

Braintree District Council

Core Strategy – Submission Draft

**Sustainability Appraisal
and
Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Environmental Report
Annex A
Plans and Programmes**

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 Plans and Programmes relevant to the Core Strategy.

1.2 Identifying Other Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes

SEA Directive requires: 'An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.' Annex 1(a)

'The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation. Annex 1(e)'

The Core Strategy must comply with existing policies, plans and programmes at national and regional levels and strengthen and support local plans and strategies. It is therefore important to identify and review those policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives which are relevant to both the Core Strategy and the SA/SEA.

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2 PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Table 1 details the full list of plans and programmes which were included within *Annex 2: Review of Plans and Programmes of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal of 'One District – One Vision' A Strategy for People and Places in Braintree District to 2025* published in November 2008.

Current best practice now promotes a more selective approach regarding the collation of plans and programmes. In light of best practice those plans and programmes highlighted in yellow now form the evidence base, with those in bold being requested specifically following consultation with statutory consultees. Plans and programmes now have a localised focus to ensure the evidence base is centred on Braintree District. Please note that current best practice states that there is no requirement to include overlapping policy documents and it is therefore considered that the issues raised in International level documents are covered sufficiently at more localised policy tiers.

TABLE 1: LIST OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

International
European and International Sustainability Development Strategy (Revised 2006)
European Spatial Development Perspective
European Community Biodiversity Strategy (1998)
Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice, The Sixth Environmental Action Programme for the European Community (2001)
Draft European Constitution (2003)
European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage Valetta (1992)
EU Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)
EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)
Waste Framework Directive 2006/12/EC
Landfill of Waste Directive 99/31/EC
Effects of Certain Public and Private Projects on the Environment Directive (85/337/EEC)
Air Quality Directive (96/62/EC)
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
Directive to Promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001/77/EC)
Convention on Biological Diversity (2003)
The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern) (1979)
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)
Energy Performance of Buildings (2001/91/EC)
Limit Values for SO ₂ , NO _x , PM ₁₀ and Lead (1999/30/EC)
Pan-European Biological and Landscape Biodiversity Strategy (July 2003)

Kyoto Protocol
Earth Summit 1992
National
PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (February 2005)
Planning and Climate Change (Supplement to PPS1) (December 2007)
PPS3: Housing (December 2006)
PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth (December 2009)
PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment (March 2010)
PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (August 2004)
PPG8: Telecommunications (August 2001)
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (August 2005)
PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (July 2005)
PPG13: Transport (March 2001)
PPG14: Development on Unstable Land (April 1990)
PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (July 2002)
PPG19: Outside Advertisement Control (March 1992)
Good Practice Guide on Planning and Tourism
PPS22: Renewable Energy (August 2004)
PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control (November 2004)
PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control - Annex 1: Pollution Control, Air and Water Quality (November 2004)
PPS24: Planning and Noise (October 1994)
PPS25: Development and Flood Risk (December 2006)
PPS25: Development and Flood Risk – Practice Guide (March 2010)
Securing the Future: Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (March 2005)
“A Better Quality of Life: A Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK” (DEFRA 1999)
Sustainable Communities Plan 2003
Sustainable Communities: Homes for All (January 2005)
Housing Act 2004
Decent Homes Standard July 2000
Homelessness Act 2002
Strategic Housing Market Assessment
The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS 2001)
CABE: Design at a Glance (May 2006)
River Basin Planning Guidance DEFRA (2006)
Guidance on the Groundwater Regulations DETR (2001)
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
Working with a Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England (2002)

Rural White Paper 2000
The Environment Act 1995
The National Air Quality Strategy 2007
Waste Strategy for England 2007
Mineral Policy Statement 1: Planning and Minerals
Minerals Policy Statement 2: Controlling and Mitigating Environmental Effects
The Council for Europe's European Soil Charter (1972)
Agricultural Land Classification
Making Space for Water
Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation 1999
Choosing Health: Making Healthy Choices Easier Government White Paper 2004
Draft Guidance on Health in Strategic Environmental Assessment 2007 (DoH)
National Community Safety Plan 2006 – 2009
Safer Places – The Planning System and Crime Prevention
National PS Targets for GCSE Attainment
Transport White Paper “A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone”
White Paper “The Future of Transport” 2004
Natural England: Strategic Direction 2008 - 2013
Working with the Grain of Nature June 2007
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners (June 2004)
Regional
The East of England Plan, the Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England (RSS14) (May 2008)
East of England Regional Economic Strategy EEDA (December 2004)
A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England EERA (2001)
East of England Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action January 2003
Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England (July 2003)
Regional Housing Strategy 2005 – 2010
Draft Regional Cultural Strategy: A Better Life EERA (2005)
Sustainable Futures – The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England (2005)
Healthy Futures: A Regional Health Strategy for the East of England 2005 – 2010
Directions – The Vision and Strategy for Health and the NHS in Essex
South Essex Catchment Management Strategy (June 2004)
Water Resources for the Future: A Summary of the Strategy for the Anglian Region
UKCIP02 Climate Change Scenarios (2002)
East of England Regional Waste Management Strategy 2002
Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the East of

England: A revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England (March 2009)
County
The Essex Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (April 2009 Refresh)
Essex Police Authority Three Year Strategy Plan 2009 – 2012
(draft) Essex School Organisational Plan 2009 - 2014
Essex Rural Strategy: Partnership Priorities for the future of Rural Essex (2005)
Essex Local Transport Plan 2006/2011
Essex Minerals Plan (1996)
Essex and Southend on Sea Waste Local Plan (2001)
Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (1999)
Essex Biodiversity Action Plan Review (2006)
Essex Wide Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment (2006)
Essex Design Guide (2005)
The Urban Place Supplement (2007)
Joint Municipal Waste Strategy
County Landscape Character Assessment
District
Braintree District Local Plan Review (adopted July 2005)
Braintree District Futures 2025 Final Report
Mid Essex Economic Futures (March 2006)
North Essex Authority Retail Study Stage 1 Report and Stage 2 (2006)
Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (2006)
Braintree Settlement Fringe Study (November 2007)
Mid Essex Economic Futures
Non Residential Land Availability (March 2009)
Residential Land Availability (2007)
Braintree Strategic Housing Market Assessment (February 2008 (+ 2009 Update))
Urban Capacity Study (October 2007)
Employment Land Review (November 2007)
Braintree District, Haverhill and Clare Water Cycle Study (November 2008)
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (2009)
Habitat Regulations Appropriate Assessment (2009)
Braintree Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (October 2007)
Going for Growth, Investing in your future (June 2009)
Braintree District Futures 2025 (2006)
Rural Services Survey (2008)
Braintree Town Centre Preliminary Development Analysis Report (April 2009)

Assessment of Impact of Potential LDF Sites on Existing Junctions - Braintree and Witham LDF Allocations (2008)

Assessment of Impact of Potential LDF Sites on Existing Junctions - Braintree and Witham LDF Allocations (draft) (2010)

Affordable Housing Provision and Developer Contributions in the District of Braintree (2009)

A Strategy for People and Places in the Braintree District to 2026 (2009)

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3 REVIEW OF RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

3.1 National

PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (January 2005)	
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement1.pdf
Description	<p>Sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning. This PPS supports the four aims for sustainable development set out by the Government in its 1999 strategy. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social progress which recognises the needs of everyone; - effective protection of the environment; - the prudent use of natural resources; and - the maintenance of high and stable economic growth and employment. <p>The four aims should be pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment, and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well being, in ways that protect and enhance the physical environment and optimise resource and energy use.</p>
Relevance	The Core Strategy should adhere to the policies and key principles set out in this PPS in order to contribute to the delivery of sustainable development. PPS 1 will also inform the SA on this issue.

Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change - Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1	
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/ppsclimatechange.pdf
Description	<p>This Planning Policy Statement (PPS) sets out how planning, in providing for the new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities, should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and resilient to the climate change now accepted as inevitable. Key planning objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in providing for the homes, jobs, services and infrastructure needed by communities, and in renewing and shaping the places where they live and work, secure the highest viable resource and energy efficiency and reduction in emissions; - deliver patterns of urban growth and sustainable rural developments that help secure the fullest possible use of sustainable transport for moving freight, public transport, cycling and walking; and, which overall, reduce the need to travel, especially by car;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - secure new development and shape places that minimise vulnerability, and provide resilience, to climate change; and in ways that are consistent with social cohesion and inclusion; - conserve and enhance biodiversity, recognising that the distribution of habitats and species will be affected by climate change; - reflect the development needs and interests of communities and enable them to contribute effectively to tackling climate change; and - respond to the concerns of business and encourage competitiveness and technological innovation in mitigating and adapting to climate change.
Relevance	The impact of development on climate change is a consideration within all areas of planning and is a major driver for the headline goal of sustainable development. As such this document is an important part of the Core Strategy evidence base and consequently the Sustainability Appraisal.

PPS3: Housing (November 2006)

Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement3.pdf
Description	<p>These housing policy objectives provide the context for planning for housing through development plans and planning decisions. The specific outcomes that the planning system should deliver are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High quality housing that is well-designed and built to a high standard. - A mix of housing, both market and affordable, particularly in terms of tenure and price, to support a wide variety of households in all areas, both urban and rural. - A sufficient quantity of housing taking into account need and demand and seeking to improve choice. - Housing developments in suitable locations, which offer a good range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure. <p>A flexible, responsive supply of land – managed in a way that makes efficient and effective use of land, including re-use of previously-developed land, where appropriate.</p>
Relevance	Policies set out in PPS3 should be taken into account by Braintree District Council in preparation of their Local Development Documents and is therefore a consideration of the Sustainability Appraisal.

PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth (December 2009)	
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/
Description	<p>The Government's overarching objective is sustainable economic growth. The planning objectives which seek to achieve this are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - build prosperous communities by improving the economic performance of cities, towns, regions, sub-regions and local areas, both urban and rural; - reduce the gap in economic growth rates between regions, promoting regeneration and tackling deprivation; - deliver more sustainable patterns of development, reduce the need to travel, especially by car and respond to climate change; - promote the vitality and viability of town and other centres as important places for communities; and - raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas by promoting thriving, inclusive and locally distinctive rural communities whilst continuing to protect the open countryside for the benefit of all. <p>It replaces PPS 6 – Planning for Town Centres (2005).</p>
Relevance	This PPS is an important document in the planning of town centres. The Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal should adhere to the policies and guidance set out in PPS4 in order to contribute to the delivery of sustainable economic growth.

PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment (March 2010)	
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps5
Description	<p>The Government's overarching aim is that the historic environment and its heritage assets should be conserved and enjoyed for the quality of life they bring to this and future generations. To achieve this, the Government's objectives for planning for the historic environment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions concerning the historic environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource - take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation; and - recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. - To conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance by ensuring that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - decisions are based on the nature, extent and level of that significance, investigated to a degree proportionate to the

	<p>importance of the heritage asset</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wherever possible, heritage assets are put to an appropriate and viable use that is consistent with their conservation - the positive contribution of such heritage assets to local character and sense of place is recognised and valued; and - consideration of the historic environment is integrated into planning policies, promoting place-shaping. <p>- To contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past by ensuring that opportunities are taken to capture evidence from the historic environment and to make this publicly available, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.</p>
Relevance	This PPS is an important document in the planning of the District's historic town centres and villages and other areas of the historic environment. The Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal should adhere to the policies and guidance set out in this PPS5.

PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide (March 2010)

Web link	http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.21136
Description	The purpose of this guide is to assist local authorities, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing Planning Policy Statement 5 (Planning for the Historic Environment) and to help in the interpretation of policies within the PPS.
Relevance	This PPS practice guide is an important document in the planning of the District's historic town centres and villages and other areas of the historic environment. The Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal should adhere to the policies and guidance set out in this document.

PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (August 2005)

Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147408.pdf
Description	<p>The Government's objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to promote sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development; - to conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology by sustaining, and where possible improving, the quality and extent of natural habitat and geological and geomorphological sites and the populations of naturally occurring species which they support; and - to contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance by enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and among developments and ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity.

Relevance	The protection and conservation of biodiversity features and the introduction of new features in new development is a key component of sustainable development. PPS9 should be taken into account by Braintree District Council in preparation of the Core Strategy. This guidance is also an important reference for the SA.
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PPS12: Local Spatial Planning (June 2008)

Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/pps12lsp.pdf
Description	<p>Spatial planning is a process of place shaping and delivery. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - produce a vision for the future of places that responds to the local challenges and opportunities, and is based on evidence, a sense of local distinctiveness and community derived objectives, within the overall framework of national policy and regional strategies; - translate this vision into a set of priorities, programmes, policies, and land allocations together with the public sector resources to deliver them; - create a framework for private investment and regeneration that promotes economic, environmental and social well being for the area; - coordinate and deliver the public sector components of this vision with other agencies and processes [e.g. LAAs]; - create a positive framework for action on climate change; and - contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development. <p>This PPS sets out what Local Planning Authorities should produce with regards to Local Development Frameworks. The Core Strategy is the principle document which is then supported by Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). DPDs are required for the allocation of land that has not already been allocated within the Core Strategy and where site specific detail is needed.</p>
Relevance	The Core Strategy is a DPD which is being produced because there is a need to provide the planning framework for the Braintree area. This PPS will assist planning officers in the production of the Core Strategy whilst being an important reference for the Sustainability Appraisal.

