land and noise pollution) and 19 (traffic congestion). Alternative option 3 only scores significantly worse than the preferred option under SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces).
 - **Policy H17** has two reasonable alternatives: **1** - no allocation; **2** - proposes an additional 210 dwellings on additional land to the north of the London Road and to the west of Sugden Avenue. Policy H17 scores very similarly to reasonable alternative option 2 (cultural heritage), with the preferred option delivering fewer homes but having less adverse effects on SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces) when compared to option 2. Alternative option 1 proposes no allocation, which is likely to have a negligible effect across all SA objectives.

- **Policy H19** has three reasonable alternatives: **1** - no allocation; **2** - proposes the development of a larger area with 380 dwellings; **3** – proposes an alternative location to the east of Stock Road. Policy H19 scores very similarly to reasonable alternative option 2, with the preferred option delivering fewer homes but having less adverse effects on SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces) when compared to option 2. Alternative option 1 proposes no allocation, which is likely to have a negligible effect across all SA objectives.
- **Policies H28 and H29** have two reasonable alternatives each: **1** – no growth; **2** – greater growth. Policies H28 and H29 promote small scale growth in Ramsden Bellhouse and Crays Hill, respectively, resulting in both positive and negative effects. Alternative option 1 proposes no allocation, which is likely to have a negligible effect across all SA objectives.

Outstanding recommendations

5.47 The following outstanding recommendations are made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 11:

- **Policy H1** – In respect of affordable housing, the policy should state a preference for on-site delivery of affordable homes to support mixed communities in place of financial contributions to affordable housing off-site in other locations in the borough. Furthermore, in relation to criterion 5a, define what is meant by 'high' standards of design and 'high' standards of sustainability. This would bring more certainty to the appraisal.
- **Policy H3** – To create more certainty in the delivery of pitches through cross-boundary working, consider scope for production of Joint Development Plans that set targets on a cross-boundary basis to provide more certainty and flexibility. Consider safeguarding other suitable and available land for future use as gypsy and traveller needs later in the Plan period, noting that Green Belt boundaries will continue to be a significant constraint to future planning applications. Consider whether strategy needs to include additional land in the event that major development sites come forward that require the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site.
- **Policy H32** – Previous Core Strategy Policy CP5: Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople should include a specific landscape criterion for gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople sites to meet: *"the site will have no detrimental impact upon strategic gaps, green wedges or the local environment."* Inclusion of a similar criterion in respect of policy H32 would help to mitigate effects on the landscape. Furthermore, include reference in the policy recognising the need for new gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople sites to conform with other policies in the plan, notably those relating to the historic, natural environment and amenity issues (e.g. noise, air pollution) as there are no specific criteria in H32 covering these issues.

Table 5.7: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 11 – Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes

SA objectives	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	H10	H11	H12	H13	H14	H15	H16	H17	H18	H19
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	-- /+/?	0	--/?	0	-	--/?	+/- /?	--/?	--/?	+/- /?	-/?	-/?	+/- /?	+/- /?	-/?	+/- /?	0/?	-/?	0/?
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	-- /+/?	0	-	0	-	-/?	0/?	--/?	-/?	-/?	0/?	--/?	--/?	0/?	--/?	--/?	--/?	--/?	-/?
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	-- /+/?	0	-	0	-	-/?	+/- /?	--/?	+/- /?										
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	++	0	+/-	+	-	+	++	+	0	+	0	+/?	+	+	+	+	+	0	0
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	+/?	0	0	+	-	0	+/?	+/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	+	+	+/- /?	0	0	+	++	++	+/-	++	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	++/ -/?	++	+/- /?	+	+	+/- /?	+	+	0	++	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	+	+	+/- /?	0	0	+	++/ ?	++/ ?	++/ ?	++/ ?	+	++/ ?	++/ ?	++/ ?	++/ ?	++/ ?	+	+	+
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel	++/ -/?	+	+/- /?	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	H10	H11	H12	H13	H14	H15	H16	H17	H18	H19
safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.																			
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	+	0	+/-/?	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	+	+/?	+/-/?	0	0	+/-/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	+/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	-/?
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings.	++/?	0	++/?	+/?	0	++/?	--/?	-	--/?	--/?	--/?	--/?	--/?	--/?	-	--/?	-	-	--/?
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	--/?	0	--/?	-/?	-	--/?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	0	-
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	--/?	0	-/?	0	0	-/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	+/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	-/?
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	-/+	0	+/-/?	0	0/?	+/-/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	+/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	-/?
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	+/?	0	?	0	0	?	?	?	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	0	?	?	?

SA objectives	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	H10	H11	H12	H13	H14	H15	H16	H17	H18	H19
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	+/?	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	-	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	-- /+/?	+/?	-/?	?	0/?	-/?	+/?	++/ ?	+/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	+/?	+/?	++/ ?	+/?	-/?	-/?	-/?

Table 5.8 (continued): SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 11 – Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes

SA objectives	H20	H21	H22	H23	H24	H25	H26	H27	H28	H29	H30	H31	H32	H33	H34	H35	H36	H37
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	-/?	-/?	0/?	+/-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	--/?	-/?	-/?	0	0	0	0	0
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	0/?	0/?	0/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	--/?	--/?	-/?	-/?	--/?	-/?	-/?	0	0	0	0	0
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	+/-/?	+/-/?	+/-/?	+/--/?	+/--/?	+/-/?	+/--/?	+/--/?	+/--/?	+/-/?	--/?	-/?	-/?	0	0	0	0	0
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	0/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	0/?	0/?	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	++	++	++	++	++/-/?	+	+/-	++/-
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?	+	+	0	+	+	+/?	+/?	+	0	0
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+/-/?	0	+/-	+

SA objectives	H20	H21	H22	H23	H24	H25	H26	H27	H28	H29	H30	H31	H32	H33	H34	H35	H36	H37
safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.																		
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	+/?	+/?	+/?	++/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings.	--/?	--/?	--/?	-	-	--/?	--/?	-	--/?	--/?	+/-	+/-/?	+/-/?	0	0	0	0	++
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-/?	-/?	-/?	0	0	0	0	0
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	+/?	+/?	+/?	++/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	0/?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	+/?	+/?	+/?	++/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	+	+/?	0	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	H20	H21	H22	H23	H24	H25	H26	H27	H28	H29	H30	H31	H32	H33	H34	H35	H36	H37
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0/?	0/?	0/?	0	0	0	0	0
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	+/?	+/?	+/?	++/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	-/?	-/?	+/-	?	?	0	0	0	0	0

Draft Local Plan Chapter 12 – Requiring good design

Policies appraised

5.48 Chapter 12 of the Draft Local Plan sets out the Council's planning policies on good design standards:

- Policy DES1: Achieving Good Design.
- Policy DES2: Urban Character Areas.
- Policy DES3: Areas of Special Development Control.
- Policy DES4: High Quality Buildings.
- Policy DES5: High Quality Public Realm.
- Policy DES6: High Quality Landscaping.
- Policy DES7: Managing Advertisements.
- Policy DES8: Appearance of Business Premises.
- Policy DES9: Public Art and Cultural Interpretation.

