Brentwood Borough Council LDF Sustainability Appraisal
Core Strategy Issues and Options SA

Draft SA Report
November 2009

Prepared for

Brentwood Borough Council

Revision Schedule

Core Strategy Issues and Options SA
November 2009

Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
01	November 2009	Draft Report	**Ian Brenkley** Environmental Consultant **Liz Clarke** Environmental Consultant	**James Allan** Environmental Consultant	**Steve Smith** Associate

Scott Wilson
6-8 Greencoat Place
London
SW1P 1PL

Tel +44 (0)207 798 5000
Fax +44 (0)207 798 5001

www.scottwilson.com

Table of Contents

Non-Technical Summary

Brentwood Borough Council is preparing a series of planning documents that will guide development in the borough. This will advise how and where housing, shops, offices, industry, leisure and transport facilities are located over the next 15 years. The 'Issues and Options' document is the first planning document to be produced by the Council as part of its new planning process and is designed to:

- set out for public debate the important issues that need to be considered by the main planning document, the Core Strategy;

- outline a series of spatial options through which development and change can be managed; and

- help build a consensus on the broad direction for future planning policies.

An essential consideration when drawing up the planning documents is their effect on sustainability as measured by the effect on the environment, the community, and the economy, both now and in the future. Therefore a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is carried out alongside the preparation of these plans. This document shows how the Issues and Options document performs against the key sustainability issues that have been identified for the borough.

Two components of the Issues and Options document were appraised.

First, the SA looked at the Strategic Objectives of the plan to make sure it covered all the important environmental, social and economic issues for Brentwood. It found that the objectives covered the broad range of sustainability issues that are important for the borough and that the majority of the strategic objectives were compatible with the SA objectives.

Second, the SA looked at the four spatial options that the Council developed to direct growth over the plan period. These options were:

1. Spatial option 1 – Centralised growth
2. Spatial option 2 – Transport corridor-led growth
3. Spatial option 3 – Semi-dispersed growth
4. Spatial option 4 – Dispersed growth

The appraisal found that the spatial options would lead to some effects regardless of which one was selected. These effects included higher levels of greenhouse gas emissions, potential loss of Green Belt land, economic benefits and more pressure on water resources. Importantly, it also found that some of the options were better than others in terms of their overall sustainability. Spatial option 1 was good because it did not have very many environmental effects but it was not as good socially or economically. Spatial option 2 performed very well against environmental, social and economic objectives but it could lead to benefits only in the borough's bigger settlements at the expense of rural communities. Spatial option 3 may lead to some environmental effects but was good socially and economically. Spatial option 4 performed very poorly against all areas of sustainability. We concluded that a combination of spatial option 2 and 3 may provide the greatest sustainability benefits for the borough.

1 Introduction

1.1.1 Brentwood Borough Council ('the Council') is currently preparing their Core Strategy Issues and Options as part of their Local Development Framework (LDF) process. Scott Wilson has been commissioned by the Council as independent consultants to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Core Strategy Issues and Options document. The SA seeks to identify the economic, social and environmental impacts of the emerging Core Strategy and suggest ways to avoid or minimise negative impacts and maximise positive ones.

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.2.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (PCPA) (2004), all Development Plan Documents (DPDs) produced by local authorities as part of their Local Development Framework (LDF) must undergo a process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The Core Strategy is the key DPD, which sits at the centre of the LDF (the LDF can be thought of as a 'portfolio' of individual documents), and so is subject to SA.

1.2.2 SA involves the identification and evaluation of the DPD's impacts on economic, social and environmental objectives – i.e. its compatibility with the three dimensions of sustainable development. The SA process incorporates the requirements of a European law requiring certain plans and programmes to undergo a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

1.2.3 SEA involves the systematic identification and evaluation of the environmental impacts of a strategic action (e.g. a plan or programme). In 2001, the EU legislated for SEA with the adoption of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive'). The Directive entered into force in the UK on 21 July 2004 and applies to a range of English plans and programmes including DPDs.

1.2.4 SA and SEA are therefore both statutory requirements. The Government's approach to this dual requirement is to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into the SA process. The SA, which considers all three pillars of sustainability, therefore incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive, but does not have any bias towards giving consideration to environmental issues. To this end, the Government published guidance on undertaking SA of spatial plans ('the Guidance') in November 2005. The combined SA / SEA process is referred to in the Guidance and in this document as 'Sustainability Appraisal (SA)'.

1.3 The SA process

1.3.1 The Guidance advocates a five-stage approach to undertaking SA (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: The five stage approach to SA

Stage A
• Assemble the relevant **evidence base**
• Use evidence to develop the **SA framework**
• In doing so determine the **scope** of the SA

→ **Scoping Report**

Stage B
• Appraise the **objectives**, **options** and **preferred options** making use of the findings of Stage A
• Make **recommendations** to minimise any negative impacts and enhance positive ones
• Propose measures to **monitor** the significant effects of preferred options.

Stage C
• **Report** on SA findings

→ **Make interim SA findings available and prepare a Final SA Report**

Stage D
• **Consult** stakeholders on the plan options / preferred options as well as / alongside SA findings

→ **Revise SA findings / re-draft SA Report**

Stage E
• **Monitor** the implementation of the plan post adoption (including effects predicted by the SA)

1.3.2   Stages A and B are key stages of the SA process. The purpose of Stage A – the scoping stage - is to gather evidence and set the scope for the forthcoming assessment stage (Stage B). The outcomes of Stage A are set out in a Scoping Report (published in 2007 and updated in 2009 and available on the Council's website[1]). Section 2 of this Report summarises the findings of the Scoping Report.

1.3.3   Stages B must be an iterative process. This Report represents the beginning of this process and the findings of the SA report (alongside technical studies, consultation responses and other inputs to the planning process) will play a key role as the Council determines its preferred options and associated planning policies.

---

[1] Brentwood Borough Council (2009). *The New Local Development Framework* [online] available at: http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/index.php?cid=694 (accessed 2 November 2009).

1.4 Brentwood Borough Council Issues and Options

1.4.1 As part of the new development plan process introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, all Councils have a statutory duty to produce a Core Strategy Development Plan Document to ensure a spatial and planned, rather than a piecemeal, approach to development and creating a shared vision for the future. The purpose of the Issues and Options document is to set out the key spatial issues for the Borough and the proposed development options to address these issues. It provides a focus for discussion on proposals for the future of the Borough and sets out the wider context of current social, economic and environmental issues. It is intended to:

- Set out the long term vision for the Borough and how it may change between now and 2031;

- Outline the issues facing the Council and strategic partners in the services provided;

- Act as the focus for deliberations on options for accommodating and managing change; and

- Help build consensus on the broad directions of future planning policies and the way in which essential facilities and services will be provided to meet the Borough's needs.

1.5 Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive

1.5.1 The SEA Directive sets out a legal process that must be followed. In light of this, this report clearly sets out the relevant requirements of the SEA Directive and explains how these have been satisfied (or will be satisfied).

1.5.2 Table 1 indicates where specific requirements of the SEA Directive can be found within this SA Report and the other supporting documents.