PPG13: Transport (April 2001)

Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/155634.pdf
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Description	The objectives of this guidance are to integrate planning and transport at the national, regional, strategic and local level to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight; - promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling, and - reduce the need to travel, especially by car.
Relevance	In accordance with PPG13 the Core Strategy should ensure transport issues are considered together when preparing policies by balancing the need for growth with the need to provide sustainable transport. PPG13 will also inform the SA on such matters.

PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control

Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement23.pdf
Description	This Statement advises that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any consideration of the quality of land, air or water and potential impacts arising from development, possibly leading to impacts on health, is capable of being a material planning consideration, in so far as it arises or may arise from or may affect any land use; - the planning system plays a key role in determining the location of development which may give rise to pollution, either directly or indirectly, and in ensuring that other uses and developments are not, as far as possible, affected by major existing or potential sources of pollution; - the controls under the planning and pollution control regimes should complement rather than duplicate each other; - the presence of contamination in land can present risks to human health and the environment, which adversely affect or restrict the beneficial use of land but development presents an opportunity to deal with these risks successfully; - contamination is not restricted to land with previous industrial uses, it can occur on greenfield as well as previously developed land and it can arise from natural sources as well as from human activities; - where pollution issues are likely to arise, intending developers should hold informal pre-application discussions with the LPA, the relevant pollution control authority and/or the environmental health departments of local authorities (LAs), and other authorities and stakeholders with a legitimate interest; and - where it will save time and money, consideration should be given to submitting applications for planning permission and pollution control permits in parallel and co-ordinating their consideration by the relevant authorities.
Relevance	The details and issues raised in PPS23 need to be taken account of when producing the Core Strategy, and when appraising policies in the SA.

PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control - Annex 1: Pollution Control, Air and Water Quality

Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/pps2annex1.pdf
Description	The purpose of this Annex is to explain the background to the Pollution Control legislation, its interactions with the planning system and how these interactions are dealt with in planning.
Relevance	The annex provides further information to PPS23 and will therefore further inform the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal in matters of pollution control.

PPS25: Development and Flood Risk (March 2010)

Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement25.pdf
Description	Ensures that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should prepare and implement planning strategies that help to deliver sustainable development.
Relevance	The policies within this PPS should be taken into account by Braintree District Council in preparation of their Local Development Documents, including the Core Strategy. PPS25 is an important instrument to support any mitigation recommendations in the appraisal of relevant policies. Similarly the location of certain developments in close proximity to water courses may have implications on their function and viability and it is the responsibility of the SA to highlight these fears in line with flood risk assessments.

Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk - Practice Guide 2009

Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/pps25guideupdate.pdf
Description	This practice guide is complementary to <i>Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk</i> (PPS25) and provides guidelines on how to implement development and flood risk policies by the land use planning system. The guide also includes working examples through case studies. This edition replaces the earlier version of the Practice Guide published on 12 June 2008. The Practice Guide (at Appendix B) contains a checklist to help developers and applicants to prepare an appropriate, site-specific flood risk assessment in accordance with the policy in PPS25, and the advice in the Practice Guide.
Relevance	This document will need to be used in conjunction with PPS 25: Development and Flood Risk to provide additional guidance surrounding developing in areas of flood risk.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners

Web link	http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/SEA_and_biodiversity_tcm9-133070.pdf
Description	This guidance aims to ensure that biodiversity considerations are appropriately addressed in Strategic environmental assessments. The document explains how biodiversity implications can be considered in SEA by explaining the links between SEA and other procedures: sustainability appraisal, "appropriate assessment" under the Habitats Directive, and project environmental impact assessment. A tool-kit of more specific techniques for addressing biodiversity in SEA is also included.
Relevance	The document is directly relevant to the Sustainability Appraisal evidence base as it represents best practice in matters relating to biodiversity appraisal.

UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) June 2009

Web link	http://www.ukcip.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=163&Itemid=287
Description	The UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century. Projections of future changes to our climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. The purpose of providing information on the possible future climate is to help those needing to plan how they will adapt to help society and the natural environment to cope with a changing climate. The Projections show three different scenarios representing high, medium and low greenhouse gas scenarios – this can help to demonstrate the importance of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation).
Relevance	As the most comprehensive dataset regarding climatic projection, the information contained within UKCP09 is an important consideration of the Core Strategy when it comes to locating development. As such its findings will also inform the Sustainability Appraisal of spatial policies.

3.2 Regional

East of England Plan May 2008

Web link	http://www.gos.gov.uk/goee/docs/Planning/Regional_Planning/Regional_Spatial_Strategy/EE_Plan1.pdf
Description	This plan is a revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy and sets out a spatial vision that "by 2021 the East of England will be realising its economic potential and providing a high quality of life for its people, including by meeting their housing needs in

	<p>sustainable inclusive communities. At the same time it will reduce its impact on climate change and the environment, including through savings in energy and water use and by strengthening its stock of environmental assets.”</p> <p>The vision is supported by 5 objectives, which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to reduce the region’s impact on, and exposure to, the effects of climate change; - to address housing shortages in the region; - to realise the economic potential of the region and its people; - to improve the quality of life for the people of the region; and - to improve and conserve the region’s environment
Relevance	Understanding the Regional outlook for the main issues affecting the area is of key importance to the production of the Core Strategy. The Plan also sets out targets relating to housing and employment and will also inform the SA of such issues.

Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the East of England: A Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England

Web link	http://www.go-east.gov.uk/goee/docs/Planning/Regional_Planning/808762/gandtpolicies.pdf
Description	The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) agreed in February 2006 to prepare a review of RSS on the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. The policies and supporting text within this publication are now a part of the RSS for the East of England. They replace ‘Policy H3 – Provision for Gypsies and Travellers’ and paragraphs 5.11 and 5.12 in the East of England Plan.
Relevance	The provisions made within this document replace the aforementioned policy and paragraphs within the RSS and therefore have to form part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal.

Sustainable Futures: Integrated Sustainability Framework for the East of England (January 2009)

Web link	http://www.eera.gov.uk/GetAsset.aspx?id=fAAyADMANwA0AHwAfABGAGEAbABzAGUAfAB8ADAAfAA1
Description	<p>The Integrated Sustainability Framework (ISF) is a statement of the sustainable development priorities and challenges facing the East of England. The vision set out in this document is “<i>To promote and enhance the environmental, economic and social well-being of the East of England, and ensure a better quality of life for everyone – now and in the future.</i>”</p> <p>The 10 regionally specific objectives provide a framework for policy makers at regional, sub-regional and local level to promote sustainable development. They are:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote sustainable growth within environmental limits - Reduce poverty and inequality and promote social inclusion - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions - Adapt to the impacts of climate change - Promote employment, learning, skills and innovation - Increase resource efficiency and reduce resource use - Conserve, restore and enhance the region's natural and - Move goods and people sustainably - Meet the needs of the changing regional demographic - Provide decent, affordable and safe homes for all <p>The document also explains how these objectives are being addressed by current regional targets in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and Regional Economic Strategy (RES) and any gaps that may need to be addressed in a future Single Regional Strategy.</p>
Relevance	Sustainable development is vital in securing future prosperity and vitality. This strategy recognises the issues for the region that are also relevant at the district level. It will be a useful document to refer to in the appraisal process.

