

**Braintree District Council**

**Core Strategy – Submission Draft**

**Sustainability Appraisal  
and  
Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Environmental Report  
Annex C  
Sustainability Framework**

**April 2010**



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

In 2005 Essex County Council was commissioned by Braintree District Council to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SA/SEA), for Braintree District Council's Core Strategy. The Environmental Report sets out the SA/SEA undertaken for the Core Strategy, and draws together the findings of previous stages of the Core Strategy preparation and accompanying SA/SEA reports into one document.

This Annex sets out the Sustainability Framework for the Core Strategy.

## 1.2 Sustainability Framework

A Sustainability Framework is an important tool of the SA/SEA process that is developed during the scoping phase in line with the Planning Advisory Service's best practice guidance for Sustainability Appraisals. It provides the context against which the emerging Core Strategy options and policies can be assessed and sets out the sustainability objectives; the key questions that should be asked to decipher whether the Strategy adheres to the principles of sustainability; and indicators which can monitor the impact of the Strategy. The Sustainability Framework was first included in the Scoping Report which was submitted to the three statutory consultees, the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England for consultation. The comments and recommendations received have been incorporated within the Sustainability Framework within this annex.

The SA/SEA of the Core Strategy will adopt an objectives based approach, with each objective combining to form the Sustainability Framework. The use of sustainability objectives to appraise a plan or programme is a theme of the Planning Advisory Service's best guidance practice for Sustainability Appraisal. It allows individual issues, policies and proposals within a plan or strategy to be appraised separately against each objective within the overall Sustainability Framework. In this way, beneficial or adverse impacts relating to each individual objective may be readily identified and reported. It also allows for alternatives and/or mitigation measures to be identified and subsequently appraised in similar fashion.

The sustainability objectives have been derived from the review of plans and programmes and a strategic analysis of the baseline information. Objectives are based on policy advice and guidance and related to the assessment of the current state of the District. The appraisal is then able to evaluate, in a clear and consistent manner, the nature and degree of impact and whether significant effects are likely to emerge from the plan's proposed policies. It also means that indicators established for use in the appraisal process itself can be carried forward into subsequent monitoring of the implementation and delivery of policies and proposals. Recognising which indicators can be used to assess the impact of policies being appraised is important and points towards the specific monitoring which will need to be carried out. Collection of this information over a period of time will result in data trends being established, which will show if the policies appraised have a positive or negative impact on the social, economic or environmental factors they influence.

The sustainability objectives identified for the appraisal of the Core Strategy are tabulated below. The table presents each sustainability objective, together with its source and the sustainability topics to which it relates. The scope of the sustainability

objectives has been derived from Annex 1(f) of the European SEA Directive, 2001/42/EC with other topics, of relevance to the document being appraised also included.

It is important to assess the impact of the SA/SEA objectives on social, environmental and economic factors. Table 1 shows how these three pillars of sustainability are integrated into the SEA objectives.

**TABLE 1: RELATIONSHIP OF SA/SEA OBJECTIVES TO ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS**

	Economic	Social	Environmental
1) Create Safe Environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion		✓	✓
2) To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	✓	✓	✓
3) To improve the health of the Districts residents and mitigate/reduce potential health inequalities.	✓	✓	
4) To promote town centre vitality and viability	✓	✓	
5) To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	✓	✓	
6) To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment		✓	✓
7) To promote more sustainable transport choices.	✓	✓	✓
8) Promote accessibility.	✓	✓	✓
9) To improve the education and skills of the population	✓	✓	
10) To maintain and enhance cultural heritage and assets within Braintree		✓	✓
11) To reduce contributions to climatic change		✓	✓
12) To improve water quality			✓
13) To reduce the risk of flooding	✓	✓	✓
14) To improve air quality	✓	✓	✓
15) To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	✓	✓	✓

## 2 SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework was produced from analysis of all the information obtained during the scoping phase and shows the relationship between:

- each of the SA/SEA objectives;
- where each of the objectives has been sourced from;
- which topics refer to each objective;
- what key questions have to be asked of each policy objective to assess its relationship with each of the objectives; and,
- what data sources can be monitored to see if policies accord with the objectives.

