

The logo for 'place services' consists of the words 'place' and 'services' stacked vertically in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, set against a solid blue square background.

**Braintree District Council Draft Site Allocations and Development
Management Policies Plan**

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Environmental Report: Annex A - Plans and Programmes

January 2013

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Braintree District Council commissioned Place Services (formerly part of Essex County Council's Spatial Planning Group) to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA), on the proposed draft Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan.

Place Services are acting as consultants for this work; therefore the content of the SA/SEA should not be interpreted or otherwise represented as the formal view of Essex County Council.

This document is Annex A to the Environmental Report and includes a comprehensive description of those plans and programmes which are relevant to the draft Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan and the SA/SEA process. A list of them has been included within the main Environmental Report.

1.2 Identifying Other Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes

The SEA Directive requires the production of the following information:

An outline of the plan or programme's "relationship with other relevant plans and programmes." Annex 1(a) and

"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 I (e)

The relationship between various policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives may influence the LDF as a whole. The relationships are analysed to:

- identify any external social, environmental or economic objectives that should be reflected in the SA process;
- identify external factors that may have influenced the preparation of LDF documents; and
- determine whether the policies in other plans and programmes might lead to cumulative or synergistic effects when combined with policies in LDF documents.

Engaging in this process enables documents within the LDF to take advantage of any potential synergies and to attend to any inconsistencies and constraints. The plans and programmes have been categorised by a hierarchy of influence from national to sub-national to local however, it must be noted that no list of plans and programmes can be definitive. International Agreements and European Directives are integrated into complementary UK legislation and policy to ensure their objectives can be achieved therefore we have only reviewed up to the national level.

2 List of Relevant Plans and Programmes

The following tables offer a reference to the plans and programmes relevant to the Plan and the accompanying SA/SEA.

Table 1: List of Plans and Programmes

National Plans and Programmes
National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)
Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (July 2007)
The Plan for Growth, HM Treasury/BIS (March 2011)
Written Ministerial Statement on 'Planning for Growth', Rt Hon Greg Clark (23rd March 2011)
Community Infrastructure Levy An Overview, DCLG (9th May 2011)
Underground, Under Threat - Groundwater protection: policy and practice (GP3)
Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination – Contaminated Land Report 11 (September 2004)
Localism Act 2011
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
Code for Sustainable Homes (December 2006)
Sub-national Plans and Programmes
East of England Plan: The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England (May 2008)
Local Transport Plan 2011
2011 Essex Biodiversity Action Plan
Commissioning School Places in Essex 2011/16
Water for life and livelihoods River Basin Management Plan Anglian River Basin District (December 2009)
Essex Design Guide (2005)
ECC Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007-2032 (June 2008)
ECC Development Management Policies Adopted by BDC (February 2011)
ECC Parking Standards: Design and Good Practice Adopted by BDC (September 2009)
Essex Wildlife Trust Living Landscapes plans

Local Plans and Programmes
BDC Local Development Scheme 2011-2014 (to be reviewed 2012)
BDC Statement of Community Involvement Supplement (April 2010)
BDC Core Strategy DPD (September 2011)
BDC Local Plan Review (July 2005)
BDC Affordable Housing SPD (May 2006)
BDC External Artificial Lighting SPD (September 2009)
The Braintree Green Spaces Strategy (September 2008)
BDC Open Space SPD (November 2009)
Village Design Statements – Great Bardfield (July 2005), Rivenhall (July 2005), Earls Colne (October 2007), Rayne (November 2007), Castle Hedingham (May 2009), Middleton (August 2009), White Colne (September 2010), Sible Hedingham (October 2010), Gestingthorpe (August 2011), Bulmer (August 2011)
BDC 'One District - One Vision' - A Strategy for People and Places in the Braintree District to 2026 (June 2009)
Local Reports and Assessments
BDC Urban Capacity Study (October 2007)
BDC SHLAA Final Version (November 2010)
BDC SHMA Update Summer 2010
BDC Affordable Housing Provision and Developer Contribution in the District of Braintree (November 2009)
Accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in the East of England. A Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England (July 2009)
Essex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2009 (November 2009)
Mid Essex Economic Futures (March 2006)
Going for Growth, Investing in Your Future. Economic Development Strategy Braintree District Council (June 2009)
Braintree District Futures 2025 (October 2006)
Employment Land Review (November 2007)
BDC Rural Services Study 2008
The North Essex Authority Retail Study Stage 1 Report: Strategic Overview (2006) & Retail Study Stage 2 Report (2006)

