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Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment

Non Technical Summary

Prepared by LUC
January 2016

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

Client: Basildon Borough Council

| Version | Date | Version Details | Prepared by | Checked by | Approved by Director |
|---------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 1.0 | 12/01/2016 | Draft SA Report NTS | J. Allen J. Owen | J. Owen | J. Owen |
| 2.0 | 14/01/2016 | Final SA Report NTS | J. Allen J. Owen | J. Owen | J. Owen |



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Introduction

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

Basildon Borough Local Plan

- 1.3 Basildon Borough Council, as the Local Planning Authority, 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 2012¹.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 The implementation, monitoring and review arrangements for the Draft Local Plan are contained in Chapter 18.
- 1.7 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.

¹ Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 767

- 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.
- 1.8 Supplementary Planning Documents and Neighbourhood Plans may also be prepared to further support the policies within the Local Plan.
- 1.9 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 49 hectares of additional employment land, of which the Borough's existing urban capacity could yield approximately 36 to 38 hectares through intensification of existing employment, with the remaining 11 hectares to 14 hectares 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.
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 The Draft Local Plan and the main SA Report and this Non Technical Summary will be made available for public consultation from January 2016 to March 2016.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.12 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 Regulations².
- 1.13 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), local planning authorities must undertake a SA for each of their Local Plan Documents (LPDs)³.
- 1.14 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 Manual⁴ 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.

² The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI No. 1633)

³ The Planning Act 2008 amended the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: SA/SEA is no longer required for Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).

⁴ Hosted on the Planning Advisory Service's website: www.pas.gov.uk

Methodology

- 1.15 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.
- 1.16 **Table 1** sets out the main stages of the plan-making process and shows how these correspond to the SA process.

Table 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

1.17 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

1.18 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. 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 undertaken by LUC. 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.

1.19 The plan, policy and programme review and baseline information has been updated as necessary at different stages during the SA, and the most up to date versions are now included in Chapter 3 and Appendix 1 of the main SA Report.

1.20 As a result of the scoping exercise, an SA Framework was prepared which sets out a series of SA objectives which have been used to assess the Local Plan development strategy and policies at each stage of the plan preparation process, including reasonable alternatives. **Table 2** shows the 19 main SA objectives in the SA Framework along with their associated questions.

Table 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. | Will it contribute towards achieving qualitative improvement to the landscape and character of the urban and rural area? Will it contribute towards the achievement of high-quality landscapes that reflect local distinctiveness and quality of place? |
| 2. Protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage and local distinctiveness of Basildon Borough. | Will it protect and/or enhance sites, features, buildings and/or areas of historical, archaeological, landscape and cultural importance? |
| 3. Protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and the habitats which support it. | Will it conserve or enhance SSSIs? Will it maintain or enhance Priority Habitats and/or Species? Will it conserve and enhance any other natural/ semi-natural habitats? Will it conserve or enhance Local Wildlife Sites? Will it lead to the creation of new areas of habitat? Will it maintain and enhance woodland cover and/or management? |
| 4. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth to stimulate economic regeneration. | Will it improve business development and enhance the competitiveness of the Borough? Will it improve the resilience of the Borough's business and the wider economy? |

| SA Objective | Key Prompt Question |
|---|--|
| | <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> |
| <p>5. Ensure the Borough's Town Centres are promoted as sustainable locations for living, retail, leisure and related commercial development.</p> | <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> |
| <p>6. Improve educational attainment and social inclusion, especially in the most deprived areas of the Borough.</p> | <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> |
| <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> |

| SA Objective | Key Prompt Question |
|---|---|
| | <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 materials from previous buildings.</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> <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> |
| <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> | <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> |
| <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> | <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> |
| <p>15. Reduce air, land and noise pollution and improve their respective quality</p> | <p>Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other air-borne pollutants?</p> <p>Will it improve air quality?</p> |