Significant effects

5.49 The appraisal of the Chapter's nine design policies identified the following significant effects:

- Significant positive effects were identified for policies DES3 – DES6 and DES9 against SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces). This is because these policies ensure that new developments protect local character, new public realm and landscaping contribute to conserving and enhancing townscape, and the provision of high quality public art is encouraged.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies DES1, DES5, DES7 and DES9 against SA objective 2 (cultural heritage). This is because these policies specifically mention the important contribution that the design of development proposals should be making to conserving and enhancing the historic quality of an area, including all heritage assets and their settings.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies DES1, DES5 and DES7 against SA objective 9 (vibrant communities). This is because these policies recognise the importance of good design in contributing to shaping attractive, vibrant, social and safe environments for the public to enjoy without fear of injury, crime or anti-social behaviour.

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

5.50 The sustainability appraisal of the Plan's nine preferred policies within Chapter 12 identified no significant adverse effects.

Reasonable alternatives

5.51 The preferred policies outlined in Chapter 12 all score significantly better than their reasonable alternatives.

Outstanding recommendations

5.52 No outstanding recommendations are made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 12.

Table 5.9: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 12 – Requiring good design

SA objectives	DES1	DES2	DES3	DES4	DES5	DES6	DES7	DES8	DES9
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	+	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	++
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	++	+	+	+	++	0	++	+/?	++
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+/?	+/?
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	+/-	+	-	+/-	0	0	0	0	0
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	+	0	0	0	+	+/?	+	+	0
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel	++	+	0	+	++	0	++	+	+

SA objectives	DES1	DES2	DES3	DES4	DES5	DES6	DES7	DES8	DES9
safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.									
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	+/?	+	0	+/?	+/?	+/?	0	+/?	+/?
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings.	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	+/?	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Adopt building and public realm	+/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	DES1	DES2	DES3	DES4	DES5	DES6	DES7	DES8	DES9
designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.									
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0

Draft Local Plan Chapter 13 – Promoting healthy communities

Policies appraised

5.53 Chapter 13 of the Draft Local Plan provides the Council’s planning policies on promoting healthy communities in the Borough:

- Policy HC1: Leisure & Recreation Strategy.
- Policy HC2: Education, Skills & Learning Strategy.
- Policy HC3: Strategic Approach to Health & Social Care.
- Policy HC4: Community Facilities.
- Policy HC5: Public Open Spaces.
- Policy HC6: Allotment Gardens.
- Policy HC7: Playing Fields Associated with Education Facilities.
- Policy HC8: Private Open Spaces - Conditional Access.
- Policy HC9: New & Enhanced Community Facilities.
- Policy HC10: Loss of Community Facilities.
- Policy HC11: Loss of Open Space.

Significant effects

5.54 The appraisal of the Chapter’s 11 preferred policies identified the following significant effects:

- Significant positive effects were identified for policies HC1 and HC5 – HC8 against SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces). This is because these policies highlight the importance of protecting and enhancing the Borough’s open spaces, maintaining their open character and improving their multifunctionality.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy HC5 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity), due to the policy’s framework for the designation of new Local Green Spaces through the Neighbourhood Plan-making process, including spaces which make a positive contribution to biodiversity value.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies HC1 and HC2 and HC9 against SA objective 6 (education and social inclusion). Policy HC1 supports proposals for development of new or enhanced leisure and recreational facilities, particularly in areas of deprivation where they will contribute positively to the wellbeing and social cohesion of the community. Policy HC2 seeks to provide new, continued and enhanced provision of schools and other educational facilities to improve the quality and choice of education and learning opportunities within the Borough. Policy HC9 supports new and enhanced community facilities, including educational facilities.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies HC3 and HC5 against SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing). Policy HC3 states that the Council will support proposals which aim to reduce health inequalities and highlights the need to ensure that new and improved health care facilities are provided, to improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough’s residents. Policy HC5 serves to protect, expand and enhance public open spaces, particularly green spaces which contribute to improving the physical and mental health of the Borough’s residents.
- A significant positive effect was identified for HC1 against SA objective 10 (regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas). This is because HC1 focuses on supporting development of leisure or recreation facilities in areas of identified deficiencies or known deprivation, significantly contributing to the regeneration and renewal of the Borough.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies HC1 – HC5 and HC9 against SA objective 11 (access to services and facilities). This is because these policies outline plans to encourage

and facilitate the provision of new or enhanced leisure and recreation facilities, public open spaces, education and healthcare facilities, as well as healthy and sustainable access routes to them.

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 5.55 The sustainability appraisal of the preferred policies within Chapter 13 identified no significant adverse effects.

Reasonable alternatives

- 5.56 The preferred policies outlined in Chapter 13 score the same as or better than their reasonable alternatives, with the exception of preferred policy HC11. The alternative option for policy HC11 scores significantly better than the preferred option against SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces) and 3 (biodiversity) due to its stronger protection of existing open spaces within the Borough; however, this blanket protection has minor adverse effects on other objectives and a significant adverse effect against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings) because the alternative option would prevent the redevelopment of open spaces that are no longer required, unsuitable or unviable, potentially leading to them becoming more unsightly, neglected and disused.

Outstanding recommendations

- 5.57 No outstanding recommendations are made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 13.

Table 5.10: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 13 – Promoting healthy communities

SA objectives	HC1	HC2	HC3	HC4	HC5	HC6	HC7	HC8	HC9	HC10	HC11
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	++	0	0	0	++	++	++	++	0	0	-
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough’s biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	+	0	0	+
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Ensure the Borough’s Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	0	+
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough’s residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	0	0
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	++	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	++	+	+
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+

SA objectives	HC1	HC2	HC3	HC4	HC5	HC6	HC7	HC8	HC9	HC10	HC11
re-use of materials from previous buildings.											
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Draft Local Plan Chapter 14 – Protecting Green Belt land

Policies appraised

5.58 Chapter 14 of the Draft Local Plan sets out the Council's planning policies on protecting Green Belt land:

- Policy GB1: Strategic Approach to Green Belt Protection.
- Policy GB2: Green Belt Extent.
- Policy GB3: Plotland Infill.
- Policy GB4: New Development in the Green Belt.
- Policy GB5: Extensions and Alterations to Buildings in the Green Belt.
- Policy GB6: Replacement Buildings in the Green Belt.
- Policy GB7: Change of Use of Buildings and Land in the Green Belt.
- Policy GB8: Ancillary Buildings and Structures in the Green Belt.
- Policy GB9: Boundary Treatments in the Green Belt.
- Policy GB10: Agricultural worker dwellings in the Green Belt.
- Policy GB11: Positive Uses of Land in the Green Belt.

