Basildon Borough Local Plan

Integrated Impact Assessment

Draft Local Plan

Basildon Borough Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Basildon Borough Council (the Council) commissioned LUC in January 2023 to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) for its new Local Plan, comprising the following assessment processes:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

1.2 LUC is also undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the new Local Plan, which is being reported on separately.

1.3 This IIA report relates to the Draft Local Plan which is being subject to public consultation from November 2024. The IIA report will be published alongside the Draft Local Plan during the consultation period. An IIA Scoping Report was previously prepared and consulted on in February 2023, and an IIA report for the Issues and Options Local Plan consultation was prepared and consulted on during Summer 2023. Comments received during those consultations, as well as the most recent sources of evidence, have fed into the preparation of the Draft Local Plan, to which this IIA report relates.

1.4 It should be noted that this report is in an ‘Accessible format’, which means it has been formatted to meet the requirements of the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations (2018), as set out in the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1). This means it must have larger font, larger spacing between lines and headings, less information presented in tables, ‘alt text’ provided for all figures and it is able to be read by screen-reading software.

Context for the Basildon Borough Local Plan

1.5 Basildon Borough is in South Essex, 30 miles east of the City of London. It covers an area of 87km^2 and has a population of approximately 187,600 **[See reference** 1**]**. The main settlement is Basildon, a Mark 1 New Town designated in 1948 which was built in several phases over 50 years. The New Town area, to the south of the Borough, includes the neighbourhoods of Basildon, Laindon, Vange, Pitsea, Steeple View and Noak Bridge. Basildon has the largest population in the Borough. Two smaller towns are situated to the north of the Borough: Billericay (including Great Burstead and South Green and Break Egg Hill) is the second largest settlement followed closely by Wickford (incorporating Shotgate). The urban areas are enveloped by rural countryside containing two serviced villages and 13 smaller plotland settlements set within the Green Belt **[See reference** 2**]**.

1.6 The Borough's landscape comprises urban development, arable farmland, permanent grazing with hedgerows, woodland and a large area of Thames Estuary marshland. It also contains significant areas of plotland landscape, characterised by a mosaic of scrub, grassland and relict woodland habitats with small-scale communities of a rural nature.

1.7 Basildon Borough is served by two railway services running through the north and south of the Borough, both terminating in the City of London. National Express East Anglia provides services out of London Liverpool Street, which serves Billericay and Wickford with connections to Chelmsford, via Shenfield to the west. Rail services from Billericay/Wickford already connect with Stratford, connecting the Borough to Eurostar services at Stratford International and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. In the south of the Borough, the rail franchise 'c2c', operates out of Fenchurch Street London and serves Grays, Chafford Hundred (for Lakeside Shopping Centre), Stanford le Hope and Corringham, via Upminster. London Underground services on the District line depart from Upminster, with connections to the Jubilee line available from West Ham.

1.8 Basildon Borough is well connected to the regional and national road network with two major road routes, the A127 and A13, linking South Essex with the M25. Both these 'A' roads continue eastwards to Southend on Sea. The A130 in the east of the Borough together with the recent £63m investment in the new Sadlers Farm Junction provides dual carriageway access to Chelmsford, north Essex and Canvey Island. To the south west, preliminary planning work is under way to construct a new tunnel under the Thames to the east of Tilbury and Gravesend, called the 'Lower Thames Crossing' providing better connections to the southern bank of the river to the south and the M25 to the west. The Government is due to make a decision on funding in the summer of 2025.

1.9 Current conditions, trends and key issues for Basildon Borough in relation to social (including health and equalities), economic and environmental topics of relevance to the Local Plan and IIA are described in more detail in **Chapter 3 and Appendix C** of this IIA Report.

The Basildon Borough Local Plan

1.10 The Basildon Borough Local Plan is intended to shape how the Borough changes over the years to 2043 and possibly beyond. It will provide a positive vision for the future of Basildon Borough, help guide future investment and identify future land use by allocating development sites. It will also set out the planning policies that will help guide local decision making on planning applications to ensure that they contribute towards its vision and objectives.

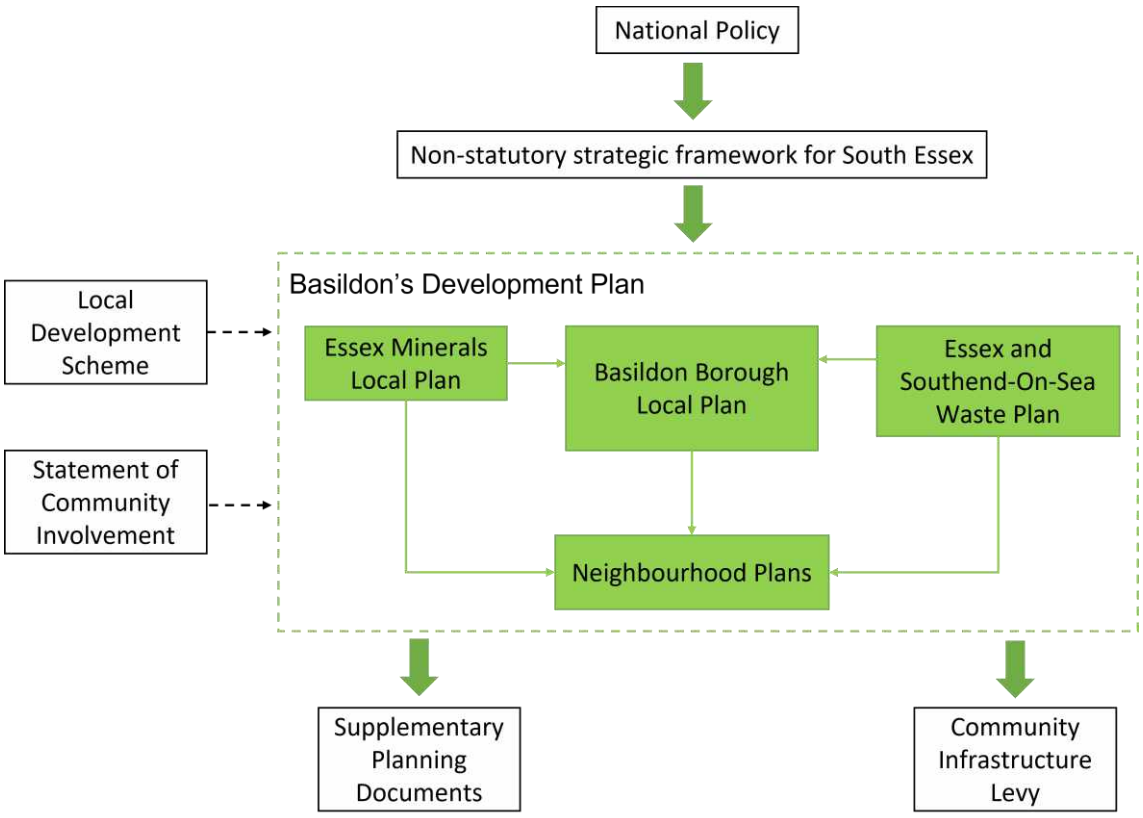
1.11 The Basildon Borough Local Plan is being prepared in accordance with the approved Local Development Scheme (2022-2027) **[See reference 3]**. Once adopted, the new Local Plan will replace the existing Basildon District Local Plan Saved Policies 2007 **[See reference 4]**. Future plan-making will also need to take full account of the adopted Essex Minerals and Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plans and the emerging non-statutory, strategic framework for South Essex which the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) is currently preparing. Work has commenced on several neighbourhood

development plans within Basildon Borough, and these will also become part of the statutory development plan once they are ‘made’.

1.12 The Council previously prepared an initial Issues and Options document for consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 in the summer of 2023. The Council is now consulting on a Draft Local Plan document which is the subject of this IIA report. The Draft Local Plan sets out policies for strategic growth, development management and site allocations. The Council has also updated its evidence base to ensure the new Local Plan is supported by relevant and up-to-date evidence.

1.13 The relationship of the Local Plan to other relevant planning policy and supporting documents is shown in **Figure 1.1**. The wider policy context within which the Local Plan and IIA must operate is described in **Chapter 3** and **Appendix B**.

Figure 1.1: Relationship of the Local Plan to other documents



Outline of the Local Plan and its objectives

1.14 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires the IIA Report to provide:

a) "an outline of the contents and main objectives of the Plan and its relationship with other relevant plans or programmes"

1.15 The Draft Local Plan presents an overall Vision for the Borough, which sets out the Council's aspirations for growth, change and sustainable development over the Plan period up to 2043. The Vision has been prepared to

build on the three key strategic themes from the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2028, which cover the full range of the Council's responsibilities and priorities:

- People: Basildon to be home to healthy and active local communities able to support themselves and each other.
- Place: Basildon to offer a high quality of life for all residents through attractive, liveable, accessible and safe neighbourhoods and towns along with the provision of enduring facilities, green spaces and town centres that meet the needs of the community.
- Prosperity: Basildon to have a thriving, dynamic and diverse economy where all our communities benefit from increased opportunity and our workforce has the right skills for our local economy and beyond.

1.16 Setting Strategic Objectives is a way of ensuring the Vision becomes a reality and form the basis of the Local Plan and shape how it will be delivered. The following Strategic Objectives are identified in the Draft Local Plan and will set the overall policy direction for all the strategic policies, site allocations and development management policies in the Local Plan:

- SO1: Protect and enhance the quality of the local environment.
- SO2: Improve the quality and value of the Green Belt.
- SO3: Minimise our impact on the environment.
- SO4: Create vibrant and thriving town centres.
- SO5: Strengthen the competitiveness of the local economy.
- SO6: Deliver a range of new homes to meet local needs.
- SO7: Mitigate against the impact of Climate Change.
- SO8: Help local people maintain healthier lifestyles.
- SO9: Enhance the quality of life for all.
- SO10: Secure the delivery of supporting infrastructure.

1.17 Building on the Vision and Strategic Objectives set out above, the Draft Local Plan presents 43 policies, set out in the following sections:

- Meeting our Growth Needs
- Building a Strong Competitive Economy
- Meeting Housing Needs
- Ensuring the Vitality of Town Centres
- Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure
- Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change and Flooding
- Achieving Well Designed Places
- Initial Proposals for Growth and Change

1.18 Policy SG1 sets out a commitment for 27,111 new homes and at least 65-82 ha of new employment land to be delivered by 2043, as well as 235 new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and at least 13 Travelling Showpeople Yards.

1.19 Chapter 12: Initial Proposals for Growth and Change sets out details of the suite of potential development sites for housing and employment that the Council is considering for allocation in the Local Plan. However, no sites are identified as proposed allocations at this stage of plan-making. These potential sites are located within the following areas:

- West Basildon
- Central Basildon Town
- West Basildon Town
- Billericay
- Wickford
- Bowers Gifford

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.20 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 **[See reference 5]** requires Local Plans to be subject to SA. SA is designed to ensure that the plan preparation process maximises the contribution that a plan makes to sustainable development and minimises any potential adverse impacts. The SA process involves appraising the likely social, environmental and economic effects of the policies and proposals within a plan from the outset of its development.

1.21 SEA is also a statutory assessment process, originally required under the European SEA Directive **[See reference 6]**, transposed in the UK by the SEA Regulations **[See reference 7]** and amended by the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232). As set out in the explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Brexit amendments **[See reference 8]**, they are necessary to ensure that the law functions correctly following the UK's exit from the EU. No substantive changes were made by this instrument to the way the SEA regime currently operates. Therefore, the SEA Regulations remain in force, and it is a legal requirement for the Basildon Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation. The SEA Regulations require the formal assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment and which set the framework for future consent of projects requiring Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) **[See reference 9]**. The purpose of SEA, as originally defined in Article 1 of the SEA Directive, is:

> "To provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans…with a view to promoting sustainable development."

1.22 SEA and SA are separate processes but have similar aims and objectives. Simply put, SEA focuses 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 planning practice guidance **[See reference** 10**]** shows how it is possible to satisfy both requirements by undertaking a joint SA and SEA process, and to present an SA Report that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations. The SA and SEA of the Local Plan is being undertaken using this integrated approach, as part of a wider IIA, and throughout this report the abbreviation 'IIA' should therefore be taken to include 'SA incorporating the requirements of SEA'.

1.23 The SA process comprises several stages, which in this case have been undertaken as part of an IIA, as set out below:

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

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects.

Stage C: Preparing the SA Report.

Stage D: Consulting on the Local Plan and the SA Report.

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan.

1.24 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) received royal assent in October 2023 and sets out the direction for planning, making provisions to support the levelling-up agenda. As part of this, it seeks to streamline the planning process, including through a reform of existing EU-generated systems of SA/SEA, Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will eventually be replaced by a simpler process known as 'Environmental Outcomes Reports'. However, secondary legislation will be required to introduce the new regime and at present the requirement to undertake SEA remains in force.

Health Impact Assessment

1.25 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a non-statutory process that identifies the health and wellbeing impacts (both positive and negative) of a plan or development proposal. It ensures that the effect of development on both health and health inequalities is considered and responded to during the planning process. Public Health England's 2020 guidance on 'Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning' outlines that, as the SEA Regulations require consideration of 'human health' as a topic, it is possible to integrate an HIA within an SA or IIA, although it is for the local authority to judge whether a standalone HIA is needed or whether an integrated assessment is a more appropriate approach **[See reference 11]**. For the assessment of the Basildon Local Plan, it is considered that an Integrated Assessment is appropriate to consider the social (including health), economic and environmental effects of the framework. Therefore, throughout this report, the term 'IIA' should be taken as incorporating the requirements of HIA.

1.26 Different health effects will arise among different groups of people and individuals exposed to the same risk or hazard. This is because of differences in their exposure to the hazard, their sensitivity and their capacity to respond to events (i.e., their resilience) or to adapt in the long term.

1.27 The HIA will follow the Essex Planning Officers' Association (EPOA) Health Impact Assessment methodology **[See reference** 12**]** which sets out ten key topics relating to health and wellbeing. These have been considered when identifying relevant environmental and socio-economic health determinants to inform the IIA framework (see **Chapter 2**):

1. Access to education:
   - Promote access to educational infrastructure.

2. Access to skills and employment:

- Promote access to education, skills, training and employment opportunities.

3. Access to healthcare services:
   - Provide appropriate access to NHS healthcare services and opportunities for self-care.

4. Access to open, green and blue spaces:
   - Provide access to interesting and stimulating open spaces and natural environments to encourage people to be physically active.

5. Active environments:
   - Ensure developments embody the principles of lifetime neighbourhoods and promote independent living.

6. Encourage active travel:
   - Encourage active travel through the promotion of walking, wheeling, cycling and other measures to reduce reliance on motorised transport.

7. Design of homes and housing:
   - Design of homes and spaces including the promotion and application of Sport England Active Design Principles.

8. Access to healthy food:
   - Promote better access to healthy and locally sourced food.

9. Support communities:
   - Create safe and accessible built environments with well-designed public spaces that encourage community participation and designed-out crime measures.

10. Environmental sustainability:

- Address environmental sustainability including future-proofing measures.

1.28 The way in which these health determinants have been integrated into the framework of objectives against which the likely effects of the Local Plan are being appraised is set out in **Chapter 2**. The IIA process seeks to understand how health is affected by the Local Plan so that, in assessing it, major relevant health issues are covered, maximising positive effects and preventing, offsetting or minimising negative ones, and promoting healthier planning.

Equalities Impact Assessment

1.29 The requirement to undertake formal Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) of development plans was introduced in the Equality Act 2010 but was abolished in 2012. Despite this, authorities are still required to have regard to the provisions of the Equality Act, namely the Public Sector Duty which requires public authorities to have due regard for equalities considerations when exercising their functions. Equality impacts have therefore been carefully considered and integrated into the IIA Framework. The IIA framework includes a specific objective in relation to equalities: IIA objective 3 - Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not, and all policy options have been appraised against this specific objective. In relation to site options, as explained in **Appendix D**, equalities issues are assessed on a spatial basis through a number of other IIA objectives.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.30 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of land-use plans was confirmed by the amendments to The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 **[See reference 13]**. The currently applicable version is The Conservation of Habitats and Species

Regulations 2017, as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 **[See reference 14]** (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Regulations"). When preparing a land-use plan, the competent authority is therefore required by law to carry out an HRA. The competent authority can commission consultants to undertake HRA work on its behalf which is then reported to and considered by the competent authority.

1.31 HRA refers to the assessment of the likely significant effects of a land-use plan on 'European sites' of nature conservation importance. European sites comprise Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), potential SPAs (pSPAs), candidate SACs (cSACs), Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and Ramsar sites although these are designated at an international level.

1.32 The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. The competent authority will consider the HRA and may only progress the land-use plan if it considers that it will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site or have a significant effect on qualifying habitats or species for which the European sites are designated, or if Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) are identified.

1.33 The HRA for the Basildon Local Plan is being undertaken separately to the IIA but the findings have been considered in the IIA where relevant, for example to inform judgements about the likely effects of potential development locations on biodiversity.

Approach to Integrated Impact Assessment

1.34 The methodology for this IIA is set out in **Chapter 2.** In accordance with the Government's Planning Practice Guidance on SEA/SA, the IIA Report is proportionate and relevant to the Local Plan, focussing on what is needed to

assess likely significant effects **[See reference** 15**]**. It also takes account of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the emphasis it places on achieving sustainable development.

1.35 This IIA Report follows key legislation, policy and guidance including:

- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans, and programmes on the environment i.e., the SEA Directive **[See reference** 16**]**;
- The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1633) **[See reference 17]**, as amended by the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232) **[See reference 18]**;
- Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal National Planning Practice Guidance **[See reference** 19**]**;
- A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive **[See reference** 20**]**;
- Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment **[See reference** 21**]**;
- Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal and the Historic Environment **[See reference** 22**]**;
- Strategic Environmental Assessment: Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal for land use plans **[See reference** 23**]**;
- Draft Guidance on Assessing Health Impacts in Strategic Environmental Assessment **[See reference** 24**]**; and
- Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning: A guide for local authority public health and planning teams **[See reference** 25**]**.

Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

1.36 The text in this section signposts the relevant sections of the IIA Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the IIA of the Local Plan). This section will be updated and included in the IIA report at each stage of plan-making to show how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met through the IIA process.

Regulation 12 and Schedule 2

1.37 The SEA Regulations require the responsible authority to prepare, or secure the preparation of, an 'environmental report', which in this case will comprise the IIA report. The environmental report must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme (Regulation 12). The information required by Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations is set out below, indicating which part(s) of the IIA Report provide that information:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.
    - Covered in **Chapter 1, Chapter 3** and **Appendix A** of this IIA Report.
- The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.
    - Covered in **Chapter 3 and Appendix B** of this IIA Report.
- The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.
    - Covered in **Chapter 3 and Appendix B** of this IIA Report.

- Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.
  - Covered in **Chapter 3 and Appendix B** of this IIA Report.
- The environmental protection objectives established at international, community or national level that are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been considered during its preparation.
  - Covered in **Chapter 3** and **Appendix A** of this IIA Report.
- The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape, and the interrelationship between these issues.
  - Covered in **Chapters 4, 5 and 6** of this IIA Report.
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.
  - Covered in **Chapters 4, 5 and 6** of this IIA Report.
- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken, including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.
  - Covered in **Chapter 2** of this IIA Report.
- A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Regulation 17.
  - Covered in **Chapter 8** of this IIA Report.

- A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.
    - A separate Non-Technical Summary has been prepared to accompany this full IIA report.

1.38 The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required considering current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process, and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Reg. 12(3)).

- This is addressed throughout the IIA Report.

1.39 When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies (Reg. 12(5)).

- Consultation was undertaken on the IIA Scoping Report from February to March 2023 with the three consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England). **Appendix C** presents a record of the comments received and how they have been addressed.

Regulation 13

1.40 Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Regulation 13).

- Consultation on the Issues and Options took place in late Summer 2023, accompanied by an earlier iteration of the IIA Report. Consultation on the Draft Local Plan and this IIA report is taking place from November 2024.

Regulation 14

1.41 EU Member States must be consulted where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Regulation 14).

- The Basildon Local Plan is not expected to have significant effects on EU Member States.The implications of Brexit are considered in Chapter 3.

Regulation 16

1.42 Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Reg. 14 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:

- The plan or programme as adopted;
- A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report, the opinions expressed, and the results of consultations entered have been considered, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- The measures to be taken to monitor the likely significant effects of the plan or programme.
    - To be addressed after the Basildon Local Plan is adopted.

Regulation 17

1.43 Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation.

- To be addressed after the Basildon Local Plan is adopted.

Quality assurance

1.44 Environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations.

- This IIA Report has been produced in line with current guidance and good practice for SEA/SA and this section has demonstrated where the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met.

Structure of the IIA report

1.45 This chapter has described the background to the production of the Basildon Local Plan and the requirement to undertake the assessment processes included in the IIA. The remainder of this IIA Report is structured into the following sections:

- **Chapter 2** sets out the methodology for the IIIA, including the IIA framework against which the effects of the Local Plan are being assessed and explains how this has been developed.
- **Chapter 3** presents the sustainability context for the Local Plan and the IIA, including the policy context and baseline and key sustainability issues in the Borough.
- **Chapter 4** presents an appraisal of the options that were contained within the Basildon Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Document.
- **Chapter 5** presents the IIA findings for the reasonable alternative development site options considered for allocation in the Local Plan to date.
- **Chapter 6** presents the IIA findings for the policies and site allocations in the Draft Local Plan.
- **Chapter 7** summarises the cumulative effects of the Draft Local Plan as a whole.
- **Chapter 8** proposes monitoring indicators.

- **Chapter 9** presents the conclusions of the IIA to date and outlines the next steps.
- **Appendix A** provides a comprehensive review of relevant plans, policies and programmes.
- **Appendix B** presents the baseline information for Basildon.
- **Appendix C** sets out the comments received by statutory consultees in response to the consultation on the Scoping Report, held in February 2023.
- **Appendix D** presents the criteria that were used to consistently appraise the reasonable alternative site options for the Local Plan.
- A separate **Annexe 1** contains detailed proformas for each of the reasonable alternative site options considered for allocation in the Local Plan.

Chapter 2

Methodology

2.1 In addition to complying with legal requirements, the approach being taken to the IIA of the Basildon Local Plan is based on current good practice and the guidance on SA/SEA set out in the Government's Planning Practice Guidance. This calls for the SA/SEA (in this case incorporated into an IIA) to be carried out as an integral part of the plan-making process. The section below sets out the main stages of the plan-making process and shows how these correspond to the SA/SEA (in this case IIA) process.

Main Stages of plan-making, SA and SEA (IIA)

Local Plan Evidence Gathering and Engagement

- SA/SEA/IIA Stage A – Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope:
  - Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.
  - Collecting baseline information.
  - Identifying sustainability issues and problems.
  - Developing the SA/IIA framework.
  - Consulting on the scope of the SA/IIA.

Local Plan Production

- SA/SEA/IIA Stage B – Developing and refining options and assessing effects:
  - Testing the Local Plan objectives against the SA/IIA framework.
  - Developing the Local Plan options.
  - Evaluating the effects of the Local Plan.
  - Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.
  - Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan.
- SA/SEA/IIA Stage C – Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal (or IIA) Report.
- SA/SEA/IIA Stage D – Seek representations on the Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal (or IIA) Report:
  - Public participation on Local Plan and the SA/IIA Report.
  - Appraising significant changes.

Local Plan Examination

- SA/SEA/IIA Stage D (cont.):
  - Appraising significant changes resulting from representations.

Local Plan Adoption and Monitoring

- SA/SEA/IIA Stage D (cont.):
  - Making decisions and providing information.
- SA/SEA/IIA Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan:

- Finalising aims and methods for monitoring.
- Responding to adverse effects.

Stage A: Scoping

2.2 The IIA process began with the production of an IIA Scoping Report for the Local Plan, prepared by LUC in February 2023. The Scoping stage of the IIA involves understanding the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan area, as well as the sustainability policy context and key sustainability issues.

Review other relevant policies, plans and programmes to establish policy context

2.3 The Local Plan is not prepared in isolation; rather it is prepared within the context of other policies, plans and programmes. The SEA Regulations require the Environmental Report to describe the relationship of the plan with other relevant plans and programmes. It should also be consistent with environmental protection legislation and support attainment of sustainability objectives that have been established at the international, national and regional/sub-regional levels.

2.4 The IIA Scoping Report contained a review of relevant policies, plans and programmes at the national, regional and local levels that were considered to be relevant to the scope of the Local Plan. This review has since been updated to reflect the consultation comments received and newly published documents. An up-to-date summary of the relevant international and national level policies, plans and programmes is provided in **Chapter 3** of this IIA report and the full record can be found in **Appendix A**.

Collect baseline information to establish sustainability context

2.5 Information on existing environmental, social and economic conditions in the plan area provides the baseline against which the plan's effects can be assessed in the IIA and monitored during the plan's implementation. Baseline information can also be combined with an understanding of drivers of change that are likely to persist regardless of the Local Plan to understand the likely future sustainability conditions in the absence of the Local Plan.

2.6 The SEA Regulations require the Environmental Report (in this case the IIA report) to describe relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and how they are likely to evolve without the plan. An understanding of this likely future, together with the assessed effects of the plan itself, additionally allows the IIA to report on cumulative effects, another requirement of the SEA Regulations.

2.7 The SEA Regulations require assessment of effects in relation to the following 'SEA topics': biodiversity, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape, and the inter-relationship between these. Baseline information was therefore collected in relation to the SEA topics and additional sustainability topics were also addressed, covering broader socio-economic issues such as housing, access to services, crime and safety, education and employment. This reflects the integrated approach that is being taken to the SA, SEA and other impact assessment processes. Baseline information for the Borough was presented in the IIA Scoping Report produced by LUC in February 2023 and was updated in the Issues and Options IIA report published in the summer of 2023 to reflect the consultation comments received and updated data that had become available. The baseline information has again been subject to an update during the preparation of this report and can be found in **Appendix B**.

Identify sustainability issues

2.8 The baseline information also allows the identification of existing sustainability issues, including problems as required by the SEA Regulations. The sustainability issues and their likely evolution without the Local Plan were initially presented in the IIA Scoping Report and are now set out in **Appendix B** of this IIA report.

Developing the IIA framework

2.9 The relevant sustainability objectives identified by the review of other policies, plans and programmes together with the key sustainability issues facing the Borough, identified by the collection and review of baseline information in the IIA Scoping Report, informed the development of a set of sustainability objectives (the 'IIA framework') against which the effects of the Plan would be assessed. These objectives also take into account the types of issues that are capable of being affected by the land use planning system.

2.10 Development of an assessment framework is not a requirement of the SEA Regulations but is a recognised way in which the likely sustainability effects of a plan can be transparently and consistently described, analysed and compared. The IIA framework comprises a series of sustainability objectives and supporting criteria that are used to guide the appraisal of the policies and proposals within a plan. The IIA framework for the Basildon Local Plan is set out further ahead in this chapter.

Consult on the scope and level of detail of the IIA

2.11 Public and stakeholder participation is an important part of the IIA and wider plan-making processes. It helps to ensure that the IIA report is robust and

has due regard for all appropriate information that will support the Plan in making a contribution to sustainable development.

2.12 The SEA Regulations require the statutory consultation bodies (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) to be consulted "when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included" in the IIA Report. The scope and level of detail of the IIA is governed by the IIA framework and the statutory consultees have therefore been consulted on this when it was developed as part of the scoping process for the IIA Report. The Council undertook consultation with the statutory consultees for the IIA Scoping Report in early 2023.

2.13 Appendix C contains the comments that were received during this period of consultation.

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects.

2.14 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process, usually involving a number of consultations with the public and stakeholders. Consultation responses and the IIA help to identify where there may be 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for a plan.

2.15 In relation to the IIA report that needs to be prepared for the Basildon Local Plan, Part 3 of the SEA Regulations 12 (2) requires that:

> "The (environmental or SA/IIA) report must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of—
>
> - implementing the plan or programme; and

- reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme."

2.16 Schedule 2 (h) of the SEA Regulations requires that the Environmental (or SA/IIA) Report includes a description of:

"(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with"

2.17 The SEA Regulations therefore require that when considering the policies and site allocations for inclusion in a plan, any alternative policy approaches or site options that are 'reasonable' must be subject to appraisal. Therefore, alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. Examples of unreasonable alternatives could include policy options that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the NPPF) or site allocation options that are unavailable or undeliverable.

2.18 The IIA findings are not the only factors taken into account when plan-makers are determining a preferred option to take forward in a plan. Indeed, there will often be an equal number of positive or negative effects identified by the IIA for each option, such that it is not possible to rank them based on sustainability performance in order to select a preferred option. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting preferred options for the plan.

2.19 The consideration of reasonable alternatives has been a key focus of attention within the IIA process. Information about how policy and site options have been identified by Basildon Council to date and which ones are 'reasonable alternatives and therefore been subject to IIA can be found in **Chapters 4, 5 and 6**.

Stage C: Preparing the IIA report

2.20 This IIA report describes the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the IIA of the emerging Basildon Local Plan. It contains an appraisal of the Vision and Strategic Objectives, as well as the policies and site allocations included in the Draft Local Plan. The focus of the appraisal is on the identification of significant effects, whether positive or negative, in accordance with the SEA Regulations.

2.21 This IIA report is intended to meet all the reporting requirements of Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations.

Stage D: Consultation on the Local Plan and this IIA report

2.22 Basildon Council is inviting comments on the Draft Basildon Local Plan and this IIA report. These documents are being published on the Council's website for consultation from November 2024.

2.23 Consultation previously took place on the Issues and Options and accompanying IIA Report during Summer 2023. The IIA-related responses received during that consultation are summarised and responded to in **Appendix C**.

Stage E: Monitoring and implementation of the Local Plan

2.24 Recommendations for monitoring the likely significant social, environmental and economic effects of implementing the Local Plan are included in **Chapter 8** of this IIA Report.

Appraisal methodology

2.25 The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2(8) require the Environmental Report to include:

> "…a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information."

IIA framework

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

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

2.27 The development of a set of IIA objectives (known as the IIA framework) is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared. The SA framework for the Local Plan was established in the 2013 Basildon Borough Local Plan Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Update. The IIA framework presented overleaf builds on and streamlines that framework, having been

reviewed and updated to consider the requirements of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) as well as Sustainability Appraisal (SA), the latest baseline and key sustainability issues and opportunities identified for Basildon Borough, and the latest targets and objectives set out in other relevant plans, programmes and strategies. This updated IIA framework will help to ensure that the IIA of the Local Plan reflects recent global events (such as the COVID-19 pandemic), challenges and priorities, thereby helping to deliver an ambitious Local Plan.

2.28 The IIA objectives and appraisal guidance (which provide a guide to the factors that should be considered when carrying out assessments) set out in the IIA framework may be subject to change as new information comes to light during the IIA process.

2.29 The IIA framework for the appraisal of the Basildon Local Plan is set out below. Each primary bullet point constitutes an IIA objective and the sub-bullet points set out further guidance to help guide the appraisal of each objective. The questions included in the framework are not exhaustive, and some may be more relevant to certain elements of the Local Plan than others. The framework below also highlights where the topics set out in the SEA Regulations have been addressed by the IIA objectives, and whether each objective supports the Basildon Local Plan Health Impact Assessment and/or Equalities Impact Assessment.

2.30 The relationship between the key sustainability issues, the IIA objectives and the SEA Topics, Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics and Essex Planning Officers' Association Health Impact Assessment topics is set out in relation to each IIA objective below.

IIA framework for the Basildon Local Plan

IIA objective 1: Housing

- IIA objective 1 – Provide new and affordable housing to meet identified needs of the whole community, covering housing of a suitable mix and type.
  - Does the Local Plan provide the amount and mix (size; tenures) of homes to meet local needs over the plan period, including sites for gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople?
  - Will the Local Plan increase the range and affordability of housing to support the growing population and for all social groups?
  - Will the Local Plan address the housing needs of older people, disabled people and vulnerable groups e.g., accessible and adaptable housing, extra care housing or sheltered housing?
  - Does the Local Plan promote good design through layout, orientation and internal space standards?
  - Does the Local Plan promote delivery of new housing to lifetime homes specifications?
  - Will the Local Plan safeguard and enhance the identity of the Borough's existing residential communities?

Relevant SEA topics and coverage of Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

- Population;
- Human health;
- Material assets;

- Equalities Impact Assessment – Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics:
  - Age: Children (0-4), Younger people (aged 18-24), older people (aged 60 and over); and,
  - Disability: Disabled people, people with physical and mental impairment.
- Health Impact Assessment:
  - Suitable, quality housing provides mental benefits of security and physical health benefits of having a healthy living environment; and,
  - Addresses EPOA objective 7: Design of homes and housing.

IIA objective 2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety

- IIA objective 2 – Create a safe, healthy and inclusive living environment and encourage healthy lifestyles, improving access to local services and facilities that promote prosperity, health, well-being, recreation and integration.
  - Does the Local Plan promote equality of access and opportunity through adequate provision and distribution of local community, health, education and retail services and facilities for all?
  - Does the Local Plan seek to facilitate the integration of new communities with existing communities by delivering a mix of supporting/other uses alongside housing development?
  - Does the Local Plan promote physical activity and outdoor recreation by maintaining, connecting and creating a range of accessible, new, high quality, multifunctional open spaces, green and blue infrastructure, recreation, play and sports facilities?
  - Does the Local Plan facilitate access to high quality health facilities for all, including ensuring access to GPs and health centres with sufficient capacity to serve the local population?

- Does the Local Plan protect physical and mental health and wellbeing by preventing, avoiding and mitigating adverse health effects associated with air pollution, noise, vibration, odour, and contamination of land and water?
- Does the Local Plan promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging and facilitating walking, wheeling and cycling?
- Does the Local Plan improve road safety, such as through traffic calming measures or better lighting?
- Will the Local Plan help to reduce levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime e.g., by including measures to increase safety and security of new development and public realm?
- Does the Local Plan promote access to safe, inclusive and accessible, open spaces, including for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities?
- Does the Local Plan promote accessibility to healthier food options and seek to restrict the density of unhealthy food outlets?

Relevant SEA topics and coverage of Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

- Population;
- Human health;
- Equalities Impact Assessment – all Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics;
- Health Impact Assessment:
  - This objective directly addresses health and wellbeing;
  - Ensuring access to services and facilities means that people can access healthcare, recreation and sport facilities, and meet their daily needs, ensuring both physical and mental wellbeing;

- Reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime is important for physical and mental wellbeing;
- Creating cohesive neighbourhoods with high levels of pedestrian activity/outdoor interaction, ensures both physical and mental wellbeing and addresses all EPOA objectives.

IIA objective 3: Equalities

- IIA objective 3 – Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not.
  - Does the Local Plan remove or reduce disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics?
  - Does the Local Plan promote inclusive design, including making places accessible for people with limited mobility, neurodiversity and disabilities?
  - Does the Local Plan help meet the needs of people with certain protected characteristics (i.e., age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.)?

Relevant SEA topics and coverage of Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

- Population;
- Human health;
- Equalities Impact Assessment – all Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics; and,
- Health Impact Assessment:
  - Equality of opportunity ensures everyone can access the services and facilities they need, as well as promoting a sense of inclusion.

IIA objective 4: Economy and employment

- IIA objective 4 – Facilitate a prosperous and growing economy that creates a range of new jobs and improves vitality and viability of town centres.
  - Does the Local Plan provide an adequate supply of land and infrastructure to meet the Borough's forecast employment needs with sufficient flexibility to respond to uncertainties and changing economic circumstances?
  - Does the Local Plan enable access to employment opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged groups and deprived areas?
  - Does the Local Plan support opportunities for the expansion and diversification of business and inward investment?
  - Does the Local Plan maintain and enhance the economic vitality and vibrancy of town centres?
  - Does the Local Plan support an appropriate level of retail and other services in smaller service centres and rural areas?
  - Does the Local Plan support sustainable tourism within the Borough?

Relevant SEA topics and coverage of Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

- Population and human health;
- Material assets;
- Equalities Impact Assessment – all Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics;
- Health Impact Assessment:
  - Security of employment is important for mental wellbeing; and,
  - Addresses EPOA objective 2: Access to skills and employment.

IIA objective 5: Transport

- IIA objective 5 – Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents, and promote sustainable modes of transport and efficient movement patterns in the Borough.
  - Does the Local Plan encourage a modal shift to sustainable modes of transport by supporting maintenance and expansion of public and active transport networks?
  - Does the Local Plan support the provision and maintenance of facilities for electric vehicle charging and car-sharing?
  - Does the Local Plan reduce the need to travel by promoting the delivery of integrated, compact communities made-up of a complementary mix of land uses?
  - Does the Local Plan help to address road congestion and its causes?

Relevant SEA topics and coverage of Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

- Air;
- Climatic factors;
- Population and human health;
- Equalities Impact Assessment – Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics:
  - Age: Children (0-4), Younger people (aged 18-24), older people (aged 60 and over);
  - Disability: Disabled people, people with physical and mental impairment;
- Health Impact Assessment:
  - Encouraging active travel, such as walking, wheeling and cycling can have a wider range of positive implications for health, including

increased physical activity and opportunities for social interaction. In addition, an increase in active travel would be associated with a decrease in vehicular transport and an associated decrease in air pollutants that can be harmful to human health; and,

- Addresses EPOA objectives 5: Active environments and 6: Encouraging active travel.

IIA objective 6: Air

- IIA objective 6 – Improve air quality by reducing emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants.
  - Does the Local Plan improve air quality by minimising pollutant emissions from all sources?

Relevant SEA topics and coverage of Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

- Air;
- Climatic factors;
- Population;
- Human health;
- Biodiversity;
- Equalities Impact Assessment – all Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics;
- Health Impact Assessment:
  - Poor air quality can lead to and aggravate respiratory diseases; and,
  - Addresses EPOA objective 10: Environmental sustainability.

IIA objective 7: Mineral, soil, water and waste

- IIA objective 7 – To promote sustainable forms of development that maintain and improve the quality of the Borough's natural resources, including minerals, soils, waters and waste materials.
  - Does the Local Plan prioritise development of brownfield/previously developed land over greenfield land, where possible, recognising the limited amount of brownfield land in the Borough and the potential for some brownfield sites to have high biodiversity interest, particularly for invertebrates?
  - Does the Local Plan support the efficient use of natural resources, minimising waste and promoting appropriate waste management in line with the waste hierarchy?
  - Does the Local Plan avoid the sterilisation of mineral and best and most versatile soil resources?
  - Does the Local Plan protect and enhance the quality of waterbodies?
  - Does the Local Plan ensure there are sufficient water resources and waste water treatment capacity to accommodate new development?
  - Does the Local Plan promote the efficient use of water, such as minimising water consumption and abstraction and by encouraging re-use of grey and rainwater?

Relevant SEA topics and coverage of Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

- Material assets;
- Climatic factors;
- Soil;
- Water;
- Biodiversity;

- Landscape;
- Health Impact Assessment:
  - Sustainable use of resources ensures that resources are available for essential infrastructure, including transport, health centres and local amenities;
  - Optimising reuse and minimising waste also benefit the wider environment and the ecosystem services it provides;
  - Availability of clean water is essential for drinking and sanitation;
  - Best and most versatile land is important for food growing; and,
  - Addresses EPOA objective 8: Access to healthy food and 10: Environmental sustainability.

IIA objective 8: Climate change mitigation

- IIA objective 8 – Reduce Basildon Borough's contribution to climate change.
  - Does the Local Plan promote energy efficiency by encouraging the use of energy efficient buildings and plant?
  - Does the Local Plan minimise greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?
  - Does the Local Plan increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources?

Relevant SEA topics and coverage of Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

- Climatic factors;
- Air;
- Water;

- Material assets;
- Population;
- Human health;
- Health Impact Assessment:
  - Activities that generate greenhouse gas emissions often generate other pollutants that adversely affect health and wellbeing; and,
  - Addresses EPOA objective 10: Environmental sustainability.

IIA objective 9: Climate change adaptation

- IIA objective 9 – Reduce Basildon Borough's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.
  - Does the Local Plan seek to build resilience, protect health and wellbeing and adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as flood, drought, overheating, and extreme weather events particularly on groups more vulnerable to the effects of climate change?
  - Does the Plan avoid placing people and property in areas of flood risk, or where it exceptionally does, is it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere, considering the effects of climate change?
  - Does the Local Plan encourage the creation, management and enhancement of a coherent green and blue infrastructure network?

Relevant SEA topics and coverage of Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

- Climatic factors;
- Air;
- Water;
- Soil;

- Population;
- Human health;
- Equalities Impact Assessment – Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics:
  - Age: Children (0-4), Younger people (aged 18-24), older people (aged 60 and over);
  - Disability: Disabled people, people with physical and mental impairment; and
  - Pregnancy and maternity.
- Health Impact Assessment:
  - Climate change impacts on health and wellbeing for example by increasing weather-related illnesses and accidents (such as heat strokes and storm damage), affecting food production and increasing the spread of disease;
  - Flooding can result in emotional and financial stress, as well as the spread of disease; and,
  - Addresses EPOA objective 10: Environmental sustainability.

IIA objective 10: Biodiversity and geodiversity

- IIA objective 10 – Value, maintain, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and geodiversity.
  - Does the Local Plan conserve and enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance, taking into account the impacts of climate change?
  - Does the Local Plan conserve international, national, regional or locally important terrestrial or aquatic species, taking into account the impacts of climate change?

- Dose the Local Plan conserve, enhance and improve the connectivity of the Nature Recovery Network of ecological assets and green/blue spaces, considering the impacts of climate change?
- Does the Local Plan require that development deliver above 10% net gains in biodiversity?

Relevant SEA topics and coverage of Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

- Biodiversity;
- Climatic Factors;
- Soil;
- Water;
- Health Impact Assessment:
  - Well-functioning ecosystems provide a range of ecosystem services, including clean air and water, pollination of food crops and opportunities for recreation;
  - Connection with nature can improve mental wellbeing; and,
  - Addresses EPOA objective 4: Access to open, green and blue spaces.

IIA objective 11: Historic environment

- IIA objective 11 – Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage.
  - Does the Local Plan conserve and enhance designated and undesignated heritage assets, including their setting and their contribution to wider local character and distinctiveness, avoiding adverse effects on their significance?

- Does the Local Plan outline opportunities for improvements to the conservation, management and enhancement of the historic environment?
- Does the Local Plan promote access to the local historic environment?
- Does the Local Plan seek to manage current and future risks to the historic environment, such as climate change?

Relevant SEA topics and coverage of Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

- Historic environment;
- Landscape;
- Health Impact Assessment:
  - The historic environment can promote wellbeing by providing a sense of place, pride in the local area, and intellectual stimulation; and,
  - Addresses EPOA objective 4: Access to open, green and blue spaces and 9: Supporting communities.

IIA objective 12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts

- IIA objective 12 – Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and townscape, ensuring development does not detract from the quality of views and local distinctiveness.
  - Does the Local Plan value, conserve and enhance sensitive and special landscapes, and townscapes?
  - Does the Local Plan value, conserve and enhance the landscape character of the Borough?
  - Is the scale/density of development in keeping with important and valued features of the local landscape and seascape?

- Does the Local Plan encourage high quality design principles to respect local character?
- Does the Local Plan seek to enhance the range and quality of the public realm and open spaces?

Relevant SEA topics and coverage of Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

- Historic environment;
- Landscape;
- Health Impact Assessment:
  - The landscape and townscape can promote wellbeing by providing a sense of place, a sense of peace and beauty, interest and providing sites for recreation; and,
  - Addresses EPOA objective 4: Access to open, green and blue spaces and 9: Supporting communities.

Key to IIA effects

2.31 The findings of the IIA are presented using colour coded symbols showing an effect for each option against each of the IIA objectives along with a concise justification for the effect given, where appropriate. The symbols and colour coding used are shown in **Table 2.1** below.

Table 2.1: Key to IIA effects symbols

Symbol and Colour Coding Used	Description of Effect
++	Significant positive effect likely.

Symbol and Colour Coding Used	Description of Effect
++/-	Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects likely.
+	Minor positive effect likely.
+/	Mixed minor effects likely.
++/--	Mixed significant effects likely.
-	Minor negative effect likely.
--/+	Mixed significant negative and minor positive effects likely.
	Significant negative effect likely.
0	No or negligible effect likely.
?	Likely effect uncertain.
N/A	Assessment criterion not applicable.

2.32 Where a potential positive or negative effect is uncertain, a question mark was added to the relevant symbol (e.g. +? or -?) and the symbol has been colour coded as per the potential positive, negligible or negative effect (e.g. green, white, yellow, pink, etc.). Negligible effects are recorded where a policy or site allocation is considered to have no effect in contributing to achievement of the IIA objective. This is usually the case when an objective or policy is focused on a very narrow topic and would only affect two or three IIA objectives.

2.33 The likely effects of options and policies need to be determined and their significance assessed, which inevitably requires a series of judgments to be made. The appraisal has attempted to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown above. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either (++) or (--) has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this is because the effect of an option or policy on the IIA objective in question is considered to be of such

magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective. However, effects are relative to the scale of proposals under consideration.

2.34 Mixed effects have only been presented where directly opposing effects (i.e. positive and negative) have been identified through the appraisal (e.g. +/-, ++/-, --/+ and ++/--). For some IIA objectives, it is possible that a policy might have a minor positive effect in relation to one aspect of the policy and a significant positive effect in relation to another aspect (giving a score of +/++). However, in these instances, only the significant score is shown in the appraisal tables. Similarly, if a policy could have a minor and significant negative effect (-/--) for the same IIA objective, only the significant negative score is shown in the appraisal tables. The justification text relating to the appraisal describes where the various elements of the policy or site being appraised might have potential to result in effects of differing magnitude.

The Use of Site Assessment Criteria

2.35 IIA inevitably relies on an element of subjective judgement. However, in order to ensure consistency in the appraisal of the site options, detailed sets of site assessment criteria were developed and applied. The criteria relate specifically to each type of site option (i.e. residential, employment and mixed-use sites) and set out clear parameters within which certain IIA effects would be identified, based on factors such as the distance of site options from features such as biodiversity designations, public transport links and areas of high landscape sensitivity. The criteria are presented in **Appendix D**. They were applied mainly through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data.

Difficulties encountered

2.36 To date, the main difficulties encountered or limitations of the IIA process include:

- The high-level nature of the strategic policy options meant that at this stage it was difficult to assess in detail the likely effects of the options on each IIA objective. Once policies have been worked up in more detail (particularly in terms of the spatial strategy and individual site allocation policies), it should be possible to draw more certain conclusions about their likely effects and make recommendations on how policy options might be worded to improve their sustainability performance.
- Because many effects of development are dependent on the exact location, layout and design of development, it may be possible to mitigate some of the effects highlighted in this IIA. However, given the inherent uncertainties about these details at this stage of planning and assessment, the IIA focuses on identifying potential significant effects of the options considered, without making assumptions about detailed design or mitigation measures that might be implemented.
- The number of strategies, plans, programmes, policy documents, advice and guidance produced by a range of statutory and non-statutory bodies means that it has not been possible within the resources available to consider every potentially relevant document in detail (see **Chapter 3** and **Appendix A**). Strategies, plans and programmes will be newly prepared or updated throughout the preparation of the local plan and each iteration of the IIA will take account of those changes, where it is appropriate.
- The IIA of future iterations of the Local Plan and associated new reasonable alternatives will continue to benefit from the more recent, accurate and consistent evidence available.

Probability

2.37 There is an inherent degree of uncertainty in carrying out an IIA. Should it be adopted, the Local Plan would likely be in place for several years. Over this time, currently unforeseen changes are likely to occur. For example, any given community facility in Basildon Borough could potentially close or move within a period of months, and thus an assessment which considers that a Local Plan policy or site would provide new residents with good access to this facility pre-development, may not do so by the time construction begins. These

circumstances are impossible to predict. The planning system is generally robust enough to deal with such changes by re-assessing the needs of sites and communities at the time applications are made. Uncertainties are dealt with in IIA by adopting a precautionary approach, wherein a reasonable worst-case scenario is assumed unless reliable evidence suggests otherwise. This is to ensure that any potentially significant negative effects are identified, and appropriate consideration is given to how the Local Plan could help to avoid or mitigate the worst effects if such scenarios were to arise. However, it is accepted that the likelihood of many such worst-case scenarios occurring is low, particularly as the comprehensive array of policies proposed in the Local Plan would help to avoid or mitigate negative impacts.

2.38 The assessment of Local Plan options will indicate where uncertainties exist in relation to the effects identified.

Duration, including short, medium and long-term impacts

2.39 The temporal scope of the IIA covers the Local Plan period. For the purposes of the IIA:

- Short term covers the period for 0-5 years, or during construction (inclusive of temporary impacts);
- Medium term covers the period for 5-20 years; and
- Long term covers the period over 20 years, beyond the Local Plan period.

2.40 Effects can occur over multiple terms, such as arising in the short-term and residing in the long-term.

Frequency

2.41 All effects of the Local Plan are considered to occur once, unless indicated otherwise.

Reversibility

2.42 The assessment will consider whether effects are reversible or irreversible. For example, reversible effects may be identified where a former mineral site is proposed for restoration to open space; irreversible effects may be identified where development is proposed on greenfield land thereby resulting in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.

Cumulative and synergistic effects

2.43 The IIA provides an appraisal of all reasonable options considered for inclusion in the Local Plan. The Vision, Strategic Objectives, policies and site allocations included in the Local Plan will not be adopted in isolation and therefore an evaluation of the cumulative and synergistic effects of the emerging Draft Local Plan has been undertaken. Cumulative and synergistic effects are defined as follows:

- Cumulative effects arise, for instance, where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect, or where several individual effects have a combined effect; and
- Synergistic effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects, so that the nature of the final impact is different to the nature of the individual impacts.

Transboundary effects

2.44 The geographical extent of effects will be experienced predominantly in Basildon Borough. However, where effects would be likely to be discernible in neighbouring authorities or at a scale greater than Basildon Borough, this will be specified. For example, transboundary effects may be experienced as housing provision and education can all result in flows of people across local authority boundaries. Furthermore, the high number of Basildon Borough residents

commuting to other local authority areas for work, mainly by private car, is contributing to traffic congestion and poor air quality in the region.

Secondary effects

2.45 The assessment process inherently includes a consideration of secondary effects. Secondary effects are defined as “effects that are not a direct result but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway”.

Permanent or temporary

2.46 The assessment will indicate whether effects are temporary or permanent in nature. Many of the effects of policies in the Local Plan are permanent; however some will be temporary, for example construction impacts associated with new development resulting from the Local Plan.

Positive and negative effects and significance

2.47 As described earlier in this chapter, the IIA will evaluate whether the nature of effects is likely to be positive, negative, neutral or mixed. The magnitude of effects in relation to each IIA objective will be defined as significant or minor. For example, a significant positive effect would be identified where an option is likely to significantly contribute to the achievement of an IIA objective, whereas an adverse effect (either significant or minor negative) would be identified where the option conflicts with the IIA objective. Options which are unlikely to significantly influence whether an objective will be achieved will have a neutral effect. Mixed effects may be identified where an option is expected to have both a positive and negative effect on the IIA objective.

2.48 Minor effects will still be identified as these assist with the identification of cumulative and synergistic effects (e.g., several minor effects can combine to become a significant effect), can help to identify opportunities for enhancements

(e.g., enhancing a minor positive effect to make it significant) and better enable the Council to make a more informed decision over the sustainability performance of options.

2.49 In determining the significance of the effects of the options for potential inclusion in the Local Plan, the IIA will consider the plan's relationship with the other documents in the planning system such as the NPPF and other national policy approaches, and regulatory requirements, as these may provide additional safeguards or mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects.

Chapter 3

Sustainability Context

Policy context

3.1 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires the SA (or IIA) Report to describe:

> (e) "the environmental protection objectives established at International, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"

3.2 To establish a clear scope for the IIA it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the environmental, social and economic policy objectives that the Basildon Local Plan should seek to conform with. This chapter summarises the international and national policy objectives that should be taken into consideration during preparation of the plan. These objectives have been considered when drafting the IIA framework in **Chapter 2**.

3.3 There is an extensive range of policy documents that are of potential relevance to the Local Plan preparation and IIA process. A pragmatic and proportionate approach has been taken to the review of the policy context, seeking to identify key sustainability (i.e. environmental, social or economic) objectives that have the potential to be influenced by a local plan. A summary of the relevant objectives of key policy documents is provided in this chapter with a wider and more detailed review provided in **Appendix A**.

Implications of Brexit

3.4 As of the end of January 2020 the UK has left the EU. Principally, the UK's environmental law is derived from EU law or was directly effective EU law. As a result of Brexit, the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 converts existing EU law which applied directly in the UK's legal system (such as EU Regulations and EU Decisions) into UK law and preserves laws made in the UK to implement EU obligations (e.g., the laws which implement EU Directive). This body of law is known as retained EU law and is could be subject to future, post-Brexit amendments.

3.5 As set out in the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Brexit amendments to the SEA Regulations **[See reference** 26**]**, the purpose of the Brexit amendments is to ensure that the law functions correctly after the UK has left the EU.

3.6 No substantive changes have been made the UK regulations to date; however, the Government does intend to reform the planning system, including replacing SEA and SA with a new requirement for an Environmental Outcomes Report. No further information is known at the time of writing. Any changes to the legal framework for carrying out SA/SEA will be addressed as appropriate as the Local Plan is prepared.

International plans, policies and programmes

3.7 At the international level, there is a wide range of plans and programmes which act to inform and shape national level legislation. Planning policy in England at a national and local level (i.e., the NPPF and the Local Plan) should be aware of, and in conformity with, the relevant legislation.

3.8 In addition to the EU Directives temporarily transposed into UK legislation, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (2015) **[See reference** 27**]**, adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for

peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Relevant to the Local Plan and this IIA are the following SDGs:

- SDG 1: No Poverty
- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- SGD 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 14: Life Below Water
- SDG 15: Life on Land

3.9 The sustainability objectives of other international plans and programmes of relevance to the Local Plan and IIA are provided in **Appendix A**.

National plans, policies and programmes

3.10 There are a large number of plans and programmes that could be relevant to the preparation of the Basildon Local Plan. In particular, the Local Plan must

adhere to national planning policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

3.11 The Local Plan should provide a spatial expression of other plans and programmes where relevant, to assist in their implementation. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at an international, national and regional level. In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, relevant international, national, regional, sub-regional and local plans have been reviewed in detail in relation to their objectives, targets and indicators and their implications for the Local Plan and the SA. The full review can be seen in **Appendix A**.

3.12 The Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which states:

> Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings."

3.13 The NPPF sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making, stating that plans should:

- "Be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development;
- Be prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable;
- Be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees;
- Contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals;

- Be accessible through the use of digital tools to assist public involvement and policy presentation; and
- Serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area".

3.14 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be 'aspirational but deliverable'. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should be avoided.

3.15 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:

- "Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and.
- Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation."

3.16 The NPPF also promotes well-designed places and development, and plans should "at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations."

3.17 Non-strategic policies should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development, including qualitative aspects such as design of places, landscapes, and development.

3.18

Sub-national plans, policies and programmes

3.19 The **South Essex Framework** **[See reference** 28**]** is being produced by Basildon Borough Council, Brentwood Borough Council, Castle Point Borough Council, Rochford District Council, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, Thurrock Council and Essex County Council (the Association of South Essex Local Authorities). The South Essex Framework will be non-statutory and set out principles and good practice examples, rather than policies. It will provide the strategic framework for development in South Essex up to 2040, focusing on housing and economic development needs within the context of quality place making. Sitting within the context of the South Essex Strategic Vision 2050 it will lay the foundations for further sustainable growth and investment to 2050.

3.20 Other relevant sub-national plans, Policies and programmes are referenced in **Appendix A**.

Baseline information

3.21 Baseline information provides the context for assessing the sustainability of proposals in the Local Plan and it provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects of the plan and monitoring its outcomes. Baseline data must be relevant to environmental, social and economic issues, be sensitive to change and should ideally relate to records that are sufficient to identify trends.

3.22 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires that the environmental report includes descriptions of:

> "(2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.
>
> (3) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected."

3.23 Schedule 2(6) of the SEA Regulations requires the likely significant effects of the plan on the environment to be assessed in relation to: biodiversity; population; human health; fauna; flora; soil; water; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage; landscape; and the inter-relationship between these. As an integrated SA and SEA is being carried out, baseline information relating to other 'sustainability' topics has also been included, for example, information about housing, social inclusiveness, transport, energy, waste and economic growth.

3.24 Information on existing environmental, social and economic conditions in the plan area provides the baseline against which the plan's effects can be assessed in the IIA and monitored during the plan's implementation. Baseline information can also be combined with an understanding of drivers of change that are likely to persist regardless of the Local Plan to understand the likely future sustainability conditions in the absence of the local plan.

3.25 The baseline information for Basildon is presented in **Appendix B**.

3.26 SEA guidance recognises that data gaps will exist but suggests that where baseline information is unavailable or unsatisfactory, authorities should consider how it will affect their assessments and determine how to improve it for use in the assessment of future plans. Where there are data gaps in the baseline, or reports not yet published, these are highlighted in the text in **Appendix B**. The collection and analysis of baseline data is regarded as a continual and evolving

process, given that information can change or be updated on a regular basis. Relevant baseline information will be updated during the IIA process as and when data are published.

Key sustainability issues

3.27 Key sustainability issues for Basildon were originally identified in the IIA Scoping Report (February 2023).

3.28 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration be given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area (in this case Basildon Borough) if the Local Plan was not to be implemented. This analysis is summarised below in relation to the key sustainability issues.

3.29 The information below shows that, in general, the current trends in relation to the various environmental, social and economic issues affecting the Plan area would be more likely to continue without the implementation of the new Local Plan, although external regulatory mechanisms would still go some way towards addressing many of the issues. In most cases, the new Local Plan offers opportunities to affect existing trends directly and strongly in a positive way, through an up-to-date Plan which reflects the requirements of the NPPF.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

3.30 There is a need to significantly reduce the Borough's greenhouse gas emissions to help meet international and national greenhouse gas reduction targets.

3.31 The effects of climate change in the Borough are likely to result in extreme weather events becoming more common and more intense. Flood risk is of particular significance in this regard, alongside heatwaves and drought.

Transport

3.32 Several of Basildon Borough's road links are inadequate, with several roads and junctions noted as being at or near to capacity, and many experiencing congestion at peak times. Adverse traffic conditions on these routes often have knock-on effects on local roads, leading to localised gridlock on occasion and impacting negatively on economic productivity. In addition, with planned developments and increased housing and job provision, more pressure may be placed on the Borough's road networks.

3.33 Without the Local Plan it is anticipated that traffic congestion and air and noise pollution will continue to increase with the rising population and car dependency will continue to be high. The implications of air pollution for human health and the natural environment are described in subsequent sections.

Population, health and wellbeing

Population

3.34 Population growth and demographic change will place additional demand on key services and facilities such as health, education and social care. Additionally, an ageing population will place additional pressures on housing, health and social care services. Without the Local Plan it is likely that services and facilities will still be delivered. However, it is less likely that these will be in appropriate locations, or of sufficient quality and quantity to keep pace with demand arising from new residential development.

Housing

3.35 Affordability of housing within the Basildon Borough is an issue, with the median property price-to-earnings ratio for Basildon Borough Council higher than the average for both the East of England and England on a national scale.

The Borough's growing population will create additional demand for family homes, while relatively low levels of income will need to be considered through the provision of affordable accommodation. Basildon Borough has not delivered its annual housing target in the last three reporting years which has resulted in the Borough achieving only 41% of its expected housing delivery across the three year period, leaving a gap in the supply of much needed housing (including affordable housing) within the Borough. Without the Local Plan, the objectively assessed need for new housing and the appropriate mix of housing types in Basildon will not be delivered and the current trends will continue.

Health

3.36 Given that Basildon Borough has performed poorly for some health indicators against regional and national averages, it is likely it will continue to do so without substantial intervention, particularly the Borough's high level of obesity.

Access to services and facilities

3.37 Whilst the Basildon Borough generally has good access to services and facilities, this could become more challenging as the population in the Borough continues to grow with insufficient capacity to the nearest services. As the population ages, this may also result in a larger proportion of Basildon's population not having access to key services that are only readily accessible by car.

Open spaces, sports and recreation

3.38 The Basildon Borough has a wide variety of parks and open spaces, with its neighbourhoods having access to plenty of green space; however, there has not been a notable net increase in open space provision since 2010.

Crime

3.39 The crime rate in the Basildon Borough is 101.69 per 1,000 population, according to Police. UK figures published in for the year ending December 2023. In the year ending June 2024, there were 10,548 incidents of crime. Although crime incidents decreased from 20,284 in 2022 to 10,548 in the year ending June 2024, the crime rate has risen by an average of 5.5% annually from 2014 to 2023. Crime in the Borough is mainly focussed on the town of Basildon, which is subsequently recorded as the most dangerous major town in Essex.

Education

3.40 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.

Deprivation

3.41 There is a need to reduce inequality between those living in the most deprived areas of the Basildon Borough and those living in the least deprived areas of the Borough.

Economy

Economy and employment

3.42 Basildon Borough's local economy is largely dependent on particular industries such as manufacturing and logistics. The borough's economic

structure could therefore benefit from encouraging further diversity of business. However, in order to diversify the economy further, there will be a need to increase the take up rate of further education courses and increase the skills base of the local labour market, to ensure local business sectors can diversify, thus helping to improve the long term prosperity of residents. There is also a common requirement to make provisions for jobs growth in line with increases to housing provision, whilst having regard to biodiversity and the wider environment.

Retail and commercial leisure facilities

3.43 There is a need to enhance the viability of town centres, whilst meeting various development needs and regeneration aspirations within social and environmental constraints. This is particularly important considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Historic environment

3.44 There are many designated and undesignated heritage assets and areas of historical and cultural interest in the Basildon Borough that could be adversely affected by climate change and poorly located or designed development. While several of the historic assets in the Borough, for example Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments, will continue to be protected by statutory designations, without the Local Plan it is possible that these, and undesignated assets, will be adversely affected by inappropriate development.

Landscape

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

Biodiversity

3.46 The Basildon Borough contains many areas of high ecological value, including sites of national importance. There is a need for continued preservation and long-term management of these areas in the Borough. Local Wildlife Sites in the Borough are being negatively affected by actions such as agricultural practices, inappropriate management, road widening, and recreational activities. If this continues, it could affect their wildlife value and contribution they make to biodiversity, landscapes and the natural environment. Even without the Local Plan, some important habitats and biodiversity sites will continue to receive statutory protection.

Air, land and water quality

Soils and geology

3.47 The amount of housing and economic development needed in the Borough will require significant amounts of mineral resources and greenfield land. Without the Local Plan it is possible that development could result in unnecessary sterilisation of mineral and agricultural resources thereby preventing their use for future generations. There is therefore a need in Basildon to minimise the amount of development located on higher quality agricultural land and on important mineral reserves. In the absence of the Local Plan, the NPPF would apply, which supports the reuse of brownfield land.

Waste

3.48 Essex's landfill sites are rapidly filling up and will continue to be a source of local greenhouse gas emissions for many years to come. However, there has been a steady fall in the amount of waste being collected per head in the Borough, which can be partially attributed to the increase in the availability of doorstep recycling schemes to Borough households. The National Planning

Policy for Waste **[See reference 29],** and the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex **[See reference** 30**]**, would apply which support driving waste management up the waste hierarchy.