3.3 County

The Essex Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (April 2009 Refresh)	
Web link	http://www.essexpartnershipportal.org/live/partnership/112
Description	<p>This LAA sets out agreed performance targets for the most important issues over the next three years.</p> <p>In this Agreement, the Essex Partnership is taking three major steps towards an approach that recognises issues of diversity and equality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baselines and targets have been agreed for districts wherever possible. This recognises that need varies across the county and more ambitious targets are required, with the support of the district local strategic partnership, in some parts compared with others. - Baselines and targets have been agreed for groups of people whose needs demand special attention and effort from the public and other services, e.g. the educational attainment of children who are looked after by the local authority, or the welfare of carers. - Equality Impact Assessments have been completed for all LAA action plans with training provided to all target leads.

Relevance	Locally identified needs in regards to diversity and equality are of vital importance to the wide notions of sustainability. The cumulative impacts of factors comprising options can have indirect effects on seemingly unrelated issues in the district and wider area.
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Essex Police Authority Three Year Strategy Plan 2009 - 2012

Web link	http://www.essex.police.uk/authority/pdf/3%20year%2009%202012final.pdf
Description	<p>Essex Police Authority, in conjunction with Essex Police, is required to produce a joint three year strategy and annual policing plan that incorporates both local and national policing priorities. The strategy outlines the strategic objectives for the policing of Essex over the next three years and provides the framework for the policing plan. The plan itself sets out the priorities and supporting programme of work for the coming year.</p> <p>As a result of extensive consultation, the following priorities have been identified in the Essex Police Authority Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To increase police visibility and reassurance - To improve both the timeliness and the quality of response to calls for assistance - To tackle anti-social behaviour and disorder <p>The plan takes account of the views and concerns of the people of Essex which have been identified through wide ranging engagement and consultation. The areas you want us to focus on are reflected in the policing priorities for the coming year and beyond.</p>
Relevance	The strategy sets out the future direction for policing in Essex and their commitment to delivering a first-class policing service that puts the citizen at the heart of all we do. It has long been recognised that the planning system is crucial to 'designing out' crime in new developments and as such the tenets of this strategy is an important part of the SA evidence base.

(draft) Essex School Organisational Plan 2009 - 2014

Web link	http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/EssexSchoolOrganisationPlan_DraftA_6Nov09.pdf?channelOid=null
Description	In order to deliver the best educational opportunities for every child and young person in Essex, the County Council and its partners are committed to maximising parental choice in school place allocation and to increasing the diversity of educational provision across the County. The School Organisation Plan is a key part of this strategic planning and will ensure that the County Council and its partners can deliver on these commitments. The School Organisation Plan provides comprehensive information on:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the current pattern of educational provision across the county; - forecasts of pupil numbers in future years; - details of government regulations and guidance and ECC policies concerned with school organisation issues; - current strategic thinking about school places in Essex.
Relevance	The School Organisation Plan is a contextual document. It draws conclusions about the need to add or to remove school places within Essex County. The plan helps the Local Authority, the Dioceses of Chelmsford and Brentwood, schools, parents, local communities and other interested parties to understand the need for school places and to establish future demands. Where pupil projections indicate that there is likely to be a shortage of places over the projection period, the analysis of demand will enable this to be addressed in the most appropriate way, for example through a capital project or by a realignment of normal areas. As such it is an important part of the evidence base with regard to the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy.

Essex Wide Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment 2006

Web link	http://www.castlepoint.gov.uk/Documents/departments/Planning/devFramework/Looking%20back%20moving%20forward%20-%20Full%20report%20inners%20FINAL1.pdf
Description	The Essex Planning Officers Association led by Chelmsford Borough Council commissioned Salford Housing and Urban Studies Unit and Salford University to provide an independent survey and assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the County of Essex (including the unitary areas of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock).
Relevance	The Government Circular 01/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites' requires local authorities to assess the accommodation needs of these communities and then use the information gathered to inform the preparation of Development Plan Documents. This research provides robust and credible information on Gypsy and Traveller needs in Essex.

Essex Rural Strategy: Partnership Priorities for the future of Rural Essex 2005	
Web link	http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/Planning396/essex_rural_strategy.pdf?channelOid=null
Description	<p>This review is intended to highlight the current priorities for rural renaissance up to 2010. It identifies potential project areas that will benefit from partnership involvement and, through an associated Action Plan, shows how and when these will be delivered. The purpose of this strategy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that the partners are pursuing an agreed vision by giving direction and demonstrating the ability of partners to work together to achieve rural renaissance. - Obtain the commitment of partners to the delivery of projects and services that address priority issues. - Identify priorities for improved joint action and co-ordination that add value to the activities of individual partners and achieve real outcomes for rural Essex. - Raise the profile of rural Essex and demonstrate its significance, in particular, locally and regionally, ensuring the recognition of its interests in appropriate contexts. - Provide the rural dimension for the Essex community strategy ('Shaping the Future'). - Inform priorities for the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) funding and other funds that will support the well-being of rural Essex. - Respond to the emerging changes to delivery mechanisms at regional level.
Relevance	The continuing change in the economic base of rural areas, their environmental value, the needs of people who live in them and the external pressures placed upon them all point to the benefit of a unified strategy for future regeneration, development and conservation.

Essex Local Transport Plan 2006/2011 (LTP2)	
Web link	http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/guc.jsp?channelOid=16819&guideOid=39939&guideContentOid=44746
Description	<p>LTP2 is committed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring consistency with national policies for transport, aviation and ports; - Achieving a sustainable approach for all modes of transport; - Supporting the initiatives for both the Thames Gateway and M11/Stanstead National Sustainable Growth Areas;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimising the environmental impact of travel; - Delivering more integrated patterns of land-use, movement and development; - Improving social inclusion and accessibility; - Increasing the regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas; and - Sustaining and enhancing town centres; and ensuring that the Local Transport Plan will resolve current deficiencies and meet development requirements. <p>LTP2's strategy is encapsulated by five objectives; Tackling Congestion, Delivering Accessibility, Creating Safer Roads, Promoting Better Air Quality and Enhancing Maintenance.</p>
Relevance	The Core Strategy will need to consider the Essex Local Transport Plan in order to achieve sustainable development of the plan area. This document will also inform the SA as it sets objectives for sustainable transport and effective management of traffic, impacting on a wide range of other sustainability issues.