Braintree Town Centre Preliminary Development Analysis Report (April 2009)
Retail Study Update (April 2010)
Assessment of Impact of Potential LDF Sites on Existing Junctions – Braintree and Witham LDF Allocations (July 2008)
Assessment of Impact of Potential Core Strategy Sites on Existing Junctions (April 2010)
Mid Essex SFRA for Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester and Maldon (October 2007)
SFRA Appendix A Braintree Supplementary Report (July 2008)
Braintree District, Haverhill and Clare Water Cycle Study (November 2008)
Braintree District Stage 2 Water Cycle Study (January 2011)
Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (September 2006)
Landscape Character Assessment Frings Studies of Braintree, Coggeshall, Earls Colne, Halstead, Hatfield Peverel, Kelvedon, Silver End and Witham (November 2007)
Habitats Regulation Assessment (2009) & Amendment to HRA (November 2009)
Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace (SANG) Report (April 2010)
Open Spaces Action Plan (as of February 2011)
Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2009)

3 Review of Plans and Programmes

3.1 Review of National Plans and Programmes

National Plans and Programmes	Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
<p>National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)</p>	<p>This framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It replaces all Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance.</p> <p>The framework seeks to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development by pursuing economic, environmental and social gains jointly and simultaneously through the planning system. It defines planning as having:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy,; • a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities; and • an environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment. <p>The framework sets out 12 core land-use planning principles that local planning authorities should follow and provides guidance on preparing Local and Neighbourhood Plans and on determining planning applications.</p> <p>The framework also describes the role of planning in delivering sustainable development under 14 themes. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a strong, competitive economy • Ensuring the vitality of town centres • Supporting a prosperous rural economy • Promoting sustainable transport • Supporting high quality communications infrastructure • Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes • Requiring good design • Promoting healthy communities • Protecting Green Belt land • Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change • Conserving and enhancing the natural environment • Conserving and enhancing the historic 	<p>The LDF must be in conformity with this national planning document</p>

National Plans and Programmes	Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
	<p>environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals <p>A key part of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development which is relevant to both plan making and decision making.</p>	
<p>Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (July 2007)</p>	<p>This document sets out the Government's intention for all new homes to be zero carbon by 2016 with a major progressive tightening of the energy efficiency building regulations - by 25 per cent in 2010 and by 44 per cent in 2013 - up to the zero carbon target in 2016.</p>	<p>The LDF should have regard to this policy statement and include measures which seek to achieve the targets set.</p>
<p>The Plan for Growth (March 2011)</p>	<p>This document sets out the Government's plan for creating strong, sustainable and balanced growth in the UK economy. The four overarching ambitions to achieve this growth are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to create the most competitive tax system in the G20; to make the UK one of the best places in Europe to start, finance and grow a business; to encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy; and to create a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe 	<p>The LDF should have regard to the new plan for economic growth as it will have implications on the planning system through reforms.</p>
<p>Written Ministerial Statement on 'Planning for Growth', Rt Hon Greg Clark (23rd March 2011)</p>	<p>Re-iterates Government's commitment to a strong presumption in favour of sustainable development in the forthcoming National Planning Policy Framework and provides direction for local planning authorities with regards to determining planning applications. It also states that local planning authorities should press ahead without delay in preparing up-to-date development plans.</p>	<p>The LDF should have regard to this ministerial statement which sets out future key changes to planning</p>
<p>Community Infrastructure Levy An Overview (9th May 2011)</p>	<p>This document provides an overview of the Community Infrastructure Levy; a new planning charge that came into force on 6 April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (now amended by the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) Regulations 2011</p>	<p>The LDF will need to set out the district's funding mechanism for new infrastructure and community facilities through the planning process.</p>