Water

3.49 The Borough contains waterbodies of poorer water quality which do not meet 'Good' status. Pollution sources responsible for this include transport drainage and wastewater discharges. The East of England is predicted to face a gap between supply and demand of up to 750 mega litres a day (ML/d) if the region carries managing water resources in the same way – the equivalent of 40 Olympic sized swimming pools daily **[See reference** 31**].**

3.50 Without the Local Plan, it is possible that unplanned development could be in areas that could lead to further water quality issues and risks to the natural environment. However, existing safeguards, such as the Water Framework Regulations, would help to reduce the potential for this to occur.

Air and noise

3.51 Air pollution associated with Basildon's road network has exceed statutory NO_2 levels and needs active monitoring and management. Whilst noise complaints in the Borough are more commonly associated with domestic noise, Building Regulations aim to manage the impact of noise from new domestic and industrial developments through good design. Furthermore, the increasing prevalence of sustainability standards such as BREEAM will also have a positive contribution. Development of an up to date local planning framework will ensure that Local Plan and development management policies seek to address the current sustainability issues (including noise). In the absence of the Local Plan, the policies in the NPPF and the Clean Air Strategy **[See reference 32]** would apply which support measures to improve air quality through traffic and travel management; to develop and enhance green infrastructure; and to direct new development to sustainable locations which limits the need to travel and offer a choice of transport modes. However, without targeted action at a

local level, it is anticipated that traffic congestion will continue to increase with the rising population and car dependency may continue to be high.

Chapter 4

IIA findings for the Issues and Options

4.1 This chapter records the IIA findings for the initial Issues and Options that were considered in relation to the preparation of the Basildon Local Plan. The consideration of options (or 'reasonable alternatives' to what will become the final Basildon Local Plan) is one of the most important parts of both the plan-making and the IIA process. National Planning Practice Guidance states:

> The sustainability appraisal needs to consider and compare all reasonable alternatives as the plan evolves, including the preferred approach, and assess these against the baseline environmental, economic and social characteristics of the area and the likely situation if the plan were not to be adopted. In doing so it is important to:
>
> - outline the reasons the alternatives were selected, and identify, describe and evaluate their likely significant effects on environmental, economic and social factors using the evidence base (employing the same level of detail for each alternative option). Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment are set out in schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004;
> - as part of this, identify any likely significant adverse effects and measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset them;
> - provide conclusions on the reasons the rejected options are not being taken forward and the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of the alternatives.
>
> Any assumptions used in assessing the significance of the effects of the plan will need to be documented. Reasonable alternatives are the different realistic options considered by the plan-maker in developing the policies in

the plan. They need to be sufficiently distinct to highlight the different sustainability implications of each so that meaningful comparisons can be made.

The development and appraisal of proposals in plans needs to be an iterative process, with the proposals being revised to take account of the appraisal findings.

4.2 By appraising reasonable alternative options, the IIA provides information about how different options perform in environmental, social and economic terms, which in turn can help the Council decide which option to pursue.

4.3 It should be noted, however, that the IIA does not determine which policy (or site) options should be adopted. Other factors, such as the views of stakeholders and the public, and other evidence base studies, also help to inform the decision. The IIA report must, however, communicate how these various factors, including the IIA, have been taken into account by the Council in selecting the preferred policy options and why the Council considers the preferred approach to be an appropriate strategy when compared to the alternatives. The reasoning for policy and site selection will be set out in full in the IIA at the next stage of plan-making, once site allocations are selected.

4.4 The appraisal work presented in this chapter was previously published in the IIA Report for the Issues and Options in Summer 2023 and no substantive changes have been made since then. Site options are considered separately in **Chapter 5**.

Identifying reasonable and appraisable options within the Basildon Issues and Options Consultation Document

4.5 The Issues and Options were prepared at an early stage of Local Plan making, with initial issues and options being confined to high level policy directions and aspirations. There were, therefore, a limited number of options suitable for appraisal through the IIA process at that stage. This chapter describes which options were considered by the Council at the Issues and Options stage and which options were considered to be appraisable and which options were not. The chapter then goes on to appraise the appraisable options against the IIA framework, identifying each option's likely significant effects. As noted above, this work was originally presented in the IIA Report for the Issues and Options and no changes have been made since.

Issues and options that have not been subject to IIA

4.6 The majority of the issues and options within the Issues and Options Consultation Document were set out in section four entitled 'Strategic Matters and Key Issues' which covered a comprehensive range of strategic policy areas.

4.7 The strategic matters and key issues covered in section four included:

- The length of the plan period.
- Ranking of Green Belt purposes.
- Allocating land
- Climate change ambitions.
- Biodiversity ambitions.

- Six green and blue infrastructure priorities.
- Five health priorities.
- 10 design priorities.
- Access to housing
- Six delivering homes considerations.
- Housing type priorities.
- Gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople site access.
- Spatial focus for employment growth.
- Eight employment type priorities.
- Four economic growth catalysts.
- Six town centre use priorities.
- Six ways to reduce reliance on private vehicle use.
- Six infrastructure priorities.

4.8 None of the options set out in section four of the Issues and Options Consultation Document were appraised. This was for a range of reasons:

- Some issues and options were too open ended to be able to identify clear distinct effects against each of the IIA objectives.
- Some of the issues and options referenced national planning policy requirements with no notable local emphasis at this stage and therefore just represented the baseline minimum requirements that would be delivered in the absence of the Local Plan.
- Some of the issues and options at this stage of plan making were formulated to seek preferences and supporting information, without forming clear, distinct options for appraisal.

Reasonable and appraisable issues and options

4.9 The following issues and options set out in the Issues and Options Consultation Document were considered to be reasonable and appraisable:

- Three vision themes: people, place and prosperity.
- The draft vision.
- 10 Strategic Objectives.
- Six spatial options.

Vision and Strategic Objectives

4.10 Section three of the Issues and Options Consultation Document outlined the Vision and Strategic Objectives for the emerging plan.

4.11 The overarching vision for the Basildon Local Plan was built on three vision themes:

- **People:** We want Basildon to be home to healthy and active local communities able to support themselves and each other.
- **Place:** We want Basildon to offer a high quality of life for all residents through attractive, liveable, accessible and safe neighbourhoods and towns along with the provision of enduring facilities, green spaces and town centres that meet the needs of the community.
- **Prosperity:** We want Basildon to have a thriving, dynamic and diverse economy where all our communities benefit from increased opportunity and our workforce has the right skills for our local economy and beyond.

4.12 The overarching draft vision for Basildon was:

‘By 2042, we want to accelerate Basildon Borough’s ambition. We want a prosperous economy providing employment for all our residents, including higher value jobs. We need housing and a wider range of housing for all resident’s needs. We want to protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity. The Borough will be safe, and residents will benefit from high standards of health and wellbeing. There needs to be an improved cultural offer, more vibrant town centres and higher educational attainment and aspirations. We need to encourage more resilient communities, reflecting the diversity within the Borough.’

4.13 10 draft strategic objectives were defined to support the delivery of the vision themes (people, place and prosperity) and the overarching vision:

- Helping local people maintain healthier lifestyles.
- Enhancing the quality of life for all.
- Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment.
- Improving the quality and value of the Green Belt.
- Minimising our impact on the environment.
- Creating vibrant and thriving town centres.
- Delivering new homes.
- Securing the delivery of supporting infrastructure.
- Strengthening the competitiveness of the local economy.
- Capitalising on local tourism opportunities.

4.14 These three components of the Issues and Options Consultation Document were subjected to IIA. No reasonable alternatives were identified at this stage.

4.15 The Vision and Strategic Objectives have now been revised in the current Draft Local Plan and are appraised in **Chapter 6** of this IIA report.

Spatial options for delivering growth

4.16 Section five of the Issues and Options Consultation Document outlined six broadly distinct spatial options for distributing growth needs in Basildon over the plan period:

- **Densification of existing urban areas**: This option would maximise development in the existing urban areas of Basildon, Billericay and Wickford within reasonable density and environmental limits. This approach would require intensive use of brownfield land, the building of taller buildings, building on existing residential back gardens or in-between existing buildings and/or redeveloping underused sites at higher densities.
- **Urban extensions**: This option would require the strategic release of Green Belt land to accommodate new homes and jobs in extensions to the Borough's existing urban areas inset within the Green Belt. This is because all land outside the defined urban areas within Basildon Borough is designated as Green Belt.
- **Infill development within existing villages and plotland**: This option would necessitate development within villages and plotlands currently washed-over by the Green Belt designation. Such development would enable more facilities to be viably located within smaller settlements, but could significantly change their character.
- **Expansion of existing villages**: This option would defining new or extending existing villages, including potentially insetting some villages and plotlands currently washed-over by the Green Belt designation. Again, such development would enable more facilities to be viably located within smaller settlements, but could significantly change their character.
- **New settlements**: This option would establish a whole new town or village in a new location, requiring the release of a significant area of Green Belt land. The delivery of a new settlement would include a mixture of homes, jobs and strategic infrastructure that allows the community to be self-

sufficient. New settlements could add to the offer and resilience of existing towns and villages and provides an opportunity for services and facilities to be provided at the heart of the new community.

- **Strategic transport corridors**: This option would concentrate growth along with the Borough's national and regional road and rail network, including the east-west A127, A13 and north-south A130 corridors. These connect the borough with London and Greater Essex. This would likely require the release of Green Belt land and the densification of existing urban centres.

4.17 Paragraph 5.20 of the Issues and Options Consultation Document stated that 'it is likely that the most suitable spatial strategy will involve a balance of elements to provide the most sustainable and achievable strategy'. In order to guide the Council and consultees in defining an appropriate and sustainable pattern of development, each spatial option was appraised in isolation in order to draw out clear differences in their likely effects.

Likely effects of the spatial options

4.18 Paragraph 4.31 of the Issues and Options Consultation Document outlined the Borough's housing needs based on the Government's standard methodology as 1,041 homes per year or 20,820 homes by 2042. This figure is an important point of reference in the appraisal of the below spatial options, providing a guide as to the likely scale of growth required.

4.19 Table 4.3 summarises the likely effects of delivering the above growth needs through each of the six spatial options within the Issues and Options Consultation Document. At this stage, in the absence of any details on the number and location of specific site options, it was assumed that all six spatial options could accommodate the Borough's growth needs.

4.20 The latter part of this section considers how delivering a greater or lower scale of growth to the existing housing and economic growth needs would influence the effects recorded against the IIA objectives below.

Table 4.1: Spatial Options effects

IIA Objectives	1) Densification of existing urban areas	2) Urban extensions	3) Infill development	4) Expansion of existing villages	5) New settlements	6) Strategic transport corridors
IIA1: Housing	++	++	++	++	++	++
IIA2: Health and well-being	+	+	+	+	+	+
IIA3: Equalities	+	+	+	+	+	+
IIA4: Economy and employment	+	+	+	+	+	++
IIA5: Transport	+	+	-	-	+/	+/
IIA6: Air quality	+	+	-	-	+/	+/
IIA7: Natural resources	-?	?	-?	?	?	?
IIA8: Climate change mitigation	+	+	-	-	+/	+/
IIA9: Climate change adaptation	-	-	-	-	-	-

IIA Objectives	1) Densification of existing urban areas	2) Urban extensions	3) Infill development	4) Expansion of existing villages	5) New settlements	6) Strategic transport corridors
IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	-?	?	?	?	?	?
IIA11: Historic environment	?	?	?	?	?	?
IIA12: Landscape and townscape	-?	?	?	?	?	?

4.21 The reasoning for the identification of these likely effects is set out by IIA objective below.

IIA 1: Provide new and affordable housing to meet identified needs of the whole community, covering housing of a suitable mix and type

4.22 As set out above, it is assumed that all six options could deliver the required amount of development at this stage, and that this would include the required mix and type of housing identified within the evidence base for the Basildon local plan. All of the options could achieve the aims of IIA 1 (housing) and have been scored as having the potential for significant positive effects on IIA 1.

IIA 2: Create a safe, healthy and inclusive living environment and encourage healthy lifestyles, improving access to local services and facilities that promote prosperity, health, well-being, recreation and integration

4.23 Options 1 (Densification), 2 (Urban Extensions), 3 (Infill Development) and 4 (Expansion of Existing Villages) provide for development within or adjacent to existing communities. Option 5 (New Settlements) and Option 6 (Strategic Transport Corridors) provide for development in new locations.

4.24 Options 1 (Densification), 2 (Urban Extensions), 3 (Infill Development) and 4 (Expansion of Existing Villages) have the potential to integrate new development within existing communities, creating and embedding integrated

services. These options have been scored as having the potential for -minor positive effects on IIA objective 2.

4.25 Option 5 (New Settlements) and Option 6 (Transport Corridors) also have the potential to create a safe, healthy and inclusive living environment, given the less constrained scope of development for a completely new settlement, or development along a transport corridor. These options have also been scored as having the potential for minor positive effects on IIA objective 2.

IIA 3: Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not

4.26 As set out above, Options 1 (Densification), 2 (Urban Extensions), 3 (Infill Development) and 4 (Expansion of Existing Villages) provide for development within or adjacent to existing communities. Option 5 (New Settlements) and Option 6 (Strategic Transport Corridors) provide for development in new, more dispersed locations.

4.27 Options 1 (Densification), 2 (Urban Extensions), 3 (Infill Development) and 4 (Expansion of Existing Villages) have the potential to integrate new development within existing communities, and fostering relationships but this will depend on further detail for the development proposed. These options have been scored for minor positive effects on IIA 3 (equalities).

4.28 Options 5 (New Settlements) and 6 (Transport Corridors) have the potential capacity and scale to create new communities, and community links. These options have also been scored as having the potential for minor positive effects on IIA 3 (equalities).

IIA 4: Facilitate a prosperous and growing economy that creates a range of new jobs and improves vitality and viability of town centres.

4.29 Options 1 (Densification), 2 (Urban Extensions), 3 (Infill Development) and 4 (Expansion of Existing Villages) provide for growth in or around existing town centres or areas of economic activity, supporting local economies and the vitality of town centres. Support for IIA 4 from these options is likely to be positive in all cases as development could provide greater footfall and employees for existing economic areas within the Borough. These options have been scored as having potential for minor positive effects on IIA 4.

4.30 The locations for Option 5 (New Settlements) are unknown but it is likely that new settlements would need to create new centres and new relationships with existing centres. New settlements are likely to be at a scale where this is possible to achieve., Option 5 has also been scored as having the potential for minor positive effects on IIA 4.

4.31 Option 6 (Transport Corridors) would promote growth around existing areas of economic activity. This option has been scored as having the potential for significant positive effects on IIA 4.

IIA 5: Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents, and promote sustainable modes of transport and efficient movement patterns in the Borough.

4.32 Where development would be concentrated within urban locations (Option 1 Densification) or link to existing patterns of development (Option 2 (Urban Extensions), existing connections within the Borough would be strengthened. Vehicle journeys are likely to be shorter, reducing congestion and improving

movement through the Borough. There will be greater opportunity for pedestrian movements and journeys by public transport. These options have been scored as having the potential for minor positive effects on IIA 5.

4.33 Option 3 (Infill Development) and Option 4 (Expansion of Existing Villages) are less likely to contribute effectively to IIA 5, as traffic will be more dispersed across the Borough, and journey times will be increased. There will also likely be less opportunities and greater strain on public transport. these options are considered to have the potential for minor negative effects on IIA 5.

4.34 The impacts of Option 5 (New Settlements) and Option 6 (Transport Corridors) on IIA 5 are considered likely to be mixed. The locations are likely to be more dispersed than options in existing urban areas, increasing traffic and journey times, but new settlements and development along transport corridors are likely to have good strategic links within the borough. The scale of development in one location may provide opportunities for walkable neighbourhoods and new public transport. These options have been scored as having the potential for mixed effects on IIA 5.

IIA 6: Improve air quality by reducing emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants

4.35 As set out above in relation to IIA 5 (transport), where development would increase the density of existing development (Option 1 Densification) or link to existing patterns of development (Option 2 (Urban Extensions), existing connections within the Borough would be strengthened. Vehicle journeys are likely to be shorter, reducing congestion and improving movement through the Borough. Reducing transport movements will have a significant impact on emissions in the borough, and subsequent impacts on air quality. These options have been scored as having the potential for minor positive effects on IIA 6.

4.36 Option 3 (Infill Development) and Option 4 (Expansion of Existing Villages) are less likely to contribute effectively to IIA 6, as traffic will be more dispersed across the Borough, and journey times will be increased. There will also likely be less opportunities and greater strain on public transport. These options are less likely to reduce emissions within the borough, and subsequently less likely to improve air quality. These options have been scored as having the potential for minor negative effects on IIA 6.

4.37 The impacts of Option 5 (New Settlements) and Option 6 (Transport Corridors) on IIA 6 are considered likely to be mixed. The locations are likely to be more dispersed than options in existing urban areas, increasing traffic and journey times, but new settlements and development along transport corridors are likely to have good strategic links within the borough. The scale of development in one location may provide opportunities for walkable neighbourhoods and new public transport. As the potential for reducing emissions and improving air quality is mixed, these options have been scored as having the potential for mixed effects on IIA 6.

IIA 7: To promote sustainable forms of development that maintain and improve the quality of the Borough's natural resources, including minerals, soils, waters and waste materials

4.38 All development will use natural resources. Where development would increase the density of existing urban areas (Option 1 Densification) or villages (Option 3 Infill Development), the potential for negative effects on Objective IIA 7 could be more limited. Densification would involve a smaller footprint for development and that development would be more likely to be able to make use of brownfield land, compared to other spatial options. These options have been scored as having uncertain minor negative effects on IIA 7.

4.39 All other options (Option 2 Urban Extensions, Option 4 Expansion of Existing Villages, Option 5 New Settlements and Option 6 Strategic Transport Corridors) will involve more significant loss of greenfield land) and therefore have the potential for greater use of natural resources. These options have been scored as having the potential for uncertain significant negative effects on IIA7.

IIA 8: Reduce Basildon Borough's contribution to climate change

4.40 All options will contribute to climate change as they propose the use of additional land and resources to provide new growth. There are potential opportunities to minimise or mitigate the impacts of new housing depending on its location and scale. A key driver and measurable output of reducing Basildon Borough's contribution to climate change will be reducing the volume of transport emissions. Other, more detailed, drivers of climate change could be appraised by the IIA once spatial and other policy options are more developed.

4.41 As set out in relation to IIA 5 (transport) and IIA 6 (air quality), where development would be concentrated within urban locations (Option 1 Densification) or link to existing patterns of development (Option 2 (Urban Extensions), existing connections within the Borough would be strengthened. Vehicle journeys are likely to be shorter, reducing congestion and improving movement through the Borough, therefor reducing emissions. This has the potential for a positive effect on the borough's contribution to climate change. These options have been scored as having the potential for minor positive effects on IIA 8.

4.42 Option 3 (Infill Development) and Option 4 (Expansion of Existing Villages) are less likely to contribute effectively to IIA 5, as traffic will be more dispersed across the Borough, and journey times will be increased, increasing emissions across the borough. As these options are less likely to reduce emissions within the borough, they are considered to have the potential for minor negative effects on IIA 8.

4.43 The impacts of Option 5 (New Settlements) and Option 6 (Transport Corridors) on IIA 8 are considered likely to be mixed. The locations are likely to be more dispersed than options in existing urban areas, with the potential for increased emissions. However, the scale of development in one location could provide more opportunities for walkable neighbourhoods and public transport, as well as viability for larger schemes for sustainable energy. These options have been scored as having the potential for mixed effects on IIA 8.

IIA 9: Reduce Basildon Borough's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change

4.44 All options could increase Basildon Borough's vulnerability to climate change. There are potential opportunities to minimise or mitigate the impacts of new growth depending on its location and scale.

4.45 All options have been scored as having the potential for minor negative effects on IIA 9, but the reasons for the appraisal finding vary across the options.

4.46 Where increased densities of development are proposed (Option 1 Densification and Option 2 Urban Extensions) there is likely to be an increase in the heat island effect, decreasing the ability of areas to cool effectively and increasing the impact of climate change on Basildon's town centres.

4.47 Where development is more dispersed, and the loss of greenfield land is greater, there are likely to be greater effects on existing ecosystem services such as flood capacity, and the capacity of the wider environment to adapt to climate change. This applies to Option 3 (Infill Development), Option 4 (Expansion of Existing Villages), Option 5 (New Settlements) and Option 6 (Transport Corridors).

IIA 10: Value, maintain, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and geodiversity

4.48 Where development would increase the density of existing development (Option 1 Densification and Option 3 Infill Development) there is the potential for minor effects on Objective IIA 10. Densification would involve a smaller footprint for development and have a smaller effect on areas of biodiversity and geodiversity. There is potential for loss of biodiversity within built up areas to have a negative effect on wider green networks, but this is considered to be minimal. This option has been scored as having uncertain minor negative effects on IIA 10.

4.49 All other options (Option 2 Urban Extensions, Option 3 Infill Development, Option 4 Expansion of Existing Villages, Option 5 New Settlements and Option 6 Strategic Transport Corridors) will involve more significant loss of greenfield land and therefore have the potential for greater effects on biodiversity and geodiversity. These options have been scored as having the potential for uncertain significant negative effects on IIA 10.

IIA 11: Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage

4.50 At this early stage, all options have the potential to have a potential for negative effects on IIA 11 as the potential for impact will depend on the location of the development in relation to historic assets.

4.51 Option 1 (Densification) is likely to locate growth where there is a greater concentration of assets within existing town centres. All options, however, could have effects on individual historic assets. The nature and significance of the impact is dependent on the location, nature and significance of the asset, as

well as the proposed development within each option. Effects on historic assets are not necessarily dictated by proximity or visibility.

4.52 Options that propose growth near to existing development (Option 2 Urban Extensions, Option 3 Infill, Option 4 Expansion of Existing Villages and Option 6 Strategic Transport Corridors) could affect individual historic assets, or areas of existing cultural heritage, depending on proximity and design. Option 5 (New Settlements) could affect single historic assets due to the potential scale of development. All options have been scored as having the potential for uncertain significant negative effects on IIA 11.

IIA 12: Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and townscape, ensuring development does not detract from the quality of views and local distinctiveness

4.53 As is the case with the appraisal of the options against IIA 11, at this early stage all options have the potential to have a negative impact on IIA 12.

4.54 Option 1 (Densification) could have the least negative effect on IIA 12, dependant on the capacity within the existing townscape. Options where growth would be directed near to existing development (Option 2 Urban Extensions, Option 3 Infill, Option 4 Expansion of Existing Villages and Option 6 Strategic Transport Corridors) could have negative effects on local views and landscape. Option 5 (New Settlements) could also have a negative effect on the aims of IIA 12, due to the potential scale of development in a single location.

4.55 All options have been scored as having the potential for uncertain significant negative effects on IIA 12.

Spatial options recommendations

4.56 The IIA report for the Issues and Options recommended that a combination of options is likely to be the most appropriate, based on the initial appraisal and considering the capacity of each spatial option to deliver the required amount of development.

4.57 It recommended that refined options should include criteria detailing how development would be expected to meet the aims of the IIA objectives both on specific sites, as well as the provision of wider topic-based policies within the local plan. Revised options should also carefully consider the amount, type and mix of housing development required to achieve the aims of the IIA objectives, particularly IIA objective 1 (Housing).

Alternative levels of development

4.58 As set out above, all six spatial options were assessed on the basis that the Basildon Local Plan will aim to meet its growth needs within the Plan period, which based on the Government's standard methodology equates to 20,820 homes. The following section considers the potential effects on the IIA objectives of exceeding or not fully meeting the Borough's growth needs.

Likely effects of planning for higher levels of development within the Local Plan

4.59 Increased levels of development could generate positive effects against IIA 1 (housing) and IIA 4 (economy and employment) providing there is capacity within the local housing market and to grow the local economy.

4.60 Delivering more homes and jobs will require more land either through additional greenfield land take or the densification of existing and planned

development (most likely a combination of the two). This increases the likelihood of negative effects against IIA objective 2 (health), IIA 6 (air pollution), IIA 8 (climate change mitigation) and IIA 9 (climate change adaptation) as greater concentrations of people and development are likely to result in greater concentrations of air, noise and light pollution.

4.61 Additional development will also increase the likelihood of negative effects against IIA objectives 7 (natural resources), 10 (biodiversity), 11 (historic environment) and IIA 12 (landscape and townscape). The greater the extent and scale of growth, the greater the pressure on natural resources.

4.62 Given that most options relate to existing settlement patterns, apart from Option 5 (New Settlements), increased growth would potentially put further pressure on the capacity of existing services and facilities, but it is assumed that additional provision would be required, commensurate with increased growth. In addition, greater growth would contribute to the economies of scale necessary to viably meet demand for new and improved services and facilities. Overall, there are likely to be mixed effects in relation to IIA objective 2 (health and wellbeing) and IIA objective 3 (equalities).

4.63 Housing delivery challenges associated with higher growth levels may, however, require a spatial strategy that includes a wider range of sites and locations that could require more smaller sites in villages and a distribution of development less able to focus on locations with good access to services and facilities, including public transport. Such a spatial strategy would result in more development and road traffic in rural areas, likely generating minor to major negative effects against IIA objective 2 (health), IIA 3 (equalities), IIA 6 (air quality), IIA 7 (natural resources), IIA 8 (climate change mitigation) IIA 9 (climate change adaptation), IIA 10 (biodiversity), IIA 11 (historic environment) and IIA 12 (landscape and townscape).

Likely effects of providing for lower levels of development within the Local Plan

4.64 The more limited the extent and scale of growth, the less pressure on IIA objective 7 (natural resources). There would also be more limited direct and indirect negative effects on the natural and historic environment, both at the local and landscape scale. This option would therefore be likely to reduce negative effects against IIA 10 (biodiversity and geodiversity), IIA 11 (historic environment) and IIA 12 (landscape and townscape).

4.65 Not meeting objectively assessed needs would lead to negative effects against IIA objective 1 (Housing) and IIA 4 (economy and employment). The significance of these effects will depend on the scale of the shortfall identified and whether any of this shortfall can be accommodated by willing neighbouring local authorities. Not meeting demand adversely affects the affordability of homes and job prospects resulting in negative socio-economic effects against IIA objectives 2 (health), IIA 3 (equalities).

4.66 The fewer new homes and jobs that are available in Basildon over the plan period, the less likely people will be able to live and work in the local area. People are likely to have to travel greater distances to commute to and from workplaces and access local services and facilities, resulting in more negative effects against IIA 6 (air quality) and IIA objective 8 (climate change mitigation).

4.67 If neighbouring authorities are willing and able to accommodate some or all of Basildon's shortfall, particularly, negative effects against IIA 1 (housing), IIA 2 (health), IIA 3 (equalities) and IIA 4 (economy and employment) could be reduced but would not be eliminated given housing affordability would likely still be an issue.

Summary of effects of lower or higher levels of housing

4.68 The potential positive and negative effects will, to some extent, be proportional to the scale of growth.

4.69 If the scale of growth is lower, the effects of the spatial options against IIA objectives 6 (air pollution), IIA 7 (natural resources), IIA 10 (biodiversity and geodiversity), IIA 11 (historic environment) and IIA 12 (landscape and townscape) may be less negative than shown in Table 6.3. At the same time, effects against IIA objective 1 (housing), IIA 2 (health), IIA 3 (equalities) and IIA 4 (economy and employment) would be likely to be less positive and more negative.

4.70 If the scale of growth is higher, effects of the spatial options against IIA objectives 6 (air quality), IIA 7 (natural resources), IIA 10 (Biodiversity), IIA 11 (Historic environment) and IIA 12 (landscape and townscape) may be more negative than shown in Table 6.3. At the same time, effects against IIA Objective 1 (housing), IIA 2 (health), IIA 3 (equalities) and IIA 4 (economy and employment) would be likely to be more positive.

4.71 The policies relating to the amount and distribution of development set out in the current Draft Local Plan are now appraised in **Chapter 6** of this report.

Chapter 5

IIA findings for the reasonable alternative development site options

5.1 This chapter summarises the IIA findings for the reasonable alternative site options that have been considered for allocation in the Basildon Local Plan to date. The site options have been subject to IIA in accordance with the criteria set out in **Appendix D**, to ensure consistency.

5.2 The first set of site options comprise sites identified within the Plotlands. Fifteen sites within the Plotlands were identified by the Council for review, to inform the site options within the Draft Local Plan. The long list of Plotlands sites have been appraised in this IIA for completeness, however only the following sites were deemed suitable to be reasonable options by the Council, for the reasons set out in Chapter 12 of the Draft Local Plan:

- Break Egg Hill, Billericay
- Broomhills Chase, Little Burstead
- Crays Hill
- Newhouse Farm and Castledon Road, Wickford
- North Benfleet (infill only)

Ramsden View Road, Wickford

5.3 The second set of site options are other site options for residential and employment development. In order to identify land available for development, the Council held a ‘Call for Sites’ for both potential housing and employment land, evaluating all potential sites in the urban area and considering all the Council owned land. This exercise has informed the set of site options listed in Chapter 12 of the Draft Local Plan which are appraised below. There are 33 potential sites for housing and four potential sites for employment land.

5.4 Detailed proformas for each site option can be found in the separate **Annexe A** to this report.

IIA Findings for the Plotland Sites

5.5 This section summarises the IIA findings for the Plotland sites that have been considered for allocation in the Basildon Local Plan. A total of 15 reasonable alternative site options have been appraised, all as potential residential site options. The site appraisals should be read in conjunction with the evidence prepared by Basildon Borough Council in relation to the Plotlands. The Basildon Borough Plotlands Growth Potential Study considered if and how sustainable development, consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (2023), can be accommodated in plotland areas in landscape and visual and Green Belt terms.

5.6 The likely effects of each Plotland site are presented in **Table 5.1** overleaf. Justification for the identified effects is summarised by each IIA objective below the table.

Table 5.1: IIA findings for the Plotlands site options

Site ID	Site Name	IIA1	IIA2	IIA3	IIA4	IIA5	IIA6	IIA7	IIA8	IIA9	IIA10	IIA11	IIA 12
PL1	Fobbing Plotland	+	-	N/A	+	-	0	++	-	0		0?	+?
PL2	Bells Hill Road Plotland	+	+	N/A	+	+	0	-	-	0		0?	+?
PL3	Stormonts Way Plotland	+	-	N/A	-	-	0	-	-	0		0?	+?
PL4	Northlands Plotland	+	-	N/A	-	-	0	++	-	0		?	+?
PL5	Green Lane Plotland	++	-	N/A	-	-	0	++	-	0		0?	+?
PL6	Break Egg Hill Plotland	+	0	N/A	+	+	0	++	-	0		0?	+?
PL7	Crays Hill Plotland	++	+	N/A	+	0	0	-	-	0		?	+?

Site ID	Site Name	IIA1	IIA2	IIA3	IIA4	IIA5	IIA6	IIA7	IIA8	IIA9	IIA10	IIA11	IIA 12
PL8	Newhouse Farm and Castledon Road Plotland	+	+	N/A	+	0	0	++	-	0		0?	+?
PL9	Ramsden View Road Plotland	+	0	N/A	+	-	0	++	-	0		-?	+?
PL10	Fairmead Plotland	+	-	N/A	+	-	0	++	-	0	-	?	+?
PL11	Wickford Lawns Plotland	+	-	N/A	-	-	0	++	-	-		0?	-?
PL12	North Benfleet Plotland	++	+	N/A	0	-	0	++	-	0		?	+?
PL13	Broomhills Chase Plotland	++	0	N/A	-	-	0	++	-	0		?	+?
PL14	Dunton Wayletts Hamlet	++	-	N/A	-	-	0	-	-	0		?	-?
PL15	Little Burstead Village	++	-	N/A	-	-	0	++	-	0		?	+?

IIA objective 1: Provide new and affordable housing to meet identified needs of the whole community, covering housing of a suitable mix and type.

5.7 Positive effects are expected for all 15 of the Plotland site options, given that they would all contribute to housing provision in the Borough. Significant positive effects are expected for six of these sites. For five of these sites this is because they are located in one of the 10% most deprived areas nationally as per the barriers to housing and services' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation - these sites are located within the wards of Burstead and Pitsea South East. The other site (PL7) for which a significant positive effect is expected falls within the one of the 20% most deprived areas nationally in relation to this measure and has capacity to deliver more than 10 homes. This site lies within the Castledon and Crouch ward. The development of these sites for housing is therefore expected to benefit those areas where access to housing is a particular issue. Minor positive effects are expected for the remaining nine Plotland sites. These sites are located outside of the 10% and 20% most deprived areas nationally as per the barriers to housing and services' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation but would still make a positive contribution to the Borough's housing need.

5.8 The location of site options will not influence the mix of housing that is provided onsite – this will instead be determined by Basildon Local Plan policies which are appraised in the next chapter.

IIA objective 2: Create a safe, healthy and inclusive living environment and encourage healthy lifestyles, improving access to local services and facilities that promote prosperity, health, well-being, recreation and integration.

5.9 Four of the 15 Plotland sites are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to this IIA objective. This is primarily due to the fact that most of the sites are within 800m of a GP, open space, sport or recreation facility and are within 400m of a public right of way. At these locations residents are therefore more likely to be able to make active and healthy lifestyle choices given their proximity to supporting infrastructure and assets. In addition, most of the Plotland sites are not near a source of odour pollution. The exceptions to this are sites PL1 and PL10 which are within 500m of Marsh Farm anaerobic digestion facility to the south of Basildon and within 300m of the wastewater treatment plant at the north east edge of Basildon, respectively. The majority of the Plotland sites are also located where they are less likely to be affected by sources of noise pollution. However, there are notable exceptions to this for sites that are located close to the A13, A127, A130 and A176.

5.10 Eight of the 15 Plotland sites are expected to have minor negative effects on this IIA objective. This reflects the proximity of some sites to the sources of noise and odour pollution discussed above and/or their location some distance from healthcare facilities and town centres. All Plotland site options are more than 800m from a town centre. The relatively long distances to services and facilities may discourage travel by active modes, however all but one site (PL2, to the south of Basildon) are within 800m of a GP surgery which will provide residents with reasonable access to healthcare. In addition, just under half of the 15 sites are sited partly on an open space, sport or recreation facility, so their development could harm the assets in question and/or reduce access.

IIA objective 3: Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not.

5.11 This is a cross-cutting IIA objective. To avoid duplication of effects, site options are appraised only against the other IIA objectives which are determinants of equality of health and well-being, accessibility and opportunity.

5.12 Effects recorded under all other IIA objectives effect this IIA objective to varying degrees. Consequently, all site options are recorded as having an no effect against this objective and readers are directed to the effects recorded against the other IIA objectives, which more accurately capture the range of issues relevant to this objective at a more granular level.

IIA objective 4: Facilitate a prosperous and growing economy that creates a range of new jobs and improves vitality and viability of town centres.

5.13 Seven of the 15 Plotland sites are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to this objective. While there are fewer secondary schools than primary schools in Basildon, all 15 sites are located between 501m and 1,000m of a secondary school. Access to primary schools is more variable, with several sites in the area to the west of Billericay and north of Dunton and the south east of Laindon located more than 2,000m from the nearest facility. The majority of the Plotland sites lie within an LSOA that is in 60-80 or 80-100 percentile of

LSOAs in the District for jobs density. However, only one of the Plotland sites (PL12, which lies in North Benfleet) lies within one of the 20-40% most deprived areas nationally as per the employment domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Reflecting the spatial variability of access to education and employment across the plan area, seven of the 15 Plotland sites are likely to have a minor negative effect on this IIA objective. These sites are located at the north west edge of Wickford, in the area to the north of Dunford and west of Billericay and south east of Laindon. PL12 has a negligible effect on this objective as although it scores positively in terms of location in relation to schools, it is considered to have a minor negative effect in relation to jobs and employment.

IIA objective 5: Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents, and promote sustainable modes of transport and efficient movement patterns in the Borough.

5.14 Two of the 15 Plotland sites are expected to have minor positive effects on this objective. These sites (PL2 and PL6) are located within the east of Billericay and to the south of Basildon. Both sites are within 600m of a bus stop and PL2 is also adjacent to the Market Town of Basilon. It is expected that these sites will provide residents with greater opportunities to access essential services and facilities by sustainable modes of transport. However, none of the Plotland sites lie close to railway stations in Basildon. Furthermore, only one site (PL3, located to the south of Laindon) provides good access to a cycle path. Given the variable access to infrastructure for public and active transport, the majority of the Plotland sites (11 out of 15) are expected to have minor negative effects in relation to IIA objective 5. Two sites are considered to have negligible effects on IIA objective 5, as they have mixed effects in relation to the sub-criteria. Both sites score positively for settlement hierarchy and bus services, but negatively for access to rail and cycling routes.

IIA objective 6: Improve air quality by reducing emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants

5.15 The proximity of sites to AQMAs does not fully test the potential for those sites to generate additional road traffic through AQMAs. Furthermore, in isolation, individual sites options are likely to generate relatively minor effects on air quality. It is therefore considered more appropriate to appraise the Plan's ability to improve air quality over the Plan period in the IIA Report as part of the appraisal of strategic planning policies and the cumulative effects of the Plan's site allocations as a whole (see **Chapters 6 and 7**).

5.16 Therefore, all sites are considered to have a negligible effect against this objective at this stage.

IIA objective 7: To promote sustainable forms of development that maintain and improve the quality of the Borough's natural resources, including minerals, soils, waters and waste materials

5.17 The most versatile and most productive agricultural land in the country is classified as Grade 1, 2 and 3a. Basildon Borough does not have any Grade 1 or 2 land and most of the land in the Borough is classified as Grade 3. Grade 3 land can be subdivided into 3a, which is considered as 'best and most versatile' and 3b, which is not. This sub-division is not presently available for Basildon. Eleven of the 15 Plotland sites are likely to have a significant positive effect on this objective. These sites are located on mostly brownfield land. However,

there are four site options (PL2, PL3, PL7 and PL14) which are expected to have a minor negative effect on this IIA objective. These sites are distributed across the Borough with two in the area to the south of Basildon and Laindon and the remaining two located to the north of Dunton and towards central Basildon. All of these sites are located on mostly greenfield land, contain at least 25% Grade 3 agricultural land and are close to a water body with potential for development to contribute to water pollution through run off. Of all the Plotland sites considered, only one site option (PL4) is located within a Source Protection Zone and only two sites (PL8 and PL14) lie within Mineral Safeguarding Areas.

IIA objective 8: Climate Change mitigation - Reduce Basildon Borough's contribution to climate change.

5.18 All of the Plotland site options are expected to have minor negative effects in relation to IIA objective 8. This is because all of the sites have an NO2 pollutant concentration of 10-40 µg/m3, a PM2.5 pollution concentration of 5-20 µg/m3 and a PM10 pollutant concentration of 15-40 µg/m3. Any additional development at these sites would likely increase traffic and existing levels of air pollution, in addition to greenhouse gas emissions, and therefore worsen air quality and contribute towards climate change.

IIA objective 9: Climate change adaptation - Reduce Basildon Borough's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change

5.19 Several sources of flooding pose a risk to Basildon Borough. The majority of Basildon is within Flood Zone 1, with about 2% of the Borough in Flood Zone 2 and 9% defined as Flood Zone 3. Fluvial flood risk from the River Crouch and its tributaries poses a significant risk to the residential areas of Wickford and Basildon. Fluvial flood risk posed by the Mountnessing Brook and Haveringsgrove Brook pose a risk to the west of Billericay. The tidal estuaries of Vange Creek and East Haven Creek and Timberman's Creek are located to the south eastern part of the Borough and pose a residual flood risk. Additionally, the River Thames poses a tidal flooding risk in the south of the Borough, although this area is predominantly uninhabited marshland. Nearly all of the Plotland sites (14 out of 15) are expected to have a negligible effect on this objective. This is because most of the sites are not within Flood Zones 2 or 3 and are not significantly located on land with a 1 in 100 or 1 in 30 year risk of surface water flooding. However, more than 25% of site PL11 is within Flood Zone 2 and therefore a minor negative effect is recorded in relation to IIA objective 9. This site is located to the north east of Wickford.

IIA objective 10: Value, maintain, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and geodiversity

5.20 Basildon has a range of designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites, including six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), 49 Local Wildlife Sites and 19 areas of Ancient Woodlands. The plan area is also relatively close to the Crouch and Roach Estuaries (designated as a Ramsar, SPA and SAC),

Benfleet and Southend Marshes (designated as a SPA and Ramsar site) and the Thames Estuary and Marshes (designated as a SPA and Ramsar site). This distribution, together with the locations of the Plotland sites, has resulted in the majority of the Plotland site options being identified by the IIA as having negative effects in relation to IIA objective 10.

5.21 All Plotland sites other than PL10 are expected to have a significant negative effect on this objective. At all 14 of these sites, 1% of their total area intersects with a locally designated site, Priority Habitat or Ancient Woodland. Sites PL2, PL3, PL4 and PL6 also include areas of national designated biodiversity sites. Sites PL2, PL3 and PL4 to the south of Basildon contain parts of Langdon Ridge SSSI. Site PL6 to the east of Billericay contains part of Norsey Wood SSSI.

5.22 The one remaining site (PL10) is located to the south of Wickford and also contains an area of Priority Habitat. However, this area makes up less than 1% of the total site area. Therefore, a minor negative effect is expected for this site on IIA objective 10.

IIA objective 11: Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage

5.23 The built heritage assets of Basildon are extensive and provide a sense of place and civic pride for residents and visitors. Much of the open countryside contains pre 18th century features, including Anglo-Saxon or medieval field patterns, historic churches and other listed buildings. As of 2023, there are 129 Listed Buildings: 2 Grade I, 12 Grade II* and 112 Grade II. Additionally, there are 3 Scheduled Monuments and 4 Conservation Areas. Billericay contains the largest Conservation Area in the plan area and this settlement also contains the largest concentration of Listed Buildings of the Borough's settlements. There are additional Conservation Areas designated in Little Burstead, Great Burstead and Noak Bridge. Given that no heritage impact assessment work is available to

inform the IIA and that development may provide opportunity to achieve mitigation and enhancement of effects relating to the historic environment, uncertainty is attached to all effects recorded in relation to IIA objective 11.

5.24 Uncertain significant negative effects are expected for seven of the 15 Plotland sites. The majority of these sites are located within the existing settlements of the plan area and are within 100m of a heritage asset. The exception to this is site PL14 which is to the north of the developed area of Dunton and contains Grade II Listed Buildings Rose Cottage and Wayletts. One site, PL9, located west of Wickford, is found to have an uncertain minor negative effect on this objective because it is within 101-250m of Grade II Listed Building Bell Farmhouse within the existing settlement. The remaining site options are found to have uncertain negligible effects in relation to IIA objective 11 given that they are located within an existing settlement in the Borough and are more than 250m from the nearest heritage asset.

IIA objective 12: Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and townscape, ensuring development does not detract from the quality of views and local distinctiveness

5.25 All development could have some effect on the landscape depending on the character and sensitivity of the surrounding area. As there is no landscape sensitivity assessment or similar available for Basildon that can be easily translated into IIA effects, the appraisal of sites in terms of effects on landscape and townscape has considered whether a site is located at a settlement (within or adjacent to a settlement boundary, as defined in Basildon's adopted Local Plan) or in the wider rural area. It is considered likely that development within or adjacent to a settlement may not have as substantial an effect on the landscape when compared to a site located outside of a settlement. Uncertainty is

attached to all effects recorded for this IIA objective given the lack of landscape sensitivity work and the potential for mitigation and enhancement to be achieved at development sites through design solutions.

5.26 All of the Plotland sites except for PL11 and PL14 are found to have an uncertain minor positive effect on this objective. These sites are within or adjacent to the defined settlement boundary. The effect of development on the landscape at these locations is expected to be more limited compared to development at more remote locations in the Borough. Sites PL11 and PL14 are found to have an uncertain minor negative effect in relation to this IIA objective. Site PL11 is located beyond the eastern boundary of Wickford and site PL14 is located to the north of the A127 and the developed area of Dunton village.

Summary

5.27 All of the Plotlands sites have mixed effects in relation to several of the IIA objectives. PL5, PL12, PL13 and PL15 are all likely to have significant positive effects on two IIA objectives: IIA1 and IIA7. The sites with the most significant negative effects (all in relation to IIA 10, and uncertain significant negative effects on IIA11) are PL12, PL7, PL13, PL15, PL4 and PL14.

5.28 On reviewing the combination of effects across the range of OOA objectives (significant positive, minor positive, negligible, minor negative and significant negative) for each site, the most sustainable sites across all IIA objectives are considered to be PL6 and PL8. The least sustainable sites across all IIA objectives are PL14, PL11 and PL3.

Other Site Options

5.29 This section summarises the IIA findings for the reasonable alternative site options that have been considered for allocation in the Basildon Local Plan to

date. A total of 33 residential site options and four employment site options have been appraised.

5.30 The likely effects of each site option are presented in **Table 5.2** for residential site options and **Table 5.3** for employment site options. Justification for the identified effects is summarised by each IIA objective below

Table 5.2: IIA findings for residential site options

Site ID	IIA1	IIA2	IIA3	IIA4	IIA5	IIA6	IIA7	IIA8	IIA9	IIA10	IIA11	IIA 12
AS1	++	-	N/A	+	-	0?	-	-	0		?	+?
AS2	++	-	N/A	-	+	0?	-	-	0		-?	+?
AS3	++	-	N/A	0	-	0?	-	-	0		?	+?
AS4	++	-	N/A	-	-	0?	-	-	0	-	0?	+?
IF1	+	+	N/A	+	+	0?	++	-	0		?	+?
H1	+	0	N/A	+	-	0?	-	-	0		?	+?
H2	++	+	N/A	+	+	0?	-	-	0		?	+?
H3	++	-	N/A	+	+	0?	-	-	0	-	?	+?
H4	++	+	N/A	+	+	0?	-	-	0		?	+?
H5	++	-	N/A	-	-	0?	-	-	0		?	+?
H6	+	+	N/A	+	+	0?	-	-	0		?	+?

Site ID	IIA1	IIA2	IIA3	IIA4	IIA5	IIA6	IIA7	IIA8	IIA9	IIA10	IIA11	IIA 12
H7	+	+	N/A	-	+	0?	-	-	0	-	0?	+?
H8	+	+	N/A	+	+	0?	-	-	0		0?	+?
H9	+	+	N/A	-	+	0?	-	-	0		-?	+?
H10	+	+	N/A	+	+	0?	-	-	0		-?	+?
H11	++	+	N/A	-	+	0?	-	-	0		?	+?
H12	++	0	N/A	+	++	0?	-	-	0		?	+?
H13	+	+	N/A	+	+	0?	-	-	0		-?	+?
H14	+	-	N/A	+	-	0?	-	-	0		?	+?
H15	+	-	N/A	+	+	0?	-	-	0		?	+?
H16	+	0	N/A	+	-	0?	++	-	0		?	+?
H17	+	-	N/A	+	-	0?	-	-	0		-?	+?
H18	+	-	N/A	+	+	0?	-	-	-	-	?	+?
H19	+	+	N/A	+	+	0?	-	-	0	-	0?	+?
H20	+	+	N/A	+	+	0?	++	-	0		?	+?
H21	+	+	N/A	+	-	0?	-	-	0		?	+?

Site ID	IIA1	IIA2	IIA3	IIA4	IIA5	IIA6	IIA7	IIA8	IIA9	IIA10	IIA11	IIA 12
H22	++	+	N/A	+	+	0?	-	-	0		?	+?
H23	+	+	N/A	+	0	0?	++	-	0		?	+?
H24	+	+	N/A	+	++	0?	++	-	0		?	+?
H25	+	-	N/A	0	0	0?	++	-	0		0?	+?
H26	++	+	N/A	+	+	0?	-	-			?	+?
H27	++	+	N/A	+	0	0?	++	-	0		?	+?
H28	+	+	N/A	-	-	0?	++	-	0		0?	+?

Table 5.3: IIA findings for employment sites

Site ID	IIA1	IIA2	IIA3	IIA4	IIA5	IIA6	IIA7	IIA8	IIA9	IIA10	IIA11	IIA 12
E1 (E2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	-	0?	-	-	0	-	?	+?
E2(H13)	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	-	0?	-	-	0		?	-?
E3 (H19)	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	-	0?	++	-	0		0?	+?
E4 (E1)	N/A	N/A	N/A	++	-	0?	-	-	0		-?	+?

IIA objective 1: Provide new and affordable housing to meet identified needs of the whole community, covering housing of a suitable mix and type

5.31 Positive effects are expected for all 33 of the residential site options, as they will contribute positively to housing provision in the Borough. Significant positive effects are expected for 14 of the sites. All of these sites have capacity for 10 or more dwellings and therefore would make a more substantial contribution to meeting the local housing need. These sites are also located within one of the 10% or 20% most deprived areas nationally as per the barriers to housing and services' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. It is expected that the development of these sites will therefore help to address access to housing in areas of most need in the Borough. These sites lie within the wards of Pitsea North West, Pitsea South East, Castledon and Crouch, Burstead, Billericay East and Billericay West and Laindon Park. The remaining 19 residential sites would provide 10 or more dwellings but are located outside of the areas of greatest need in the plan area. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 1 for those sites. The location of sites will not influence the mix of housing that is provided onsite. This will instead be determined by policies in the Basildon Local Plan.

5.32 The locations of the employment options are not considered likely to affect this objective; therefore this objective has been scoped out for all of the employment sites.

IIA objective 2: Create a safe, healthy and inclusive living environment and encourage healthy lifestyles, improving access to local services and facilities that promote prosperity, health, well-being, recreation and integration

5.33 Over half of the residential sites are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to this IIA objective. This is primarily due to the fact that all of the sites are within 800m of an open space, sport or recreation facility. Furthermore, the majority of the residential site options are within 400m of a public right of way. Residents at these sites are more likely to make active and healthy lifestyle choices given their proximity to these assets. In addition, over three quarters of the residential sites are not near a source of odour pollution such as wastewater treatment works or an anaerobic digestion facility and over half of the sites are not near an area of significant noise pollution. Sources of odour with potential to impact health at new residential sites include wastewater treatment facilities, four of which are located in the east of the Borough and two of which are located in the north west of the Borough and the anaerobic digestion facility within the south of the Borough. There is also potential for adverse effects relating to noise pollution associated with sites that are close to the A176 which runs through the centre of Borough, the A13 which runs through the south of the Borough and A130 which runs towards the eastern boundary of the Borough. The railway lines in the north and south of the Borough also have potential to result to subject new residents to noise pollution.

5.34 However, the majority of the site options are more than 800m from a town centre and/or the nearest NHS GP surgery, which could prevent travel by active modes and reduce access to healthcare. The town centres in Basildon are found mostly in the south of the Borough at Basildon, Laindon and Pitsea, with further town centres found in Billericay and Wickford to the north west and north

east, respectively. The NHS GP surgeries are most located towards the south of the Borough with GP surgeries to the north mostly limited towards the areas of Billericay and Wickford. In addition, half of the sites are sited partly on an open space, sport or recreation facility, so their development is likely to harm the assets in question and/or reduce access.

5.35 The location of the employment sites is unlikely to affect this objective given the use type being considered. Therefore, this objective has been scoped out for all of the employment sites.

IIA objective 3: Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not.

5.36 This is a cross-cutting IIA objective. To avoid duplication, site assessment criteria that are determinants of equality of health and well-being, accessibility and opportunity but which are tested under other IIA objectives are not duplicated here.

5.37 Effects recorded under all other IIA objectives effect this IIA objective to varying degrees. Consequently, all sites are recorded as having an uncertain effect against this objective and readers are directed to the effects recorded against the other IIA objectives, which more accurately capture the range of issues relevant to this objective at a more granular level.

IIA objective 4: Facilitate a prosperous and growing economy that creates a range of new jobs and improves vitality and viability of town centres

5.38 Approximately two thirds of the residential site options are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to this IIA objective. This is primarily because they have good access to schools, with the majority of sites being within 800m from a primary school and 1,000m from a secondary school. Access to schools varies across the Borough. Existing provision is most concentrated in the south of the Borough, followed by the north west and north east. While there are fewer secondary schools in the Borough than primary schools, fewer sites are outside of the furthest acceptable distance to a secondary school (2,000m) than to a primary school (1,200m).

5.39 The majority of site options are not within an existing employment area and/or not within one of the 40% most deprived areas nationally as per the 'Employment' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Residential development (instead of employment development) in these areas could reduce the employment offer in the plan area and place residents where they would have more limited access to employment opportunities.

5.40 However, almost a quarter of the residential sites are expected to minor negative effects. This partly reflects the location of many sites within a LSOA that is in 40-80 percentile of LSOAs in Borough for jobs density. Areas of highest job density in the Borough are mostly found towards the centre of Basildon as well as towards Wickford and Billericay. Areas beyond this display lower levels of job density.

5.41 Two employment sites are expected to have significant positive effects in relation to IIA objective 4. They sites are both 5ha or more in size and are located within one of the 20-40% most deprived areas nationally as per the

'Employment' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. As such the development of these sites is considered likely to help address employment deprivation in areas of greatest need in Basildon.

5.42 Two employment sites are considered to have minor positive effects in relation to IIA objective 4 as they are in areas of less deprivation, and are less well located in relation to services.

IIA objective 5: Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents, and promote sustainable modes of transport and efficient movement patterns in the Borough

5.43 Around two thirds of the residential site options are expected to have positive effects in relation to IIA objective 5, with the effects expected for two of these sites expected to be significant. This mainly because almost all of the sites are within 600m of a bus stop and over a third of the sites are within or adjacent to a Local Service Centre or Market Town. Bus stops are spread throughout the Borough but there is a concentration of these within the Basildon urban area as well as within Billericay and Wickford and Ramsden Bellhouse to a lesser extent. Basildon Town Centre is located in towards the south of the Borough. Sites within or adjacent to this and other town centre locations will provide residents with greater opportunity to access essential services and facilities by walking or cycling. Approximately half of the sites are over 1,000m from a railway station and two-thirds are more than 400m from a cycle route. The railways stations in Basildon are found in Billericay, Wickford, Laindon Park, Basildon and Pitsea. Furthermore, cycle routes are limited to the south west, north west and central parts of the Borough. Around one third of the residential sites are expected to have a minor negative effect in relation to IIA

objective given the more limited accessibility to transport links and town centre locations.

5.44 All four of the employment site options are expected to have minor negative effects. These sites lie within 300m of a bus stop, but more than 1,000m from a railway station and 800m from a cycle route. All sites are not within or adjacent to a Market Town or Local Service Centre.

IIA objective 6: Improve air quality by reducing emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants

5.45 Basildon currently does not have any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). In isolation, individual sites are likely to generate relatively minor effects on air quality. It is considered more appropriate to appraise the Plan's ability to reduce air quality over the Plan Period in the SA Report as part of the appraisal of strategic planning policies and the cumulative effects of the Plan's site allocations as a whole.

5.46 Therefore, all site options would have an uncertain negligible effect on this objective.

IIA objective 7: To promote sustainable forms of development that maintain and improve the quality of the Borough's natural resources, including minerals, soils, waters and waste materials

5.47 The most versatile and most productive agricultural land in the country is classified as Grade 1, 2 and 3a. Basildon Borough does not have any Grade 1 or 2 land. Most of the land in the Borough is classified as Grade 3. Grade 3 land can be subdivided into 3a, which is considered as 'best and most versatile' and 3b, which is not. This sub-division is not presently available for Basildon. Around a quarter of the residential sites are expected to have significant positive effects in relation to IIA objective 7. This is primarily because these sites are on brownfield land. These sites are mostly in the built up areas in the north (Billericay), central south (Basildon) and north east and east (Wickford) of the Borough. In addition, all of the sites are not within Source Protection Zone 1, 2 or 3 and almost all are not within a Minerals Safeguarding Area. The exception to this is for some sites within Billericay and Wickford where several Mineral Safeguarding Area are located.

5.48 However, over half of the residential sites are expected to have minor negative effects in relation to this IIA objective. These sites lie on greenfield land with 25% or more of their area classed as Grade 3 agricultural land and close to or containing a watercourse or water body. The sites in question are beyond the existing built up areas of Basildon, Billericay and Wickford.

5.49 Three employment sites are expected to have minor negative effects in relation to this IIA objective. This is because both sites are mainly comprised of greenfield land, contain a watercourse or water body and 25% or more of both sites' areas are classed as Grade 3 agricultural land. These sites are not within Source Protection Zone 1, 2 or 3 and are not within a Minerals Safeguarding

Area. The fourth employment site is expected to have a significant positive effect on this objective as it is located on brownfield land.

IIA objective 8: Climate Change mitigation - reduce Basildon Borough's contribution to climate change

5.50 All of the site options (residential and employment) are expected to have minor negative effects in relation to IIA objective 8. This is because all of the sites have an NO2 pollutant concentration of 10-40 µg/m3, a PM2.5 pollution concentration of 5-20 µg/m3. In addition, almost all of the sites have a PM10 pollutant concentration of 15-40 µg/m3. Any additional development at these sites would likely increase traffic and associated air pollution, in addition to greenhouse gas emissions, and therefore worsen existing levels of air pollution and contribute towards climate change.

IIA objective 9: Climate change adaptation - reduce Basildon Borough's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change

5.51 Several sources of flooding pose a risk to Basildon Borough. The majority of Basildon is within Flood Zone 1, with about 2% of the Borough in Flood Zone 2 and 9% defined as Flood Zone 3. Fluvial flood risk from the River Crouch and its tributaries poses a significant risk to the residential areas of Wickford and Basildon. Fluvial flood risk posed by the Mountnessing Brook and Haveringsgrove Brook pose a risk to the west of Billericay. The tidal estuaries of Vange Creek and East Haven Creek and Timberman's Creek are located to the south eastern part of the Borough and pose a residual flood risk. Additionally,

the River Thames poses a tidal flooding risk in the south of the Borough, although this area is predominantly uninhabited marshland.

5.52 Almost all of the site options are expected to have negligible effects in relation to IIA objective 9, including all four employment sites. They are not within Flood Zones 2 or 3 and are located on land that falls mostly outside of areas with a 1 in 100 or 1 in 30 year risk of surface water flooding. However, one residential site (H26) is expected to have a significant negative effect and two further residential sites (H10 and H18) are expected to have a minor negative effect in relation to this IIA objective. Site H6 is located within Flood Zone 2 and on land with a 1 in 100 year risk of surface water flooding. This site is located on the northern edge of Basildon. Sites H10 and H18 both contain land with a 1 in 100 year risk of surface water flooding. These sites lie at the south east of Pitsea and north east of Wickford, respectively.

IIA objective 10: Value, maintain, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and geodiversity

5.53 Basildon has a range of locations identified for their environmental sensitivity, including six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), 49 Local Wildlife Sites and 19 areas of Ancient Woodland. The plan area is also relatively close to the Crouch and Roach Estuaries (designated as a Ramsar, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Benfleet and Southend Marshes (designated as a SPA and Ramsar site) and the Thames Estuary and Marshes (designated as a SPA and Ramsar site. This distribution, together with the locations of the sites considered, has resulted in the majority of residential and employment sites being identified as having negative effects in relation to IIA objective 10. The majority of the negative effects identified are expected to be significant.

5.54 Most of the residential sites intersect with a locally designated site, Priority Habitat or Ancient Woodland, with the remaining sites being within 250m of

these types of biodiversity assets. The sites that intersect with locally designated sites are mostly on the edge of the built up areas. There are concentrations of Priority Habitats to the north of Billericay, south of Basildon and south of North Benfleet with some sites in these locations intersecting with these biodiversity assets. In addition, over a third of residential sites intersect with 'all planning applications', 'residential' or ‘rural residential’ Impact Risk Zones (IRZs), As such there is potential for the development of many of the residential sites to harm Basildon’s natural assets and biodiversity.

5.55 Three employment sites are expected to have significant negative effects in relation to this IIA objective as they both are within 250m from a locally designated site, Priority Habitat or Ancient Woodland. One employment site is more than 250m from a locally designated site, Priority Habitat or Ancient Woodland and is therefore expected to have a minor negative effect on this objective.

IIA objective 11: Value, conserve and enhance the Borough’s historic environment and cultural heritage

5.56 The built heritage assets of Basildon are extensive and provide a sense of place and civic pride for residents and visitors. There are 13 Historic Environment Character Areas in the Borough. Much of the open countryside contains pre 18th century features, including Anglo-Saxon or medieval field patterns, historic churches and other listed buildings. As of 2023, the Borough contains 129 Listed Buildings: 2 Grade I, 12 Grade II* and 112 Grade II. Additionally, there are 3 Scheduled Monuments and 4 Conservation Areas. Billericay contains the largest Conservation Area in the plan area and this settlement also contains the largest concentration of Listed Buildings of the Borough’s settlements. There are additional Conservation Areas designated in Little Burstead, Great Burstead and Noak Bridge. Given that no heritage impact assessment work is available to inform the IIA and that development may provide opportunity to achieve mitigation and enhancement of effects relating to

the historic environment, uncertainty is attached to all effects recorded in relation to IIA objective 11.

5.57 22 of the residential sites are expected to have uncertain significant negative effects. Most of these sites lie within the boundaries of existing settlements in the Borough but are within 100m of historic assets. 6 of the residential sites are expected to have uncertain negligible effects. All of these sites are located within the settlements of the plan area and are more than 250m from the nearest heritage asset.

5.58 Two of the employment sites have potential but uncertain significant negative effects in relation to IIA objective 11. While the sites lie on the edge of urban areas, they contain or are within 100m of designated heritage assets. A third employment site is expected to have an uncertain minor negative effect as it is within 250m of a designated heritage asset. An uncertain negligible effect is expected for the other employment site (E4) which lies on the developed edge of South Benfleet in the Castle Point District and is not within 250m of any designated heritage assets.

IIA objective 12: Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and townscape, ensuring development does not detract from the quality of views and local distinctiveness

5.59 All development could have some effect on the landscape depending on the character and sensitivity of the surrounding area. As there is no landscape sensitivity assessment or similar available for Basildon that can be easily translated into IIA effects, the appraisal of sites in terms of effects on landscape and townscape has considered whether a site is located at a settlement (within or adjacent to a settlement boundary, as defined in Basildon's adopted Local

Plan) or in the wider rural area. It is considered likely that development within or adjacent to a settlement may not have as substantial an effect on the landscape when compared to a site located outside of a settlement. Uncertainty is attached to all effects recorded for this IIA objective given the lack of landscape sensitivity work and the potential for mitigation and enhancement to be achieved at development sites through design solutions.

5.60 Almost all of the residential sites are expected to have uncertain minor positive effects in relation to IIA objective 12. This is because the majority of the sites are within or adjacent to the defined settlement boundary. The effects of development on the landscape at these locations is expected to be more limited compared to development at more remote locations in the Borough.

5.61 Three employment sites are expected to have uncertain minor positive effects in relation to IIA objective 12. These sites lie on the developed edge of South Benfleet in the Castle Point District (E4) and on the developed edge of North Benfleet and Basildon (E1). The fourth employment site is considered to have an uncertain minor negative effect in relation to IIA objective 12 as it lies at a distance from any urban or developed edge.

Summary

5.62 In terms of housing sites, H12, H23, H24 and H27 are all likely to have significant positive effects against more than one IIA objective. H26 is the only site to have likely significant negative effects on three IIA objectives as well as one uncertain significant negative effect, although many sites also perform similarly against IIA objective 11.