Table 1: SEA Directive requirements checklist

Environmental Report requirements[2]	Section of this report
an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Chapter 1 and 2 Scoping Report
the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Chapter 2 Scoping Report
the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Scoping Report
any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	Scoping Report
the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way	Scoping Report Future SA Report

---

[2] As listed in Annex I of the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment).

Environmental Report requirements[2]	Section of this report
those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	
the likely significant effects[3] on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	Chapter 4
the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Chapter 4
an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Future SA Report
a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	Future SA Report
a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Included

---

[3] These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

2 Stage A - Evidence base

2.1.1 Stage A of the SA process involved gathering evidence regarding the sustainability baseline and policy context that is of relevance to the LDF and associated Local Development Documents (LDDs). This evidence was gathered with the aim of informing the assessment stage (SA Stage B). In particular, the evidence was used to develop a set of sustainability objectives against which the sustainability effects of the Council's LDDs can be assessed. Together, the objectives can be considered to be the 'framework' for the appraisal.

2.1.2 The framework and evidence base for the SA of the LDF were documented in a Scoping Report, which was published in 2007 and updated in 2009. Set out below is a description of the key stages within Stage A that have been previously undertaken. Also set out below is the SA framework, which was first set out in the Scoping Report and agreed upon through a process of consultation and was not altered as part of the update in 2009.

2.2 Stage A1 – Identify other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives that will influence the DPD

2.2.1 The relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives that will influence the Core Strategy LDF are included within the Scoping Report that was published in 2007 and updated in 2009.

2.3 Stage A2 – Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information

2.3.1 The collection of baseline information forms an essential part of the SA process and is a requirement of the SEA Directive. It is vital to obtain sufficient baseline information on the current and likely future state of the area in order to enable the impacts of the LDF to be adequately predicted and evaluated.

2.3.2 The relevant baseline information is included in the Scoping Report[4]. Evidence is presented according to 13 themes. These are:

- biodiversity and open space;
- landscape;
- cultural heritage and material assets;
- air quality;
- water quality and water resources;
- soil contamination;
- climatic factors and flooding;
- waste;

---

[4] Brentwood Borough Council (2009). *Sustainability Appraisal* [online] available at: http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/index.php?cid=1219 (accessed 10 November 2009).

- economy and employment;

- education;

- housing;

- community;

- transport and travel; and

- Gypsies and Travellers.

2.4 Stage A3 – Key Sustainability Issues and Problems

2.4.1 The identification of sustainability issues facing borough provides an opportunity to define key issues for the LDF and to develop sustainable objectives and options for resolving these. The identification of sustainability issues also provides useful information to inform the SA process and is a requirement of the SEA Directive. The key issues facing Brentwood are shown in Appendix 1.

2.5 Stage A4 – the SA Framework

2.5.1 SA is fundamentally based on an objectives-led approach whereby a plan and its policies are appraised in relation to a series of objectives for sustainable development. The SA Framework provides a way in which the sustainability effects can be identified, described, analysed and compared and it is central to the overall SA process.

2.5.2 The SA objectives have been developed using the information gathered as part of Stages A1, A2 and A3. In addition, the Sustainability Principles that were developed as part of the Annual Monitoring Report in 2007/08 have also been used to inform the objectives.

2.5.3 A series of 'prompt questions' that can be asked of a DPD to evaluate the DPD's performance against SA objectives have also been developed. These questions will be used in the assessment *when* and *where* they are considered necessary. The SA objectives are shown in Table 2 and the SA objectives with their associated prompt questions are shown in Appendix 2.

Table 2: The SA Framework

SA Objective
1. Deliver sustainable use of land
2. Protect and enhance the natural environment
3. Protect and enhance the rural environment ensuring the countryside and multifunctional open spaces are accessible to all.
4. Protect and enhance the built and historic environment and landscapes in the Borough
5. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adverse effects of climate change
6. Deliver more sustainable location and travel patterns

7. Reduce waste

8. Use natural resources (including water, fossil fuels, land and minerals) efficiently

9. Ensure affordable high quality housing is available to all

10. Maintain a strong, stable, prosperous and sustainable local economy

11. Ensure access to education and skills training in the Borough for all current and future residents

12. Share access to services and benefits of prosperity fairly and help to create communities where people feel safe and that they belong

13. Improve health and reduce health and welfare inequalities

14. Revitalise town centres and promote a return to sustainable urban living

15. Ensure the needs of Gypsy & Traveller groups are met

3 Appraisal Methodology

3.1.1 This Section describes the approach that has been taken to appraising the strategic objectives and spatial options for the future development of Brentwood.

3.1.2 The appraisal has been carried out using the SA framework that was developed and documented in the Scoping Report. The SA Framework consists of 15 objectives and associated 'prompt questions' against which the Issues and Options have been assessed.

3.1.3 Slightly different approaches have been employed to appraising the strategic objectives and spatial options. This has been done to best respond to the nature of the features of the DPD that are being appraised and is described below:

- **Strategic objectives** have been tested for their compatibility with the SA Objectives. The purpose of this high level assessment is to identify whether the draft objectives reflect sustainability principles and to test whether the scope of the Issues and Options is sufficiently broad. That is, it tests to ensure that all key issues for the borough are covered by the strategic objectives. The results of this process are shown through a 'compatibility matrix' and augmented by a qualitative summary.

- **Spatial options** have been appraised against each SA objective and the results of this appraisal have been documented in appraisal matrices. The performance of the spatial options have been comparatively summarised for each SA objective. The outcome of this appraisal stage has provided information that will aid the Council in selecting the preferred options and demonstrate to the Planning Inspector that alternatives have been sufficiently considered.

3.2 Appraising the Strategic Objectives

3.2.1 To determine compatibility between the Issues and Options Strategic Objectives and the SA Objectives scoring criteria were developed (as shown in Table 3). It should be noted that *compatibility* is not the same as *effect*. Compatibility seeks to identify any type of effect whether it is significant or insignificant whereas the assessment of effects within SA typically considers only significant effects.

Table 3: Compatibility scoring criteria

Symbol	Description
+	Compatible
0	No relationship
-	Incompatible / conflicting
?	More than one potential outcome or outcome unclear at this stage

3.3 Appraising the Spatial Options

3.3.1 To determine the likely significance of effects, consideration was given to the characteristics of the effects and the sensitivity of the receptors involved. For example, the following can all determine whether effects may be significant:

- Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects;

- Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects;

- Cumulative nature of effects; and

- Sensitivity or vulnerability of the likely effect receptors.

3.3.2   The phasing of the spatial options has not yet been developed so we have not attempted to identify a timescale for the effects. This more detailed assessment will be provided as the Core Strategy progresses and will be included in the SA Report for the pre-submission version.

3.3.3   The scoring criteria shown in Table 4 were used to assess the effects of the Spatial Options and to allow comparison of the performance of the four spatial options against the SA Framework.