Essex Minerals Local Plan (and saved policies Direction)

Web link	<p>(Mineral Plan) http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/Minerals_Local_Plan.pdf?channelOid=null</p> <p>(Saved Policies) http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/Planning396/Essex_Minerals_Local_Plan_1996_SoS_Saved</p>
Description	The Plan looks at the background and policy framework for mineral extraction in Essex. It explains what provision must be made for future extraction and proposes policies to guide that process. The plan relates to the minerals which are extracted in Essex which are sand, gravel and associated aggregates, brickearth, chalk, clay and silica sand. Whilst this plan has now expired, a number of the policies have been saved and continue to operate until they are replaced by the forthcoming Minerals Development Document. Until such a time, the details contained within the Minerals Local Plan regarding the saved policies are the primary policy guidance relating to minerals within Essex.
Relevance	This policy document governs mineral planning within Essex and as such is an important consideration in high level spatial documents such as the Core Strategy and consequently it's associated Sustainability Appraisal. Due to a policy of non-sterilisation of mineral resources, the Minerals Local Plan can also shape the location of any development.

Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan (and saved policies Direction)	
Web link	(Waste Plan) http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/waste_plan.pdf?channelOid=null (Saved Policies) http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/Planning396/Essex %26 S'end Waste Local Plan 2001 SoS
Description	<p>The main issues addressed within this Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the contribution the Waste Plan makes to the aims of optimising the reduction, reuse, recycling and composting of all wastes but especially household waste; - compliance with revised regional guidance : 'Revised Waste Advice – a sustainable waste planning strategy for the South-East 1995 – 2010' SERP 160, SERPLAN, March 1997; - provisions for waste disposal by landfill; - the identification of specific sites for waste management facilities in addition to the potential landfill sites and criteria against which applications for further facilities would be considered; - policies to guide consideration of planning applications. <p>Whilst this plan has now expired, a number of the policies have been saved and continue to operate until they are replaced by the forthcoming Waste Development Document. Until such a time, the details contained within the Waste Local Plan regarding the saved policies are the primary policy guidance relating to waste within Essex.</p>
Relevance	The Waste Plan seeks to provide a framework and strategy for waste management in Essex and Southend and make suitable provision for the management of waste in the area within the plan period. To be realised, this strategy and the forthcoming Waste Development Document needs provision to be made for specific sites for waste management facilities. As such, this document will form part of the evidence base for the Sustainability Appraisal for waste related matters raised in the Core Strategy.

Essex Biodiversity Action Plan	
Web link	http://www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk/Default.aspx?pageid=47
Description	The EBAP currently contains action plans for the 25 species and 10 habitats requiring specific managed protection within Essex. The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (EBAP) is a result of co-operation and between nature conservation organisations, local authorities, statutory agencies, voluntary interest groups, the private sector and individuals. The process began in 1997 when the Association of Essex Councils hosted an Essex Sustainability Conference. This highlighted the need for a co-ordinated approach to

	nature conservation within the County. A Steering Group was formed to produce the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan and a number of species and habitats were chosen to focus action. Species and habitats that occur in Essex were selected from a national list of plans, together with some additional ones which are characteristic or indicative of the Essex countryside.
Relevance	Essex is a large English county with one of the highest populations. Being located in the south east of England in close proximity to London the county is under constant pressure from development associated with large populations and industry, in addition to the pressures associated with intensive agriculture. However, Essex has a wealth of natural resources and contributes significantly to national and international biodiversity. The existence of these protected species or habitats will have significant implications for the likelihood of securing proximal development permissions and as such forms an important part of the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal evidence base.

Essex Biodiversity Action Plan Review

Web link	http://www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk/Default.aspx?pageid=47
Description	A sub-group was formed in May 2006 to review the species and habitats of Essex Biodiversity Action Plan and to revise the format. The new format includes targets and actions at a district level, where appropriate, and is intended to be realistic and achievable. Five habitat groups have been formed to drive the review process forward: Lowland Grassland, Heathland, Ancient woodland, Reedbeds and Brownfield sites. Some new species and habitats have been included for which species/habitat plans will be drawn up:
Relevance	The review provides additional information regarding the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan.

Essex Car Parking Standards Design and Good Practice 2009

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/A8769251-793F-47B6-ADD0-8777188585B7/0/Parking_Standards_2009.pdf
Description	Parking controls, such as the level of supply or the charges, should be used as part of packages for managing transport demand and influencing travel change, alongside measures to improve public transport accessibility, walking and cycling, and with regard to the need for coordinated approaches in centres which are in competition with each other. Demand-constraining maximum parking standards should be applied to new commercial development. In considering new parking standards for Essex within this document, a wider view has been taken of the role that parking has to play in place shaping as well as a possible tool for promoting travel choice. Case studies have been used to assess the impact of current parking standards and their functional relationship to the development they serve.

Relevance	Given the ability of car parking spaces to influence travel demand and travel change, they are an important driver of the necessary change to a more sustainable transport system and such form an important part of the evidence base for the Sustainability Appraisal.
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3.4 District

Braintree District Local Plan Review (adopted July 2005)	
Web link	http://www.planvu.co.uk/bdc/plan_index.htm
Description	The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has decided that the majority of the Braintree District Local Plan Review policies can be 'saved' and should continue to apply after 24.7.08, with the exception of eleven policies. The Local Plan therefore continues to be the overarching strategic local level document governing all aspects of development within the District
Relevance	The saved policies continue to guide development within the District and will continue to remain in force until they are replaced by approved policies in the Core Strategy and Development Control Documents

North Essex Authority Retail Study Stage 1 Report and Stage 2 (2006)	
Web link	(Stage 1) http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/BBF2CA51-8E07-433C-AA09-9CB91EF03910/0/STAGE1REPORTFINALpdf2.pdf (Stage 2) http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/6B49F050-4BFF-424A-8580-B704AE1A5EB3/0/RetailStudy2006.pdf
Description	The purpose of this study is to inform and guide town centre/retail planning in North Essex, and in particular, to input into the preparation of each authority's forthcoming Local Development Framework (LDF). The joint study is driven by recognition of significant cross border and sub-regional issues. Stage 1 takes a holistic look at North Essex with Stage 2 focussing on Braintree District. The study gives figures specific to Braintree on expenditure growth, convenience and comparison goods capacity, retail warehousing and capacity forecasting.
Relevance	This document identifies a strategy for the future scale and form of new development and distribution of growth in both North Essex and Braintree District, advising on the role of each centre within the retail hierarchy and potential for change. Future retail growth in the district is reliant on the viability and vitality of commercial centres to attract both business and customers. This study will inform the SA on the issues facing Braintree District with regards to retail opportunities.

Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Area Assessment 2006

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/Braintree/planning/Planning+Policy/LandscapeCharacterAssessment2006.htm
Description	<p>This document is a study of Landscape Character Areas and types within the administrative areas of Braintree, Basildon, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford. The study includes all the rural area up to and including the urban edge and, where they exist, river valleys and other green corridors extending into urban areas.</p> <p>The key objectives of the Study are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide a baseline inventory and description of landscape character by Type and Area at a scale of 1:25,000; - identify key issues, sensitivities to change and management strategy objectives/guidelines for each Character Area; - ensure that Landscape Character Areas and Types join up seamlessly across administrative boundaries, including with existing character assessment studies carried out by neighbouring authorities outside of the Study Area; and - to liaise with and understand the issues and concerns of the key stakeholder organisations in relation to the landscape characterisation process.
Relevance	This study focuses on the landscape characteristics of Braintree District and should be used to inform decision making when allocating proposed land use. It will also assist the SA process in this matter.

Landscape Character Settlement Fringe Studies of Braintree, Coggeshall, Earls Colne, Halstead, Hatfield Peverel, Kelvedon, Silver End and Witham

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/Braintree/planning/Planning+Policy/BraintreeSettlementFringeStudy.htm
Description	The Fringe Studies provide further information relating to the landscape character of the fringes of Braintree, Coggeshall, Earls Colne, Halstead, Hatfield Peverel, Kelvedon, Silver End and Witham. The information contained within builds on that already covered by the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Area Assessment 2006.
Relevance	This study focuses on the landscape characteristics of Braintree District and should be used to inform decision making when allocating proposed land use. It will also assist the SA process in this matter.

Braintree Settlement Fringe Study	
Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/Braintree/planning/Planning+Policy/BraintreeSettlementFringeStudy.htm
Description	The Braintree Settlement Fringe Study provides extra information on the Landscape Character Assessment by providing further assessment of Braintree, Coggeshall, Earls Colne, Halstead, Hatfield Peverel, Kelvedon, Silver End and Witham
Relevance	This study focuses further on the landscape characteristics of Braintree District and should be used to inform decision making. It will also assist the SA process in this matter.

Non Residential Land Availability March 2009	
Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/9CD492C7-7B9D-46C5-B063-6A490A9A4F15/0/NonRes09WebsiteVersion.pdf
Description	This document contains information detailing the availability of land for non-residential uses, as at 31.3.2009. The document focuses on land available for A1 & A2 (retail, financial and professional services), B1 (business), B1 – B8 (research and development, light and general industry, storage and distribution) and D (recreation and leisure)
Relevance	This assessment is a crucial part of the evidence base for Braintree District Council in preparing Local Development Frameworks. It recognises the non-residential land availability within Braintree and will therefore inform the location of non-residential development, and therefore this SA.

Residential Land Availability 2009	
Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/Braintree/planning/Planning+Policy/ResidentialLandAvailability-2007.htm
Description	The information set out in the schedules, organised by parish, represents sites identified at 31 March 2009 for residential development. This process will take account of information on sites such as a planning permission for a different number of dwellings on the site, or permission for a use other than housing on the site. The schedules include sites with a current planning permission, and sites without planning permission. The category of sites with planning permission includes sites where development has not yet started, and sites that were under construction at 31 March 2009. Sites are shown according to their planning status under the relevant column(s) in the schedules.
Relevance	This assessment is a crucial part of the evidence base for Braintree District Council in preparing Local Development Frameworks. It

	recognises residential land availability within Braintree and will therefore inform the location of residential development, and therefore this SA.
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Mid Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/DC5AB540-9F6F-41F0-B6AB-E9D87B33EA80/0/00MainReport.pdf
Description	<p>The SFRA will enable a more detailed understanding of the flood risk issues to existing and proposed developments within the individual authorities of Braintree, Colchester, Chelmsford and Maldon, allowing a direct input into the strategic planning of the Mid-Essex region through Local Development Frameworks.</p> <p>The SFRA should be regarded as an advisory study informing a suite of policies within each participating authority. The purpose of this SFRA is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist the local planning authority (LPA) when defining their appropriate potential development areas and sub-areas (zones) to accord with the principles of PPS25 policies; - Enable a more detailed understanding of the flood risk issues relating to existing and proposed development; - Identify areas which are vulnerable to flooding; - Help identify particular land use types that might need to be restricted in areas vulnerable to flooding; - Assess the degree of change as a result of climate change through the impact of likely sea level rise and increased peak flood flows through rivers and the storm water drainage system; - Provide a heightened understanding of flood risk for partners of the MEAL and; - Inform the planning process to enable integration of flood risk management into the strategic spatial planning of the Mid Essex region. <p>One of the key deliverables for the SFRA is accurate, high quality mapping of flood risk zones and hazard zones, which are available in the relevant authority appendices.</p>
Relevance	Planning policy must have regard to the current and future risk of flooding from a combination of sources, including tidal inundation, fluvial overspill, storm water management and groundwater. Therefore this document will assist in the production of the Core Strategy and as such is a consideration of the Sustainability Appraisal.

Braintree District Council Strategic Housing Market Assessment February 2008	
Web link	(Main Report) http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/ronlyres/A5AAD57B-4AC9-4B3B-83DE-58AE2DA7F632/0/BraintreeSHMA_Finalopt.pdf (1st Annual Update) http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/ronlyres/E8582DFC-25A8-479B-91E7-70ACD008A601/0/StrategicHousingMarketAssesment24409.pdf
Description	<p>The SHMA aims to inform policy development and investment decisions across the study area. The objective of the project was to provide a robust and comprehensive analysis and data base to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support future housing strategy to meet the criteria set out by the CLG in its good practice guidance and the Housing Strategy Guidance and to prioritise investment decisions; - Co-ordinate housing and community care strategies; - Support the Council's affordable housing policies in the Local Development Framework and assist in target setting and for negotiation in accordance with PPS3. <p>The document sets out the current housing stock and reviews future demand and need for market and affordable housing</p>
Relevance	A key notion of sustainability is the provision of adequate and affordable housing. This assessment is a crucial part of the evidence base for Braintree District Council in preparing Local Development Frameworks and for supporting housing policies. It will inform the SA on the needs and demand of housing within Braintree District and the wider implications that this will have.