5.63 On reviewing the combination of effects across the range of IIA objectives (major positive, minor positive, negligible, minor negative and major negative) the most sustainable housing sites are considered to be H3, H20, H23, H24 and H27. H5 is considered to be the least sustainable site, followed by H14, H23, AS3 and AS4.

5.64 Of the employment sites, E2 is considered to be the least sustainable, with anticipated significant negative effects on IIA10, and uncertain significant negative effects on IIA11. The site would only have minor positive effects on IIA4. The most sustainable site is E4, with anticipated significant positive effects on IIA4, although there are still significant negative effects on IIA10.

Chapter 6

IIA of the Draft Local Plan

6.1 This chapter presents an appraisal of the Vision, Strategic Objectives and policies included in the Draft Local Plan. The cumulative effects of the plan as a whole are considered in **Chapter 7**.

Alternative policy options

6.2 The Draft Local Plan provides information on 'alternatives considered' for each draft policy, under the preferred policy wording.. In the majority of cases, the alternative would be to have no policy or to rely on the provisions within the NPPF. These alternative options have not been considered within the IIA as this would be effectively an appraisal of that existing policy which would not be appropriate.

6.3 The Draft Local Plan identified reasonable alternative options which are of a format appropriate for appraisal, in relation to one policy: HOU1 Size, Type and Quality of New Housing. This option has been considered alongside the appraisal of the draft policies in the relevant sections below:

Vision and strategic objectives

6.4 Chapter 3 of the Draft Local Plan outlines the Vision and Strategic Objectives for the emerging Local Plan. The IIA findings for the Vision and Strategic Objectives are presented in **Table 6.1** overleaf and summarised below the table.

Table 6.1: Vision and Strategic Objectives effects

IIA Objectives	Overarching Vision	SO1: Protect and enhance the quality of the Local Environment	SO2: Improve the quality and value of the Green Belt	SO3: Minimise our impact on the Environment	SO4: Create vibrant and thriving town centres	SO5: Strengthen the competitiveness of the Local Economy	SO6: Deliver a range of new homes to meet local needs	SO7: Mitigate against the impact of Climate Change	SO8: Help local people maintain healthier lifestyles	SO9: Enhance the quality of life for all	SO10: Secure the delivery of supporting infrastructure
IIA1: Housing	++	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	+?	0
IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+
IIA3: Equalities	++	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	++	+
IIA4: Economy and employment	++	0	0	0	++	++	+	0	0	0	+
IIA5: Transport	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	+
IIA6: Air	+	+?	0	+?	+	+	0	+	+	+?	+
IIA7: Mineral, soil, water and waste	+/	+	+	+	0	-	+/	+	0	0	-
IIA8: Climate change mitigation	++	+?	0	+?	+	+	0	++	+	+?	+
IIA9: Climate change adaptation	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	+	+	+
IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	++/-	++	+	++	0	-	-	0	+	0	+/

IIA Objectives	Overarching Vision	SO1: Protect and enhance the quality of the Local Environment	SO2: Improve the quality and value of the Green Belt	SO3: Minimise our impact on the Environment	SO4: Create vibrant and thriving town centres	SO5: Strengthen the competitiveness of the Local Economy	SO6: Deliver a range of new homes to meet local needs	SO7: Mitigate against the impact of Climate Change	SO8: Help local people maintain healthier lifestyles	SO9: Enhance the quality of life for all	SO10: Secure the delivery of supporting infrastructure
IIA11: Historic environment	++/-	++	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-
IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts	+/	++	++	+	+	-	-	0	0	0	-

IIA 1: Provide new and affordable housing to meet identified needs of the whole community, covering housing of a suitable mix and type

6.5 The Vision is likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective because it promotes the delivery of a diverse range of accommodation that meets local needs.

6.6 The Strategic Objective promoting the delivery of new homes (SO6) is also likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective. A minor positive effect is also likely for the strategic objective that seeks to protect and enhance the quality of the local environment (SO1) as it includes an aim to enhance the quality of the Borough's built environment through spatial planning and design. It is expected that this approach will secure a high quality of housing and protect residential amenity in the plan area. A minor positive effect is also expected for the Strategic Objective that seeks to enhance the quality of life for all (SO9). This approach is likely to support improved access to affordable homes. However, this is not specified, and therefore the positive effect is partly uncertain.

6.7 The other strategic objectives are expected to have negligible effects, as they make no reference to the themes of this IIA objective.

IIA 2: Create a safe, healthy and inclusive living environment and encourage healthy lifestyles, improving access to local services and facilities that promote prosperity, health, well-being, recreation and integration

6.8 The Vision is likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective because it promotes a safe Borough with high standards of health and wellbeing. The Vision also supports the enhancement of leisure and community facilities in the plan area which will support public health and wellbeing in Basildon.

6.9 The Strategic Objective promoting the maintenance of healthier lifestyles (SO8) is likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective as it directly addresses the IIA objective. The remaining Strategic Objectives are expected to indirectly benefit the health and wellbeing of Borough residents, workers and visitors. Benefits relate to the provision of a high quality environment where residents have access to housing, services and facilities and green spaces that support public health and allow for social integration. The Strategic Objectives also set out the approach to supporting job provision and mitigating the effects of climate change in Basildon which will support the mental wellbeing of residents. Minor positive effects are therefore recorded for these Strategic Objectives in relation to IIA objective 2.

IIA 3: Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not

6.10 The Vision is likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective because it acknowledges and supports the diversity of the Borough. The Vision

also refers to a need for an improved cultural offer and an extended variety of educational, economic and housing opportunities for all.

6.11 The Strategic Objective promoting the enhancement of quality of life for all (SO9) is likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective due to its inclusivity. Other objectives that support access for all members of the community and equality such as supporting healthier lifestyles (SO8), creating vibrant and thriving town centres (SO4), and the delivery of new homes (SO6), economic competitiveness (SO5) and infrastructure (SO10) are also expected to have minor positive effects in relation to this IIA objective.

6.12 The other Strategic Objectives are expected to have a negligible effect, as they make no reference to the themes of this IIA objective.

IIA 4: Facilitate a prosperous and growing economy that creates a range of new jobs and improves vitality and viability of town centres

6.13 The Vision is likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective because it supports a move towards a prosperous economy providing employment for Basildon's residents, as well as regenerated town centres.

6.14 The Strategic Objectives that promote vibrant and thriving town centres (SO4) and a strengthening of the local economy's competitiveness (SO5) are likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective. This reflects the direct overlap of the themes of the Strategic Objectives and IIA objective 4. The Strategic Objectives that deliver new homes (SO6) and infrastructure (SO10) will accommodate the growing population of workers, facilitate growth and support increased footfall in town centres with minor positive effects expected on this IIA objective.

6.15 The other Strategic Objectives are expected to have a negligible effect, as they make no reference to the themes of this IIA objective.

IIA 5: Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents, and promote sustainable modes of transport and efficient movement patterns in the Borough

6.16 The Vision is likely to have a minor positive in relation to this IIA objective. While it does not make reference to the implementation of more sustainable modes of transport or promote the mitigation of pollution in the Borough, it is likely that the provision of employment and services and facilities will reduce the need for some residents to have to travel on a regular basis.

6.17 The Strategic Objectives that promote the creation of vibrant and thriving town centres (SO4, a competitive local economy (SO5), healthier lifestyles for local people (SO8) and delivery of supporting infrastructure (SO10) are likely to support access to nearby jobs and services and facilities for Basildon's residents which may limit journeys made by car. The Strategic Objective set out to mitigate the impacts of climate change (SO7) includes an aim of reducing car use. As such these Strategic Objectives are also expected to have minor positive effects on this IIA objective.

6.18 The other Strategic Objectives do not directly address improvements to transport within the Borough, and as such are expected to have negligible effects in relation to this IIA objective.

IIA 6: Improve air quality by reducing emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants

6.19 The Vision is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to this IIA objective. While it does not make direct reference to improving air quality or reducing emissions across the Borough it is likely that supporting the provision

of employment and services and facilities will reduce the need for some residents to have to travel on a regular basis, thereby limiting contributions to air pollution.

6.20 The Strategic Objectives that promote creating vibrant and thriving town centres (SO4), strengthening the local economy (SO5), mitigating the impacts of climate change (SO7), helping local people maintain healthier lifestyles (SO8) and securing the delivery of supporting infrastructure (SO10) are likely to have minor positive effects on this IIA objective. These Strategic Objectives are expected to help limit greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution including that associated with transport by supporting travel by more sustainable modes. This benefit is particularly likely given their support for the provision of employment and services and facilities where Basildon's residents can easily access them.

6.21 The Strategic Objectives that seek to maintain and improve quality of life (SO9)and the environment (SO1)could be achieved in part through air pollution mitigation and could therefore have a minor positive effect on this IIA objective. However, given that these Strategic Objectives could be delivered without such measures, albeit to a lesser degree, the minor positive effects recorded for these strategic objectives against this IIA objective are uncertain.

6.22 The other Strategic Objectives are expected to have negligible effects, as they make no reference to the themes of this IIA objective.

IIA 7: To promote sustainable forms of development that maintain and improve the quality of the Borough's natural resources, including minerals, soils, waters and waste materials

6.23 The Vision is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to this IIA objective as it refers to the protection and enhancement of the natural

environment. This is expected to include natural resources such as minerals, soil and water, however these are not directly discussed. The minor positive effect is expected in combination with a minor negative given the delivery of a prosperous economy, higher value jobs and housing and infrastructure to meet the needs of residents is likely to result in the development of greenfield land and the use of other natural resources for construction.

6.24 The Strategic Objective that promotes the protection and enhancement of the local environment (SO1)addresses the protection of the natural environment in Basildon. Similarly, the Strategic Objectives that seek to improve the quality and value of the Green Belt (SO2), to minimise impact on the environment (SO3) and to mitigate the impact of climate change (SO7) support the protection of natural resources and more sustainable patterns of development. Minor positive effects are therefore expected for these three Strategic Objectives in relation to IIA objective 7.

6.25 The Strategic Objectives of strengthening the competitiveness of the local economy, securing the delivery of homes and securing the delivery of supporting infrastructure have the potential to have minor negative effects on this objective given the land take required to achieve these aims. For the Strategic Objective of delivering a range of new homes to meet local needs (SO6) the negative effect is combined with a minor positive effect given that the associated main tasks include prioritising urban areas and previously developed land for development.

6.26 The other Strategic Objectives are expected to have negligible effects, as they make no reference to the themes of this IIA objective.

IIA 8: Reduce Basildon Borough's contribution to climate change

6.27 The Vision is likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective given that it includes the direct aim of mitigating the impact of climate change in Basildon Borough by 2043. The Vision also supports the provision of

employment and services and facilities in Basildon which is likely to reduce the need for out commuting and other journeys which might otherwise contribute to carbon emissions.

6.28 The Strategic Objective of mitigating against the impact of climate change (SO7) is likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective given the direct overlap of their respective aims. Importantly this Strategic Objective supports the generation of energy from renewable sources as well as providing development in more sustainable locations.

6.29 The Strategic Objectives that promote creating vibrant and thriving town centres (SO4), strengthening the local economy (SO5), helping local people maintain healthier lifestyles (SO8) and delivering supporting infrastructure (SO10) are likely to have minor positive effects on this IIA objective. These Strategic Objectives are likely to reduce the need for journeys by car by promoting sustainable travel and the provision of jobs and services and facilities in the plan area where residents will have easy access to them.

6.30 The remaining Strategic Objectives do not refer to climate change mitigation measures or measures that would reduce the need to travel in Basildon. However, the Strategic Objectives that aim to protect and enhance the quality of the local environment (SO1), minimise impact on the environment (SO3) and enhance the quality of life for all (SO9) could be achieved in part through climate change mitigation measures, such as the incorporation of green infrastructure and supporting less polluting energy generation. Therefore, minor positive effects are recorded in relation to this IIA objective. However, given that these Strategic Objectives could be delivered without such measures, albeit to a lesser degree, all minor positive effects recorded are partly uncertain.

6.31 The other Strategic Objectives are expected to have negligible effects, as they make no reference climate change or potential mitigative provisions.

IIA 9: Reduce Basildon Borough's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

6.32 The Vision is likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective given that it includes the direct aim of mitigating the impact of climate change in Basildon Borough by 2043.

6.33 The Strategic Objective of mitigating against the impact of climate change (SO7) is also likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective given the direct overlap of the respective aims of these objectives. The Strategic Objectives aiming to minimise impact on the environment (SO3), help local people maintain healthier lifestyles (SO8), enhance the quality of life for all (SO9) and secure the delivery of supporting infrastructure (SO10) are all likely to have minor positive effects on this IIA objective. The minor positive effects reflect the support through these Strategic Objectives for natural systems and green infrastructure that will likely make the Borough more resilient to the effects of climate change.

6.34 The other Strategic Objectives are expected to have negligible effects, as they make no reference climate change or potential adaptive provisions.

IIA 10: Value, maintain, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and geodiversity

6.35 The Vision is likely to have a significant positive effect in relation to this IIA objective because it references the protection and enhancement of the natural local environment and biodiversity net gain. However, the delivery of a prosperous economy, higher value jobs and housing to meet residents' needs is likely to result in the development of greenfield land which may adversely impact some natural habitats in the Borough. Therefore, the significant positive effect recorded for the Vision in relation to IIA objective 10 is combined with a minor negative effect.

6.36 The Strategic Objectives of most relevance in relation to IIA objective 10 are the objective to protect and enhance the quality of the local environment (SO1) and the objective to minimise impacts on the environment (SO3). A minor positive effect is recorded for the Strategic Objective relating to improving the quality and value of the Green Belt. While Green Belt land does not have inherent biodiversity value, its improvement is likely to support its multifunctionality including its value for biodiversity.

6.37 The Strategic Objectives that support securing the delivery of homes (SO6), economic growth (SO5) and infrastructure (SO10) in Basildon have the potential to have minor negative effects on this IIA objective. This reflects the potential loss of greenfield land as development occurs and infrastructure is delivered. For the Strategic Objective relating to the delivery of supporting infrastructure (SO10), a minor positive effect is expected in combination. The supporting main tasks of this Strategic Objective include the provision of green and blue infrastructure which is likely to support habitat maintenance and creation. The Strategic Objective relating to healthier lifestyles (SO8) also supports green and blue infrastructure provision and therefore is also expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 10.

6.38 The other Strategic Objectives are expected to have negligible effects, as they make no reference climate change or potential mitigative provisions.

IIA 11: Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage

6.39 The Vision states that by 2043 the historic environment will have been protected and enhanced in the plan area. Given the direct reference to the protection of this element of the natural environment, a significant positive effect is expected for the Vision in relation to IIA objective 11. However, the support in the Vision for the delivery of a prosperous economy, higher value jobs and housing is likely to result in the need to develop greenfield land and increase the density of existing urban areas which may adversely impact some historic

assets in the Borough. Therefore, the significant positive effect recorded for this IIA objective is combined with a minor negative effect .

6.40 The Strategic Objective of protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment (SO1) is likely to have a significant positive effect on this IIA objective. This Strategic Objective is supported by main tasks that direct align with IIA objective 11 including the enhancement of the quality of the Borough's natural, historic and built environment and conserving heritage assets and enhancing the Borough's distinctive character.

6.41 The Strategic Objectives that support securing the delivery of homes (SO6), economic growth (SO5) and infrastructure (SO10) have the potential to result in minor negative effects on this objective. This reflects the potential for new development in the plan area to adversely affect the settings of heritage assets.

IIA 12: Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and townscape, ensuring development does not detract from the quality of views and local distinctiveness

6.42 The Vision is likely to have a minor positive effect against this IIA objective. While it does not make direct reference to the Borough's landscape or townscapes, it refers to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and biodiversity, which contribute to landscape character in Basildon. However, the delivery of a prosperous economy, higher value jobs and housing and infrastructure is likely to result in the need to develop greenfield land and increase urban densities. This may adversely impact some sensitive parts of the Borough's landscapes and townscapes and therefore the minor positive effect expected in relation to IIA objective 12 is recorded in combination with a minor negative effect.

6.43 The Strategic Objective that promotes improvements to the quality and value of the Green Belt (SO2) is likely to have a significant positive effect in relation to this IIA objective. This approach is likely to help maintain the openness of the countryside and preserve the distinctiveness of existing settlements. The Strategic Objective which aims to protect and enhance the quality of the local environment (SO1) is also likely to have a significant positive effect in relation to this IIA objective given that it is supports by the main task of enhancing the natural environment. The Strategic Objective of minimising impact on the environment (SO3) is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to this IIA objective through its support for sustainable patterns of development and by supporting biodiversity net gain which is likely to contribute to landscape value of the plan area. A minor positive effect is also likely for the Strategic Objective of creating vibrant and thriving town centres (SO4) given that it is likely to support the improvement of townscapes at these locations.

6.44 However, the Strategic Objectives that support securing the delivery of homes, economic growth and infrastructure have the potential to result in minor negative effects on IIA objective 12. This reflects the potential for loss of greenfield land and the provision of development and infrastructure in more sensitive locations.

6.45 The other Strategic Objectives are expected to have negligible effects, as they make no reference to the themes of this IIA objective.

Meeting our growth needs

6.46 This section presents the IIA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Local Plan:

- Policy SG1: Housing
- Policy SG2: Settlement Hierarchy
- Policy SG3: Spatial Distribution of Growth

Table 6.2: IIA findings for the policies addressing the growth needs of Basildon

IIA objective	SG1	SG2	SG3
IIA1: Housing	++	+	++
IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	0	++	++/-
IIA3: Equalities	++	+	+
IIA4: Economy and employment	++	+	++/-
IIA5: Transport	-	++	++/-
IIA6: Air	-	+	++/-
IIA7: Minerals, soil, water and waste		+	--/+
IIA8: Climate change mitigation	-	+	++/-
IIA9: Climate change adaptation	-	-	-
IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	?	+/	?
IIA11: Historic environment	?	-	-?

IIA objective	SG1	SG2	SG3
IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts	?	+/	?

6.47 All the above policies are expected to have positive effects in relation to IIA objective 1: Housing given that they will support the delivery of housing to meet Basildon's needs. For policies SG1 and SG3 the positive effect is likely to be significant. These policies set out the specific level of housing growth to help meet the needs of Basildon and an indication of the locations where this type of development can be distributed on the basis of the available land. Policy SG2 is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 1. This policy identifies locations where development will be most supported in line with the settlement hierarchy, but does not set out specific allocations for growth.

6.48 Policies SG2 and SG3 are expected to have significant positive effects in relation to IIA objective 2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety. This is because the policies promote new housing and employment in appropriate areas in alignment with the settlement hierarchy. This approach will help to ensure that the majority of new residents are able to access nearby services and facilities such as healthcare and schools as well as jobs which is likely to support community cohesion and public health in the Borough. The spatial distribution of growth (policy SG3) includes some locations that are less well related to a range of existing services and facilities such at Dunton and Little Burstead. However, many of these smaller settlements lie relatively close to the more developed areas where there is better access to existing provisions. Considering the variable access to services and facilities across different settlements in Basildon and given the potential for new growth to result in some overburdening of existing services and facilities, the significant positive effect expected in relation to IIA objective for policy SG3 is recorded in combination with a minor negative effect.

6.49 As well as setting out the level of housing for the plan area, policy SG1 includes the level of provision to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. As such this policy will directly provide for the needs of those from a protected characteristic and a significant positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to IIA objective 3: Equalities. By directing much of the new development over the plan period to the more developed settlements where residents can access a range of services and facilities, policies SG2 and SG3 are likely to support good access to more specialist facilities (such as

meeting halls) that certain protected characteristics will need regular access to. It is also expected that locating a substantial amount of development in areas where residents have access to a town or local centre could help to promote social tolerance in the plan area. This benefit could be achieved where residents can access formal and informal public spaces where they are more likely to have regular interactions with other residents. Policies SG2 and SG3 are therefore likely to have minor positive effects in relation to IIA objective 3.

6.50 Positive effects are also expected for all three policies in relation to IIA objective 4: Economy and employment. Policies SG1 and SG3 set out the specific level of employment growth for the plan period (65-82 ha) as well as the locations for housing and employment growth and therefore the positive effects recorded are significant. For policy SG3, the significant positive effect recorded in relation to IIA objective 4 is expected in combination with a minor negative effect. The main concentration of existing employment areas in Basildon lies along the A176 which passes through the centre of the Borough. The spatial distribution of growth for the plan period includes development within the south and north of the Borough which are less well related to these existing employment areas. For policy SG2 the positive effect is minor. While this policy will help to ensure many residents have good access to jobs by supporting housing and employment growth in areas with the highest existing population and where there is already substantial job provision, it does not set out locations for employment growth.

6.51 The level of housing and employment growth over the plan period is likely to result in increased travel in Basildon as new homes and businesses are occupied. Therefore, a minor negative effect is likely in relation to IIA objective 5: Transport for policies SG1 and SG3. For Policy SG3, the delivery of employment growth to align with housing growth is likely to help promote self-containment and reduce the need to travel in Basildon. Furthermore, while some new residents will invariably have to travel longer distances to access services and facilities and jobs, the spatial distribution of growth set out will accommodate many residents in areas where there is limited need to do so given that they will be located in areas with the strongest service provision and job offer. This includes development within and at the edges of the large town of Basildon. This area and the settlements of Billericay and Wickford also provide

access to railway stations which could further contribute to modal shift in the Borough. The minor negative effect expected in relation to IIA objective 5 is therefore combined with a significant positive effect. Policy SG2 is set out to direct most growth within the boundaries of the largest settlements at which residents will have reduced need to travel. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 5 for this policy.

6.52 The occupation and operation of new homes and businesses in Basildon will also contribute to local air pollution, including emissions related to travel. The level of housing and employment growth set out through policy SG1 will make a notable contribution to air pollution, although there is potential for mitigation through the incorporation of more energy efficient buildings and as a transition to the use of electric vehicles occurs (although this will partly depend on the source of electricity for vehicles). This policy is therefore likely to have a minor negative effect in relation to IIA objective 6: Air. Considering the overall level and distribution of growth set out through policy SG3, a minor negative effect is also likely for this policy in relation to IIA objective 6. For policies SG2 and SG3, a positive effect is recorded for IIA objective 6 given the approach deliver most development in more sustainable locations from which there will be reduced need to travel. The positive effect recorded for policy SG3 is likely to be significant given that this policy sets out the specific distribution of growth and locations of development for the plan period.

6.53 Providing the level of housing and employment development required over the plan period to meet local needs will result in substantial land take and use of other natural resources. As such policies SG1 and SG3 are likely to have significant negative effects in relation to IIA objective 7: Minerals, soil, water and waste. Given that policy SG3 seeks to promote the most efficient use of land resources through densification of the existing urban area and identifies some brownfield land for development, a minor positive effect is recorded in combination for IIA objective 7. Policy SG2 does not identify specific locations for development. However, it seeks to guide new growth to the most sustainable locations in line with the settlement hierarchy, thereby supporting development in areas where densification of urban land might occur. This policy is therefore likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 7.

6.54 The effects expected for policies SG1, SG2 and SG3 in relation to IIA objective 8: Climate change mitigation are likely to mirror those recorded for IIA objective 6. The potential to support climate change mitigation in the plan area will depend greatly on the uptake of sustainable modes of transport and reduced use of private vehicles given the link between travel and carbon emissions. There is potential for the delivery of more energy efficient buildings to affect this IIA objective; however the policies appraised do not seek to address this issue. Furthermore, while policy SG3 supports urban extensions within the plan area which may be of the scale to support the incorporation of infrastructure for renewable energy, any specific requirements will be set out through the site specific allocation policies at a later stage of the plan. Therefore, a minor negative effect is expected for policy SG1 and a minor positive effect is expected for policy SG2 in relation to IIA objective 8. A mixed significant positive and minor negative effect is expected for policy SG3.

6.55 All three policies could have minor negative effects in relation to IIA objective 9: Climate change adaptation. This reflects the potential for scale of growth set out through the policies and the associated loss of greenfield land to contribute to the heat island effect and disruption of ecosystem services such as flood capacity. Though policies SG2 and SG3 promote a more efficient distribution of growth in the plan area, delivering a substantial proportion of development within Basildon towards presently developed areas could increase the vulnerability of these locations to the heat island effect. It will be necessary to maintain appropriate levels of greenspace within the more developed areas of the Borough as urban densification occurs to help limit the potential for these types of effects. At the urban extensions set out for growth though policy SG3 there is potential for the coordination of substantial areas of green infrastructure to support climate change resilience. However, this type of improvement will depend largely on any requirement included in site specific allocation policies.

6.56 As development occurs in the plan area there is potential for habitat loss, fragmentation and disturbance to occur. However, it is noted that through appropriate design solutions there may be potential to mitigate adverse effects and support biodiversity net gain. Therefore, the effects of all three policies appraised are partly uncertain. The overall level of housing and employment growth for the plan area (as set out through policy SG1) has potential to

contribute substantially to adverse impacts as construction occurs and as a result of increases in human activities and transport as new developments are occupied. A significant negative effect is therefore expected for policy SG1 in relation to IIA objective 10: Biodiversity and geodiversity. Some of the developed areas of Basildon include or are surrounded by several important biodiversity sites such as Mill Meadows LNR and SSSI and Norsey Wood LNR and SSSI at Billericay as well as Langdon Ridge SSSI which passes into parts of Laindon. However, delivering the majority of the development over the plan period within the boundaries of the larger settlements is expected to reduce the potential for development at more rural and potentially more sensitive parts of the Borough. Therefore, policy SG2 is likely to have a mixed minor positive and minor negative effect in relation to IIA objective 10. The spatial distribution of growth set out through policy SG3 has potential to contribute to impacts on both of these biodiversity sites given the areas set out for development within Billericay and Laindon. There is also potential for development to the south of Pitsea to impact upon Pitsea Marsh SSSI. A significant negative effect is therefore recorded for policy SG3 in relation to IIA objective 10.

6.57 Basildon contains numerous heritage assets and the scale of development set out through policy SG1 has potential to impact upon their respective settings. This policy is therefore expected to have a significant negative effect in relation to IIA objective 11: Historic environment. The main developed settlements in the plan area contain the majority of the Borough's designated heritage assets. This includes Conservation Areas at Billericay High Street and Noak Bridge within Basildon Town. By guiding most of the development towards the larger settlements in line with the settlement hierarchy, policy SG2 has potential to contribute to impacts on heritage assets and therefore a minor negative effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 11. The spatial distribution of growth set through policy SG3 also has potential to contribute to impacts on heritage assets. Development at Billericay has potential to contribute to impacts on Billericay High Street Conservation Area and Norsey Wood Scheduled Monument with development at Basildon Town likely contribute to impacts upon Noak Bridge Conservation Area. Wickford is comparatively less constrained particularly towards the settlement edges. Overall, a minor negative effect is expected for policy SG3 in relation to IIA objective 11. The effects for all three policies are partly uncertain given that the design of new developments is likely

to provide opportunities to achieve mitigation and support enhancement by bringing disused sites and heritage assets into appropriate uses.

6.58 The scale of growth set out over the plan period is also likely to have substantial impacts for local character and the Borough's landscape and townscapes. Therefore, a significant negative effect is recorded in relation to IIA objective 12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts. By supporting growth mostly within the most developed locations, policy SG2 sets out a positive approach to limiting growth in more rural and potentially more sensitive areas of Basildon. However, this approach has potential to result in impacts on the townscapes of the main settlements in the Borough. Therefore, a mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 12 for policy SG2. There is potential for the spatial distribution of growth set out through policy SG3 to disrupt the existing character of Basildon and to infringe the on the open countryside through the extension of urban areas. Impacts on the Borough's townscape will also be likely to occur through the densification of the larger settlements in the plan area. Therefore, a minor negative effect is expected for this policy in relation to IIA objective 12. The effects recorded for this objective are all uncertain. This reflects the potential for new developments to incorporate designs that would mitigate adverse effects and support improvements in aesthetic quality and existing landscapes and townscapes.

Building a strong competitive economy

6.59 This section presents the IIA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Local Plan:

- Policy E1: Securing Economic Growth
- Policy E2: Protecting Existing Employment Areas
- Policy E3: Changes of Use of Employment Land or Premises
- Policy E4: Rural Enterprise Sites
- Policy E5: Aligning Skills and Jobs

Table 6.3: IIA findings for the economic policies

IIA objective	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5
IIA1: Housing	0	0	+?	0	0
IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	+	+	+	+	+
IIA3: Equalities	+	0	+	+	+
IIA4: Economy and employment	++	++	++/-	++	++
IIA5: Transport	+/	0	+	+/	0
IIA6: Air	+/	0	+	+/	0
IIA7: Minerals, soil, water and waste	+/	0	0	0	0
IIA8: Climate change mitigation	+	0	+	+/	0
IIA9: Climate change adaptation	0	0	0	0	0
IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	-?	0	+	-?	0
IIA11: Historic environment	-?	0	+	-?	0
IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts	-?	0	+	+/ ?	0

6.60 An uncertain minor positive effect is expected for policy E3 in relation to IIA objective 1: Housing as it enables a change of use of premises from E(g), B2 and B8 uses, under specific criteria. This may allow for more housing to be built in Basildon, which would help achieve its housing requirements. Any contribution is likely to be minor and will depend on the suitability of existing employment land in the Borough for residential use and this is reflected in the uncertainty attached to the effect recorded.

6.61 Minor positive effects are expected for policies E1, E2, E3, E4 and E5 in relation to IIA objective 2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety. Policies E1 to E4 would contribute to employment opportunities in the plan area, which is likely to benefit residents' health and wellbeing, in addition to addressing deprivation. Policy E5 will support increased skills levels among the local population which is likely to support access to employment for many residents, thereby also helping to address issues of deprivation. In addition, policy E3 includes requirements ensuring there is no adverse impact on the employment area as a result of pollution, which will protect the health and wellbeing of site users. Policies E1, E3 and E4 also all promote the use of sustainable transport and/or active travel which will promote more active and healthy lifestyles for those in the Borough, and increase access for all, including those who do not own cars.

6.62 Minor positive effects are expected for policies E1, E3, E4 and E5 in relation to IIA objective 3: Equalities. Policies E1, E3 and E4 all promote the use of sustainable transport and/or active travel which will increase access for all residents to employment opportunities. Policy E5 aims supports upskilling Basildon's workforce, which will support the ability of residents to benefit from jobs in the plan area. The policy is likely to have particular benefits for young people in Basildon given that supports the provision of apprenticeships and training posts for this group.

6.63 Significant positive effects are expected for policies E1, E2, E4 and E5 in relation to IIA objective 4: Economy and employment given that they are expected to support the creation of a prosperous and growing economy in

Basildon, including through the creation of a range of new jobs. Policy E1 sets out the provision of 65-82ha of land to deliver additional employment development. Policy E2 sets out requirements for the Council to protect existing employment areas, and policy E4 aims to support the rural economy providing greater flexibility to the employment land supply by outlining Rural Enterprise Sites in the Borough. Policy E5 will support the upskilling of Basildon's workforce, including by requiring major developments to provide apprenticeship or training posts for local young people. Policy E3 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 4. Although the policy allows for the change of use of employment land that could result in a net loss this will only be permitted where the land in question is no longer suitable, viable or appropriate for employment purposes. Furthermore, the policy outlines requirements which will support Basildon's economy, such as that the new use provides employment at the site.

6.64 Minor positive effects are expected for policies E1, E3 and E4 in relation to IIA objective 5: Transport. As explained in relation to IIA objective 2, these policies promote the use of sustainable transport and/or active travel. They will therefore all also help reduce congestion, pollution and accidents, and promote efficient movement patterns in the Borough. For policy E1, the minor positive effect is combined with a minor negative effect. The scale of employment development set out in the policy is likely to result increased numbers of journeys being made in Basildon. The potential for this negative effect also considers the likelihood that new employment growth in Basildon will support a degree of self-containment in the plan area and a reduced need for residents to have to travel longer distances outside its boundaries for employment. A minor negative effect is also recorded in combination for policy E4. The retention and appropriate change of use of Rural Enterprise Sites could limit the need for residents to have to travel longer distances for work from some rural locations. However, the more isolated locations of these sites could promote car use from some areas where homes are less well related to them.

6.65 Minor positive effects are also expected for policies E1, E3 and E4 in relation to IIA objective 6: Air given that they will promote the use of sustainable transport and/or active travel which will aid in reducing emissions, thus improving air quality in the Borough. For policies E1 and E4, a minor negative

effect is recorded in combination given the potential for increased employment growth in the plan area and job creation in more rural locations. Furthermore, construction associated with policy E1 in particular, will contribute to dust and emissions from transport sources given the likely need for HGVs. There is also potential for certain employment uses (for example logistics) to make substantial contributions to poor air quality in addition to emissions associated with commuting.

6.66 Policy E1 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 7: Mineral, soil, water and waste as it outlines requirements for the Council to provide local employment opportunities which make the best use of brownfield sites without causing harm to the Green Belt or the purposes of including land within it. This will support more efficient use of land resources in the Borough. However, it is likely that the total amount of employment land that is set out for provision through the policy will require development at greenfield sites in Basildon. Therefore, the minor positive effect recorded in expected in combination with a minor negative effect. A minor positive effect is also expected for policy E3 in relation to IIA objective 7. This policy will support the efficient use of under utilised employment sites where it can be demonstrated that sites are no longer suitable, viable or appropriate for employment purposes.

6.67 Minor positive effects are expected for policies E1, E3 and E4 in relation to IIA objective 8: Climate change mitigation. As explained in relation to IIA objective 2, these policies promote the use of sustainable transport and/or active travel and this will support a reduction in carbon emissions, thus reducing the Borough's contribution to climate change. However, the scale of employment growth set out through policy E1 is likely to contribute to increased emissions associated with construction, commuting and the operation of employment sites. It is also likely that supporting job creation in more rural locations could lead to increased carbon emissions from commuting, although it is noted that this provision will support the provision of jobs close to some residents. Therefore, the minor positive effect recorded for these policies in relation to IIA objective 8 is combined with a minor negative effect.

6.68 Uncertain minor negative effects are expected for policies E1 and E4 in relation to IIA objective 10: Biodiversity and geodiversity. Policy E1 sets out the

overall level of employment growth for the plan area which is likely to contribute to habitat loss, fragmentation and disturbance. The continued support for rural sites in the plan area through pollicy E4 could also contribute to these types of impact. The potential for effects will depend on the precise location of development in relation to areas of ecological importance and this is reflected in the uncertainty attached to the effects recorded. A minor positive effect is expected for policy E3 in relation to IIA objective 10 as it requires that development has no adverse impacts on environmental quality which is expected to support the protection of areas of value for biodiversity.

6.69 Minor negative effects are expected for policies E1 and E4 in relation to IA objectives 11: Historic environment and 12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts. Both policies support economic growth (including within more rural locations) which may negatively harm heritage assets and their respectively settings as well as landscape character in Basildon. The effects are recorded as uncertain, as the potential for and the extent of any harm will depend on the design and precise location of development. A minor positive effect is expected in combination for policy E4 in relation to IIA objective 12 as it requires that development at Rural Enterprise Sites respects the character and qualities of the landscape and the setting of any affected settlement or protected landscape. Policy E3 is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objectives 11 and 12 given the requirement for changes of use from employment to have regard for the character of the surroundings as well as environmental quality.

Meeting housing needs

6.70 This section presents the IIA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Local Plan:

- Policy HOU1: Size, Type and Quality of New Housing
- Policy HOU2: Affordable Housing
- Policy HOU3: Specialist Housing for Older People

Table 6.4: IIA findings for the housing policies

IIA objective	HOU1	HOU2	HOU3
IIA1: Housing	++	++	++
IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	+	+	++
IIA3: Equalities	+	+	++
IIA4: Economy and employment	0	0	0
IIA5: Transport	0	0	+
IIA6: Air	0	0	+
IIA7: Minerals, soil, water and waste	+	0	0
IIA8: Climate change mitigation	0	0	+
IIA9: Climate change adaptation	0	0	0
IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	0	0	0

IIA objective	HOU1	HOU2	HOU3
IIA11: Historic environment	0	0	0
IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts	0	0	0

6.71 All of the housing policies are expected to have significant positive effects in relation to IIA objective 1: Housing. These policies include requirements that will aid in ensuring an appropriate mix of types, tenures and sizes of properties are delivered in order to meet current and projected housing needs in Basildon. This includes affordable housing (policy HOU2) as well as housing to meet the needs of more specialist groups.

6.72 Policy HOU3 is expected to have a significant effect in relation to IIA objective 2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety. This policy supports the provision of specialist housing for older people within appropriate, accessible residential locations within the Borough. This will ensure good quality housing for older people in Basildon, especially regarding access to services and facilities, including health facilities. The rest of the housing policies are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to IIA objective 2. Policy HOU1 supports the provision of high quality and well-designed new housing in Basildon, aiming to ensure that new homes offer sufficient well-designed living space to meet the needs of future residents. Policy HOU2 supports the provision of affordable housing in Basildon, which will aid in making housing accessible for a wider range of the Basildon population. These policies are likely to support social integration and the health and wellbeing of occupants.

6.73 Policy HOU3 is expected to have significant positive effects in relation to IIA 3: Equalities. This is because it is likely to support the provision of suitable and appropriate accommodation for protected or minority groups. Policy HOU1 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 3. This policy is expected to help ensure that housing to meet a range of users is provided in Basildon. A minor positive effect is also expected for policy HOU2 in relation to this IIA objective. This policy will support the provision of affordable housing in Basildon and access to housing for groups who might otherwise not be able to afford it.

6.74 Policy HOU3 states that accommodation for older people should be supported in accessible residential locations. These requirements could help limit the need to travel by car to and from these locations, with increased

potential trips to be made by sustainable transport where they are well related to services and facilities and more developed areas. A reduction in the number of journeys by car in Basildon is likely to have benefits for local air quality. Therefore, policy HOU3 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objectives 5: Transport and 6: Air. Given the link between vehicular emissions and climate change, this policy is also expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 8: Climate change mitigation.

6.75 There is potential for policy HOU1 to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 7: Minerals, soil, water and waste. Policy HOU1 outlines that consideration will be given to schemes proposing a different housing mix where they relate to urban regeneration to ensure the most effective use of urban land is achieved.

Alternatives considered

6.76 The Council identified an alternative policy approach for HOU1 within the Draft Local Plan.

6.77 In relation to HOU1, the Council identified the following options:

- Requiring a lower percentage of homes to meet Part M4(2) Accessible and adaptable standards - this could be considered but would limit the choice of new homes available to an ageing population and residents with disabilities.
- Limiting Part M4(3) Wheelchair user dwellings to larger strategic allocations - this could be considered but would limit the choice of locations of new homes available to wheelchair users.
- Requiring a different proportion of homes to be delivered to Part M4(3) Wheelchair user dwellings standard - this could be considered but a higher requirement would add significantly to the cost of new development and would require robust justification. A lower requirement may not meet the needs of an aging population.

6.78 In relation to the IIA objectives, all alternative options would perform more poorly than the preferred policy, except for the potential to require a higher proportion of dwellings to be built to Part M4(3) Wheelchair Standard. This approach could improve the effects of the policy in relation to IIA1, IIA2 and IIA3. The effect of this approach is uncertain, however, as the Council acknowledge that such a requirement could affect viability and there is currently not evidence for such an approach.

Ensuring the vitality of town centres

6.79 This section presents the IIA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Local Plan:

- Policy R1: Development in Basildon Town Centre
- Policy R2: Supporting Town Centres
- Policy R3: Primary Shopping Areas
- Policy R4: Locations for new Retail and Leisure Development outside of Town Centres
- Policy R5: Out of Town Retail and Leisure Parks
- Policy R6: Hotels

Table 6.5: IIA findings for the retail policies

IIA objective	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6
IIA1: Housing	+	+	+	0	0	+
IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	+	+	+	+	+/	+
IIA3: Equalities	+	+	+	+	+/	0
IIA4: Economy and employment	++	++	++	++	++/-	++
IIA5: Transport	+	0	+	+	-	0
IIA6: Air	+	0	+	+	-	0
IIA7: Minerals, soil, water and waste	0	0	0	0	0	0
IIA8: Climate change mitigation	+	0	+	+	-	0
IIA9: Climate change adaptation	+	0	0	0	0	0
IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+	0	0	0	0	0
IIA11: Historic environment	+	0	+	0	0	0
IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts	+	0	+	0	0	0

6.80 Policies R1, R2, R3 and R6 are all expected to have minor positive effects in relation to IIA objective 1: Housing. Minor positive effects are expected for policies R1 and R2 as these policies promote residential uses in town centres in certain circumstances. Similarly, R3 allows for residential use on upper floors in Primary Shopping Areas (PSAs) which may also contribute to housing supply. A minor positive effect is expected for policy R6 because the policy ensures that hotel developments do not lead to the loss of residential accommodation, which will directly protect the Borough's housing stock.

6.81 Minor positive effects are also expected for policies R1 to R6 in relation to IIA objective 2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety, although policy R5 is expected to have a mixed minor positive and minor negative effect. Minor positive effects are expected for these three policies because they support community cohesion, health and wellbeing by promoting development that enhances the vibrancy of town centres and accessibility to services and facilities. The policies aim to create environments that are conducive to social interaction and community safety while protecting the character and amenity of settlements in the Borough. The mixed minor positive and minor negative effect expected for Policy R5 reflects the potential for out of town retail and leisure parks to provide access to amenities for some residents. The negative effect recorded as part of the overall mixed effect reflects the potential for out of centre developments to detract from town centres, which might otherwise support community cohesion.

6.82 Policies R1, R2, R3 and R4 are expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 3: Equalities. While none of these policies explicitly reference equalities, their emphasis on accessibility for a broad demographic, especially through public transport links and town centre development, are likely to support an inclusive environment for many user types. Policy R5 is expected to have a mixed minor positive and minor negative effect because although out of town retail parks may provide access to services and facilities for certain groups, they are likely to be accessible to disadvantaged groups or those without access to private transport.

6.83 Significant positive effects are expected for policies R1 to R6, while policy R5 is expected to have a mixed significant positive and minor negative effect in relation to IIA objective 4: Economy and employment. Significant positive effects are expected for all three policies given that they prioritise town centre development for retail, leisure and hotel accommodation. As such, these policies promote economic vitality in urban environments, supporting local businesses and job creation at locations where a high number of residents be able to access. The mixed significant positive and minor negative effect recorded for policy R5 reflects the potential for out of town retail and leisure parks to create jobs and generate economic activity but also for this type of development to harm the vitality of town centre locations. It is noted that the policy attempts to address this issue by requiring that proposals for out of centre locations to be supported by sequential testing and retail impact assessments.

6.84 Policies R1 and R3 are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to IIA objectives 5: Transport, 6: Air and 7: Climate change mitigation. This is because these policies support the use of sustainable and active transport within town centre locations. Policies R2 and R4 do not include specific reference to sustainable transport but are expected to support the viability of town centre locations in line with the Borough's hierarchy including by directing retail and leisure uses towards these areas. These areas are amongst the most accessible in the plan area, including by sustainable transport. Through promoting the use of sustainable travel, this in turn is expected to lead to positive impacts on traffic management, congestion reduction and consequently a positive impact on air quality and carbon emissions. Policy R5 is expected to have a minor negative effect in relation to these IIA objectives because out of town developments may encourage car travel, contributing to congestion and emissions. While the policy's sequential testing process helps direct retail and leisure developments towards more accessible locations, the existing out of town parks are likely to continue contributing to car dependent transport patterns.

6.85 It is likely that the requirement set out through policy R1 for town centre developments to conform with the Basildon Town Centre Masterplan will have benefits in relation to promoting resilience to climate change. The current masterplan promotes developments that would achieve good urban design and

incorporate green infrastructure which could support benefits in relation to water infiltration and shading. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 9: Climate change adaptation. The incorporation of green infrastructure could also benefit habitat provision and connectivity in town centre locations and therefore a minor positive effect is also recorded for policy R1 in relation to IIA objective 10: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

6.86 Policies R1, R2, R3 and R4 support the development of town centre locations for appropriate uses in line with the hierarchy of centres. While these locations contain many of the designated heritage assets of the plan area, the policies do not set out a specific level of growth that might contribute to adverse impacts on the respective settings of assets. Furthermore, policy R1 requires that development in Basildon town centre is to align with the masterplan for the area and should protect and enhance the existing character of the town centre. Policy R3 requires that development within PSAs make a positive contribution to the townscape of the centre it is at and should not harm the character of that centre. In addition to supporting the established character of the Borough's town centres, these requirements are likely to have indirect benefits for the settings of heritage assets in these parts of Basildon. Therefore, policies R1 and R3 are likely to have minor positive effects in relation to IIA objectives 11: Historic environment and 12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts.

Sustainable transport and infrastructure

6.87 This section presents the IIA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Local Plan:

- Policy STAT1: Strategic Transport
- Policy INF1: Infrastructure Delivery
- Policy INF2: Securing Infrastructure Contributions
- Policy INF3: Social and Community Infrastructure

Table 6.6: IIA findings for the transport and infrastructure policies

IIA objective	STAT1	INF1	INF2	INF3
IIA1: Housing	0	0	0	0
IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	+	+	+	++
IIA3: Equalities	+	+	+	++
IIA4: Economy and employment	+	+	+	0
IIA5: Transport	++	+	+?	+
IIA6: Air	+	+	+	+
IIA7: Minerals, soil, water and waste	0	0	0	+
IIA8: Climate change mitigation	+	+	+	+
IIA9: Climate change adaptation	0	0	0	0
IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	0	+	0	0
IIA11: Historic environment	0	0	0	0
IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts	0	0	0	0

6.88 A significant positive effect is expected for policy INF3 in relation to IIA objective 2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety. This policy facilitates the provision of appropriate social and community infrastructure and outlines requirements which help prevent their loss. These requirements are expected to promote community cohesion and support the incorporation of services and facilities that promote public health. Minor positive effects are expected in relation to policies STAT1, INF1 and INF2 in relation to IIA objective 2. Policy STAT1 will support improved accessibility to jobs, services and facilities via an enhanced and better integrated transport network. The policy will also support increased provision of active travel, the increased uptake of which will improve the health and wellbeing of Basildon's residents. Policies INF1 and INF2 support the provision of new infrastructure to ensure that existing provisions are not overburdened, including the provision of appropriate financial contributions.

6.89 Positive effects are expected for all four policies in relation to IIA objective 3: Equalities. Policy STAT1 aims to deliver improved accessibility to jobs, services and facilities including by promoting the use of sustainable and active modes of travel, such modes of travel will make services and facilities more accessible to all, including those who are young, elderly and/or disabled. Through policies INF1 and INF2 a range of infrastructure provisions will be supported in the plan area to support the integration of new residents, including those who may have specialist needs. While the positive effects recorded for policies STAT1, INF1 and INF2 are likely to be minor, a significant positive effect is recorded for policy INF3. This policy includes specific requirements for the provision of new social and community infrastructure in Basildon to be of a high quality and inclusive design and to provide access for all.

6.90 There is potential for policies STAT1, INF1 and INF2 to support some level of economic growth in the plan area. By securing infrastructure to support transport mitigation and ensuring that these provisions are made in a timely manner and agreed with the Local Planning Authority and the appropriate infrastructure provider, these three policies will ensure the Borough benefits from appropriate connections to its surroundings. The strong transport provisions available to and from the Borough will likely prove attractive to

certain investors and will also support good access to jobs. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected for policies STAT1, INF1 and INF2 in relation to IIA objective 4: Economy and employment.

6.91 A significant positive effect is expected for policy STAT1 in relation to IIA objective 5: Transport as it aims to create an enhanced and better integrated transport network. This includes by promoting and enhancing sustainable and active travel modes, which will aid in reducing road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents, and also promote efficient movement patterns in the Borough. Minor positive effects are expected for policies INF1 and INF2. Policy INF1 requires that new developments must fully mitigate their impact on infrastructure and services, therefore this policy will mitigate potential negative impacts of development on transport infrastructure, such as increased congestion. Policy INF2 supports the provision of additional infrastructure capacity when needed for a development, this may include a highways or transport contribution, which will help to address congestion in Basildon, however this is depended on the individual development and so this effect is uncertain. Support for the provision of new social and community infrastructure set out through policy INF3 could also help to address congestion in the plan area by supporting increased self-containment and reducing the need to travel. Therefore, this policy is also likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 5.

6.92 Minor positive effects are expected for policy STAT1 in relation to IIA objectives 6: Air and 8: Climate change mitigation as it aims to create an enhanced and better integrated transport network, this includes by promoting and enhancing sustainable and active travel modes. While the policy is likely to support some highways improvements in the Borough, the thrust of the policy is to ensure that new development is located to minimise the need for travel and enable the use of sustainable and active modes of travel. As such this policy is expected to decrease the use of private vehicles and result in reduced emissions and improved air quality in Basildon. Policies INF1 and INF2 provide the basis for securing the necessary transport improvements in a timely manner and in agreement with the Local Planning Authority and infrastructure provider meaning that similar minor positive effects are recorded for these policies in relation to IIA objectives 6 and 8. Policy INF3 could also have minor positive

effects in relation to these IIA objectives by supporting the provision services and facilities where many residents might choose to walk to instead of driving.

6.93 A minor positive effect is expected for policy INF3 in relation to IIA objective 7: Mineral, soil, water and waste as it aims to support the provision of new social and community infrastructure, particularly where it makes an efficient use of land, and promote the dual use and/or co-location of facilities. This policy will therefore aid in the efficient use of land in Basildon Borough.

6.94 A Policy INF1 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 10: Biodiversity and geodiversity. The policy outlines requirements for new developments to fully mitigate their impact on the environment which is likely to help protect and conserve Basildon's natural assets, habitats and species.

Meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding

6.95 This section presents the IIA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Local Plan:

- Policy CC1: Responding to Climate Change
- Policy CC2: Addressing Flood Risk
- Policy CC3: Washlands
- Policy CC4: Net Zero Carbon Development (in Operation)
- Policy CC5: Net Zero Carbon Development - Embodied Carbon

Table 6.7: IIA findings for the climate change policies

IIA objective	CC1	CC2	CC3	CC4	CC5
IIA1: Housing	0	0	0	+	+
IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	+	0	0	+	0
IIA3: Equalities	+	0	0	0	0
IIA4: Economy and employment	0	0	0	0	0
IIA5: Transport	+	0	0	0	0
IIA6: Air	+	0	0	+	+
IIA7: Minerals, soil, water and waste	+	+	0	0	+
IIA8: Climate change mitigation	++	0	0	++	++
IIA9: Climate change adaptation	++	++	++	0	0
IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+	+	+	0	0
IIA11: Historic environment	0	0	0	0	0

IIA objective	CC1	CC2	CC3	CC4	CC5
IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts	+	0	0	0	0

6.96 It is expected that requiring new residential developments to be built to be net zero in operation and the delivery of low energy buildings will support the creation of high quality housing stock in Basildon. This includes the creation of a building stock that is cheaper to heat and power. Therefore, policy CC4 is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 1: Housing. Furthermore, the promotion of developments that minimise embodied carbon emissions can often involve the use of systems and products that have long life spans and designing buildings to be able to change use over time to minimise future refurbishment. This approach is likely to support the delivery of a housing stock that meets the needs of residents over a long period of time. Therefore, a minor positive effect is also recorded for policy CC5 in relation to IIA objective 1.

6.97 It is likely that policy CC4 will support the health and wellbeing of residents by limiting the occurrence of health issues relating to fuel poverty given that properties will be easier to heat. This policy is therefore also likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety.

6.98 A minor positive effect is expected for policy CC1 in relation to IIA objective 2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety as the policy requires that development in Basildon has good access to services and active and sustainable transport modes, as well as protect existing and provide new opportunities for well-connected multifunctional green and blue infrastructure. These requirements will support improvements in resident's health and wellbeing by encouraging more active and healthy lifestyles and will also support good access to services and facilities (including healthcare). By supporting access to services and facilities policy CC1 is expected to support social integration including for those with protected characteristics who may need to access certain provisions on a more regular basis. Therefore, a minor positive effect is also expected for this policy in relation to IIA objective 3: Equalities.

6.99 The requirement included in policy CC1 for development in Basildon to have good access to active and sustainable transport modes is likely to support

modal shift. The policy also supports the protection of existing and the provision of new multifunctional green and blue infrastructure which is likely to further support a transition to more sustainable modes of transport and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 5: Transport. A minor positive effect is also expected for this policy in relation to IIA objective 6: Air given that the uptake of travel by active and sustainable transport modes will help limit emissions and improve air quality in the Borough. Reducing the demand for energy associated with powering new buildings is also likely to contribute to improved air quality in Basildon. By limiting embodied carbon associated with new development in the Borough, air pollution associated with manufacturing and transport of materials required for construction might also reduced. Therefore, policies CC4 and CC5 are also expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 6.

6.100 The criteria which developments will be required to adhere to through policy CC1 include the promotion of efficient use of natural resources. Therefore, this policy is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 7: Minerals, soil, water and waste. Policy CC2 directly addresses flood risk in Basildon which is likely to help protect water quality in the plan area, as floodwater often contains contaminants that can pass into the water supply. As such, by limiting the potential for flood events in the Borough, policy CC2 is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 7: Minerals, soil, water and waste. It is expected that the approach set out through Policy CC5 in relation to limiting embodied carbon emissions at new developments could support the use of recycled materials and the designing of construction processes to make use of materials already onsite or close to the site. This policy is therefore also expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 7: Minerals, soil, water and waste.

6.101 A significant positive effect is expected for policy CC1 in relation to IIA objective 8: Climate change mitigation. The policy seeks to mitigate climate change including by requiring development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to provide opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy. Policies CC4 and CC5 will also make substantial contributions in relation to the achievement of IIA objective 8. Through policy CC4 developments are required to be net zero carbon in operation and to generate renewable energy onsite to

at least match the development's annual energy use. Policy CC5 sets out the approach for larger developments in the Borough to be required to limit emissions associated with embodied carbon. This issue is of increasing importance as emissions associated with building operations are reduced through the more widespread use of energy from low carbon sources. A significant positive effect is expected for policies CC4 and CC5 in relation to IIA objective 8.

6.102 A significant positive effect is also expected for policy CC1 in relation to IIA objective 9: Climate change adaptation given its requirement for design and construction techniques to contribute to adaptation and to minimise impact of flooding and overheating. Policies CC2 and CC3 outline requirements to help mitigate flood risk which will help limit an important impact of climate change on the Borough. This includes through safeguarding of the washlands area for the ongoing provision of flood and storm water storage. Therefore, significant positive effects are also expected for these policies in relation to IIA objective 9.

6.103 Policies CC1, CC2 and CC3 are all expected to have minor positive effects in relation to IIA objective 10: Biodiversity and geodiversity. Policy CC1 outlines requirements for development to protect existing and provide new opportunities for well-connected multifunctional green and blue infrastructure and biodiversity net gain. The requirements set out through policy CC2 include for the development of a riverside strategy covering the marshlands to the south of Basildon which should include the aim of protecting important habitats. Furthermore, policy CC3 will safeguard the Borough's washlands from development which is likely support the ecological value of the area.

6.104 It in addition to the expected benefits relating to biodiversity, the provision of new green infrastructure in Basildon in line with policy CC1 could support improvements to landscape character in the plan area. Therefore, this policy is also expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts.

Achieving well designed places

6.105 This section presents the IIA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Local Plan:

- Policy D1: Design and Place Shaping Principles
- Policy D2: Design on Major Developments
- Policy GB1: Protecting the Green Belt
- Policy GB2: Grey Belt
- Policy NE1: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- Policy NE2: Local Wildlife Sites

Table 6.8: IIA findings for the design, Green Belt and natural environment policies

IIA objective	D1	D2	GB1	GB2	NE1	NE2
IIA1: Housing	+	+	-?	+	-	-
IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	+	+	0	0	+	+
IIA3: Equalities	+	+	0	0	0	0
IIA4: Economy and employment	0	0	-?	+	-	-
IIA5: Transport	+	+	+/	+	0	0
IIA6: Air	+	+	+/	+	0	0
IIA7: Minerals, soil, water and waste	+	0	+	++	0	0
IIA8: Climate change mitigation	+	+	+/	+	0	0
IIA9: Climate change adaptation	0	+	+	0	+	+
IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+	+	+	0	++	++
IIA11: Historic environment	+	0	+	0	0	0
IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts	+	+	+	0	+	0

6.106 Minor positive effects are expected for policies D1 and D2 in relation to IIA objective 1: Housing. These policies promote the delivery of high quality residential design including in relation to layout and orientation and the delivery of well-defined public and private space. By limiting the potential for development within the Green Belt, policy GB1 could result in some proposals for housing and economic development being restricted in those areas. Therefore, potential minor negative effects are identified in relation to IIA objectives 1: Housing and 4: Economy and employment. Policy GB2 defines areas of Grey Belt land in the Borough, thereby supporting housing delivery and employment provision in areas that might otherwise have been deemed inappropriate for growth. Therefore, a minor positive effect is recorded for this policy in relation to IIA objectives 1 and 4. However, the approach set out through policies NE1 and NE2 could result in some areas of the Borough being considered less suitable for development where there is potential adverse impacts on biodiversity, including Local Wildlife Sites. Therefore, a minor negative effect is recorded for these policies in relation to IIA objectives 1 and 4.

6.107 Policy D1 includes requirements that are expected to benefit resident's health and wellbeing such as by maximising permeability and legibility for pedestrians and cyclists and addressing community safety issues, to reduce the incidence of crime and anti-social activity. Furthermore, through policy D2 major developments requirements should create well-connected places that prioritise cycling, walking, wheeling and public transport services and provide opportunities for social interaction and recreation. Policies D1 and D2 are both expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety. Policy NE1 includes requirements that where appropriate, development should have a positive approach to enhance, protect and create an inclusive and integrated network of high-quality green infrastructure. This requirement could support increased physical activity in Basildon. This policy and policy NE2 could support access to nature which is likely to benefit the wellbeing of the local population. As such, minor positive effects are expected for policies NE1 and NE2 in relation to IIA objective 3.

6.108 Minor positive effects are expected for policies D1 and D2 in relation to IIA objective 3: Equalities. Both policies include requirements relating to promoting more inclusive design of development in Basildon. Minor positive effects are also expected for policies D1 and D2 in relation to IIA objective 5: Transport as both policies set out several requirements relating to promoting modal shift including maximising permeability and legibility for pedestrians and cyclists and creating well-connected places. These requirements could help to reduce the contribution that vehicular movements make to air pollution in the Borough. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected for policies D1 and D2 in relation to IIA objective 6: Air. The protection of Green Belt land in Basildon could help to promote a more compact form of development and reduce the need for long distance travel. However, there is potential for development to have to 'jump the Green Belt' to other locations outside of the Green Belt which are less well related to nearby settlements. As such policy GB1 is expected to have a mixed minor positive and a minor negative effect in relation to IIA objective 5 and 6. Policy GB2 is expected to result in a minor positive effect in relation to these IIA objectives given that it supports development of land in the Grey Belt that is in a sustainable location, which is likely to include areas from which there is limited need to travel longer distances.

6.109 A minor positive effect is also expected for policy D1 in relation to IIA objective 7: Minerals, soil, water and waste as it includes requirements for development to make effective and efficient use of land and buildings, through the arrangement of development plots and the design, layout and orientation of buildings on site, minimise the use of natural resources and also provide appropriate and well-designed recycling and waste storage within the plot of the building in which the property is located, or a communal store where the development relates to more than one property. This will result in more efficient use of the Borough's natural resources and management of waste. The protection of Green Belt land in Basildon is likely to help direct development to the presently developed areas outside of this designation. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected for Policy GB1 in relation to IIA objective 7. For policy GB2, the positive effect recorded in relation to IIA objective 7 is significant. This reflects the approach of the policy to allow for redevelopment of previously land within the Green Belt and land that makes limited contribution to the Green Belt purposes .

6.110 Significant positive effects are expected for policies CC4 and CC5 in relation to IIA objective 8: Climate change mitigation. Policy CC4 outlines requirements to aid in ensuring that development has net zero carbon emissions, including requirements for space heating demand, Energy Use Intensity, zero use of fossil fuels and on-site renewable energy generation. Policy CC5 sets out requirements for embodied carbon in development, increasing carbons storage and sequestration. Therefore both policies will aid in reducing Basildon Borough's contribution to climate change. Policies D1 and D2 are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to IIA objective 8 as they both promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes, which will decrease the use of private vehicles and associated emissions and therefore Basildon's contribution to climate change. In addition, policy D2 includes requirements for development to encourage site design and individual building design that minimises energy consumption. Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to IIA objective 8 for policies GB1 and GB2. It is expected that the more compact form of development that the continued protection of Green Belt land is likely to achieve could support reduced need to travel in the plan area. However, where development is required to 'jump the Green Belt' some residents may have to travel longer distances to services and facilities and jobs and therefore the positive effect expected for policy GB1 is combined with a minor negative effect. Allowing for development on Grey Belt land where is it in a sustainable location, in line with policy GB2, will support residential development in locations from which there is more limited need to travel.

6.111 Policy D2 is expected to have minor positive effects in relation to IIA objective 9: Climate change adaptation as it includes requirements for development to encourage site design and individual building design that provides resilience to a changing climate. The protection of undeveloped Green Belt land and land designated for its biodiversity value is likely to support the infiltration of flood water in Basildon. The protection of land of importance for biodiversity will also help to ensure the functioning of ecosystem services to support climate change resilience. As such, a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to IIA objective 9 for policies GB1, NE1 and NE2.

6.112 While Green Belt land does not have inherent biodiversity value, much of the undeveloped Green Belt land within this part of the Borough provides

habitat for local species and supports the connectivity of ecosystems. Through its protection of this part of the Borough from inappropriate development, policy GB1 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 10: Biodiversity and geodiversity. Policies NE1 and NE2 are expected to have significant positive effects regarding IIA objective 10: Biodiversity and geodiversity as they both aim to conserve and enhance the natural environment. This includes requirements to support the preparation and delivery of the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and the conservation and enhancement of Local Wildlife Sites. Policies D1 and D2 are both expected to have minor positive effects in relation to IIA objective 10. Through policy D1 developments should provide opportunities to enhance biodiversity and policy D2 includes requirements for major development to incorporate a range of green spaces.

6.113 Policy D1 is also expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 11: Historic environment as it requires that development respond appropriately to the local patterns of development, including existing historic and built assets. Given the contribution that undeveloped Green Belt land can make to heritage assets in the plan area, policy GB1 is also expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IIA objective 11.

6.114 Minor positive effects are identified for policies D1 and D2 in relation to IIA objective 12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts. Policy D1 requires that development respond appropriately to the local patterns of development, while policy D2 includes requirements for major developments to respond positively to local character and context and to enhance the setting of existing public realm. It is likely that maintaining parts of the Borough as areas of undeveloped Green Belt will help to protect the openness of the countryside and therefore a positive effect is also expected in relation to IIA objective 12. Policy NE1 outlines that development proposals should encourage the preservation and enhancement of landscape and landscape features with a minor positive effect also recorded for this policy in relation to IIA objective 12.

Initial proposals for growth and change

6.115 This section of the Draft Local Plan presents the potential site options that the Council is considering for allocation in the Local Plan. These were appraised in **Chapter 5**.