Table 4: Effects scoring criteria

Symbol	Description
+	Positive effect
0	Insignificant effect (positive or negative)
-	Negative effect
?	Uncertain effects / mixed effects

4   Outcomes of the Appraisal

4.1   Testing the DPD Strategic Objectives

Introduction

4.1.1   The Issues and Options document includes a proposed vision for a sustainable Brentwood. This is:

> 'To build on and enhance all that is best and valued of the existing character and environment of the town and its surrounding rural areas, ensuring that it is a place that provides a high quality of life for those that live, work and relax in the Borough, both now and in the future'.

4.1.2   In order to achieve their vision the Council has developed a preliminary set of 12 strategic objectives which will structure the plan and outline what needs to be achieved in order to deliver the overall vision. It is therefore important that the strategic objectives address all the key issues that are important for Brentwood, as represented by the SA objectives, as well as identifying whether they are compatible. The Strategic Objectives[5] are:

Table 5: Core Strategy Strategic Objectives

No.	Strategic Objectives
1	Direct growth to the most sustainable locations and manage it to that which can be accommodated by the available infrastructure and services
2	Maximise the best use of available urban land through appropriate and well balanced mixed use development
3	Reduce the negative impacts of development on people and the environment by encouraging the prudent use of resources; reducing pollution and waste and encouraging the use of renewable energy
4	Preserve and enhance the natural and historic environment, biodiversity and visual character of the Borough
5	Seek to provide everyone with access to appropriate local housing in order to create balanced communities
6	Promote social inclusion through equality of access to employment, housing, education, health and recreational facilities and open space
7	Provide high quality shopping, leisure, cultural and community facilities
8	Improve public transport and encourage sustainable transport choices

---

[5] The Strategic Objectives are not actually numbered in the Issues and Options document. They have been numbered here to assist with the presentation of their appraisal.

No.	Strategic Objectives
9	Ensure a prosperous and vibrant local economy
10	Enhance the attraction of Brentwood Town Centre as the focus for shopping, employment and cultural activities in the Borough
11	Encourage all residents to lead healthy lives
12	Reduce crime and fear of crime and ensure safe and secure living and working environments

4.1.3   Table 6 presents the findings of the compatibility assessment.

Table 6: Strategic Objective Compatibility Appraisal

Type of Objective	SA Objectives	Strategic Objectives											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Environment	1. Deliver sustainable use of land	+	+	+	+	0	?	0	0	?	+	?	+
Environment	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	+	?	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
Environment	3. Protect and enhance the rural environment ensuring the countryside and multifunctional open spaces are accessible to all	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0
Environment	4. Protect and enhance the built and historic environment and landscapes in the Borough	?	?	0	+	0	+	+	0	?	0	0	0
Environment	5. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adverse effects of climate change	+	?	+	?	0	+	0	?	0	0	0	0
Environment	6. Deliver more sustainable location and travel patterns	+	?	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0
Environment	7. Reduce waste	0	0	+	+	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0
Environment	8. Use natural resources (including water, fossil fuels, land and minerals) efficiently	+	?	+	+	0	+	+	?	+	0	0	0
Society	9. Ensure affordable high quality housing is available to all	0	+	0	-	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Society	11. Ensure access to education and skills training in the Borough for all current and future residents	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0

		Strategic Objectives										
Society	12. Share access to services and benefits of prosperity fairly and help to create communities where people feel safe and that they belong	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	?	+	+
Society	13. Improve health and reduce health and welfare inequalities	+	+	+	+	0	+	?	+	0	0	+	0
Society	15. Ensure the needs of Gypsy & Traveller groups are met	0	0	0	?	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0
Economy	10. Maintain a strong, stable, prosperous and sustainable local economy	+	+	+	?	0	+	+	+	+	?	0	0
Economy	14. Revitalise town centres and promote a return to sustainable urban living	+	?	?	+	?	+	+	0	+	+	+	+

Summary of compatibility

4.1.4   The appraisal of the Strategic Objectives against the SA objectives identified, on the whole, a general compatibility with all the SA objectives. Where relationships have been identified they were overwhelmingly positive. A number of uncertainties were identified whereby the nature of the relationship could not be clearly determined and would be dependent upon further detail, i.e. they have the potential to be either "compatible" or "incompatible". One DPD Strategic Objective was identified as likely to be incompatible with an SA objective.

4.1.5   The Strategic Objectives, to *'preserve and enhance the natural and historic environment,'* was identified to be potentially incompatible with the SA objective to ensure affordable high quality housing. To enable the high demand for housing in the Borough to be met, in particular affordable housing, significant development is required and hence, such development is most likely to be incompatible with the Strategic Objective.

4.1.6   Testing the DPD Strategic Objectives against SA Objectives demonstrates an appropriate Scope, i.e. they cover the breadth of sustainability issues that are important for the borough. The appropriate depth will be developed as the emerging Core Strategy policies are further developed.

Compatibility of DPD Objectives with SA Environmental Objectives

4.1.7   As would be expected the environmentally focussed DPD Strategic Objectives performed well against the environmentally focussed SA objectives. In particular the two objectives to '*reduce the negative impacts of development'* and to *'preserve and enhance the natural and historic environment'* were found to be particularly compatible. The DPD Strategic Objectives to *'promote social inclusion through equality of access'* and to *'direct growth the most sustainable locations'* were also identified to be compatible with SA objectives.

4.1.8   The Strategic Objectives to *'provide everyone with access to appropriate local housing'*, *'provide high quality shopping'*, *'enhance the attraction of Brentwood Town Centre'* and to

'reduce crime and fear of crime' were identified, on the whole, to have little relationship with the environmental SA objectives. Where relationships were identified they were in all cases compatible, apart from one uncertainty concerning how the provision of high quality shopping would be compatible with the waste SA objective.

4.1.9   The remaining Strategic Objectives were identified to have a greater balance of compatibility, no relationship and uncertain relationships, and hence, their likely overall compatibility with the environmental SA objectives is not entirely clear. In particular the Strategic Objective to *'maximise the best use of available urban land'* could potentially have a number of unknown outcomes against the SA objectives and at this level of appraisal it is not possible to clearly identify their compatibility. The Strategic Objectives *'to improve public transport'*, *'ensure a prosperous and vibrant local economy'* and *'encouraging residents to lead health lives'* were appraised to have a balance between either compatible or uncertain relationships against the SA objectives, and hence, their overall compatibility with the environmentally focussed SA objectives was also uncertain.

Compatibility of DPD Objectives with SA Society Objectives

4.1.10   Nine of the twelve Strategic Objectives were identified to be compatible with the society focussed SA objectives. In particular, the Strategic Objective to *'promote social inclusion through equality of access'* was identified to be compatible with each of the society focussed SA Objectives. The Strategic Objectives on *'reducing the negative impacts of development on people and the environment'*, *'providing everyone with access to appropriate local housing'* and *'reducing crime and the fear of crime'* were each only compatible with one of these SA objectives. A number of the Strategic Objectives were found to have little compatibility with the society focussed SA objectives which was partly due to the strategic level of the objectives and the level of detail that they allow – recommendations on increasing the Strategic Objectives' focus on addressing the key sustainability issues are included in Table 6.