National Plans and Programmes	Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
Underground, Under Threat - Groundwater protection: policy and practice (GP3)	<p>This document sets out the Environment Agency's (EA) aims and objectives for groundwater, their technical approach to its management and protection, the tools they use to do their work and the main policies and approach to the application of legislation. The main aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to encourage co-operation between the EA and other bodies with statutory responsibilities for the protection of groundwater; • to promote policies, so that land-users and potential developers may anticipate how the EA are likely to respond to a proposal or activity; • to influence the decisions of other organisations on issues the EA are concerned about but which they do not regulate; • to ensure that groundwater protection and management are consistent with EA's Vision for the environment and a sustainable future; and • to provide vital information and background on groundwater protection in England and Wales. 	<p>Land use planning can have negative impacts on groundwaters. Relevant to the LDF, impacts can occur from urban development and over-abstraction. Groundwaters will have to be a consideration in LDF policy.</p>
Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination – Contaminated Land Report 11 (September 2004)	<p>The Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination provides the technical framework for structured decision making about land contamination. They encourage the formalisation of outputs from the process in the form of written records that contain details of specific project objectives, decisions and assumptions, as well as recommendations and other specific outputs. The Model Procedures are intended to assist all those involved with, or interested in risk management of land affected by contamination.</p>	<p>Contaminated land can affect LDF policy where it may present a risk to a range of receptors including humans, ecosystems, water quality, and property. Not understanding the risks may inhibit the development or redevelopment of land, and in some cases contribute to long-term dereliction and increase pressure to develop Greenfield land.</p>
Localism Act 2011	<p>This act enables the Secretary of State to revoke Regional Strategies following SEA, including the East of England Plan, and sets out the Duty to Cooperate to which all local authorities must comply to ensure planning of strategic matters.</p>	<p>The LDF must have regard to this legislation.</p>

National Plans and Programmes	Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	This document relates to nature conservation, biodiversity, SSSIs and Rights of Way amongst others in regards to a duty to protect, and enforce codes of conduct in relation to these designated and non-designated elements of the environment.	The LDF can influence the protection of these designations and non-designated elements of the environments through policy and appropriate site allocations.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	Further information on Rights of Way in relation to nature conservation with wildlife protection, SSSIs and biological diversity amongst other elements of the environment.	The LDF can influence the protection of these designations and non-designated elements of the environments through policy and appropriate site allocations.
Code for Sustainable Homes (December 2006)	The Code is intended as a single national standard to guide industry in the design and construction of sustainable homes. It is a means of driving continuous improvement, greater innovation and exemplary achievement in sustainable home building. The guide covers issues such as energy/carbon dioxide emissions, water, materials, surface water runoff, waste, pollution, health and wellbeing, management and ecology.	Informs the plan making and the SEA process of what can be achieved in terms of sustainable house building. Also forms part of monitoring the performance of sustainable house building in the District.

3.2 Review of Sub-national Plans and Programmes

Sub-national plans and programmes	Main aims and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
East of England Plan: The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England (May 2008)	<p>This plan 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 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; 	The East of England RSS is to be revoked following SEA. However until this time it remains as a statutory planning documents.

Sub-national plans and programmes	Main aims and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	
Local Transport Plan 2011	<p>Comprises two distinct parts – a long-term Essex Transport Strategy and a short-term Implementation Plan. The Strategy's outcomes/goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide connectivity for Essex communities and international gateways to support sustainable economic growth and regeneration • Reduce carbon dioxide emissions and improve air quality through lifestyle changes, innovation and technology • Improve safety on the transport network and enhance and promote a safe travelling environment • Secure and maintain all transport assets to an appropriate standard and ensure that the network is available for use • Provide sustainable access and travel choice for Essex residents to help create sustainable communities. 	The policies and aims within both the LTP and those within LDF documents should be complimentary of each other.
2011 Essex Biodiversity Action Plan	<p>This Plan replaces the first 1999 Biodiversity Action Plan for Essex setting out targets and actions at a district level, where appropriate. Groups are based on habitat types, which will include relevant species and sub-plans for more specific habitats. Habitat groups are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowland Farmland • Lakes and Ponds • Rivers • Wetlands • Coastal • Marine • Urban and Brownfield • Woodland 	It will be important that the LDF has regard to the habitats and species within the district's boundaries and supports the targets and action plans adopted.
Commissioning School Places in Essex 2011/16	The Plan sets out the requirement for places in maintained primary and secondary schools until 2016, and identifies the areas where providers will need to match supply with demand. It provides the context for the future organisation of school places in Essex and	Provision of education should be taken into account in relation to future population growth and development within the District in the LDF.