| SA Objective | Key Prompt Question |
|---|--|
| through direct action or mitigation measures. | Will it reduce noise levels, including those from roads and transport? Will it maintain and enhance soil quality? |
| 16. Improve water efficiency and achieve sustainable water resource management. | Will it improve river quality? Will it contribute towards the reduction of water consumption? Will it encourage water efficiency, including recycling and re-use? |
| 17. Encourage adopting building and public realm designs which ensure the Borough is better prepared for the impacts of climate change | Has it taken account of potential effects brought about by climate change (e.g. flooding, higher temperatures, more storms)? Will it encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems? Will it encourage green infrastructure, (such as green roofs) and the planting of trees? Will it provide shelter in the public realm from adverse weather conditions? |
| 18. Reduce waste generation and increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used. | Will it contribute towards the reduction in the consumption of materials and resources? Will it contribute towards the reduction of waste sent to household & commercial waste? Will it contribute towards the reduction of household, construction and demolition waste going to landfill? Will it contribute towards the increase of waste recovery and recycling? Will it encourage the re-use or recycling of products and packaging? Will it make use of, or increase the demand for, recycled materials? Will it reduce the generation of hazardous waste? |
| 19. Reduce traffic congestion and its related pollution levels by improving travel choice and channelling development to sustainable locations. | Will it contribute towards the reduction of traffic volumes? Will it contribute towards the reduction of traffic congestion? Will it increase the proportion of journeys made using alternative transport modes to private vehicles? Will it encourage more journeys to be made by walking, cycling or travelling by bus or train? Will it contribute towards the improvement of air quality? Will it contribute towards the reduction of distances people need to travel to access work and other lifestyle pursuits? Will it reduce the need to travel? |

1.21 The 2007 Scoping Report was subject to public consultation and the July 2013 Scoping Report was issued to the statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage) and other relevant parties. The Scoping Report and the SA Framework was amended to reflect consultation responses where it was considered appropriate to do so.

1.22 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.

SA Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

1.23 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:

- 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).

1.24 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 the main SA Report (January 2016).

SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report

- 1.25 The main SA Report sets out the findings of the appraisal, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative), 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.
- 1.26 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 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 of the main SA Report, along with a justification of the judgement made.
- 1.27 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 of the main SA Report.

Figure 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). |

1.28 The SA findings for the Draft Local Plan are summarised in Chapter 5 of the main SA Report, 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

1.29 Basildon Borough Council is inviting representations on the Draft Local Plan and the main SA Report and this Non Technical Summary 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

- 1.30 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.

Sustainability context for development in Basildon

Review of plans, policies and programmes

- 1.31 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.
- 1.32 The Local Plan must be consistent with national planning policy, most notably the National Planning Policy Framework. 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.
 - The provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities.
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

Baseline information

- 1.33 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them. The review of baseline information covered the following topics:
- Climatic factors, including climate change, energy use and carbon emissions, and flood risk.
 - Population, health and social characteristics
 - Housing
 - Economic development
 - Cultural heritage and landscape
 - Biodiversity, flora and fauna
 - Air and noise
 - Water
 - Soils and geology
 - Material assets, comprising infrastructure and open spaces

Key sustainability issues

- 1.34 From the review of baseline information a series of key sustainability issues for Basildon were identified and a description provided of how these issues are likely to evolve without the Local Plan. The issues are listed in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Key sustainability issues facing Basildon Borough

| Key Sustainability Issue |
|---|
| 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 that 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 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. |
| 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 and 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. |
| 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. |
| 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 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |

Key Sustainability Issue

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.
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.
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 relatively high levels of local need.
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.
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 interests, 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.
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, regeneration aspirations, within social and environmental constraints.
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.
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 NPPF.

Key Sustainability Issue

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.
35. There are European and International habitats and species of designated 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 the 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 national and international significance to the species they support. They must be suitably conserved from 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.
42. Need to continue to minimise and contain excess noise from domestic and industrial sources in the Borough.
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.
48. Minimise the amount of development located on Grade 3a agricultural land and on important mineral reserves.
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.
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.
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)

Key Sustainability Issue

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.

Evolution of options

- 1.35 The preparation of the Draft 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. The account below summaries the work undertaken to date.

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

- 1.36 Preparatory work began on the Local Development Framework in 2006, following the withdrawal of the Basildon District Replacement Local Plan – 2nd Deposit. 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.
- 1.37 No SA work on the Issues was undertaken at this stage, although an SA Scoping Report was prepared and consulted upon (and subsequently updated in 2011 and 2013).
- 1.38 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)

- 1.39 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.
- 1.40 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).