4.1.11   Uncertainty was identified in relation to three DPD Strategic Objectives. These refer to how *'preserving and enhancing the natural and historic environments'* will be compatible with ensuring the needs of gypsy and traveller groups are met; how *'providing high quality shopping, leisure, cultural and community facilities'* is compatible with improving health and reducing health and welfare inequalities; and how *'enhancing the attraction of Brentwood Town Centre'* is compatible with sharing access to services and benefits of prosperity fairly. Again, an effective appraisal is difficult due to the level of detail provided by the Strategic Objectives.

4.1.12   One of the Strategic Objectives, to *'preserve and enhance the natural and historic environment,'* was identified to be potentially incompatible with the SA objective to ensure affordable high quality housing. To enable the high demand for housing in the Borough to be met, in particular affordable housing, significant development is required and hence, such development is most likely to be incompatible with the Strategic Objective. There are several approaches that the Council may adopt to mitigate against this tension including:

- Conduct a green belt review if it appears that development will need to be located in these areas to ensure that impact is minimised;

- Develop a 'good design guide' and integrate it with Core Strategy policies or develop a separate SPD to help ensure good quality development proceeds;

- Provide protection for the natural and historic environment within Core Strategy policies;

- Conduct local character area assessments or village design statements to be used when assessing the potential impacts of new development; and

- Develop high but spatially differentiated density requirements for provision across the borough.

Compatibility of DPD Objectives with Economy Objectives

4.1.13   On the whole, the Strategic Objectives were identified to be compatible with the economically focussed SA Objectives. The Strategic Objectives on *'directing growth to the most sustainable locations'*, *'promoting social inclusion through equality of access'*, *'providing high quality shopping, leisure, cultural and community facilities'* and *'ensuring a prosperous and vibrant local economy'* are all fully compatible with the economically focussed SA objectives.

4.1.14   Four uncertainties were identified due to a number of different factors. The compatibility between the Strategic Objective to *'maximise the best use of available land'* and the SA objective to *'revitalise town centres and promote a return to sustainable urban living'* is uncertain and would be dependent upon individual development proposals and their focus towards sustainable urban living and its compatibility with the Strategic Objective's interpretation of mixed use development. Similarly, the Strategic Objective to *'reduce the negative impacts of development'* on the same SA objective is also identified as uncertain. This stems from the nature and extent to which the *'prudent use of resources, reducing pollution and waste and the use of renewable energy'* would be assured.

4.1.15   The extent to which *'preserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment'* is compatible with *'maintaining a strong, stable, prosperous and sustainable local economy'* is also uncertain at this level of analysis. There could also be a potential conflict between the Strategic Objective to *'seek to provide everyone with access to appropriate local housing'* and to *'revitalise town centres'* given the potential conflict on land availability. Finally, the Strategic Objective's focus on Brentwood Town Centre may not necessarily be compatible with sustaining local economies, particularly in outlying more rural areas.

Mitigation (our recommendations)

4.1.16   Although the appraisal identified an overall compatibility between the Strategic Objectives and the SA objectives, a number of uncertainties and one incompatibility were also noted. Given the necessary strategic level of the objectives as well as the appraisal team's limited understanding of the process taken in their development the following mitigation measures could only focus on textural changes in order to improve their performance against the SA objectives.

Table 7: Our recommendations for the Strategic Objectives

Original Strategic Objective:	Proposed Strategic Objective:
Direct growth to the most sustainable locations and manage it to that which can be accommodated by the available infrastructure and services	Direct growth to the most sustainable locations and manage it to that which can be accommodated by the available infrastructure and services *or contributes to the provision of new infrastructure*
Maximise the best use of available urban land through appropriate and well balanced mixed use development	None
Reduce the negative impacts of development on people and the environment by encouraging the prudent	None

use of resources; reducing pollution and waste and encouraging the use of renewable energy	
Preserve and enhance the natural and historic environment, biodiversity and visual character of the Borough	None
Seek to provide everyone with access to appropriate local housing in order to create balanced communities	Seek to provide everyone with access to *affordable* local housing *which meets their needs and contributes to* creat*ing inclusive and* balanced communities
Promote social inclusion through equality of access to employment, housing, education, health and recreational facilities and open space	None.
Provide high quality shopping, leisure, cultural and community facilities	Provide high quality shopping, leisure, cultural and community facilities *that are accessible to all members of the community*
Improve public transport and encourage sustainable transport choices	None
Ensure a prosperous and vibrant local economy	Ensure a prosperous*,* vibrant *and diverse* local economy
Enhance the attraction of Brentwood Town Centre as the focus for shopping, employment and cultural activities in the Borough	None
Encourage all residents to lead healthy lives	There may be scope to provide more direction through this objective. For example, 'Encourage all residents to lead healthy lives *through the provision of accessible and high quality open space, and greater access to the wider countryside'*
Reduce crime and fear of crime and ensure safe and secure living and working environments	None

4.2   Testing the DPD Spatial Options

4.2.1   In order to deliver the vision and objectives set out within the Core Strategy and the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Council has developed four spatial options for the future development of the Borough. The Government requires that all reasonable spatial options are considered through the consultation process and the Council has prepared these options at this stage for the purpose of discussion:

1. Centralised growth

2. Transport corridor-led growth

3. Semi-dispersed growth

4. Dispersed growth

4.2.2   These options are illustrated in the figures below.

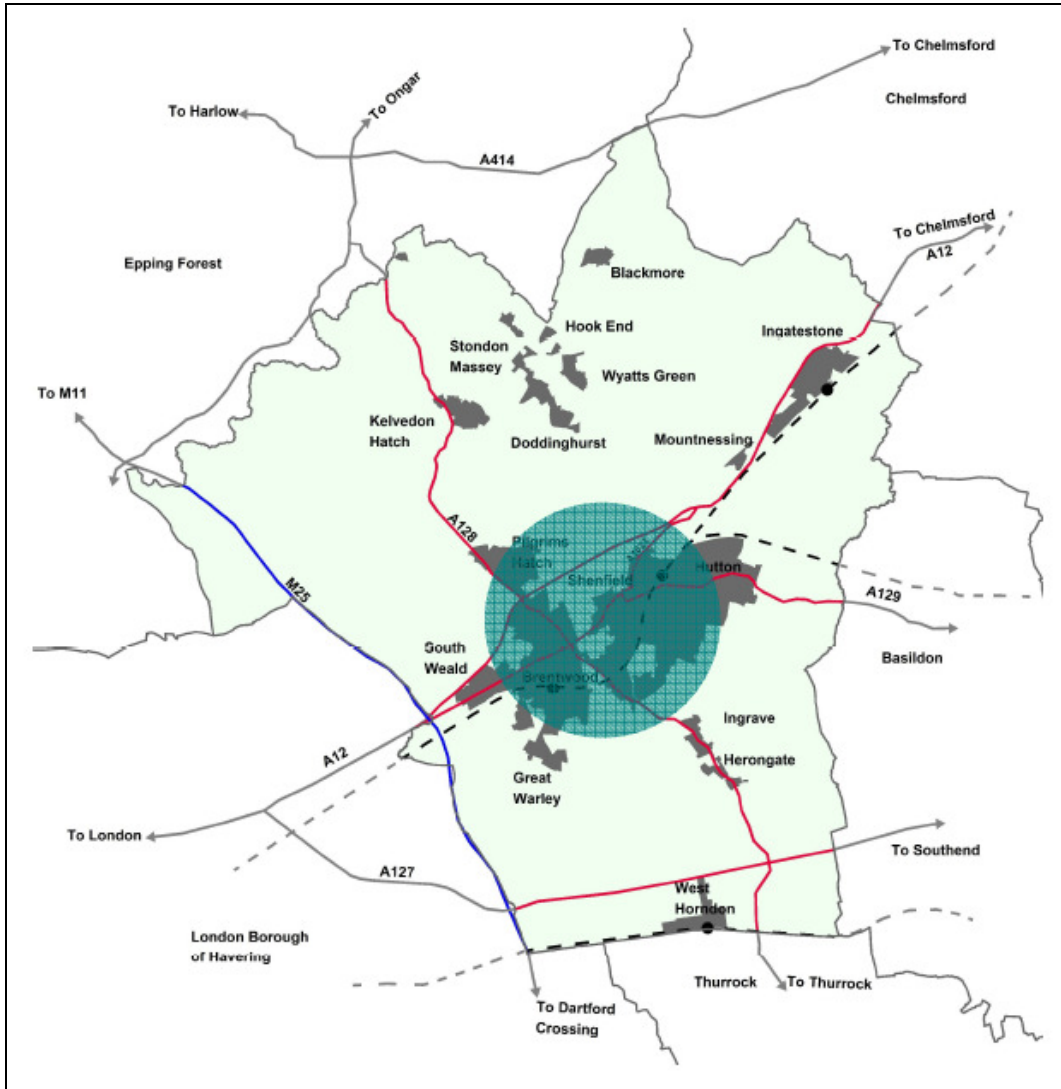**Figure 2: Spatial Options 1 – Centralised growth**