Sub-national plans and programmes	Main aims and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
	sets out the principles that need to be given serious consideration when planning school places.	
Water for life and livelihoods River Basin Management Plan Anglian River Basin District (December 2009)	These plans set out the pressures facing the water environment in the Anglian and Thames River Basin Districts. In regards to land use planning the plans looks at a range of challenges, including point source pollution from sewage treatment, water abstraction and diffuse pollution from urban sources.	The LDF has sufficient scope to affect the water environment through policy and development allocations. These documents raise awareness of a range of issues that can inform the LDF and the SA/SEA.
Essex Design Guide (2005)	A design guide for new buildings including guidance on spatial organisation, sustainability, permeability and legibility of layouts, public open space in development, frontages, privacy, garden size and disabled access.	Informs the SA/SEA of design principles to consider in and alongside plan policies and site proposals.
ECC Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007-2032 (June 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essex Authorities will work hard to reduce the amount of waste produced in the first place and re-use more of the waste that is produced; • Essex will achieve high levels of recycling, with an aspiration to achieve collectively 60% recycling of household waste by 2020. • Essex favours composting technologies such as anaerobic digestion (AD), for source segregated organic wastes. AD is a form of biotreatment and produces a gas which can be used to generate 100% renewable electricity; • Whilst we can work on reducing the amount of waste produced and recycling as much of it as possible, there will always be some waste that still needs to be disposed of. For this we propose to introduce new treatment plants using Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT). MBT processes any 'black bag' waste and recovers further material for recycling. Part of the remaining material can either be manufactured into a fuel for energy production or can be sent to landfill. 	Planning policy and allocations within the LDF should have regard to the aims set out in this strategy.
ECC Development	This document is "County Supplemental	Planning policy and

Sub-national plans and programmes	Main aims and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
Management Policies (February 2011)	<p>Guidance” to assist the Highways Authority when making recommendations to the relevant Planning Authority on planning decisions.</p> <p>The document sets out 22 policies which address the six overarching aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and maintain a reliable and safe highway infrastructure • Improve access to services in both rural and urban locations • Offer where possible alternative travel options to the private car • Support and enhance public transport provision • Address the impact of heavy goods vehicles on the highway network and communities • Support the aims and objectives of the County Council as the Highway and Transport Authority 	allocations within the LDF could have regard to the aims set out in this strategy
ECC Parking Standards: Design and Good Practice (September 2009)	The document is recommended to Essex planning authorities and others as providing quality advice and guidance on the provision and role of parking within residential and commercial areas in Essex. The revised standards are used by Essex County Council, as Highway Authority, in consideration of development proposals. They are also commended for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document by district councils in Essex. The Parking Standards are used to assess the merits of development proposals that come forward through the statutory planning process.	Parking issues have been raised by stakeholders in the SEA workshop undertaken to accompany this Scoping Report.
Essex Wildlife Trust Living Landscape plans	<p>Essex Wildlife Trust has mapped 80 Living Landscape areas across Essex.</p> <p>The Essex Living Landscape map aims to reconnect habitats and local people in the county, to restore habitats so that wildlife can flourish; restore the involvement of local people with their countryside so they can work for it, take pride in it and gain a better quality of life.</p>	The LDF has sufficient scope to link habitats and people through policy and development allocations. This resource raises awareness of wildlife issues that can inform the LDF and the SA/SEA.