Significant effects

5.59 The appraisal of the Chapter's 11 Green Belt policies identified the following significant effects:

- Significant positive effects were identified for policies GB1, GB5 and GB6, GB8 and GB11 against SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces). This is because these policies all seek to protect the openness and permanence of Green Belt land by resisting development within it and maintaining key strategic gaps between the Borough's and neighbouring Districts' towns and villages. In doing this the policies help to protect the characteristics of the existing countryside within the Borough and the relationship this countryside has with the Borough's settlements, maintaining the Borough's sense of place. The significant positive effects recorded for policies GB5, GB6 and GB8 are more uncertain due to the fact that these policies focus on managing specific types of development in the Green Belt and their contribution to the protection and enhancement of the Green Belt is ultimately dependent on the detailed design, siting and location of each scheme. Policy GB11 goes further than the other policies by encouraging the delivery of opportunities to enhance the positive uses of the Green Belt.
- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies GB2 and GB3 against SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces). Policy GB2 outlines plans for a significant reduction in the extent of the Green Belt land defined in the 1998 Basildon District Local Plan (over 400ha) to accommodate the Borough's housing and employment needs within and beyond the plan period. Policy GB3 allows limited residential infill in the Borough's thirteen Plotland settlements located in the Green Belt. In certain locations, such infill development has the potential to adversely affect the landscape by increasing the density of plotlands in key strategic gaps with significant adverse effects on this objective. Overall, policy GB3's effect against SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces) is mixed because the policy only encourages the development of new homes on vacant plots instead of in open land resulting in minor positive effects. These effects are uncertain until the detailed design, location and layout of each development is known.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies GB1, GB5 and GB6, GB8 and GB11 against SA objective 2 (cultural heritage). Again, the significant positive effects recorded for policies GB5, GB6 and GB8 are more uncertain due to the fact that these policies focus on managing specific types of development in the Green Belt and their contribution to the protection and enhancement of the Green Belt is ultimately dependent on the detailed design, siting and location of each scheme.

- A significant positive effect was identified for policy GB11 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity). This is because policy GB11 encourages the delivery of opportunities to enhance the positive uses of the Green Belt, which could provide opportunities to improve its nature conservation value.
- A significant adverse effect was identified for policy GB2 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity). This is because Policy GB2 provides for a significant reduction in the extent of the Green Belt to accommodate the Borough's housing and employment needs within and beyond the plan period. This will result in the loss of a significant area of the Borough's greenfield habitats with, potentially, significant adverse effects on the biodiversity of the Borough.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy GB10 against SA objective 4 (economic growth and regeneration). This is because policy GB10 supports agricultural and forestry activities in the Green Belt by recognising new dwellings may be required in the Green Belt to support these rural land uses.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy GB1 against SA objective 5 (town centres). This is because policy GB1 seeks to protect the openness and permanence of Green Belt land by resisting development within it. This will indirectly help to concentrate development within the Borough's existing settlements, including in and around their town centres. Basildon, Laindon, Pitsea and Wickford's town centres are named in the policy as key places for regeneration.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies GB2 and GB3 and policy GB10 against SA objective 7 (meeting housing needs). Policy GB2 provides for a significant reduction in the extent of the Green Belt to accommodate a significant proportion of the Borough's housing needs within and beyond the plan period. This new development will contribute significantly to the delivery of new dwellings in the Borough, including affordable homes. Policy GB3 allows limited residential infill in the Borough's thirteen Plotland settlements located in the Green Belt, which will maximise the potential of these relatively open and sparsely populated settlements to accommodate the Borough's growing population. These new properties are likely to be relatively affordable when compared to other housing schemes within the Borough. Policy GB10 supports agricultural and forestry activities in the Green Belt by facilitating the provision of affordable dwellings for agricultural and forestry workers. Protecting the dwellings for use by agricultural and forestry workers will help to maintain their affordability.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies GB1 and GB4 against SA objectives 10 (regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas) and 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings). Policies GB1 and GB4 seek to protect the openness and permanence of Green Belt land by resisting development within it, indirectly encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land. This is likely to focus economic regeneration within the Borough's existing settlements, contributing to regenerating and renewing disadvantaged areas and the efficient re-use of previously developed land.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy GB11 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings). Policy GB11 encourages the delivery of opportunities for enhancement identified within the study, including opportunities to improve damaged and derelict land.
- Significant adverse effects were identified against policies GB2 and GB3 against SA objective 13 (flood risk). Policy GB2 outlines plans for a significant reduction in the extent of the Green Belt to accommodate the Borough's housing and employment needs. Policy GB3 allows limited residential infill in the Borough's thirteen Plotland settlements located in the Green Belt. Such development on greenfield land is likely to result in a significant increase in impermeable surfaces in the Borough, which when compared to retaining permeable greenfield land is likely to increase the risk of surface water flooding in the Borough, particularly in the areas of the Borough designated as Critical Drainage Zones.

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 5.60 The significant adverse effects identified under SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces), 3 (biodiversity) and 13 (flood risk) for policy GB2 and SA objective 13 (flood risk) for

policy GB3 are likely to be mitigated through the implementation of other policies in the Local Plan, notably SD3, DES1, GB1 GB4 and GB11, CC1 – CC6 and NE1.

Reasonable alternatives

- 5.61 The preferred policies outlined in chapter 14 score the same or significantly better than their reasonable alternatives.

Outstanding recommendations

- 5.62 No outstanding recommendations are made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 14.

Table 5.11: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 14 – Protecting Green Belt land

SA objectives	GB1	GB2	GB3	GB4	GB5	GB6	GB7	GB8	GB9	GB10	GB11
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	++	--	+/--/?	+/?	++/?	++/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	++
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	++	-	-	+/?	++/?	++/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	++
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	+	--	-	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	0	0	++
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	+/-	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	0	++	0
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	-	++	++	-/?	-	+/?	0	0	0	++	0
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	++	0	+	++	+	+	0	+	0	0	++
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+

SA objectives	GB1	GB2	GB3	GB4	GB5	GB6	GB7	GB8	GB9	GB10	GB11
services and facilities.											
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings.	++	0	+	++	+	+	+	+	0	0	+
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	+	--/?	--/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	0	-/?	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	0	-/?	-/?	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	+	-/?	-/?	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+

Draft Local Plan Chapter 15 – Meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding

Policies appraised

- 5.63 Chapter 15 of the Draft Local Plan outlines the Council's planning policies on meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding:
- Policy CC1: Responding to Climate Change.
 - Policy CC2: Flood Risk and Drainage Management.
 - Policy CC3: Washlands.
 - Policy CC4: Managing Flood Risk in New Development.
 - Policy CC5: Sustainable Buildings - New Builds.
 - Policy CC6: Sustainable Buildings - Extensions, Alterations and Conversions.
 - Policy CC7: Renewable Energy Infrastructure.