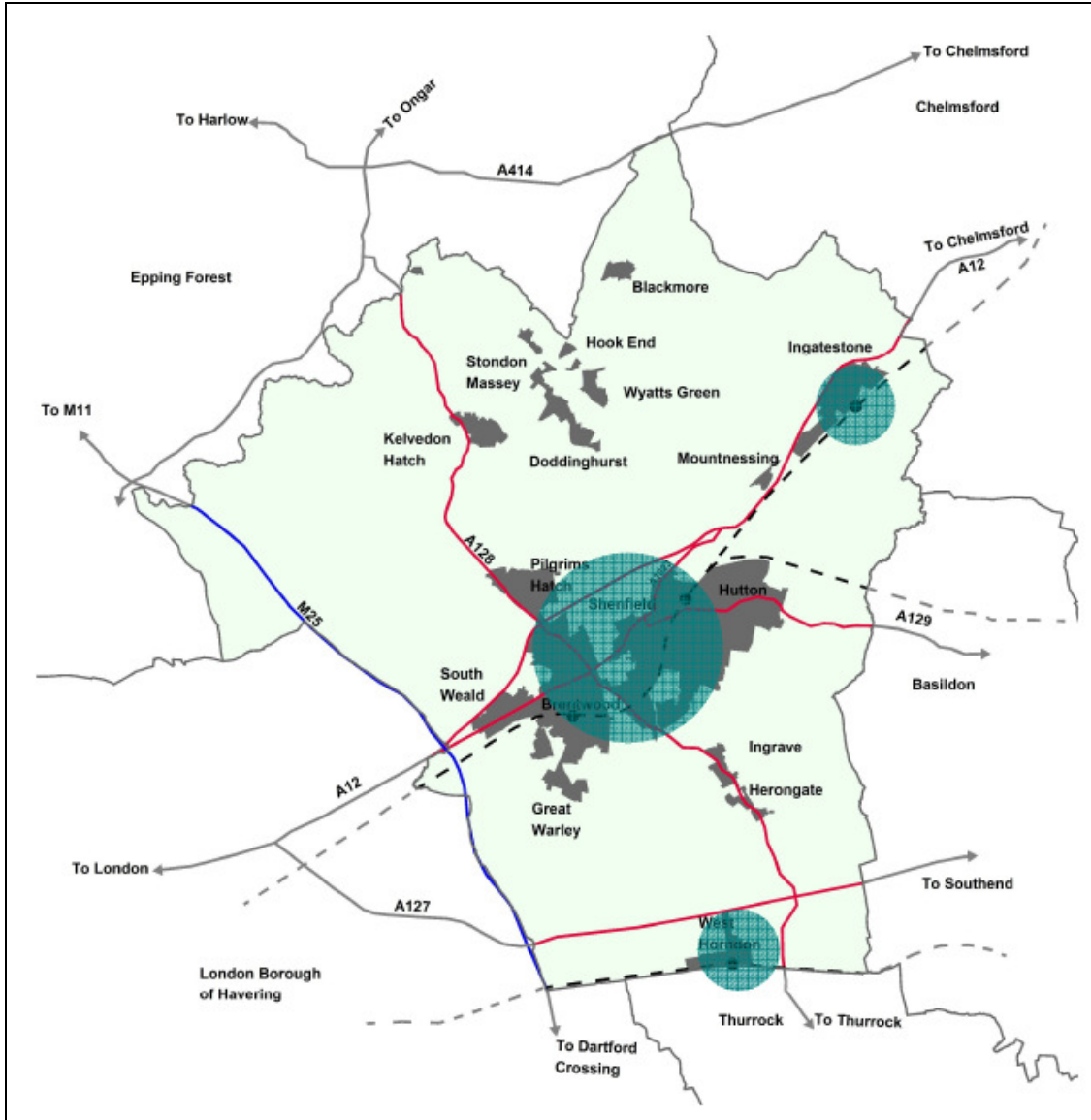**Figure 3: Spatial Option 2 – Transport corridor-led growth**