3.3 Review of Local Plans and Programmes

Local plans and programmes	Main aims and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
<p>BDC Local Development Scheme 2011-2014 (to be reviewed 2012)</p>	<p>The Braintree LDS provides a brief description of all the Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents to be prepared and the content and geographic area to which they will relate. Additionally the LDS will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how the different Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents relate to each other, and especially how they relate to the core strategy. • Set out which Supplementary Planning Guidance or Supplementary Planning Documents support saved policies. • Set out the timetable for producing Development Plan Documents – giving the timings for the achievement of these. • Set out the timetable for producing Supplementary Planning Documents – giving the timings for the publication of the draft Supplementary Planning Document and the adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document. 	<p>The District's LDS sets out the definitive suite of LDF documents, their relationships with each other and their individual timetables.</p>
<p>BDC Statement of Community Involvement Supplement (April 2010)</p>	<p>This statement summarises the main documents that will be prepared under the new system, examines the different types of community involvement and the circumstances in which they might be used, identifies community and stakeholder groups that are relevant and sets out how we will deal with any representations received. The statement also examines the resources available to carry out this work. It covers involvement in both development documents that will be prepared under the new system and in the consideration of planning applications.</p>	<p>The District's SCI informs the SEA of relevant stakeholders and their involvement is sought in the SEA process.</p>
<p>BDC Core Strategy DPD (September 2011)</p>	<p>This Core Strategy has been prepared by Braintree District Council with the involvement of the Local Strategic Partnership to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a vision of how Braintree District will change between now and 2026. • Set out the aims and objectives of 	<p>The District's adopted Core Strategy is a vital component of their LDF, and intrinsically linked to the Site Allocations DPD and the Development Management Plan DPD.</p>

Local plans and programmes	Main aims and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
	<p>the Council and its partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify how and where the District will meet its needs for housing, employment, retail development and community facilities up to 2026. • Set out the core planning policies, which will underpin the strategy. • Show how the environment will be protected, notwithstanding the demands and requirements for growth. • Show how infrastructure will be provided to support the proposed development. • Show how the strategy will be monitored to ensure that it is achieving its objectives. 	
BDC Local Plan Review (July 2005)	<p>This Plan provided the framework for the development of Braintree District. A number of the policies in this Plan have now expired or been superseded by the Core Strategy which was adopted September 2011. However the development control policies and site policies contained in this Plan are still relevant. They will eventually be replaced by the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD.</p> <p>There are 25 housing policies, 21 employment policies, 9 transport policies, 13 environmental resources and protection, 9 countryside, nature conservation and landscape policies, 20 design and heritage policies, town centres, 17 local centres and shopping policies, 15 sports, recreation and tourism policies, 11 community facilities policies and 2 utilities policies which are still relevant.</p>	The Development Management Policies DPD will replace the final elements of this Plan. Therefore this Plan will be an important tool in preparing the new policies and determining alternatives.
BDC Affordable Housing SPD (May 2006)	The document sets out the process and mechanisms for the delivery of affordable housing in Braintree District. The SPD will expand and provide further detail on the Braintree District Local Plan Review Policy RLP 5 Affordable Housing in New Developments for developers, house builders and the public.	Affordable housing provision is a key component to sustainability in the District and this document is an important tool in the appraisal of sites in the Site Allocations DPD.
BDC External Artificial Lighting SPD (September 2009)	The document sets out the issues relating to external artificial lighting in Braintree District and provides advice and guidance on what factors will be taken into consideration by the	As a planning document contributing to a suite of documents in the District' LDF, this SPD

Local plans and programmes	Main aims and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
	<p>Council in determining planning applications for external artificial lighting schemes. The SPD expands upon and provides further details on the interpretation of Braintree District Local Plan Review Policies RLP 65 External Lighting and RLP 135 Floodlighting of Sports Facilities. It gives guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues relating to obtrusive light caused by external artificial lighting schemes General factors to be taken into consideration Use specific factors to be taken into consideration Information that should accompany a planning application Types of planning conditions which may be applied Guidance for lighting schemes for outdoor sports facilities. 	<p>should be considered against relevant proposals and policies elsewhere in the LDF.</p>
<p>The Braintree Green Spaces Strategy (September 2008)</p>	<p>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. The Strategy also forms the basis of the Open Space Supplementary Planning Document.</p>	<p>An important source of information on open and green space in the district, which can be used in the assessment of sites in regards to heath objectives.</p>
<p>BDC Open Space SPD (November 2009)</p>	<p>The Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted on 18th November 2009 and came into effect on 1st April 2010. The document sets out the process and mechanisms for the delivery and improvement of open space in Braintree District. The SPD expands upon and provides further details on the interpretation of Braintree District Local Plan Review Policies RLP 138 Provision of Open Space in New Housing Developments and RLP 163 Infrastructure and Community Facilities. It gives guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The types of development that are required to contribute to open space provision or improvement • The types of open space for which a contribution is required • Calculation of the amount of on site provision to be provided • Calculation of the financial contribution towards off site provision • Provision for the on-going maintenance of open space 	<p>As a planning document contributing to a suite of documents in the District' LDF, this SPD should be considered against relevant proposals and policies elsewhere in the LDF.</p>
<p>Village Design</p>	<p>Village Design Statements provide planning</p>	<p>Important references to</p>