Please note that those texts in bold have been added or modified following the receipt of comments from statutory consultees.

**TABLE 2: SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK**

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
1) Create Safe environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion.	PPS 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) ODPM	SEA Directive: - Population & Social - Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will it ensure the delivery of high quality and inclusive design?</li> <li>- Will the layout of new development be secure by design</li> <li>- Will useable mixed use environments be created?</li> <li>- Will developments be supported by existing local services including policing?</li> <li>- Will the phasing of the development allow possible infrastructure improvements to respond to large scale developments?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Crime rates.</li> <li>- Perception or fear of crime.</li> </ul>
2) To provide everybody with the opportunity to live in a decent home.	PPS 3 – Housing (2006) ODPM	SEA Directive: - Housing - Population & Social  Other relevant: - Transport - Economy - Human Health - Landscape - Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for all social groups to the designated 35%?</li> <li>- Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?</li> <li>- Can homes be adapted for lifetime use, or are lifetime homes provided as part of the development?</li> <li>- Will homes be designed with a low carbon footprint?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- House Prices</li> <li>- LA dwelling stock below the 'Decent Home Standard'</li> <li>- Indices of Multiple Deprivation Score – particularly Housing and Services Domain and the Living Environment Deprivation Domain</li> <li>- Number of affordable dwelling completions</li> <li>- Annual dwelling completions</li> <li>- Size and age of housing stock</li> <li>- Perception of quality of built</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
		Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are dwellings easily accessed by transport links, jobs, services, commercial areas and leisure facilities?</li> <li>- Will homes be designed to enhance the existing street scene creating a better cultural heritage &amp; public realm?</li> <li>- Will homes be sufficiently phased during the plan period and beyond in light of the East of England Plan?</li> <li>- Are useable green spaces of a sufficient scale accessible to all new housing developments?</li> <li>- Will affordable housing be supplied in rural areas?</li> <li>- Can new rural developments be supported by existing local services including policing?</li> <li>- Will new housing require adequate school expansion, new healthcare and community facilities in the locality?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>environment/access to open space and leisure facilities</li> <li>- Access to sustainable transport links</li> <li>- Population projections and forecasts</li> <li>- Crime rates</li> </ul>
3) To improve the health of the District's residents and mitigate/reduce potential health	PPS 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development	SEA Directive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Health</li> <li>- Population &amp;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will it reduce health inequalities?</li> <li>- Will it improve access to high quality health facilities?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residents opinion on availability of open space/leisure facilities</li> <li>- Perception of quality of built environment/access to open</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