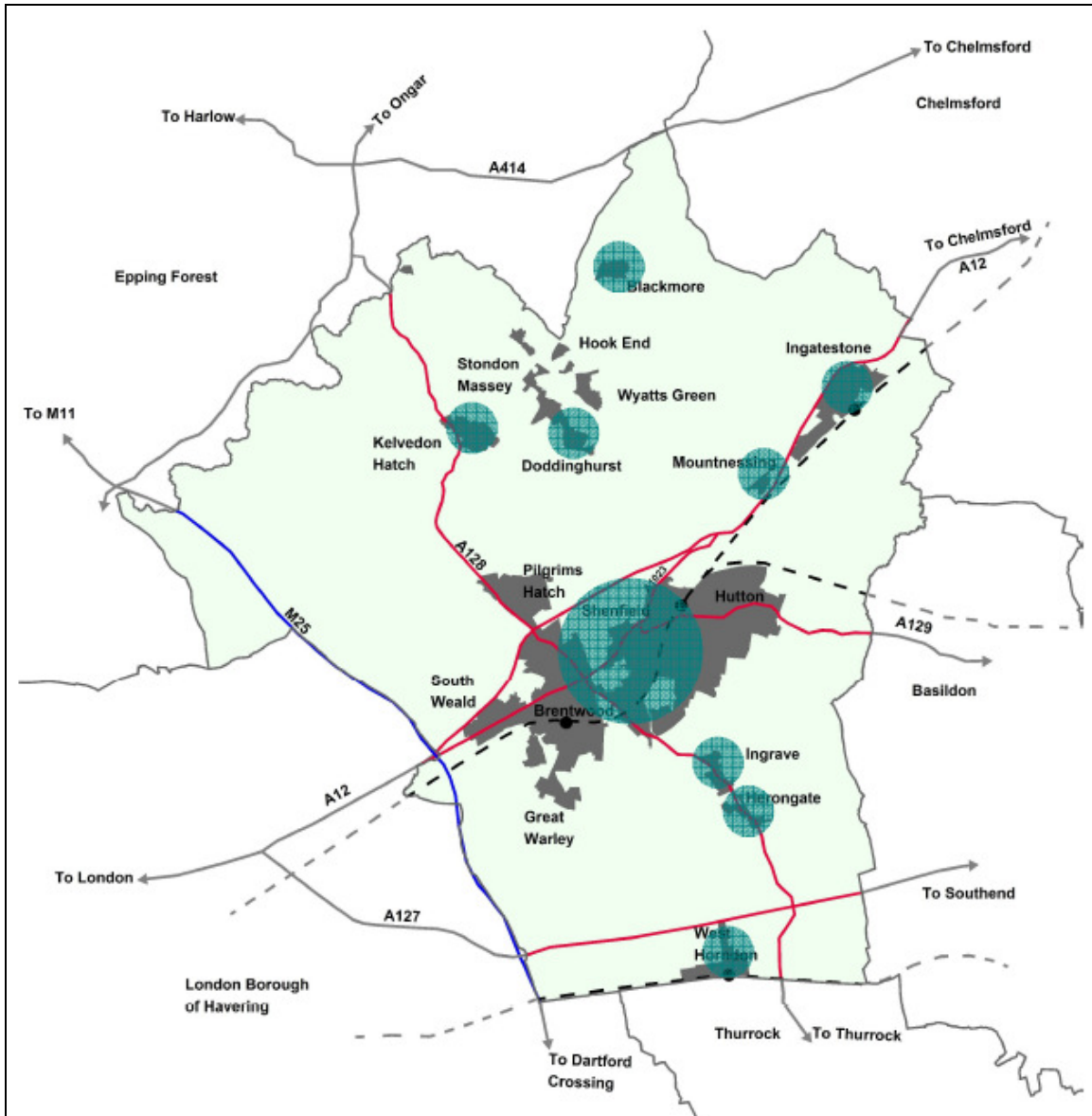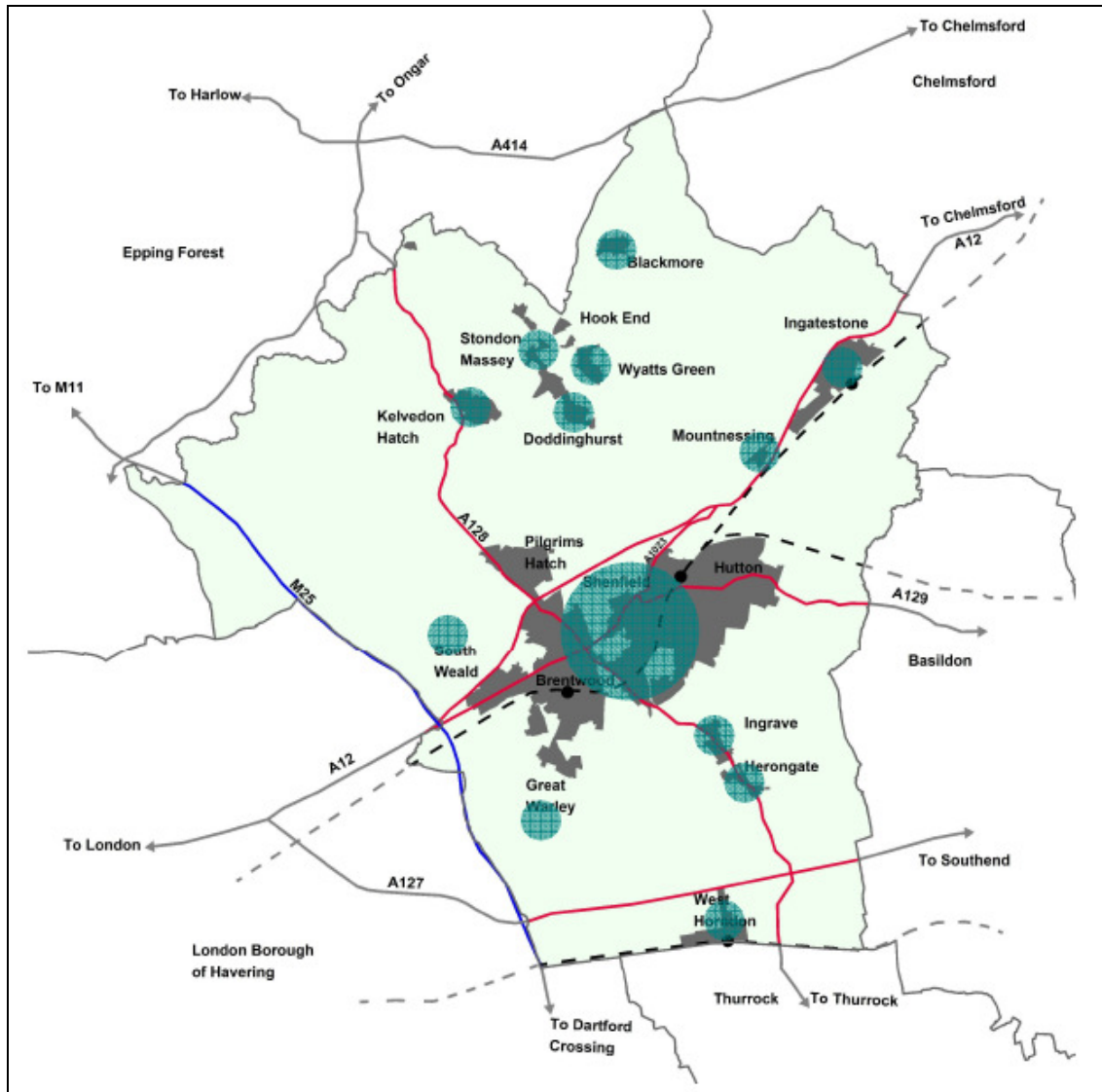**Figure 4: Spatial Option 3 - Semi-dispersed growth**

Figure 5: Spatial Option 4 - Dispersed growth

4.2.3   The spatial options have been appraised against each SA objective and the results of this appraisal have been summarised below. The results of this appraisal provide the Council with an indication of the relative sustainability effects of each spatial option.

4.2.4   It should be noted that it is difficult to provide a high level of certainty in assessing the spatial options as the specific details of the distribution of growth are not known. For example, it is not clear how many houses will be distributed to smaller villages under spatial options 3 and 4.

