

<b>Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) of the Core Strategy Submission Draft</b>	Agenda Item 8
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<b>Portfolio Area:</b>	Cllr Harley Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Culture
<b>Report Presented by:</b>	Eleanor Dash Planning Policy Manager

<b>Background Papers:</b>	<p>Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment</p> <p>A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (OPDM, 2005)</p> <p>Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (OPDM 2005)</p> <p>Local Development Frameworks – Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal (PAS, 2007)</p> <p>The Plan Making Manual (PAS online guidance)</p>
<b>Corporate Implications:</b>	Please see Table at end of the report.
<b>Options:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To approve the publication of the SA/SEA for pre-submission public consultation (together with the Core Strategy).</li> <li>2. Not to approve the SA/SEA for pre- submission public consultation.</li> </ol>
<b>Risks:</b>	That the Core Strategy could be found to be unsound.

**Executive Summary**

1. A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been undertaken of the draft Submission Core Strategy to assess and predict the economic, social and environmental effects that are likely to arise from its implementation. This is in accordance with Planning Legislation. The Core Strategy will be subject to additional appraisal before adoption to take account of amendments that may be approved by Members, following consideration of representations made during the pre- Submission public consultation.

2. Fifteen sustainability objectives have been identified to appraise the document and determine whether, or not, significant effects were likely to emerge from the Core Strategy. The appraisal has examined the aims, objectives, strategic locations and Core Strategy polices and has suggested

proposed mitigation measures where necessary.

3. The SA/SEA concludes that overall the Core Strategy should have significant positive impacts on providing decent homes, promoting town centres vitality and viability and achieving sustainable levels of growth and prosperity.

### **Decision**

**1. To approve the publication of the SA/SEA for pre-submission public consultation (together with the Core Strategy).**

**2. To amend the Core Strategy to take account of the mitigation measures proposed in the appraisal of the Core Strategy policies, as follows:-**

- **To amend CS5 Small Scale Development in the Countryside, to support planning policy guidance to protect the countryside ( and to include a rural diversification policy in the Development Management DPD, rather than in the Core Strategy.)**
- **To amend CS10 Provision for Open Space, Sport and Recreation to refer to requirements for provision within certain distances, as set out in the supplementary planning guidance.**

## **Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) of the submission Core Strategy.**

### **1. Background**

1.1 The SA/SEA of the Submission Draft Core Strategy has been produced by the Spatial Planning Group of Essex County Council acting as consultants for Braintree District Council. The report should not be interpreted, or otherwise represented as the formal view of Essex County Council. The SA/SEA has been undertaken on the 'Submission Draft Core Strategy' to assess and predict the economic, social and environmental effects that are likely to arise from its implementation. This is in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and Government guidance.

1.2 Essex County Council has previously carried out a combined Sustainability Assessment/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) on the Issues and Options Document in April 2007 and the One District One Vision Document (Preferred Options) in 2009.

1.3 The purpose of undertaking the SA/SEA at this stage of the process is to identify potential significant sustainability effects arising from the content of the consultation document.

1.4 The outcome of this stage of the SA/SEA is designed to assist the plan preparation process and, with the responses to the consultation, will inform future stages of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Core Strategy. The document will be subject to additional appraisal before adoption, to take account of proposals and amendments that may arise from the consultation and this appraisal.

## **2. Sustainability Appraisal Objectives**

2.1 The objectives are based on policy advice and guidance and are 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.

2.2 Fifteen sustainability objectives were identified to appraise the consultation document as follows:

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 residents of the District 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.

## **3. Appraisal of Plan Aims and Objectives**

### **Core Strategy Aims**

3.1 The four aims are as follows:

1. Promoting accessibility for all
2. Creating a clean and green environment and addressing climate change
3. Achieving a prosperous local economy

#### 4. Enabling everyone to enjoy a safe and health lifestyle

3.2 There are a number of uncertainties relating to Core Strategy Aims and the Sustainability Objectives.

- Promoting accessibility for all has uncertain compatibility with Biological and Geological diversity, climate change and air quality, where promotion of accessibility could potentially be to the detriment of these objectives through increased transportation.
- Creating a clean and green environment and addressing climate change has uncertain compatibility with Economic Growth and Town Centres where incompatible businesses may be negatively impacted. Landscapes and Town Centres may also suffer as a result of renewable technologies impact on both.
- Achieving a prosperous local economy has potential incompatibilities with contributions to climate change and air quality where business practices have potential to negatively or positively affect both.
- Enabling everyone to enjoy a safe and healthy lifestyle has potential incompatibilities with biodiversity and geodiversity through increased human activity in areas of biological interest.