Summary of SA of Core Strategy 2012 Spatial Options

- 1.41 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...”

1.42 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)

1.43 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.

1.44 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.

1.45 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. 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. 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.

1.46 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).

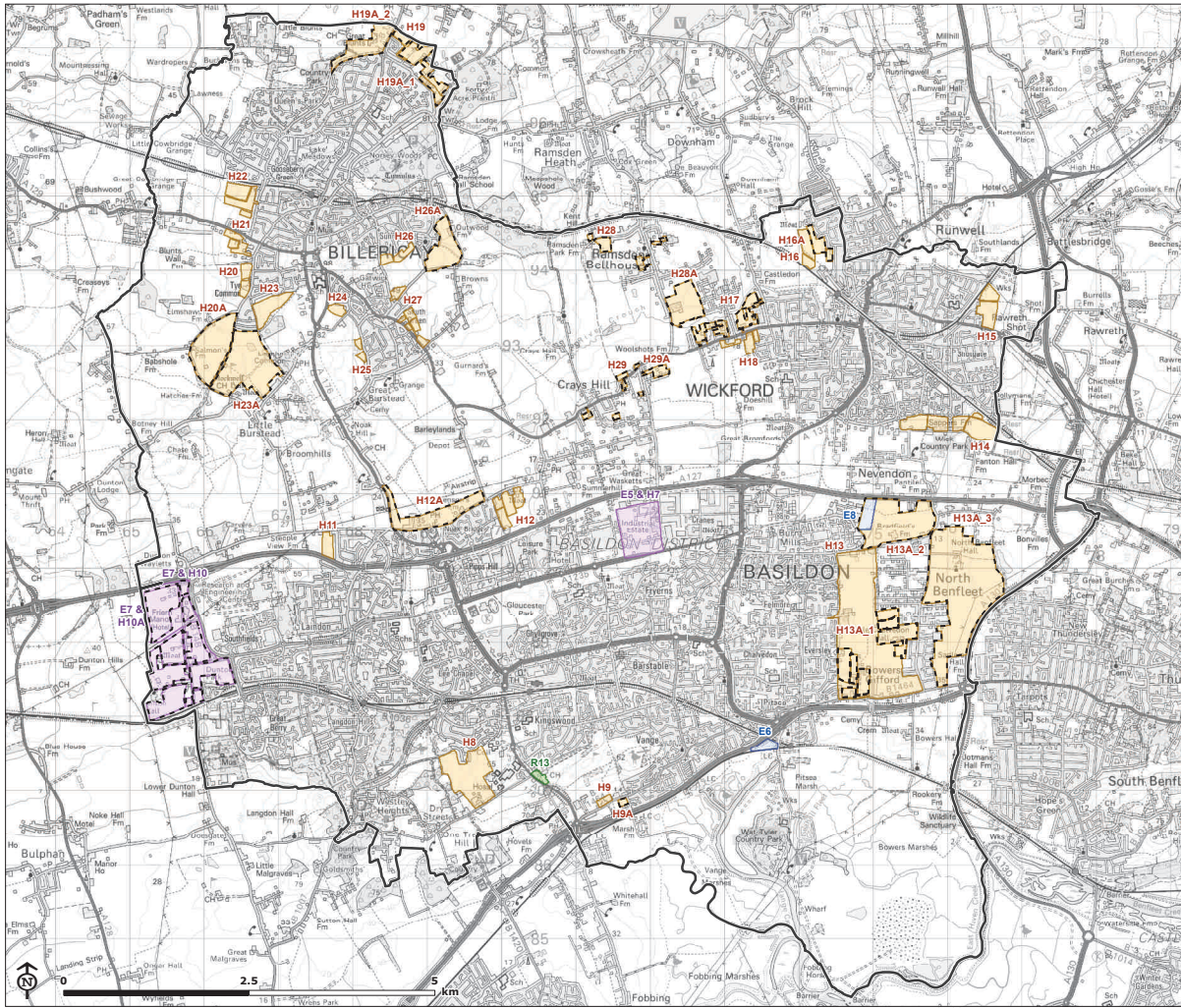
- 1.47 The 2013 Draft Local Plan Core Strategy also included 20 Core Policies to manage development including policies on Housing (affordable housing and housing mix); Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs; Conservation and the Natural Environment, Green Belt, Health and Wellbeing, Supporting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