Table 8: Appraisal Matrix of the Spatial Options

SA Objective	Spatial Option 1: Centralised Growth	Spatial Option 2: Transport Corridor led Growth	Spatial Option 3: Semi-dispersed Growth	Spatial Option 4: Dispersed Growth
1. Deliver sustainable use of land	+	+ / -	+	-

Comparative Summary:
All four options are likely to have some negative effects on land due to estimated brownfield capacity falling 500 dwellings short of the East of England Plan's housing targets for the borough. However, by constraining new development towards Brentwood (option 1) and the main transport nodes (2) opportunities to create an attractive environment in built up areas will be maximised. While the first two options would lead to a more efficient use of land and buildings on PDL, these options may result in increased pressure on green belt land and the creation of urban extensions as there are limited brownfield opportunities. There are several SSSIs in close proximity to transport nodes in the south of the borough which would require protection. Options 2, 3 and 4 may increase the pressure for development in areas of high amenity value but by spreading development through the entire borough (2 and 3) this should be ameliorated.

SA Objective				
2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	+	+	-	-

Comparative Summary:
All four options are likely to have some negative impacts on the natural environment because they are likely to require some use of Green Belt. Focusing development on the town (1) and on the town and along transport corridors (2) may minimise encroachment upon the natural environment. Spatial Options 3 and 4, by at least partially dispersing growth throughout the Borough, may encroach upon the natural environment to a greater extent, particularly given the envisaged need for new infrastructure and higher levels of transport. They may also have a negative effect on the borough's tranquillity by increasing trip generation across the borough.

SA Objective				
3. Protect and enhance the rural environment ensuring the countryside and multifunctional open spaces are accessible to all.	+	+	+	?

Comparative Summary:
All four options may potentially lead to negative impacts on the rural environment and countryside because they are likely to require expansion of settlements and some use of Green Belt. Option 4 could impact upon the rural character and countryside to a greater extent given the more dispersed approach to development and the primary impacts this will have on land take and secondary impacts on issues such as trip generation; however, it could also increase the accessibility of the countryside to a greater number of Borough residents. It is unlikely that the quantum of development in rural areas under options 3 and 4 would be likely to bring forward additional infrastructure. Developing land at transport nodes (Spatial Option 2) may also increase accessibility of the countryside to residents. Options 1, 2 and 3 would most likely lead to positive effects against this objective in terms of the protection to the rural environment.

SA Objective				
4. Protect and enhance the built and historic environment and landscapes in the Borough	?	?	?	?

Comparative Summary:
There are 518 listed buildings and 13 Conservation Areas in the Borough. Although there are a few historic environment assets within the town (and thus development under any option has the potential to negatively impact upon historic environment assets), the large majority are scattered throughout the Borough and this includes five Conservation Areas that cover village centres. It may be anticipated, therefore, that development under Spatial Options 3 and 4 towards dispersed growth could potentially negatively impact upon this SA objective. This would depend upon delivery, however, and the Core Strategy could set out policies that not only protect and enhance these assets, but that also improve accessibility to these assets for residents and tourists.

SA Objective				
5. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adverse effects of climate change	+	+	-	-

Comparative Summary:

By delivering additional development all the options are likely to increase absolute greenhouse gas emissions. However, from a spatial point of view, by dispersing development e.g. in areas of poor public transport accessibility, Options 3 and 4 are likely to increase the need to travel and the number of trips taken within the Borough. This will result in greater greenhouse gas emissions than Options 1 or 2, which are likely to decrease the number of trips taken to access facilities and services by focusing development on the town and transport nodes. Transport nodes and Brentwood town should also offer a greater choice of sustainable forms of transport (e.g. bus, train, cycle) and thus minimise greenhouse gas emissions. The exact impact will depend upon the transport plans associated with these options and the Core Strategy.

6. Deliver more sustainable location and travel patterns	+	+	-	-

Comparative Summary:
By dispersing development Options 3 and 4 are likely to increase the need to travel and the number of trips taken within the Borough to reach key facilities and services. These areas, particularly under Spatial Option 4, may also have poor public transport accessibility and thus increase reliance on the car and other unsustainable forms of transport. Options 1 and 2 are likely to decrease the number of trips taken to access facilities and services by focusing development on the town and transport nodes. Transport nodes and Brentwood town should also offer a greater choice of sustainable forms of transport (e.g. bus, train, cycle), but the exact impact will depend upon the transport plans associated with these options and the final Core Strategy.

7. Reduce waste	0	0	0	0

Comparative Summary:
The spatial options are not anticipated to have a significant impact on the overall quantity of waste produced and it is not possible to provide a clear spatial assessment against this objective.

8. Use natural resources (including water, fossil fuels, land and minerals) efficiently	+	+	-	-

Comparative Summary:
By using PDL and brownfield land around the town and transport nodes, Spatial Options 1 and 2,respectively, should have a positive impact against this SA objective in terms of efficient land use. Grouping development also offers a greater potential for district and community heating and other low carbon and efficient energy schemes. Spatial Options 3 and 4 prefer a more dispersed settlement pattern and thus do not support these opportunities for more efficient use of natural resources. In addition, Options 3 and 4 will probably require additional infrastructure to support development needs and thus may not utilise water efficiently and dispersed development could also increase the potential for water and land contamination. Depending on how the development is delivered, all the options could potentially have a negative impact upon natural resources, and careful planning is necessary through the Core Strategy to maximise efficiency and even potentially enhance the natural resource efficiency of existing development.

9. Ensure affordable high quality housing is available to all	-	-	+	?

Comparative Summary:
The exact housing mix will depend upon the relevant policies and associated targets set by the core strategy. While a greater amount of affordable housing may be possible through options 1 and 2 by triggering higher thresholds (if these are set out in the core strategy), rural affordable housing needs will not be sufficiently addressed. It is recognised that higher housing thresholds will not meet borough wide needs under any option however, spatial option 2 provides a better balance of development across the borough. Some use of rural exception sites/small sites allocated solely for affordable housing is also likely to be required.

10. Maintain a strong, stable, prosperous and sustainable local economy	-	+	+	?

Comparative Summary:
Providing development in the town, as per Spatial Option 1, should support a stronger local economy but these benefits would not be experienced across the borough. Developing along the transport corridor () should also support the local economy by facilitating industry transport and commuting to places of work. Dispersing development may support the rural economy and support more local jobs although it may be anticipated that this will not ultimately support the Borough's economic needs e.g. in terms of business viability, business investment within the Borough and travelling to work.

11. Ensure access to education and skills training in the Borough for all current and future residents	+	+	+	-

Comparative Summary:
It is unlikely that the quantum of growth that will be experienced in the borough over the plan period will lead to significant improvements in the provision of education and skills training facilities. However, it is likely that the concentration of development will lead to greater provision. By directing growth towards Brentwood (1) or transport nodes (2) and possibly through option 3 with a high concentration of development in the main settlements there is the greatest likelihood that overall accessibility will be increased.