Significant effects

- 5.64 The appraisal of the chapter's seven preferred policies identified the following significant effects:
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy CC7 against SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces), 2 (cultural heritage) and 3 (biodiversity). Policy CC7 encourages the deployment of renewable energy and low carbon schemes where they do not result in demonstrable harm to landscape and visual amenity, heritage assets, local wildlife and their habitats, protecting these special qualities from renewable schemes, an issue which is of particular importance to the local community.
 - A significant positive effect was identified for policy CC2 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity). The policy seeks to develop a riverside strategy covering the marshlands to the south of the Borough, with the aim of protecting and enhancing important habitats.
 - A significant positive effect was identified for policy CC1 against SA objective 11 (access to services and facilities). This policy seeks to ensure that development locations are identified that have good access to services and public transport provision in order to reduce carbon emissions and encourage more sustainable forms of travel that minimises the Borough's contribution to climate change.
 - Significant positive effects were identified for policies CC1 to CC4 against SA objective 13 (flood risk). These policies seek to reduce the impacts of climate change on the Borough through flood risk and drainage management, thus reducing the risk to people and buildings. Policy CC4 permits development in areas of flood risk under certain circumstances; therefore the significance of this positive effect is uncertain.
 - Significant positive effects were identified for policies CC1, CC5 and CC7 against SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions). These policies seek to reduce the impacts of the Borough on climate change by encouraging the development of high quality sustainable and energy efficient homes and commercial and industrial buildings, as well as by encouraging the incorporation of on-site renewable energy equipment to reduce carbon emissions. The policy also encourages development locations with good access to local services and public transport which would reduce the need to rely on the private car helping to reduce the associated greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Significant positive effects were identified for policies CC1 and CC5 against SA objective 16 (water resources). Policy CC1 seeks to reduce the impacts of the Borough on climate change by encouraging the development of high quality sustainable and water efficient homes and commercial and industrial buildings. Policy CC5 seeks to ensure that the design of all new developments incorporates measures for achieving high levels of water efficiency.

- A significant positive effect was identified for policy CC1 against SA objective 17 (preparedness for the effects of climate change). This policy seeks to encourage the delivery of multi-functional green infrastructure which has the potential to help increase permeable land which would reduce the risk of flooding as a result of climate change.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy CC5 against SA objective 18 (waste). Policy CC5 requires that the waste resulting from the construction of all new buildings should be managed in a way that maximises the re-use and recycling of materials, including aggregates, on-site where possible. The policy also states that space should be provided in new builds which allows for the segregation of waste.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy CC1 against SA objective 19 (traffic congestion). This policy seeks to deliver improvements to public transport and a wider range of active modes of transport to reduce the impact of the Borough on climate change. These measures, along with encouraging development locations that have good access to services, are likely to reduce the need to rely on private cars which in turn should help to reduce levels of congestion and pollution in the Borough.

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 5.65 The sustainability appraisal of Chapter's 15 preferred policies identified no significant adverse effects.

Reasonable alternatives

- 5.66 The preferred policies outlined in Chapter 15 score the same or significantly better than their reasonable alternatives.

Outstanding recommendations

- 5.67 One outstanding recommendation is made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 15:
- **Policy CC1** – could be improved through the inclusion of provision for tree planting, landscaping and design of the public realm (e.g. shelters in public transport waiting areas) that reduce the effects of extreme weather events (e.g. heat, storms). This could apply in particular to town centres.

Table 5.12: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 15 – Meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding

SA objectives	CC1	CC2	CC3	CC4	CC5	CC6	CC7
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	0	0	0	0	+	0	++
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	+	+	+	0	+	+	++
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	+	++	+/?	0	0	0	++
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	+	+	+	+/-	0	0	0
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	0	0	0	0	+/?	0	0
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	+/-/?	+	+	+/-	+/-	0	0
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	0	0	0	0	+/?	0	0
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health,	++	++	++	++/?	0	+	0

SA objectives	CC1	CC2	CC3	CC4	CC5	CC6	CC7
domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.							
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	++	0	0	0	++/?	+	++
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	++	+	+	0	++	+	0
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	++	+	0	+	0	+	0
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	0	0	0	0	++	+	0
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	++	0	0	0	0	0	0

Draft Local Plan Chapter 16 – Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

Policies appraised

5.68 Chapter 16 of the Draft Local Plan sets out the Council’s planning policies on conserving and enhancing the natural environment:

- Policy NE1: Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Policy NE2: Areas of Higher Landscape Value.
- Policy NE3: Country Parks.
- Policy NE4: Local Wildlife Sites.
- Policy NE5: Development Impacts on Ecology and Biodiversity.
- Policy NE6: Development Impacts on Landscape and Landscape Features.
- Policy NE7: Pollution Control and Residential Amenity.
- Policy NE8: Development on Contaminated Land.
- Policy NE9: Ensuring Health and Safety in Development.

Significant effects

5.69 The appraisal of the chapter’s nine preferred policies identified the following significant effects:

- Significant positive effects were identified for policies NE1- NE6 against SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces). This is because these policies aim to protect, extend and enhance the Borough’s Green Infrastructure network, including Areas of Higher Landscape Value, Country Parks and Local Wildlife Sites. The policies also aim to preserve and enhance landscape and landscape features, securing strategic landscaping on all new major housing and employment development proposals, and secure new green infrastructure alongside new development, where appropriate. The urban landscape will be improved through provision of green infrastructure including parks, gardens, allotments, trees and green roofs.
- A significant positive effect was recorded for policy NE2 against SA objective 2 (cultural heritage). This is because policy NE2 states that Areas of Higher Landscape Value which support the quality, character and distinctiveness of Basildon’s natural environment, including its landscape, cultural and historic value, tranquillity, geology, countryside, soil and biodiversity, will be protected from degradation and opportunities to enhance them will be supported.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies NE1, NE2, NE4 and NE5 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity). This is because these policies aim to protect, extend and enhance the Borough’s Green Infrastructure network alongside new development. The urban landscape will be improved through provision of green infrastructure including parks, gardens, allotments, trees and green roofs. Policy NE5 requires that new developments demonstrate a resultant net gain in biodiversity.
- A significant adverse effect was identified for policy NE2 against SA objective 7 (meeting housing need). This is because policy NE2 aims to protect and enhance Areas of Higher Landscape Value, making less land available within and adjacent to the Borough’s settlements for housing.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy NE7 against SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing). This is because policy NE7 specifies that all development proposals must be located and designed so as to not cause significant adverse effects upon the health of

residents. In addition residential amenity must not be compromised by pollution to land, air or water.

- A significant positive effect was identified for policy NE8 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings). This is because Policy NE8 may improve efficiency of land use through the utilisation of previously contaminated land, following remediation.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy NE1 against SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions). This is because policy NE1 seeks the provision of Green Infrastructure which is multi-functional and incorporates measures that will help to reduce the extent of climate change and/or enable the Borough's communities to adapt better to a changing climate. This will involve the incorporation of green infrastructure within new development, through measures such as the provision of parks, gardens, trees, allotments and green roofs. Measures such as these are likely to reduce the local contribution to climate change.
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies NE1 and NE7 against SA objective 15 (air, land and noise pollution). Policy NE1 seeks to secure the provision of Green Infrastructure alongside development which achieves a reduction in pollution to air, water and soil. Policy NE7 requires all development proposals to be located and designed in such a manner so as to not cause significant adverse effects upon the environment, the health of residents or residential amenity by reason of pollution to land, air or water, or as a result of any form of disturbance including, but not limited to noise, light, odour, heat, dust, vibrations and littering.
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy NE7 against SA objective 16 (water resources). This is because policy NE7 states that Sustainable Drainage Systems should be incorporated wherever practical to minimise impacts on water quality.
- A significant positive effect is identified for policy NE1 against SA objective 17 (preparedness for the effects of climate change). This is because policy NE1 seeks the provision of Green Infrastructure which is multi-functional and incorporates measures that will help to reduce the extent of climate change and/or enable the Borough's communities to adapt better to a changing climate. This includes incorporating green infrastructure into new development and the urban environment, where appropriate. This will help to ensure that buildings and public realm areas are prepared for the impacts of climate change.