#### ***Strategic Locations***

3.3 The Environmental Report outlines the SA/SEA appraisal of each of the four growth locations which are proposed within the Submission Draft Core Strategy.

- Land off Panfield Lane, Braintree
- South West of Great Notley
- Lodge Farm, Witham
- East of Forest Road, Rivenhall

3.4 The Environmental Report concludes that the growth locations accord well with the majority of Sustainability Objectives.

3.5 All of the growth locations appraised resulted in a loss of Grade 2 or Grade 3 agricultural land, which is likely to be an unavoidable impact of greenfield development within the District.

3.6 Water resources within Braintree and Essex as a whole are stretched. As a County the water resources availability does not meet demand, and Essex is a net importer of water from outside of the County. Any additional demand for water through development will compound the existing issues relating to water supply within Braintree.

## APPRAISAL OF CORE STRATEGY POLICIES

This appraisal lists the significant effects of each policy and sets out proposed mitigation measures for the District Council to consider. The District Council's officer comments on the suggested mitigation measures are set out in the first column.

Table 1

Proposed Policy	Significant/Temporal/Secondary/Cumulative and Synergistic Effects	Proposed Mitigation Measures
<p>CS1 – Housing Provision and Delivery</p> <p><b><i>BDC Officer comment on proposed mitigation measures;</i></b>  <i>A Phasing of mixed use growth locations is set out in the Core Strategy.</i>  <i>Phasing of mixed use growth locations and regeneration sites will be set out in Master Plans to be approved as SPD.</i>  <i>It will not be possible to phase delivery of</i></p>	<p><b>Significant Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CS1 broadly accords with a number of sustainability objectives.</li> <li>- There is uncertainty in the medium to long term where the capacity of current health facilities is unknown and pressures of new development including the impact of growth locations may have negative effects. Despite this, proposals will have to be appraised on a site by site basis and in conjunction with specific locations' services as identified in Rural Services Survey.</li> <li>- Without site specific information, impacts of CS1 on biodiversity, maintaining cultural heritage and assets, contributions to climate change, improving water quality, improving townscape are uncertain. These issues would need to be dealt with through individual site assessments as part of any site Allocations DPD or planning application.</li> </ul> <p><b>Temporal Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impacts on providing an opportunity to live in a decent home are likely to be more positive in long term as Growth Locations are developed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further policies within the Core Strategy may collectively eliminate the</li> </ul>	<p>A Recommended that where majority of new housing development is focused on Brownfield land within existing settlements, of policy response to this in terms of allocating land and phasing details within Site Allocations DPD.</p>

<p><i>brownfield sites within existing settlements- many already have planning approval, most are relatively small.</i></p> <p><i>B This will be covered in Development Management Policies DPD</i></p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b> <i>C Agreed</i></p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b> <i>D Main delivery of housing in Key Service Villages is at regeneration sites, which will be mixed- use sites in order to provide rural employment. It is proposed that CS5 is amended to a countryside protection policy and that rural diversification policy is included in</i></p>	<p>uncertainty of the implementation of CS1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CS8 may reduce uncertainty with regard to flood risk through improving water quality, sequential test, SUDs and protection of natural environment.</li> <li>- CS9 where maximum possible use of renewable energy and energy efficient materials will be secured.</li> </ul>	<p>B Requirement for delivery of lifetime homes is included.</p> <p>C Capacity of health facilities and new health facilities should be investigated when specific proposals are put forward prior to allocation.</p> <p>D Recommended that delivery of housing in Key Service Villages and remaining villages is delivered in conjunction with rural employment proposals that may come forward through CS5.</p>
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<p>Development Management Policies DPD.</p>		
<p>CS2 – Affordable Housing  <b>BDC Officer Comment</b>  <i>E Rural affordable housing will be delivered as a proportion of regeneration sites in Key Service Villages, as a proportion of other housing developments in villages and as rural exception sites. They will only be delivered in conjunction with rural employment at regeneration sites. Rural employment sites will be allocated in the Allocations DPD and a rural diversification policy will be included in the Development Management Policy DPD.</i></p>	<p><b>Significant Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy is likely to promote development of Affordable Housing in urban areas in the short to medium term, whilst providing Affordable Housing within Growth Locations in the Long Term.</li> <li>- Location of Affordable Housing within growth locations will need to be carefully managed to ensure access to services and facilities is adequate for these units.</li> </ul> <p><b>Temporal Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uncertainty regarding the long term impacts relating to details of development for Growth Locations being unknown at present. They will need to be planned to ensure Affordable Housing is appropriately located.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rural areas of District generally do not have an appropriate level of sustainable transport links and are in less accessible locations. Impact of this with regard to minimising traffic movements are largely dependant on delivery of local employment</li> </ul>	<p>E In order to differentiate between the differing levels of sustainability regarding housing delivery in the Key Service Villages and those Remaining Villages, it is important to ensure that rural affordable housing is delivered in conjunction with employment schemes in Policy CS5 where local transport links and accessibility is poor.</p>
<p>CS3 – Gypsy and</p>	<p><b>Significant Effects</b></p>	