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

6.116 This section presents the IIA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Local Plan:

- Policy HE1: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment
- Policy HE2: Conservation Areas
- Policy HE3: Listed Buildings
- Policy HE4: Scheduled Monuments and Archaeology
- Policy HE5: Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Table 6.9: IIA findings for the historic environment policies

IIA objective	HE1	HE2	HE3	HE4	HE5
IIA1: Housing	-?	-?	-?	-?	-?
IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	0	0	0	0	0
IIA3: Equalities	0	0	0	0	0
IIA4: Economy and employment	-?	-?	-?	-?	-?
IIA5: Transport	0	0	0	0	0
IIA6: Air	0	0	0	0	0
IIA7: Minerals, soil, water and waste	0	0	0	0	0
IIA8: Climate change mitigation	0	-?	-?	0	0
IIA9: Climate change adaptation	0	+	0	0	0

IIA objective	HE1	HE2	HE3	HE4	HE5
IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	0	+	0	0	0
IIA11: Historic environment	++	++	++	++	++
IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts	+	+	+	+	+

6.117 Policies HE1, HE2, HE3, HE4 and HE5 are all expected to have significant positive effects on IIA objective 11: Historic environment, given that they seek to conserve and enhance Basildon's heritage assets and their settings. This includes designated and non-designated heritage assets, Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings as well as Scheduled Monuments and archaeology.

6.118 The protection of designed and non-designated heritage assets through these policies is expected to benefit local character and the protection of the settings of heritage assets is likely to indirectly contribute to the preservation of landscape character. Policies HE1, HE2, HE3, HE4 and HE5 are therefore expected to have minor positive effects in relation to IIA objective 12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts.

6.119 It is possible that all five historic environment policies could make some proposals that might otherwise support the achievement of the Borough's housing or employment land requirement, unacceptable in planning terms due to their sensitivity in relation to the historic environment . This would potentially have minor negative effects in relation to IIA objectives 1: Housing and 4: Economy and employment. However, as a result of the requirements of these policies, built development will be of higher quality. The potential negative effects are therefore minor and uncertain.

6.120 Policies HE1 and HE2 address developments for energy efficiency and renewable energy in relation to the Borough's heritage assets, including within Conservation Areas. The policy approach is for this type of development to be of a high quality and to respect the character and significance of the asset. Neither policy directly supports these types of development and there is potential that the requirements of the policies may make certain types of proposals unacceptable in planning terms. Therefore, a potential negative effect is identified for both policies in relation to IIA objective 8: Climate change. This is again minor and uncertain.

6.121 A minor positive effect is recorded in relation to IIA objective 9: Climate change adaptation for policy HE2. This policy requires that developments retain open spaces, trees and other hard and soft landscape features that are important to the character of Conservation Areas. This approach is likely to indirectly support the resilience of the Borough to the effects of climate change, including increased risk of flood events. This element of the policy is also likely to benefit habitat connectivity in Basildon with a minor positive effect therefore recorded in relation to IIA objective 10: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

Improving air quality and mitigating pollution

6.122 This section presents the IIA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Local Plan:

- Policy AQMP1: Mitigating Air Quality and Wider Environmental Pollution Issues
- Policy AQMP2: Contaminated Land
- Policy AQMP3: Ensuring Health and Safety in Development
- Policy AQMP4: Protecting High Quality Agricultural Land

Table 6.10: IIA findings for the air quality and pollution policies

IIA objective	AQMP1	AQMP2	AQMP3	AQMP4
IIA1: Housing	0	0	0	0
IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	++	+	+	0
IIA3: Equalities	0	0	0	0
IIA4: Economy and employment	0	0	0	0
IIA5: Transport	+	0	0	0
IIA6: Air	++	0	0	0
IIA7: Minerals, soil, water and waste	++	++	0	+
IIA8: Climate change mitigation	+	0	0	0
IIA9: Climate change adaptation	0	0	0	0
IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+	+	0	0
IIA11: Historic environment	0	0	0	0
IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts	0	0	0	0

6.123 Policies AQMP1, AQMP2 and AQMP3 are all expected to have positive effects in relation to IIA objective 2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety. For Policy AQMP1 the positive effect is likely to be significant. This policy outlines requirements for development proposals to be located and designed so that they do not cause significant adverse effects upon the health of residents or residential amenity. In addition, AQMP1 requires air quality impact assessments as part of planning applications for major development and developments which include education and health facilities or open space. The positive effects recorded for policies AQMP2 and AQMP3 are minor. Policy AQMP2 supports the identification of contaminated land and its remediation before its development. The process for remediation should not pose a threat to public health. Policy AQMP3 will ensure that odour pollution from water recycling centres do not impact future development, mitigating their potential impact on residents' wellbeing.

6.124 A minor positive effect is expected for policy AQMP1 in relation to IIA objective 5: Transport as it requires air quality impact assessments as part of planning applications for major development and developments which include education and health facilities or open space. Furthermore, these assessments must outline the measures to mitigate any adverse effects during construction and operation which the policy states could include reducing traffic levels and encouraging sustainable movement patterns.

6.125 Policy AQMP1 is expected to have significant positive effect in relation to IIA objective 6: Air. In addition to setting out the requirement for air quality impact assessments to be undertaken, this policy outlines that developments in or adjacent to an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) will only be permitted where the Council is satisfied that after selection of appropriate mitigation the development will not have an unacceptable impact on air quality.

6.126 Policy AQMP1 seeks to address pollution affecting the natural resources of Basildon, including land, water and air. Policy AQMP2 will also support the protection of the Borough's natural resources, through its support for the remediation of contaminated land before its development and by requiring that

sites must not pose a threat of pollution to controlled waters including ground water. Given the focus of these policies on pollution protection and maintenance of the Borough's natural resources, a significant positive effect is expected for both in relation to IIA objective 7: Minerals, soil, water and waste. The protection of the Borough's agricultural land resources will be support by policy AQMP4 which requires that development proposals on agricultural land that is classified as grade 3 to carry out an Agricultural Land Classification site survey.

6.127 Given that policy AQMP1 requires proposals for certain types of development to be subject to air quality impact assessments, which should address traffic and the potential for sustainable transport, there is potential for this policy to contribute to reduced carbon emissions associated with transport. A minor positive effect is therefore expected for this policy in relation to IIA objective 8: Climate change mitigation.

6.128 Minor positive effects are expected for policies AQMP1 and AQMP2 in relation to IIA objective 10: Biodiversity and geodiversity. By requiring that all development proposals do not cause significant adverse effects upon the environment through pollution to land, air or water, or as a result of any form of disturbance, Policy AQMP1 is likely to help mitigate potential harm to Basildon's habitats, species and natural assets. Similar benefits are likely to result through Policy AQMP2 given its support for the remediation of contaminated land.

Chapter 7

Cumulative effects

7.1 The cumulative effects assessment in this chapter considers the total effects of the policies in the Local Plan document taken as a whole on each of the IIA objectives. A summary of the likely sustainability effects of these is presented in **Table 7.1** below. The effects of each individual policy set out in the plan are presented in **Table 7.2** later in this chapter.

Table 7.1: Cumulative effects of the Draft Basildon Local Plan

IIA objective	Cumulative effects of Draft Local Plan policies
IIA1: Housing	++
IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing and safety	++/-
IIA3: Equalities	++
IIA4: Economy and employment	++/-
IIA5: Transport	++/-
IIA6: Air	++/-
IIA7: Minerals, soil, water and waste	--/+
IIA8: Climate change mitigation	++/-
IIA9: Climate change adaptation	+/
IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+/
IIA11: Historic environment	+/

IIA objective	Cumulative effects of Draft Local Plan policies
IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts	**--/+**

Total effects of policies in the Local Plan

IIA objective 1: Provide new and affordable housing to meet identified needs of the whole community, covering housing of a suitable mix and type

7.2 The Local Plan requires the delivery of 27,111 homes up to 2043, including the delivery of 10,420 affordable homes. The level of growth set out in the Local Plan has been incorporated to meet the assessed housing need calculated using the Standard Method. As such the level of housing to be provided for in line with the policies setting out the overall level of growth and spatial strategy for the plan area (policies SG1 and SG3) is expected to meet the requirements of the Borough over the plan period. The level of housing growth over the plan period could also help to address housing affordability in Basildon.

7.3 The size, type and quality of new homes is addressed through policy HOU1. This policy includes the approach to supporting the provision of adaptable homes and those that meet the nationally described space standard and is therefore expected to contribute to provision of high quality of housing stock that meets the needs of local people. The plan also includes specific policy to help address affordability (policy HOU2). This policy requires that 50% affordable housing is provided on sites within the Green Belt and that 24% affordable

housing is provided on other sites, where sites would deliver 10 or more homes. This policy also sets out the expected composition of affordable housing to be delivered in terms of its split between affordable rent and affordable home ownership. The plan also includes policies to help to meet the specialist groups including older people (HOU3).

7.4 Overall, a cumulative significant positive effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 1: Housing.

IIA objective 2: Create a safe, healthy and inclusive living environment and encourage healthy lifestyles, improving access to local services and facilities that promote prosperity, health, well-being, recreation and integration

7.5 The relatively high level of total growth (27,111 homes) that will result from policies SG1 and SG3 which set out the housing growth and spatial strategy for Basildon Borough could put pressure on existing services and facilities, including healthcare. Furthermore, the level of growth could also contribute to increased air pollution in the plan area as a result of increased numbers of journeys being made locally and as new homes and businesses require heat and power.

7.6 However, by directing much of the new growth over the plan period within the boundaries of larger settlements that sit higher in the settlement hierarchy (policies SG2 and SG3), the number of residents who are located where there is limited access to services and facilities is likely to be relatively limited. These locations will also provide residents will good access to jobs and services and facilities which could support the integration of new residents and is likely to promote travel by public transport and active modes. This approach could support improvements in public health by promoting higher levels of physical activity and limiting increases in air pollution. Development at larger settlements

is also likely to support improvements to existing services as well as the potential for new service provision which would benefit access to services for existing as well as new residents and could also help promote self-containment in the plan area. However, the plan allows for a limited level of growth at the Unserviced/Serviced Villages where there is likely to be good access to countryside (which can benefit health) but there is likely to be a need for residents to travel longer distances to access more substantial and specialist healthcare facilities.

7.7 The Local Plan includes policy (INF1) that is set out to ensure that the impact of development on infrastructure and services is adequately mitigated and any provisions required are made in a timely manner. Policy INF2 sets out the mechanisms to secure contributions towards additional infrastructure capacity. Furthermore, support for the provision of new social and community infrastructure is provided for through policy INF3, which is clear that these types of provisions should achieve a high quality and inclusive design. The plan also includes policy (AQMP1) that requires development to ensure the mitigation of pollution in relation to health of residents or residential amenity. Importantly this includes in relation to air pollution given the potential for new growth in the plan area to contribute to increased vehicular journeys being made in Basildon. Policy AQMP3 is set out to limit the potential for occupiers of new residential developments to be adversely affected by odour associated with water recycling centres which will further help to mitigate the potential effects of pollution in relation to new residents in the plan area.

7.8 Overall, a cumulative mixed significant positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing and safety.

IIA objective 3: Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not

7.9 The majority of the policies included in the Draft Local Plan do not specifically refer to the protected characteristics set out through the Equality Act 2010 or issues that relate to these groups with negligible effects identified for these policies. However, it is expected that meeting the housing requirement for the plan area as set out by policy SG1 (27,111 dwellings in line with the Standard Method) and providing for a high level of affordable homes (10,420 dwellings) will help meet the needs of a range of types of residents. This includes housing to meet the needs of those from more disadvantaged backgrounds, with the detailed policy approach for this type of provision set out through policy HOU2. The distribution of development towards larger settlements in line with the settlement hierarchy (policies SG2 and SG3) will also support good access to services and facilities for many residents. This will include access to more specialist services that individuals from certain groups may need more regular access to.

7.10 The Local Plan also includes a policy (HOU3) that is directly set out to meet the accommodation needs of older people in the plan area, which is likelt to support the integration of this group as part of local communities. The provision of adequate infrastructure to support the needs of range of user types is also expected to be of importance to support the inclusion of a range of residents in local communities. These types of provisions are expected to be supported by policies INF1 and INF2 as well as policy INF3 which sets out the Council's support for the provision of social infrastructure in the plan area. Furthermore, the plan sets out general design principles for new developments and those for major developments (policies D1 and D2) that include the promotion of legible designs at new developments as well as designs which are safe and inclusive where there is potential for social interactions.

7.11 Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 3: Equalities.

IIA objective 4: Facilitate a prosperous and growing economy that creates a range of new jobs and improves vitality and viability of town centres

7.12 The amount of employment land provided for in the plan (65-82ha) as set out through policy SG1 aligns with the need demonstrated in the Council's Employment Land review and is therefore expected to support the required level of economic growth over the plan period. Furthermore, by directing much of the growth over the plan period towards Basildon Town and the medium towns in line with the settlement hierarchy, policies SG2 and SG3 will support good access for the majority of residents to jobs and town centre locations. This approach is likely to support self-containment in the plan area and benefit the viability of town centres in the plan area through increased levels of footfall. It Is noted however, that by directing some development to the un-service settlements some residents will have more limited access to jobs.

7.13 The Local Plan also includes several economy-focussed policies (E1 to E5) that are set out to plan for sustainable economic growth and inward investment. These policies allow for the protection of existing employment areas and Rural Enterprise Sites, criteria for changing of premises from employment uses and requirements for major developments to support improvements to skills levels and employment amongst the Borough's residents. This group of policies is likely to preserve the supply of employment sites that are of proven value in Basildon and promoting higher levels of educational attainment. Policy E3 will allow for flexibility in terms of changes of use where an employment site is no longer viable, although it is noted that this approach could result in some long-term loss of employment land in the Borough. Achieving the viability of town centre locations in Basildon will be of importance to supporting the local economy as a focus for retail growth and various services and facilities that

provide local job opportunities. This aim is supported through policies R1 to R6, with requirements set out in relation to the types of development that will be supported within town centre locations and the primary shopping areas set out through policies R1, R2 and R3.

7.14 Overall, a cumulative mixed significant positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 4: Economy and employment.

IIA objective 5: Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents, and promote sustainable modes of transport and efficient movement patterns in the Borough

7.15 The relatively high level of growth provided for by the plan (27,111 dwelling and 55 to 82 ha of employment land) over the plan period is likely to contribute to increased traffic in the Borough. However, the approach of focussing growth towards Basildon Town and the medium towns in line with the settlement hierarchy (policies SG2 and SG3) is likely to provide residents with nearby access to a range of services and facilities and jobs as well as public transport services. Basildon town benefits from railway stations at Laindon Basildon and Pitsea, while there are additional stations accessible within the medium towns of Billericay and Wickford. Furthermore, delivering a level of employment growth to meet local needs in line with the evidence of the Employment Land Review will help to reduce the need for out commuting. However, some new residents will need to travel longer distances to services and facilities and jobs, particularly where they are located within the un-serviced settlements.

7.16 Policy STAT1 is expected to benefit access across the Borough given that it is set out to deliver a better integrated transport system. This includes ensuring development is located to reduce the need to travel and support the use of sustainable modes of transport and requiring that developments make appropriate contributions to necessary transport infrastructure. The delivery of

infrastructure improvements in the Borough, including social and community infrastructure is further supported through policies INF1, INF2 and INF3. Provisions beyond those directly related to transport will also have benefits for travel in the plan area by reducing travel distances to services and facilities residents will need to access on a regular basis. The plan also sets outs a number of design principles that developments should adhere to through policies D1 and D2. These policies include an expectation for developments to prioritise cycling, walking, wheeling and public transport services above the use of the private car which is likely to further promote the use of alternative modes of transport in the plan area.

7.17 Overall, a cumulative significant positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 5: Transport.

IIA objective 6: Improve air quality by reducing emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants

7.18 The impacts of development on air quality in the plan area will be greatly affected by the potential to support a transition to more sustainable modes of transport in the plan area. Support for travel by public transport and encouraging a higher proportion of trips to be made by walking and cycling is likely to contribute to reductions in air pollution in the plan area. As such, the effects relating to the distribution of growth, including access to services and facilities, public transport and jobs identified in relation to IIA objective 5 are also applicable to IIA objective 6.

7.19 The Local Plan includes a number of additional policies that will support improved air quality in the plan area. The suite of policies included in the Local Plan relating to climate change, include the approach to reducing the energy demand (policy CC4) and limiting embodied carbon associated with new development (policy CC5). These measures could make contributions to air quality in the plan area by reducing emissions associated with powering and

manufacturing and transporting materials for developments. Importantly, sets out policy to directly address air and other types of pollution in the plan area. Policy AQMP1 requires that development is located and designed so that it does not cause significant adverse effects upon the environment, the health of residents or residential amenity by reason of pollution to land, air or water.

7.20 Overall, a cumulative significant positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 6: Air.

IIA objective 7: To promote sustainable forms of development that maintain and improve the quality of the Borough's natural resources, including minerals, soils, waters and waste materials

7.21 The substantial amount of development required over the plan period (27,111 homes and 55 to 82ha of employment land) as set out through policy SG1 will need substantial amounts of greenfield land take and other natural resources. However, the delivering development towards the larger settlements and promoting higher densities (policies SG2 and SG3) is likely to achieve a more sustainable pattern of development in Basildon.

7.22 Policy E1 of the plan directly addresses the employment needs of the plan area with requirement for substantial development including greenfield sites and use of resources. However, this policy also outlines requirements for the Council to provide local employment opportunities that make the best use of brownfield sites which is likely to achieve more efficient use of land resources in the Borough. The approach to reducing levels of embodied carbon associated with new development in Basildon is set out through policy CC5. This approach will be of importance in supporting appropriate use of natural resources in Basildon given that it supports the use of more sustainable materials in construction including consideration for energy inputs required for transport.

The protection of the Green Belt in the Borough is set out through policies GB1 and GB2 and this is likely to support the redevelopment of brownfield land. Furthermore, policies AQMP1 and AQMP2 are set out to directly mitigate various types of pollution as well a supporting the remediation of contaminated land in the plan area.

7.23 Overall, a cumulative minor positive and significant negative effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 7: Minerals, soil, water and waste.

IIA objective 8: Reduce Basildon Borough's contribution to climate change

7.24 The impacts of development in relation to carbon emissions and climate change mitigation in the plan area will be greatly affected by the potential to support a transition to more sustainable modes of transport in the plan area. Support for travel by public transport and encouraging a higher proportion of trips to be made by walking and cycling is likely to contribute to reductions in carbon emissions in the plan area. As such, the effects relating to the distribution of growth, including access to services and facilities, public transport and jobs identified in relation to IIA objective 5 are also applicable to IIA objective 8.

7.25 The Local Plan also includes a suite of climate change related policies that address the promotion of climate change mitigation as well as climate change resilience in the plan area. Policy CC1 sets out the overarching approach to addressing climate change in the plan area including through requirements for development to have good access to services and facilities and sustainable transport and to support opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy technology. Supporting developments that are net zero carbon, including requirements to limit the use of fossil fuels on site and to provide onsite renewable energy is set out through policy CC4. Targets for developments in relation to achieving lower levels of embodied carbon at new development are provided in policy CC5. Furthermore, the design principles set out for major

developments in the plan area (policy D2) require that site and building design should minimise energy consumption.

7.26 Overall, a cumulative significant positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 8: Climate change mitigation.

IIA objective 9: Reduce Basildon Borough's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change

7.27 The location of development in the plan area is unlikely to influence the incorporation of green infrastructure and other climate change adaptation measures. These elements of adaptation will be most impacted upon by the design of development proposals. However, the high level of development in the plan area (including 27,111 dwellings in line with policy SG1) is likely to result in substantial greenfield land take with associated increases in impermeable surfaces and potential to contribute to heat island effect in some parts of the Borough. Furthermore, some potential sites for development lie in areas of higher flood risk with potential for climate change to increase the risk of more frequent flood events at these locations in particular.

7.28 However, the overarching approach to climate change set out in the Local Plan through policy CC1 supports several measures that will help increase the resilience of Basildon to the effects of climate change. These include providing opportunities for well-connected green and blue infrastructure and minimising the impact of flooding and overheating. The Local Plan directly addresses the potential for increased flood risk in the plan area as a result of climate change through policy CC2 which requires for a working partnership with relevant Flood Management Authorities to prepare a riverside strategy and to maintain the existing network of Washlands as an area of flood and storm water attenuation. The approach to the safeguarding of the Washlands in this manner is set out through policy CC3, with development in this part of Basildon only to be permitted in exceptional circumstances. Policies GB1, NE1 and NE2 will have indirect benefits in relation to adaptation to climate change by protecting parts of the Borough from development as Green Belt land and wildlife sites. It is

expected that the conservation of undeveloped areas of the Borough will contribute positively to long term resilience to climate change by maintaining areas that support the natural infiltration of flood waters and areas where ecological connectivity can be maintained to benefit the functioning of ecosystems services.

7.29 Overall, a cumulative mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 9: Climate change adaptation.

IIA objective 10: Value, maintain, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and geodiversity

7.30 The level of housing and employment development (27,111 dwellings and 55 to 82 ha of employment land) set out through the Local Plan (policies SG1 and E1) is likely to contribute to loss, fragmentation and disturbance of habitats in the plan area. Areas of Basildon include or are surrounded by several important biodiversity sites such as Mill Meadows LNR and SSSI and Norsey Wood LNR and SSSI at Billericay as well as Langdon Ridge SSSI which passes into parts of Laindon. Delivering much of the development over the plan period at the larger settlements in line with the settlement hierarchy (policy SG2) is likely to reduce the potential for development at more rural and potentially more ecologically sensitive parts of the Borough. The spatial distribution of development in the plan area (policy SG3) has potential to contribute to biodiversity impacts on the designated sites towards both Billericay and Laindon given the growth that is to be directed towards these locations. Development is also directed towards the south of Pitsea which could contribute to impacts on Pitsea Marsh SSSI. Furthermore, through the spatial distribution of growth set out through policy SG3, much of the development within the Borough (with the exception of development towards its western edge) would fall within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) for Essex Coast RAMS with potential for new residents to contribute to recreation pressures on the Essex coast Habitats sites.

7.31 The Local Plan includes numerous policies to support the protection of the Borough's natural environment. Policy CC1 is supportive of development that contributes to existing and new opportunities for well-connected multifunctional green and blue infrastructure and biodiversity net gain. Furthermore, while the Green Belt in the plan area does not have intrinsic biodiversity value, the undeveloped nature of much of this land provides space for habitats and supports ecological connectivity, with the approach set out through policy GB1 for its protection likely to help preserve these benefits. Importantly, policies NE1 and NE2 support the protection of the natural environment and designated biodiversity sites including by requiring residential developments within the Zones of Influence to contribute to mitigation measures identified in the Essex RAMS.

7.32 The Draft Local Plan has been subject to a separate Habitats Regulations Assessment which concludes following the Appropriate Assessment stage that while adverse effects on the integrity of most European designated sites can be ruled out, further air quality data is required to confirm that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Benfleet and Southend Marshes Ramsar site and SPA as a result of increased air pollution.

7.33 Overall, a cumulative minor positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 10: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

IIA objective 11: Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage

7.34 In addition to having impacts on the Borough's natural environment, the relatively large amount of growth to be provided in the Borough over the plan period (27,111 dwellings and between 55ha and 82ha of employment land as set out through policies SG1 and E1) is also likely to have implications for the historic built environment. This is likely to include impacts on the settings of heritage assets that can often compromise undeveloped land and features of

the natural environment. The approach of directing much of the required development towards the Borough's larger settlements in line with the settlement hierarchy (policy SG2 and SG3) could result in a range of impacts on designated heritage assets in the plan area given that these areas contain many of these assets. Of the settlements in the plan area, Billericay contains the highest concentration of Listed Buildings and development directed towards this settlement could have particularly adverse effects on the Borough's historic environment.

7.35 A number of policies in the plan are set out to address potential impacts on the historic environment. This includes policy D1 which sets out a number for deign principles for new development and requires that development should respond positively to existing natural, historic and built assets and features that contribute positively to local character and distinctiveness. The Local Plan also includes a suite of policies (HE1 to HE5) that are set out to ensure the protection designated heritage assets, archaeology and non-designated heritage assets. Through policy HE1 this includes the requirement that proposals are refused where they would lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset.

7.36 Overall, a cumulative mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 11: Historic environment.

IIA objective 12: Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and townscape, ensuring development does not detract from the quality of views and local distinctiveness

7.37 The relatively high level of development to be provided over the plan period in line with policies SG1 and E1 (27,111 dwellings and 55ha to 82ha of employment land) is likely to have substantial implications for landscape character in Basildon. While directing much of the growth towards the larger

settlements of Basildon in line with the settlement hierarchy (policies SG2 and SG3) could help to reduce the potential for adverse impacts on the open countryside, this approach has potential to result in impacts to occur on the townscape of settlements in the plan area. Furthermore, the scale of development to be provided in the Borough will require some development to occur beyond the existing settlement areas. This includes several potential sites at the edge of the medium towns of Billericay and Wickford as well as at the smaller services villages of Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet and Little Burstead Village and Broomshill Chase which could have impacts for the established character at these locations.

7.38 The plan sets out several policies to help ensure the protection of the open countryside and valuable landscapes in Basildon. The design principles provided for in policy D1 require proposals to respond appropriately to local patterns of development including features that contribute positively to local character and distinctiveness. The approach for the design of major developments is set out through policy D2 with specific requirements for proposals to respond positively to local character and context to preserve and enhance the quality of existing communities in line with Essex-wide standards and Government guidance. Major developments are also required by this policy to create well-maintained public realm and enhance the setting of existing public realm. It is expected that the protection of undeveloped greenfield land in Basildon will be of importance to limiting changes to potentially sensitive landscapes. The continued protection of the Green Belt in line with national policy (policy GB1) will help achieve this benefit. Further benefits are likely where green infrastructure is incorporated as part of new developments which might act to enhance landscapes and screen the effects of development sites. Policy NE1 is expected to help promote these types of benefits by requiring that large developments incorporate high-quality green infrastructure in line with the principles and standards of the Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy. Additional benefits relating to the protection of local character are likely to result from the suite of policies (HE1 to HE5) that address the historic environment in Basildon. The protection of the settings of heritage assets is likely to help protect areas of landscape value given the contribution landscape features often make to setting.

7.39 Overall, a cumulative mixed minor positive and significant negative effect is expected in relation to IIA objective 12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts.

Table 7.2: Total effects of the Basildon Local Plan - Vision and strategic objectives

Policy	IIA1: Housing	IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	IIA3: Equalities	IIA4: Economy and employment	IIA5: Transport	IIA6: Air	IIA7: Mineral, soil, water and waste	IIA8: Climate change mitigation	IIA9: Climate change adaptation	IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	IIA11: Historic Environment	IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts
Overarching Vision	++	++	++	++	+	+	+/	+	++	++/-	++/-	+/
Strategic Objective 1	+	+	0	0	0	+?	+	+?	0	++	++	++
Strategic Objective 2	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	++
Strategic Objective 3	0	+	0	0	0	+?	+	+?	+	++	0	+
Strategic Objective 4	0	+	+	++	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	+
Strategic Objective 5	0	+	+	++	+	+	-	+	0	-	-	-
Strategic Objective 6	++	+	+	+	0	0	+/	0	0	-	-	-
Strategic Objective 7	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	++	++	0	0	0
Strategic Objective 8	0	++	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0
Strategic Objective 9	+?	+	++	0	0	+?	0	+?	+	0	0	0
Strategic Objective 10	0	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+/	-	-

Table 7.3: Total effects of the Basildon Local Plan - Meeting our growth needs

Policy	IIA1: Housing	IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	IIA3: Equalities	IIA4: Economy and employment	IIA5: Transport	IIA6: Air	IIA7: Mineral, soil, water and waste	IIA8: Climate change mitigation	IIA9: Climate change adaptation	IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	IIA11: Historic Environment	IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts
Policy SG1	++	0	++	++	-	-		-	-	?	?	?
Policy SG2	+	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	-	+/	-	+/
Policy SG3	++	++/-	+	++/-	++/-	++/-	--/+	++/-	-	?	-?	?

Table 7.4: Total effects of the Basildon Local Plan - Building a strong competition economy

Policy	IIA1: Housing	IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	IIA3: Equalities	IIA4: Economy and employment	IIA5: Transport	IIA6: Air	IIA7: Mineral, soil, water and waste	IIA8: Climate change mitigation	IIA9: Climate change adaptation	IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	IIA11: Historic Environment	IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts
Policy E1	0	+	+	++	+/	+/	+/	+	0	-?	-?	-?
Policy E2	0	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy E3	+?	+	+	++/-	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+
Policy E4	0	+	+	++	+/	+/	0	+/	0	-?	-?	+/ ?
Policy E5	0	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 7.5: Total effects of the Basildon Local Plan - Meeting Housing Needs

Policy	IIA1: Housing	IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	IIA3: Equalities	IIA4: Economy and employment	IIA5: Transport	IIA6: Air	IIA7: Mineral, soil, water and waste	IIA8: Climate change mitigation	IIA9: Climate change adaptation	IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	IIA11: Historic Environment	IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts
Policy HOU1	++	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HOU2	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HOU3	++	++	++	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0

Table 7.6: Total effects of the Basildon Local Plan - Ensuring the vitality of town centres

Policy	IIA1: Housing	IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	IIA3: Equalities	IIA4: Economy and employment	IIA5: Transport	IIA6: Air	IIA7: Mineral, soil, water and waste	IIA8: Climate change mitigation	IIA9: Climate change adaptation	IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	IIA11: Historic Environment	IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts
Policy R1	+	+	+	++	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+
Policy R2	+	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R3	+	+	+	++	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+
Policy R4	0	+	+	++	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0
Policy R5	0	+/	+/	++/-	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0
Policy R6	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 7.7: Total effects of the Basildon Local Plan - Sustainable transport and infrastructure

Policy	IIA1: Housing	IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	IIA3: Equalities	IIA4: Economy and employment	IIA5: Transport	IIA6: Air	IIA7: Mineral, soil, water and waste	IIA8: Climate change mitigation	IIA9: Climate change adaptation	IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	IIA11: Historic Environment	IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts
Policy STAT1	0	+	+	+	++	+	0	+	0	0	0	0
Policy INF1	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0
Policy INF2	0	+	+	+	+?	+	0	+	0	0	0	0
Policy INF3	0	++	++	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0

Table 7.8: Total effects of the Basildon Local Plan - Meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding

Policy	IIA1: Housing	IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	IIA3: Equalities	IIA4: Economy and employment	IIA5: Transport	IIA6: Air	IIA7: Mineral, soil, water and waste	IIA8: Climate change mitigation	IIA9: Climate change adaptation	IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	IIA11: Historic Environment	IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts
Policy CC1	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	++	++	+	0	+
Policy CC2	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	+	0	0
Policy CC3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0
Policy CC4	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	0	0
Policy CC5	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	++	0	0	0	0

Table 7.9: Total effects of the Basildon Local Plan - Achieving well-designed place

Policy	IIA1: Housing	IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	IIA3: Equalities	IIA4: Economy and employment	IIA5: Transport	IIA6: Air	IIA7: Mineral, soil, water and waste	IIA8: Climate change mitigation	IIA9: Climate change adaptation	IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	IIA11: Historic Environment	IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts
Policy D1	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+
Policy D2	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+
Policy GB1	-?	0	0	-?	+/	+/	+	+/	+	+	+	+
Policy GB2	+	0	0	+	+	+	++	+	0	0	0	0
Policy NE1	-	+	0	-	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	+
Policy NE2	-	+	0	-	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0

Table 7.10: Total effects of the Basildon Local Plan - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

Policy	IIA1: Housing	IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	IIA3: Equalities	IIA4: Economy and employment	IIA5: Transport	IIA6: Air	IIA7: Mineral, soil, water and waste	IIA8: Climate change mitigation	IIA9: Climate change adaptation	IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	IIA11: Historic Environment	IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts
Policy HE1	-?	0	0	-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+
Policy HE2	-?	0	0	-?	0	0	0	-?	+	+	++	+
Policy HE3	-?	0	0	-?	0	0	0	-?	0	0	++	+
Policy HE4	-?	0	0	-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+
Policy HE5	-?	0	0	-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+

Table 7.11: Total effects of the Basildon Local Plan - Improving air quality and mitigating pollution

Policy	IIA1: Housing	IIA2: Community cohesion, health, wellbeing, and safety	IIA3: Equalities	IIA4: Economy and employment	IIA5: Transport	IIA6: Air	IIA7: Mineral, soil, water and waste	IIA8: Climate change mitigation	IIA9: Climate change adaptation	IIA10: Biodiversity and geodiversity	IIA11: Historic Environment	IIA12: Landscape, townscape and visual impacts
Policy AQMP1	0	++	0	0	+	++	++	+	0	+	0	0
Policy AQMP2	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	0
Policy AQMP3	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AQMP4	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0

Chapter 8
Monitoring

8.1 The SEA Regulations require that:

> "the responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action" and that the environmental report should provide information on "a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring".

8.2 Monitoring proposals should be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.

8.3 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 on the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the SA (in this case the IIA) and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken.

8.4 The new Basildon Local Plan is at an early stage in its development. As such, monitoring measures have been proposed in this IIA report in relation to all of the IIA objectives in the IIA framework. As the new Local Plan is progressed further and the likely significant effects are identified with more certainty, it may be appropriate to narrow down the monitoring framework to focus on a smaller number of the IIA objectives for which significant (including uncertain) effects are identified.

8.5 The suggested indicators for monitoring the potential sustainability effects of implementing the new Local Plan are set out below. The list of indicators has been drafted taking the Council's most recent Authority Monitoring Report (2022/2023) as the starting point. Note that the indicators proposed are included as suggestions at this stage and may change when the Council prepares its monitoring framework later in the plan process.

8.6 The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies. Information collected by other organisations (e.g. the Environment Agency) can also be used as a source of indicators. It is therefore recommended that the Council continues the dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders that has already commenced and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable.

Proposed monitoring framework for the Basildon Local Plan

IIA objective 1: Provide new and affordable housing to meet identified needs of the whole community, covering housing of a suitable mix and type

Proposed monitoring indicators

- Average house prices in Basildon Borough.
- Town Centre dwelling completions.
- Affordable homes granted consent on sites of 11 units or more.
- Units of specialist accommodation.

IIA objective 2: Create a safe, healthy and inclusive living environment and encourage healthy lifestyles, improving access to local services and facilities that promote prosperity, health, well-being, recreation and integration

Proposed monitoring indicators

- Area of open space provision in the Borough.
- Projects completed to improve/create open spaces and recreation facilities.
- Improved quality of open spaces.
- Improved accessibility to open spaces.

IIA objective 3 – Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not.

Proposed monitoring indicators

- Count of Traveller caravans.
- Improvements to existing facilities used for cultural events.
- Planning permissions for new schemes which provide cultural assets and/or facilities.

- Number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 40% most deprived for health deprivation and disability.
- Homelessness rates.

IIA objective 4: Facilitate a prosperous and growing economy that creates a range of new jobs and improves vitality and viability of town centres

Proposed monitoring indicators

- Net additional square metres of retail floor space.
- Employment floorspace gains.
- Employment floorspace lost.
- Employment floorspace provision by employment area.
- Unemployment rate.

IIA objective 5: Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents, and promote sustainable modes of transport and efficient movement patterns in the Borough

Proposed monitoring indicators

- Number of planning permissions granted for major developments with secured Travel Plans.

- Percentage of persons commuting by car or van.
- Percentage of persons who travel to work by public transport.

IIA objective 6: Improve air quality by reducing emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants

Proposed monitoring indicators

- Exceedances of air quality objectives.
- Nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulate emissions.

IIA objective 7: To promote sustainable forms of development that maintain and improve the quality of the Borough's natural resources, including minerals, soils, waters and waste materials

Proposed monitoring indicators

- Proportion of dwelling completions on brownfield sites.
- Proportion of dwellings completed at densities of 30 dph or more.
- Number of entries in Brownfield Land Register.
- Number of schemes contributing to the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives.
- Water efficiency of new developments.

- Percentage of rivers with ‘good/fair’ chemical and biological water quality.
- Percentage of waterbodies achieving ‘good’ ecological status.

IIA objective 8: Climate Change mitigation - reduce Basildon Borough’s contribution to climate change

Proposed monitoring indicators

- Total amount of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions per capita per year.
- Amount of energy generated from renewable sources.
- Annual average domestic gas and electricity consumption per capita.
- Annual average gas and electricity consumption in the commercial/industrial sector.
- Number of applications for renewable energy developments.

IIA objective 9: Climate change adaptation - reduce Basildon Borough’s vulnerability to the impacts of climate change

Proposed monitoring indicators

- Amount of green infrastructure provided by new developments.

IIA objective 10: Value, maintain, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and geodiversity

Proposed monitoring indicators

- SSSIs percentage in favourable and unfavourable condition.
- Coverage of ancient woodland.
- Number of planning approvals incorporating SuDS/other Nature Based Solutions.
- Percentage of biodiversity net gain (BNG) achieved as part of new developments.

IIA objective 11: Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage

Proposed monitoring indicators

- Number and distribution of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens.
- Loss or damage of heritage assets.
- Number of heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk Register List.

IIA objective 12: Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and townscape, ensuring development does not detract from the quality of views and local distinctiveness

Proposed monitoring indicators

- Planning permission granted in relation to listed buildings and conservation areas contrary to officer advice
- Proactive management of land in the Green Belt.

Chapter 9

Conclusions and next steps

9.1 The IIA of the Draft (Regulation 18) Basildon Local Plan has been undertaken to accord with current best practice and the guidance on SA/SEA as set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance. The IIA objectives developed at the Scoping stage of the SA process (and refined since) have been used to undertake a detailed appraisal of the current consultation document.

9.2 The Draft Local Plan sets out detailed policies to address strategic and non-strategic issues in the plan area, as well as identifying potential sites to be allocated for residential and employment use. This includes policies to ensure the required level of housing is delivered and to ensure the maintenance of a suitable portfolio of land to allow for continued growth in established employment sectors.

9.3 By taking a balanced approach to development, with the required level of housing development provided for alongside employment land for the plan period, the Local Plan is expected to secure the sustainable growth of the Borough. The Draft Local Plan seeks to balance the need for housing across the Borough, through the identification of potential site allocations in urban and rural locations, as well as the allocation of specific sites in the Plotlands. However, the effects of the proposed growth can only be assessed with more certainty at the next stage of plan-making, when allocations for all types of development are included in the Local Plan.

9.4 It is considered that the Local Plan's approach of focussing the majority of growth in or in close proximity to existing settlements will maximise access to jobs, services and facilities, and should help to further stimulate the use of non-car based modes of transport. While there is some development proposed in more rural areas, this will help to maintain the vitality and viability of the

Borough's villages and may stimulate the delivery of new services and facilities, including public transport links, in those areas.

9.5 Given the scale of development proposed across the plan period, adverse effects have inevitably been identified in relation to some of the IIA objectives; in particular those relating to natural resources and landscape. These effects reflect the potential for impacts on the landscape and heritage assets in the plan area; and the land take required for new development which will include some greenfield land (some of which is within the Green Belt). It also reflects the proximity of some sites proposed for allocation to biodiversity sites, such as Mill Meadows LNR and SSSI, Norsey Wood LNR and SSSI at Billericay, as well as Langdon Ridge SSSI which passes into parts of Laindon, and Pitsea Marsh SSSI. The plan includes a suite of development management policies that are set out to address the potential adverse effects of development.

9.6 The separate HRA for the Local Plan has concluded that in the absence of AADT traffic modelling data and in line with a precautionary approach, a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity cannot yet be reached in relation to the effect of air pollution on Benfleet and Southend Marshes Ramsar site and SPA. In relation to other European sites, the HRA concludes that no adverse effect on integrity will occur subject to the provision of safeguarding and mitigation measures as detailed in Chapter 6 of the HRA report.

Next steps

9.7 This IIA report will be published alongside the Basildon draft Local Plan in Autumn 2024. Responses to the consultation and the IIA will be reviewed and reflected within the next iteration of the Local Plan and the IIA Report.

9.8 As the Basildon Local Plan is refined, its policies (including site allocations) and reasonable alternatives to these will continue to be subject to appraisal. Updated IIA reports will be produced and made available to stakeholders and the public for consultation alongside any subsequent Local Plan consultations.

LUC
October 2024

Appendix A

Review of relevant plans, policies and programmes

A.1 This appendix is largely organised in the same order of topics covered in main body of the IIA Scoping Report (February 2023). The majority of relevant plans, policies and programmes operate at the national level but relevant international and sub-national documents are referenced where appropriate.

General international

A.2 The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (2015) **[See reference 33]**, adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

A.3 United Nations Declaration on Sustainable Development (the '**Johannesburg Declaration'**) (2002) **[See reference 34]**: Sets broad framework for international sustainable development, including building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.

A.4 United Nations Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the '**Aarhus Convention**') (1998) **[See reference 35]**: Establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional, or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

International

A.5 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace **(COP28 Declaration)** (2023) **[See reference** 36**]**: international commitment to address the complex challenges posed by climate change, particularly in the most vulnerable regions. Although non-binding and outside the formal UNFCCC negotiations, this declaration unites the concerns and proposed solutions of countries and institutions across humanitarian, development, climate, and peace sectors. It aims to urgently enhance climate resilience in vulnerable communities that are most affected by climate-related conflicts and crises.

A.6 Glasgow Climate Pact (2021) **[See reference** 37**]**: an agreement reached at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference. The pact is the first climate agreement explicitly planning to reduce unabated coal usage. The package of decisions consists of a range of agreed items, including strengthened efforts to build resilience to climate change, to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to provide the necessary finance for both.

A.7 United Nations Declaration on Forests and Land Use (**COP26 Declaration**) (2021) **[See reference 38]**: international commitment to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation .

A.8 United Nations Paris Climate Change Agreement (2015) **[See reference 39]**: International agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

National

A.9 The NPPF is supported by **Planning Practice Guidance** relating to:

- **Flood risk and coastal change** (2021) **[See reference 40]** – Provides guidance on how the planning process can assess, avoid, manage and mitigate the risks associated with flooding and coastal change.
- **Climate change** (2019) **[See reference 41]** – Advises how to identify suitable mitigation and adaptation measures in the planning process to address the impacts of climate change.
- **Renewable and low carbon energy** (2015) **[See reference 42]** – Outlines guidance for developing a strategy for renewable and low carbon energy, and particular planning considerations for hydropower, solar technology, solar farms and wind turbines.
- **Community Infrastructure Levy** (2014) **[See reference 43]** – Provides guidance on the Community Infrastructure Levy and how it operates. The levy can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including flood defences.

A.10 The **Environment Act 2021** **[See reference 44]** sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. The Environment Act will deliver:

A.11 Long-term targets to improve air quality biodiversity, water, and waste reduction and resource efficiency;

- A target on ambient PM2.5 concentrations;
- A target to halt the decline of nature by 2030;
- Environmental Improvement Plans, including interim targets;
- A cycle of environmental monitoring and reporting;
- Environmental Principles embedded in domestic policy making; and

- Office for Environmental Protection to uphold environmental law.

A.12 The National Adaptation Programme and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2023) **[See reference** 45**]** sets out a series of actions for the following sectors over a 5-year period:

- Infrastructure - new commitments on resilience standards, investment in water quality and a new transport adaptation strategy
- Nature environment - Local Nature Recovery Strategies, incorporate climate change adaptation into the design of Environmental Land Management schemes and Nature Recovery Projects
- Health, communities and the built environment - investment in flood and coastal erosion schemes, Adverse Weather & Health Plan, update the National Planning Policy Framework to support both adaptation and mitigation efforts and provide local climate projections
- Business and industry - Green Finance Strategy 2023, new strategy on supply chains and imports and survey business readiness for climate impacts.
- International impacts – the government will adapt and build resilience in vulnerable communities to climate related disasters and continue to drive international action and consensus in negotiations on climate adaptation.

A.13 The **Carbon Budget Delivery Plan** (2023) **[See reference 46]** explains how the government intends to meet its legally-binding climate goals, setting out a package of quantified and unquantified proposals and policies, and associated timescales and delivery risks this also includes:

- wider matters in connection with carbon budgets
- the contribution of these proposals and policies to sustainable development
- the impact the package has on sectors of the economy

A.14 Powering up Britain (2023) **[See reference 47]** sets out the department's approach to energy security and net zero, and acts as an introduction to

Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan, and Powering Up Britain: Net Zero Growth Plan.

9.9 The Net Zero Growth Plan (2023) **[See reference** 48**]** outlines the Government's plans to reach net zero and unlock the financial benefits that this can bring. Key commitments include:

- Publishing an addendum to the Resources and Waste Strategy which will focus on net zero and include a plan to achieve the near elimination of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill.
- Responding to the consultation on a revised Waste Prevention Programme for England alongside the new programme 'Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste'.
- Providing up to £20 billion of funding for early deployment of CCUS to unlock private investment and jobs.
- Consulting on an ambitious Zero Emission Vehicle mandate; publishing the Low Carbon Fuels Strategy in 2023; and legislating to include recycled carbon and nuclear derived fuels in renewables transport fuel schemes.
- Consulting on transition planning disclosure requirements for the UK's largest companies and the UK Green Taxonomy, as well as on steps and interventions needed to support the growth of high integrity voluntary markets and to protect against greenwashing.
- Introducing a regulatory framework for heat networks; beginning the implementation of heat network zoning by 2025; and confirming funding of £15 million for the 2023/24 Home Decarbonisation Skills Competition and the £5 million Heat Training Grant for heat pump and heat network skills. Growth and decarbonisation of the UK heat network market will continue through the Green Heat Network Fund and the Heat Network Efficiency Scheme, including £220 million for the Heat Network Transformation Programme over 2025/6 and 2026/7.
- Considering options for integrating greenhouse gas removals in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme.

- Publishing the Biomass Strategy in 2023, which will outline the role that bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) can play in reducing carbon emissions.
- Taking forward the next steps in the Review of Electricity Market Arrangements.

A.15 The **Biomass Strategy 2023** **[See reference** 49**]** builds on the 2021 Biomass policy statement and the Powering up Britain strategy which emphasised the important role that biomass will play in Britain's fully decarbonised power system by 2035, subject to security of supply. It sets out steps government intends to take to strengthen biomass sustainability and the opportunities for the use of sustainable biomass across multiple sectors of the economy in support of achieving the UK's net zero target.

A.16 The government aims to focus on implementing a cross-sectoral common sustainability framework, which will be subject to consultation. It states it committed to monitoring the levels of biomass supply to ensure the UK can secure necessary levels for increased biomass use across the economy.

A.17 It has also committed to ensuring that biomass supply – given its risks and uncertainties – is not hindered at any stage; however, biomass demand is expected to increase. The government also aims for a "priority use" of biomass based on guiding principles that address sustainability, air quality, the net-zero and circular economy, and resource efficiency. This encompasses the deployment of bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), the engineered greenhouse-gas removal technology, which captures and stores CO2 from biomass while producing low-carbon energy

A.18 The **Environment Improvement Plan** 2023 **[See reference 50]** for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how they will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of our goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help us restore nature, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the prosperity of our country.

A.19 The **UK Hydrogen Strategy** (2023) **[See reference 51]** sets out the approach to developing a substantial low carbon hydrogen sector in the UK and to meet the ambition for 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030. The Strategy outlines the role of hydrogen in meeting net zero targets, the existing opportunity within the UK, a strategic framework, a roadmap for the economy, and the UK Government's commitments for a hydrogen economy.

A.20 The **Energy Security Plan** (2023) **[See reference** 52**]** sets out the steps that the government is taking to improve the UK's energy system resilience, particularly in the current geopolitical context. Key commitments include:

- Looking at the role gas storage and other sources of flexibility can play in gas security.
- Delivery of energy efficiency upgrades through the Great British Insulation Scheme.
- Extension of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme to 2028.
- Setting up Great British Nuclear to lead delivery of the new nuclear programme.
- Launching a competitive process to select the best Small Modular Reactor technologies.
- Launching the Floating Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Scheme, to provide up to £160 million investment in port infrastructure projects.
- Publishing action plans on reducing the development time for transmission network projects and on accelerating electricity network connections.
- Announcing the Track-1 negotiation project list of carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) projects; launching a process to expand Track-1 clusters; and establishing two further (Track-2) CCUS clusters.
- Announcing a shortlist of projects for the first electrolytic hydrogen production allocation round.
- Announcing successful applicants of the first competition window for Strands 1 and 2 of the Net Zero Hydrogen Fund (development and capital co-funding) and launching a second competition window.

- Consulting on revised energy National Policy Statements which underline the national need for new energy infrastructure with the intention of expediting planning processes.

A.21 Defence Operational Energy Strategy (2023) **[See reference** 53**]** sets out how the Ministry of Defence (MOD) will respond to the global energy transition. The aims of the strategy are to adopt a new approach to managing fuel and energy, leading to a cultural shift in how the MOD makes its operational energy decisions. The DOES describes how the MOD will maximise operational advantage through its energy choices. Operational advantage will be achieved through three strategic outcomes:

- Advantage through energy.
- Advantage through coherence.
- Advantage through organisational agility.

A.22 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 [See reference 54] outlines the UK government and devolved administrations' position on the key climate change risks and opportunities that the UK faces today. The risk assessment considers sixty-one UK-wide climate risks and opportunities cutting across multiple sectors of the economy and prioritises the following eight risk areas for action in the next two years:

- risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards
- risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought
- risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards
- risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards
- risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks
- risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system

- risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings
- multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas

A.23 The **Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener** (2022) **[See reference 55]** sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet net zero targets by 2050. It sets out strategies to keep the UK on track with carbon budgets, outlines the National Determined Contribution (NDC) and sets out the vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050. Its focus includes:

- Policies and proposals for reducing emissions across the economy in key sectors (power, fuel supply and hydrogen, industry, heat and buildings, transport, natural gas and waste); and
- Policies and proposals for supporting transition across the economy through innovation, green investment, green jobs, embedding net-zero in government, local climate action, empowering people and businesses, and international leadership and collaboration.

A.24 The **National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England** **[See reference 56]**: This Strategy sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities. The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are:

- climate resilient places: working with partners to bolster resilience to flooding and coastal change across the nation, both now and in the future in the face of climate change;
- today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate: making the right investment and planning decisions to secure sustainable growth and environmental improvements, as well as infrastructure resilient to flooding and coastal change;
- a nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change: ensuring local people understand their risk to flooding and coastal change and know their responsibilities and how to act.

A.25 Net zero government emissions: UK roadmap **[See reference** 57**]** as part of the Net Zero Government Initiative outlines the journey to central government net zero emissions. It covers the policies and interim targets around government buildings and transport, procurement and skills.
Sustainability and climate change strategy (2022) **[See reference** 58**]** is the Department for Education's strategy for sustainability and climate change for the education and children's services systems. The strategy's vision is for the United Kingdom to be the world-leading education sector in sustainability and climate change by 2030. The strategy sets out four strategic aims for England:

- Excellence in education and skills for a changing world,
- Transition to net zero
- Resilience to climate change
- A better environment for future generations

A.26 The Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy (2021) **[See reference** 59**]** aims to support existing industry to decarbonise and encourage the growth of new, low carbon industries to protect and create skilled jobs and businesses in the UK encouraging long-term investment in home-grown decarbonisation technology. The strategy builds in the Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and sets out the government's vision for building a competitive, greener future for the manufacturing and construction sector and is part of the government's path to net zero by 2050.

A.27 The strategy aims to reduce emissions by two-thirds in just 15 years and support up to 80,000 jobs over the next thirty years and includes measures to produce 20 terawatt hours of the UK industry's energy supply from low carbon alternatives by 2030. It also aims to introduce new rules on measuring the energy and carbon performance of the UK's largest commercial and industrial buildings, providing potential savings to businesses of around £2 billion per year in energy costs in 2030 and aiming to reduce annual carbon emissions by over 2Mt – approximately 10% of their current emissions.

A.28 Other key commitments within the Strategy include:

- The use of carbon pricing to drive changes in industry to focus on emissions in business and investment decisions;
- To establish a policy framework to accelerate the switch from fossil fuels to low carbon alternatives such as hydrogen, electricity, or biomass;
- New product standards, enabling manufacturers to clearly distinguish their products from high carbon competitors;
- To ensure the land planning regime is fit for building low carbon infrastructure;
- Support the skills transition so that the UK workforce benefits from the creation of new green jobs;
- An expectation that at least 3 megatons of CO2 is captured within industry per year by 2030; and
- That by 2050, there will be zero avoidable waste of materials across heavy industries.

A.29 The **Heat and Buildings Strategy** (2021) **[See reference** 60**]** sets out the government's plan to significantly cut carbon emissions from the UK's 30 million homes and workplaces. This strategy aims to provide a clear direction of travel for the 2020s, set out the strategic decisions that need to be taken this decade, and demonstrate how the UK plans to meet its carbon targets and remain on track for net zero by 2050.

A.30 Key aims of the strategy include:

- Reduce direct emissions from public sector buildings by 75% against a 2017 baseline by the end of carbon budget 6;
- Significantly reduce energy consumption of commercial, and industrial buildings by 2030;
- Phase out the installation of new natural gas boilers beyond 2035;

- Significantly grow the supply chain for heat pumps to 2028: from installing around 35,000 hydronic heat pumps a year to a minimum market capacity of 600,000 per year by 2028;
- Reduce the costs of installing a heat pump by at least 25-50% by 2025 and to ensure heat pumps are no more expensive to buy and run than gas boilers by 2030;
- Achieve 30-fold increase in heat pumps manufactured and sold within the UK by the end of the decade;
- Grow the market for heat pumps notably via a £450 million Boiler Upgrade Scheme to support households who want to switch with £5,000 grants;
- Improve heat pump appeal by continuing to invest in research and innovation, with the £60 million Net Zero Innovation Portfolio 'Heat Pump Ready' Programme supporting the development of innovation across the sector;
- Ensure all new buildings in England are ready for Net Zero from 2025. To enable this, new standards will be introduced through legislation to ensure new homes and buildings will be fitted with low-carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency;
- Establish large-scale trials of hydrogen for heating, including a neighbourhood trial by 2023;
- Ensure as many fuel poor homes in England, as reasonably practicable, achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of band C by the end of 2030;
- Support social housing, low income and fuel poor households via boosting funding for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Home Upgrade Grant, which aim to improve the energy performance of low income households' homes, support low carbon heat installations and build the green retrofitting sector to benefit all homeowners; and
- Scale up low-carbon heat network deployment and to enable local areas to deploy heat network zoning – Heat Network Transformation Programme of £338 million (over 2022/23 to 2024/25).

A.31 The **Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations** (2021) **[See reference 61]** seek to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, reducing their carbon emissions and lessening the impact of climate change. The Regulations require the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance, reported through Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates.

A.32 The **Energy White Paper: Powering our net zero future** (2020) **[See reference** 62**]** builds on the Prime Minister's Ten point plan for a green industrial revolution. The white paper addresses the transformation of the UK's energy system, promoting high-skilled jobs and clean, resilient economic growth during its transition to net-zero emissions by 2050.

A.33 Key aims of the paper include:

- Supporting green jobs – The government aims to support up to 220,000 jobs in the next 10 years. Several will be supported via a "major programme" that will see the retrofitting of homes for improved energy efficiency and clean heat.
- Transforming the energy system – To transform its electricity grid for net-zero, the white paper highlights how this will involve changing the way the country heats its homes, how people travel, doubling the electricity use, and harnessing renewable energy supplies.
- Keeping bills affordable – The government aims to do this by making the energy retail market "truly competitive". This will include offering people a method of switching to a cheaper energy tariff and testing automatically switching consumers to fairer deals to tackle "loyalty penalties".
- Generating emission-free electricity by 2050 – The government aims to have "overwhelmingly decarbonised power" in the 2030s to generate emission-free electricity by 2050.
- Establishing UK Emissions Trading Scheme – The government aims to establish a UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) from 1 January 2021 to replace the current EU ETS at the end of the Brexit Transition Period.

- Exploring new nuclear financing options – The government is continuing to explore a range of financing options for new nuclear with developers including the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) funding model.
- Further commitments to offshore wind – The white paper lays out plans to scale up its offshore wind fleet to 40 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, including 1GW of floating wind, enough to power every home in the country.
- Carbon capture and storage investments – Including £1bn worth of investments in state-of-the-art CCS in four industrial clusters by 2030. With four low-carbon clusters set up by 2030, and at least one fully net-zero cluster by 2040.
- Kick-starting the hydrogen economy – The government plans to work with industry to aim for 5GW of production by 2030, backed up by a new £240m net-zero Hydrogen Fund for low-carbon hydrogen production.
- Investing in electric vehicle charge points – The government plans to invest £1.3bn to accelerate the rollout of charge points for electric vehicles as well as up to £1bn to support the electrification of cars, including for the mass-production of the batteries needed for electric vehicles.
- Supporting the lowest paid with their bills – The government aims to support those with lower incomes through a £6.7bn package of measures that could save families in old inefficient homes up to £400. This includes extending the Warm Home Discount Scheme to 2026 to cover an extra three quarters of a million households and giving eligible households £150 off their electricity bills each winter.
- Moving away from fossil fuel boilers – The government aims, by the mid-2030s, for all newly installed heating systems to be low-carbon or to be appliances that it is confident can be converted to a clean fuel supply.
- Supporting North Sea oil and gas transition – The white paper notes the importance of supporting the North Sea oil and gas transition for the people and communities most affected by the move away from fossil fuels. The government aims to achieve this by ensuring that the expertise of the oil and gas sector be drawn on in developing CCS and hydrogen production to provide new green jobs for the future.

A.34 National Infrastructure Strategy: Fairer, faster greener (2020) **[See reference 63]** sets out plans to transform UK infrastructure in order to level up the country, strengthen the Union and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. This will be enabled by clear support for private investment and through a comprehensive set of reforms to the way infrastructure is delivered.

A.35 The **Sixth Carbon Budget report** (2020) **[See reference 64]** is based on an extensive programme of analysis, consultation and consideration by the Committee and its staff, building on the evidence published last year for our Net Zero advice. Our recommended pathway requires a 78% reduction in UK territorial emissions between 1990 and 2035. In effect, bringing forward the UK's previous 80% target by nearly 15 years.

A.36 Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management: Policy Statement (2020) **[See reference 65]**: This policy statement sets out the government's long-term ambition to create a nation more resilient to future flood and coastal erosion risk, and in doing so, reduce the risk of harm to people, the environment and the economy. The Policy Statement sets out five policy areas which will drive this ambition. These are:

- Upgrading and expanding our national flood defences and infrastructure;
- Managing the flow of water more effectively;
- Harnessing the power of nature to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk and achieve multiple benefits;
- Better preparing our communities; and
- Enabling more resilient places through a catchment-based approach.

A.37 The **Flood and Water Management Act** (2010) **[See reference 66]** and The **Flood and Water Regulations** (2019) **[See reference 67]** sets out measures to ensure that risk from all sources of flooding is managed more effectively. This includes incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings; utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding; identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere; rolling back development in coastal areas to avoid damage

from flooding or coastal erosion; and creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

A.38 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [See reference 68]: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Actions relating to climate change are as follows:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
- Take action to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions.
- Protecting and improving our global environment:
  - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.

A.39 The **Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK [See reference 69]**: Aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy by maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.

A.40 The **UK Low Carbon Transition Plan**: **National Strategy for Climate and Energy** (2009) **[See reference 70]**: sets out a five-point plan to tackle climate change. The points are as follows: protecting the public from immediate risk, preparing for the future, limiting the severity of future climate change through a new international climate agreement, building a low carbon UK and supporting individuals, communities and businesses to play their part.

A.41 The **UK Renewable Energy Strategy** (2009) **[See reference 71]**: Sets out the ways in which we will tackle climate change by reducing our CO_2 emissions through the generation of a renewable electricity, heat and transport technologies.

A.42 Climate Change Act 2008 [See reference 72]: Sets targets for UK greenhouse gas emission reductions of at least 100% by 2050, against a 1990 baseline (this was previously 80% but was updated to a net zero target in June 2019).

A.43 Planning and Energy Act 2008 [See reference 73]: enables local planning authorities to set requirements for carbon reduction and renewable energy provision. It should be noted that while the Housing Standards Review proposed to repeal some of these provisions, at the time of writing there have been no amendments to the Planning and Energy Act.

Sub-national

A.44 Thames Estuary 2100 [See reference 74]: The document sets out the Environment Agency's recommendations for flood risk management for London and the Thames Estuary through to the end of the century and beyond. The Plan sets out the future shape of flood risk management, strategic action that is needed and options to achieve this, local actions that are needed, and how the impact of rising sea levels needs to be addressed. Action Zones 5, 6, 7and 8 covers the sub-region. Actions have been identified which include hard and soft measures including a floodplain management programme, partnership arrangements to ensure that new development is safe, review and maintain future partnership arrangements and principles and management of defences.

A.45 The Thames Estuary 2100 Plan includes policy recommendations for public realm and access improvements, coinciding with other initiatives such as the Thames Gateway Parklands vision, which envisages improved access and connections with local communities. The Plan introduces the riverside strategy approach. This integrates improvements to flood risk management defences into wider redevelopment, enhancing the social, environmental and commercial aspects of the riverside.

A.46 The Plan is also an example of a managed adaptive strategy approach for varying rates of climate change, which is made up of a combination of different interventions that act together to achieve the recommended policy.

A.47 Essex Climate Action Plan: Essex County Council's response to Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral (2022) **[See reference** 75**]**: This plan sets out recommendations to 2050 and outlines the immediate actions that the Council is taking directly and in concert with partners to drive effective progress against the Essex Climate Action Commission's (ECAC) recommendations. The plan follows the structure of the Commission report under the key themes of land use and green infrastructure, energy, built environment, transport, waste, and community engagement.

A.48 Climate Change and Strategy Action Plan (2021) **[See reference** 76**]**: The Plan sets out Basildon's strategic approach to reducing carbon emissions that arise from activities occurring in the borough, and identifies a set of high level actions that are required to become a carbon neutral council by 2030 and borough by 2050.

A.49 South East Inshore Marine Plan **[See reference** 77**]**: The Plan introduces a strategic approach to planning within the inshore waters between Suffolk and Kent, including the Thames Estuary. This includes building resilience and adaptations to climate change, as well as consideration of renewable energy and potential for carbon capture and storage.

A.50 Essex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2018) **[See reference** 78**]**: The Essex Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) has been produced by Essex County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). The Flood Water Management Act places a legal duty on each LLFA to produce a LRMS and this document creates a framework around which flood risk management will be undertaken by the LLFA.

A.51 South Essex Surface Water Management Plan (2012) **[See reference** 79**]**: The Surface Water Management Plan identifies and assesses surface water flood risk across South Essex. It recognises the importance of

considering the potential impacts on flood risk that will arise from climate change. The Action Plan 2020 **[See reference** 80**]** sets out various actions to manage flood risk throughout South Essex.

A.52 Surface Water Management Plan (2015) **[See reference** 81**]**: The Surface Water Management Plan for each of the Local Authorities identifies and assesses surface water flood risk across each respective Authority, including the potential impacts arising from climate change.

A.53 Green Essex Strategy (2019) **[See reference** 82**]**: This Strategy seeks to enhance, protect and create an inclusive and integrated network of high-quality green infrastructure in Greater Essex. The Strategy promotes the use of the green infrastructure network for sustainable modes of transport such as public transport, walking and cycling.