inequalities.	(2005) ODPM	Social - Biodiversity, Fauna & Flora - Air - Soil, Minerals & Waste Other relevant: - Transport - Water Quality - Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will it encourage healthy lifestyles?</li> <li>- Will it increase access to recreation facilities and open space?</li> <li>- Will it improve air quality?</li> <li>- Will it improve water quality?</li> <li>- Will the phasing of the development allow possible infrastructure improvements to respond to large scale developments?</li> </ul>	space and leisure facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Air Quality Management Areas (number and performance) and P10 emissions</li> <li>- Number of days of air pollution</li> <li>- Travel to work methods and flows</li> <li>- KSI casualties for adults and children</li> <li>- <b>Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace standards state that:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>No person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of accessible natural green space of at least 2ha in size;</b></li> <li>- <b>There should be at least one 20ha accessible natural green space within 2km from home;</b></li> <li>- <b>There should be one 100ha accessible green space site within 5km;</b></li> <li>- <b>There should be one 500ha accessible natural green space site within 10km;</b></li> <li>- <b>At least 1ha of statutory Local Nature reserve should be provided per</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
4) To promote town centre vitality and viability.	PPS 4 – Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth (2009) CLG	SEA Directive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economy</li> <li>- Population &amp; Social</li> <li>- Cultural Heritage</li> </ul> Other relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Health</li> <li>- Transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does it promote and enhance existing centres by focusing development in such centres?</li> <li>- Does it enhance consumer choice through the provision of range of shopping, leisure and local services to meet the needs of the entire community?</li> <li>- Does it promote mixed use and high density development in urban centres?</li> <li>- Does it secure more opportunities for residents to work in the district?</li> <li>- Is an attractive and usable public realm created or preserved?</li> <li>- Are sustainable transport links and adequate car parking provided?</li> <li>- Do the mixture and type of development provided encourage investment?</li> <li>- Will retailing in centres be enhanced in areas of identified need?</li> <li>- Will town centres have a wider range of employment opportunities across all</li> </ul>	<b>1000 population.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pedestrian footfall</li> <li>- Amount of retail, leisure and office floorspace in town centres.</li> <li>- Implemented and outstanding planning permissions for retail, office and commercial use</li> <li>- Density of development</li> <li>- Floorspace Data (Department of Communities and Local Government)</li> <li>- Travel to work flows</li> <li>- Access to services by public transport</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
			sectors? - Will development seek to increase pedestrian footfalls in the District's town centres? - What will be the impacts of out of town centre proposals on existing town centres? - Will the phasing of the development allow possible infrastructure improvements to respond to large scale developments?	
5) To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth.	PPS 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) ODPM PPS4 – Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth (2009) CLG	SEA Directive: - Economy Other relevant: - Transport - Population & Social - Housing	- Will it improve business development and attract investment? - Does it secure more opportunities for residents, of all abilities, and in all employment sectors, to work in the district? - Does it promote a wide variety multi purpose and multi use spaces? - Will it enhance the Districts potential for tourism? - Will it allow small businesses to grow and encourage business innovation? - Will employment development along the A12 and A120 corridors require highways	- Percentage change and comparison in the total number of VAT registered businesses in the area. - Travel to work flows - Employment status by residents and job type - Job densities - Economic activity of residents - Average gross weekly pay - Amount of vacant industrial floorspace - Travel to work flows - Amount of high quality agricultural land.