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 5.70 The significant adverse effect identified under SA objective 7 (meeting housing need) for policy NE2 is likely to be mitigated through the implementation of the measures outlined within the development allocation policies and the strategic and development policies in the Local Plan, notably SD3, H7-H33, DES1 and GB4-GB9.

Reasonable alternatives

- 5.71 There are no reasonable alternatives to the preferred policies outlined in Chapter 16.

Outstanding recommendations

- 5.72 Three outstanding recommendations are made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 16:
- **Policy NE3** – Could be improved by defining what is meant by 'harm' to Country Parks.
 - **Policy NE6** – In addition to the revisions already made to this policy, it is also recommended that the policy wording should be amended further to read "*adverse impacts TO and WITHIN designated sites and ancient woodland should be avoided.*"
 - **Policy NE7** – Could provide a cross-reference to the sustainable transport policies in the supporting text to this policy. The sustainable transport policies may also help to mitigate impacts from pollution.

Table 5.13: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 16 – Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

SA objectives	NE1	NE2	NE3	NE4	NE5	NE6	NE7	NE8	NE9
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	0	-/?
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	+	++	+	+	+	+	0	0	-/?
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	0	-/?
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	+	--/?	-	-	-	-	+/-	+	+
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	+	+	+	+	0	+	++	0	0
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	+	+	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0

SA objectives	NE1	NE2	NE3	NE4	NE5	NE6	NE7	NE8	NE9
use of materials from previous buildings.									
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	+	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0

Draft Local Plan Chapter 17 – Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

Policies appraised

- 5.73 Chapter 17 of the Draft Local Plan provides the Council’s planning policies on conserving and enhancing the historic environment:
- Policy HE1: Strategy for Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment.
 - Policy HE2: Conservation Areas.
 - Policy HE3: Listed Buildings.
 - Policy HE4: Scheduled Monuments and Archaeology.
 - Policy HE5: Locally Identified Heritage Assets.

Significant effects

- 5.74 The appraisal of the Plan’s five preferred policies identified significant positive effects for SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces) and 2 (cultural heritage). These significant positive effects can be attributed to the fact that all five policies seek to ensure that development proposals enhance the character, setting and local distinctiveness of heritage assets and make a positive contribution to local character.

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 5.75 The sustainability appraisal of the Plan’s five preferred policies within Chapter 17 identified no significant adverse effects.

Reasonable alternatives

- 5.76 The preferred policies outlined in Chapter 17 all score significantly better than their reasonable alternatives, with the exception of HE1, which generally scored the same as its reasonable alternative. However, the significant positive effects identified against SA objectives 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces) and 2 (cultural heritage) in the reasonable alternative are more uncertain due to the fact that this alternative is considered to be less comprehensive than the preferred option.

Outstanding recommendations

- 5.77 No outstanding recommendations are made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 17.

Table 5.14: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 17 – Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

SA objectives	HE1	HE2	HE3	HE4	HE5
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	++	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	++	++/?	++/?	++/?	++/?
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	0	+	0	0	0
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	0	0	0	0	0
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	0	0	0	0	0
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	0	0	0	0	0
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	0	0	0	0	0
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	0	0	0	0	0
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	0	0	0	0	0
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	0	0	+/?	0	0
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	0	0	0	0	0
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings.	0	0	+/?	0	0
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment	0	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	HE1	HE2	HE3	HE4	HE5
flood events can bring.					
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	0	0	0	0	0
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	0	0	0	0	0
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	0	0	0	0	0
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	0	0	0	0	0
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	0	0	0	0	0
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	0	0	0	0	0

Draft Local Plan Chapter 18 – Implementation, monitoring and review

Policies appraised

- 5.78 Chapter 18 of the Draft Local Plan outlines the Council's policies on the implementation, monitoring and review of the Plan's policies:
- Policy IMP1: Implementation Strategy.
 - Policy IMP2: Use of Planning Obligations.
 - Policy IMP3: Phasing of Development.
 - Policy IMP4: Piecemeal Development.

Significant effects

- 5.79 The appraisal of the Plan's four preferred policies identified only one significant positive effect. This was for preferred policy IMP2 against SA objective 11 (access to services and facilities). The policy seeks to ensure that new developments contribute to the impact on infrastructure, local services and the environment through a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The policy specifically mentions that contributions may be required to provide community services and facilities as well as transport, which will improve accessibility to them. Such a framework allows the pooling of multiple contributions to tackle provision at a strategic level rather than on a site-by-site basis, resulting in significant positive effects on this objective.

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 5.80 The sustainability appraisal of the Plan's four preferred policies within Chapter 18 identified no significant adverse effects.

Reasonable alternatives

- 5.81 The preferred policies outlined in Chapter 18 all score better than their reasonable alternatives, all of which promote reliance on national planning policy rather than developing local policy and therefore have a negligible effect.

Outstanding recommendations

- 5.82 One outstanding recommendation is made to Basildon Borough Council following the completion of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies outlined in Chapter 18:
- **Policy IMP2** – Ensure a clear timetable for the completion of the CIL Charging Schedule (in keeping with the timetable for the delivery of development allocations in the Local Plan) to ensure that this does not bring unnecessary uncertainty to developers, or adversely affect the delivery of key services, facilities and infrastructure.

Table 5.15: SA scores for policies in Draft Local Plan Chapter 18 – Implementation, monitoring and review

SA objectives	IMP1	IMP2	IMP3	IMP4
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	+	+	+	0
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	+	0	+	0
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough’s biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	+	+	+	0
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	+	+	0	+/?
5. Ensure the Borough’s Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	+	+	0	+/?
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	+	+	+	+
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	+	+	+	+/?
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough’s residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	+	+	+	+
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	+	+	0	0
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	+	+	0	+/?
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	+	++	+	+
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the	0	0	0	+

SA objectives	IMP1	IMP2	IMP3	IMP4
re-use of materials from previous buildings.				
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	+	+	+	0
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	+	+	+	0
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	+	+	+	0
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	+	+	+	0
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	+	+	+	0
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	+	+	+	0
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	+	+	+	0

Duration and scale of sustainability effects

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

Short-term effects of the Draft Local Plan

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

Medium-term effects of the Draft Local Plan

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

Long-term effects of the Draft Local Plan

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

Cumulative Effects

- 5.88 Provision of development through the Draft Local Plan has potential to result in a number of cumulative **significant positive** effects on the social and economic SA objectives, especially:
- Objective 4: Economic growth and regeneration.
 - Objective 5: Town centres.
 - Objective 6: Education and social inclusion.
 - Objective 7: Meeting housing need.
 - Objective 8: Health and wellbeing.