<p>Travellers and Travelling Showpersons Accommodation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impacts of this policy on creation of safe environments and social cohesion, sustainable transport choices, and air quality are uncertain, as this will depend on specific location of sites.</li> <li>- The inclusion of criteria ensures that whilst exact locations are not known at present, a number of sustainability credentials will need to be adhered to, in order for a site to conform to Core Strategy.</li> <li>- Criteria advises future sites 'should' be located within reasonable distance to services and amenities. The use of word 'should' allows an element of uncertainty as to how effective the policy will be in practise.</li> </ul> <p><b>Temporal, Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects</b> There are none identified at this stage.</p>	<p>F There are no specific mitigation measures at this stage.</p>
<p>CS4 – The Development of the Economy of the Braintree District</p> <p><b><i>BDC Officer Comment</i></b> <i>G New employment development has not been phased for two reasons.</i> <i>1. There are a large number of District residents who travel to work outside the District. The Council therefore wishes to encourage the provision</i></p>	<p><b>Significant Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CS1 will inevitably contribute to maintaining economy of District, and achieving a better balance between homes and jobs.</li> <li>- There are uncertainties relating to a number of sustainability objectives. These include biodiversity, particularly relating to growth locations. Similarly without site specific information concerns relating to sustainable travel, accessibility, contributions to climate change, water quality, risk of flooding, air quality, and improving townscape.</li> <li>- Uncertainties relating to historic environment, as policy CS4 refers to retention of former Crittalls buildings in Silver End however, until specific design details are know the impacts are uncertain.</li> <li>- Uncertainties relating to education and skills. CS4 does not refer to types of jobs to be created in District.</li> </ul> <p><b>Temporal Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impacts on providing opportunity to live in decent homes, economic growth and improving education and skills of population are likely to become positive in long term. Growth Locations are scheduled to be developed with</li> </ul>	<p>G CS4 could be improved by inclusion of phasing details of new employment development over plan period. Policy wording could be improved to clarify a total of 66 hectares of employment land will be available and the phasing details of this total as well as additional 33.5ha. Amount of employment land will</p>



<p><i>of employment in sustainable locations to reduce out-commuting and does not wish to constrain this from coming forward.</i></p> <p><i>2. The Council has identified a generous supply of employment land, and the amount that comes forward annually will be monitored. The preparation of the Allocations DPD will provide a further opportunity to assess whether this is adequate and to identify further sites if necessary or to review existing sites if there is no demand.</i></p>	<p>employment in specific sectors, this is based on assumption phasing will be inline with housing as identified in CS1.</p> <p><b>Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further policies within plan collectively eliminate uncertainty of implementation of CS4. Policy CS8 reduces uncertainty with regard to reducing risk of flooding, improving water quality, protecting natural environment. Policy CS9 reduces uncertainty with regard to contributions to climate change.</li> </ul>	<p>need to be monitored to ensure adequate supply is available, conversely allocations may need to be reviewed if there is no demand.</p>
<p>CS5 – Small Scale Development in the Countryside</p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b> <i>H It is proposed that this policy is amended to</i></p>	<p><b>Significant Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impacts from this policy on biodiversity are uncertain. Proposals for redevelopment/re- use of previous agricultural buildings will have to be assessed on a strict and specific case by case basis.</li> <li>- Impacts of policy on promotion of more sustainable transport choices are uncertain.</li> </ul>	<p>H Policy or supporting text should specify what ‘acceptable’ impacts are with regard to local environment for any impacts to be</p>