A.54 South Essex Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy: Resilient by Nature (2020) **[See reference** 83**]**: This strategy sets out a vision for and integrated green and blue infrastructure (GBI) network across South Essex and sets out key objectives and projects to achieve this. This includes improving connectivity within and across the landscape through active travel links, such as walking and cycling.

A.55 Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide for Essex (2020) **[See reference** 84**]**: This design guide sets out parameters for the integration of SUDs into new development to minimise the coverage of impermeable surfaces in the borough, and manage run-off.

Implications of the policy review for the Local Plan and IIA: In order to align with other relevant policy documents, the Local Plan should seek to:

- Ensure that new development reduces carbon emissions, is energy efficient, and promotes the use of renewable energy sources and sustainable construction methods and materials;

- Encourage new development to be designed to adapt to climate change for the increased likelihood of extreme weather events including overheating as a result of temperature rise;
- Ensure that risk from all sources of flooding as a result of climate change is avoided where possible, and where this is not possible, that the risks are managed effectively to ensure that development is resilient to future flooding; and
- Encourage a modal shift towards public transport, walking and cycling, and reduce the need to travel by car.

The IIA is able to respond to this through the inclusion of IIA objectives relating to the mitigation of climate change and adaptation to climate change, sustainable construction, flooding and sustainable transport.

Transport

National

A.56 The NPPF is supported by **Planning Practice Guidance** relating to:

- **Transport evidence bases in plan making and decision taking** (2015) **[See reference 85]** – Provides guidance to help local authorities assess and reflect transport needs in Local Plan making.
- **Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements** (2014) **[See reference 86]** – Provides advice on when Transport Assessments and Transport Statements are required, and what they should contain.
- A target on ambient $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations.

A.57 The **Environment Act 2021** **[See reference 87]** sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity,

water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. It also establishes the Office for Environmental Protection which will act as an impartial and objective body for the protection and improvement of the environment. The Act sets out legislation which covers local air quality management frameworks and the recall of motor vehicles.

A.58 Future of Transport: supporting rural transport innovation (2023) **[See reference** 88**]** shows how innovative and emerging transport technologies could address some of the major challenges in rural communities. It highlights the importance of transport to everyday rural life and provides guiding principles for the introduction of new technologies and services.

A.59 The **White Paper Levelling Up the United Kingdom** (2022) **[See reference 89]** sets out how the UK Government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It comprises 12 UK-wide missions to achieve by 2030, which includes the following key mission relating to transport and travel:

- By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.

A.60 The **Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy** Report to Parliament (2022) **[See reference 90]** sets out the objectives and financial resources for cycling and walking infrastructure. It states the Government's long-term ambition is to make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys. It aims to double cycling by 2025, increase walking activity, increase the percentage of children that usually walk to school and reduce the number of cyclists killed or seriously injured on England's roads.

A.61 Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain (2021) **[See reference 91]** The Decarbonisation Transport Plan (DTP) sets out the Government's commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK. It follows on from the Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge report published in 2020. The DTP commits the UK to phasing out the sale of new diesel and petrol heavy goods vehicles by 2040, subject to consultation, in addition to phasing out the sale of polluting cars and

vans by 2035. The DPT also sets out how the government will improve public transport and increase support for active travel, as well as creating a net zero rail network by 2050, ensuring net zero domestic aviation emissions by 2040, and a transition to green shipping.

A.62 Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020) **[See reference 92]** sets out the strategic priorities for the new Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP), published in July 2021. It sets out in detail what government, business and society will need to do to deliver the significant emissions reduction needed across all modes of transport, putting us on a pathway to achieving carbon budgets and net zero emissions across every single mode of transport by 2050. This document acknowledges that while there have been recently published strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in individual transport modes, transport as a whole sector needs to go further and more quickly, therefore the TDP takes a coordinated, cross-modal approach to deliver the transport sector's contribution to both carbon budgets and net zero.

A.63 The Road to Zero (2018) **[See reference 93]**: Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

A.64 Transport Investment Strategy [See reference 94]: Sets out four objectives that the strategy aims to achieve:

- Create a more reliable, less congested, and better connected transport network that works for the users who rely on it;
- Build a stronger, more balanced economy by enhancing productivity and responding to local growth priorities;
- Enhance our global competitiveness by making Britain a more attractive place to trade and invest; and
- Support the creation of new housing.

A.65 Highways England Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (2017) **[See reference 95]**: This strategy is designed to communicate the company's approach and priorities for sustainable development to its key stakeholders. Highways England aims to ensure its action in the future will further reduce the impact of its activities seeking a long-term and sustainable benefit to the environment and the communities it serves. The action plan describes how Highways England will progress the aspirations of their Sustainable Development and Environment Strategies. It describes actions that will enable the company to deliver sustainable development and to help protect and improve the environment.

A.66 Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (2013) **[See reference 96]**: Focuses on four core areas which need to be addressed so that people can be confident in choosing greener modes of transport. These are as follows:

- Accurate, accessible and reliable information about different transport options;
- Convenient and affordable tickets;
- Regular and straightforward connections at all stages of the journey and between different modes of transport; and
- Safe and comfortable transport facilities.

A.67 The strategy also includes details on how the Government is using behavioural change methods to reduce or remove barriers to the use of sustainable transport and working closely with stakeholders to deliver a better-connected transport system.

Sub-national

A.68 Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy [See reference 97]: The Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy aims to reduce the number of private vehicles using the highway network and increase the use of more active and

sustainable modes available to businesses, residents and schools within Essex. A key objective is to manage congestion during peak times and improve the environment by reducing the need to travel by car and potentially reducing CO_2 and other emissions.

A.69 Transport East Transport Strategy (2022) [See reference 98] The Transport Strategy outlines a collective vision for the future of transport in the region and sets out key investment priorities needed to deliver it. The overarching vision is underpinned by four strategic priorities: decarbonisation to net-zero, connecting growing towns and cities, energising coastal and rural communities, and unlocking international gateways. The four strategic priorities overlap and together form an integrated strategy for the region. The Transport Strategy sets out the pathways and key goals needed for the delivery of their Vision, which include goals focused around improving sustainable and active travel options, reducing demand for travel via digital connectivity, encouraging behaviour change, increasing access for coastal and rural communities, improving efficiency of freight transport, and creating better connected ports and airports to unlock international gateways.

A.70 Section 5 of the Transport Strategy highlights place-based strategic corridors which link key destinations with the region. For Basildon, this includes improved links with South Essex, London, Thurrock and Southend, referred to as the South Essex corridor. The Strategy identifies the corridor as a major location for economic growth, particularly by expanding on the accessibility of Basildon, which has the largest local economy in Essex. At present, the corridor is heavily congested which acts as a major barrier to growth. The Strategy identifies the need for improved road, freight capacity, passenger rail and bus networks to support economic and population growth in the region.

A.71 Essex Transport Strategy [See reference 99]: The Essex Transport Strategy outlines the County Council's priorities and strategic objectives for improving the transport network across Essex, including by encouraging a modal shift towards public transport, walking and cycling over single occupancy car journeys. The Plan supports the use of cleaner, lower carbon transport technologies, and car share schemes.

A.72 Essex Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy (2019) **[See reference** 100**]**: The Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy aims to reduce the number of private vehicles using the highway network and increase the use of more active and sustainable modes available to businesses, residents and schools within Essex.

A.73 Essex Cycling Strategy Refresh (2022) **[See reference** 101**]**: This strategy outlines the overall aspiration to support cycling across the County. It sets out nine areas of strategic action that are necessary to delivering growth in cycling throughout the County. It also outlines funding priorities and opportunities.

A.74 Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework 2016-2036 [See reference 102**]**:To better understand the scale of the infrastructure challenges facing Essex, all local authorities in Essex commissioned the creation of a Growth and Infrastructure Framework (GIF) for the county and two unitaries. The framework presents an overview of growth patterns to 2036, evidences the infrastructure required, and estimates likely costs and funding gaps.

A.75 This report presents an overview of growth patterns and the infrastructure projects needed to support such growth, their costs, how much funding has already been secured or is expected toward their delivery and the funding gap for the period up to 2036.

Implications of the policy review for the Local Plan and IIA: In order to align with other relevant policy documents, the Local Plan should:

- Encourage sustainable modes of transport in order to improve air quality, minimise climate change and reduce congestion; and
- Encourage walking, wheeling and cycling as alternative modes of transport by locating key services and employment opportunities close to where people live and by providing safe and attractive walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure, as well as recognise the multiple benefits they bring in terms of physical and mental health, reducing carbon emissions and reducing air pollution.

The IIA is able to respond to this through the inclusion of IIA objectives relating to the mitigation of climate change, improving air quality, public health and wellbeing, and the provision of sustainable transport.

Population, health and wellbeing

National

A.76 The NPPF is supported by **Planning Practice Guidance** relating to:

- **Housing needs of different groups** (2021) **[See reference 103]** – Provides advice on planning for affordable, private rented, self-build, student and rural housing needs.
- **Healthy and safe communities** (2019) **[See reference 104]** – Provides guidance on achieving healthy, safe and inclusive communities, estate regeneration and school place provision.
- **Housing supply and delivery** (2019) **[See reference 105]** – Sets out guidance on five-year land supply and Housing Delivery Test.
- **Housing for older and disabled people** (2019) **[See reference 106]** – Provides guidance on preparing planning policies for accessible and adaptable housing and inclusive design.
- **Noise** (2019) **[See reference 107]** – Advises on how planning can manage potential noise impacts in new development.
- **Light pollution** (2019) **[See reference 108]** – Advises on how to consider artificial light within the planning system.
- **Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space** (2014) **[See reference 109]** – Provides key advice on open space, sports, recreation, public rights of way, National Trails and Local Green Space designation.

A.77 The Equality Act 2010 [See reference 110] requires public authorities to work to eliminate discrimination and promote equality in all their activities. Under Section 149 of the Equality Act a public authority has a duty to ensure that all decisions are made in such a way as to minimise unfairness, and do not have disproportionately negative impacts on people because of their protected characteristics or background. It protects everyone against unfair treatment, on the basis of protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

A.78 The **Levelling Up and Regeneration Act** (2023) **[See reference** 111**]** sets out the direction for planning and makes provisions to support the levelling-up agenda. It seeks to streamline the planning process whilst attaching greater weight to development plans. It also aims to improve infrastructure delivery with a new levy system, improve alignment between plans to address cross-boundary issues, and will introduce added protection for heritage assets. The Act also states that existing EU-generated systems of SEA, HRA and EIA will eventually be replaced by a simpler process known as 'Environmental Outcomes Reports'.

A.79 The **White Paper Levelling Up the United Kingdom** (2022) **[See reference 112]** sets out how the UK Government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It comprises 12 UK-wide missions to achieve by 2030. Missions which relate to population, health and wellbeing state that by 2030:

- The gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years;
- Well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing;
- Homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas;
- Pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area

of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing;

- The number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third; and
- Renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the Government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.

A.80 A **fairer private rented sector White Paper** (2022) **[See reference 113]** aims to build upon the vision of the Levelling Up White Paper and reform the Private Rented Sector and improve housing quality. It outlines that everyone deserves a secure and decent home and outlines measures to improve the experience of renters in the Private Rented Sector.

A.81 The State of the Environment: Health, People and the Environment (2021) **[See reference 114]** focuses on the relationship between human health and people's access to and connection with a clean, high quality natural environment. It presents information on England's environment, and people's exposure to environmental pollutants, flooding and climate change in relation to human health. It highlights environmental inequalities that contribute to differences in health outcomes for people in England.

A.82 National Design Guide (2021) **[See reference** 115**]**: sets out the Government's priorities for well-designed places in the form of ten characteristics: context, identity, built form, movement, nature, public spaces, uses, homes and buildings, resources and lifespan.

A.83 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021) **[See reference 116]** sets out the government's new plan for health and social care. It provides an overview of how this plan will tackle the electives backlog in the

NHS and put the NHS on a sustainable footing. It sets out details of the plan for adult social care in England, including a cap on social care costs and how financial assistance will work for those without substantial assets. It covers wider support that the government will provide for the social care system, and how the government will improve the integration of health and social care. It explains the government's plan to introduce a new Health and Social Care Levy.

A.84 COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery Action Plan (2021) **[See reference 117]** sets out the Government's plan to prevent, mitigate and respond to the mental health impacts of the pandemic during 2021 and 2022. Its main objectives are to support the general population to take action and look after their own mental wellbeing; to take action to address factors which play a crucial role in shaping mental health and wellbeing outcomes; and, to support services to meet the need for specialist support.

A.85 Planning for the Future White Paper (2020) **[See reference 118]**: Sets out a series of potential reforms to the English planning system, to deliver growth faster. The White Paper focuses on the following:

- Simplifying the role of Local Plans and the process of producing them;
- Digitising plan-making and development management processes;
- Focus on design, sustainability and infrastructure delivery; and
- Nationally determined, binding housing requirements for local planning authorities to deliver through Local Plans.

A.86 The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2020) **[See reference 119]** sets out the Government's actions to ensure residents in social housing are safe, listened to, live in good quality homes and have access to redress when things go wrong.

A.87 Using the planning system to promote healthy weight environments (2020) **[See reference 120]**, **Addendum** (2021) **[See reference 121]** provides a framework and starting point for local authorities to clearly set out in local

planning guidance how best to achieve healthy weight environments based on local evidence and needs, by focusing on environments that enable healthier eating and help promote more physical activity as the default. The Addendum provides updates on the implications for planning for a healthier food environment, specifically on the hot food takeaways retail uses, and sets out recommended actions in light of changes to the Use Class Order (UCO) in England from 1 September 2020.

A.88 Public Health England**, PHE Strategy 2020-25** (2019) **[See reference 122]**: identifies PHE's priorities upon which to focus over this five-year period to protect people and help people to live longer in good health.

A.89 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [See reference 123]: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to the topics of population growth, health and wellbeing are 'using and managing land sustainably' and 'connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing'. Actions that will be taken as part of these two key areas are as follows:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
  - a) Embed an 'environmental net gain' principle for development, including housing and infrastructure.
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing:
  - b) Help people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces including through mental health services.
  - c) Encourage children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas.
  - d) 'Green' our towns and cities by creating green infrastructure and planting one million urban trees.

A.90 Homes England Strategic Plan 2018 to 2023 [See reference 124]: Sets out a vision to ensure more homes are built in areas of greatest need, to improve affordability, and make a more resilient and diverse housing market.

A.91 The Environmental Noise Regulations [See reference 125] apply to environmental noise, mainly from transport. The regulations require regular noise mapping and action planning for road, rail and aviation noise and noise in large urban areas. They also require Noise Action Plans based on the maps for road and rail noise and noise in large urban areas. The Action Plans identify Important Areas (areas exposed to the highest levels of noise) and suggest ways the relevant authorities can reduce these. Major airports and those which affect large urban areas are also required to produce and publish their own Noise Action Plans separately. The Regulations do not apply to noise from domestic activities such as noise created by neighbours; at workplaces; inside means of transport; or military activities in military areas.

A.92 The Housing White Paper 2017 (Fixing our broken housing market) [See reference 126] sets out ways to address the shortfall in affordable homes and boost housing supply. The White Paper focuses on the following:

- Planning for the right homes in the right places – Higher densities in appropriate areas, protecting the Green Belt while making more land available for housing by maximising the contribution from brownfield and surplus public land, regenerating estates, releasing more small and medium-sized sites, allowing rural communities to grow and making it easier to build new settlements.
- Building homes faster – Improved speed of planning cases, ensuring infrastructure is provided and supporting developers to build out more quickly.
- Diversifying the Market – Backing small and medium-sized house builders, custom-build, institutional investors, new contractors, housing associations.
- Helping people now – Supporting home ownership and providing affordable housing for all types of people, including the most vulnerable.

A.93 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites [See reference 127]: sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites, replacing the older version published in March 2012. The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.

A.94 Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change Report Ready for Ageing? **[See reference 128]**: warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report states "longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises". The report highlights the under provision of specialist housing for older people and the need to plan for the housing needs of the older population as well as younger people.

A.95 Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2011) [See reference 129]: investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is "overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities".

A.96 Marmot Review 10 Years On [See reference 130] revisits Fair Society, Healthy Lives. It found that, since 2010, life expectancy in England has stalled, which suggests society has stopped improving. In addition, there are marked regional differences in life expectancy – the more deprived the area, the shorter the life expectancy. Mortality rates are increasing in those aged 45-49, child poverty has increased and there is a housing crisis and rise in homelessness.

A.97 Laying the foundations: A housing strategy for England [See reference 131]: Aims to provide support to deliver new homes and improve social mobility.

A.98 Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England [See reference 132]: Sets out how the Government's approach to public health challenges will:

- Protect the population from health threats – led by central Government, with a strong system to the frontline;
- Empower local leadership and encourage wide responsibility across society to improve everyone's health and wellbeing and tackle the wider factors that influence it;
- Focus on key outcomes, doing what works to deliver them, with transparency of outcomes to enable accountability through a proposed new public health outcomes framework;
- Reflect the Government's core values of freedom, fairness and responsibility by strengthening self-esteem, confidence and personal responsibility; positively promoting healthy behaviours and lifestyles; and adapting the environment to make healthy choices easier; and
- Balance the freedoms of individuals and organisations with the need to avoid harm to others, use a 'ladder' of interventions to determine the least intrusive approach necessary to achieve the desired effect and aim to make voluntary approaches work before resorting to regulation.

A.99 Technical Housing Standards – Nationally Described Space Standard (2015) **[See reference 133]**: this document sets out the Government's new nationally described space standard. The standard deals with internal space within new dwellings and sets out requirements for the Gross Internal (floor) Area of new dwellings at a defined level of occupancy, as well as floor areas and dimensions for key parts of the home.

Sub-national

A.100 Levelling Up Essex: An Essex White Paper [See reference 134**]** In line with the UK Government announcing it's 'Levelling Up' agenda, which sets out to spread opportunity more equally across the UK, Essex County Council

has produced its own Levelling Up White Paper. While Essex is a relatively affluent region in the south east of England, the strategy aims to tackle inequalities that exist within the country and spread opportunity and support across all areas. It presents five main focus areas for the agenda, which are: the economy, the environment, health and wellbeing, education and skills, and families and communities. The strategy outlines the Council's role in delivering the agenda, the role that devolution of powers down to local government and local communities will play, and how progress will be monitored and evaluated over time.

A.101 Everyone's Essex 2021-2025 [See reference 135]: A plan to level up the county through twenty commitments. These commitments fall across four categories, similar to those announced in the Levelling Up Essex White Paper. These include the economy (good jobs, infrastructure, growth and investment, green growth and levelling up the economy), the environment (moving towards net zero, minimising waste, creating green communities, levelling up the environment, and creating sustainable transport and built environment), health (healthy lifestyles, promoting independence, place-based working, carers and levelling up health), and family (creating family resilience and stability, improving outcomes for vulnerable children, family resilience and stability, education outcomes and levelling up outcomes for families).

A.102 Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2026 [See reference 136]: This strategy outlines how, alongside partners, Essex County Council aim to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for people of all ages. Including a reduction in health inequalities, by having a focus on supporting poor health prevention and promoting health improvement.

A.103 Essex County Council Housing Strategy 2021-2025 [See reference 137]: Sets out the actions we will take to achieve our strategic priorities and how we will work with our partners in the wider housing system, setting out three strategic goals:

- Growing Essex while protecting the best of the county;
- Enabling people to live independently throughout their lives;

- Supporting people facing homeless or rough sleeping.

A.104 Essex Domestic Abuse Commissioning Strategy 2021-24 [See reference 138]: In line with the Domestic Abuse Act (2021), this commissioning strategy sets out the County Council's intentions over three years up to 2025 whereby the Council aim to create sustainable change across the system through continued partnership work and further by increasing the existing types of provision of offer to all victims in safe accommodation. The domestic abuse agenda has been a priority for the Council for many years, and it has invested capacity and financial investment into a long-standing Southend Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) to create arrangements and the provision of a single point of access to support and community-based services for victims. The work of SETDAB is underpinned by their similar 2020 five-year strategy.

A.105 The Essex Plan for Working Families [See reference 139]: This plan sets the council's ambition to be on the side of working families and to make Essex one of the most familyfriendly counties in England. It outlines research and policy responses to the challenges working families are facing. It articulates the policy initiatives the County Council will deliver, as well as further exploratory work to see where else we can adapt existing services to help make life easier for working families. Five priority areas emerged through the research as the key issues affecting working families and as areas of action to support working families to improve medium and longer-term outcomes: childcare (creating the conditions for working families to access both affordable and flexible childcare to meet their needs), housing (supporting working families to avoid situations where their housing costs (affordability) or security of tenure impact on their financial stability and mental well-being), information, advice and guidance (ensuring working families can access the right information, advice, guidance and support to make the right decisions for themselves and their families), skills and employment (working with employers to embed family-friendly thinking into good employment practices and help working parents develop their skills and prospects) and living costs (helping working families to make their income go further and to cope with spikes in expenditure that can be de-stabilising, without recourse to public assistance).

Implications of the policy review for the Local Plan and IIA: In order to align with other relevant policy documents, the Local Plan should seek to:

- Provide open space and green infrastructure of sufficient quantity and quality to meet the needs of the Plan area;
- Encourage healthy and active lifestyles;
- Create fair, safe and inclusive communities;
- Reduce inequality in health and wellbeing;
- Improve the sustainable transport network within the Plan area;
- Create and maintain safe and attractive public spaces that encourage people to walk and cycle, promote a sense of place and reduce the need to travel; and
- Provide opportunities for education, skills and employment that will help all to succeed in life and advance equality of opportunity.

The Local Plan should seek to ensure the provision of goods, services, facilities, public functions, the disposal and management of premises, education and associations, meet the Equality Act 2010 requirements.

The IIA is able to respond to this through the inclusion of IIA objectives relating to health and wellbeing, social inclusion, and sustainable transport.

Economy

National

A.106 The NPPF is supported by **Planning Practice Guidance** relating to:

- **Town centres and retail** (2020) **[See reference 140]** – Provides guidance on planning for town centre vitality and viability, permitted development, change of use and out of town centre development.

A.107 The **Levelling Up and Regeneration Act** (2023) **[See reference** 141**]** sets out the direction for planning and makes provisions to support the levelling-up agenda. It seeks to streamline the planning process whilst attaching greater weight to development plans. It also aims to improve infrastructure delivery with a new levy system, improve alignment between plans to address cross-boundary issues, and will introduce added protection for heritage assets. The Act also states that existing EU-generated systems of SEA, HRA and EIA will eventually be replaced by a simpler process known as 'Environmental Outcomes Reports'.

A.108 The **White Paper Levelling Up the United Kingdom** (2022) **[See reference 142]** sets out how the UK Government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It comprises 12 UK-wide missions to achieve by 2030. Missions which relate to economy and employment state that by 2030:

- Pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing;
- The number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas;
- Domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth; and
- Every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

A.109 The **Growth Plan 2022** **[See reference 143]** makes growth the government's central economic mission, setting a target of reaching a 2.5% trend rate. Sustainable growth will lead to higher wages, greater opportunities and provide sustainable funding for public services. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's "growth plan" contained a raft of significant tax measures, with major changes being announced for both individuals and businesses.

A.110 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth (2021) **[See reference 144]**: Sets out a plan to 'build back better' tackling long-term problems to deliver growth that delivers high-quality jobs across the UK while supporting the transition to net zero. This will build on three core pillars of growth: infrastructure, skills and innovation.

A.111 Agriculture Act 2020 **[See reference 145]**: sets out how farmers and land managers in England will be rewarded in the future with public money for "public goods" – such as better air and water quality, thriving wildlife, soil health, or measures to reduce flooding and tackle the effects of climate change, under the Environmental Land Management Scheme. These incentives will provide a vehicle for achieving the goals of the government's 25 Year Environment Plan and commitment to reach zero emissions by 2050. The Act will help farmers to stay competitive, increase productivity, invest in new technology and seek a fairer return from the marketplace.

A.112 Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 **[See reference 146]**: aims to drive competitiveness, increase productivity, reduce carbon emissions, and generate fairer returns across the agricultural industry. The Transition Plan introduces several new schemes to improve the environment, animal health and welfare, and farm resilience and productivity (e.g., grants will be available for sustainable farming practices, creating habitats for nature recovery and making landscape-scale changes such as establishing new woodland and other ecosystem services).

A.113 UK Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (2018) **[See reference 147]** lays down a vision and foundations for a transformed economy. Areas including artificial intelligence and big data; clean growth; the

future of mobility; and meeting the needs of an ageing society are identified as the four 'Grand Challenges' of the future.

A.114 The **National Infrastructure Delivery Plan** 2016-2021 **[See reference 148]** brings together the Government's plans for economic infrastructure over this five year period with those to support delivery of housing and social infrastructure.

A.115 The **LEP Network Response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper** Consultation (2017) **[See reference 149]** seeks to ensure that all relevant local action and investment is used in a way that maximises the impact it has across the Government's strategy. Consultation responses set out how the 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships will work with Government using existing and additional resources to develop and implement a long-term Industrial Strategy.

Sub-national

A.116 Everyone's Essex: Our Plan for Levelling-up the County 2021 to 2025 [See reference 150**]**: This Plan for Essex sets out 20 commitments to improve the lives of the people of Essex, which is divided into 4 key areas: economy, environment, health and family. In relation to the economy specifically, the plan seeks to address the drivers of socioeconomic inequality (including income, education, employment, health and housing), based on the foundation of good jobs and a higher skilled and healthier workforce.

A.117 South Essex Economic Development Needs Assessment [See reference 151**]**: This assessment provides an evidenced, guidance compliant analysis of the economic and employment land opportunities and challenges for South Essex and establishes a strategic, multi-authority strategy for realising the area's economic opportunity.

A.118 South Essex Productivity Strategy [See reference 152**]:** The strategy sets out four programmes to improve productivity across South Essex over a

five-year period. These programmes are as follows: Vibrant Places; Enterprise Growth; Future Work; and Data Transformation.

A.119 Essex Sector Development Strategy [See reference 153]: The Sector Development Strategy is a long-term strategy to support Essex County Council, public sector partners, and businesses to effectively plan together for the future economy of the county. The strategy has identified five economic sectors with significant growth potential that could be realised in Essex: Construction and Retrofit; Clean Energy; Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering; Digitech; and Life Sciences (including med-tech and care-tech). The strategy seeks to realise this growth through achieving three strategic goals. These are a thriving economy, an economy for everyone, and an economy fit for the future.

A.120 Digital Strategy for Essex (2022) [See reference 154]: This strategy outlines the Council's ambition to unite the Essex public sector in the spirit of shared strategic principles. Essex County Council seek to align the area's digital ambitions and combine the Council's purchasing power. The strategy clearly defines the area's needs and addresses the government and the commercial market with 'one voice'. In support of the Everyone's Essex agenda, this strategy sets out the Council's approach over the next four years (up to 2025) to enable inclusive digital growth, support people in getting the best start in life and ageing well, helpig to create a great place to live and work, and to transform local public services to achieve 'more with less'.

A.121 Economic Plan for Essex (2014) **[See reference 155]**: The Economic Plan for Essex sets out plans for unlocking economic growth across the County. The Plan seeks to improve workforce skills across Essex, focus infrastructure investment on strategic growth corridors, and enhance productivity within the Essex economy.

A.122 South Essex Productivity Strategy (2019): The strategy sets out four programmes to improve productivity across South Essex over a 5 year period. These programmes are as follows: Vibrant Places; Enterprise Growth; Future Work; and Data Transformation.

A.123 South East Inshore Marine Plan (2021) **[See reference** 156**]**: The Plan introduces a strategic approach to planning within the inshore waters between Suffolk and Kent, including the Thames Estuary. The Plan includes policies on managing commercial activities in the marine area to achieve a sustainable marine economy.

A.124 A127 – Corridor for Growth: An Economic Plan (2014) **[See reference** 157**]**: This strategy demonstrates the importance of the A127 corridor to the economic growth and financial well-being of the Thames Gateway South East (TGSE) region. It provides a coordinated approach to improve conditions along the length of the A127 including junction upgrades and improvements, maintenance, signing, lighting and safety camera installation.

A.125 Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework 2016-2036 (2017) **[See reference** 158**]**: The Growth and Infrastructure Framework outlines the emerging development and infrastructure requirements, including education, to support growth from 2016 to 2036.

Implications of the policy review for the Local Plan and IIA: To align other relevant policy documents, the Local Plan should support the sustainable growth of income and employment as well as the enhancement of productivity and investment within the Basildon economy.

The IIA is able to respond to this through the inclusion of IIA objectives relating to economic growth and employment.

Historic environment

International

A.126 Valletta Treaty (1992) formerly the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revisited) **[See reference 159]**: Aims to protect the European archaeological heritage "as a source of European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study".

A.127 European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985) **[See reference 160]**: Defines 'architectural heritage' and requires that the signatories maintain an inventory of it and take statutory measures to ensure its protection. Conservation policies are also required to be integrated into planning systems and other spheres of Government influence as per the text of the convention.

A.128 UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972) **[See reference 161]**: Requires signatories to identify and conserve World Heritage sites situated on its territory and protect its national heritage. The States Parties are encouraged to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, and undertake scientific and technical conservation research.

National

A.129 The NPPF is supported by **Planning Practice Guidance** relating to:

- **Historic environment** (2019) **[See reference 162]** – Advises on enhancing and conserving the historic environment through planning, decision-making, designation, listed building consent processes and consultation.

A.130 The **Environment Act 2021** **[See reference 163]** sets out the UK's new framework for environmental protection. It includes the creation of Conservation Covenant agreements between a landowner and a responsible body for the purposes of conservation. This can include to preserve land as a place of 'archaeological, architectural artistic, cultural or historic interest'.

A.131 Historic England, Corporate Plan 2022-23 **[See reference 164]** contains the action plan which sets out how the aims of the corporate plan will be delivered. The plan includes priorities to demonstrate how Historic England will continue to work towards delivering the heritage sector's priorities for the historic environment.

A.132 The **Heritage Statement 2017** **[See reference 165]**: Sets out how the Government will support the heritage sector and help it to protect and care for our heritage and historic environment, in order to maximise the economic and social impact of heritage and to ensure that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it.

A.133 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment, Historic England Advice Note 8 **[See reference 166]**: Sets out requirements for the consideration and appraisal of effects on the historic environment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

A.134 The **Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010** **[See reference 167]**: Sets out the Government's vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life. Includes reference to promoting the role of the historic environment within the Government's response to climate change and the wider sustainable development agenda.

A.135 Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 **[See reference 168]**: An Act of Parliament that changed the laws for granting of

planning permission for building works, with a particular focus on listed buildings and conservation areas.

A.136 Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979 [See reference 169]: a law passed by the UK government to protect the archaeological heritage of England & Wales and Scotland. Under this Act, the Secretary of State has a duty to compile and maintain a schedule of ancient monuments of national importance, in order to help preserve them. It also creates criminal offences for unauthorised works to, or damage of, these monuments.

A.137 Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 [See reference 170]: An Act of Parliament that makes provision for the compilation of a register of gardens and other land (parks and gardens, and battlefields).

Sub-national

A.138 Essex Historic Landscape Characterisation Project [See reference 171]: This project seeks to characterise the distinctive historic dimension of the current rural landscape. The project identifies 54 Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) types across Essex which are broadly categorised into 10 categories (enclosed land, open land, woodland, parks & gardens, coastal, settlement, industrial, horticulture, military and land use).

A.139 Thames Estuary Growth Commission 2050 Vision [See reference 172]: The 2050 Vision for the Thames Estuary seeks to celebrate the character and heritage of the Thames Gateway area, including the rivers and recognises that heritage assets can help build economic prosperity and create quality of life.

Implications of the policy review for the Local Plan and IIA: In order to align with other relevant policy documents, the Local Plan should seek to conserve and enhance the historic environment, including heritage and

cultural assets both designated and undesignated, and to protect local character and distinctiveness. Particular regard should be given to protecting heritage assets which have been identified as being 'at risk' (both at the national and local level). Policies should be included to address these issues and site options should be considered with regard to the potential for adverse effects on the historic environment.

The IIA Framework should include objectives relating to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and the character of landscapes and townscapes. The IIA should appraise both policy and site options in terms of the potential for effects on the historic environment, considering climate change. It should identify those locations at which development would have the greatest potential to adversely impact the historic environment.

Landscape

International

A.140 The **European Landscape Convention** (2000) **[See reference 173]**: Promotes landscape protection, management and planning. The Convention is aimed at the protection, management and planning of all landscapes and raising awareness of the value of a living landscape.

National

A.141 The NPPF is supported by **Planning Practice Guidance** relating to:

- **Natural environment** (2019) **[See reference 174]** – Highlights key issues in implementing policy to protect and enhance the natural environment,

agricultural land, soils and brownfield land of environmental value, green infrastructure, biodiversity, geodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes.

- **Green Belt** (2019) **[See reference 175]** – Provides advice on the role of the Green Belt in the planning system, removal of land from the Green Belt and compensatory improvements.

A.142 The **Environment Act 2021** **[See reference 176]** sets out the UK's new framework for environmental protection. It includes the creation of Conservation Covenant agreements between a landowner and a responsible body for the purposes of conservation of the natural environment of the land or its natural resources, or to conserve the place or setting of the land for its 'archaeological, architectural, artistic, cultural or historic interest'.

A.143 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [See reference 177]: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are 'recovering nature' and 'enhancing the beauty of landscapes'. Actions that will be taken as part of this key area are as follows:

- Working with AONB authorities to deliver environmental enhancements; and
- Identifying opportunities for environmental enhancement of all England's Natural Character Areas, and monitoring indicators of landscape character and quality.

A.144 Countryside and **Rights of Way Act 2010** **[See reference 178]:** An Act of Parliament to make new provision for public access to the countryside.

A.145 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 **[See reference 179]**: An Act of Parliament to make provision for National Parks and the establishment of a National Parks Commission; to confer on the Nature Conservancy and local authorities' powers for the establishment and maintenance of nature reserves; to make further provision for the recording,

creation, maintenance and improvement of public paths and for securing access to open country.

Sub-national

A.146 While not a plan or policy, the **Essex Design Guide** **[See reference** 180**]** provides a reference to help create high quality places with an identity specific to its Essex context. The Design Guide covers a number of aspects of environmental and socio-economic considerations and therefore relates to a number of sustainability topics, including landscape.

Implications of the policy review for the Local Plan and IIA: In order to align with other relevant policy documents, the Local Plan should seek to:

- Protect and enhance designated and valued landscapes;
- Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of natural landscapes and townscapes;
- Promote high quality design that respects and enhances local character; and
- Ensure tourism is compatible with protection of biodiversity, landscapes and townscapes.

The IIA is able to respond to this through the inclusion of IIA objectives relating to the character of landscapes and townscapes and green infrastructure.

Biodiversity

International

A.147 United Nations Declaration on Forests and Land Use (COP26 Declaration) (2021) **[See reference 181]**: international commitment to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.

A.148 International Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) **[See reference 182]**: International commitment to biodiversity conservation through national strategies and action plans.

A.149 European Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) (1979) **[See reference 183]**: Aims to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats, to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species).

A.150 International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) (1976) **[See reference 184]**: International agreement with the aim of conserving and managing the use of wetlands and their resources.

National

A.151 The NPPF is supported by **Planning Practice Guidance** relating to:

- **Natural environment** (2019) **[See reference 185]** – Highlights key issues in implementing policy to protect and enhance the natural environment, agricultural land, soils and brownfield land of environmental value, green infrastructure, biodiversity, geodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes.

A.152 The **Environment Act 2021** **[See reference 186]** sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. Biodiversity elements in the Act include:

- Strengthened biodiversity duty. Both onsite and offsite enhancements must be maintained for at least 30 years after completion of a development;
- Biodiversity net gain to ensure developments deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity;
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network;
- Duty upon Local Authorities to consult on street tree felling;
- Strengthen woodland protection enforcement measures;
- Conservation Covenants;
- Protected Site Strategies and Species Conservation Strategies to support the design and delivery of strategic approaches to deliver better outcomes for nature;
- Prohibit larger UK businesses from using commodities associated with wide-scale deforestation; and
- Requires regulated businesses to establish a system of due diligence for each regulated commodity used in their supply chain, requires regulated businesses to report on their due diligence, introduces a due diligence enforcement system.

A.153 The **Environment Improvement Plan 2023** **[See reference 187]** for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how we will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of our goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help us restore nature, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the prosperity of our country. To achieve its vision, the 25YEP set out 10 goals. We have used those 10 goals set out in the 25YEP as the basis for this document: setting out the progress made against all 10, the specific targets and commitments made in

relation to each goal, and our plan to continue to deliver these targets and the overarching goals. The environmental goals are:

- Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife
- Goal 2: Clean air
- Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water
- Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides
- Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste
- Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably
- Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards
- Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity
- Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment

A.154 Working with nature (2022) **[See reference 188]** discusses the importance of nature in providing ecosystem services and presents recent and historical trends in biodiversity. It outlines some of the main pressures affecting England's habitats, wildlife and ecosystems: land use; climate change; pollution; invasive non-native species; and hydrological change.

A.155 Establishing the Best Available Techniques for the UK (UK BAT) (2022) **[See reference 189]** sets out a new framework that aims to improve industrial emissions and protect the environment through the introduction of a UK BAT regime. It aims to set up a new structure of governance with a new independent body in the form of Standards Council and the Regulators Group, consisting of government officials and expert regulators from all UK nations. It aims to also establish a new UK Air Quality Governance Group to oversee the work of the Standards Council and the delivery of the requirements under this new framework. It is anticipated that the BATC for the first four industry sectors will be published in the second half of 2023.

A.156 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [See reference 190]: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes; securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and protecting and improving our global environment. Actions that will be taken as part of these three key areas are as follows:

- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes:
  - Develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that have been lost from the countryside.
- Securing clean, healthy, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans:
  - Achieve a good environmental status of the UK's seas while allowing marine industries to thrive and complete our economically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas.
- Protecting and improving our global environment:
  - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.
  - Support and protect international forests and sustainable agriculture.

A.157 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 **[See reference 191]** protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, including birds. The Regulations lay down rules for the protection, management and exploitation of such habitats and species, including how adverse effects on such habitats and species should be avoided, minimised and reported.

A.158 Biodiversity Offsetting in England Green Paper [See reference 192]: Biodiversity offsets are conservation activities designed to compensate for residual losses. The Green Paper sets out a framework for offsetting.

A.159 England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles (2008) **[See reference 193]**: sets out principles to guide adaptation to climate change. The principles are to take practical action now; maintain and increase ecological resilience; accommodate change; integrate action across all sectors; and develop knowledge and plan strategically. The precautionary principle underpins all of these.

A.160 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 **[See reference 194]**: Places a duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity.

A.161 Green Infrastructure Framework and associated **15 GI Principles** (2023) **[See reference** 195**]**: The '15 minute neighbourhood' concept is encouraged as part of the new GI standards. Development should be designed to meet the 15 Green Infrastructure Principles. The GI Standards can be used to inform the quality, quantity and type of green infrastructure to be provided.

Sub-national

A.162 South Essex Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy: Resilient by Nature [See reference 196**]**: This strategy sets out a vision for and integrated green and blue infrastructure (GBI) network across South Essex and sets out key objectives and projects to achieve this. This includes improving connectivity within and across the landscape through active travel links such as walking and cycling.

A.163 Green Essex Strategy [See reference 197**]**: This Strategy seeks to enhance, protect and create an inclusive and integrated network of high-quality green infrastructure in Greater Essex, to create a county-wide understanding of green infrastructure – its functions and values, and to identify opportunities for implementing green infrastructure. The Strategy promotes the use of the green infrastructure network for sustainable and active modes of transport such as walking and cycling.

A.164 Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) 2018-2038 [See reference 198**]** This Strategy aims to deliver the mitigation necessary to avoid significant adverse effects from 'in-combination' impacts of residential development that is anticipated across Essex; thus protecting the European sites on the Essex coast, including the Thames Estuary and Marshes Ramsar site and Special Protection Area, from adverse effects on site integrity. This includes a detailed programme of strategic mitigation measures which are to be funded by developer contributions from all new residential developments within the zone of influence. The **Essex Coast RAMS Supplementary Planning Document [See reference** 199**]** prepared in 2020 accompanies the strategic approach to mitigation set out in the RAMS 2018-2038.

Implications of the policy review for the Local Plan and IIA: In order to align with other relevant policy documents, the Local Plan should seek to manage, protect and enhance ecological features and biodiversity and encourage habitat restoration or creation. The Local Plan should also seek to ensure that environmental pollution is minimised in order to protect land, water and air quality.

The IIA is able to respond to this through the inclusion of IIA objectives relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, air pollution, water quality and contaminated land.

Air, land and water quality

National

A.165 The NPPF is supported by **Planning Practice Guidance** relating to:

- **Air quality** (2019) **[See reference 200]** – Provides guidance on air quality considerations planning needs to consider.
- **Effective use of land** (2019) **[See reference 201]** – Provides guidance on making effective use of land, including planning for higher density development.
- **Green Belt** (2019) **[See reference 202]** – Provides advice on the role of the Green Belt in the planning system, removal of land from the Green Belt and compensatory improvements.
- **Land affected by contamination** (2019) **[See reference 203]** – Outlines guiding principles on how planning can deal with land affected by contamination.
- **Land stability** (2019) **[See reference 204]** – Sets out advice on how to ensure that development is suitable to its ground condition and how to avoid risks caused by unstable land or subsidence.
- **Natural environment** (2019) **[See reference 205]** – Highlights key issues in implementing policy to protect and enhance the natural environment, agricultural land, soils and brownfield land of environmental value, green infrastructure, biodiversity, geodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes.
- **Water supply, wastewater and water quality** (2019) **[See reference 206]** – Advises on how planning can ensure water quality and the delivery of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure.
- **Brownfield land registers** (2017) **[See reference 207]** – Provides guidance on the purpose, preparation, publication and reviewing of brownfield land registers.
- **Minerals** (2014) **[See reference 208]** – Outlines guidance for planning for mineral extraction in the plan-making and application process.

A.166 The **Environment Act 2021** **[See reference 209]** sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. It also establishes the Office for Environmental Protection which will act as an impartial

and objective body for the protection and improvement of the environment. The Act sets out legislation which covers:

- Resource efficiency, producer responsibility, and the management, enforcement and regulation of waste;
- Local air quality management frameworks and the recall of motor vehicles etc; and
- Plans and proposals for water resources, drainage and sewerage management, storm overflows, water quality and land drainage.

A.167 The **Air quality strategy for England** (2023) **[See reference** 210**]** :This strategy sets out local authorities powers and responsibilities as well as the actions that Defra expects local authorities to take in support of the governments long-term air quality goals, including new PM2.5 targets.

A.168 Plan for Water: Our Integrated Plan for Delivering Clean and Plentiful Water (2023) **[See reference** 211**]** sets out actions to transform the management of the water system, deliver cleaner water for nature and people, and secure a plentiful water supply. The plan also sets out measures to address sources of pollution, and boost water supplies through more investment, tighter regulation, and more effective enforcement.

A.169 The **waste prevention programme for England: Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste** (2023) **[See reference** 212**]** sets out government's priorities for managing resources and waste, in line with the resources and waste strategy for England.

A.170 The programme aims to move to a circular economy by keeping goods in circulation for as long as possible and at their highest value. This includes increasing the reuse, repair and remanufacture of goods.

A.171 Establishing the Best Available Techniques for the UK (UK BAT) (2022) **[See reference** 213**]** sets out a new framework that aims to improve industrial emissions and protect the environment through the introduction of a UK BAT regime. It aims to set up a new structure of governance with a new

independent body in the form of Standards Council and the Regulators Group, consisting of government officials and expert regulators from all UK nations. It aims to also establish a new UK Air Quality Governance Group to oversee the work of the Standards Council and the delivery of the requirements under this new framework. It is anticipated that the BAT for the first four industry sectors will be published in the second half of 2023.

A.172 National Chalk Streams Strategy (2021) **[See reference 214]** was built around the "trinity of ecological health": water quantity, water quality and habitat quality and included 30+ recommendations to Defra, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the water companies, NGOs and stakeholders.

A.173 Meeting our future water needs: a national framework for water resources (2020) **[See reference 215]** set the strategic direction for long term regional water resources planning. The framework is built on a shared vision to:

- leave the environment in a better state than we found it
- improve the nation's resilience to drought and minimise interruptions to all water users

A.174 The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations [See reference 216] seek to prevent waste generation and to monitor and assess the implementation of measures included in waste prevention programmes. They set out requirements to justify not separating waste streams close to source for re-use, recycling or other recovery operations, prohibit incineration and landfilling of waste unless such treatment process represent the best environmental outcome in accordance with the waste hierarchy. The Regulations set out when waste management plans and in waste prevention programmes are required. The Regulations focus on the circular economy as a means for businesses to maximise the value of waste and waste treatment.

A.175 Clean Air Strategy 2019 [See reference 217]: The strategy sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of Government and society to meet these goals. This will be underpinned by new England-wide powers to control major sources of air pollution, in line with the risk they pose to

public health and the environment, plus new local powers to take action in areas with an air pollution problem. These will support the creation of Clean Air Zones to lower emissions from all sources of air pollution, backed up with clear enforcement mechanisms. The UK has set stringent targets to cut emissions by 2020 and 2030.

A.176 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [See reference 218]: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
  - a) Embed a 'net environmental gain' principle for development, including natural capital benefits to improved and water quality.
  - b) Protect best agricultural land.
  - c) Improve soil health and restore and protect peatlands.
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes:
  - d) Respect nature by using our water more sustainably.
- Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste:
  - e) Reduce pollution by tackling air pollution in our Clean Air Strategy and reduce the impact of chemicals.

A.177 The **Environmental Noise Regulations** (2018) **[See reference 219]** apply to environmental noise, mainly from transport. The regulations require regular noise mapping and action planning for road, rail and aviation noise and noise in large urban areas. They also require Noise Action Plans based on the maps for road and rail noise and noise in large urban areas. The Action Plans identify Important Areas (areas exposed to the highest levels of noise) and suggest ways the relevant authorities can reduce these. Major airports and those which affect large urban areas are also required to produce and publish their own Noise Action Plans separately. The Regulations do not apply to noise

from domestic activities such as noise created by neighbours; at workplaces; inside means of transport; or military activities in military areas.

A.178 The Road to Zero (2018) **[See reference 220]**: Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

A.179 Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England (2018) **[See reference 221]** aims to increase resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste by 2050. The Strategy sets out key targets which include: a 50% recycling rate for household waste by 2020, a 75% recycling rate for packaging by 2030, 65% recycling rate for municipal solid waste by 2035 and municipal waste to landfill 10% or less by 2035.

A.180 The **Water Environment Regulations** **[See reference 222]** protect inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, and outlines the associated river basin management process. These Regulations establish the need to prevent deterioration of waterbodies and to protect, enhance and restore waterbodies with the aim of achieving good ecological and chemical status.

A.181 The **UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations** **[See reference 223]**: Sets out the Government's ambition and actions for delivering a better environment and cleaner air, including £1 billion investment in ultra-low emission vehicles, a £290 million National Productivity Investment Fund, a £11 million Air Quality Grant Fund and £255 million Implementation Fund to help Local Authorities to prepare Air Quality Action Plans and improve air quality, an £89 million Green Bus Fund, £1.2 billion Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and £100 million to help improve air quality on the National road network.

A.182 The **Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations** **[See reference 224]** provides for the designation of land as nitrate vulnerable zones and imposes annual limits on the amount of nitrogen from organic manure that may be applied or spread in a holding in a nitrate vulnerable zone. The Regulations also specify the amount of nitrogen to be spread on a crop and how, where and when to spread nitrogen fertiliser, and how it should be stored. It also establishes closed periods during which the spreading of nitrogen fertiliser is prohibited.

A.183 The **Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations** **[See reference 225]** focus on the quality of water for drinking, washing, cooking and food preparation, and for food production. Their purpose is to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring it is wholesome and clean.

A.184 The **Environmental Permitting Regulations** **[See reference 226]** streamline the legislative system for industrial and waste installations into a single permitting structure for those activities which have the potential to cause harm to human health or the environment. They set out how to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment and human health.

A.185 The **Air Quality Standards Regulations** **[See reference 227]** set out limits on concentrations of outdoor air pollutants that impact public health, most notably particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). It also sets out the procedure and requirements for the designation of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

A.186 National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014) **[See reference 228]**: Key planning objectives are identified within the NPPW, requiring planning Authorities to:

- Help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy;

- Ensure waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns;
- Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste;
- Help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment; and
- Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management.

A.187 Water White Paper (2012) **[See reference 229]**: Sets out the Government's vision for the water sector including proposals on protecting water resources and reforming the water supply industry. It states outlines the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystem, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

A.188 National Policy Statement for Waste Water (2012) **[See** reference **230]**: sets out Government policy for the provision of major waste water infrastructure. The policy set out in this NPS is, for the most part, intended to make existing policy and practice in consenting nationally significant waste water infrastructure clearer and more transparent.

A.189 Building Regulations (2010) **[See reference 231]**: requires that reasonable precautions are taken to avoid risks to health and safety cause by contaminants in ground to be covered by building and associated ground.

A.190 Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2009) **[See** reference **232]**: Sets out how England's soils will be managed sustainably. It highlights those areas which Defra will prioritise and focus attention on tackling degradation threats, including better protection for agricultural soils; protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon; building the resilience of soils to a changing climate; preventing soil pollution; effective soil protection during construction and dealing with contaminated land.

A.191 Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (2008) **[See reference 233]**: Sets out how the Government wants the water sector to look by 2030, providing an outline of steps which need to be taken to get there. These steps include improving the supply of water; agreeing on important new infrastructure such as reservoirs; proposals to time limit abstraction licences; and reducing leakage. The document also states that pollution to rivers will be tackled, while discharge from sewers will be reduced.

A.192 The **Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland** (2007) **[See reference 234]**: Sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues by setting out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved. It introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Further improve air quality in the UK from today and long term; and
- Provide benefits to health quality of life and the environment.

A.193 The **Urban Waste Water** Treatment **Regulations** (2003) **[See reference 235]** protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water discharges and certain industrial sectors, notably domestic and industrial waste water. The regulations require the collection of waste water and specifies how different types of waste water should be treated, disposed and reused.

Sub-national

A.194 Essex Minerals Local Plan [See reference 236**]**: The Plan provides a policy framework for all parties involved in future minerals and minerals related development as it provides a picture of how Essex County Council see minerals development in the County taking place up to 2029, the steps needed to make this happen and the measures necessary to assess progress on the way

A.195 Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan (2017) **[See reference** 237**]**: The plan sets out how Essex and Southend-on-Sea aim to manage waste for its duration. It also seeks to deal with waste more sustainably, encouraging recycling and reducing reliance on landfill. Waste planning in Thurrock is guided by the relevant policies in the adopted Core Strategy and Policies for Management of Development.

A.196 Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex (2007 to 2032) **[See reference** 238**]**: This Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) has been developed by the thirteen waste authorities of Essex, comprising Essex County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), and the twelve District and Borough Councils, as the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs), in Essex. The strategy sets out key targets and objectives for the Essex Waste Partnership, including to reduce the amount of waste produced and to achieve high levels of recycling.

A.197 Air Quality Management Plan – A127 (2018) **[See reference** 239**]**: As a result of high volumes of traffic and congestion, three locations along the A127 route in Basildon Borough and Rochford District have been identified by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Pollution Climate Mapping (PCM) model as likely exceeding EU air quality thresholds for Nitrogen Oxide (NO_2). Due to increasing evidence that air quality has an important effect on public health, the economy, and the environment, this Strategic Outline Case (SOC) supports the proposed Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the A127 route in Basildon and Rochford. The strategy seeks to deliver a scheme that leads to likely compliance with the annual mean NO_2 concentration Limit Value on the PCM network.

Implications of the policy review for the Local Plan and IIA: In order to align with other relevant policy documents, the Local Plan should seek to minimise the contamination of land, water and air, and to ensure the effective management of waste and water and the efficient extraction of minerals.

The IIA Is able to respond to this through the inclusion of IIA objectives relating to air pollution, water quality, land contamination, waste management, and the efficient use of land.

A.198

Appendix B

Baseline information

B.1 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues.

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

1. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.
2. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.
3. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive [92/43/EEC].

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Climate change predictions

Current baseline information

B.3 Climate change presents a global risk, with a range of different social, economic and environmental impacts that are likely to be felt within Basildon across numerous receptors. A key challenge in protecting the environment will be to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change: warmer, drier summers and wetter winters with more severe weather events all year, higher sea levels and increased river flooding. A strong reaction is required from planning to ensure appropriate action can be taken to help species and habitats adapt and to enable the agricultural sector to continue to deliver diverse, affordable and good quality produce.

B.4 There has been a general trend towards warmer average temperatures in recent years with the most recent decade (2012–2021) being on average 0.2°C warmer than the 1991–2020 average and 1.0°C warmer than 1961–1990. All the top ten warmest years for the UK in the series from 1884 have occurred this century **[See reference** 240**]**.

B.5 Heavy rainfall and flooding events have been demonstrated to have increased potential to occur in the UK as the climate has generally become wetter. For example, for the most recent decade (2012–2021) UK summers have been on average 6% wetter than 1991–2020 and 15% wetter than 1961–1990 **[See reference** 241**]**.

B.6 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on global warming outlines that, under emissions in line with current pledges under

the Paris Agreement, global warming is expected to surpass 1.5ºC, even if these pledges are supplemented with very challenging increases in the scale and ambition of mitigation after 2030. This increased action would need to achieve net zero CO_2 emissions in less than 15 years **[See reference** 242**]**..

B.7 Basildon Borough has yet to declare a climate change emergency in the Borough; however, in 2021 the Council committed to working towards two carbon reduction targets. The first is to produce net-zero emissions in the borough by 2050, in line with national legislation, but the Council aim to achieve the target sooner if possible. The second is a more ambitious target to achieve net-zero emissions across the Council's buildings and services by 2030. The high-level steps that must be taken by the Council are outlined in their Climate Strategy and Action Plan **[See reference** 243**]**. These include facilitating a move towards a greener local economy, greener buildings and energy, transport and improvements to the green infrastructure network.

Projected baseline information

B.8 UK Climate Projections 18 (UKCP18) for the East of England identify the following main changes (relative to 1981-2000) to the climate by the end of the plan period (2038) **[See reference** 244**]**:

- Increase in mean winter temperature by 1.0°C;
- Increase in mean summer temperature by 1.2°C;
- Increase in mean winter precipitation by 5.0%; and
- Decrease in mean summer precipitation by 10.0%.

B.9 The UK Climate Risk Independent Assessment (CCEA3) identifies likely trends from climate change and sets out 61 specific risks and opportunities to the UK from climate change, including the following **[See reference** 245**]**:

Risks

- The number of incidents of food poisoning, heat stress and heat related deaths may increase in summer.
- Domestic energy use may increase during summer months as refrigeration and air conditioning demand increases.
- Wetter winters and more intense rainfall events throughout the year may result in a higher risk of flooding from rivers.
- More intense rainstorms may in some locations result in the amount of surface water runoff exceeding the capacity of drainage systems, consequently leading to more frequent and severe localised flash flooding.
- More frequent storms and floods may cause increased damage to property and infrastructure, resulting in significant economic costs.
- Periods of drought in summer could lead to soil shrinking and subsidence, causing damage to buildings and transport networks. Drought may also impact negatively on agriculture, industry and biodiversity.
- Warmer and drier summers are likely to affect the quantity and quality of water supply, which will need careful management.
- The changing climate will impact on the behaviour and distribution of species and may encourage the spread of invasive species.

Opportunities

- Milder winters should reduce the costs of heating homes and other buildings, helping to alleviate fuel poverty and reducing the number of winter deaths from cold.
- Domestic energy use may decrease in winter due to higher temperatures.

- Warmer and drier summers may benefit the recreation and tourism economy.

Emissions and energy

Current baseline information

B.10 Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) is the main greenhouse gas, accounting for about 80% of the UK greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions are produced when fossil fuels such as coal or gas are burnt or processed. In recent years, increasing emphasis has been placed on the role of regional bodies and local government in contributing to energy efficiency improvements, and hence reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. In line with the wider UK, the East of England has seen a decrease in CO_2 emissions in recent years. One of the main drivers for reduced levels of emissions has been a decrease in the use of coal for electricity generation, accounting for a decrease in emissions for domestic electricity.

B.11 The Government regularly publishes Local Authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics **[See reference** 246**]**. The statistics are largely consistent with the UK national Greenhouse Gas Inventory and with the Devolved Administration Greenhouse Gas Inventories. In the East of England, CO_2 emissions have fallen from 8.5 tonnes (t) per capita to 4.6t per capita (equivalent to a 46% decrease) from 2005 to 2022. Emissions from Basildon are like those of East of England, falling steadily from 7.0t per capita to 3.5t per capita over the same period (equivalent to a 40% decrease) as demonstrated in **Table B.1**. **[See reference** 247**]**.

Table B.1: CO2 emissions estimates in Basildon 2005-2022 [See reference **248**]

Year	Total Emissions (kt)	Per Capita Emissions (t)
2005	1,181.7	7.0
2006	1,174.9	6.9
2007	1,183.1	6.9
2008	1,126.8	6.5
2009	1,010.8	5.8
2010	1,069.0	6.2
2011	961.3	5.5
2012	1,028.2	5.8
2013	984.6	5.5
2014	889.3	4.9
2015	845.9	4.7
2016	812.7	4.4
2017	786.4	4.3
2018	770.8	4.1
2019	744.7	4.0
2020	688.7	3.7
2021	693.6	3.7
2022	653.6	3.5

B.12 The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy produced the following consumption figures for Basildon in 2021 **[See reference** 249**]**

- **Coal** – a total of 2.1 kilo tonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe) predominantly through industrial use;

- **Manufactured Fuels** – a total of 0.7ktoe predominantly through domestic use;
- **Petroleum** – a total of 92.6ktoe predominantly through road transport;
- **Gas** – a total of 108.0ktoe predominantly through domestic use;
- **Electricity** – a total of 58.1ktoe predominantly through industrial and commercial use; and,
- **Bioenergy and wastes** – a total of 11.3ktoe, predominantly through industrial and commercial use.

B.13 Between 2005 and 2021 the total reported energy consumption for the Borough fell from 337.9 to 272.8ktoe. The changes in consumption by energy type are shown in **Table B.2**.

Table B.2: Energy consumption in Basildon by type 2005-2021

Energy type	Energy consumption in ktoe (2005)	Energy consumption in ktoe (2021)
Coal	2.4	2.1
Manufactured fuels	1.7	0.7
Petroleum	109.9	92.6
Gas	145.3	108.0
Electricity	77.1	58.1
Bioenergy and wastes	1.5	11.3
Total	**337.9**	**272.8**

Projected baseline information

B.14 The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research has undertaken work to calculate the ‘fair’ contribution of local authorities towards the Paris Climate

Change Agreement. Based on the analysis undertaken the following recommendations have been made for Basildon **[See reference** 250**]**:

- Stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 4.8 million tonnes ($MtCO_2$) for the period of 2020 to 2100. At 2017 CO_2 emission levels, Basildon would use this entire budget within 7 years from 2020.
- Initiate an immediate programme of CO_2 mitigation to deliver cuts in emissions averaging a minimum of -13.1% per year to deliver a Paris aligned carbon budget. These annual reductions in emissions require national and local action and could be part of a wider collaboration with other local authorities.
- Reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2042. This report provides an indicative CO_2 reduction pathway that stays within the recommended maximum carbon budget of 4.8 MtCO2. In 2042 5% of the budget remains. This represents very low levels of residual CO_2 emissions by this time, or the Authority may opt to forgo these residual emissions and cut emissions to zero at this point. Earlier years for reaching zero CO_2 emissions are also within the recommended budget, provided that interim budgets with lower cumulative CO_2 emissions are also adopted.

B.15 Given the trends in carbon emissions and energy consumption at both national and local level, carbon emissions in Basildon are likely to continue declining.

Road travel and associated energy consumption

Current baseline information

B.16 CO_2 emissions in the UK are provisionally estimated to have increased by 6.3% in 2021 from 2020, to 341.5 million tonnes (Mt), however compared to

2019, the most recent pre-pandemic year, 2021 CO_2 emissions are down 5.0% **[See reference** 251**]**. This increase in 2021 is primarily due to the increase in the use of road transport as nationwide lockdowns were eased, along with increases in emissions from power stations and the residential sector. CO_2 emissions from transport rose 10.0% in 2021, accounting for almost half of the overall increase from 2020 **[See reference** 252**]**.

B.17 Road transport accounts for more than half of oil demand in the UK and relies on petrol and diesel to meet around 98% cent of its energy needs. This has implications for carbon emissions considering the regular need to travel for both residents and those undertaking business.

B.18 The overall road energy consumption in Basildon decreased between 2005 and 2020 from 93.6t of equivalent oil (ktoe) to 86.3ktoe. This change was most influenced by the decreasing energy consumption for personal road travel which fell during this period from 69.4ktoe to 58.8ktoe. During this period energy consumption recorded in Basildon for freight uses rose from 24.2ktoe to 27.5ktoe **[See reference** 253**]**.

B.19 Recent trends across the UK indicate that diesel consumption excluding biodiesel fell in 2018 for the first time since 2009. The trend is due in part to a slowing of growth in the diesel vehicle fleet following sharp drops in new registrations as well as increased efficiencies. It is expected that the UK will diversify in road transport to include more electric and ultra-low emissions vehicles in the coming years **[See reference** 254**]**.

B.20 As of April 2024, there were 59,670 public electric vehicle charging devices available in the UK. Of these, 11,590 were rapid devices (50kW and above). Within Basildon there are a total of 73 public electric vehicle charging devices and 18 of these are rapid charging devices. There are approximately 38.9 charging devices per 100,000 population. In comparison to the rest of the UK, Basildon is below the UK average of 89.0 charging devices per 100,000 population.**[See reference** 255**]**.

B.21 Shared e-scooters are part of Essex County Council's Safer, Greener, Healthier campaign, and part of the UK's nationwide e-scooter trials. Spin Mobility Ltd, part of the Ford Motor Company, was originally selected to operate the e-scooter trials in Essex the Autumn of 2020 with the first fleet deployed in December 2020 in Basildon. In Spring 2022, Spin globally became part of TIER Mobility AG, Europe's leading shared micromobility provider.

B.22 Basildon is among the initial areas of the county where Essex County Council has launched a pilot electric scooter hire scheme. The trial seeks to provide people with a zero carbon, socially distanced alternative to short car journeys, reducing congestion and air pollution. The scheme is operated by Tier until May 2024 pending the wider decision on future policy by the Department for Transport **[See reference** 256**]**.

B.23 Basildon benefits from good transport and connectivity to the Wider Essex region, Kent, east and central London. The Borough is served by significant road transport networks, including being intersected by the A13 to the south, and the A127 and A1235 to the north of the plan area. However, the latest Essex Local Transport Plan states that congestion is common on these routes, including the A1235 and A132 around the Basildon Enterprise Corridor, the A176 between Five Bells and Basildon Hospital and the A132 / A13 junction in Pitsea **[See reference** 257**]**.