- Objective 9: Vibrant communities.
 - Objective 10: Regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas.
- 5.89 Provision of a minimum of 15,260 homes and 49ha of employment land in Basildon is likely to result in a number of **significant adverse** cumulative effects. These are predicted in respect of:
- Objective 13: Flood risk, although none of the individual allocations are considered to have significant adverse effects on this objective on their own, cumulatively, the significant amount of greenfield development proposed within the Plan has the potential to increase surface water run-off, which could generate significant effects. This is uncertain as the Plan's policies aim to manage flood risk arising from development.
 - Objective 15: Air, land and noise pollution (although effects are anticipated to be short term only).
 - Objective 19: Traffic congestion, although this is uncertain as the plan contains improvements to the highway network to address congestion issues identified through the detailed mitigation modelling of future transport scenarios.
- 5.90 **Significant mixed effects (++)/(-)** are predicted in respect of the following SA objectives:
- Objective 1: Landscape, countryside and green spaces.
 - Objective 2: Cultural heritage.
 - Objective 3: Biodiversity.
 - Objective 11: Access to local services and facilities.
 - Objective 12: Re-use of previously developed land and buildings.
 - Objective 14: Greenhouse gas emissions.
- 5.91 Delivery of the homes and employment land will be dependent upon improvements to the transport infrastructure to address congestion issues, and the need for upgrades to wastewater treatment/foul network/surface water treatment facilities.
- 5.92 The results of the Highway Impact Assessment showed that significant parts of the road network in the Borough would operate at or above capacity as a consequence of growth. Most of the existing junctions in both Billericay and Wickford are shown to be over capacity in future years as a consequence of the levels of growth proposed in the Draft Local Plan. Both improvements to the highway network and a modal shift towards more sustainable travel modes is therefore required in both of these settlements to enable further growth without exacerbating congestion levels. Basildon (including Laindon and Pitsea), is more able to accommodate growth within the existing road network. Nonetheless, there are still likely to be capacity issues as some junctions which would need to be improved in order to accommodate projected growth.
- 5.93 The Council has been engaged in ongoing discussions with Anglian Water Services (AWS), which is responsible for the Water Recycling Centres (WRCs), formerly known as Waste Water Treatments Works, and sewerage network within the Borough, to understand the capacity of this wastewater infrastructure to accommodate different scales and distributions of residential development. AWS explains that the cumulative effect of all of the identified allocated sites may require enhancement to capacity and should all the available capacity be taken up at the WRC then upgrade to the works may be required that may involve seeking consent from the Environment Agency for an increase in discharge of final effluent. Recent correspondence between the Council and the Environment Agency⁵⁷ suggests that the total numbers of houses allocated in the Local Plan to Wickford, Pitsea and Basildon could be accommodated within the capacity of the wastewater treatment capacities of the corresponding WRCs. The allocation to Billericay is identified as being very close to the WRC capacity and likely to require an increase to the permitted capacity or connection of some of the development to other WRCs. The Environment Agency recommends that development be phased until additional sewage treatment capacity becomes available.

⁵⁷ Email from the Environment Agency to Basildon Borough Council dated 20/11/2015

In combination effects

- 5.94 In addition to the potential effects arising from development in Basildon through the Draft Local Plan there is also potential for effects in combination with other development planned in neighbouring boroughs and districts as well as county-wide initiatives such as transport infrastructure projects and mineral and waste development within and adjacent to Basildon Borough.
- 5.95 Basildon is bordered by the boroughs of Chelmsford, Brentwood, Thurrock, Castle Point, Rochford and Maldon, all of which are at varying stages in their plan making. Transport and Minerals and Waste Planning is undertaken by Essex County Council. **Table 5.16** below sets out the amount of growth planned by each local authority and the relative stage in plan preparation.

Table 5.16: Summary of in-combination effects

Plan	Progress	Objectives
Brentwood Borough Council Local Plan	<p>Brentwood Local Plan 2015-2030 Preferred Options published in 2013.</p> <p>This was followed by the Strategic Growth Options consultation, including spatial options and specific sites, between 6 January and 17 February 2015.</p>	<p>5,500 new homes needed in Brentwood Borough over the next 15 years. This is 2,000 more than the 2013 consultation proposed. The capacity of brownfield sites in urban areas is 2,500, some 3,000 short of the total number of homes needed. Brentwood Borough Council has an unmet need for new employment land. Evidence suggests the amount of new employment land required is up to 23 hectares (depending on the level of housing growth).</p>
Castle Point Borough Council Local Plan	<p>A draft New Local Plan 2014-2031 was made available for consultation from the 24th January until the 28th March 2014. A formally constituted group of Members has been formed to review the consultation responses received on the draft New Local Plan.</p>	<p>During the period 2011 to 2031, policy H1 of the draft New Local Plan would deliver at least 4,000 new homes in Castle Point.</p> <p>During the period 2014 to 2031, policy E1 of the draft New Local Plan would deliver at least 2,100 additional jobs (10,000m² of additional employment floorspace for B1a, B1c and B2 uses).</p>
Chelmsford City Council Local Plan to 2036	<p>Consultation on the Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Document is currently open from 19 November 2015 to 4.45pm on 21 January 2016.</p>	<p>The Council's objectively assessed housing need has been calculated at 775 homes per year (11,625 homes over the plan period). As the Council needs to test whether the Spatial Options positively plan for the housing required, and because the housing requirement might increase when the final assessment of the need for affordable housing is determined, a 20% uplift has been added to the Objectively Assessed Housing requirement, creating a working requirement of 930 homes per year. This amounts to 14,000 new homes for the period to 2036.</p> <p>Employment growth of 887 jobs per year is considered a robust number to sustain the local economy and for use in the new Local Plan period. The new Local Plan will allocate appropriate employment land. This will be undertaken in partnership with many other bodies and organisations, including Anglia Ruskin University, the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, Essex Chambers of Commerce and other business support organisations.</p>
Maldon District Local Development Plan	<p>The Maldon District Local Development Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination-in-Public on 25 April 2014.</p> <p>The Maldon District Local</p>	<p>Policy S2 (Strategic Growth) outlines plans for the delivery of a minimum of 4,650 dwellings between 2014 and 2029 (310 per annum).</p> <p>Policy E1 (Employment) outlines plans for the delivery of a minimum of 2,000 net additional (at circa 8.4ha of new employment land allocations) by 2029.</p>

Plan	Progress	Objectives
	<p>Development Plan (2014 to 2029), incorporating modifications proposed through Examination-in-Public in 2014, was resubmitted to the Secretary of State on 15th December 2015.</p>	
<p>Rochford District Local Development Plan up to 2025</p>	<p>The Rochford District Core Strategy was formally adopted by the Council on 13 December 2011.</p> <p>The Rochford District Allocations Plan was formally adopted by the Council on 25 February 2014.</p> <p>The Rochford District Development Management Plan was formally adopted by the Council on 16 December 2014.</p> <p>A Call for Sites consultation is currently underway until 31st March 2016.</p> <p>Furthermore, a Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) is currently underway.</p>	<p>The Council seeks to deliver housing to meet the requirements of the East of England Plan (which requires Rochford District to accommodate 3,790 dwellings between 2006 and 2021), and ensure there is an adequate supply of land for the development of housing over a 15 year period.</p> <p>3,000 additional jobs (net) (at 18ha of new industrial land and 2.2ha of office land allocations) by 2021.</p> <p>The purpose of the SHELAA is to evaluate the availability of land for housing and economic development within the Rochford District boundary over the next 10 years and, where possible, 11-15 years.</p>
<p>Thurrock Council Local Plan</p>	<p>Thurrock council are in the process of preparing a new Local Plan to replace their Core Strategy adopted December 2011. The council are currently holding a series of consultations to inform their preparations but no materials have been published. Therefore, the growth plans outlined in the Core Strategy still represent the latest figures.</p>	<p>13,550 new dwellings between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2021.</p> <p>26,000 additional jobs (at 456ha (gross) of employment land allocations) over the period 2001-2026 and beyond.</p>