Local plans and programmes	Main aims and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
Statements (2005-2011)	guidance and are approved as material planning considerations. In the District Village Design Statements exist for Great Bardfield (July 2005), Rivenhall (July 2005), Earls Colne (October 2007), Rayne (November 2007), Castle Hedingham (May 2009), Middleton (August 2009), White Colne (September 2010), Sible Hedingham (October 2010), Gestingthorpe (August 2011), Bulmer (August 2011).	design and public feeling in individual villages, which can be used as part of the evidence base in which to appraise sites in the SEA.
BDC 'One District – One Vision' – A Strategy for People and Places in the Braintree District to 2026 (June 2009)	This document is a framework Strategy for the future of the Braintree District until 2026, setting out the approved social, economic and environmental priorities for people and communities in the District for the time between now and 2026.	An important document in the appraisal of sites and detailed policies, in order to gauge community priorities.

3.4 Review of Local Reports and Assessments

Reports and assessments	Scope and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
BDC Urban Capacity Study (October 2009)	This study establishes the potential for accommodating new housing in the built-up areas of the District over the period 2006 to 2026.	The Urban Capacity Study, as part of the LDF evidence base is a vital tool to appraise sites and policies in the SEA.
BDC SHLAA Final Version (November 2010)	This study identifies sites with development potential for housing and assesses their develop ability, deliverability and capacity.	The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, as part of the LDF evidence base is a vital tool to appraise housing sites and policies in the SEA.
BDC SHMA Update Summer 2010	This study looks at the housing market in Braintree and north-east Essex and assesses current and future housing needs, including the need for affordable housing.	The Strategic Housing Market Assessment, as part of the LDF evidence base is a vital tool to appraise housing proposals in the SEA.
BDC Affordable Housing Provision and Developer Contribution in the District of Braintree (November 2009)	An affordable housing viability study, which assesses the viability of market schemes against a range of affordable housing options and economic scenarios.	Informs the SEA and plan making process on the delivery of different affordable housing scenarios.
Accommodation for	This forms part of the strategic planning	Gypsy, Traveller and

Reports and assessments	Scope and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in the East of England. A Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England (July 2009)	framework for the East of England and provides strategic guidance for local authorities.	Travelling Showpeople provision will be subject to appropriate sites and policy, which is relevant to the LDF documents to be appraised.
Essex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (November 2009)	This assessment aims to provide more robust evidence on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need at district level. It quantifies current and future accommodation requirements up to 2021.	Number of additional pitch requirement should be taken into consideration when devising housing planning policies
Mid Essex Economic Futures (March 2009)	This study provided an appraisal of the local economy and an assessment of the future economic outlook and covered the local authorities of Braintree, Chelmsford, Maldon and Brentwood.	Informs the strategic direction of employment development in the Core Strategy, which is strongly linked to the LDF documents to be appraised.
Going for Growth, Investing in Your Future. Economic Development Strategy Braintree District Council (June 2009)	This provides a shared vision and action plan for the economic development of Braintree District.	Informs the strategic direction of employment development in the Core Strategy, which is strongly linked to the LDF documents to be appraised.
Braintree District Futures 2025 (October 2006)	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 link between housing and employment is a key factor of sustainable development, and will influence the appraisal of site allocations in the SEA.
Employment Land Review (November 2007)	This provides a survey of existing and potential land and premises for office, industrial and warehouse uses and analyses supply, demand and land requirements from 2006-2026.	The employment land information in this document is an important evidence base for assessing employment sites in the Site Allocations DPD.
BDC Rural Services Study 2008	This establishes the number of settlements with and without key services and which rural villages are considered to be service centres.	An up-to-date evidence base of rural services is a vital tool in the assessing housing and employment allocations in the Site Allocations