<p><i>support PPS4 to protect the countryside. It is proposed that a rural diversification policy will be included within the Development Management Policies DPD.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impacts on maintaining, enhancing cultural heritage, improving air quality, reducing flood risk, maintaining and enhancing landscapes are uncertain. The term 'acceptable impacts' stated in 4<sup>th</sup> criterion are not defined, it is difficult therefore to ascertain what impacts are likely to be.</li> <li>- Unclear how re-use of buildings responds to those of historic designations.</li> <li>- Uncertain whether re- use of suitably constructed buildings in accordance with first criterion would be required to incorporate energy efficiency measures.</li> </ul> <p><b>There are Temporal, Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects</b> identified at this stage.</p>	<p>mitigated.</p> <p>H Recommended that policy responds to PPS 4 and seeks to support development in more sustainable locations rather than outside village envelopes.</p>
<p>CS6 – Town Centre Regeneration and Retail</p> <p><b><i>BDC Officer Comment</i></b> <i>I Agreed</i></p>	<p><b>Significant Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Achieving sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth and promoting accessibility would also be positively impacted through implementation of this policy.</li> <li>- Uncertainty with regard to impacts of policy on biodiversity, sustainable travel choices, contributions to climate change, maintaining cultural heritage, quality of townscapes, air quality where regeneration details are unknown at this stage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Temporal Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of facilities for local residents will have a positive impact on promoting more sustainable transport choices in long term in line with development of Growth Locations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In synergy with the proposed capacity improvements of A12 and A120 it is possible there will be positive or negative impacts on promoting viability, and vitality of District's town centres, associated economic growth, promoting sustainable transport choices, accessibility to centres, depending on town centre regeneration proposals to be implemented at an appropriate time, with regard to infrastructure requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>I Recommended incorporation of SUDS and elements of landscaping are investigated within proposals where relevant to alleviate surface water flooding and associated water quality issues, enhance biodiversity, improve quality of townscapes and provide amenity benefit.</p>

<p>CS7 – Promoting Accessibility for All</p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b>  <i>J The design of footpath and cycleway schemes already require safety audits.  The significant effects state 'uncertain who would provide footpaths and cycleways'- this is set out in CS Table 2 Infrastructure which identifies developer contributions and ECC as providers.</i></p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b>  <i>K Agreed</i></p>	<p><b>Significant Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CS7 seeks to promote more sustainable transport choices. However, is not viewed likely to provide a significant positive impact, as implementation and enforcement of CS7 may be difficult in practise.</li> <li>- Uncertain as who would provide provision for cycling and walking.</li> <li>- Core Strategy would benefit from a definition as to what would be 'accessible location' in order for policy to be implemented effectively.</li> <li>- Impacts on climate change and air quality are uncertain, how would CS7 be implemented in practise?</li> </ul> <p><b>Temporal Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requirement to design link road between Springwood Drive and Panfield Lane, as part of Panfield Lane Growth Location, so that it is unsuitable for HGV movements, will have a positive impact on safety and will alleviate junction capacity issues and traffic – this will have a positive impact on air quality.</li> <li>- Negative impact may be exacerbated in light of new proposed Growth Location at Hatfield Road in south Witham. However, an increase in walking and cycling opportunities will alleviate majority of additional traffic due to sites close proximity to town.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy will have positive impacts on townscapes in conjunction with CS9 through highest possible standards of design and layout for new public realm schemes.</li> </ul>	<p>J Recommended that safety issues are addressed through broad design requirements highlighted in the policy for specific proposals.</p> <p>K Recommended that through development of pedestrian and cycle routes as a result of this policy, green corridors and features of biodiversity value are integrated into proposals.</p>
<p>CS8 – Natural Environment and Biodiversity</p>	<p><b>Significant Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CS8 likely to have a positive impact on improving health of District's residents through minimisation of pollution.</li> <li>- Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace targets could be included within</li> </ul>	<p>L Positive impacts on sustainability objectives are limited</p>