Summary of SA of the Draft Local Plan Core Strategy 2013

- 1.48 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.
- 1.49 At this stage of the plan preparation process, the Council selected the proportionate growth option (Spatial Option 2A) to underpin the Revised Preferred Options Report as the most balanced and appropriate strategy – in effect, it spread both the positive effects and the negative effects, rather than concentrating them on one or two towns in the Borough. The SA found that this option performed as well as the other two options against many of the SA objectives, although inevitably there were some differences. There remained concerns over traffic issues, and potential congestion, which needed to be resolved, and further work was also required on water issues although it was thought that these can be addressed. Flood risk was a concern in some locations, which would need careful assessment, planning and design to ensure that avoid it becoming an issue in the future.

Draft Local Plan 2016

- 1.50 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.
- 1.51 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 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 Broad Locations which it named Strategic Sites to avoid confusion with the previous work undertaken.
- 1.52 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.
 - Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment.
 - The Sustainability Appraisal.
- 1.53 This exercise identified specific site allocations. A total of 18 allocations were identified within the existing Green Belt as urban extensions to the three main settlements (Basildon, Wickford and Billericay). 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 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 was primarily due to the findings of the landscape appraisals. The site allocations are shown in **Figure 2**.
- 1.54 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



BASILDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
SA REPORT
 Non-Technical Summary

Figure 2: Development Allocations

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

Map Scale @ A3: 1:50,000



including a village extension to Bowers Gifford amounting to around 600 homes and 218 homes in the Plotland settlements.

- 1.55 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.

Sustainability Appraisal findings

- 1.56 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 of the main SA Report.
- 1.57 Summary tables of the preferred policy appraisal scores are provided at the end of each subsection below. These tables are accompanied by text descriptions of the significant effects identified in the appraisal process, measures outlined in the Draft Local Plan that will contribute towards mitigating any significant adverse effects, and a comparison of the assessed effects of preferred policies and their reasonable alternatives. Outstanding recommendations on how policies within the Draft Local Plan might be improved further are included in the main SA Report.

Vision and objectives

- 1.58 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 and 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 4**. All the Strategic Objectives (SOs) have at least one significant positive effect where they directly address SA objectives (SAs).

Draft Local Plan Chapter 6 – Achieving sustainable development

Policies appraised

- 1.59 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

- 1.60 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).
 - Significant positive effects were identified for policies SD1 and SD2 under SA objectives 4 (economic growth and regeneration) and 5 (town centres).
 - Significant positive effects were identified for policies SD1 and SD2 under SA objective 7 (meeting housing need).
 - Significant positive effects were identified for both policies SD1 and SD2 against SA objective 9 (vibrant communities).
 - A significant positive effect is identified for SD2 against SA objective 10 (regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas).
 - A significant positive effect is identified for SD2 against SA objective 11 (access to services and facilities).
 - Significant adverse effects are identified for both policies SD1 and SD2 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings).
 - Significant adverse effects are identified for both policies SD1 and SD2 against SA objective 13 (flood risk).
 - A significant adverse effect is identified for policy SD1 against SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions).
- 1.61 No significant effects were identified for preferred policy SD3.

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 1.62 The significant adverse effects identified 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.

Reasonable alternatives

- 1.63 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). However, overall across all SA objectives, preferred policy SD1 scores significantly better.

Table 5: 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

1.64 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

1.65 The appraisal of the Draft Local Plan’s 14 preferred policies within this chapter identified the following significant effects⁵:

- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies E2 and E4 against SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces).
- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies E2 and E3 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies E1 – E4 against SA objective 4 (economic growth and regeneration).
- A significant positive effect was recorded for policy E14 against SA objective 5 (town centres).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policy E1 and E13 against SA objective 6 (education and social inclusion).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies E1 – E4 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings).

Significant effects of development allocations

1.66 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.

1.67 No significant effects were identified for employment development allocation E6.

⁵ 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.