Plan	Progress	Objectives
Essex Minerals Local Plan	The current Essex Minerals Local Plan was adopted on 8 July 2014 and provides up-to-date planning policy for minerals development in Essex until 2029.	Plans for future minerals supply to support sustainable development in the County
Essex County Council and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Joint Replacement Waste Local Plan	The Joint Replacement Waste Local Plan will set a strategy for waste development up until 2032. Following public consultation in June and July 2015, work is now underway to prepare the Pre-Submission version of the Plan.	Preferred key strategic waste sites in the Borough of Basildon include the Tovi EcoPark Integrated Waste Management facility on Courtauld Road, additional biological waste treatment along Courtauld Road, including adjacent to the Waste Water Treatment Works,
Essex Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 (LTP3)	Essex Transport Strategy: the Local Transport Plan for Essex, June 2011	Seeks to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the county.

- 5.96 It is apparent from the above table that a significant amount of development is proposed around Basildon Borough. This is likely to result in increased indirect pressure on Basildon's landscapes, green spaces and countryside, the Borough's biodiversity and could lead to further pressure on the historic environment. Development outside the Borough would not directly affect the Borough's assets, however, there could be indirect impacts e.g. development close to the Borough boundary could affect the setting of designated historic assets; new residents from neighbouring boroughs and districts could result in increased recreational pressure on designated biodiversity assets in Basildon and ecological networks could be further eroded.
- 5.97 The combined increase in traffic flows in Basildon and in neighbouring authorities could result in an intensification in noise and air pollution (including increased greenhouse gas emissions), which could in turn affect the health of existing and new residents. There is also potential for additional traffic congestion in the Borough.
- 5.98 Increased development outside the Borough could also exacerbate flood risk within the Borough, particularly to the north of the Borough.
- 5.99 It is assumed that the additional development would not adversely affect water resource availability in the Borough which can be met through expansion of the Abberton Reservoir. Furthermore, new development outside the Borough would be required to meet higher levels of water efficiency in line requirements set down in the Buildings Regulations.
- 5.100 There is a need for the Council to work with Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and neighbouring authorities to ensure that the planned growth is taken into account in future rounds of Asset Management Planning to ensure that there is scope for the existing wastewater treatment works within and outside the Borough to be upgraded to respond to growth in Basildon and neighbouring authorities.
- 5.101 Additional waste would be generated through development in neighbouring boroughs and in Basildon. It is assumed this would be taken into account as the Essex Waste Plan is progressed.

Findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 5.102 The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report which accompanies the Core Strategy Consultation considers the likely in combination effects of development in Basildon alongside development in neighbouring boroughs on internationally designated nature conservation sites. The initial HRA Screening identified the potential for likely significant effects in relation to increased recreation pressure, reduced water quality and increased downstream flood risk. After taking into account mitigation that is already available, the HRA Screening concluded that likely significant effects on internationally designated nature conservation sites from the Draft Local Plan alone, or in-combination with other plans and projects, could be ruled out⁵⁸.

⁵⁸ HRA of Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan, LUC, December 2015

6 Monitoring

- 6.1 The SEA Regulations require that *"the responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage, and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action"* (Regulation 17) and that the environmental report should provide information on *"a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring"* (Schedule 2(10)). Monitoring proposals should be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.
- 6.2 The Planning Advisory Service guidance on SA states that it is not necessary to monitor everything. Instead, monitoring should be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken.
- 6.3 A number of significant adverse and significant positive effects have been identified in relation to the Draft Local Plan (including significant mixed effects) and these are highlighted in Chapter 5.
- 6.4 The Council has not yet prepared a monitoring framework to monitor implementation of the policies in the Draft Local Plan. Therefore the indicators included in **Table 6.1** may change as Basildon finalises its monitoring framework. The acronym AMR refers to indicators that Basildon Council already uses for its Annual Monitoring Report or related reports. Other indicators are suggested as an output of this Sustainability Appraisal.

Table 6.1: Suggested framework for monitoring potential significant effects arising from implementation of the Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan

SA objectives for which potential significant effects have been identified	Proposed indicators
1. Conserving and enhancing the diverse natural and urban landscape, countryside and green spaces, of Basildon Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in landscape character • Ha of new Green Infrastructure secured through development (AMR) • Ha of open space lost to development per annum (AMR) • Ha of Green Belt Land (AMR) • Ha of Green Belt land lost to development per annum (AMR) • Change in Ha of Open Space/ 1000 people (AMR)
2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Listed Buildings (AMR) • Number of Listed Buildings delisted (AMR) • Number of Scheduled Monuments (AMR) • Number of Listed Buildings on the Essex Heritage at Risk Register (AMR) • Number of heritage assets in the Borough on the Essex Heritage at Risk Register (HARR) for more than 5 years (AMR)
3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and hectares of SSSIs (AMR) • % of Boroughs SSSIs in a favourable stable/improving condition (AMR) • % of Boroughs SSSIs in a unfavourable declining condition (AMR)

SA objectives for which potential significant effects have been identified	Proposed indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and Ha of Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) (AMR) • % of LoWs in decline (AMR) • Ha of Ancient Woodland (AMR) • % of Ancient Woodlands (AMR) • LoWS in decline (AMR)
4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Office (B1a) (AMR) • Delivery of General Industrial Development 2011-2013 (B1-B8 all development) (AMR) • Unemployment rates • GDP per capita
5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town centre vacant retail floorspace • Town centre residential population
6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net square metres of educational floorspace by primary, secondary, further, higher, and vocational levels (AMR) • Value of s.106 contributions secured for a) education, b) health and c) communities services (AMR) • Performance against index of multiple deprivation indicators
7. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home and increase affordable provision to help those in most need locally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net affordable dwellings per annum outside town centres (AMR) • Net affordable dwellings per annum within town centres (AMR) • Number of gross & net dwelling unit completions (AMR) • Affordable housing completions (AMR) • House price affordability • Homelessness • Backlog of unmet housing need
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health related to development and the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of adult participation in sport (AMR) • Obesity rates of adults and children (AMR) • Value of s.106 contributions secured for a) education, b) health and c) communities services (AMR)
9. Create and sustain vibrant communities that are safe and feel safe to those who live in or visit them and where crime is reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime rates • Fear of crime rates • Traffic accident rates
10. Regenerate and renew disadvantaged areas where people live or work in the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment rates in deprived wards • Performance of deprived wards against index of multiple deprivation indicators
11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value of s.106 contributions secured for a) education, b) health and c) communities services (AMR) • % of population within a 30 minute public transport time to a) educational, b) healthcare, and c) communities facilities (AMR)