Braintree District Council Urban Capacity Study 2007	
Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/Braintree/planning/Planning+Policy/Urban+Capacity+Study.htm
Description	The study was commissioned to provide supporting technical work to inform the preparation of Development Plan Documents as required under planning regulations as set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The study looks forward over the timeframe to 2026. The study was undertaken against a background of concerns about the impact of new housing development on greenfield sites, and a rapidly evolving national and regional planning policy agenda. Its focus is on quantifying the land and buildings within the existing settlement boundaries to accommodate additional housing. A key thrust of current planning policy is that in meeting housing requirements, priority must be given to the re-use of previously developed land.
Relevance	This Urban Capacity Study is one of a number of technical studies that have been commissioned by Braintree District Council, as part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework. It will assist the Council in developing its planning strategy for the

	period to 2025 and beyond. Although the study is not an allocations document and it will be for the planning process to make the final decisions on which sites come forward for development, the study is still an important reference tool. Consequently it has formed part of the SA evidence base.
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Braintree District Council Employment Land Review 2007

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/Braintree/planning/Planning+Policy/EmploymentLandReview.htm
Description	<p>This ELR is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess how much land will be required for employment during the plan period, based on market conditions and policy objectives; - Audit the supply of land already identified for employment and other sites with potential for employment use; - Compare requirement with supply both quantitatively and qualitatively; - Consequently it makes recommendations about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any further land that should be identified for employment; - Any existing or committed employment sites that should be released for other uses; - Other planning policies relating to employment land as appropriate; and - Economic development and regeneration policies that bear on employment land.
Relevance	This assessment is a crucial part of the evidence base for Braintree District Council in preparing Local Development Frameworks. It recognises the current and potential employment sites within Braintree District and will therefore inform the Core Strategy and the SA on this issue.

Braintree District, Haverhill and Clare Water Cycle Study Final Report November 2008

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/D383404E-54BB-48D5-BD44-D761C1BABC86/0/C039FinalreportBraintreeWaterCycleStudy.pdf
Description	The purpose of this Phase 1 – Outline Water Cycle Study is to identify if there are any water related issues that present significant obstacles to the success of development. This is to prevent wasting time and money developing detailed plans only to discover they are unsuitable at a later point. This study examines how much growth can be accommodated within the existing infrastructure. It examines whether sufficient water resources are available to supply forecast demand, how much growth the existing drainage and wastewater treatment works (WwTW) can accommodate, and whether or not the streams and rivers in the area can absorb

	additional discharges without deterioration in water quality or water dependant habitats. The study examines each of these issues in general across the whole study area, and then takes a closer look to prioritise areas that are more and less suitable for development, in terms of the water cycle. Where constraints are identified these are explored further and conclusions are made on the options to resolve these issues or recommendations made where further assessment is required in a detailed "Phase II" Water Cycle Study.
Relevance	This assessment is a crucial part of the evidence base for Braintree District Council in preparing Local Development Frameworks. It recognises the current infrastructure capacity with regard to the water cycle within Braintree District as well as future capacity issues and will therefore inform the Core Strategy and the SA.

(draft) Braintree District Council Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/Braintree/planning/Planning+Policy/LDF+Evidence+Base/Draft+Strategic+Housing+Land+Assessment.htm
Description	The SHLAA builds on the Urban Capacity Study 2007, which sought to identify potential development sites in the three main towns and six largest villages in the District, by not only considering the quantity and size of sites, but also their viability as housing sites; that is to say whether there are any constraints that might prevent a site from being developed and a likely timescale in which future development might occur. Sites which were informally submitted to the Council for land to be considered for residential development were also included in a preliminary list of sites to be assessed. The base date of this report is 31st March 2009.
Relevance	This document will assist the Council's decision making in respect of growth locations and housing allocations in Local Development Documents. It will help to ensure that land availability is not a constraint on the delivery of housing needed to meet the district housing requirement, set out in the East of England Plan, adopted in 2008. Whilst this document does not determine which sites should be developed for Housing, potential sites identified through the SHLAA will be tested through the plan making process for Development Plan Documents, by way of Sustainability Appraisal, public consultation, and independent examination. The SHLAA will assess future housing supply against a short term target for a five year supply, and a longer term target of a fifteen year supply for the Local Development Framework and as such is an important component for the SA evidence base.

Appropriate Assesment: Braintree District Council Local Development Framework draft Core Strategy 2009 (and Amendment 2009

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/22639501-83B6-42B2-AC2A-139E5626313E/0/AppropriateAssessment.pdf (Amendment) http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/09A6E55A-1EE2-4A05-8818-70A670794286/0/HabitatRegulationAssessmentReport.doc
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Description	The need for an 'Appropriate Assessment' arises under the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). Under Regulation 48(1) an Appropriate Assessment is required for a plan or project which, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site and which is not directly connected with the management of the site. European sites - either a Special Area of Conservation (SAC, or candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC)), designated under the Habitats Directive or a Special Protection Area (SPA) designated under the <i>Birds Directive</i> (79/409/EEC) - form part of the EU-wide Natura 2000 network. UK Government policy, as stated in <i>Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation</i> (PPS 9 (DCLG 2005)) requires that 'Ramsar sites', designated under the Ramsar Convention (<i>The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat</i>) are also subject to the provisions of the Habitats Regulations. An Appropriate Assessment is a decision by the 'Competent Authority', in this case Braintree District Council, as to whether the proposed plan or project can be determined as not having an adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites.
Relevance	Although no international sites occur within Braintree District, Braintree District Council has taken a proactive, precautionary approach to ensuring that international sites which occur nearby, on the Essex coast, are not adversely affected by their Core Strategy policies. As such this assessment is a crucial part of the evidence base for Braintree District Council in preparing the Core Strategy and the SA.

One District – One Vision. A Strategy for People and Places in the Braintree District to 2026, 2009

Web link	http://www.braintreedistrictlsp.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4DF96999-5B2F-4B93-B4C0-9E8BA60807AE/0/OneDistrictOneVisionJune2009.pdf
Description	<p>The key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure that all development is sustainable, enabling people to satisfy their basic needs as far as possible within the District. - To secure developments that make the minimum use of scarce natural resources and energy, both in construction and everyday use. - To accord with national and regional policies, and in particular, accommodate the future housing and employment growth requirements of the - East of England Regional Spatial Strategy. - To support thriving and sustainable communities by locating development, especially housing, where it will enable people to access jobs and key services, - To reduce the need for travel, and make it safer and easier for the community to travel to jobs and key services by improving sustainable forms of transport such as public transport, walking and cycling. - To meet the housing needs of all sections of the community by providing an adequate amount, range and quality of

	<p>accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support and provide for the required growth and diversity of the District's economy both at the main towns and in rural areas. - To protect and enhance the unique historic character and identity of the District - To protect the countryside and improve and manage the diversity of the landscape, wildlife and habitats.
Relevance	It is important that the appraisal of any document is conducted in line with other documents in the LDF as they all form part of a larger framework. This strategy informs the SA on the key sustainable priorities in the district.