1.68 A significant adverse effect was identified for policy E8 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

1.69 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

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

Table 6: 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 | 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 | 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

1.71 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

1.72 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).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies R1 – R6 and R10 against SA objective 4 (economic growth and social inclusion).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies R1 – R9 and R14 against SA objective 5 (town centres).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies R2 and R17 against SA objective 6 (education and social inclusion).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy R2 against SA objective 7 (meeting housing need).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy R16 against SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies R1 – R6, R8 and R17 against SA objective 9 (vibrant communities).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies R1 – R5 against SA objective 10 (regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies R2, R3, R10 and R14 against SA objective 11 (access to services and facilities).

- Significant positive effects were identified for policies R2 and R3 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings).
- A significant mixed positive and adverse effect was identified for policy R2 against SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy R3 against SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions).

Significant effects of development allocations

1.73 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).
- A significant adverse effect was identified for policy R13 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

1.74 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

1.75 The preferred policies outlined in Chapter 8 generally score the same or significantly better than their reasonable alternatives. 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.

Table 7: 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

1.76 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

1.77 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).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy TS1 against SA objective 4 (economic growth and regeneration).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy TS4 against SA objective 6 (education and social inclusion).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy TS4 against SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy TS7 against SA objective 9 (vibrant communities).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies TS1, TS3 and TS4 against SA objective 11 (access to services and facilities).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies TS2, TS5 and TS6 against SA objective 19 (traffic congestion).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

1.78 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

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

Table 8: 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 and commercial property and the natural environment flood events can bring. | 0 | -/? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| SA objectives | TS1 | TS2/ TS5 | TS3 | TS4 | TS6 | TS7 | TS8 | TS9 |
|--|-----|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 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

- 1.80 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

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

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 1.82 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

- 1.83 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.
- 1.84 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.

Table 9: 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

- 1.85 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

1.86 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).
- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies H1 and H30 against SA objectives 2 (cultural heritage) and 3 (biodiversity).
- A significant positive effect was recorded for policy H1 against SA objective 4 (economic growth and regeneration).
- A significant adverse effect was identified for H3 against SA objectives 6 (education and social inclusion) and 8 (health and wellbeing).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy H1 against SA objective 9 (vibrant communities).
- 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).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy H37 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings).
- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies H1, H3 and H6 against SA objective 13 (flood risk).
- A significant adverse effect was identified for policy H1 against SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions).
- A significant adverse effect was identified for policy H1 against SA objective 19 (traffic congestion).

Significant effects of development allocations

1.87 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).
- 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).
- 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).
- 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).

- 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).
- 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).
- 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).
- 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).
- 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).
- 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).
- Policy H17 Land North of London Road, Wickford, scored significant adverse effects on SA objectives 2 (cultural heritage) and 3 (biodiversity).
- Policy H18 Land South of London Road, Wickford, scored a significant adverse effect on SA objective 2 (cultural heritage).
- 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).
- Policies H20 Land West of Tye Common Road, Billericay, H21 Land South of London Road, Billericay and H22 Land West of Mountnessing 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).
- 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. 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.
- 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).
- 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).
- 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).
- 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).
- Policy H29 Housing Growth in Crays Hill, scored a significant adverse effect on SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 1.88 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

- 1.89 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).
 - 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.

Table 10: 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 10 (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

- 1.90 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

- 1.91 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).
 - Significant positive effects were identified for policies DES1, DES5, DES7 and DES9 against SA objective 2 (cultural heritage).
 - Significant positive effects were identified for policies DES1, DES5 and DES7 against SA objective 9 (vibrant communities).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

- 1.92 The sustainability appraisal of the Plan’s nine preferred policies within Chapter 12 identified no significant adverse effects.

Reasonable alternatives

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

Table 11: 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 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 | +/? | +/? |
| 11. Improve accessibility to and enhance local services and facilities. | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | + | 0 |

| SA objectives | DES1 | DES2 | DES3 | DES4 | DES5 | DES6 | DES7 | DES8 | DES9 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 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 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 | 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

1.94 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

1.95 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).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy HC5 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies HC1 and HC2 and HC9 against SA objective 6 (education and social inclusion).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies HC3 and HC5 against SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing).
- A significant positive effect was identified for HC1 against SA objective 10 (regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies HC1 – HC5 and HC9 against SA objective 11 (access to services and facilities).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

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

Reasonable alternatives

1.97 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.