Projected baseline information

B.24 Growth in traffic levels may occur in Basildon because of projected population growth in the Borough and associated development needs. The UK Government aims to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030 **[See reference** 258**]** which will significantly cut carbon emissions across the UK. While the full effect of this will not be seen immediately as people continue to use their existing vehicles, the market share of electric cars in the UK is already significant and likely to continue growing rapidly**.**

Renewable and low carbon energy constraints and opportunities

Current baseline information

B.25 Essex has a strong track record of renewable energy usage. During 2011, 849.2 Gigawatt hours (GWh) of energy was generated from renewable sources in the county of Essex. This equated to 26% of all the energy generated from renewables in the East of England in 2011. Only Cambridgeshire generated more (28%) **[See reference 259]**.

B.26 Basildon Borough Council published a Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Constraints and Opportunities Study in 2015 **[See reference 260]**. The study concluded that the Borough has the capacity to accommodate the following technologies at the following scales:

- Large scale onshore wind turbines – 18.06 Megawatt (MW) – equal to 20% of the Borough's electricity needs.
- Large scale solar photovoltaics (PV) – 102MW – equal to 113% of the Borough's electricity needs.
- Energy from Municipal Solid and Commercial and Industrial Waste – 4.03MW – equal to 4.46% of the Borough's electricity needs.
- Microgeneration associated with residential, and community uses – 36MW – equal to 39.82% of the Borough's electricity needs.

B.27 Published as part of the National Statistics publication Energy Trends produced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), data concerning renewable electricity generation, capacity and number of sites is available at Borough level between 2014 and 2022 **[See reference 261]**. Basildon has increased its capacity to generate electricity from renewable sources from 2014 to 2022 from 20.9MW installed capacity to 31.9MW installed capacity. The majority of this is from landfill gas (15.2MW), followed by

photovoltaics (15.0MW), and finally sewage gas (1.2MW). Photovoltaics saw the largest increase in this time from 4.5MW to 15.0MW.

Projected baseline information

B.28 It is clear from existing trends that Basildon is significantly increasing its capacity to generate renewable and low carbon sources of energy, with scope to increase capacity further across of a range of technology types. The drastic reduction in renewable and low carbon energy generation over the same period does suggest however that the transition is likely to be slower than the growth in capacity would indicate, at least in the short term. As capacity continues to increase over the medium to long term, energy generation is also likely to significantly increase.

Flood risk

Current baseline information

B.29 The UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) predicts that by 2070, under a high emission scenario, average winter precipitation is projected to increase, whilst average summer rainfall is projected to decrease. Although summer rainfall is projected to decrease, there will be an increased frequency of short lived high intensity showers **[See reference** 262**]**.

B.30 Both urban and rural parts of the Borough will become more vulnerable to fluvial and coastal flooding, water supply deficiencies, subsidence and sea level rises, as the local climate continues to change.

B.31 Several sources of flooding pose a risk to Basildon Borough. The majority of Basildon is within Flood Zone 1, with about 2% of the Borough in Flood Zone 2 and 9% defined as Flood Zone 3. **Figure 3.3** at the end of this chapter illustrates the main areas of flood risk in the Borough.

B.32 Fluvial flood risk from the River Crouch and its tributaries poses a significant risk to the residential areas of Wickford and Basildon. Fluvial flood risk posed by the Mountnessing Brook and Haveringsgrove Brook pose a risk to the west of Billericay. The tidal estuaries of Vange Creek and East Haven Creek and Timberman's Creek are located to the south eastern part of the Borough and pose a residual flood risk. Additionally, the River Thames poses a tidal flooding risk in the south of the Borough, although this area is predominantly uninhabited marshland.

B.33 The Environment Agency AIMS data shows that Basildon Borough is protected by high ground along the edge of the River Crouch and its tributaries. There are three Environment Agency Flood Warning Areas in Basildon **[See reference** 263**]**:

- River Crouch from Noak Bridge to Run well, including Wickford (tidal flooding);
- Canvey Island North (within the Thames Estuary); and
- Shellhaven to Grays including Tilbury (fluvial flooding from the River Thames).

B.34 Increasing risks of flooding could lead to negative impacts on local habitats or species and pose a threat to an increasing number of properties. All new buildings will therefore need to be built in appropriate locations that minimise, or successfully mitigate against these risks, as well as being designed in such a way to maximise their adaptability to climate change in the future. Planning Practice Guidance states if 'proposed development cannot be made safe throughout its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere, it should not be permitted' and that avoidance of flood risk should be the primary consideration.

B.35 The Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Design Guide for Essex forms the local standards for Essex and, together with the National Standards, strongly promotes the use of SuDS to help reduce surface water runoff and mitigate flood risk. It provides guidance on the planning, design and delivery of

attractive and high-quality SuDS schemes which should offer multiple benefits to the environment and community alike **[See reference** 264**]**.

B.36 A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was prepared for the Borough in 2018. The Level 1 SFRA confirms that surface water flooding poses a significant risk to the Borough. Areas of high surface water flood risk are located along the course of the River Crouch and over areas of Basildon and Wickford. Localised surface water flooding within the Borough can be attributed to topographic depressions and obstructions to surface water flow. 19 Critical Drainage Areas (CDAs), as defined in the South Essex Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) (2020), are located within Basildon Borough, the majority of which are located within Basildon. The Washland System created as part of the development of Basildon New Town and the expansion of Wickford and Billericay, performs a surface water management function for the urban area, however, the capacity of this system is dependent on continued maintenance **[See reference** 265**]**.

B.37 Fluvial flooding tends to occur when high rainfall in the upper catchment of the River Crouch coincides with high tide levels to produce higher volume fluvial flows and elevated water in the River and its tributaries. A notable extent of the floodplain is in rural areas; however, parts of Wickford and the North of Basildon are also affected by fluvial flooding **[See reference** 266**]**.

B.38 The southern part of the Borough is next to the tidal estuaries of Vange Creek and East Haven Creek. Although this area is protected from tidal flooding by flood defence walls and two mechanical flood barriers, there is residual flood risk in the event of a barrier failing or the flood defence walls being breached by the sea. Defences at this location could be overtopped in the future if defences are not raised in line with climate change.

B.39 Planning Practice Guidance also states that ‘the local planning authority may have a Local Plan policy on what changes of use will be acceptable in areas at risk of flooding’ in order to ensure that the regeneration of existing urban areas does not lead to higher vulnerability uses in areas of flood risk.

B.40 The Basildon Borough Level 2 SFRA built on the findings of the Basildon Borough Level 1 2011 report **[See reference** 267**]** exploring the risks associated with tidal breach along the southern boundary of the Borough. The Level 2 SFRA concluded that in the event of a failure of these flood barriers, floodwaters would inundate the southern part of the Borough including the Vange marshes, Pitsea marshes and Bowers marshes. Further review of the surface water flood risk revealed increased risks along the corridors of the River Crouch and River Wid and the topographic tributaries that lead into these watercourses to be the key areas of increased risk of surface water flooding.

B.41 Further assessment of the risk of flooding from surface water has been undertaken as part of the SWMP for South Essex **[See reference** 268**]** which resulted in the designation of the Borough's CDAs where multiple or interlinked sources of flood risk cause flooding during a severe rainfall event, affecting houses, businesses and/or infrastructure and where mitigation measures may be implemented to reduce the impact of flooding. Pluvial modelling undertaken as part of the SWMP identified that flooding is typically shallow and widely dispersed. The SWMP was updated in 2020 and includes an Action Plan for South Essex **[See reference** 269**]**, which sets out actions for each of the CDAs to reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding within Basildon.

Projected baseline information

B.42 As previously outlined in the 'climate change predictions' section of this chapter, the climate in the Basildon Borough is expected to change, presenting a series of risks. These include wetter winters, more intense rainfall events and more frequent storms and floods, leading to increased damage to property and infrastructure and significant economic costs. The Environment Agency has provided 'Local flood risk assessments: climate change allowances' **[See reference** 270**]** indicating climate change impacts on peak rainfall intensity, peak river flows for the South Essex Management Catchment and sea level rise allowances for the East of England.

B.43 Due to the geography of the Borough, flooding (including flash, fluvial and tidal flooding) is one of the greatest risks to the Basildon Borough from climate

change. Climate change will likely result in sea level rise which could lead to more frequent flooding in the Borough and impact communities, businesses and local authority services. Additionally, incidences of heavy rainfall are expected to continue to rise and will present challenges in terms of drainage and flood risk.

Implications for health

B.44 Climate change has potential for substantial implications on human health, including:

- Disruption to health, social care and emergency management services and schools provision, from flooding, heatwaves and storms.
- Flooding poses multiple risks to people's health, such as heart attacks, trauma, an increase in waterborne infectious diseases, and common mental and post-traumatic stress disorders. Damp housing and damage to water and sanitation infrastructure can further reinforce the adverse effects on health.
- Climate change may bring increases in both cold weather excess mortality and heat-related deaths and illness occurring in the summer. Excess heat represents a serious threat for the entire population, but the elderly and small children, and people with pre-existing cardiovascular, respiratory and renal diseases, diabetes and neurological disorders, are more susceptible. Urban areas tend to be at greater risk due to the "urban heat island" effect. The number of excess deaths in England resulting from heatwaves (excluding COVID-19) in 2022 was 2,803 for those aged 65 and over. Cumulative excess deaths resulting from heatwaves in summer 2022 was the highest recorded on record since the heatwave plan for England was introduced in 2004 **[See reference 271]**.
- Cases of food poisoning in the UK that are linked to warm weather have been increasing rapidly.
- Wildfire likelihood and severity set to increase due to climate change.

- The likely increase in occurrence of severe winter gales is a cause for concern. Deaths during severe gales are commonplace, as are severe injuries. The likely loss of electrical power supplies during severe storms adds very significantly to these problems. Better forecasting of gales and better design and more frequent exercising of disaster plans may well help to mitigate the worst effects.

Key sustainability issues and opportunities for the Local Plan to address them

B.45 There is a need to significantly reduce the Borough's greenhouse gas emissions to help meet international and national greenhouse gas reduction targets. The Local Plan provides opportunities to help achieve this through:

- Encouraging energy efficiency measures in the construction and design of new buildings.
- Reducing carbon emissions from private car use by reducing the need to travel and supporting the use of low or zero emission transport modes, as discussed below in the section covering transport.
- Continuing to build renewable and low carbon energy generation capacity and reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources to meet the Borough's energy demands (mainly electricity), focussing on increasing generation from existing installations in the short term.
- Promoting green infrastructure to deliver carbon sequestration.

B.46 The effects of climate change in the Borough are likely to result in extreme weather events becoming more common and more intense. Flood risk is of particular significance in this regard, alongside heatwaves and drought. The Local Plan provides an opportunity to help adapt to the unavoidable effects of climate change by:

- Locating development in locations with no or low flood risk.
- Encouraging flood and heat resilient development.

- Promoting green infrastructure to deliver flood retention, shading/ cooling, air quality improvements and safe havens for vulnerable species.

Transport

Transport

Current baseline information

B.47 Figure 3.4 at the end of this chapter illustrates the main road, rail and cycling routes in the Borough.

B.48 The A127 cuts through the centre of the Borough, serving as both a local thoroughfare and a key strategic route into London. Similarly, the A13, located to the south of the Borough, performs these functions. According to the Local Plan's transport evidence base, sections of the Borough's highway network are already operating at or near their capacity, making them prone to congestion. Such congestion can quickly affect other routes, leading to significant queuing at various junctions and creating unreliable travel times for both drivers and public transport users. The study highlighted particular capacity challenges along the A127 and A13 corridors and their junctions **[See reference** 272**]**.

B.49 Basildon Borough Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan identifies that congestion frequently occurs on several major routes in Basildon Town Centre, including the A1235 and A132 around the Basildon Enterprise Corridor, the A176 between Five Bells and Basildon Hospital and the A132/A13 junction in Pitsea. Additionally, roads connecting Basildon Town Centre to nearby local centres, such as the A129 / A130 and B1007, also experience regular congestion **[See reference** 273**]**.

B.50 The A127, which is not classified as a trunk road, faces significant capacity constraints, with congestion at key junctions being a notable issue. In particular, the A127 / A130 Fairglen Interchange suffers from severe congestion during peak times. It is anticipated that congestion on the A127 will worsen due to growth across South Essex, including in areas like Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Rochford and Southend-on-Sea, unless mitigating measures are taken. This corridor also serves important economic growth areas, including the Basildon A127 Enterprise Corridor and London Southend Airport. A short-term scheme is planned to alleviate traffic conditions until 2036, with additional funding being pursued for a longer-term solution beyond that period **[See reference** 274**]**.

B.51 Basildon Borough's Local Plan Transport and Highway Impact Assessment (THIA) **[See reference** 275**]** assesses the final level of growth associated with the draft Local Plan (2018). As identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, the THIA reports that many of the junctions in Basildon are close to or at capacity and there is a need for significant mitigation measures to accommodate growth in the settlements of Billericay and Wickford. The THIA identifies the status of the following junctions at base date (2014) amongst Basildon Borough's urban areas:

- Basildon:
  - Three junctions at or over capacity, predicted to rise to eight by 2034 background growth.
  - Six junctions approaching capacity, predicted to fall to two by 2034 background growth).
- Billericay:
  - Two junctions at or over capacity, predicted to rise to four by 2034 background growth).
  - Two junctions approaching capacity, predicted to rise to four by 2034 background growth).
- Wickford:

- One junction at or over capacity, predicted to rise to two by 2034 background growth.
- One junction approaching capacity, predicted to rise to two by 2034 background growth.

B.52 The Basildon Parking Capacity and Intervention Study **[See reference** 276**]** highlighted a surplus of parking capacity in Basildon town centre and a shortfall in Billericay and Wickford town centres. However, this study was completed in 2016, and with the current focus on facilitating and encouraging active and sustainable travel, the need for additional parking in Wickford and Billericay is being reconsidered.

B.53 The Lower Thames Crossing is a proposed new motorway connecting Kent, Thurrock and Essex through a tunnel beneath the river Thames. If permission is granted, the Project will provide over 90% additional road capacity across the Thames east of London. The new motorway will have three lanes in each direction, with a speed limit of 70mph. It will connect the tunnel to the A2 and M2 in Kent on the southern side and A13 and junction 29 of the M25 in the London Borough of Havering on the northern side. The crossing will also feature a 4km-long twin-tube tunnel under the Thames River, for southbound and northbound traffic. With a diameter of 16m, the tunnel will be one of the largest bored-tunnels in the world **[See reference** 277**]**.

B.54 The Crossing is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and as such, is being consented through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. National Highways submitted a DCO application in October 2022 and from June to December 2023 it was examined by a panel of five independent planning inspectors known as the Examining Authority. The Examining Authority submitted a recommendation report to the Secretary of State for Transport on 20 March. The Secretary of State for Transport was scheduled to make a decision on whether to grant a Development Consent Order by 20 June 2024, but due to the General Election and to allow appropriate time for any new Secretary of State to consider the application the deadline has been extended to 4 October 2024 **[See reference** 278**]**.

B.55 At the time of Census 2021, UK government guidance and lockdown restrictions resulted in unprecedented changes to travel behaviour and patterns. As of 2021, out Basildon's estimated working population (89,514), 42,903 (47.9%) people worked mainly at or from home and 22,353 (26%) travelled within the area. It should be noted however that there are some significant spatial variations in the prevalence of home working across the Borough, for example home working is much more common in more affluent parts of the borough, such as Billericay, and much less common in more deprived areas such as Pitsea.

B.56 As seen in **Table B.3**, out of an estimated total of 89,013 employed Basildon residents, the most popular mode of transport to travel to work was by car or van (51.2% - as a driver or passenger), followed by on foot (6.2%) and by train (5.6%). A similar picture was seen in the East of England, where out of an estimated total of 3,028,640 residents, the most popular mode of transport to travel to work was by car (51.5% - as a driver or passenger), followed by on foot (7.3%) and by train (2.3%).

Table B.3: Method of travel to work 2021

Method of travel to work	East of England	Basildon
All Categories	3,028,640	89,013
Work mainly at or from home	966,487	27,225
Underground, metro, light rail, tram	18,366	707
Train	69,954	4,967
Bus, minibus or coach	61,931	1,846
Taxi	16,936	802
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	13,632	386
Driving a car or van	1,445,280	41,731
Passenger in a car or van	114,537	3,818
Bicycle	70,857	1,057

Method of travel to work	East of England	Basildon
On foot	219,725	5,498
Other method of travel to work	30,935	976

B.57 Neighbouring areas of Thurrock (5,130 commuters), Castle Point (5,083), Chelmsford (4,618 commuters) and Southend-on-Sea (4,407 commuters) account for the largest inflows of commuters to Basildon (see **Figure 3.1**). When assessing the largest numbers of commuters by car or van, the same pattern emerges. Thurrock has the highest number (4,295 commuters), followed by Castle Point (4,205 commuters), Chelmsford (4,079 commuters) and Southend-on-Sea (3,417 commuters) (see **Figure 3.2**) **[See reference** 279**]**.

B.58 Large numbers of commuters (predominately by car or van) travel out of Basildon to London (6,305 commuters), Thurrock (5,310 commuters), Chelmsford (4,618 commuters) and Brentwood (1,970 commuters).

B.59 Figures 3.1 and **3.2** below show the flows of commuters in and out of the Borough. It should be noted that the figures draw on relatively old (2001) Office of National Statistics (ONS) data.

Figure B.1: Flows of commuters in and out of the Borough (total)



Figure B.2: Flows of commuters in and out of the Borough (by car or van)



A significant proportion of the Borough's workforce travel in from neighbouring areas (e.g., Castle Point, Rochford and Southend) and this can lead to congestion, particularly at peak times on parts of the Borough's road network. As previously noted, congestion is common on several key routes including, the A1235 and A132 around the Basildon Enterprise Corridor, the A176 between Five Bells and Basildon Hospital and the A132 / A13 junction in Pitsea **[See reference** 280**]**. However, with the introduction of 'work from home' arrangements in the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of commuters has drastically reduced, as discussed previously. With many employers adopting hybrid working arrangements, the number of commuters is not anticipated to reach the same level as prior to the pandemic.

B.60 According to the 2017 Basildon Borough Cycling Action Plan, although Essex County Council and Basildon Borough Council have been promoting and facilitating cycling for many years, the lack of a planned and justifiable list of interventions aimed at widening the appeal of cycling within the Borough means that it has not always been prioritised and the proportion of people travelling to work by bicycle is well below the national average **[See reference** 281**]**. An emerging Active Environments Strategy (2023) is looking to address this. The strategy makes six commitments to encourage Basildon Borough to walk, wheel, scoot and cycle:

- To support local communities to offer a diverse range of accessible opportunities for people to walk, wheel, scoot and cycle in their local area.
- To use gamification and digitisation to support and encourage residents to be more active through walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling.
- To work to tackle the high start-up costs of cycling (bike, lock, helmet) which has been identified as a barrier for many people from cycling.
- To increase levels of active travel to achieve the Borough Council's net-zero by 2050 aim.
- To work collaboratively across the organisation to incorporate active environments work across corporate plan ambitions of people, place and prosperity.

- To ensure that residents feel safe and are safe. Basildon Borough Council seek to develop the infrastructure to increase safety and accessibility of the network.

B.61 The Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan Plus **[See reference** 282**]** also recognises Basildon Borough Council's objectives to provide a high quality and ambitious integrated cycling, walking and public transport network, to improve access across and between several town centres and to encourage multi-modal travel. The outputs of this plan include:

- A cycling network map with a programme of cycle infrastructure improvements.
- A walking network map with a programme of walking infrastructure improvements.
- A prioritised list of cycling and walking proposals for future investment.

B.62 Basildon Borough's urban areas (Basildon, Billericay and Wickford) contain the most cycling infrastructure; however, this is not consistent and there is a need to deliver improvements across the existing network and also to secure new route provision within new developments:

- **Billericay** – There is very little cycling infrastructure in Billericay – just some very short sections of shared footway alongside new housing estates.
- **Wickford** – There is very little cycling infrastructure in Wickford – just some very short sections of shared footway alongside new housing estates.
- **Basildon Town** – Basildon town has a relatively dense network of cycling provision which is typical of the 'new towns' of the 1950s. Much of the network is substandard, with facilities too narrow to support large levels of use particularly where there are shared paths which are well used by pedestrians. Some obvious desire lines are not catered for by the existing provision, and cyclists have limited priority and protection at junctions and crossings **[See reference** 283**]**. East to west cycling provision is better in

Basildon Town than north to south. This is due in part to investment in Cranes Farm Road in recent years.

Projected baseline information

B.63 Sustainable public transport, including active travel investment is essential alongside direct road congestion interventions if the Borough is to tackle its heavy reliance on private transport in the Borough.

Implications for health

B.64 A lack of sustainable and active travel options can have negative impacts on public health whilst also increasing reliance on relatively expensive private motorised transit and exacerbating existing inequalities. Encouraging active travel, such as walking, wheeling and cycling can have a wide range of positive implications for health, including increased physical activity and opportunities for social interaction. In addition, an increase in active travel could be associated with a decrease in reliance on often expensive vehicular transport, and an associated decrease in air pollutants that can be harmful to human health.

Key sustainability issues and opportunities for the Local Plan to address them

B.65 Several of Basildon Borough's road links are inadequate, with several roads and junctions noted as being at or near to capacity, and many experiencing congestion at peak times. Adverse traffic conditions on these routes often have knock-on effects on local roads, leading to localised gridlock on occasion and impacting negatively on economic productivity. In addition, with planned developments and increased housing and job provision, more pressure may be placed on the Borough's road networks.

B.66 Without the Local Plan it is anticipated that traffic congestion and air and noise pollution will continue to increase with the rising population and car dependency will continue to be high. The implications of air pollution for human health and the natural environment are described in subsequent sections.

B.67 The Local Plan provides an opportunity to reduce the demand on the transport network and to address potential adverse effects of travel by:

- Locating development and tailoring densities sustainably (with good access to shops, services and sustainable transport modes);
- Supporting the development of sustainable transport links;
- Supporting and prioritising sustainable travel choices (e.g., requiring sustainable modes to be available on occupation of new homes and workplaces); and,
- Supporting the uptake of electric vehicles and e-bikes through the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Population, health and wellbeing

Population

Current baseline information

B.68 Basildon is the 11th most densely populated of the East of England's 45 local authority areas serving an estimated population of 188,848 people across 16 wards **[See reference** 284**]**. **Table B.4** presents the most recent (2019) estimates of population by ward in Basildon **[See reference** 285**]**:

Table B.4: Estimated populations by ward in Basildon [See reference 286]

Ward	Estimated Population (as of 2019)
Billericay East	12,229
Billericay West	11,976
Burstead	10,836
Crouch	9,062
Fryerns	14,959
Laindon Park	6,866
Langdon Hills	9,224
Lee Chapel North	14,760
Nethermayne	13,890
Pitsea North West	13,216
Pitsea South East	12,358
St Martins	9,929
Vange	10,647
Wickford Castedon	7,679
Wickford North	13,092
Wickford Park	10,183

B.69 Figure 3.5 at the end of this chapter illustrates the Borough's settlement hierarchy.

Projected baseline information

B.70 The Borough's population has increased dramatically over the last 60 years, following the phased construction of Basildon New Town. The Borough's population will continue to grow, albeit at a much slower rate. Sub-national population projections suggest that the Borough's population will continue to grow with 206,509 people projected to live in the Borough by 2043 **[See reference** 287**]**. The largest age group predicted to experience growth is the 65+ category, which is expected to rise from 32,227 (2019) to 41,478 (2043).

B.71 As the population grows so does the Borough's population density, particularly in the Borough's three centres of growth – Basildon, Billericay and Wickford.

B.72 Basildon Borough has a population density of 17.17 persons per hectare, which is significantly higher than the Essex average of 4.39 persons per hectare **[See reference** 288**]**. The greater the population density the greater the challenge to ensure the Borough's communities have the quality of life, facilities and services and infrastructure they need, including public and private open space. However, increased population density can have both positive and negative effects in sustainable development terms, depending upon how it is designed and delivered (indeed, some of the most attractive and desirable parts of cities and towns in the UK and abroad are often those areas that are most densely developed).

Housing

Current baseline information

B.73 Between November 2021 and November 2022, Basildon saw the third highest rise in house prices in South Essex, from £384,573 to £409,649 (a 6.52% increase) **[See reference** 289**]**. The average house price in Basildon

was £364,000 in May 2024. (provisional), up 3.0% from May 2023. This was higher than the rise in the East of England (1.9%) over the same period. In comparison, across the East of England, the average house price in May 2024 was £338,000 and across Great Britain, a home sold for an average of £288,000 **[See reference** 290**]**. As of August 2020, Billericay East Ward has the highest average house price and conversely house prices in Pitsea North West Ward have the lowest average prices. The highest rise in average house prices over recent years have been in Crouch, Billericay West, Wickford Park and Nethermayne Wards with average house prices rising by 34% between 2016 and 2023 **[See reference** 291**]**.

B.74 The Basildon Housing Strategy 2023-2028 identifies that rising house prices and rents are a barrier to delivering genuinely affordable housing and focusses on three solutions:

- Improve access to housing opportunities and choice.
- Make best use of council homes.
- Support residents to create neighbourhoods they wish to live in and be part of **[See reference** 292**]**.

B.75 The Councils' housing registers suggest that 5,629 households throughout South Essex are currently classified as needing affordable housing, based on allocation policies. Basildon appears to have the greatest absolute number in need, with a current total need of 1,349 affordable homes **[See reference** 293**]**.

B.76 Basildon Borough has not delivered its annual housing target in the last three reporting years which has resulted in the Borough achieving only 41% of its expected housing delivery across the three year period. The average delivery performance across Essex for the same period was 104% which is higher than in Basildon Borough **See reference** 294**].**

B.77 The current total supply of housing for the next five years, from 2022 to 2027 is 2,322 dwellings. This represents 37% of the required 6,258 homes over the same period. This demonstrates a significant shortfall of 3,936 homes in the

Borough's housing land supply **[See reference** 295**]**, as presented in **Table B.5**.

Table B.5: Summary of Five Year Land Supply Position Calculation [See reference **296**]

Stages	Dwellings
Future Housing Requirement	5,215
Buffer	1,043
Total 5 Year Requirement	**6,258**
Supply from minor development	248
Supply from major development	1,969
Supply from Brownfield Land Register	105
Total Identified Supply	**2,322**

B.78 Basildon has the greatest number of Gypsy and Traveller people residing within it compared with the rest of Essex **[See reference** 297**].** As of June 2020, accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers consists of 1 public site (25 pitches), 55 private sites (95 private pitches), 8 private sites with temporary planning permission (8 pitches), 12 long-term tolerated encampments (14 pitches) and 31 unauthorised sites (70 pitches). There is one Travelling Showpeople site, comprising two plots, in the area. The latest Basildon Borough Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Needs Accommodation Assessment **[See reference** 298**]** concluded that the estimated extra pitch provision that is required for Gypsies and Travellers to 2038 in Basildon is 85 pitches, when accounting for all known and a reasonable proportion of unknown households. There is a need for three additional plots for Travelling Showpeople in Basildon up to 2038.

Projected baseline information

B.79 According to the Basildon Borough Council's Five-Year Land Supply Report **[See reference** 299**]**, the Borough needs to build 1,252 dwellings annually, totalling 6,258 over the period from 2022 to 2027. Due to only achieving 41% of its housing target over the past three years, the Council must apply a 20% buffer to ensure sufficient housing supply. This buffer increases the original housing need of 1,043 dwellings per year to 1,252 per year, resulting in the total requirement of 6,258 homes over the next five years.

B.80 The South Essex Housing Needs Assessment predicts that a new gross need for 970 affordable homes could arise every year from new and existing households throughout the Basildon Borough. This is the highest predicted need in South Essex, but there is an estimated supply of 449 homes per annum, also the highest in South Essex, giving a net need for 521 homes per annum **[See reference** 300**]**.

B.81 The Council predict that the number of people registered as homeless is likely to continue to grow. This increase is believed to be largely because of reasons such as the economic climate, increased costs of both private and owner-occupied accommodation, and the government’s welfare reforms. The continued rise of homelessness within the Borough is seen by the Council as being unsustainable and unlikely to fall without intervention **[See reference** 301**]**.

Health

Current baseline information

B.82 Health is a cross-cutting topic and as such many topic areas explored in this IIA Report influence health either directly or indirectly.

B.83 The Office of National Statistics (ONS) have created an index that gives every local area in England an overall health score for each of the past six years. This overall score is made up of measures in different categories, called domains and subdomains. These measures include physical and mental health conditions like diabetes or anxiety, local unemployment, road safety, and behaviours like healthy eating **[See reference** 302**]**.

B.84 This score can show whether health in a local area is improving. The Health Index score has a baseline of 100, which represents England's health in 2015. A score higher than 100 means that an area has better health for that measure than was average in 2015, lower than 100 means worse health than the 2015 average in 2020, Basildon's Health Index Score was 98.3, which is down 1.4 points compared with the previous year.

B.85 The health of people in Basildon is better in some respects and worse in other respects compared with the England average. "Physical health conditions" looks at cancer, cardiovascular conditions, dementia, diabetes, kidney and liver disease, musculoskeletal conditions, and respiratory conditions. Basildon's best score across all subdomains is 110.7 for health relating to "physical health conditions".

B.86 The second highest scoring subdomain is "access to green space", in which Basildon has a Health Index score of 103.6. The score for the East of England is 101.1, while England has a score of 99.9 which puts it close to the national average across England for this subdomain.

B.87 "Living conditions" addresses air pollution, household overcrowding, noise complaints, road safety, and rough sleeping. Basildon's score for "living conditions" improved from 95.1 in 2015 to 103.5 in 2020. This means Basildon went from being in the bottom 25% of local authority areas to being in the bottom 40% across England for this subdomain. The change was largely driven by a decrease in air pollution (the index improved by 19.7 points) and a decrease in rough sleeping (the index improved by 13.1 points).

B.88 “Economic and working conditions” looks at child poverty, job-related training, unemployment, and workplace safety. Between 2015 and 2020, Basildon’s Health Index value for “economic and working conditions” went from 98.4 to 101.6. This means Basildon went from being in the bottom 40% of local authority areas to being close to average for this subdomain. The change was largely driven by improvements in workplace safety (an increase of 6.7) and a decrease in child poverty (the index improved by 5.2 points). However, there was a worsening in job-related training (a decrease of 22.7).

B.89 Based on indicators reported by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities **[See reference** 303**]**, the health of the population in Basildon Borough is generally worse than the England average. In the Borough there are lower rates of hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children aged 0 -14, people feeling “in poor health” and poor mental health than the national averages. However, the numbers of people with diabetes, teenage pregnancy, those who eat healthily, adults who are physically active and hip fractures in the elderly are worse than regional and national levels. As such, interventions need to reach high risk groups to reduce the number of preventable health conditions and service demand. Reducing smoking and child/adult obesity, plus increasing the level of physical activity, are also areas for improvement **[See reference** 304**]**.

Life expectancy

B.90 In Essex, there had been a steady increase in life expectancy for both men and women for the first decade of the 2000s. However, in the last 10 years the trend has levelled off for Essex and for all the constituent district areas. For women it is now consistently below the regional average **[See reference** 305**]**.

B.91 Life expectancy at birth in the Borough was 79.35 for males and 83.08 for females. These are similar when compared to the England value. Life expectancy is 9.6 years lower for men and 7.5 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Basildon than in the least deprived areas, with the ward Pitsea North West experiencing the lowest life expectancy for both males and

females **[See reference** 306**]**. Circulatory disease, cancer, respiratory conditions and digestive disorders are the main disease areas which are driving the differential life expectancy gap between Essex communities **[See reference** 307**]**.

Obesity

B.92 Being overweight or obese carries numerous health risks, including increased likelihood of type 2 diabetes, cancer, heart and liver disease, stroke and related mental health conditions. It is estimated this health issue places a cost of at least £5.1 billion on the NHS and tens of billions on wider UK society every year. Obesity in adults in Basildon is worse than East of England and England, with 70.5% of adults overweight or obese **[See reference** 308**]**.

B.93 There is also a high level of obesity amongst children in the Borough. By Year 6 33.9% of children are classified as overweight or obese. This is significantly worse than East of England and Essex. The gap between reception and year 6 in relation to obesity or being overweight is greatest in Basildon **[See reference** 309**]**.

Mental health and perception of wellbeing

B.94 National research highlights that good emotional and mental health is fundamental to the quality of life. Residents of the Borough reported having higher life satisfaction (7.66 out of 10), happiness (7.83) and sense that life is worthwhile (7.83) in comparison to England on a national scale (7.55, 7,78, and 7.45 respectively) during the 2021/22 period **[See reference** 310**]**.

B.95 According to the 2019 Essex County Council School's Health and Wellbeing Survey **[See reference** 311**]**, 79% and 69% of primary and secondary school pupils in Basildon agreed with the statement 'My life is going well', respectively. 92% of both primary and secondary school pupils were happy with the home that they lived in. 34% and 35% of primary and secondary

school pupils often lose their temper or get angry, respectively, with 8% of both primary and secondary school pupils saying this happens every day. 20% and 28% of primary and secondary school pupils often feel sad or tearful, with 7% and 10% saying this had been the case for more than six months, respectively.

Social isolation/loneliness

B.96 The ONS mapped loneliness rates by local authorities between October 2020 to February 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Areas with higher concentrations of younger people and higher rates of unemployment tended to have higher rates of loneliness during the study period. Local authorities in more rural areas had a lower loneliness rate than urban, industrial, or other types of areas. In the Basildon Borough, 6.9% of the adult population reported they 'often or always' felt lonely. This was lower than the British average of 7.2% **[See reference** 312**]**.

B.97 Reporting by Sport England **[See reference** 313**]**, shows that between November 2022-2023, 13.6% of the adult population reported they 'often or always' felt lonely.' This figure significantly exceeds the national average of 7.3% and is notably higher than the 6.9% recorded between 2020 and 2021.

COVID-19

B.98 The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted health inequalities nationally, including the differences in people's health and well-being that result from the conditions in which they are born, grow, live, work and age. For example, the pandemic has impacted social and community networks, showing that lack of social contact has a detrimental impact on mental health (causing or facilitating anxiety and depression). It also had a negative impact on individual lifestyle factors such as lack of exercise and unhealthy diet, causing other health issues.

Projected baseline information

B.99 Given that Basildon Borough has performed poorly for some health indicators against regional and national averages, it is likely it will continue to do so without substantial intervention. There are a range of potential changes in determinants that will affect health in the UK and Basildon Borough in the future including climate change. Summers are expected to become hotter, and overheating may increase the excess mortality rate for vulnerable groups.

Access to services and facilities

Current baseline information

B.100 Services and facilities include hospitals and GPs, recreational resources, food retailers, employment and education centres, and other aspects of social infrastructure such as community centres and places of worship. Good and equitable accessibility and the provision of sufficient community facilities is a vital part of development's role in improving the health and well-being of a community.

B.101 The most recent Department for Transport 'journey time statistics' **[See reference** 314**]** demonstrates the average journey time taken to reach the nearest key services (employment centres, primary and secondary schools, further education, GPs, hospitals, food stores and town centres) across local authorities. The average times taken to reach the nearest key services in Basildon is consistently lower across its regional and national comparisons as demonstrated in **Table B.6** below.

Table B.6: Average journey times to key services [See reference 315]

Mode of travel	Basildon Borough (minutes)	East of England (minutes)	England (minutes)
Public Transport/walking	15.8	20.7	17.9
Cycle	13.5	18.6	15.6
Car	9.6	11.3	10.3
Walking	24.1	34.0	28.0

B.102 Along with being physically available, support services need to provide people with a positive experience to promote uptake and engagement for early intervention and reducing or delaying development of additional health and care needs in the longer term. In Essex, fewer patients have a good experience in making a GP appointment overall. The rate had been falling over recent years, to the lowest in 2020 which likely had been impacted by changes resulting from the pandemic as improvements have been seen in reported experience lately and have surpassed levels seen in most recent years.

B.103 The Borough benefits from having a regional acute medical facility in the form of Basildon University Hospital. In June 2007, a major new addition to the hospital was completed, the Essex Cardio-Thorasic Unit, offering specialist care to patients with heart problems.

Projected baseline information

B.104 Access to key services and facilities could become more challenging as the population in the Borough continues to grow, if this results in insufficient capacity in the nearest services. As the population ages, this may result in a larger proportion of Basildon's population not having access to key services that are only readily accessible by car.

Open spaces, sports and recreation

Current baseline information

B.105 As a New Town, Basildon was planned with a considerable amount of open space as part of the New Town Masterplanning, much of which is still used for the purpose it was set aside for and now provides a range of health, biodiversity, landscape and flood defence benefits. No parks have yet been awarded the qualitative Green Flag Award.

B.106 The relatively old PPG17 Open Space Assessment **[See reference** 316**]** undertaken for Basildon Borough in 2010 noted that the Basildon Settlement Area had the greatest supply of open space per head of population and the majority of these are spaces of high quality. Clusters of lower quality open spaces existed around Eastern Pitsea, South of the A127, Laindon Park/Lee Chapel North and Vange.

B.107 Billericay and Burstead have an above Borough average provision of natural green space and outdoor sports facilities but have an undersupply of Urban Parks and Gardens and Smaller Amenity Space. Generally, the quality of spaces is good, with poor quality open space noted in Little Burstead, Eastern Mountnessing Fringe and Barleylands Farm (North of Southend Road). The Noak Bridge and Ramsden Area contains a high proportion of the Borough's overall sports pitch provision but lacks an urban park. Most open spaces in this settlement area, which is mostly rural in nature, are of a high quality.

B.108 Wickford has a slight over-provision of urban parks and gardens, but a high under supply of natural and semi-natural open space, outdoor sports space and amenity green space. The quality of open spaces is mixed, although two open spaces are 'excellent' – Wickford Memorial Park and The Wick Country Park.

B.109 According to the Open Space Assessment Gap Analysis Report **[See reference** 317**]**, there has not been a notable net increase in open space provision since 2010 within Basildon. As of 1st December 2015, only 4.38 hectares had been recorded across 3 sites. Several spaces had been lost to development or other uses.

B.110 In 2012, the NPPF introduced a new concept of a Local Green Space designation. The Local Green Space designation provides communities with a way to place special protection against the development of green areas of particular importance to them. Basildon subsequently defined 39 sites as Local Green Spaces **[See reference** 318**]**.

B.111 Basildon Borough has several indoor sports facilities including 12 swimming pools, 15 sports halls, 12 health and fitness centres and 8 indoor tennis courts, which are reaching their capacity. The quality of the current indoor sports facilities is mixed with scores ranging from 43% to 84% in terms of quality (where 100% = highest quality) **[See reference** 319**]**.

B.112 The 2018 Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report **[See reference** 320**]** identified a total of 174 grass football pitches within Basildon Borough across 46 sites, of which 157 pitches are available for community use across 35 sites.

B.113 Reporting by Sport England **[See reference** 321**]** shows that:

- 29.6% of adults were classed as ‘inactive’ with less than 30 minutes of recorded activity a week in November 2022-23. This compares to 28% in November 2021-2022 and 30.9% in November 2020-2021.
- In November 2022-23, 12.8% of adults were reported as fairly active (30-149 minutes of activity) and 57.7% were reported as active (150 minutes or more of activity).

Projected baseline information

B.114 Development pressure could lead to the loss of some existing open space and sports/recreation facilities while projected population increases are likely to increase demand for such facilities.

Crime

Current baseline information

B.115 As of December 2023, Basildon Borough had a crime rate of 101.69 per 1,000 population, which is higher than the Essex force area average of 85.27 per 1,000 **[See reference** 322**]**. Basildon also has a higher-than-average rate for all crime types compared to other areas in the Essex force area. Between July 2023 and June 2024, 10,548 crimes were recorded in the Borough—a decrease of 9,475 from the previous year—though crime incidents grew by an average of 5.5% annually from 2014 to 2023 **[See reference** 323**]**.

B.116 Violence and sexual offences comprised the highest proportion of recorded offences in the Borough, making up 40% of crimes, followed by anti-social behaviour, and shoplifting **[See reference** 324**]**.

B.117 According to CrimeRate **[See reference** 325**]**, crime in the Borough is mainly focussed on the town of Basildon, which is subsequently recorded as the most dangerous major town in Essex. The town is among the top 20 most dangerous overall out of Essex's 315 towns, villages, and cities. Road safety remains a significant local issue and needs to improve. In 2023, 71 people were Killed or Seriously injured (KSI) on Basildon roads, up by 23 from 2022. Across Essex, 860 people were KSI in 2023, reflecting an average increase of 6.01% from 2020 to 2023 **[See reference** 326**]**.

Projected baseline information

B.118 Crime rates are influenced by such many variables that it is very difficult to anticipate future trends. Spatial variation that currently exists in relative crime deprivation across the Basildon Borough is likely to remain for the foreseeable future, and for the most part will likely mirror overall deprivation trends.

Education

Current baseline information

B.119 There is a high level of child poverty in Basildon, as well as a high rate of children in care. As such, there is a high level of eligibility for free early education entitlement (two year olds). However, the take up rate is very low. With regard to education, 77.1% of all primary and secondary school children studying in Basildon attend a good or outstanding school, slightly lower than the County average. There is also a higher than average persistent secondary absenteeism. Fewer pupils than average aspire to go to university. Despite this, the number of adults with no qualifications is below average **[See reference** 327**]**.

B.120 According to the latest labour market statistics (January to December 2023) **[See reference 328]**, Basildon Borough has a lower-than-average proportion of people with RQF1, RQF2, RQF3 and RQF4 qualifications compared to the regional and national averages. Specifically, only 19.7% of people in Basildon hold RQF4 or higher qualifications, compared to 42.8% regionally and 47.3% nationally. As of 2021, Basildon's percentage of people with no qualifications matches the national average of 6%, which is lower than Essex's 5% **[See reference** 329**]**. Basildon ranks 296th out of 331 English and Welsh local authorities for composite education scores, placing it in the bottom 20% for qualification levels **[See reference** 330**]**.

B.121 Educational attainment is particularly poor in seven LSOAs which are classified as being within the 10% most deprived in the country in relation to the education, skills and training domain in the English IMD. These lie within the wards of Nethermayne, Vange, St Martin's, Fryerns, Pitsea North West, Pitsea South East, Lee Chapel North. The majority of the Borough is comprised of LSOAs within the 20% most deprived in the country in relation to the education deprivation domain **[See reference** 331**]**.

B.122 The Borough currently has 11 secondary schools in total (10 ECC funded and 1 privately funded) and 55 primary schools. Essex County Council's 'Meeting the demand for school places – 10 Year Plan' highlights a need for an additional 9,500 primary school places and 4,100 secondary school places between 2021 and 2030. Consequently, eleven schools across Basildon will be expanded and new primary schools provided **[See reference** 332**]**.

B.123 Educational achievement varies considerably depending on school location in the Borough. The schools in Billericay and Wickford out-perform the schools in Basildon and are above the county and national averages for GCSE results. Despite this, educational attainment at both primary and secondary school levels falls below the Essex average, although this is much more significant with regards to secondary schools in the Borough.

B.124 South Essex College's new state-of-the-art college based in Basildon Town Centre will raise the profile of skills and education in the borough and will contribute to raising the aspirations of residents to develop their skills and career prospects. The curriculum has been developed with local businesses and will focus on digital skills – thus providing our young people with a sound knowledge base from which to take advantage of the higher paid jobs within Basildon and Essex **[See reference** 333**]**. PROCAT, Further Education College of Advanced Technology, is providing an employer-commissioned and driven curriculum focussed on Advanced Technologies and offers higher apprenticeships and foundation degrees in growth sectors such as Rail, Aviation and Engineering.

B.125 Although there are some Higher Education offers available from PROCAT and South Essex College, mainly from Anglia Ruskin University, there is no dedicated HE presence in the Borough. This means that young people must travel outside the Borough to access higher skills training and very few come back to live in the Borough.

B.126 Qualifications gained at 'A' level or higher are much lower than the national and regional averages, particularly in academic degrees. If this situation does not improve, this could have a negative impact on the economic competitiveness of the Borough and could affect people's long-term employability. It may also result in the more skilled jobs being taken by people who live outside the Borough.

Projected baseline information

B.127 The capacity of schools in the Borough could become oversubscribed as the population continues to grow.

Deprivation

Current baseline information

B.128 Poverty impacts upon entire families and has significant impacts on health, education, skills and life chances. Efforts to lift people out of poverty is a challenge, especially as it is linked to so many other factors such as income levels, cost of living and family size. Basildon Borough has a higher proportion of benefit claimants of working age (11.1%), than the national (11%) and regional (9%) averages **[See reference** 334**]**.

B.129 In the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 **[See reference** 335**]**, the Basildon Local Authority area was ranked 111 out of 317 lower tier authorities in England based on the average rank of the LSOAs in this area (where 1= most

deprived). This places Basildon in the bottom 40% of most deprived Lower Tier Local Authorities (LTLAs) nationally. Compared to the other local authority areas in Essex, Basildon is ranked as third out of 12 in the county for overall deprivation. Basildon is one of three areas in Essex which fall into the lower 50% of most deprived areas nationally.

B.130 12 (10.9%) of Basildon Borough's Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are ranked within the most deprived 10% of areas nationally for overall deprivation, whilst 14 (12.7%) are ranked within the most deprived 20% of areas nationally. Most of these LSOAs are located within and around Basildon New Town and Laindon. Conversely, 15 (13.6%) and 11 (10.0%) of Basildon Borough's LSOAs are ranked within the least deprived 10% and 20% of areas nationally, respectively. These areas tend to be in the north of the Borough and along its southern edge, in Langdon Hills. **Figure 3.6** at the end of this Chapter illustrates the range and distribution of deprivation across the Borough.

B.131 The 2021 UK Prosperity Index ranked Basildon Borough as 139th most prosperous of 379 UK local authority areas, indicating that although the Borough faces significant challenges, it still performs better than many other areas in the UK when it comes to overall prosperity, which includes factors like economic quality, business environment **[See reference** 336**]**.

Projected baseline information

B.132 Basildon Local Authority area was ranked 111 out of 317 lower tier authorities in overall deprivation in the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Whether this trend will continue is uncertain.

Equalities

Current baseline information

B.133 The Equality Act 2010 identifies nine 'protected characteristics' and seeks to protect people from discrimination based on these characteristics. It presents three main duties: to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under the Act; to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it; and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The nine protected characteristics identified through the Act are:

- Age: Children (0-4), Younger people (aged 18-24), older people (aged 60 and over);
- Disability: Disabled people, people with physical and mental impairment;
- Gender reassignment;
- Marriage and civil partnership;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion or belief;
- Sex; and
- Sexual orientation.

Age

B.134 Basildon has a slightly younger demographic when compared to Essex – the median age in Basildon in 2019 was 39.3 and 42.8, respectively.

B.135 Whilst this has remained relatively constant for the past 10 years of data gathering, the Borough's age structure has been changing in line with national trends, with a decreasing proportion of young people and an increasingly ageing population. The working population is essential for economic growth, requiring adequate housing, access to jobs and businesses; yet Basildon's working population is forecast to decrease from 31.3% to 29.3% by 2043 **[See reference** 337**]**. Although the number of over 65s in Basildon is low compared to the county, projections suggest the county and Borough populations are likely to continue to age, placing greater and more complex demands upon support and care services (e.g., health, social care etc.) and may lead to changes in future housing and service provision needs. Burstead and Wickford Castledon have the highest proportion of over 65s, with nearly a quarter (over 24%) of residents falling into this age group (ONS, 2020). The wards with the highest proportion of under 25s are Vange, St Martins and Lee Chapel North, with a third (33%) of the resident population **[See reference** 338**]**.

B.136 According to MOSAIC **[See reference** 339**]** the top three most prevalent household types in Basildon are:

- M56 Solid Economy (6.6% of households):
  - Families with children, aged 26-55.
  - Renting from social landlord.
  - Household income less than £15k.
  - Lower wage service roles.
  - Relatively stable finances but small bills may be a struggle.
- H35 Primary Ambitions (4.0% of households):
  - Co-habiting couples aged 26-45 with children under 11.
  - Own (with a mortgage) their affordable homes in good suburbs which they may now be out-growing.
  - Household incomes of £40-59k.
- D17 Thriving Independence (3.8% of households):

- Well-qualified older singles and cohabitees without children, aged 35-46.
- Incomes of £30-49k, from successful professional careers.
- Living in good quality housing with large mortgages.

B.137 Vange and Lee Chapel North wards are areas with high deprivation and health inequalities. As such, their household profiles are quite different to those mentioned previously. 19.4% of households in Vange and 16.3% of households in Lee Chapel North tend to be families with children, renting their homes with incomes under £15k. Both areas also have a large proportion of cohabiting couples or singles with children, again renting with household incomes under £15k.

Disability

B.138 The 2021 Census presented figures on people with disabilities in the UK. Of Basildon Borough's population, 82.4% stated that their daily activities are 'not limited' by a long-term illness, while 10.0% are limited 'a little' and 7.6% are 'limited a lot' by illness **[See reference** 340**]**.

Marriage and civil partnership

B.139 From the 2021 census data, 35.7% of the population were married or in a registered civil partnership and 29% of the population were never marries and never in a registered civil partnership **[See reference** 341**]**.

Pregnancy and maternity

B.140 The total fertility rate (TFR) for England was 1.62 children per woman in 2021, increasing from 1.59 in 2020, an increase of 1.9%. The region with the

highest TFR was the East of England, with 1.76 births per 1,000 women, an increase from 1.69 in 2020 **[See reference** 342**]**.

B.141 In Basildon, there were a total of 2,424 births in 2021. This was the highest number in the Essex County **[See reference** 343**]**.

Ethnicity

B.142 In 2021, 87.5% of Basildon Borough's population reported as being 'White', which is higher than the England and Wales average (81.7%). 'Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African' accounted for 4.8% of the population, 'Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh' accounted for 4.3%, and mixed or multiple ethnic groups accounted for 2.6%. 0.9% of the population reported as being from any other ethnic group **[See reference** 344**]**.

B.143 In 2021, 88.2% of people in the Basildon Borough were born in the UK.

Religion and belief

B.144 In 2021, most of the Basildon Borough's population identified as Christian (46.5%). The second largest group within the Borough is 44.1% of residents who classify themselves as having no religion **[See reference** 345**]**.

Sex

B.145 Based on figures from the 2021 census, there are 96,504 females (51.4%) and 91,067 males (48.6%) **[See reference** 346**]**.

Sexual orientation and gender identity

B.146 From the 2021 census data, 91.71% of people aged 16 years and over in Basildon identified as being straight or heterosexual. 2.06% of people aged 16 years and over identified with being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other (LBG+). 6.24% of people aged 16 years and over preferred not to answer **[See reference** 347**]**.

B.147 From the 2021 census data, 94.78% of people aged 16 years and over in Basildon have a gender identity the same as their sex registered at birth. 0.37% have a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth. 4.85% did not answer **[See reference** 348**]**.

Projected baseline information

B.148 A review of the baseline information suggests that Basildon has an ageing population, growing ethnic and religious diversity, and a low mortality rate.

B.149 It is expected that the ratio of those residents over the age of 65 will increase in the future across the UK. Basildon has a relatively low old-age-dependency ratio at 27.4 compared to the national ratio of 63.5 which indicates that the number of people of state pension age per 1,000 people of working age is comparatively lower, however this number is expected to rise in line with national trends **[See reference** 349**]**. An ageing population will put additional pressure on health and social care infrastructure in the Borough.

Implications for health

B.150 Some areas of the Borough experience health challenges, with high levels of obesity and risk of associated health problems. The UK Chief Medical Officers advise that for good physical and mental health, adults should aim to

be physically active every day. Over the course of a week adults should accumulate at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity; or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity day; or even shorter durations of very vigorous intensity activity; or a combination of moderate, vigorous and very vigorous intensity activity **[See reference** 350**]**.

B.151 Similarly, open spaces and recreational facilities provide residents space in which they can undertake physical activity to the benefit of public health, including lowering the risk of specific health conditions such as depression, anxiety, cortisol, blood pressure, pre-term birth, low birthweight, and type 2 diabetes. There is generally positive evidence relating to the impacts of activities in natural environments on children's mental health and their cognitive, emotional and behavioural functioning. These health benefits are thought to arise through a range of pathways, including providing opportunities and safe spaces for physical activity, for restoration and relaxation, and for socialising with friends and family. Exposure to green and blue space is also associated with higher levels of life satisfaction. Impacts appear to differ according to socio-economic status and other demographic factors such as age or gender.

B.152 Similarly, encouraging active travel, such as walking, wheeling and cycling can have a wider range of positive implications for health, including increased physical activity and opportunities for social interaction. In addition, an increase in active travel would be associated with a decrease in vehicular transport and an associated decrease in air pollutants that can be harmful to human health.

Key sustainability issues and opportunities for the Local Plan to address them

Population

B.153 Population growth and demographic change will place additional demand on key services and facilities such as health, education and social care.

Additionally, an ageing population will place additional pressures on housing, health and social care services. Without the Local Plan it is likely that services and facilities will still be delivered. However, it is less likely that these will be in appropriate locations, or of sufficient quality and quantity to keep pace with demand arising from new residential development. The Local Plan offers an opportunity to deliver these in a coherent, sustainable manner alongside development.

Housing

B.154 Affordability of housing within the Basildon Borough is an issue, with the median property price-to-earnings ratio for Basildon Borough Council higher than the average for both the East of England and England on a national scale. The Borough's growing population will create additional demand for family homes, while relatively low levels of income will need to be considered through the provision of affordable accommodation. Basildon Borough has not delivered its annual housing target in the last three reporting years which has resulted in the Borough achieving only 41% of its expected housing delivery across the three year period, leaving a gap in the supply of much needed housing (including affordable housing) within the Borough. Without the Local Plan, the objectively assessed need for new housing and the appropriate mix of housing types in Basildon will not be delivered and the current trends will continue. The Local Plan offers the opportunity to facilitate and expedite the delivery of a variety of housing, including affordable housing and housing to meet the needs of an ageing population. The Local Plan also offers the opportunity to target residential development in areas where the barriers to housing are greatest.

Health

B.155 Given that Basildon Borough has performed poorly for some health indicators against regional and national averages, it is likely it will continue to do so without substantial intervention, particularly the Borough's high level of obesity. The Local Plan has an important role to play in encouraging active lifestyles through the provision of sufficient safe, inclusive and quality open

spaces/recreational resources and active travel routes and offers the opportunity to curb current negative trends.

Access to services and facilities

B.156 Whilst the Basildon Borough generally has good access to services and facilities, this could become more challenging as the population in the Borough continues to grow with insufficient capacity to the nearest services. As the population ages, this may also result in a larger proportion of Basildon's population not having access to key services that are only readily accessible by car. The Local Plan provides an opportunity to ensure that future developments, particularly those which will provide large numbers of jobs or key services are accessible to all.

Open spaces, sports and recreation

B.157 The Basildon Borough has a wide variety of parks and open spaces, with its neighbourhoods having access to plenty of green space; however, there has not been a notable net increase in open space provision since 2010. The Local Plan offers the opportunity to ensure that the accessibility and quality of open spaces remains high and new green and blue infrastructure is planned alongside new development.

Crime

B.158 The crime rate in the Basildon Borough is 101.69 per 1,000 population, according to Police.UK figures published in for the year ending December 2023. In the year ending June 2024, there were 10,548 incidents of crime. Although crime incidents decreased from 20,284 in 2022 to 10,548 in the year ending June 2024, the crime rate has risen by an average of 5.5% annually from 2014 to 2023. Crime in the Borough is mainly focussed on the town of Basildon, which is subsequently recorded as the most dangerous major town in Essex.

The Local Plan provides an opportunity to provide appropriate local policy response, linked to socio-economic regeneration, locating employment in areas of high deprivation, providing community services and facilities including education facilities. This should have indirect, positive effects on actual crime and fear of crime.

Education

B.159 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. The Local Plan presents an opportunity to improve the accessibility and provision of high-quality education and training facilities in the Borough. By improving levels of educational attainment there could be wider social benefits and improvements to the local economy.

Deprivation

B.160 There is a need to reduce inequality between those living in the most deprived areas of the Basildon Borough and those living in the least deprived areas of the Borough. The Local Plan presents an opportunity to close the gap between the most and least deprived areas in the Borough through spatial planning, particularly with a view to encouraging new development that will provide jobs, raise income levels, support education/skills/training, reduce crime, and barriers to housing and services.

Equalities

B.161 The Local Plan provides an opportunity to promote equality of opportunity for all the Borough's residents, including those with protected characteristics.

Economy

Economy and employment

Current baseline information

B.162 The February 2024 Regional Economic Forecast noted that the UK experienced a challenging year in 2023 due to high inflation and continued increases in interest rates, with the economy ending the year in a recession **[See reference 351]**. This was reflected in relatively weak performance across the regions and nations of the UK. Despite this, the East of England achieved 0.3% GVA growth, placing it joint-third among UK regions. The region's economy is projected to grow by 2.1% annually from 2024 to 2026, on par with the predicted average UK growth for the same period. This is anticipated to be driven by strong knowledge-based sectors such as information and communications, administrative support, and professional services **[See reference 352]**.

B.163 The main source of employment in Basildon New Town in its early development years was manufacturing. Companies wishing to redevelop or expand their manufacturing capacity were directed out of London to the new and expanding towns being built on its edge. In this way, companies such as Yardley's, Carreras, Ford Tractors, STC and Ilford Films, all became established in the New Town's northern industrial belt (A127 Corridor). With the exception of the Tractor Plant (now Case New Holland) all these major manufacturing employers have since closed, and their premises have been redeveloped. Existing major employers in the Borough include Ford (its research and development Technical Centre is located at Dunton), Selex Galileo and New Holland Agriculture. Established industrial estates are located along the A127 Corridor. Existing employment sites continue to perform well across the Borough with lower than average vacancies **[See reference** 353**]**. However, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is expected to reduce employment in this sector overall by up to 25% by 2037 (equivalent to 1,850 employees in

Basildon). Despite this, AI could create up to 25% more jobs by 2025 **[See reference** 354**]**.

B.164 The South Essex Economic Needs Assessment **[See reference** 355**]** highlights the considerable economic opportunities within South Essex, focussing on its proximity to London, Europe, its connections, labour force and land assets. The document highlights the importance of continued investment in Basildon Borough's health and technology, research and development industry and Basildon town centre. The document also stresses the need for a flexible supply of employment land and premises to meet organic growth.

B.165 The primary threats to Basildon's economy are the UK's departure from the European Union and automation. According to the Future Economic Opportunities and Challenges Study **[See reference** 356**]**, Basildon's economy could shrink as much as 2% (£83m) over a 10-year period because of Brexit.

B.166 As of March 2024, 71.7% of the population of Basildon were in employment, 4.8% were unemployed, and 18.8% of the population were economically inactive. The reported figure for those in employment for the East of England for the same period was 80.1%, and for England was 78.6% **[See reference** 357**]**.

B.167 In 2022, 70.0% of total employees were full-time in Basildon Borough, and 30.0% were part-time. Full-time employment is higher than the regional average of 68.3%, and national average of 68.8%. The proportion of part-time workers is lower than the regional average of 31.7% and national average of 31.2%.

B.168 Basildon Borough has a diverse economic profile with several key sectors contributing to local employment. The Basildon A127 Enterprise Corridor is the largest concentration of employment in Essex and one of the largest concentrations of advanced manufacturing in the South of England. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles is a significant part of the district's economy, comprising 16.7% of employee jobs. This is followed by human health and social work activities, which contributes to

14.4% of employee jobs. Both Manufacturing and Administrative and Support Service Activities contribute to the third largest proportion (10.0%) of employee jobs respectively **[See reference** 358**]**.

Table B.7: Employee jobs by industry 2022 [See reference **359**]

Employee Jobs by Industry	Basildon (%)	East of England	Great Britain (%)
Mining and Quarrying	0.0	0.0	0.2
Manufacturing	10.0	7.4	7.6
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning	0.0	0.2	0.4
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.8	0.8	0.7
Construction	7.8	6.7	4.9
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	16.7	15.5	14
Transportation and storage	5.6	5.6	5
Accommodation and food service activities	5.6	7.9	8
Information and communication	4.4	3.6	4.6
Financial and insurance activities	3.9	2.4	3.3
Real estate activities	1.7	1.9	1.9
Professional, scientific and technical, activities	5.6	8.0	9.1

Employee Jobs by Industry	Basildon (%)	East of England	Great Britain (%)
Administrative and support service activities	10.0	11.0	9
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	3.3	3.5	4.7
Education	5.6	8.7	8.6
Human health and social work activities	14.4	12.4	13.5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.9	2.2	2.4
Other service activities	1.7	1.7	2.0

B.169 Basildon Borough is within the national regeneration area of Thames Gateway. Basildon Borough is the largest employment area in Thames Gateway, outside of Canary Wharf. As such, there is a higher than average ratio of jobs per population and an increasing number of jobs. **[See reference** 360**]**. However, the number of people who are unemployed in the Borough: 4.2%, is higher than the regional average (3.5%), and national average (3.8%) **[See reference** 361**]**.

B.170 In 2022, there were 8,650 active enterprises, an increase of 3% from 2017. For 2022, 995 new enterprises registered in Basildon, a decrease of 5% from the previous year. In terms of enterprise deaths, 1,050 were registered, a similar number to the previous year. The five-year survival rate for businesses born in 2017 was 39% **[See reference** 362**]**.

B.171 In 2022, the job density in Basildon Borough was 0.86, which is higher both the regional average of 0.84, but lower than the national average of 0.87. This represents a decline from 0.73 in 2020. Job density measures the ratio of jobs to the working-age population, with a job density of 1 representing the fact that there is a single job available for every person of working age A lower

figure indicates fewer available jobs per resident. Basildon's job density is higher than that of neighbouring districts such as Thurrock, Brentwood **[See reference 363]**.

B.172 In 2023, gross weekly pay in Basildon Borough was around £693.90 which is lower than the average for the East of England of £705.70, but higher than the national average, £682.60. Workplace-based earnings are 7.5% lower than resident-based earnings, indicating that many residents, indicating that many residents commute to higher-paying jobs outside the district in areas like Chelmsford, Colchester, and London **[See reference 364]**.

B.173 A variety of programmes operate across Basildon Borough and Essex to support local businesses and promote sustainable job creation. Basildon Council has launched a new fully-funded support service, backed by regional business specialists Colbea and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), to aid local businesses for two years **[See reference** 365**]**. Additionally, South Essex Councils (SEC), a partnership of seven neighbouring councils including Basildon, has committed to collaborating on regional growth and challenges over the next 30 years. The partnership is working on 5 major programmes **[See reference** 366**]**:

- **Thames Freeport** – local authorities are partners of Thames Freeport, a special economic zone that connects Ford's engine plant in Dagenham to the Thurrock ports at London Gateway and Tilbury, offering real potential for enormous growth across south Essex;
- **South Essex Estuary (SEE) Park** – a single area of high-quality green space, within 300 metres of every door and workspace in the region, connected by cycleways and a 70km coastal path from Tilbury Fort to Shoeburyness;
- **new technical university** – a business-led proposal that could transform higher education by offering a wide range of work-based learning courses, including degree apprenticeships, both for young people and current employees who wish to learn new skills;
- **infrastructure and housing** – working with Homes England and local housing associations to increase amount of affordable housing available;

- **superfast digital connectivity** – every household, business and community facility should have superfast digital connectivity by the year 2025.