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
			<p>improvements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does it encourage and enhance rural diversity to ensure additional employment in rural areas?</li> <li>- Will out commuting be reduced due to retention of skills resulting from new development?</li> <li>- Will new housing be supported by adequate local employment opportunities?</li> <li>- Does Greenfield development impact on high quality (grade 2) agricultural land?</li> </ul>	
<p>6) To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment.</p>	<p>PPS 9 – Biological and Geological Conservation (2005) ODPM</p>	<p>SEA Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biodiversity, Fauna &amp; Flora</li> <li>- Landscape</li> <li>- Water</li> <li>- Soils, Minerals &amp; Waste</li> </ul> <p>Other relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climatic Factors</li> <li>- Material Assets (Flooding)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will it conserve and enhance natural/semi natural habitats?</li> <li>- Will it conserve and enhance species diversity, and in particular avoid harm to protected species?</li> <li>- Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest?</li> <li>- <b>Will it maintain and enhance the connectivity of habitats and their ability to deliver ecosystem services e.g. flood risk management, climate change mitigation &amp; adaptation and access for</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Populations of wild birds.</li> <li>- Spatial extent and condition of designated sites within the District</li> <li>- Achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets.</li> <li>- Water quality and availability</li> <li>- Areas of flood risk</li> <li>- Residents opinion on availability of open space</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
			<p><b>health?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will new development impact on the <b>'interest features' of the Colne and Blackwater Estuary Wildlife Areas?</b></li> </ul>	
7) To promote more sustainable transport.	PPG 13 - Transport (2001) ODPM	<p>SEA Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Population &amp; Social</li> </ul> <p>Other relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Health</li> <li>- Climatic Factors</li> <li>- Air Quality</li> <li>- Economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will it increase the availability and usability of sustainable transport modes?</li> <li>- Will it seek to encourage people to use alternative modes of transportation other than the private car?</li> <li>- Will it contribute positively to reducing social exclusion by ensuring access to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services?</li> <li>- Will it reduce the need to travel?</li> <li>- Does it seek to ensure that development encourages a large volume of people or transport movements are located in sustainable accessible locations?</li> <li>- Does it secure more opportunities for residents to work in Braintree?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to services and business' by public transport</li> <li>- Indices of Multiple Deprivation</li> <li>- Travel to work methods and flows</li> <li>- Car ownership</li> <li>- Network performance on roads</li> <li>- Public transport punctuality and efficiency</li> </ul>
8) Promote accessibility.	PPS 1 – Delivering Sustainable	<p>SEA Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Population &amp;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will it contribute positively to reduce social exclusion by ensuring access to jobs,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residents opinion on availability of open space/leisure facilities</li> <li>- Access to services by public</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
	Development (2005) ODPM	Social - Transport Other relevant: - Human Health - Air Quality - Climatic Factors - Cultural Heritage - Economy - Housing	shopping, services and leisure facilities for all? - Will it reduce the need to travel? - Does it seek to ensure that developments encouraging a larger volume of people or transport movements are located in sustainable accessible locations? - Will new development require infrastructure improvements to support it? - Will employment development along the A12 and A120 corridors require highways improvements? - Will it increase traffic in rural areas? - Will the phasing of the development allow possible infrastructure improvements to respond to large scale developments?	transport - Recorded traffic flows - KSI casualties for adults and children - Car ownership
9) To improve the education and skills of the population	Braintree District Council – Community Strategy (A Strategy for People and Places in the	SEA Directive: - Population & Social - Economy	- Will the policies and options proposed seek to enhance the qualifications and skills of the local community? - Will the employment opportunities available be mixed to suit a varied	- GCSE or equivalent performance - Level 2 qualifications by working age residents - Level 4 qualifications and above by working age residents - Employment status of residents