<p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b> <i>L Noted</i></p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b> <i>M More specific policies will be set out in the Development Management DPD.</i></p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b> <i>N The report on SANG to this Panel identifies 103 ha of SANG which already exist.</i></p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b> <i>O The policy already refers to SSSI's, local nature reserves and county wildlife sites.</i></p>	<p>policy to strengthen the impact on health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CS8 has a positive impact on biological and geological diversity, cultural asset.</li> <li>- Impacts of policy on reducing contributions to climate change are uncertain.</li> <li>- Impacts of policy on improving air quality are likely to be positive – policy specifies that all development proposals will ensure protection and enhancement of natural environment, biodiversity, geodiversity from air pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Temporal Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unlikely impacts of policy will strengthen over time. Delivery of growth locations will increase pressure on natural environment. However, policy seeks to ensure negative impacts are mitigated, resulting in no net losses or gains.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maybe indirect positive synergistic effects on the creation of safe environments and community cohesion in conjunction with CS9, through delivery of public realm improvements, incorporating new green infrastructure. Specific requirements from this are not included within the policy.</li> <li>- Positive impacts on health of Districts residents from minimising flood risk exposure.</li> <li>- Positive impacts on economic growth in synergy with town centre improvements from CS6 and also in rural areas.</li> </ul>	<p>where it is unclear from policy how enhancements to natural environment and biodiversity will be delivered, especially through new development.</p> <p>M Recommended that measures to improve biodiversity and enhance natural environment are more specific to development proposals in order to mitigate any negative impacts resulting from it.</p> <p>N Recommended that SANG targets are highlighted in policy.</p> <p>O Recommended that policy responds more directly to heritage value of certain areas of District's natural</p>
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<p>CS9 – Built Environment  <b>BDC Officer Comment</b>  <i>P This will be set out in the Development Management Policies DPD.</i></p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b>  <i>Q Agreed</i></p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b>  <i>R This more detailed matter will be set out in the Development Management Policies DPD.</i></p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b>  <i>S Landscape character issues will be covered in the Allocations DPD.</i></p>	<p><b>Significant Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CS9 impact on safety and community cohesion are uncertain as details regarding what is safe and accessible environment are not included. Recommended policy includes details on how this may be implemented, whether relating to layout, or design details required.</li> <li>- Uncertainty relating to lack of requirements and targets in securing maximum use of renewable energy, recycled or energy efficient building materials.</li> <li>- Uncertain implications over protection of heritage element of District's town and historic centres, and how new development will respond to it. Policy should have larger focus on local historic environment in District.</li> <li>- Uncertain impact on maintenance and enhancement of townscapes within the District. The policy states that development affects the setting of historic or important buildings, conservation areas and areas of highest landscape sensitivity. This can be read to imply that no development in these areas will be acceptable in order to respect and respond to local context.</li> <li>- The policy will have an uncertain impact on landscape of District. It is not clear whether development will or will not be permitted in areas of highest landscape sensitivity.</li> <li>- Policy does not specify any criteria on which decisions might be based or regard Landscape Character Assessment forming part of evidence base.</li> </ul> <p><b>Temporal Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impacts are likely to be positive on decent homes, health, town centres and accessibility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impacts of policy are likely to become positive in long term through delivery of mixed use nature of proposed growth locations in synergy with phasing and transport.</li> </ul>	<p>environment.</p> <p>P Recommended that policy has a larger focus on historic environment in District.</p> <p>Q Recommended that policy on flood risk, requirements of developers, integration of SUDs is included within this built environment policy rather than CS8.</p> <p>R Recommended policy includes details on how safety features might be implemented, in reference to layouts or specific design.</p> <p>S Recommended policy make clear whether development will or will not be</p>
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<p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b>  <i>T This more detailed matter will be set out in the Development Management Policies DPD.</i></p>		<p>permitted in areas of highest landscape sensitivity.</p> <p>T Where renewable energy proposals will be supported where impacts on landscape are acceptable, it is recommended that policy specify criteria are included on which decisions might be based.</p>
<p>CS10 – Provision for Open Space, Sport and Recreation  <b>BDC Officer Comment</b>  <i>U Noted</i></p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b>  <i>V Agreed</i></p>	<p><b>Significant Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impacts of policy on landscapes and townspaces on whole may be positive; despite this it is uncertain what the impacts will be in the short to medium term, as new development opportunities are not identified in strategy and open space provision requirements are unknown.</li> <li>- Growth locations in long term may have a positive impact on this objective.</li> </ul> <p><b>Temporal Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impacts on providing decent homes, promoting healthy lifestyles and promoting walking and cycling are likely to become more positive in long term with development of Growth Locations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many of sustainability objectives would be positively impacted upon as result of cumulative and synergistic impacts of the plan policies being implemented together.</li> </ul>	<p>U Scope for policy to be more specific to District and development proposals in Core Strategy.</p> <p>V Recommended policy (in regards to adoption of Open Space SPD) makes reference to requirement of provision being within certain distances of housing as per SPD.</p>