B.174 Between 2022 and 2023, the Basildon Borough experienced a net loss of 768.4 m² in employment floorspace, with a gain of 15,773.3 m² offset by a loss of 16,541.7 m², as detailed in **Table B.8 [See reference 367]**. The decline in employment floorspace is primarily attributed to the reduction of employment space at Gilbarco Ltd.

Table B.8: Net Employment Provision in 2022/23 [See reference 368]

Use Class	Total Floorspace Gain (m²)	Total Floorspace Loss (m²)	Net Employment Floorspace 2022/23
B2 General Industrial	553.5	180	373.5
B8 Storage or distribution	5,039.9	2,041.6	2,998.3
E and Flexible use	717.9	1802.1	7,659.9
Other Use (including F.1 and F.2)	717.9	0	717.9
Mixed (B1/B2/B8)	0	12,518	-12,518
Total	15,773.3	16,541.7	-768.4

Projected baseline information

B.175 The full economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will not be known for some time. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that office-based staff will work remotely/at home more frequently; consequently, businesses are likely to reduce their office space. Rising heating costs have the potential to encourage people back into the office however it is uncertain whether attendance will return to pre-pandemic levels.

Town centres and retail

Current baseline information

9.10 The hierarchy of centres for Basildon Borough is identified as follows:

- Regional town centres: Basildon;
- Town centres: Billericay, Laindon, Pitsea and Wickford; and,
- Local centres: 39 local centres.

B.176 Basildon Town Centre has a good diversity of retail uses, with a mixed retail offer oriented towards comparison goods. While retail diversity is strong, the Town Centre offers very limited leisure and evening economy options (the Towngate Theatre is the only cultural venue within the Town Centre and there is a noticeable absence of family dining options). Since 2014, there has been a noticeable decline in the number of vacant units around Town Square and the Eastgate shopping centre. However, there are some parts of the centre, most noticeably East Walk, where the vacancy rate appears to have increased. The latest official record points towards 45 vacant units (18.4%) in Basildon Town Centre **[See reference** 369**]**. Vacant outlets can point to a variety of reasons including poor maintenance, inactive marketing or simply because the units are unsuited to modern retailing requirements. National decisions to close stores (Marks and Spencer), move out of town (Clarks) and retailers entering

administration (Toys R Us and Maplin) have also recently impacted on Basildon's range of retailers in a short space of time.

B.177 Pedestrian flows in the town centre are good, and it is clear the centre is well-supported, reflected in comprehensive regeneration plans underway within Basildon Town centre. The pedestrianised nature of the town centre is a positive asset to the centre, as is the market and presence of civic facilities. A new vision for Basildon town centre has recently been adopted by the council. The Vision is supported by a Delivery Plan which sets out the actions and next steps in the short, medium and long-term, setting out the strategic direction and ambitions for Basildon Town Centre over the next 10 years. This would involve new buildings being 'greener', as well as taking advantage of Basildon's existing transport links, thus encouraging good growth **[See reference** 370**]**.

B.178 Billericay is a smaller town which sits to the north-west of the Borough. It has a focus on high-end national retailer and leisure operators and appears to cater for a relatively affluent catchment area. While there are a range of day to day services to meet many residents' local needs, the fact that much of the town centre is given over to more niche uses does not mean that expenditure loss to large surrounding centres is inevitable. The vacancy rates here are extremely low, and the centre appears well supported throughout the length of the linear High Street. Overall, the centre is performing well and does not present any significant areas of concern.

B.179 Laindon was a purpose-built district centre on the western side of Basildon urban area, in need of regeneration. Planning permission exists for the redevelopment of the centre. The former shopping centre has been demolished.

B.180 Pitsea Town Centre lies on the eastern side of Basildon urban area, at the intersection of several major intra and inter-urban roads. The centre is dominated by the presence of a Tesco Extra supermarket – the largest supermarket in the Borough and one of the 20 largest supermarkets in the county. A significant programme of regeneration has recently been completed in the 'traditional' element of the town centre. At present, the retail offer in the Town is skewed towards convenience good retailing as well as meeting some

day-to-day comparison and service needs. There are many take-away/fast food restaurants in the centre, which limits the diversity of uses and serves to bring the overall feel of the centre somewhat downmarket. The proportion of vacant property stands at 1.8% which is significantly lower than the current UK average of 12.3%.

B.181 Wickford Town Centre, in the north-east of the Borough, has also been subject to several recent regeneration initiatives. The retail offer in the town centre is particularly limited. There are several independent retailers and a good range of service providers such as banks and chemists. Leisure options are limited to a small number of restaurants and take away establishments, and the town centre is unlikely to have a significant evening economy. The proportion of vacant properties at 5% is lower than the national average. Pedestrian flows are good as the town centre is linear in shape although the northern section of the town centre has less pedestrian footfall than the south.

Projected baseline information

B.182 The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted the health of town centres, exacerbating long-term trends of increased empty retail units and reduced footfall. However, long-term impacts following the pandemic are uncertain. In addition, increases in online retailing have also impacted high-street retailing in the Borough. However, there is potential for small retailers to expand their existing high street presence by creating a strong online retail presence. There is also likely to be significant impact on the local economy due to the cost of living crisis experienced across the UK.

Implications for health

B.183 Employment and job security influence mental health and levels of stress. Income can also influence physical health, in terms of the quality and location of housing that people can afford. A strong local economy will help

create more job opportunities, contribute to greater job stability and raise the quality of life for local people, resulting in improved health outcomes.

Key sustainability issues and opportunities for the Local Plan to address them

Economy and employment

B.184 Basildon Borough's local economy is largely dependent on particular industries such as manufacturing and logistics. The borough's economic structure could therefore benefit from encouraging further diversity of business. However, in order to diversify the economy further, there will be a need to increase the take up rate of further education courses and increase the skills base of the local labour market, to ensure local business sectors can diversify, thus helping to improve the long term prosperity of residents. There is also a common requirement to make provisions for jobs growth in line with increases to housing provision, whilst having regard to biodiversity and the wider environment. The Local Plan presents an opportunity to improve the accessibility and provision of high-quality education and training facilities in the Borough to diversify the local workforce and economy. The Local Plan also allows for the delivery of businesses and employment opportunities in strategic areas across the Borough in a coherent and sustainable manner.

Retail and commercial leisure facilities

B.185 There is a need to enhance the viability of town centres, whilst meeting various development needs and regeneration aspirations within social and environmental constraints. This is particularly important considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Local Plan presents an opportunity to help sustain the vitality of the town centres by safeguarding and providing retail and commercial land and floorspace, where demand for this exists, and by responding flexibly to changes in consumer behaviour.

Historic environment

Historic environment

Current baseline information

B.186 Basildon Borough Historic Environment Characterisation Project reports on the Borough's well-preserved historic landscape character which contains a rich resource of historic features of high sensitivity **[See reference** 371**]**. There are 13 Historic Environment Character Areas in the Borough. Much of the open countryside contains pre 18th century features, including Anglo-Saxon or medieval field patterns, historic churches and other listed buildings.

B.187 As of 2023, there are 129 Listed Buildings: 2 Grade I, 12 Grade II* and 112 Grade II. Additionally, there are 3 Scheduled Monuments and 4 Conservation Areas **[See reference** 372**]**. The greatest concentration of listed buildings is in Billericay High Street, which is also a Conservation Area **[See reference** 373**]**. **Figure 3.7** at the end of this Chapter illustrates the key historic assets in the Borough.

B.188 There are four Conservation Areas; all of which are located entirely or in part in the north west of the Borough:

- Billericay;
- Great Burstead;
- Little Burstead; and
- Noak Bridge.

B.189 The Billericay Conservation Area **[See reference** 374**]** is characterised by a collection of buildings dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries, modest in scale and rarely above two storeys in height, many of which have been used as

High Street shops. The Conservation Area Appraisal labels the High Street in the Billericay Conservation Area as fragile with several derelict buildings in the Conservation Area and the mid twentieth century rows of shops have diluted the character of the town centre visually.

B.190 The focal point of the Great Burstead Conservation Area **[See reference** 375**]** is the Church owing to its height, mass, form and materials. The rest of the Conservation Area is more mixed; the older houses providing a link with the village's history which has been eroded to some extent by infill and rebuilding in 'modern' styles. The Conservation Area Appraisal labels the Conservation Area as fragile and under threat, being very small and surrounded by modern suburbia.

B.191 Most buildings in Little Burstead Conservation Area **[See reference** 376**]** are dwelling houses, ranging from semi-detached cottages to large high-status buildings, many of which have extensions and converted outbuildings. Although these are usually well executed in appropriate materials, a number have been positioned where they are very prominent when viewed from the road increasing the risk of suburban creep in the Conservation Area.

B.192 The Noak Bridge Conservation Area **[See reference** 377**]** is an unusual and special place, with a unique character which has made it very popular with residents. Noak Bridge is a residential suburb of Basildon New Town. There are no listed buildings, scheduled areas, other heritage assets or known archaeological sites in Noak Bridge. The total enclosure of Noak Bridge is important to preserving its separate identity and attractive setting.

B.193 The Borough's archaeological heritage is a finite and fragile resource and should be protected and where possible enhanced. There are over 500 archaeological records in the Borough dating from as early as the Palaeolithic Period (500,000-10,000 BC) to the Post-Medieval Period (1538-1900), with reasonably significant concentrations of Roman and Medieval find spots in Billericay and Wickford **[See reference** 378**]**.

Projected baseline information

B.194 The historic environment can be considered a finite resource. It cannot be replaced and is susceptible to decline over time as historic features experience degradation and decay. However, cultural heritage can evolve and change, and features which are not currently considered a valued part of the historic environment may become so in the future, either due to their uniqueness, past use, or historic or cultural significance.

B.195 At local level, new developments, infrastructure and environmental pressures, such as extreme weather and flooding, present the greatest risk to cultural heritage assets.

B.196 Historic England has a Heritage at Risk Register **[See reference 379]** which includes historic buildings, listed buildings, sites and Conservation Areas at risk of being lost through neglect, deterioration or decay. The register aims to highlight those places and buildings in greatest need of repair. As of 2023, Basildon does not have any heritage registered as at risk however this is potentially subject to change.

Implications for health

B.197 Historic England explored the links between the historic environment and health in Wellbeing and the Historic Environment **[See reference** 380**]**. This identified mental and social wellbeing benefits of the historic environment, including opportunities to meet people and expand knowledge through volunteering or visiting historic sites and giving people a sense of place, community and belonging.

Key sustainability issues and opportunities for the Local Plan to address them

B.198 There are many designated and undesignated heritage assets and areas of historical and cultural interest in the Basildon Borough that could be adversely affected by climate change and poorly located or designed development. While several of the historic assets in the Borough, for example Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments, will continue to be protected by statutory designations, without the Local Plan it is possible that these, and undesignated assets, will be adversely affected by inappropriate development. The Local Plan provides an opportunity to protect these assets (including their settings) from inappropriate development, as well as enhancing the historic environment and improving accessibility and interpretation of distinctive features of local heritage.

Landscape

Landscape

Current baseline information

B.199 The Basildon Borough Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study **[See reference** 381**]** concludes that much of the Borough's topography is not well-suited to accommodating development as a large proportion of the Green Belt areas are either flat estuary marshes, lower valley slopes of the River Crouch or ridges and prominent slopes on valley sides with limited enclosure, such as the Langdon Hills. The estuary marshland and restored landfill areas in the south of the Borough and the Upper Crouch Valley are open landscapes with little mature vegetation to provide enclosure and screening of potential development sites.

B.200 The north-west of the Borough around Billericay and the south-west in the Langdon Hills area, have some substantial areas of mature vegetation and woodland blocks which create a more enclosed landscape which could assist in screening new development. Much of the landscape in the Borough is of medium scale and complexity which is generally considered to be of medium sensitivity. Smaller scale and more complex areas are typically on the edges of settlements and historic areas, such as around parts of Billericay and in the Langdon Hills.

B.201 A total of 6,950ha of Basildon Borough is designated as Green Belt. This represents approximately 63% of the total area of the Borough. The Borough boundary is generally drawn tightly around the existing urban edges of the Borough's settlements. Notable land uses within the Green Belt include large areas of marshland flowing into the Thames estuary, country parks and agricultural fields punctuated by small villages and 'plotlands' development. The plotlands were originally small plots of land sold in the first half of the 20th century to people who built weekend cottages, holiday bungalows or smallholdings, often to escape London. Those that remain represent the largest areas of development within the Borough's Green Belt.

B.202 Development within the Borough is well concentrated in the three main settlements (Basildon, Billericay and Wickford) and there is currently in most locations a clear sense of separation between these settlements. However, the plotlands to the north, north east and east of Basildon and south and west of Wickford do blur the lines between the urban areas and open countryside in places. Furthermore, the distance between some settlements is small (e.g., 1km between Wickford and Basildon) and the potential for merging/coalescence is high if further development takes place.

Projected baseline information

B.203 The National Character Map defines Basildon Borough as lying within National Character Areas 111 – Northern Thames Basin and Area 81 – Greater Thames Estuary **[See reference** 382**]**. Within the **Greater Thames Estuary**

NCA, there are several drivers for change that will put pressure on the flat estuary landscape. These include:

- New industrial complexes and major transport links;
- Housing provision urban expansion within the main settlements;
- Increased tourism and recreation-related uses of the Estuaries, such as nature parks, boating, water and jet skiing, new marinas, which may increase visitor pressure and reduce the feeling of remoteness and wilderness in some areas;
- Sea level rise is likely to result in significant losses of salt marsh and other habitats (including sand dunes, coastal vegetated shingle and mudflats) through coastal squeeze, with increased pressure on coastal defence structures due to reduced wave attenuation by the salt marsh and pressure on active dynamic coastal processes;
- A substantial alteration of estuarine morphology may occur due to changes in sedimentary processes, with extensive mudflats likely to become sandier, affecting composition of bird species, changes in community composition of estuarine habitats due to increased submergence levels and a continuing and potentially accelerating reduction in sediment supply to recharge shingle beach systems;
- Increased sedimentation and barrier breaches would result in the loss of saline lagoons. Increased saline intrusion would potentially result in a significant alteration to, and the loss of, other species and habitats, including a reduction in quality of coastal arable farmland;
- Likely impacts of climate change on grazing marsh habitat include the loss of species due to saline intrusion, drying out in summer, and unpredictable inundation due to wetter winters and more frequent storm events with increased silt loading and loss of breeding habitat for wetland birds; and,
- A change in the arable landscape may also occur, with the appearance of species and crops adapted to new climatic conditions and a longer growing season potentially leading to double cropping.

B.204 Within the **Northern Thames Basin NCA**, drivers for change include:

- Continued urban expansion of settlements putting pressure on their landscape setting;
- Provision of new open space to improve health and wellbeing, which could lead to habitat fragmentation and an altered landscape character;
- Increased development of infrastructure (transport, logistics and industrial);
- Continued demand for minerals across South Essex;
- Climate change will lead to increased wind erosion in hotter and drier periods and water erosion in the wetter, colder periods;
- Loss of brownfield sites in developed areas putting pressure on invertebrate habitats; and
- Decreased water availability with potential loss of specific drought intolerant species and water quality of water bodies.

B.205 Maintaining the rural landscape and natural landforms will be dependent on being able to preserve and conserve ancient woodlands, unimproved grasslands, protected lanes, commons and hedge-rowed field patterns, as well as the ridges and hilltops from inappropriately located or designed development, changing agricultural practices and seasonal climate change. The urban landscapes can be conserved by maintaining green spaces, landscaping and trees and implementing good design practices in new developments.

Implications for health

B.206 The landscape can benefit mental health and wellbeing in providing a pleasant setting and identifying and enhancing local landscape contributes to sense of place and belonging. Sensitive landscape management can also improve social and physical health by encouraging physical recreation, including providing a pleasant environment for activities such as walking and cycling, providing good public access links and helping people to feel safe and confident in navigating landscapes.

Key sustainability issues and opportunities for the Local Plan to address them

B.207 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. The Local Plan provides an opportunity to help to protect and enhance such areas. It will be better placed to do so if it is able to draw on up to date evidence on landscape character and sensitivity.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity

Current baseline information

B.208 In a relatively urbanised area such as Basildon Borough, the retention of natural features is especially important to maintain a balanced environment. However, no green infrastructure was secured in the Borough through developer contributions for the monitoring period 2020/21 **[See reference** 383**]**.

B.209 Whilst there are no internationally or European protected wildlife sites in the Borough, there are several sites that fall within 5km. These are:

- The **Crouch and Roach Estuaries** (designated as a Ramsar, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SPA), recognising the importance of the estuarine and saltmarsh habitats and internationally important populations of overwintering waterfowl occurring at the estuaries).

- **Benfleet and Southend Marshes** (designated as a SPA and Ramsar site recognising the importance of the saltmarsh, mudflat and grassland habitats and internationally important numbers of wintering wildfowl and waders occurring at the marshes).
- The **Thames Estuary and Marshes** (designated as a SPA and Ramsar site recognising the importance of the estuarine, saltmarsh and grazing marsh habitats and internationally important assemblages of wintering and breeding waterfowl occurring at the marshes).

B.210 The Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment will consider the potential impacts of development on each of these sites (as well as other sites within the wider vicinity of the Borough boundary).

B.211 The Borough is an important location for various nationally and locally important habitats and species. There are six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the borough. They form part of the national network, representing the diversity of wildlife, range of habitats and geological and physiographical features, which occur naturally in England. SSSIs have an invaluable role in scientific research and education, as well as supporting habitats and populations of plants and animals that are often under threat in the wider countryside.

B.212 In comparison with 77.3% regionally, and 75.4% nationally, 100% of the Borough's SSSIs are in "favourable" or "recovering" condition **[See reference** 384**]**. Grazing methods, scrub control, ditch management, water level management, personal watercraft activity and landfill operations are regarded as significant threats to SSSIs unit condition. However, Basildon is a relatively urbanised borough which is likely to give rise to recreational pressure on wildlife sites with public access, including SSSIs.

B.213 There are no National Nature Reserves in the Borough.

B.214 According to the Basildon Local Wildlife Sites Review **[See reference** 385**]**, there are 49 Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) with a total area of 888.1ha.

B.215 Since 2009, four new sites totalling 35.8ha have been added:

- Nevendon Washland (19.7ha).
- Little Burstead Churchyard (0.4ha).
- Langdon Lake and Meadows (13.6ha).
- Staneway Verge and Woodland (2.1ha).

B.216 Three existing LoWS have been expanded by a total of 65.2ha, whilst seven sites have been reduced in size by a total of 20.6ha. Nine sites with a total area of 250.4ha have been removed. The percentage of the Borough now covered by a Local Wildlife Site is 8.1%. Proactive management and monitoring of LoWS is essential to prevent adverse change brought about by actions such as agricultural practices, inappropriate management, road-widening and recreational activities.

B.217 There are 19 Ancient Woodlands within the Borough, covering an area of 248.91ha **[See reference** 386**]**. These habitats are of particular importance, in that they have evolved unique characteristics and qualities through the centuries and, once destroyed, are irreplaceable. Those remaining should be protected and enhanced for historic and aesthetic value, for their contribution to wildlife, species diversity and for informal recreation. **Figure 3.8** at the end of this chapter illustrates the key nature conservation designations in the Borough.

B.218 Endangered species and habitats are protected through the compilation and delivery of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) at national, regional and local levels. Priority Habitats and Species are regarded as the most important habitats and species that need to be conserved across the country. In 2009 the map of UK BAP Priority Habitats across the Borough was brought up to date. A total of 113 were recorded, covering some 868ha, 82% of which is protected as LoWs and 16% SSSI **[See reference** 387**]**.

Projected baseline information

B.219 At UK level, the publication of the State of Nature Report **[See reference** 388**]** provides an overview of the health of the country's wildlife and how human impacts are driving sweeping changes in the UK. It looks back over 50 years of monitoring to see how nature has changed since the 1970s, averaging a 13% decline in the average abundance of wildlife in the UK since the 1970s, with key drivers for change being agricultural productivity, climate change and increasing average temperatures, urbanisation and hydrological changes. The report finds that on average, metrics suggest that decline in species abundance and distribution of species has continued in the UK throughout the most recent decade. These trends are likely to continue in the absence of concerted action.

Implications for health

B.220 A strong link exists between access to nature and biodiversity and associated health and societal benefits. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of safe, accessible and well-connected green and blue spaces for improving quality of life has also never been more pertinent.

B.221 According to the recently published World Health Organisation report 'Nature, Biodiversity and Health: An Overview of Interconnections' **[See reference** 389**]** increased exposure to nature has been associated with a lower risk of specific health conditions including depression, anxiety, cortisol, blood pressure, pre-term birth, low birthweight, type 2 diabetes, and reduced risk of death from all causes. There is generally positive evidence relating to the impacts of activities in natural environments on children's mental health and their cognitive, emotional and behavioural functioning. These health benefits are thought to arise through a range of pathways, including providing opportunities and safe spaces for physical activity, for restoration and relaxation, and for socialising with friends and family. Exposure to green and blue space is also associated with higher levels of life satisfaction. Impacts appear to differ according to socio-economic status and other demographic factors such as age or gender. The '15 minute neighbourhood' concept is encouraged as part of

Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework. This seeks to ensure that everyone has access to good quality natural greenspace within 15 minutes walking distance from their homes, in line with the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards and Green Flag Criteria.

Key sustainability issues and opportunities for the Local Plan to address them

B.222 The Basildon Borough contains many areas of high ecological value, including sites of national importance. There is a need for continued preservation and long-term management of these areas in the Borough. Local Wildlife Sites in the Borough are being negatively affected by actions such as agricultural practices, inappropriate management, road widening, and recreational activities. If this continues, it could affect their wildlife value and contribution they make to biodiversity, landscapes and the natural environment. Even without the Local Plan, some important habitats and biodiversity sites will continue to receive statutory protection. However, the Local Plan presents an opportunity to manage the sensitivities of the sites and biodiversity networks, for example by locating development away from the most sensitive locations, provide for new green and blue infrastructure, and ensure that growth does not adversely affect their current condition but where possible contributes to their improvement.

Air, land and water quality

Soils and geology

Current baseline information

B.223 Roughly two thirds of Basildon Borough is rural with large areas of open farmland and scattered rural developments **[See reference** 390**]**. The most versatile and most productive agricultural land in the country is classified as Grade 1, 2 and 3a. Basildon Borough does not have any Grade 1 or 2 land unlike neighbouring boroughs/districts. Most of the land in the Borough is classified as Grade 3. Grade 3 land is subdivided into 3a, which is considered as 'best and most versatile' and 3b, which is not, indicating that some parts of the Borough could contain high quality agricultural land, although this is not defined in Basildon Borough.

B.224 In the monitoring period 2022/23, 86.2% of dwelling completions in the Borough were on brownfield sites, marking a 23.7% increase from the monitoring period 2021/22. Greenfield completions dropped to 13.8%, a 54.4% decrease from the previous year **[See reference** 391**]**.

B.225 Essex has extensive deposits of sand and gravel, with localised deposits of silica sand, chalk, brickearth and brick clay. Within Essex there are 20 permitted sand and gravel sites, one silica sand site, two brick clay sites, and one chalk site **[See reference** 392**]**. In respect of underlying minerals, the Borough has 23 Sand and Gravel Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs), the main clusters of which are located around the centre and south of Billericay and east and south of Wickford **[See reference** 393**]**. Smaller clusters are dotted within the countryside between the two settlements and to the west and south of Basildon.

B.226 The development of Previously Developed Land (PDL) in Basildon Borough is focused on sites in town centres or in existing housing estates that are subject to wider regeneration schemes. Basildon's New Town's comprehensive development legacy has, to some extent, meant that there has been a relatively small supply of PDL in the Borough, compared to more industrialised areas. The Borough's Brownfield Land Register states that there are a total of 118 sites within the Basildon Borough that have been identified as Brownfield land. Of these sites, 39 are either built out or no longer considered available or suitable, however they remain on the register for historical reasons and have not been deleted. This leaves 79 sites in the Brownfield Land Register that have commenced or could still be built out. These have the capacity to accommodate a minimum of 5,748 dwellings and a maximum of 5,912 new dwellings **[See reference** 394**]**.

Projected baseline information

B.227 Soil is a finite natural resource which regenerates only over extremely long geological timescales and provides many essential services including food production, water management and support for valuable biodiversity and ecosystems. It also plays a role in preventing climate change as a larger storer of carbon.

B.228 Soils in England have degraded significantly over the last two decades due to intensive agricultural production and industrial pollution and continue to face the following threats:

- Soil erosion by wind and rain, affects the productivity of soils as well as water quality and aquatic ecosystems;
- Compaction of soil, reduces agricultural productivity and water infiltration, and increased flood risk through higher levels of runoff; and
- Organic matter decline affects the supply of nutrients in soil moisture (particularly during summer and autumn months) in the future, which is likely to affect the natural environment and landscape.

Waste

Current baseline information

B.229 In Basildon Borough, Basildon Borough Council is the authority responsible for waste collection while Essex County Council is responsible for waste disposal.

B.230 Essex County and Southend-on-Sea have adopted a waste plan to cover that area. The Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan (2017 – 2032) **[See reference 395]** stipulates that there is a total of 186 waste management facilities across the plan area, with an estimated capacity of 22,602,560 tonnes. This includes 116 waste transfer facilities, with an estimated capacity of 1,776,928 tonnes, as well as 12 disposal landfills, which have a estimated capacity of 17,964,802 tonnes. Local Authority Collected Waste, making up approximately 20% of the total amount of waste created in the Plan area, is managed through a network of sites which comprises of the Mechanical Biological Treatment Facility at Tovi EcoPark, a network of Recycling Centres for Household Waste and six supporting municipal waste transfer stations, which includes IWMF Tovi EcoPark (Courtauld Road) in Basildon **[See reference 396]**.

B.231 Essex's landfill sites are rapidly filling up and will continue to be a source of local greenhouse gas emissions for many years to come. There has been a steady fall in the amount of waste being collected per head in the Borough, which can be partially attributed to the increase in the availability of doorstep recycling schemes to Borough households, which have encouraged residents to separate and recycle elements of their general domestic waste. In Basildon Borough, 75,146 tonnes of household waste was recorded in 2022-23 – down from 83,707 tonnes in 2021-22. Of the household waste collected in 2022-23, 32,352 tonnes were sent for reuse, recycling or composting – meaning the area had a recycling rate of 43.1%. This is a decrease of 2.1% from the previous year, and is slightly lower than the national rate of 43.4% **[See reference 397]**.

The council is calling on residents to help increase this to at least 55% by 2025 **[See reference** 398**]**.

Projected baseline information

B.232 In terms of how waste arisings are managed, recent trends are predicted to continue; with increases in total waste collected. Recycling trends since 2010/2011 suggest the recycling rates will continue to increase. These projections are also highly dependent on other variables, including population growth, implementation of large regeneration and infrastructure projects, and the amount of waste that is imported from outside the Borough.

Water

Current baseline information

B.233 The Water Cycle Study for South Essex **[See reference** 399**]**, conducted in 2011, revealed that 18% of surface waters in the Anglian River Basin District achieved a minimum of 'Good' status. The majority of the remaining 82% (681 water bodies) failed to achieve 'Good' status due to high phosphate levels. With regards to groundwater bodies 65% achieved 'Good' status with the remainder being rated as 'Poor'.

B.234 The Borough lies within the Essex South Management Catchment, which contains three main water bodies categorised as rivers, canals and surface water transfers. In terms of water quality, the three water bodies in Essex South achieved moderate ecological water quality and failed to achieve good chemical water quality status **[See reference** 400**]**. Four sectors were identified as the principal reasons for not achieving good status: the water industry; agriculture and rural land management; local and central government; and industry **[See reference** 401**]**.

B.235 Most of the Borough's water supply is provided by Essex and Suffolk Water from its Hanningfield Reservoir, 3 miles north of the Borough. A small proportion of the water supply for Billericay comes directly from Abberton Reservoir, near Colchester. In the hillier parts of the Borough in Langdon Hills and Billericay, smaller reservoirs and/ or water towers are also required to maintain water pressure and distribute a constant supply to customers. To cope with increasing demands for water supplies, due to population growth and development targets, Abberton Reservoir was expanded. A chalk aquifer underneath Billericay is designated as a Groundwater Vulnerability Area. These are protected by the Environment Agency through the planning and environmental consent systems to safeguard against excessive pollution, abstraction, or interference. This aquifer is not used for domestic water supplies as it is regarded as having been over-abstracted.

B.236 Water consumption rates per household are still mainly composed of flushing toilets, washing clothes or taking a bath or shower. Water consumption has hardly altered since 2001, despite water saving measures being promoted and more water efficient appliances available from manufacturers.

B.237 The assessment of wastewater transfer and treatment capacity identified that Wickford and Basildon have no capacity to accept and treat additional flows, but Billericay has within the existing discharge consent capacity for the level of growth proposed. While some of the proposed development areas could not support the levels of growth proposed at the current time, with the provision of additional infrastructure it may be possible to support new development **[See reference** 402**]**.

Projected baseline information

B.238 Under predicted climate change scenarios, more frequent drought conditions are expected in the East of England, along with increased demands on water resources. Future developments will create additional demand for water abstraction from surface and groundwater sources in the Basildon Borough. At a high level, it is broadly assumed that the quality of water bodies will improve in line with Water Framework Directive objectives. However, water

quality is influenced by a wide range of internal and external factors, including climate change, geology and soils, human consumption and population change, and pollution from human activities such as industry, agriculture, contaminated runoff from roads and other built surfaces, combined sewer overflows, and nutrient enrichment from treated wastewater. Future development, particularly in areas close to water bodies, may therefore hamper efforts to improve water quality.

Air and noise pollution

Current baseline information

B.239 Human health, quality of life and the environment can all be negatively affected by air and noise pollution. Even though there has not been the need to establish any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the Borough, air quality is closely monitored **[See reference** 403**]**.

B.240 The following actions have been taken in the Basildon Borough to improve air quality **[See reference** 404**]**:

- **A127 speed limit reduction:** the reduction in speed limit from 70mph to 50mph is expected to reduce nitrogen dioxide on the A127 to safe levels and reduce personal injury collisions on this stretch of the road.
- **A127 junction improvements:** potential junction improvement options on the A127 are being explored including at the Fortune of War junction. Emerging schemes would seek to have a positive impact on air quality in Basildon by reducing congestion.
- **Relocation of pedestrian/cyclist crossings in East Mayne:** relocation of the existing pedestrian and cycle route in East Mayne away from the central reservation will reduce people's exposure to air pollution in the central reservation of the worst affected area.
- **Basildon Integrated Transport Package:** a package of transport improvements was developed to support growth and regeneration in

Basildon, reduce congestion, encourage increased use of sustainable transport and improve air quality.

- **Electric vehicle charging points**: Basildon Borough Council received Government funding to install additional electric vehicle charging facilities across Basildon to support the uptake of electric vehicles. Several rapid and fast electric vehicle chargers have now been installed in car parks across the borough, including some specifically for use by taxis and private hire vehicles. Basildon now has more electric vehicle charging points than any other area in Essex and is within the top 40% in the country.
- **Buses**: government funding was secured to help reduce emissions from buses along the A127 corridor. Bus companies are using the funding to upgrade their vehicles.
- **E-scooter trial:** Basildon Borough is among the initial areas in Essex with a pilot electric scooter hire scheme.
- **Cycle facilities**: cycle facilities along Upper Mayne and Cranes Farm Road were upgraded in 2019 as part of a Defra-funded scheme, linking key commercial and recreational locations. Further route improvements have also been made, connecting residential areas and schools to the west, as far as Laindon link, as part of the Basildon Flagship Cycle Route.

B.241 The greatest cause for complaint in the Borough with regards to excessive noise is that more commonly associated with domestic sources (e.g., barking dogs) rather than industry or commerce. Noise arising from road traffic, aircraft noise and construction work do not represent significant reported local problems.

B.242 Figure 3.9 at the end of this chapter illustrates the latest recorded background concentration of levels of Nox and PM10 across the Borough.

Projected baseline information

B.243 Whilst there are currently no AQMAs declared by Basildon Borough Council, there is a possibility that air quality may worsen in the long-term because of climate change, due to a greater likelihood of prolonged periods of still, dry days, and to-date this relationship has been difficult to predict. This will need to be considered in the potential development of air quality action plans and monitoring regimes, as will the effects of major infrastructure developments.

Implications for health

B.244 Air pollution is associated with several adverse health impacts and is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society such as children, the elderly, and those with existing heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation between poor air quality areas and less affluent areas.

B.245 Essex is one of the driest areas of the country and thus faces ongoing water resource challenges, growing demand, and uncertainty from climate change. In addition, poor water quality can increase the risk of water-borne disease.

Key sustainability issues and opportunities for the Local Plan to address them

Soils and geology

B.246 The amount of housing and economic development needed in the Borough will require significant amounts of mineral resources and greenfield land. Without the Local Plan it is possible that development could result in

unnecessary sterilisation of mineral and agricultural resources thereby preventing their use for future generations. There is therefore a need in Basildon to minimise the amount of development located on higher quality agricultural land and on important mineral reserves. In the absence of the Local Plan, the NPPF would apply. This supports the reuse of brownfield land, but the Local Plan provides an opportunity to strengthen this approach to ensure these natural assets are not lost or compromised by prioritising brownfield sites and lower quality agricultural land for development.

Waste

B.247 Essex's landfill sites are rapidly filling up and will continue to be a source of local greenhouse gas emissions for many years to come. However, there has been a steady fall in the amount of waste being collected per head in the Borough, which can be partially attributed to the increase in the availability of doorstep recycling schemes to Borough households. The National Planning Policy for Waste **[See reference 405],** and the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex **[See reference** 406**]**, would apply which support driving waste management up the waste hierarchy. However, the Local Plan provides an opportunity to:

- Require developments to use locally sourced, reclaimed, recycled or low environmental impact products in design and construction;
- Provide adequate space in new developments for waste facilities capable of accommodating general waste, recyclable waste and compostable waste;
- Ensure site allocations do not compromise the operation of nearby waste management facilities; and
- Ensure sufficient land is available in appropriate locations for new waste management facilities.

Water

B.248 The Borough contains waterbodies of poorer water quality which do not meet 'Good' status. Pollution sources responsible for this include transport drainage and wastewater discharges. The East of England is predicted to face a gap between supply and demand of up to 750 mega litres a day (ML/d) if the region carries managing water resources in the same way – the equivalent of 40 Olympic sized swimming pools daily **[See reference** 407**].**

B.249 Without the Local Plan, it is possible that unplanned development could be in areas that could lead to further water quality issues and risks to the natural environment. However, existing safeguards, such as the Water Framework Regulations, would help to reduce the potential for this to occur. The Local Plan provides an opportunity to ensure that development is located and designed to consider the sensitivity of the water environment and water-dependent protected sites, to plan for adequate wastewater infrastructure, to incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), and to promote water efficiency and grey water recycling.

Air and noise

B.250 Air pollution associated with Basildon's road network has exceed statutory NO_2 levels and needs active monitoring and management. Whilst noise complaints in the Borough are more commonly associated with domestic noise, Building Regulations aim to manage the impact of noise from new domestic and industrial developments through good design. Furthermore, the increasing prevalence of sustainability standards such as BREEAM will also have a positive contribution. Development of an up to date local planning framework will ensure that Local Plan and development management policies seek to address the current sustainability issues (including noise). In the absence of the Local Plan, the policies in the NPPF and the Clean Air Strategy **[See reference 408]** would apply which support measures to improve air quality through traffic and travel management; to develop and enhance green infrastructure; and to direct new development to sustainable locations which

limits the need to travel and offer a choice of transport modes. However, without targeted action at a local level, it is anticipated that traffic congestion will continue to increase with the rising population and car dependency may continue to be high. The Local Plan provides an opportunity to contribute to improved air quality in the Borough through:

- Locating development sustainably (with good access to services and sustainable transport modes);
- Supporting sustainable travel choices (e.g., requiring sustainable modes to be available on occupation of new homes and workplaces);
- Supporting the uptake of electric vehicles and e-bikes through the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- Limiting through traffic through new communities and construction sites.
- Specifying a requirement for applications for major development to include an assessment of their air quality impacts as part of their Transport Assessments/Statements; and
- Specifying a requirement for major developments which may impact on areas at risk of exceeding EU limit values to provide for ongoing air quality monitoring that confirms the effectiveness of proposed mitigation of the traffic and air quality impacts of development.

Basildon IIA and HRA of Local Plan
Basildon Borough Council

LUC

Figure B.3a: Flood risk

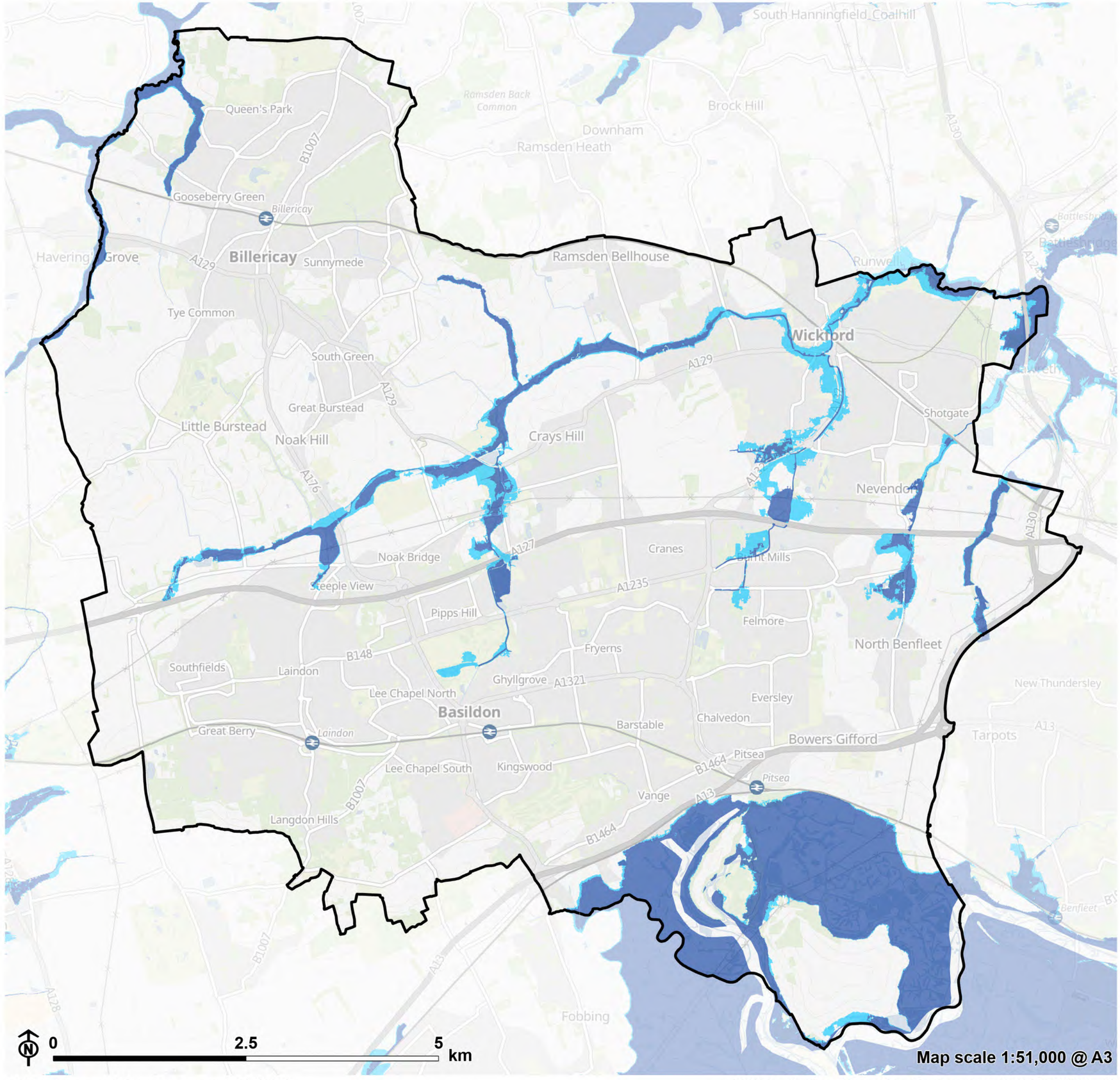


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Figure B.3b: Surface water flood risk

Basildon Borough Council boundary
3.3 percent annual chance (1 in 30)

0 2.5 5 km

Map scale 1:51,000 @ A3

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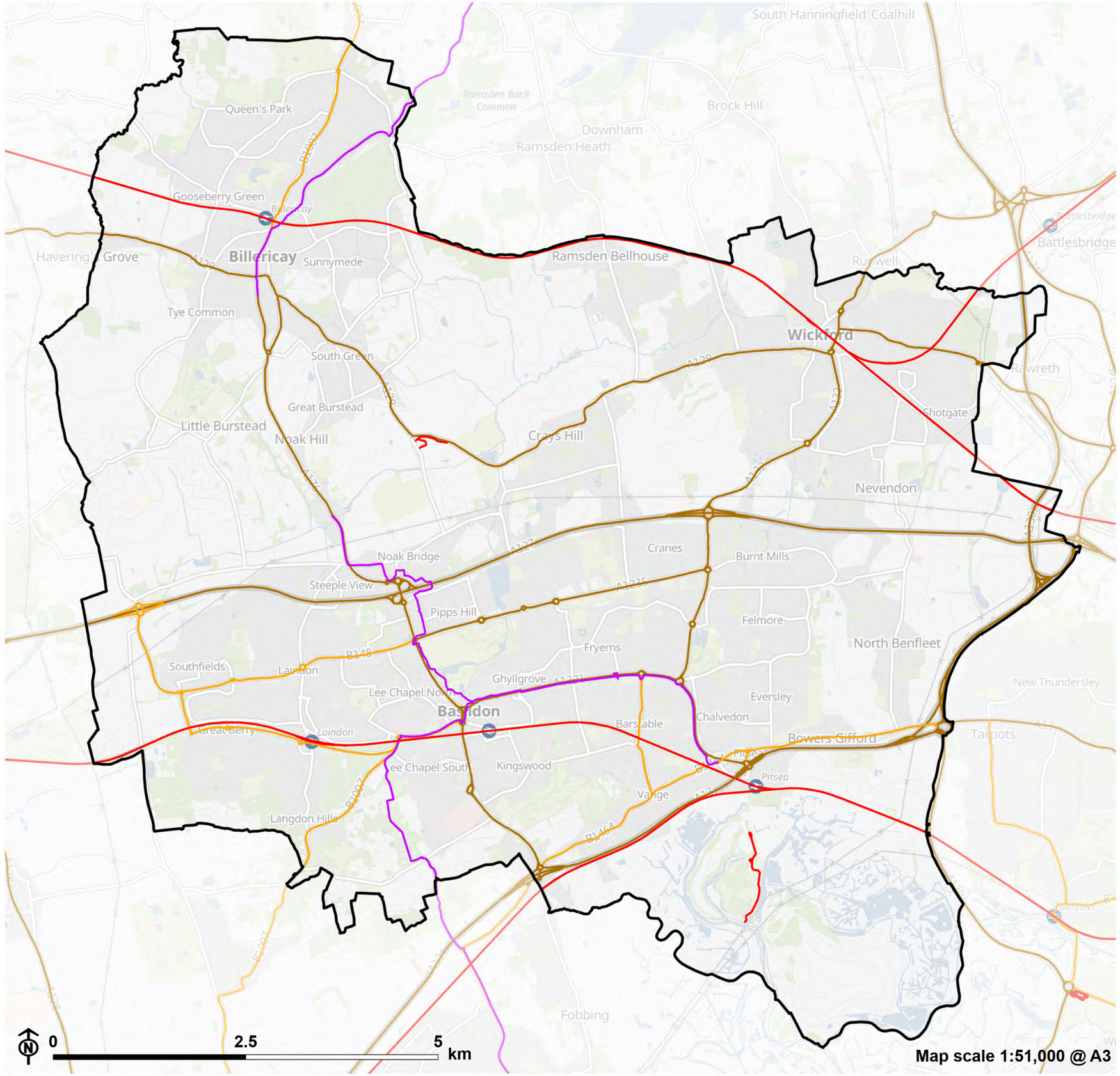
Figure B.4: Transport network



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Basildon Borough Council

LUC

Figure B.5: Settlement hierarchy

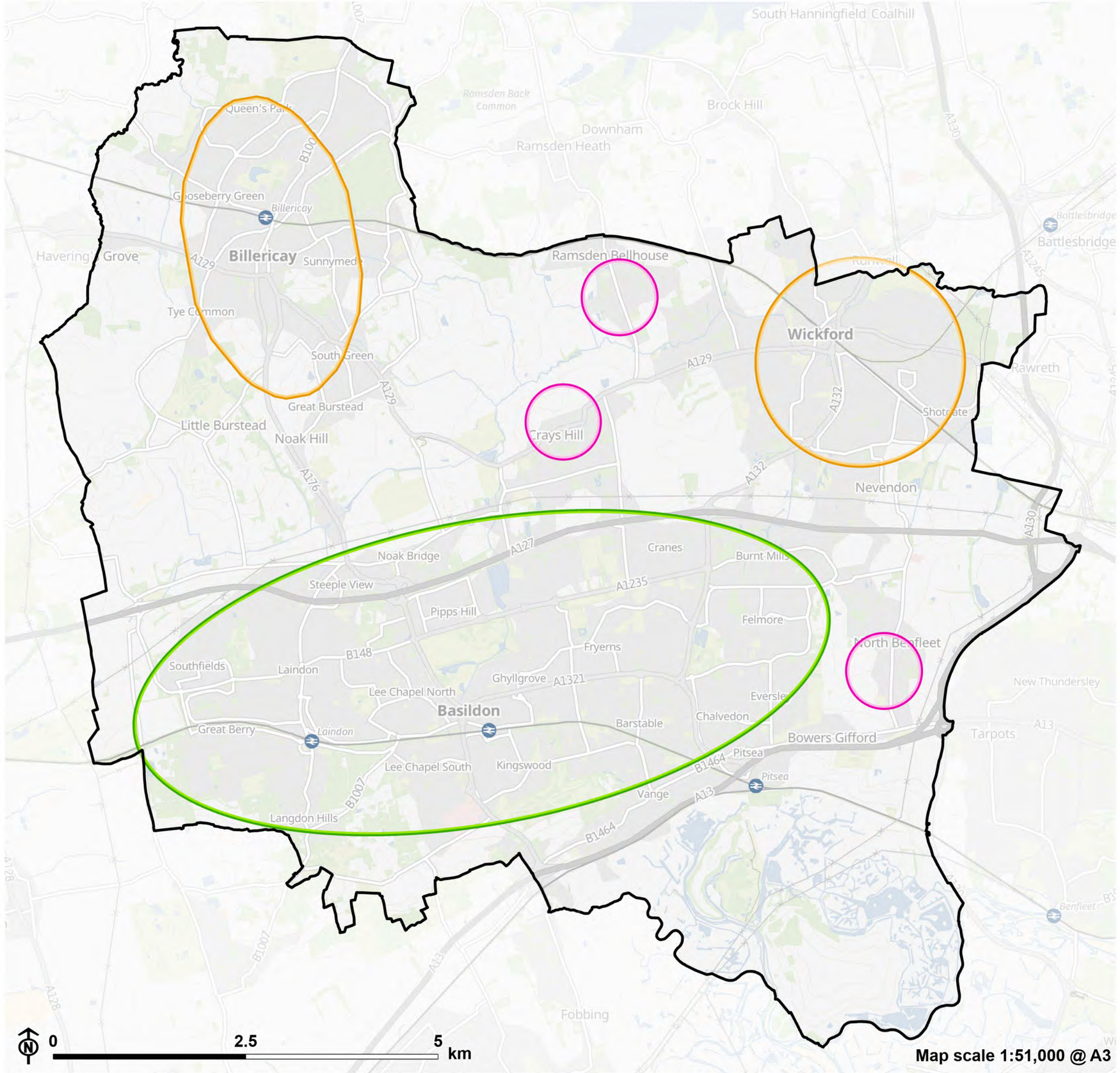

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Figure B.6: Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Basildon Borough Council boundary

Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019

- 0 - 10% (most deprived)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100% (least deprived)

0 2.5 5 km

Map scale 1:51,000 @ A3

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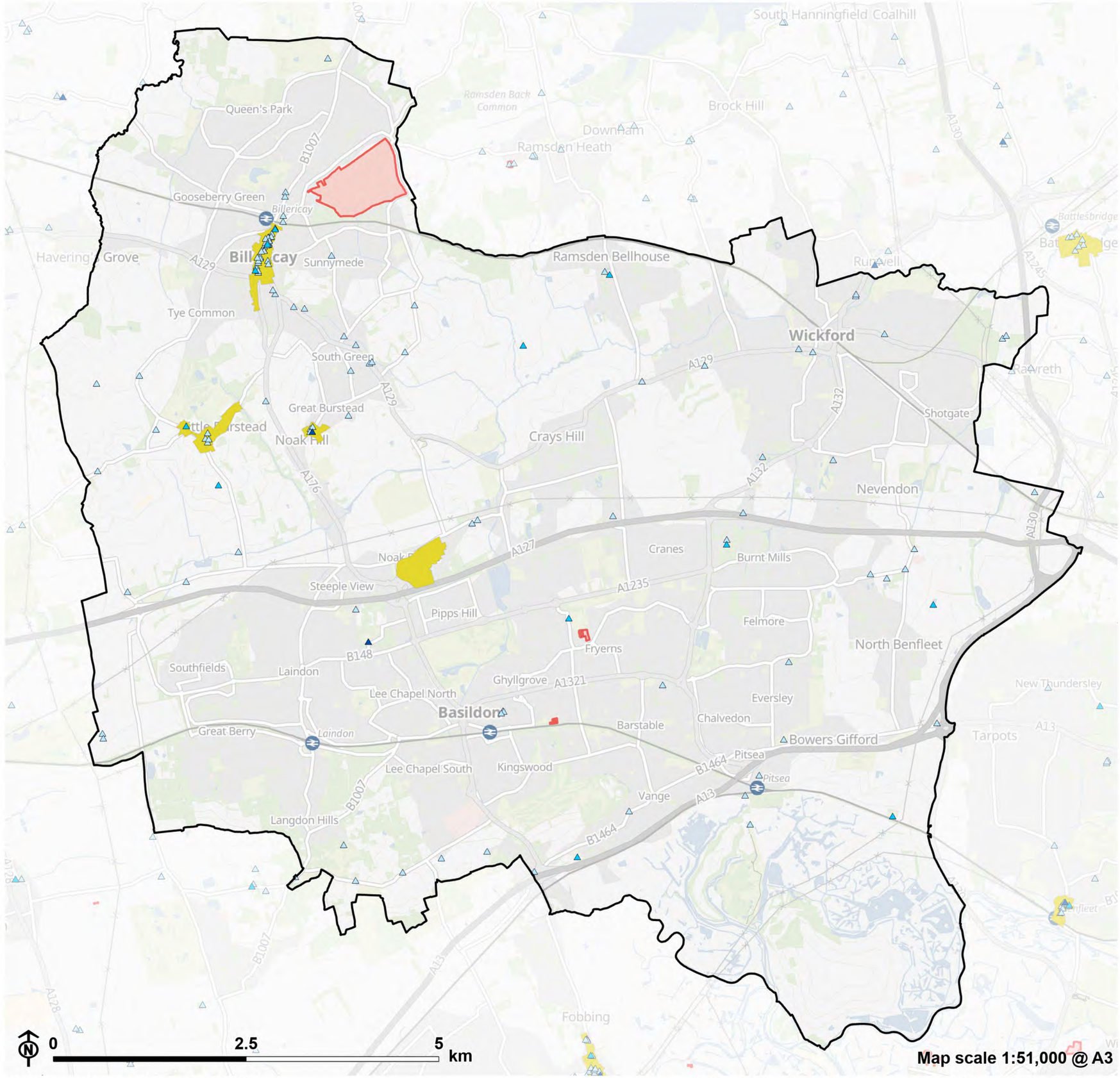
Figure B.7: Historic environment



Basildon Borough Council boundary
Conservation area
Scheduled monument
Listed building
- Grade I
- Grade II*
- Grade II

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Figure B.8: Natural environment

- Basildon Borough Council boundary
- Ancient woodland
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Site of Special Scientific Interest

0 2.5 5 km

Map scale 1:51,000 @ A3

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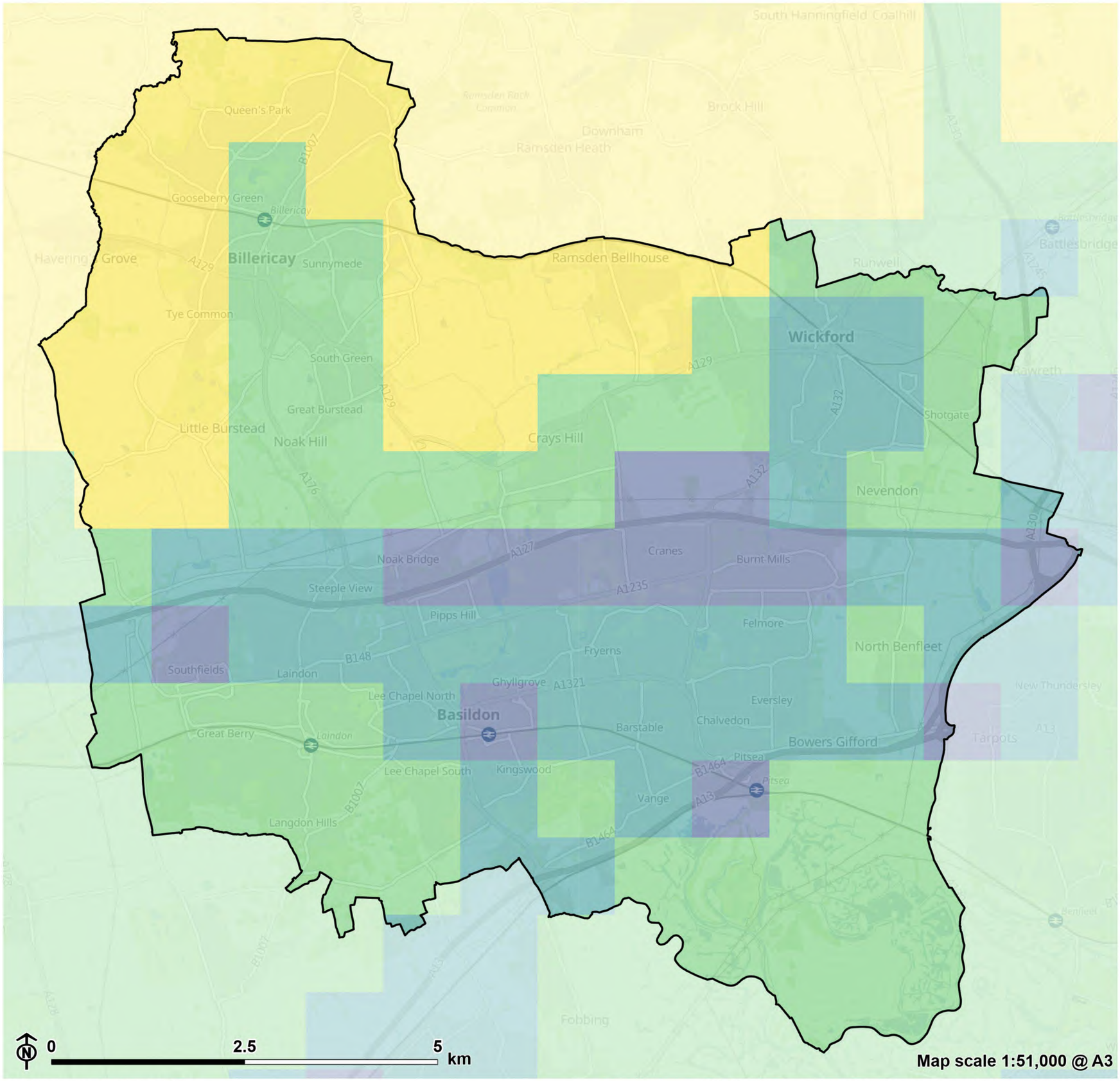
Figure B.9: Air pollution NO2 (µg/m3)



Notes:

Data derived from Estimated Background Air Pollution Maps (base year 2018), downloaded from https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/laqm-background-home.

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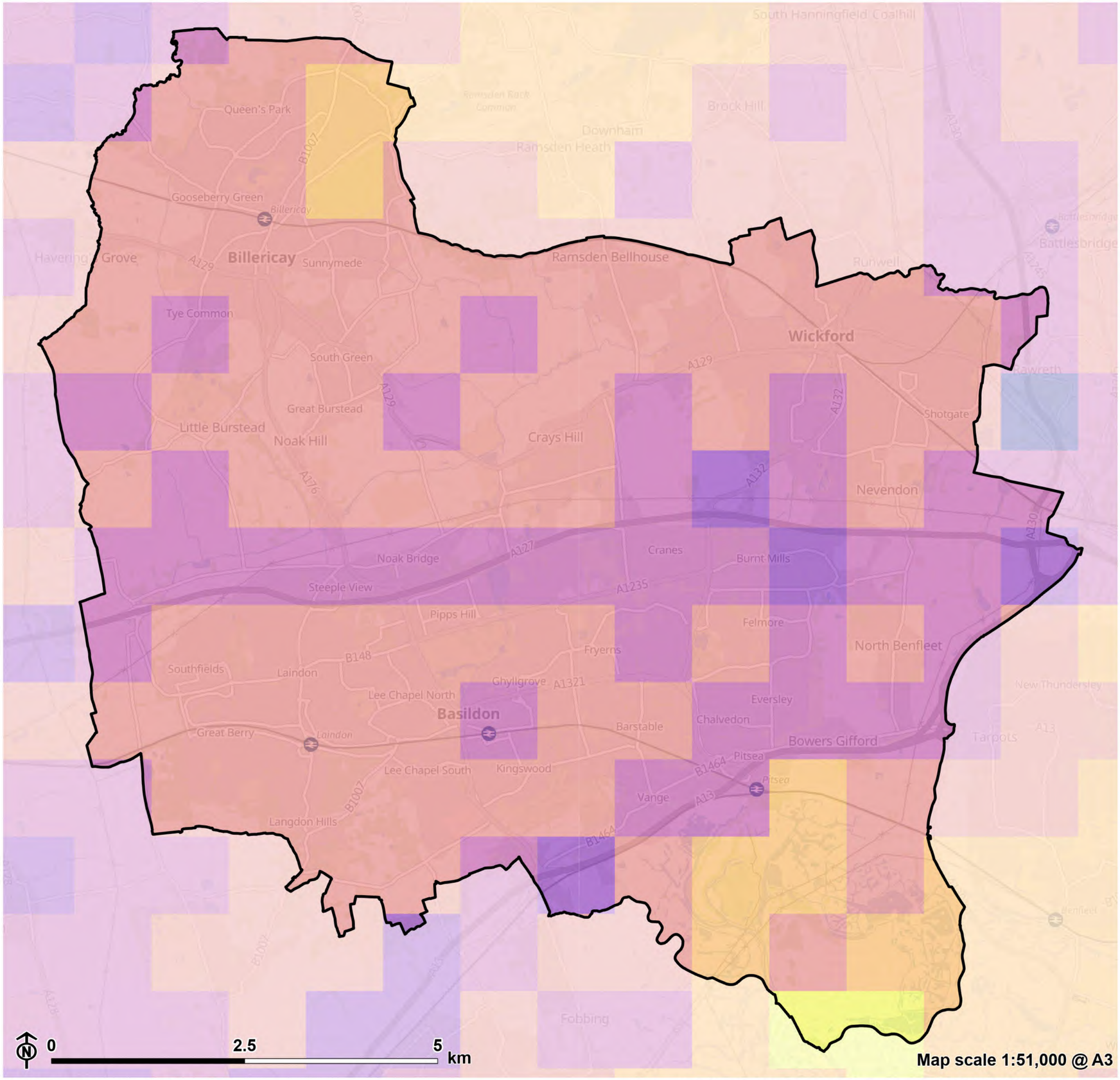
Figure B.10: Air pollution PM10 (µg/m3)



Notes:

Data derived from Estimated Background Air Pollution Maps (base year 2018), downloaded from https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/laqm-background-home.

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Appendix C

Consultation comments

C.1 This Appendix sets out the consultation comments received in relation to consultation on the previous stages of IIA, namely the IIA Scoping Report (February 2023).

C.2 The bullet points below set out the comment received and the sub-bullet points set out how the comment has been addressed within the IIA, or if no action has been taken, why not.

SA Scoping Report (February 2023)

Environment Agency

- TE2100 Policy for this area currently is ‘to continue with existing or alternative actions to manage flood risk. We will continue to maintain flood defences at their current level accepting that the likelihood and/or consequences of a flood will increase because of climate change’. This means that whilst the area may be defended now, this standard of protection may reduce over time and any future planning decisions will need to consider the long-term sustainability of development within this area, which may see an increase in flood risk in the future.
    - Reference to the fact that defences at this location could be overtopped in the future if defences are not raised in line with climate change has been added to Chapter 4
- The Council should be mindful that the PPG states that if ‘proposed development cannot be made safe throughout its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere, it should not be permitted’ and that avoidance of flood risk areas should be the primary consideration. It may therefore be prudent to expand this section to reiterate the government

recommendations to avoid flood risk areas before considering minimising or mitigating risks.

  - Reference to planning practice guidance has been added to Chapter 4.

- Paragraph 052 of the PPG: Development and Flood Risk states that 'the local planning authority may have a Local Plan policy on what changes of use will be acceptable in areas at risk of flooding'. In areas of the District already developed, there are often pressures to regenerate with alternative uses to those originally permitted. This can lead to applications for higher vulnerability uses than those originally considered appropriate and the local plan should provide a clear steer on how new or regenerated development can meet longer term sustainability objectives in flood risk terms.

  - Reference to planning practice guidance has been added to Chapter 4.

- We recommend that the Local Plan makes it clear to developers that an assessment of the risk of overtopping will need to accompany and planning applications, which have already passed the sequential test, to enable the exception test to be considered. This should be applied for both tidal and fluvial risks across the district.

  - Relayed to the Council for consideration in the plan-making process.

- It should be noted that the SFRA was last updated in 2018 and climate change allowances and planning advice has been updated since then. The local plan should be mindful the flood extents may have increased since the publication of the SFRA, as climate change allowances have been revised. It should also be noted that the advice within the PPG is that the extent for functional floodplain should generally be based upon the 1 in 30 year annual probability flood (3.3%), which would be a deviation from the advice within the SFRA, which refers to the 1 in 20 year annual probability flood. It is for local planning authorities to define the extent of functional floodplain, and this is something that should be given further consideration within the plan, so that the intent of the Council is understood for any development within the areas, being mindful of the current planning advice within table 2 of the PPG: Development and Flood Risk on flood zone 'incompatibility'.

  - Relayed to the Council for consideration in the plan-making process.

- There should be a stronger emphasis on the need for developers to provide Biodiversity net gain.

  - Further emphasis added on the importance of biodiversity net gain to in Chapter 5.

