

Braintree District Council

Core Strategy – Submission Draft

**Sustainability Appraisal
and
Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Environmental Report
Annex F
Quality Assurance Checklist**

April 2010



The information contained in this document can be made available in alternative formats: large print, braille, audio tape or on disk. We can also translate this document into other languages.

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CONTENTS

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Quality Assurance Checklist.....	1
2	Quality Assurance checklist.....	2

List of Tables

Table 1:	Quality Assurance Checklist	2
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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 Quality Assurance Checklist for the SA/SEA Environmental Report the Core Strategy.

1.2 Quality Assurance Checklist

A quality assurance checklist is an important tool which allows the Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) to be reviewed to ensure that the requirements of the SEA Directive¹ have been met. It also shows how effectively the appraisal has integrated sustainability considerations into the plan making process.

¹ EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

2 QUALITY ASSURANCE CHECKLIST

The following table shows the checklist carried out after completion of the Environmental Report. It has been produced in the same structured detailed in Local Development Frameworks – Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal (PAS, 2007) and has been divided into the different stages of the SA process.

TABLE 1: QUALITY ASSURANCE CHECKLIST

Does the final report ...	
Describe the emerging plan and summarise the Scoping Report	
Account for the recommendations included in the review of the scoping report?	✓ Section 2 and Annexes A and B
Adequately summarise the scoping report?	✓ Section 1 and Annexes A, B and C
Describe findings of stage b1 of the SA process	
Test the compatibility of the plan objectives with the SA objectives?	✓ Section 3
Include reasonable options/alternatives in line with stage b2 of the SA process	
Document the reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives of the plan?	✓ Sections 4 and 5 and Annex D
Include an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with?	✓ Sections 4 and 5
Describe the findings of stage b3-b5 of the SA process	
Ensure that all significant effects on the economy, community and environment are considered including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors?	✓ Section 2 and Annex C
Predict effects in terms of their magnitude, geographical scale, the time period over which they will occur, whether they are permanent or temporary, positive or negative, probable or improbable, frequent or rare and whether or not there are secondary, cumulative and/or synergistic effects?	✓ Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and Annexes D and E
Quantify predictions and evaluations of significance where possible, taking care to avoid false precision?	✓ Sections 5 and 6 and Annex E
Ensure that qualitative judgement of predictions and evaluation of	✓

significance is supported by baseline evidence such as likely effects on specific indicators, trends, targets or other evidence?	Sections 2, 5 and Annexes B and E
Highlight where a number of small, less significant effects may act in a cumulative or synergistic fashion to result in a significant effect?	✓ Section 5 and Annex E
Compare options against sustainability criteria and each other and possibly a business-as-usual option?	✓ Sections 4 and 5
Consider and document ways of mitigating significant adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects?	✓ Sections 5 and 6 and Annex E
Document any uncertainties or limitations in the information underlying both quantitative and qualitative predictions and evaluations of significance?	✓ Sections 5 and 6 and Annex E
Document stage b6 of the SA guidance	
Include a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring?	✓ Sections 5 and 6
Other	
Contain a non-technical summary that is written in a way most likely to engage prospective readers?	✓ Non-Technical Summary Document
Use simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms?	✓
Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation?	✓
Use maps and other illustrations where appropriate?	✓
Set out what happens next in the SA process?	✓ Section 6