Reports and assessments	Scope and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
		DPD across a number of objectives.
The North Essex Authority Retail Study Stage 1 Report: Strategic Overview (2006) & Retail Study Stage 2 Report (2006)	This study covers Braintree, Colchester, Maldon and Tendring. It identifies a strategy for the future scale and form of new development and distribution of growth, advising on the role of each centre within the retail hierarchy and potential for change. The Stage 2 report develops the findings in Stage 1 further, focuses on local issues and sets out the detailed technical analysis and sets out recommendations for each authority.	This document is an important evidence base to inform allocations coming forward in the Site Allocations document.
Braintree Town Centre Preliminary Development Analysis Report (April 2009)	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.	This document is an important evidence base to inform allocations coming forward in the Site Allocations document.
Retail Study Update (April 2010)	This update updates the Retail Study on local issues and offers detailed technical analysis.	This document is an important evidence base to inform allocations coming forward in the Site Allocations document.
Assessment of Impact of Potential LDF Sites on Existing Junctions – Braintree and Witham LDF Allocations (July 2008)	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.	Transport links, accessibility and air quality are all important factors to consider in assessing the sustainability of allocations coming forward in the Site Allocations DPD
Assessment of Impact of Potential Core Strategy Sites on Existing Junctions (April 2010)	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.	Transport links, accessibility and air quality are all important factors to consider in assessing the sustainability of allocations coming forward in the Site Allocations DPD
Mid Essex SFRA for Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester and Maldon (October 2007)	An assessment of flood risk issues to inform the spatial planning process.	Flooding is an important factor to consider in assessing the viability of allocations coming forward in the Site

Reports and assessments	Scope and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
		Allocations DPD
SFRA Appendix A Braintree Supplementary Report (July 2008)	A more detailed Report on the Mid Essex SFRA for Braintree, including mapping of various flood risk areas.	Flooding is an important factor to consider in assessing the viability of allocations coming forward in the Site Allocations DPD
Braintree District, Haverhill and Clare Water Cycle Study (November 2008)	This identifies whether there are any water related issues that present significant obstacles to development identified in the Core Strategy.	Water supply, capacity and sewerage are important factors to consider in assessing the viability of allocations coming forward in the Site Allocations DPD
Braintree District Stage 2 Water Cycle Study (January 2011)	An update and more detailed version of the Water Cycle Study, responding to progress in the plan making process of the LDF and potential locations for strategic scale growth.	Water supply, capacity and sewerage are important factors to consider in assessing the viability of allocations coming forward in the Site Allocations DPD
Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessments (September 2006)	<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. The key objectives are:</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 	Informs the development of the LDF of suitable strategic and non-strategic allocations for development in regards to landscape issues.

Reports and assessments	Scope and objectives	Relevance to the plan making process
	process.	
Landscape Character Assessment Fringe Studies of Braintree, Coggeshall, Earls Colne, Halstead, Hatfield Peverel, Kelvedon, Silver End and Witham (November 2007)	As above, but with further landscape character assessments of the areas surrounding these settlements.	Informs the development of the LDF of suitable strategic and non-strategic allocations for development in regards to landscape issues.
Habitats Regulation Assessment (2009) & Amendment to HRA (November 2009)	An assessment of the effects of the development proposed in the Core Strategy upon European Sites.	Informs the Core Strategy of impacts on European designations and as such is related to other documents in the LDF.
Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace (SANG) Report (April 2020)	This report accompanies the Habitat Regulation Assessment. SANGs are intended to provide mitigation from the potential impact of residential development on Special Protection Areas.	A key factor in the assessment of sites and scales of development is the accessibility of SANG for health reasons. This information is important to the SEA to address site allocations.
Open Spaces Action Plan (as of February 2011)	The Open Space Action Plan (OSAP) forms part of the evidence base used to negotiate Section 106 contributions from developers on open space provision and enhancement. It is a live document as of February 2011.	A key factor in the assessment of sites and scales of development is the accessibility of open space for health reasons. This information is important to the SEA to address site allocations.
Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2009)	This document sets out BDC's approach to mitigate, reduce their impact, and adapt to the risks and opportunities associated with climate change across the District. The aim of the strategy is to bring together their existing activities and develop an innovative approach that addresses local and global impacts. An action plan will be developed and annually reviewed to monitor progress and ensure that improvements and targets are met.	This is an important document to consider in the SEA of the Development Management Policies. Climate change is an overarching theme of sustainable development and as such is relevant to all sustainability objectives.

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