Historic England

- Paragraphs 199 and 200 of the NPPF make it clear that great weight should be given to the conservation of heritage assets, and that any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage assets should require clear and convincing justification. However, we often see IIA's concluding 'uncertain effects' in relation to potential site allocations because there isn't sufficient information to understand what impact development would have on the significance of nearby heritage assets. Our Advice Note 3 'The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans' (HEAN 3) sets out a suggested approach to assessing sites and their impact on heritage assets. We recommend that this methodology is applied to the assessment and selecting of sites within the Basildon Borough Local Plan, and therefore request that HEAN3 be added to the review of relevant plans, policies and programmes in the report.

  - The advice note will be reviewed to inform the development of appropriate historic environment site assessment criteria.

Natural England

- We query the limit of 5km for the identification of international sites which may be affected by the Local Plan and refer you to Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) which has identified Zones of Influence (ZoIs) for coastal internationally designated sites.

  - Future distance buffers for the screening of effects on international sites reported in the IIA Report will be in line with those used in the Habitats Regulations Assessment Report.

- Regarding IIA objective 2 we are pleased to see reference to accessible, new, high quality, multifunctional open spaces, blue and green infrastructure (GI) etc... The '15 minute neighbourhood' concept is encouraged as part of the new GI standards. This seeks to ensure that everyone has access to good quality natural greenspace within 15 minutes walking distance from their homes, in line with the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards and Green Flag Criteria.
  - Reference to the 15-minute neighbourhood concept has been added to Chapter 4.
- Regarding IIA objective 2 development should also be designed to meet the 15 Green Infrastructure Principles. The GI Standards can be used to inform the quality, quantity and type of green infrastructure to be provided.
  - Reference to Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework and Principles has been added to Appendix A.
- Regarding IIA objective 7 please note that brownfield/previously developed land may have high biodiversity interest, particularly for invertebrates, and this should be taken account of by the Local Plan/development.
  - IIA objective 7 appraisal question updated to reference potential biodiversity value of brownfield land in Chapter 5.
- Regarding IIA objective 10 consideration should be given to going beyond the minimum 10% biodiversity net gain target.
  - IIA objective 7 appraisal question changed to above 10% biodiversity net gain in Chapter 5
- Regarding the future Habitats Regulations Assessment, Natural England recommend a strategic approach to mitigation along the Essex coast to enable the conclusion of 'no adverse effect on the integrity of the international designated sites' regarding in-combination recreational effects, namely Essex Coast RAMS. Much of Basildon borough falls within the overall ZoI, so new housing in this zone will be required to contribute

financially to Essex Coast RAMS. Other potential impact pathways arising from the local plan, such as changes to water quality and quantity and air quality at the designated sites will also need to be appraised.

  - This recommendation has been noted for the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

- Basildon is a relatively urbanised borough which is likely to give rise to recreational pressure on wildlife sites with public access, including SSSIs.

  - Reference to this risk has been added to Chapter 4.

- There may also be opportunities to improve the connectivity of wildlife sites and habitats as part of a Nature Recovery Network.

  - Reference to this opportunity has been added to IIA objective 7 appraisal question in Chapter 45.

Issues and Options IIA (2023) Consultation Comments

Residents

Response 1

C.3 : Unrealistic to expect residents to comment on such a large document and obtaining realistic feedback.

Response 2

C.4 My primary observation is that this document is very technical and it is unrealistic to expect residents to provide comment in any meaningful way that can help inform the future and the development of the Local Plan. The low number of responses would suggest that including the IIA in the consultation in this form has not worked.

C.5 On one specific matter, it is totally wrong (in section 6.101) to state that not meeting the objectively assessed needs (housing target) adversely affects the affordability of homes.

C.6 There is absolutely no historical data that shows that building more homes makes them more affordable. House prices and rents are governed by many factors but it is not simply supply. Housing supply generally matches demand (sell one build one) and as a result prices are very carefully controlled. Basildon needs to think very carefully about continuing with a narrative that suggest that it, by way of the Local Plan, can make housing more affordable. It's a false promise that should be stopped.

Response 3

C.7 : It is unrealistic to expect residents to read a 296 pages document. I have scanned the first few pages. In the withdrawn Local Plan there was a proposal to build a Link Road from Noak Hill Road to London Road, Billericay. It amazes me that this proposal got as far as being suggested. This would have resulted in:

- the destruction of our local community
- cutting us off from the Town
- journeys across Town increasing (it would probably take at least 30minutes to get to my daughter compared with the 10 minutes it takes now)

- the unacceptable increase in traffic through the area
- the increase in pollution - air, noise, light, etc
- the proximity of the Link Road to existing dwellings being dangerous as getting in & out of driveways on such a busy road would be difficult
- our driveway not being long enough to even park our car (difficult to measure as the land suggested for compulsory purchase was quoted as area rather than length & width

C.8 Response 4

C.9 : I would like to see every homeowner/ householder encouraged so far as is possible to convert to renewable energy (i.e., solar panels/ heat exchangers or whatever forms of non-fossil-based fuels could be possible.

C.10 I would also like to see Libraries and public bodies promote access for families to help their children to read and write, communicate as well as they possibly can, not only through the written word, but also through verbal communication (see the Speech and Language UK work, the National Literacy Trust , Montessori Education; resources provided through every Library for every family to access for borrowing and promoting Early Years communication to a much wider degree than is currently possible.

C.11 Sensory provision for children who have sight difficulties and or hearing difficulties and much wider integration of disabled people into the workplace .

C.12 Provision of activities which promote an appreciation of the outdoors (along with exploration of the natural environment (i.e. Essex Waterways, Lakes and other waterways, protection of endangered species and protection of animals which need special protection is something which every child needs to appreciate (along with their families, so that it should be far less of the domain of those who ae comfortably off, or affluent enough to afford baby -sitters, child - minders and other luxuries. As an entire family, exploration and enjoyment of the outdoors and the natural environment should be available and should be encouraged to be explored by everyone.

Response 5

C.13 Section 6.101 should not give the impression that house prices and therefore affordability are affected by housing supply. There is no historical evidence that mass building reduces house prices. No Local Plan or council can promise better housing affordability through simply building more dwellings. Prices, whether purchase or rent, are determined by many largely fiscal matters, and the market is too closely controlled by Government through to landowner to allow any significant reduction in house prices. Basildon council should stop the narrative that more houses = cheaper or more affordable housing.

Response to Resident comments (1 to 5)

The length and technical nature of the report is a product of the need to meet the requirements of a number of different pieces of legislation and guidance: the SEA Regulations; the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; Public Health England's 2020 guidance on 'Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning'; the Equality Act 2010; and, the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations (2018), as set out in the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1). This means it must have larger font, larger spacing between lines and headings, less information presented in tables, 'alt text' provided for all figures and it is able to be read by screen-reading software.

Non-technical summary documents will accompany later iterations of the IAA. As the plan progresses, Basildon council will prepare additional supporting documents, summarising and explaining how the technical evidence has informed the local plan.

The first IIA appraised early issues and options identified by Basildon Borough Council. IIA is an iterative process and each stage will consider updated and relevant information, as well as appraising additional options and more detailed policies as future drafts of the Basildon Local Plan are prepared. This will include more detailed consideration of the strategy and options related to housing provision.

Essex County Council

General

C.14 The IIA's SA elements appear thoroughly dealt with at this stage. Procedurally, all key issues that form the Sustainability Objectives and Framework appear reasonable, relevant and consistent with national guidance and best practice documents. The baseline information, and likely projections without the emergence of the Local Plan appear equally through and comprehensive.

C.15 The assessment of Spatial Options emanating from the I&O document, and more importantly their identification, also appear reasonable at this stage. At present, the appraisal of the Spatial Options is largely notional, but forms a useful basis for potential effects; this helps to focus the consultation on the wider I&O Local Plan, and also give an indication as to what evidence may be needed for future Plan iterations.

C.16 The Spatial Options, and their assessment, will need refining throughout the plan making process; crucially with the introduction of site options and also the Plans evidence base as it emerges.

C.17 In light of this, and the qualitative nature of the assessment to date, it would be useful to have the opportunity to comment on any forthcoming

framework (SA) devised to assess site options prior to the Preferred Options Reg 18 stage. It is possible that ECC may be able to suggest quantitative indicators and evidence that can be used in those assessments.

Chapter 4

C.18 Paragraph 4.76 references the SEHNA as a source for overall housing need and affordable housing need projection. Chapter 7 of the SEHNA includes analysis of demographic changes/ageing population and projection of specialist housing need, whilst this set the context and note IIA Objective 1 however seek clarification on whether the local plan will address the housing needs of older people, disabled people and vulnerable groups e.g., accessible and adaptable housing, extra care housing or sheltered housing?

C.19 Baseline information should refer to Essex Historic Environment Record as source of sites and monuments recorded within the Borough and include Protected Lanes, including 2 Protected Lanes, Hatches Farm Rd and Goatsmoor Lane.

C.20 After Section 4.173 the baseline information should specify that the information on all sites and monuments recorded within the Borough is recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record which is held by ECC

C.21 ECC Place Services are currently working with Basildon Borough to create a Local List. It is anticipated that this will be adopted in the near future and so reference to a Local List should be included within the Plan and should inform the baseline information.

C.22 The new local plan objectives should include Historic Environment as set out in IIA objective 11.

C.23 4.179 suggested wording: The Borough’s archaeological heritage is a finite and fragile resource and should be protected and where possible

enhanced. There are over 500 archaeological records on the Essex Historic Environment Record in the Borough dating from as early as the Palaeolithic Period (500,000-10,000 BC) to the Post-Medieval Period (1538-1900), with reasonably significant concentrations of Roman and Medieval settlements at Basildon, Billericay and Wickford [See reference 146]. There is an extensive dispersed medieval settlement pattern with small towns and dispersed Church/Hall manorial complexes and moated sites.

C.24 4.184 This paragraph notes that the Local Plan provides an opportunity to protect heritage assets and enhance them through improved accessibility and interpretation, however, at present the historic environment is not mentioned within the IOCP (Issues and Options Consultation Plan) strategic objectives and does not meet the NPPF paragraph 190 for a positive strategy for the conservation of heritage assets.

Chapter 6

C.25 Vision and strategic objectives - 6.9 onwards - This IOCP omits historic environment and should be included.

C.26 IIA 11 paragraph 6.47 - 6.48 This section recognises that the IOCP does not have due regard to the historic environment, its conservation and the positive effects it has and should be addressed.

C.27 Table 6.2 - 6.86 - 6.88 The table shows that all options have the potential for negative effects on the historic environment. This suggests further evidence will be needed on the historic environment baseline to underpin the new Local Plan and ensure it is appropriately conserved and the benefits realised.

C.28 Table 6.2 - The scoring for the Historic Environment within this table is potentially misleading, the benefits of the Historic Environment on both People and Place and the enhancement of the local environment are two areas in which the Historic Environment could provide a positive benefit.

C.29 To achieve this the Historic Environment should be integrated and identified within the strategic objectives.

C.30 Suggest paragraph 6.11 & 6.12 are updated to refer to “historic and natural environment”.

C.31 At this stage there is no consideration for the potential for unknown archaeological remains which may be impacted upon through development etc. The Local Plan should include a positive strategy for the preservation/ conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment to meet Objective IIA 11, and the inclusion of historic environment within the vision and strategic objectives should enable the protection and enhancement of the known heritage assets and consideration of the potential for unknown heritage assets which may be impacted upon by future development. This should ensure compliance with NPPF and SEA Regulations, Schedule 2(6) section (k).

Appendix A - Review of relevant plans, policies and programmes

C.32 This section should be updated to reflect ECC’s own, and other policy, guidance, evidence including the ECAC report as referenced in ECC’s response to the Issues and Options Consultation Plan (IOPC).

Response to Essex County Council

The baseline and review of relevant plans, policies and programmes in the next iteration of the IIA report will be updated to include the relevant additional publications referenced.

ECC will have the opportunity to consult on further iterations of the IIA report, including before the Preferred Options Reg 18 stage.

In Chapter 4, the baseline will be updated to note that all sites and monuments within the Borough are recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record. In addition, the suggested wording for paragraph 4.179 will be considered as part of the next iteration of the IIA.

It is noted that the Local List is currently being prepared. The Local List will inform the baseline information in future iterations of the IIA report, when it is available.

This iteration of the IIA has considered the issues and high-level options set out within the Issues and Options consultation document. The comments relating to whether the local plan will address certain housing needs and how the plan considers the historic environment, will be considered in more detail as the Local Plan progresses.

Stantec (on behalf of David Wilson Homes, Eastern Counties)

C.33 Alongside the Issues and Options consultation, BBC are also consulting on an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA). This assesses the sustainability, health and equality performance of the new Local Plan. The IIA assesses the strategic principles and growth options at a high level at this stage, and will need to be updated once the strategy for strategic growth is clearer at a later stage in the NLP process.

C.34 The IIA recognises (para 4.145) that there is a gap in the supply of much needed housing (including affordable homes) within the Borough. It further states that the Local Plan offers the opportunity to facilitate and expediate the delivery of a variety of housing, affordable housing and housing to meet the needs of an ageing population. DWH supports this view.

C.35 In respect of the spatial options, the IIA recommends at paragraph 6.92 that a combination of the six strategic options for future growth presented is likely to be most appropriate, based on the initial appraisal in the IIA. The IIA assesses the options based upon the Standard Method of calculating housing need which is supported. As set out above, the South Essex Housing Needs Assessment 2022 concurs that the Standard Method levels of need are appropriate for Basildon Borough, and these future levels should be seen as a minimum requirement.

C.36 The IIA looks at the potential effects on the IIA objectives for exceeding or not fully meeting the Borough's growth needs (paragraph 6.94). The effects of not meeting identified need or housing, or reducing housing numbers are set out at paragraph 6.101 as follows:

C.37 "Not meeting objectively assessed needs would lead to negative effects against IIA objective 1 (Housing) and IIA 4 (economy and employment). The significance of these effects will depend on the scale of the shortfall identified and whether any of this shortfall can be accommodated by willing neighbouring local authorities. Not meeting demand adversely affects the affordability of homes and job prospects resulting in negative socio-economic effects against IIA objectives 2 (health), IIA 3 (equalities). 6.102 The fewer new homes and jobs that are available in Basildon over the plan period, the less likely people will be able to live and work in the local area. People are likely to have to travel greater distances to commute to and from workplaces and access local services and facilities, resulting in more negative effects against IIA 6 (air quality) and IIA objective 8 (climate change mitigation)."

C.38 DWH agrees with the findings of 6.101 as set out above. Further, we agree with the IIA recommendation at paragraph 7.9 which sets out that a combination of options is likely to be the most appropriate, based on the initial appraisal and considering the capacity of each spatial option to deliver the required amount of development.

C.39 DWH will review and comment on further versions of the IIA as the NLP progresses.

Response to Stantec (on behalf of David Wilson Homes, Eastern Counties)

Comments noted particularly in relation to support for a combination of options, and agreement with the appraisal in relation to the potential effects of meeting, or not meeting, the objectively assessed need for housing.

M Scott Properties

C.40 We welcome the recognition that Billericay (as an identified Large Town) can play an important role in the future growth of Basildon borough.

C.41 We also welcome the broad conclusions of Table 6.3 and that 2) Urban Extensions can deliver more positive effects than Spatial Options 3, 4, 5 and 6.

C.42 With regards to the Major positive effect (++) of 1) Densification of existing urban areas, we would suggest that this is unlikely to be accurate (which is contrary to IIA1). This spatial option is unlikely to be able to provide the broad range of housing units required and will be focused on apartments. Urban Extensions provide the best opportunity for a good range of house types in sustainable locations. Spatial Options 3) Infill and 4) Expansion of existing villages will likely be predominantly houses, again, falling short of providing a mixed community and range of house types (also contrary to IIA1).

C.43 Alternative levels of Development (paras 6.94 onwards). We agree that higher levels of development will generate positive effects against IIA1 and IIA4. We consider that the Council should actively seek to exceed the Standard Method output for the borough. Working with land promoters and developers will enable the positive effects above to be countered by increased opportunities to create 15-minute neighbourhoods and increased environmental and

biodiversity net gain. Villages with no existing services should, however, continue to be protected from significant scales of development (30+ dwellings).

C.44 Delivering a reduced level of development will be a missed opportunity for the borough. We agree with the negative impacts listed in 6.102 regarding commuting and travel distances increasing if new homes at the required level are not provided. It is not appropriate to assume that neighbouring Council's will be able to accommodate even a proportion of the borough's required growth (para 6.103) and this should be discounted as an alternative.

C.45 We agree with the conclusions listed in para 7.5 in relation to Urban Extensions.

C.46 The "next steps" refer to the review of the Issues and Options consultation responses. We would urge the Council to actively engage with all promoters of available and deliverable land that may be able to help the Council deliver the reported Local Plan objectives. Early engagement will ensure that all parties are clear as to what can be delivered, and by when.

Response to M Scott Properties

Basildon Borough Council will undertake discussions with neighbouring authorities, and other relevant parties, around housing need and capacity.

The approach to assigning scores for each option against IIA objectives is set out within Chapter 2 of the IIA report. The appraisal acknowledges both positive and negative impacts of densification, ability to provide an appropriate housing mix and the timing of necessary infrastructure provision to support development. Future stages of the Local Plan and IIA will consider these issues in more detail, allowing for consideration of the points raised in this representation.

CODE Development (on behalf of CEG Land Promotions Ltd)

C.47 This representation has been summarised.

General

C.48 CODE Development note the integration of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) within the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), while noting that future iterations of the IIA will need to ensure that the document meets the requirements of the different regulations and legislative requirements. This includes the requirement to adequately assess reasonable alternatives.

C.49 The comments are limited to areas of disagreement or where further emphasis and acknowledgement is required given the leading role the IIA and its constituent parts must play in the consideration of alternative strategies, policies and allocations.

Baseline information for development in Basildon (chapter 4 IIA)

C.50 CODE Development contend that:

1. particular attention and weight should be focused on the baseline realities of the lack of housing delivery in previous years (IIA paragraph 4.73), the consequential effects on affordability (IIA paragraph 4.70), lack of affordable housing provision (IIA paragraph 4.76) and increased homelessness (IIA paragraph 4.77)

2. it is essential that in assessing options and all reasonable alternatives that these baseline realities are given appropriately significant weight.
3. the language and tone used in paragraphs 4.76 and 4.77 of the IIA appears to downplay the significance and importance of the lack of housing delivery in the Borough.
4. the impact of homelessness within the borough should not be downplayed
5. the baseline data should also emphasise the significant adverse impacts of a lack of appropriate suitable housing on the population's health and well-being and on education prospects. Whilst there are implied interrelationships, direct links need to be included within the baseline data.

Framework for assessing significant effects (chapter 5 IIA)

Objective 1: housing

C.51 the acute need to resolve the current homelessness crisis in the Borough justifies an additional, specific objective question: "Does the Local Plan provide the amount and mix (size, tenures) of homes to meet the local needs over the plan period, including the needs of current and potentially future homeless people?"

Objective 2: community cohesion, health, wellbeing and safety

C.52 Support for objective 2 as integral to the plan with particular support for recognition in Questions 3 and 6 of the assessment criteria.

C.53 The promotion of multifunctional open spaces as an alternative but part of a wider open space strategy is in accordance with advice from Sport England rather than a more exclusive concentration on formal sports pitches. Suggest inclusion of questions specifically referencing the benefits to mental well-being.

C.54 The preparation of the Basildon Local Plan affords a clear opportunity to use and combine the objectives for multifunctional open space, access to green space and nature benefits as leading factors in allocating land for development, for the benefit of existing and new residents.

Objective 10: biodiversity and geodiversity

C.55 Support for Objective 10 however, the framework for assessing significant effects on this objective should, in addition to encouraging the general maintenance, conservation, enhancement and provision of net gains in biodiversity, specifically recognise the role of useable and accessible green space to maintaining the integrity and quality of nearby valuable habitats.

Initial options and IIA findings (chapter 6 IIA)

C.56 Note the initial options and the early stage of the Basildon Local Plan.

C.57 Reserve the right to comment further on the IIA in subsequent stages of plan preparation, including detailed options and reasonable alternative.

C.58 Any attempt to artificially reduce the levels of housing delivery below a reasonable and justified figure would be likely to lead to significant negative effects on essential objectives for housing and community cohesion identified in chapter 5 of the IIA.

C.59 The evolving IIA should give significant weight to the positive effects which could, with careful planning and design of new development allocations, achieve substantial positive effects across all objectives.

C.60 Paragraphs 6.14 of the IIA sets out six options to delivering growth. Paragraph 6.15 of the IIA refers to the Issues and Options Consultation Document at paragraph 5.20 which states that “it is likely that the most suitable spatial strategy will involve a balance of elements to provide the most sustainable and achievable strategy. It is essential that the SEA continues to lead an entirely unbiased assessment of all reasonable alternatives and assess them against the full range of likely effects.

Conclusion

C.61 IIA represents a reasonable baseline document for subsequent stages of the plan making process.

C.62 There are several areas where we disagree or consider further emphasis and acknowledgement is required given the leading role the IIA and its constituent parts must play in the consideration of alternative strategies, policies and allocations.

C.63 The IIA must by legislative requirement and government guidance lead and inform the plan making process in an unbiased fashion.

Response to CODE Development (on behalf of CEG Land Promotions Ltd)

The methodology of the IIA considers both the positive and negative effects of development. The methodology, outlined in Chapter 2 of the IIA, is considered robust and has been subject to a focused consultation with statutory consultees.

The suggestion to note within the baseline the adverse impacts of a lack of appropriate suitable housing on the population's health and well-being, and on education prospects, will be considered within the next iteration of the IIA.

The suggestion to add additional questions to the IIA framework for IIA objective 1 and IIA objective 2, will be considered as part of the preparation of the IIA for the Preferred Strategy for the Basildon Local Plan.

The question relating to housing mix will be drawn out within more detailed options and policies as the local plan progresses. Addressing the potential benefits to mental well-being will also be considered within policies at later stages of the local plan. The Housing section in Chapter 4 of the IIA report has been amended as suggested to note the contributory factor of the lack of owner-occupied and affordable housing delivery in the borough.

Billericay Action Group

Settlement Hierarchy – Havering's Grove

C.64 Impact of lower growth on house prices and job prospects: We strongly disagree with the opinion expressed in Section 6.101, that lower rates of housing delivery will adversely impact houses prices (our counterargument is expressed in 2 and 3) and reduce job opportunities (our counterargument is expressed in 10).

Response to Billericay Action Group

The first IIA appraised early issues and options identified by Basildon Borough Council. The IIA is an iterative process and each stage will consider updated and relevant information, as well as appraising additional options and more detailed policies as future drafts of the Basildon Local Plan are prepared. This will include more detailed consideration of the strategy and options related to housing provision.

Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System

C.65 The ICS welcomes adoption of the Essex Planning Officers' Association Health Impact Assessment Methodology and supports its continued use to assess the impacts of the plan, design mitigation for those impacts, and identify opportunities for positive health outcomes, throughout development of the Local Plan.

C.66 In addition to the baseline documents listed in the IIA, the ICS requests that the Council refers to the NHS Mid and South Essex Joint Forward Plan 2023-2028 (the plan). Part 1 of the plan sets out high level, collective ambitions and Part 2 outlines the key enablers to delivering the NHS' contribution to the common endeavour outlined in the Integrated Care Strategy – to reduce health inequalities. The plan can be found at: https://www.midandsouthessex.ics.nhs.uk/publications/joint-forward-plan/

C.67 The ICS notes that the IIA finds that the overarching vision and the strategic objective IIA2 about helping local people to maintain healthier lifestyles produces significant positive effects on health and well-being while the other strategic objectives have minor positive effects or negligible effects on health and well-being. The IIA also assesses the impact of the 6 spatial options for growth and it concludes that all 6 provide minor positive effects on strategic objective IIA2: Health and wellbeing and goes on to recommend that a combination of options is likely to be the most appropriate. The IIA states that

refined options should include criteria detailing how development would be expected to meet the aims of the IIA objectives both on specific sites, as well as the provision of wider topic-based policies within the local plan.

C.68 While there is no significant inherent difference between the impact of different strategic spatial options on the health and wellbeing objective, the specific characteristics of individual sites and their spatial planning could lead to greater opportunities to improve health and wellbeing or to the risk of impacting negatively on health and wellbeing. The ICS therefore wishes to continue to work with the council on the development of the plan and place-making of allocated sites.

Response to Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System

LUC notes the commentary in relation to supporting health and wellbeing through further detail within the local plan, and more detailed appraisals within future stages of the IIA.

The next iteration of the IIA report will be updated to include the additional publications referenced.

Appendix D

Site Appraisal Criteria

Residential site assessment criteria and assumptions

IIA Objective 1. Provide new and affordable housing to meet identified needs of the whole community, covering housing of a suitable mix and type.

All residential site options are expected to have positive effects on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development. Larger sites (10 dwellings or more) are required to include an element of affordable housing and so would have significant positive effects. Access to housing can be influenced by location and socioeconomic status, therefore this assessment considers the physical and financial accessibility of housing through the 'Barriers to housing and services' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Significance scoring:

Each criterion 1a to 1b is scored:

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1

- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores totalled, and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by 2). Overall significance is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Criterion 1a: Housing provision

Major positive (++)

- Significantly contributes to the delivery of housing:
  - >=10 dwellings

Minor positive (+)

- Contributes to the delivery of housing:
  - <10 dwellings

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- Contained within the shapefile for each site.

Criterion 1b: Barriers to housing and services

Major positive (++)

- >=25% of site located within one of the 10% most deprived areas nationally ('Barriers to housing and services' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation)

Minor positive (+)

- >=25% of site located within one of the 20% most deprived areas nationally ('Barriers to housing and services' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation).<10 dwellings

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- 'Barriers to housing and services' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation

IIA Objective 2. Create a safe, healthy and inclusive living environment and encourage healthy lifestyles, improving access to local services and facilities that promote prosperity, health, well-being, recreation and integration.

The proximity of site options to the Public Rights of Way network could help improve accessibility of essential services and facilities via walking, although this is somewhat dependent on personal preference. As town centres contain a number and range of services and facilities, the proximity of site options to them will likely improve access to them.

This is a cross-cutting IIA objective. To avoid duplication, site assessment criteria that are determinants of health, wellbeing and equality but which are tested under other IIA objectives are not duplicated here (e.g. criterion 1b Barriers to housing and services, 4a Loss of employment land, 4b Provision of employment sites, 4c Employment deprivation, 4d Access to jobs, 4e Primary schools, 4f Secondary schools, 5c Cycling, 8a NO2 pollution, 8b PM10 pollution and 8c PM2.5 pollution).

Significance scoring:

Each criterion 2a to 2c is scored:Major positive +3

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores totalled, and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by 2). Overall significance is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Criterion 2a: GP surgeries

Major positive (++)

- <=400m from nearest NHS GP surgery

Minor positive (+)

- 401-800m from nearest NHS GP surgery

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- 801-1,200m from nearest NHS GP surgery

Major negative (--)

- >1,200m from nearest NHS GP surgery

Data

- Basildon Council GP surgery data

Criterion 2b: Noise

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- For road noise, >=25% of site within:
  - Lnight 50.0-54.9 dB, or
  - Laeq16, 55.0-59.9dB

Major negative (--)

- For road noise, >=25% site within:
  - Lnight >=55.0 dB, or
  - Laeq16 >=60.0dBx

Data

- Defra road noise data

Criterion 2c: Odour

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- Site is <=400m wastewater treatment works, or <=500m of an anaerobic digestion facility.

Data

- Environment Agency wastewater treatment plant data
- Environment Agency anaerobic digestion facilities data

Criterion 2d: Open space, sport and recreation

Major positive (++)

- <=300m from open space, sport or recreation facility

Minor positive (+)

- 301-800m from open space, sport or recreation facility

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- 801-1,200m from open space, sport or recreation facility

Major negative (--)

- >1,200m from open space, sport or recreation facility

Data

- Basildon Council open space data

- Basildon council sports and recreation data

Criterion 2e: Loss of open space

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- 1.0-24.9% of site is open space, sport or recreation facility

Major negative (--)

- >=25% of site is open space, sport or recreation facility

Data

- Basildon Council open space data
- Basildon council sports and recreation data

Criterion 2f: Public Rights of Way

Major positive (++)

- <=200m from ProW

Minor positive (+)

- 201-400m from ProW

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- 401-800m from ProW

Major negative (--)

- >800m from ProW

Data

- Essex County Council Public Rights of Way data

Criterion 2g: Town centre

Major positive (++)

- <=400m from a town centre

Minor positive (+)

- 401-800m from a town centre

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- 801-1,200m from a town centre

Major negative (--)

- >1,200m from a town centre

Data

- Basildon council town centre data

IIA Objective 3. Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not.

This is a cross-cutting IIA objective. To avoid duplication, site assessment criteria that are determinants of equality of health and well-being, accessibility and opportunity but which are tested under other IIA objectives are not duplicated here (e.g. criterion 1b Barriers to housing and services, 2a GP surgeries, 2b Noise, 2c Odour, 2d Open space, sport and recreation, 2e Loss of open space, 2f Public Rights of Way, 2g Town centres, 4a Loss of employment land, 4b Provision of employment sites, 4c Employment deprivation, 4d Access to jobs, 4e Primary schools, 4f Secondary schools, 5a Rail, 5b Bus, 5c Cycling, 8a NO2 pollution, 8b PM10 pollution and 8c PM2.5 pollution).

Effects recorded under all other IIA objectives effect this IIA objective to varying degrees. Consequently, all site options are recorded as having an uncertain effect against this objective and readers are directed to the effects recorded against the other IIA objectives, which more accurately capture the range of issues relevant to this objective at a more granular level.

IIA Objective 4. Facilitate a prosperous and growing economy that creates a range of new jobs and improves vitality and viability of town centres

The location of residential sites will influence the achievement of this objective by affecting how easily residents would be able to access job opportunities in existing employment areas.

Access to work can be influenced by location and socioeconomic status, therefore this assessment considers the proportion of working age people excluded from the labour market through the 'Employment' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, as well as the level of job density in different parts of Basildon.

Access to education is also affected by location, therefore this assessment considers proximity to primary and secondary schools. A factor not captured by the assessment of site options is whether there is capacity at those education facilities to accommodate new residents and whether new residential development supports the provision of additional education capacity.

Significance scoring:

Criterion 4b not relevant to residential sites. Each criterion 4a, 4c, 4d, 4e and 4f is scored::

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1

- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores totalled, and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by 5). Overall significance is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Criterion 4a Loss of employment land

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- 1.0-24.9% of site is an existing employment area

Major negative (--)

- >=25% of site is an existing employment area

Data

- Basildon council employment area data

Criterion 4b Provision of employment sites

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- N/A

Criterion 4c Employment deprivation

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% of site located within one of the 20-40% most deprived areas nationally (‘Employment' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation).

Major negative (--)

- >=25% of site located within one of the 20% most deprived areas nationally (‘Employment' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation).

Data

- 'Employment' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation

Criterion 4d Access to jobs

N.B. Jobs density = number of employees / population

Major positive (++)

- Site located in LSOA that is in top 20% of LSOAs in district for jobs density

Minor positive (+)

- Site located in LSOA that is in 20-40 percentile of LSOAs in district for jobs density

Negligible (0)

- Site located in LSOA that is in 40-60 percentile of LSOAs in district for jobs density

Minor negative (-)

- Site located in LSOA that is in 60-80 percentile of LSOAs in district for jobs density

Major negative (--)

- Site located in LSOA that is in 80-100 percentile of LSOAs in district for jobs density

Data

- Nomis Business Register and Employment Survey

- Office for National Statistics Lower layer Super Output Area population estimates

Criterion 4e Primary schools

Major positive (++)

- <=400m from primary school

Minor positive (+)

- 401-800m from primary school

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- 801-1,200m from primary school

Major negative (--)

- >1,200m from primary school

Data

- Basildon council primary school data

Criterion 4f Secondary schools

Major positive (++)

- <=500m from secondary school

Minor positive (+)

- 501-1,000m from secondary school

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- 1,001-2,000m from secondary school

Major negative (--)

- >2,000m from secondary school

Data

- Basildon council secondary school data

IIA Objective 5. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents, and promote sustainable modes of transport and efficient movement patterns in the Borough

Proximity to essential services and access to jobs are determinants of the need to travel but to avoid duplication they are not tested again here. Instead, the assessment criteria under this IIA objective consider the level in the settlement hierarchy in which the site is located and the site's proximity to public transport services. The Council has confirmed that the position of settlements in the settlement hierarchy is informed both by the range of services and facilities available, which affects the need to travel, and by the nature and frequency of public transport services, which provides opportunities to use non-car modes. It is acknowledged that the actual use of sustainable transport modes will depend on people's behaviour. It is possible that new services and facilities and transport links such as bus routes or cycle paths will be provided as part of new developments, particularly at larger sites, but this was not assumed in assessing site options.

Significance scoring:

Each criterion 5a to 5d is scored:

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1

- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores totalled, and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by 4). Overall significance is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Criterion 5a Rail

Major positive (++)

- <= 500m of a railway station

Minor positive (+)

- 501-1,000m of a railway station

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- 1,001-2,000m of a railway station

Major negative (--)

- >2,000m of a railway station

Data

- Ordnance Survey railway station data

Criterion 5b Bus

Major positive (++)

- <= 300m of a bus stop

Minor positive (+)

- 301-600m of a bus stop

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- 601-1,000m of a bus stop

Major negative (--)

- >1,000m of a bus stop

Data

- National Public Transport Access Nodes bus stop data

Criterion 5c Cycling

Major positive (++)

- <= 200m of a cycle route

Minor positive (+)

- 201-400m of a cycle route

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- 401-800m of a cycle route

Major negative (--)

- >800m of a cycle route

Data

- Basildon council cycle route data

Criterion 5d Settlement hierarchy

Major positive (++)

- Sites within or adjacent to (i.e. <=100m) a Market Town

Minor positive (+)

- Sites within or adjacent to a Local Service Centre

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- Basildon council settlement boundary data
- Basildon council Settlement Hierarchy

IIA Objective 6. Improve air quality by reducing emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants

The proximity of sites to Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) does not appropriately test the potential for such sites to generate road traffic through AQMAs. Furthermore, in isolation, individual sites options are likely to generate relatively minor effects on air quality. It is considered more appropriate to appraise the Plan's ability to reduce air quality over the Plan Period in the SA Report as part of the appraisal of strategic planning policies and the cumulative effects of the Plan's site allocations as a whole.

The Council's Air Quality Study undertaken by Bureau Veritas (2020) identifies and assesses the likely effects of selected sites on the District's NO2 or PM10 levels. A handful of sites were found to have the potential to generate slight or moderate increases in NO2 or PM10 although, overall, the impact on local air quality conditions arising from increased traffic flows as a result of the implementation of the Local Development Plan can be described as not significant with regards to human receptors.

All sites score a negligible uncertain effect against this objective (0?) at this stage.

IIA Objective 7. To promote sustainable forms of development that maintain and improve the quality of the Borough's natural resources, including minerals, soils, waters and waste materials

Appraisal of site options in relation to this IIA objective considered whether the site is greenfield or brownfield and also what quality of agricultural land it contains. Development on brownfield land represents a more efficient use of land in comparison to the development of greenfield sites. Although open spaces may contain a small number of buildings to maintain recreational use, they are largely undeveloped and are considered greenfield land.

The location of sites is not likely to influence sustainable design and construction techniques. This includes the production of waste from the consumption of materials or resources, volumes of waste produced including the generation of hazardous waste, or the construction/demolition waste going to landfill. The location of sites is also not likely to have an effect on the recovery, re-use or recycling of waste materials, or the demand for recycled material.

These details will be promoted and secured through the detailed design proposals for each site at the planning application stage and strategic policies. Therefore, this IIA objective has been scoped out.

Levels of water consumption within new development will be determined by its design and onsite practices, rather than the location of the site. However, the location of development could affect water quality during construction depending on its proximity to watercourses, water bodies and Source Protection Zones. The extent to which water quality is actually affected would depend on construction techniques and the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems within the design.

Significance scoring:

If criterion 7a is a major positive then site scores significant positive, irrespective of criterion 7b.If criterion 7a is not major positive, then criteria 7a to 7b are scored:

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores totalled, and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by 2). Overall significance for 7a and 7b is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Each criterion 7c to 7e is scored:

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores totalled, and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by 2).

Overall significance for 7c, 7d and 7e is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Overall significance for IIA 7 is found by adding the overall score for 7a and 7b, to the overall score for 7c, 7d and 7e, and dividing by two. Overall significance is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Criterion 7a Brownfield /greenfield land

Major positive (++)

- Majority of site brownfield or previously developed land

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- Majority of site greenfield land

Data

- Brownfield/Previously Developed Level data

Criterion 7b Agricultural land classification

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- Greenfield site with >=25% area classed as Grade 3 agricultural land

Major negative (--)

- Greenfield site with >=25% area classed as Grade 1 or 2 agricultural land

Data

- Natural England Agricultural Land Classification

Criterion 7c Source Protection Zones

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% site falls within Source Protection Zone 2 or 3

Major negative (--)

- >=25% site falls within Source Protection Zone 1.

Data

- Environment Agency Source Protection Zone

Criterion 7d Water quality

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- Site is within 100m of a watercourse or water body

Major negative (--)

- Site contains a watercourse or water body

Data

- Ordnance Survey Open Rivers watercourses data
- Ordnance Survey water bodies

Criterion 7e Minerals Safeguarding Area

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- Site is within a Minerals Safeguarding Area

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- Essex Mineral Safeguarding Areas

IIA Objective 8. Climate Change mitigation - Reduce Basildon Borough's contribution to climate change

This is a cross-cutting IIA objective. To avoid duplication, site assessment criteria that are determinants of carbon emissions but which are tested under other IIA objectives are not duplicated. The site assessment criteria here instead focus on exposure to air pollution. The assessment of site options has not taken into account planned measures that will improve future air quality (such as the ban on sale of new petrol and diesel cars in the UK from 2035), or site-specific mitigation. The effect of the Plan as a whole on air quality will be assessed elsewhere, within the cumulative effects section of the IIA.

In 2021, the WHO updated its recommended guidelines for air pollutants **[See reference** 409**]**. The new air quality guidelines reflect the best available health evidence and WHO's recommendations continue to be recognised globally as the targets that should be met to protect public health. Minor negative effects are assumed to occur when residential development would occur in a location where the current baseline annual mean concentration of a pollutant exceeds these 2021 WHO guidelines. Major negative effects are assumed to occur in locations where current annual mean pollution exceeds both the 2021 WHO air quality guidelines and the higher pollution levels allowed under the UK's national air quality objectives **[See reference** 410**]**.

The location of housing and employment sites will not have an effect on levels of domestic energy consumption and the potential for renewable energy use. These factors are influenced more by the specific design and construction methods used, and whether renewable energy infrastructure is

incorporated into development. Therefore, the effects of the potential sites on this IIA objective will be assumed to be negligible. Consideration of site-specific factors that allow for the incorporation of viable district heating networks or combined heat and power is beyond the scope of the IIA site options assessment.

Significance scoring:

Each criterion 8-a to 8-c is scored:

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores totalled, and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by 3). Overall significance is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Criterion 8a NO2 pollution

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% of site has pollutant concentration of 10-40 µg/m3

Major negative (--)

- >=25% of site has pollutant concentration of >40 µg/m3

Data

- Defra NO2 pollution data

Criterion 8b PM10 pollution

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% of site has pollutant concentration of 15-40 µg/m3

Major negative (--)

- >=25% of site has pollutant concentration of >40 µg/m3

Data

- Defra PM10 pollution data

Criterion 8c PM2.5 pollution

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% of site has pollutant concentration of 5-20 µg/m3

Major negative (--)

- >=25% of site has pollutant concentration of >20 µg/m3

Data

- Defra PM2.5 pollution data

IIA Objective 9. Climate change adaptation - Reduce Basildon Borough's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change

The extent to which flood risk can be managed and reduced is considered below. The location of development will not otherwise significantly affect the achievement of this objective as effects will depend largely on the detailed proposals for sites and their design, which would be influenced by policies in the Local Plan and details submitted at the planning application stage. Those policies in the Local Plan have been appraised separately to the site options.

Significance scoring:

If either criterion receives a major negative, the IIA objective automatically receives a significant negative effect.

If both criteria are minor negative, then a significant negative is given.

If only one criterion scores minor negative and the other scores negligible, then a minor negative is given.

All other sites score negligible (0).

Criterion 9a Flood zones

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% site within Flood Zone 2

Major negative (--)

- >=25% site within Flood Zone 3

Data

- Environment Agency Flood Zone 3
- Environment Agency Flood Zone 2

Criterion 9b Surface water flood risk

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% on land with a 1 in 100 year risk of surface water flooding

Major negative (--)

- >=25% on land with a 1 in 30 year risk of surface water flooding

Data

- Environment Agency 1:30 surface water flooding data
- Environment Agency 1:100 surface water flooding data

IIA Objective 10. Value, maintain, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and geodiversity

Sites that are close to internationally, nationally or locally designated conservation sites have the potential to affect the biodiversity or geodiversity of those sites/features, e.g. through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, or increased recreation pressure.

Conversely, there may be opportunities to promote habitat connectivity if new developments include green infrastructure. Therefore, while proximity to designated sites provides an indication of the potential for an adverse effect, appropriate mitigation may avoid adverse effects and may even result in beneficial effects. It is generally not considered proportionate for assessment at the plan level to attempt to identify the particular biodiversity assets present at different locations and their sensitivity to different types of development (although Impact Risk Zones defined by Natural England provide a useful proxy for this in relation to SSSIs and internationally designated sites). Instead, this would be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application.

Significance scoring:

If any of the criteria receive a major negative effect then the score is significant negative.

If both criteria receive a minor negative effect then the score is significant negative.

If only one of the criteria receive a minor negative effect then the score is minor negative.

For all other sites the score is negligible.

Criterion 10a International and national biodiversity and geodiversity assets

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% of site intersects with 'all planning applications', 'residential' or ‘rural residential’ Impact Risk Zones (IRZs)

Major negative (--)

- >=1% of site intersects with internationally or nationally designated site

Data

- Natural England SSSI, Ramsar, SAC, SPA, NNR
- Natural England Sites of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zones
- The 'all planning applications' and 'rural residential' IRZs only relate to development outside of existing settlements.
- Use the following dwelling capacity categories to establish relevance of IRZ:
  - 500+
  - 100+
  - 50+
  - 10+

Criterion 10b Locally designated wildlife and geodiversity sites, Priority Habitat Inventory and Ancient Woodland

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- <=250m from a locally designated site, Priority Habitat or Ancient Woodland

Major negative (--)

- >=1% of site intersects with a locally designated site, Priority Habitat or Ancient Woodland

Data

- Essex County Council Geodiversity Sites and County Wildlife Sites
- Local Wildlife Sites data
- Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory
- Natural England Ancient Woodland:

IIA Objective 11. Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage

The NPPF states that the "significance [of a heritage asset] can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting". However, development could also enhance the significance of the asset, provided that the development preserves those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset. In all cases, effects from a Local Plan site allocation will be subject to a degree of uncertainty as the actual effects on heritage assets will depend on the particular scale, design and layout of the new development and opportunities which may exist to enhance the setting of heritage features, for example where sympathetic development replaces a derelict brownfield site which is currently having an adverse effect.

The proximity tests outlined below are intended to provide a basis for screening for the potential for adverse effects on heritage assets but in the absence of a historic environment sensitivity study or similar for all reasonable alternative site options, effects identified by the IIA are subject to a high degree of uncertainty. Distances used are based on professional judgement. Longer screening distances are used for site options outside of existing settlements to reflect typically longer sightlines in rural vs. urban areas.

Significance scoring:

Scoring of significance will match the major, minor and negligible effects. However, all effects to acknowledge uncertainty (?) in the absence of a heritage impact assessment:

- All other 0?
- Minor negative -?
- Major negative --?

Criterion 11a Proximity to historic assets: sites within existing settlements, or

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- 101-250m

Major negative (--)

- <=100m

Data

- Basildon council Settlement Area
- Basildon council conservation areas
- Historic England listed buildings
- Historic England scheduled monument
- Historic England registered park and garden
- Historic England registered battlefields
- Historic England World Heritage Sites

Criterion 11b Proximity to historic assets: sites outside of existing settlements

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- 501-1,000m

Major negative (--)

- <=500m

Data

- Basildon council Settlement Area
- Basildon council conservation areas
- Historic England listed buildings
- Historic England scheduled monument
- Historic England registered park and garden
- Historic England registered battlefields
- Historic England World Heritage Sites

IIA Objective 12. Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and townscape, ensuring development does not detract from the quality of views and local distinctiveness

As there is no up-to-date landscape sensitivity assessment or similar available for Basildon that can be easily translated into IIA effects, the IIA of site options in landscape/ townscape terms uses a more simplistic appraisal method, based on whether a site is located within or adjacent to a defined settlement boundary. This is because development within or adjacent to a settlement may not have as large an effect on the landscape when compared to a site located outside of a settlement. This approach increases the uncertainty of the effects identified by the IIA, as does the fact that effects on landscape and townscape will also depend on the design, scale and layout of development within the site, which may help mitigate and/or enhance effects on the existing townscape.

Significance scoring:

Scoring of significance will match the minor positive and minor negative effects. However, all effects to acknowledge uncertainty (?) in the absence of a landscape impact assessment that can be translated into IA effects:

- Minor positive +?
- Minor negative -?

Criterion 12 Landscape and townscape

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- Sites within or adjacent to (i.e. <=100m) the defined settlement boundary

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- All other sites

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- Basildon council settlement boundary data

Employment site assessment criteria and assumptions

IIA Objective 1. Provide new and affordable housing to meet identified needs of the whole community, covering housing of a suitable mix and type.

The location of employment sites is not considered likely to affect this objective; therefore this objective has been scoped out for employment sites.

IIA Objective 2. Create a safe, healthy and inclusive living environment and encourage healthy lifestyles, improving access to local services and facilities that promote prosperity, health, well-being, recreation and integration.

The location of employment sites is not considered likely to affect this objective; therefore this objective has been scoped out for employment sites.

IIA Objective 3. Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not.

This is a cross-cutting IIA objective. To avoid duplication, site assessment criteria that are determinants of equality of health and well-being, accessibility and opportunity but which are tested under other IIA objectives are not duplicated here (e.g. criterion 1b Barriers to housing and services, 2a GP surgeries, 2b Noise, 2c Odour, 2d Open space, sport and recreation, 2e Loss of open space, 2f Public Rights of Way, 2g Town centres, 4a Loss of employment land, 4b Provision of employment sites, 4c Employment deprivation, 4d Access to jobs, 4e Primary schools, 4f Secondary schools, 5a Rail, 5b Bus, 5c Cycling, 8a NO2 pollution, 8b PM10 pollution and 8c PM2.5 pollution).

Effects recorded under all other IIA objectives effect this IIA objective to varying degrees. Consequently, all site options are recorded as having an uncertain effect against this objective and readers are directed to the effects recorded against the other IIIIA objectives, which more accurately capture the range of issues relevant to this objective at a more granular level.

IIA Objective 4. Facilitate a prosperous and growing economy that creates a range of new jobs and improves vitality and viability of town centres

The provision of new employment sites in any location is likely to have a positive effect on this objective by ensuring that new job opportunities are provided to match the population growth that is being planned for within the Local Plan. Effects will be particularly positive where sites are large in size as they will result in more job creation.

Access to work can be influenced by location and socioeconomic status, therefore this assessment considers the proportion of working age people excluded from the labour market through the 'Employment' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Significance scoring:

Criterion 4a, 4d, 4e and 4f not relevant to residential sites. Each criterion 4b and, 4c is scored::

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores totalled, and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by 2). Overall significance is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Criterion 4a Loss of employment land

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- N/A

Criterion 4b Provision of employment sites

Major positive (++)

- Sites that are >=5ha

Minor positive (+)

- Sites that are <5ha

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- Contained within the shapefile for each site

Criterion 4c Employment deprivation

Major positive (++)

- >=25% of site is located within one of the 20% most deprived areas nationally ('Employment' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation).

Minor positive (+)

- >=25% of site located within one of the 20-40% most deprived areas nationally ('Employment' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation).

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- 'Employment' domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation

Criterion 4d Access to jobs

N.B. Jobs density = number of employees / population

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- N/A

Criterion 4e Primary schools

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- N/A

Criterion 4f Secondary schools

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- N/A

IIA Objective 5. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents, and promote sustainable modes of transport and efficient movement patterns in the Borough

Proximity to essential services and access to jobs are determinants of the need to travel but to avoid duplication they are not tested again here. Instead, the assessment criteria under this IIA objective consider the level in the settlement hierarchy in which the site is located and the site's proximity to public transport services. The Council has confirmed that the position of settlements in the settlement hierarchy is informed both by the range of services and facilities available, which affects the need to travel, and by the nature and frequency of public transport services, which provides opportunities to use non-car modes. It is acknowledged that the actual use of sustainable transport modes will depend on people's behaviour. It is possible that new services and facilities and transport links such as bus routes or cycle paths will be provided as part of new developments, particularly at larger sites, but this was not assumed in assessing site options.

Significance scoring:

Each criterion 5a to 5d is scored:

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1

- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores totalled, and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by 4). Overall significance is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Criterion 5a Rail

Major positive (++)

- <= 500m of a railway station

Minor positive (+)

- 501-1,000m of a railway station

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- 1,001-2,000m of a railway station

Major negative (--)

- >2,000m of a railway station

Data

- Ordnance Survey railway station data

Criterion 5b Bus

Major positive (++)

- <= 300m of a bus stop

Minor positive (+)

- 301-600m of a bus stop

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- 601-1,000m of a bus stop

Major negative (--)

- >1,000m of a bus stop

Data

- National Public Transport Access Nodes bus stop data

Criterion 5c Cycling

Major positive (++)

- <= 200m of a cycle route

Minor positive (+)

- 201-400m of a cycle route

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- 401-800m of a cycle route

Major negative (--)

- >800m of a cycle route

Data

- Basildon council cycle route data

Criterion 5d Settlement hierarchy

Major positive (++)

- Sites within or adjacent to (i.e. <=100m) a Market Town

Minor positive (+)

- Sites within or adjacent to a Local Service Centre

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- Basildon council settlement boundary data
- Basildon council Settlement Hierarchy

IIA Objective 6. Improve air quality by reducing emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants

The proximity of sites to Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) does not appropriately test the potential for such sites to generate road traffic through AQMAs. Furthermore, in isolation, individual sites options are likely to generate relatively minor effects on air quality. It is considered more appropriate to appraise the Plan's ability to reduce air quality over the Plan Period in the SA Report as part of the appraisal of strategic planning policies and the cumulative effects of the Plan's site allocations as a whole.

The Council's Air Quality Study undertaken by Bureau Veritas (2020) identifies and assesses the likely effects of selected sites on the District's NO2 or PM10 levels. A handful of sites were found to have the potential to generate slight or moderate increases in NO2 or PM10 although, overall, the impact on local air quality conditions arising from increased traffic flows as a result of the implementation of the Local Development Plan can be described as not significant with regards to human receptors.

All sites score a negligible uncertain effect against this objective (0?) at this stage.

IIA Objective 7. To promote sustainable forms of development that maintain and improve the quality of the Borough's natural resources, including minerals, soils, waters and waste materials

Appraisal of site options in relation to this IIA objective considered whether the site is greenfield or brownfield and also what quality of agricultural land it contains. Development on brownfield land represents a more efficient use of land in comparison to the development of greenfield sites. Although open spaces may contain a small number of buildings to maintain recreational use, they are largely undeveloped and are considered greenfield land.

The location of sites is not likely to influence sustainable design and construction techniques. This includes the production of waste from the consumption of materials or resources, volumes of waste produced including the generation of hazardous waste, or the construction/demolition waste going to landfill. The location of sites is also not likely to have an effect on the recovery, re-use or recycling of waste materials, or the demand for recycled material.

These details will be promoted and secured through the detailed design proposals for each site at the planning application stage and strategic policies. Therefore, this IIA objective has been scoped out.

Levels of water consumption within new development will be determined by its design and onsite practices, rather than the location of the site. However, the location of development could affect water quality during construction depending on its proximity to watercourses, water bodies and Source Protection Zones. The extent to which water quality is actually affected would depend on construction techniques and the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems within the design.

Significance scoring:

If criterion 7a is a major positive then site scores significant positive, irrespective of criterion 7b.If criterion 7a is not major positive, then criteria 7a to 7b are scored:

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores totalled, and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by 2). Overall significance for 7a and 7b is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Each criterion 7c to 7e is scored:

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores totalled, and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by 2).

Overall significance for 7c, 7d and 7e is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Overall significance for IIA 7 is found by adding the overall score for 7a and 7b, to the overall score for 7c, 7d and 7e, and dividing by two. Overall significance is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Criterion 7a Brownfield /greenfield land

Major positive (++)

- Majority of site brownfield or previously developed land

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- N/A

Major negative (--)

- Majority of site greenfield land

Data

- Contained within the shapefile for each site

Criterion 7b Agricultural land classification

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- Greenfield site with >=25% area classed as Grade 3 agricultural land

Major negative (--)

- Greenfield site with >=25% area classed as Grade 1 or 2 agricultural land

Data

- Natural England Agricultural Land Classification

Criterion 7c Source Protection Zones

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% site falls within Source Protection Zone 2 or 3

Major negative (--)

- >=25% site falls within Source Protection Zone 1.

Data

- Environment Agency Source Protection Zone

Criterion 7d Water quality

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- Site is within 100m of a watercourse or water body

Major negative (--)

- Site contains a watercourse or water body

Data

- Ordnance Survey Open Rivers watercourses data
- Ordnance Survey water bodies

Criterion 7e Minerals Safeguarding Area

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- Site is within a Minerals Safeguarding Area

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- Essex Mineral Safeguarding Areas

IIA Objective 8. Climate Change mitigation - Reduce Basildon Borough's contribution to climate change

This is a cross-cutting IIA objective. To avoid duplication, site assessment criteria that are determinants of carbon emissions but which are tested under other IIA objectives are not duplicated. The site assessment criteria here instead focus on exposure to air pollution. The assessment of site options has not taken into account planned measures that will improve future air quality (such as the ban on sale of new petrol and diesel cars in the UK from 2035), or site-specific mitigation. The effect of the Plan as a whole on air quality will be assessed elsewhere, within the cumulative effects section of the IIA.

In 2021, the WHO updated its recommended guidelines for air pollutants **[See reference** 411**]**. The new air quality guidelines reflect the best available health evidence and WHO's recommendations continue to be recognised globally as the targets that should be met to protect public health. Minor negative effects are assumed to occur when residential development would occur in a location where the current baseline annual mean concentration of a pollutant exceeds these 2021 WHO guidelines. Major negative effects are assumed to occur in locations where current annual mean pollution exceeds both the 2021 WHO air quality guidelines and the higher pollution levels allowed under the UK's national air quality objectives **[See reference** 412**]**.

The location of housing and employment sites will not have an effect on levels of domestic energy consumption and the potential for renewable energy use. These factors are influenced more by the specific design and construction methods used, and whether renewable energy infrastructure is

incorporated into development. Therefore, the effects of the potential sites on this IIA objective will be assumed to be negligible. Consideration of site-specific factors that allow for the incorporation of viable district heating networks or combined heat and power is beyond the scope of the IIA site options assessment.

Significance scoring:

Each criterion 8-a to 8-c is scored:

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores totalled, and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by 3). Overall significance is scored as follows:

- Significant positive >= +2
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative <0 to >-2
- Significant negative <= -2

Criterion 8a NO2 pollution

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% of site has pollutant concentration of 10-40 µg/m3

Major negative (--)

- >=25% of site has pollutant concentration of >40 µg/m3

Data

- Defra NO2 pollution data

Criterion 8b PM10 pollution

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% of site has pollutant concentration of 15-40 µg/m3

Major negative (--)

- >=25% of site has pollutant concentration of >40 µg/m3

Data

- Defra PM10 pollution data

Criterion 8c PM2.5 pollution

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% of site has pollutant concentration of 5-20 µg/m3

Major negative (--)

- >=25% of site has pollutant concentration of >20 µg/m3

Data

- Defra PM2.5 pollution data

IIA Objective 9. Climate change adaptation - Reduce Basildon Borough's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change

The extent to which flood risk can be managed and reduced is considered below. The location of development will not otherwise significantly affect the achievement of this objective as effects will depend largely on the detailed proposals for sites and their design, which would be influenced by policies in the Local Plan and details submitted at the planning application stage. Those policies in the Local Plan have been appraised separately to the site options.

Significance scoring:

If either criterion receives a major negative, the IIA objective automatically receives a significant negative effect.

If both criteria are minor negative, then a significant negative is given.

If only one criterion scores minor negative and the other scores negligible, then a minor negative is given.

All other sites score negligible (0).

Criterion 9a Flood zones

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% site within Flood Zone 2

Major negative (--)

- >=25% site within Flood Zone 3

Data

- Environment Agency Flood Zone 3
- Environment Agency Flood Zone 2

Criterion 9b Surface water flood risk

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% on land with a 1 in 100 year risk of surface water flooding

Major negative (--)

- >=25% on land with a 1 in 30 year risk of surface water flooding

Data

- Environment Agency 1:30 surface water flooding data
- Environment Agency 1:100 surface water flooding data

IIA Objective 10. Value, maintain, conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and geodiversity

Sites that are close to internationally, nationally or locally designated conservation sites have the potential to affect the biodiversity or geodiversity of those sites/features, e.g. through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, or increased recreation pressure.

Conversely, there may be opportunities to promote habitat connectivity if new developments include green infrastructure. Therefore, while proximity to designated sites provides an indication of the potential for an adverse effect, appropriate mitigation may avoid adverse effects and may even result in beneficial effects. It is generally not considered proportionate for assessment at the plan level to attempt to identify the particular biodiversity assets present at different locations and their sensitivity to different types of development. Instead, this would be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application.

Significance scoring:

If any of the criteria receive a major negative effect then the score is significant negative.

If both criteria receive a minor negative effect then the score is significant negative.

If only one of the criteria receive a minor negative effect then the score is minor negative.

For all other sites the score is negligible.

Criterion 10a International and national biodiversity and geodiversity assets

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- >=25% of site intersects with 'all planning applications', 'residential' or ‘rural residential’ Impact Risk Zones (IRZs)

Major negative (--)

- >=1% of site intersects with internationally or nationally designated site

Data

- Natural England SSSI, Ramsar, SAC, SPA, NNR
- Natural England Sites of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zones
- The 'all planning applications' and 'rural residential' IRZs only relate to development outside of existing settlements.
- Use the following dwelling capacity categories to establish relevance of IRZ:
  - 500+
  - 100+
  - 50+
  - 10+

Criterion 10b Locally designated wildlife and geodiversity sites, Priority Habitat Inventory and Ancient Woodland

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- <=250m from a locally designated site, Priority Habitat or Ancient Woodland

Major negative (--)

- >=1% of site intersects with a locally designated site, Priority Habitat or Ancient Woodland

Data

- Essex County Council Geodiversity Sites and County Wildlife Sites
- Local Wildlife Sites data
- Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory
- Natural England Ancient Woodland:

IIA Objective 11. Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage

The NPPF states that the "significance [of a heritage asset] can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting". However, development could also enhance the significance of the asset, provided that the development preserves those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset. In all cases, effects from a Local Plan site allocation will be subject to a degree of uncertainty as the actual effects on heritage assets will depend on the particular scale, design and layout of the new development and opportunities which may exist to enhance the setting of heritage features, for example where sympathetic development replaces a derelict brownfield site which is currently having an adverse effect.

The proximity tests outlined below are intended to provide a basis for screening for the potential for adverse effects on heritage assets but in the absence of a historic environment sensitivity study or similar for all reasonable alternative site options, effects identified by the IIA are subject to a high degree of uncertainty. Distances used are based on professional judgement. Longer screening distances are used for site options outside of existing settlements to reflect typically longer sightlines in rural vs. urban areas.

Significance scoring:

Scoring of significance will match the major, minor and negligible effects. However, all effects to acknowledge uncertainty (?) in the absence of a heritage impact assessment:

- All other 0?
- Minor negative -?
- Major negative --?

Criterion 11a Proximity to historic assets: sites within existing settlements, or

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- 101-250m

Major negative (--)

- <=100m

Data

- Basildon council Settlement Area
- Basildon council conservation areas
- Historic England listed buildings
- Historic England scheduled monument
- Historic England registered park and garden
- Historic England registered battlefields
- Historic England World Heritage Sites

Criterion 11b Proximity to historic assets: sites outside of existing settlements

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- N/A

Negligible (0)

- All other sites

Minor negative (-)

- 501-1,000m

Major negative (--)

- <=500m

Data

- Basildon council Settlement Area
- Basildon council conservation areas
- Historic England listed buildings
- Historic England scheduled monument
- Historic England registered park and garden
- Historic England registered battlefields
- Historic England World Heritage Sites

IIA Objective 12. Value, conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and townscape, ensuring development does not detract from the quality of views and local distinctiveness

As there is no landscape sensitivity assessment or similar available for Basildon that can be easily translated into IIA effects, the IIA of site options in landscape/ townscape terms uses a more simplistic appraisal method, based on whether a site is located within or adjacent to a defined settlement boundary. This is because development within or adjacent to a settlement may not have as large an effect on the landscape when compared to a site located outside of a settlement. This approach increases the uncertainty of the effects identified by the IIA, as does the fact that effects on landscape and townscape will also depend on the design, scale and layout of development within the site, which may help mitigate and/or enhance effects on the existing townscape.

Significance scoring:

Scoring of significance will match the minor positive and minor negative effects. However, all effects to acknowledge uncertainty (?) in the absence of a landscape impact assessment that can be translated into IA effects:

- Minor positive +?
- Minor negative -?

Criterion 12 Landscape and townscape

Major positive (++)

- N/A

Minor positive (+)

- Sites within or adjacent to (i.e. <=100m) the defined settlement boundary

Negligible (0)

- N/A

Minor negative (-)

- All other sites

Major negative (--)

- N/A

Data

- Basildon council settlement boundary data

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2 Local Government Association (2020) Basic facts about Basildon District [pdf]. Available at: https://reports.esd.org.uk/reports/shared?encryptedId=66D8C345D6F9F81A2C8240E0BADAD113B9A4B5D2067508BE3F3CCF7401216DC79D2B5AF5BF6ACD58C8A67C72C0EEB6BC3A7393029025C9CF158512162315F225B0D7B8618394BF7D835DE05410299424

3 Basildon Borough Council (2022) Local Development Scheme 2022-2027 [pdf]. Available at: https://www.basildon.gov.uk/media/11479/Basildon-Council-Local-Development-Scheme-LDS-2022-2027/pdf/Basildon_Council_-_Local_Development_Scheme_LDS_2022-2027.pdf?m=638047075807230000#:~:text=1.6%20The%20Basildon%20Borough%20Local,Plan%202014%20%2D%202034%20from%20examination.

4 Basildon Council (2007) Basildon District Local Plan Saved Policies [pdf]. Available at: https://www.basildon.gov.uk/media/598/Basildon-District-Local-Plan-Saved-Policies-September-2007/pdf/Basildon_District_Local_Plan_Saved_Policies_-_September_2007.pdf?m=636759787325800000

5 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 was amended under the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (EU Exit) Regulations 2018.

6 Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

7 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1633), as amended by The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232).

8 Explanatory Memorandum to the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 No. 1232.

9 Under EU Directives 85/337/EEC and 97/11/EC concerning EIA.

10 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2016, updated 2021) Planning practice guidance [online]. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance

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