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
	Braintree District to 2026)		employment skills base? - Will employment opportunities be accessible by a wide range of transport types? - Will new housing be supported by school expansion or other educational facilities where necessary?	- Average Gross earnings - Standard Occupational Classification
10) To maintain and enhance the cultural heritage and assets within Braintree.	PPS 5 – Planning for the Historic Environment (March 2010) CLG	SEA Directive: - Cultural Heritage - Landscape	- Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical, archaeological and cultural value in both urban and rural areas? - Will new development seek to preserve and enhance the existing cultural heritage? - Will areas of landscape and historic character be protected from development, and will new development enhance landscape character? - Does it seek to enhance the range and quality of the public realm and open spaces? - Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land? - Will new development be supported by sustainable grounds maintenance and	- Number and spatial extent of listed buildings - Number and spatial extent of scheduled monuments - Buildings At Risk Register - Heritage at risk surveys - Percentage of conservation area demolished or otherwise lost. - Lost or damage to the historic environment. - Number of parks allocated green flag status. - Amount of vacant land. - Amount of derelict properties.

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
			management?	
11) To reduce contributions to climatic change.	Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change - Supplement to PPS 1 (December 2007) CLG	SEA Directive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climatic Factors</li> <li>- Air Quality</li> <li>- Soils, Minerals &amp; Waste</li> <li>- Material Assets (Flooding)</li> </ul> Other relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption?</li> <li>- Will the materials used in construction originate from sustainable sources?</li> <li>- Will lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?</li> <li>- Will developments be accessible by various transport types?</li> <li>- Will the scale of new development (greater than 10 dwellings or 1000m<sup>2</sup> of non-residential floorspace) require the 10% of its energy supply to be met by decentralised, low-carbon or renewable sources?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carbon Dioxide emissions</li> <li>- Energy consumption GWh/households</li> <li>- Spatial extent of flood zones.</li> <li>- Air Quality Management Areas and P10 emissions</li> <li>- Percentage of energy supplied from renewable sources.</li> <li>- Amount of waste recycled/landfilled.</li> </ul>
12) To improve water quality	PPS 23 – Planning and Pollution Control and Annex 1. (2004) ODPM	SEA Directive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water</li> </ul> Other relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climatic Factors</li> <li>- Human Health</li> <li>- Material Assets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will it have no detrimental effect on the quality of inland water?</li> <li>- Will it improve the quality of coastal waters?</li> <li>- Will new development incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water supply availability status</li> <li>- Ecological and chemical status of major rivers</li> <li>- Planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
13) To reduce the risk of flooding	PPG 25 – Development and Flood Risk (March 2010) CLG	(Flooding) SEA Directive: - Material Assets (Flooding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the development be in areas designated as at risk of flooding, or on water catchment areas?</li> <li>- How will food risk be managed and mitigated against, and what impact will this have on the environment?</li> <li>- Is the sequential test being used to reach decisions on development proposals?</li> <li>- Will developer contributions be utilised for the provision and maintenance of flood defences?</li> <li>- How will flood risk areas change with the impact of climate change?</li> <li>- Are more sustainable alternatives to conventional drainage systems to be used to reduce downstream flooding?</li> <li>- Will new development increase localised flooding as identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Location of main rivers in District.</li> <li>- Spatial extent of flood zones 2 and 3</li> <li>- Residential properties flooded from main rivers</li> <li>- Planning permission in identified flood zones granted permission contrary to advice from the Environment Agency</li> </ul>
14) To improve air quality.	PPS 23 – Planning and Pollution Control	SEA Directive: - Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will it improve, or not detrimentally affect air quality?</li> <li>- Will development requiring or</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number and spatial extent of AQMA's in the District</li> <li>- P10 emissions</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
	and Annex 1 (2004) ODPM	Other relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Health</li> <li>- Climatic Factors</li> <li>- Transport</li> </ul>	giving rise to a large movement of people impact on potentially significant junctions in the District? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will it increase traffic in rural areas?</li> <li>- Will the phasing of the development allow possible infrastructure improvements to respond to large scale developments?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of days of air pollution</li> <li>- Recorded traffic flows</li> </ul>
15) To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	Sustainable Futures: Integrated Sustainability Framework for the East of England (January 2009)	SEA Directive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural Heritage</li> <li>- Landscape</li> <li>- Biodiversity, Fauna &amp; Flora</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical, archaeological and cultural value in both urban and rural areas?</li> <li>- Will new development seek to preserve and enhance the existing cultural heritage?</li> <li>- Will areas of landscape and historic character be protected from development, and will new development enhance landscape character?</li> <li>- Does it seek to enhance the range and quality of the public realm and open spaces?</li> <li>- Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land?</li> <li>- Will it maintain and enhance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number and spatial extent of listed buildings</li> <li>- Number and spatial extent of scheduled monuments</li> <li>- Buildings At Risk Register</li> <li>- Heritage at risk surveys</li> <li>- Percentage of conservation area demolished or otherwise lost.</li> <li>- Lost or damage to the historic environment.</li> <li>- Number of parks allocated green flag status.</li> <li>- Percentage of highways that are either of a high or acceptable level of cleanliness.</li> <li>- Residents opinion on availability of open space/leisure facilities</li> <li>- Perception of quality of built environment/access to open</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objectives	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Detailed Indicators
			<p>sites designated for their nature conservation interest?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will homes be designed to enhance the existing street scene creating a better cultural heritage &amp; public realm?</li> <li>- Will it ensure the delivery of high quality and inclusive design?</li> <li>- Will new development affect areas of high quality landscape identified in the Landscape Character Assessment?</li> <li>- Does Greenfield development impact on high quality (grade 2) agricultural land?</li> <li>- Will it increase traffic in rural areas?</li> </ul>	space and leisure facilities

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