SA objectives for which potential significant effects have been identified	Proposed indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of new residential developments within 30 minutes public transport time of local services (AMR) • % of new residential developments within walking distance of a) educational, b) healthcare, and c) communities facilities
12. Improve efficiency of land use, through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from previous buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwelling completions on brownfield sites (AMR) • Dwelling completions on greenfield sites (AMR) • Employment completions on brownfield sites • Employment completions on greenfield sites
13. Minimise the risk of flooding and the detriment to public health, domestic and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Planning Applications where the Environment Agency has an Outstanding Objection on Flood Risk Grounds (AMR) • Ha of Green Infrastructure with flood defence role provided through development (AMR)
14. Reduce the local contribution to climate change, by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency of buildings and increase the use of renewable energy sources for local energy needs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permissions for renewable energy installations (MW) • Energy ratings of new developments • Borough carbon emissions
15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality through direct action or mitigation measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contaminated land remediated • Air pollution data • Noise complaints
16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water use per household • Water pollution incidents recorded by Environment Agency
17. Adopt building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is prepared for the effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban day time temperatures (averages and extremes) • Numbers of trees planted within urban areas • Incorporation of SuDs in urban developments
18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-recyclable waste generation per capita • Recycling rates per capita • Re-use of construction and demolition waste
19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s.106 contributions accumulated per annum for highway works (AMR) • % of journeys to work by public transport, cycle or walking • Traffic congestion

7 Conclusions and next steps

Conclusions

- 7.1 This SA report has been prepared to accompany the Regulation 18 Consultation for the Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan. The SA has sought to identify significant effects emerging from the Draft Local Plan in line with the SEA Regulations.
- 7.2 The Draft Local Plan aims to deliver sufficient dwellings to meet its objectively assessed housing need, and sufficient land to meet its employment land needs. The Draft Local Plan identifies the need for between 15,260 and 16,740 homes, and 8,600 jobs to be delivered within the Borough in the period from 2014 to 2034. This scale of development cannot be accommodated within the Borough without the release of Green Belt land. In order to achieve the minimum requirement of 15,260 homes, the Draft Local Plan recognises that between 8,000 and 8,500 homes will need to be provided on sites on edge of the Borough's main settlements, requiring the extent of the Green Belt to be amended.
- 7.3 The Draft Local Plan provides for approximately 49ha of additional employment land. The Borough's existing urban areas could yield approximately 36 to 38ha of employment land through intensification of existing employment areas, with the remaining 11 to 14ha to be provided by land released from the Green Belt.
- 7.4 The Draft Local Plan allocates a series of sites for development to meet the identified housing and economic needs, focused primarily on Basildon, but also with some sites allocated at Billericay and Wickford, with the remainder at smaller settlements. Taking into account homes that have already been delivered, the Draft Local Plan provides for 8,835 homes at Basildon, 1,860 at Billericay, and 3,300 at Wickford. 908 homes will be delivered elsewhere including a village extension to Bowers Gifford amounting to around 600 homes and 218 homes in the Plotland settlements. By far the majority of employment land will be located at Basildon.
- 7.5 This distribution of housing development represents a slight shift compared to the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report (December 2013). Under the Draft Local Plan, Basildon and Billericay will receive fewer homes, both in terms of numbers and as a proportion of the total, and Wickford will receive more homes. Other settlements will also receive more homes (most notably Bowers Gifford and the Plotland settlements). The amount of employment land and its distribution between settlements remains unchanged.
- 7.6 The previous SA work undertaken in December 2013 found that the effects between different Spatial Options appraised did not differ markedly in many respects. The likelihood of significant adverse effects, particularly on SA objectives relating to landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity, depended upon which town was being considered under which Spatial Option. Focusing development on a particular town (e.g. Basildon, Billericay, or Wickford) would be more likely to have significant adverse effects against the environmental SA objectives in relation to that part of the Borough.
- 7.7 Therefore, the spatial distribution in the Draft Local Plan is likely to result in slightly increased adverse effects at Wickford, and slightly reduced effects at Basildon and Billericay, compared to the spatial distribution in the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report. The effects on Bowers Gifford and the Plotland settlements are also likely to increase, although with the potential for improved local services and facilities as part of the development to be delivered.
- 7.8 Although the Draft Local Plan seeks to maximise the amount of development to be delivered within the existing urban areas, the scale of development needed inevitably means that a significant amount of greenfield land, including Green Belt land, will need to be developed, leading to potential significant adverse effects on the landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage, depending on the characteristics and sensitivity of the location of the site allocation. However, the alternatives to the allocations in the Draft Local Plan generally did not perform better against

the SA objectives than the preferred allocations, and in many instances did not perform as well. The exceptions were those alternatives that proposed no or reduced development, which would result in no or fewer adverse environmental effects, but in these instances the social and economic benefits of the development would not be delivered. The allocation policies include delivery criteria that are designed to ensure that any significant adverse effects are minimised as far as possible. These delivery criteria are of particular importance to the east of Basildon within and around the development allocation outlined in Policy H13, where the delivery of a landscape buffer between the settlements of Pitsea and Bowers Gifford is essential to avoid coalescence of these settlements by maintaining the integrity of this strategic gap as Green Belt, green infrastructure and open space. The larger scale developments will, in many instances, be capable of delivering a wider range of benefits than smaller developments, such as the inclusion of new community facilities or investment community facilities (e.g. local schools and healthcare), support for public transport, and in some allocations the incorporation of employment land to allow for mixed-uses.

- 7.9 Policy H3 scores significantly worse than its reasonable alternatives because it provides fewer pitches for the Borough's gypsy and traveller communities than the alternative options, increasing the likelihood that the Borough (and its Duty to Co-operate partners) will not be able to meet the objectively assessed needs of gypsy and traveller communities within the Plan period.
- 7.10 The Draft Local Plan seeks to offer policy guidance and criteria on how development will be planned, delivered and managed, in order to ensure that the social, economic and environmental benefits that the Draft Local Plan aims to deliver are actually delivered in practice. There will need to be considerable investment in infrastructure, including green infrastructure, transport and community services and facilities, and also water and sewerage services. The funding and timing of this investment is likely to influence the phasing of delivery of the housing and employment land.
- 7.11 It also needs to be borne in mind that Basildon does not exist in isolation. Like Basildon, neighbouring districts and boroughs are also planning to deliver considerable amounts of development. This will result in in-combination effects, which will give the impression of increased urbanisation, and put pressure on resources, such as water, and on ecological networks. It is therefore important that the districts and boroughs work closely together to make sure that their plans are co-ordinated to provide an integrated approach for maintaining and enhancing quality of life for all their residents, and to ensure that a rich, high quality and resilient environment is achieved.

Next steps

- 7.12 Following consultation on the Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan, any changes that Basildon Borough Council proposes to make to the Local Plan policies will be re-appraised against the SA framework and a revised SA report will be produced alongside further versions of the Local Plan.
- 7.13 Basildon Council intends to publish a Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) in the Winter of 2016, at which point the purpose of the public consultation will be on the 'soundness' of the Local Plan.
- 7.14 Following consultation on the soundness of the Proposed Submission Local Plan, it is anticipated that the Local Plan will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in Spring 2017, with a Public Examination of the Local Plan conducted in Summer 2017. Assuming the Local Plan is found sound by the independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State, and subject to modifications which may need to be subject to further SA work and public consultation, the Council expect the Local Plan to be adopted in Spring 2018.

LUC

January 2016