<p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b> <i>W Noted</i></p> <p>X Noted</p>		<p>W Potential for uncertainty if windfall sites come forward.</p> <p>X Uncertain how decisions will be made and impacts weighted regard to replacement of provision where current provision will not be required in long term, in light of restriction of access and usage in order to conserve an area's biodiversity value.</p>
<p>CS11 – Infrastructure</p> <p><b>BDC Officer Comment</b> <i>Y Agreed</i></p>	<p><b>Significant Impacts, Temporal Effects, Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effect</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As a vehicle to provide infrastructure, services, facilities, the policy's impacts will only be apparent in synergy with the delivery of proposed development coming forward from the individual and combined policies stated within the wider strategy.</li> <li>- Design requirements of new development is not applicable to this policy and is more appropriately included within Policy CS9.</li> <li>- Uncertain impacts on promotion of sustainable transport choices in District in synergy with policy CS7. Could be secondary negative impacts on District's</li> </ul>	<p>Y The capacity of local infrastructure will need to be carefully assessed when looking at proposals, and relevant bodies, such as Environment Agency, consulted to ensure that proposals can either be carried</p>

	<p>town centres, through capacity improvements and safety enhancements to A12, A120 making private car travel more viable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision and expansion of schools in District to support new housing development will have a positive impact on improving education and skills.</li> <li>- Requirement for delivery of flood protection, relief measures and Sustainable Urban Drainage will positively impact on objective in synergy with CS8.</li> <li>- In synergy with CS7 delivery of public transport and pedestrian, cycleway improvements will impact positively on air pollution in District.</li> </ul>	<p>out without detriment to the environment and capacity of the infrastructure or that appropriate mitigation measures are put in place.</p>
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## **4 Conclusion**

### ***Significant Effects***

4.1 Overall the Core Strategy should have significant positive impacts on providing decent homes, promoting town centre vitality and viability, and achieving sustainable levels of prosperity and growth.

4.2 There is one objective which does not appear to be particularly well addressed by the provisions made within the document. The maintenance and enhancement of cultural heritage is largely uncertain. Whilst there are provisions within Policy CS9, it is unclear as to how the 'protection and enhancement of the historic environment' will be implemented at the District level.

4.3 Many of the sustainability objectives would be positively impacted upon as a result of the cumulative and synergistic impacts of the Plan Policies being implemented together. The combined effects of policies within the plan may collectively eliminate the uncertainty associated with the implementation of other policies. For example the implementation of Policy CS8 in conjunction with CS1, 4 or 5 may reduce uncertainty with regard to reducing the risk of flooding and improving water quality by application of the sequential test to all new development and the encouragement of SUDs.

### ***Monitoring***

4.4 The significant sustainability effects of implementing a Local Development Document must be monitored in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Guidance published in 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents' states that it is not necessary to monitor everything, but that monitoring should focus on significant sustainability effects e.g. those that indicate a likely breach of international, national or local legislation, that may give rise to irreversible damage, or where there is uncertainty and monitoring would enable preventative, or mitigation measures to be taken.

## **5. Next Steps**

### ***Consultation***

5.1 To enable the community and other stakeholders to continue to contribute to the LDF, there will be a period of formal consultation on the Pre-Submission Core Strategy. The SA/SEA report will go for consultation alongside the Plan, so that it might facilitate more informed responses. There is an opportunity for questions to be raised regarding any of the judgements made within the SA/SEA and to suggest further evidence to determine the sustainability effects.

5.2 Following consultation, the Core Strategy will be submitted to the Government for approval. An Inspector will hold a public hearing and will be able to refer to the responses and the recommendations set out in the SA report.

5.3 There are also a number of policies which result in a cumulative strengthening of the positive effects of other policies. For example Policy CS1 and the location of the majority of housing development in the Main Towns will further support the positive impacts associated with employment provision identified in Policy CS4.

### **SEA Statement**

5.4 Braintree District Council, in accordance with the SEA Directive will need to provide a statement once the Core Strategy has been adopted, to provide the public and Consultation Bodies with information on how environmental considerations and consultation responses are reflected in the plan or programme and how its implementation will be monitored in the future.

<b>Corporate Implications</b>				
<b>Financial:</b>	No			
<b>Legal:</b>	European Directive 2001/42/EC, Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004			
<b>Equalities &amp; Diversity:</b>	Yes			
<b>Customer Impact:</b>	No			
<b>Environment &amp; Climate Change:</b>	Covered by the Assessment			
<b>Consultation/Community Engagement:</b>	Local Committees		Partners	x
	Public		Staff	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No			
<b>Public/Private Report:</b>	Public			
<b>Officer Contact:</b>	Juliet Strathern			
<b>Designation:</b>	Senior Planning Policy Officer			
<b>Ext No:</b>	2559			
<b>Email:</b>	julst@braintree.gov.uk			