Affordable Housing Provision and Developer Contributions in the District of Braintree 2009 (draft)

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E1042A72-59C1-45DE-BC40-B76FDEADBEB8/0/Item5AffordableHousingProvisionandDeveloperContributionswholedocument.pdf
Description	This study was required in order to assess the viability of the proposed affordable housing policy to be included in the Core Strategy. It is necessary to show that the affordable housing requirements are not excessive and that developments will still be viable and sites will still come forward for development, with the requirements set out in the policy. This study has examined the viability of market housing schemes against a range of affordable housing options and economic scenarios. Its findings are summarised in the executive summary at the beginning of the report. It divides the District into different house price areas and bases its findings on these areas.
Relevance	The setting of realistic and achievable affordable housing quotients is a fundamental aspect of local housing policy. This study provides substantial additional information to inform the housing policies contained within the Core Strategy and as such is an important part of the evidence base.

Mid-Essex Economic Futures 2006

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/1D5D8B05-26E3-4D6A-822A-E71155BF1A8B/0/MidEssexEconomicFuturesFinalReport.pdf
Description	<p>Productivity is a major concern for the region. It is also considered that a high level of productivity enhances competitiveness and underpins an economy's ability to generate high living standards for employees and residents. In this report, productivity is explored in two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - looking at the productivity of Essex as a whole

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - investigating the productivity of individual firms in Mid Essex <p>The strategy seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing the skills of those currently employed or self-employed. - Increasing investment in new technology - Encouraging high productivity firms to locate in the area. Construction, financial services and property firms have the highest level of productivity in Mid Essex. American owned firms also have high productivity. There are also measures that would help to achieve the regional target of increasing the productivity per resident: - Increase the proportion of the population economically active and increase employment to match. - Decrease the proportion of employees commuting out of the area to work.
Relevance	This study provided an appraisal of the local economy and an assessment of the future economic outlook of Braintree District. It will inform economic policies within the Core Strategy and is therefore an important part of the evidence base.

Going for Growth, Investing in your future 2009

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/B6038836-9037-4C6E-A4E1-C27D8A41622A/0/BDC_Econ_Strat_v3_0609_FINALv2.pdf (Action Plan) http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/50D6B34F-CF82-40CC-9CDB-604A38E22470/0/BDCEconDevActionPlan_June09.pdf
Description	<p>The document is a shared vision and action plan for the economic development of Braintree District. The document is the product of the efforts of over sixty organisations and individuals who have contributed to create a picture of how the local economy functions currently and how it could be made more successful by more targeted and co-ordinated public interventions. A number of strategic priorities are detailed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location, Infrastructure and Land - Business Creation and Survival - Business Growth and Innovation - Inward Investment and International Trade - Workforce Development and Employment
Relevance	The document provides a shared vision and action plan for the economic development of Braintree District. As such it will inform economic policies within the Core Strategy and is therefore an important part of the evidence base.

Braintree District Futures 2025, 2006	
Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/7906E19B-DB2B-473F-952C-DEAE3C119749/0/BraintreeDistrictFutures2025Rev1.pdf
Description	This report presents an overview of the current position of Braintree (Chapter 2) and three visions for the district to 2025, including quantified projections for the economy. Policy implications arising from the analysis are included and challenges for the District Council as it moves forward are stipulated.
Relevance	Braintree District Futures is an analysis to help develop policies to achieve a better balance between employment and population growth in the future. This report presented an overview of the current position of Braintree and three visions for the District to 2025. The SA will seek to ensure that policies within the Core Strategy are congruent with the predictions made within this document.

Rural Services Survey 2008	
Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/2B84FE28-8DEA-40B3-9009-F872E2723AA6/0/RuralServicesSurvey2008.pdf
Description	The purpose of this survey is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To establish the number of settlements with and without key services. - To find out which, if any, rural villages are considered to be service centres for other settlements. - To provide information about the services and facilities available to residents living in rural settlements.
Relevance	The survey informs the Local Development Framework evidence base and the Sustainable Community Strategy. As such it is a necessary consideration of the Sustainability Appraisal.

Braintree Town Centre Preliminary Development Analysis 2009	
Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/65206210-BAC3-4926-B72F-B422F0283668/0/BraintreeTownCentrePreliminaryDevelopmentAnalysisReportofCushmanandWakefield.pdf
Description	The purpose of this report is to undertake an objective preliminary assessment of the scope of Braintree town centre to accommodate new development over the forthcoming Local Development Framework (LDF) plan period for town centre uses, in particular comparison retail floor space. Consideration is given to identifying potential sites within and immediately adjoining the town centre boundary which could cater for the additional comparison floor space in the period up to 2021, and the feasibility of

	bringing forward these sites for development. Current performance under various economic headings is also provided.
Relevance	The document is a preliminary assessment of the scope of Braintree town centre to accommodate new development over the LDF plan period, for town centre uses, in particular comparison retail floorspace. It shall be used in conjunction with the Sustainability Appraisal to assess those policies relating to the study area of the Analysis.

Assessment of Impact of Potential LDF Sites on Existing Junctions – Braintree and Witham LDF Allocations 2008

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/Braintree/planning/Planning+Policy/Highways+Assessment.htm
Description	This study was produced for Braintree District Council, the Highways Agency and Essex County Council. It assesses the impact of LDF sites on junctions in the locality.
Relevance	Existing and predicted transportation issues are an important consideration across the majority of policy areas covered within the Core Strategy and therefore form an important part of the Sustainability Appraisal.

Assessment of Impact of Potential LDF Sites on Existing Junctions – Braintree and Witham LDF Allocations 2010 (draft)

Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3A81774A-B200-4B89-A63B-78DA31C4A3A7/0/BraintreeLDFDraftReport.pdf
Description	This assessment updates the 2008 assessments designed to ascertain the impact of the preferred development site options on the road network. In particular, the impacts of the potential development sites in combination are to be considered. The objectives of this project are to determine the impact of the preferred LDF options on the surrounding key links and junctions in Braintree and Witham and, where appropriate, identify measures that will mitigate their impact so that a nil-detriment situation can be delivered. The project specifically focuses on impact assessment in the traditional weekday peak hours, of all of the preferred option sites in combination.
Relevance	As an update of the assessments to ascertain the impact of the preferred development sites in combination on the road network and to identify measures to mitigate their impact, this document must also form part of the Sustainability Appraisal evidence base.

Braintree Green Spaces Strategy 2008	
Web link	http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/960036B7-0B6C-4058-B60E-D23437E6F843/0/BRAINTREEGREENSPACESSTRATEGY_Publicationdoc_.pdf
Description	The key aims of the Strategy are to provide accessible high quality green spaces and sport and recreation facilities which meet the recreational needs of all sections of the community, to engage the local community to participate in their improvement and management, and to raise their profile and promote their benefit to the District. It draws on the results of the open space audit and the community surveys that provided the basis for setting provision, quality and accessibility standards.
Relevance	The Braintree Green Spaces Strategy forms part of the evidence base for future green space planning policies in the Local Development Framework and will influence future management and maintenance plans for green spaces that will be produced by the Council. It is therefore a consideration of the SA.