Table 12: 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

1.98 Chapter 14 of the Draft Local Plan sets out the Council’s planning policies on 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

1.99 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).
- Significant adverse effects were identified for policies GB2 and GB3 against SA objective 1 (landscape, countryside and green spaces).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies GB1, GB5 and GB6, GB8 and GB11 against SA objective 2 (cultural heritage).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy GB11 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity).
- A significant adverse effect was identified for policy GB2 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy GB10 against SA objective 4 (economic growth and regeneration).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy GB1 against SA objective 5 (town centres).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies GB2 and GB3 and policy GB10 against SA objective 7 (meeting housing needs).
- 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).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy GB11 against SA objective 12 (re-use of previously developed land and buildings).
- Significant adverse effects were identified against policies GB2 and GB3 against SA objective 13 (flood risk).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

1.100 The significant adverse effects identified 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

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

Table 13: 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

1.102 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

1.103 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).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy CC2 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy CC1 against SA objective 11 (access to services and facilities).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies CC1 to CC4 against SA objective 13 (flood risk).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies CC1, CC5 and CC7 against SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies CC1 and CC5 against SA objective 16 (water resources).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy CC1 against SA objective 17 (preparedness for the effects of climate change).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy CC5 against SA objective 18 (waste).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy CC1 against SA objective 19 (traffic congestion).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

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

Reasonable alternatives

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

Table 14: 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

1.106 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

1.107 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).
- A significant positive effect was recorded for policy NE2 against SA objective 2 (cultural heritage).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies NE1, NE2, NE4 and NE5 against SA objective 3 (biodiversity).
- A significant adverse effect was identified for policy NE2 against SA objective 7 (meeting housing need).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy NE7 against SA objective 8 (health and wellbeing).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy NE1 against SA objective 14 (greenhouse gas emissions).
- Significant positive effects were identified for policies NE1 and NE7 against SA objective 15 (air, land and noise pollution).
- A significant positive effect was identified for policy NE7 against SA objective 16 (water resources).
- A significant positive effect is identified for policy NE1 against SA objective 17 (preparedness for the effects of climate change).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

1.108 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

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

Table 15: 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-use of materials from previous buildings. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ++ | 0 |

| SA objectives | NE1 | NE2 | NE3 | NE4 | NE5 | NE6 | NE7 | NE8 | NE9 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 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

1.110 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

1.111 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).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

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

Reasonable alternatives

1.113 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.

Table 16: 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, | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| SA objectives | HE1 | HE2 | HE3 | HE4 | HE5 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 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 | 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

- 1.114 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

- 1.115 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).

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

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

Reasonable alternatives

- 1.117 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.

Table 17: 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 |

Cumulative Effects

- 1.118 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.
- 1.119 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.
- 1.120 **Significant mixed effects (+ + / - -)** are predicted in respect of the following SA objectives:
- Objective 1: Landscape, countryside and green spaces.
 - Objective 2: Cultural heritage.
 - Objective 3: Biodiversity.
 - Objective 11: Access to local services and facilities.
 - Objective 12: Re-use of previously developed land and buildings.
 - Objective 14: Greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.121 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.

In combination effects

- 1.122 In addition to the potential effects arising from development in Basildon through the Draft Local 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.
- 1.123 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.
- 1.124 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.
- 1.125 Increased development outside the Borough could also exacerbate flood risk within the Borough, particularly to the north of the Borough.

Findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.126 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 out⁶.

Monitoring

- 1.127 Monitoring should be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. A number of significant adverse and significant positive effects have been identified in relation to the Draft Local Plan (including significant mixed effects). The Council has not yet prepared a monitoring framework to monitor implementation of the policies in the Draft Local Plan, but the main SA Report suggests some indicators for monitoring significant effects.

Conclusions

- 1.128 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.
- 1.129 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.
- 1.130 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.
- 1.131 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.
- 1.132 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

⁶ HRA of Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan, LUC, December 2015

likely to have significant adverse effects against the environmental SA objectives in relation to that part of the Borough.

- 1.133 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.
- 1.134 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.
- 1.135 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.
- 1.136 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.
- 1.137 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.

Next steps

- 1.138 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. 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.
- 1.139 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