12. Share access to services and benefits of prosperity fairly and help to create communities where people feel safe and that they belong	-	+	+	+

Comparative Summary:
By focusing development entirely on the town, it is unclear whether Spatial Option 1 will provide adequate accessibility to facilities and services for the borough's rural and smaller settlement residents. Spatial Option 2, by focusing development on the transport corridor, should provide greater accessibility provided that public transport is adequate. Although there is a question surrounding the affordability of new infrastructure and facilities required, Spatial Options 3 and 4 should provide the greatest accessibility to facilities and services by dispersing development across the Borough.

13. Improve health and reduce health and welfare inequalities	-	+	+	0

Comparative Summary:
The accessibility of health services should be greater under Spatial Options 2 and 3, provided it is financially viable to offer the minimum amount of health facilities required to meet local needs. By focusing development and thus new health facilities within the town, Spatial Option 1 may increase health inequalities within the Borough by reducing accessibility. By locating development along the transport corridor, Spatial Option 2 should support the accessibility of health facilities. It is thought that distributing development throughout the borough will have an insignificant effect against this objective.

14. Revitalise town centres and promote a return to sustainable urban living	-	+	+	-

Comparative Summary:
Depending on delivery, Spatial Option 1 should support the revitalisation of Brentwood town centre e.g. by developing PDL and providing new facilities and services; however, other urban areas are unlikely to benefit. Spatial Option 2 and 3 could potentially support revitalisation of both Brentwood town centre (by focusing a large amount of development in Brentwood town and by supporting transport in to the town centre) as well as some growth in other urban areas. Spreading growth across the Borough (4) is unlikely to have a significant impact on Brentwood town centre and other urban areas or on the objective to support sustainable urban living.

15. Ensure the needs of Gypsy & Traveller groups are met	0	0	0	0

Comparative Summary:
Needs of Gypsy and Traveller groups are addressed in the SA of the Gypsies and Travellers DPD[6].

OVERALL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Overall Summary:
Without knowing the development that will be delivered and supporting core strategy policies, it is difficult to state with a high degree of certainty what the impacts of the spatial options will be. Clearly there are significant trade-offs between the different spatial options. Option 1 performs particularly well against environmental objectives but poorly against social and economic objectives. In contrast, Option 3 does not perform as well against environmental objectives but it does against social and economic objectives. From a strategic locational perspective it could be argued that it may be possible to mitigate potential environmental effects through Core

---

[6] Brentwood Borough Council (2009). *Gypsies and Travellers DPD* [online] available at:
http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/index.php?cid=1233 (accessed 9 November 2009).

Strategy policies so Option 3 would be favoured.   Option 2 scores most favourably across all SA objectives however, there are particular reservations with this option for its possible impact against rural settlements – this is a concern that does not clearly emerge through individual appraisal of the option against the SA objectives. Spatial option 4 scores particularly poorly and on the basis of this appraisal it would be the least favoured spatial option.

Table 9: Summary of Spatial Options Appraisal

SA Objective	Spatial Option 1	Spatial Option 2	Spatial Option 3	Spatial Option 4
1. Deliver sustainable use of land	+	+ / -	+	-
2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	+	+	-	-
3. Protect and enhance the rural environment ensuring the countryside and multifunctional open spaces are accessible to all.	+	+	+	?
4. Protect and enhance the built and historic environment and landscapes in the Borough	?	?	?	?
5. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adverse effects of climate change	+	+	-	-
6. Deliver more sustainable location and travel patterns	+	+	-	-
7. Reduce waste	0	0	0	0
8. Use natural resources (including water, fossil fuels, land and minerals) efficiently	+	+	-	-
9. Ensure affordable high quality housing is available to all	-	-	+	?
10. Maintain a strong, stable, prosperous and sustainable local economy	-	+	+	?
11. Ensure access to education and skills training in the Borough for all current and future residents	+	+	+	-
12. Share access to services and benefits of prosperity fairly and help to create communities where people feel safe and that they belong	-	+	+	+
13. Improve health and reduce health and welfare inequalities	-	+	+	0
14. Revitalise town centres and promote a return to sustainable urban living	-	+	+	-
15. Ensure the needs of Gypsy & Traveller groups are met	0	0	0	0

Mitigation (our recommendations)

4.2.5   Several positive and negative sustainability effects were identified through the appraisal of the spatial options against the SA objectives. However, given the strategic nature of this stage of the planning process and the associated higher levels of uncertainty in the appraisal, there is little value to be added by detailing mitigation for each of these. Instead, this section identifies the key sustainability effects that will be realised through the higher levels of growth that are to be delivered through the Core Strategy and discusses how the distribution of development, as provided by the four spatial options, can mitigate or enhance these effects.

4.2.6   First, the levels of growth to be provided in the borough during the plan period will lead to negative sustainability effects regardless of the preferred spatial option and must be mitigated by Core Strategy policies. However, the preferred spatial approach to development will play an important primary role in minimising these effects. For example, while the higher levels of development will lead to increased absolute greenhouse gas emissions, by directing development towards locations where trips will be minimised and sustainable forms of transport encouraged the overall level of greenhouse gases will not be as great. It is clear that spatial options 1 and 2 perform better in this sense.

4.2.7   Secondly, it has been recognised that all spatial options may lead to potential impacts on Green Belt land. Two key recommendations emerge from the consideration of the spatial options. First, the concentration of development in Brentwood Town (1) will reduce pressure elsewhere in the borough, however, it may lead to a greater concentration of impacts. Conversely, by distributing development (2, 3, 4) across the borough the impact on Green Belt land may be experienced more widely but the impacts at each location may be smaller and therefore not as significant.

4.2.8   Third, greater levels of growth should make a positive contribution to the local economy and improve accessibility through the provision of new transport infrastructure. However, there is a balance that must be reached in terms of the capacity for development to bring forward supportive critical infrastructure and an over-concentration of development in one location meaning that growth is not experienced across the borough. The scenarios leading from options 1 and 4, respectively, highlight this point. To maximise these benefits a robust understanding of travel patterns and areas experiencing poor levels of accessibility should be developed.

4.2.9   Fourth, the East of England has been classed as seriously water stressed, any level of development will place additional pressure on water resources. This is a serious concern given the high levels of growth expected throughout the region and in light of the potential impacts of climate change. However, to mitigate (and adapt) to this new development must incorporate the highest possible levels of water efficiency that are provided through Codes for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM standards. Additionally, a Water Cycle Strategy (WCS) should be conducted to inform the Core Strategy. Arguably, there is a greater likelihood that larger scale developments can achieve higher standards of water efficiency whilst remaining financially viable. Therefore, spatial options 1 and 2, which concentrate higher levels of development in key settlements could lead to greater positive effects against this concern than spatial options 3 and 4 which would most likely promote smaller developments.

4.2.10   Finally, the core strategy must deliver positive outcomes across the borough. Therefore, the preferred distribution of development must consider both the requirements of higher order settlements and rural villages. With this in mind spatial Option 1 would appear to be inappropriate.

Difficulties or Uncertainties

4.2.11   In undertaking the appraisal of spatial options the difficulties that we experienced stemmed more from the strategic level of the options across a relatively small geographic area[7]. For example, it is not yet clear what the distribution of development will be under spatial options 2, 3 or 4. As the plan making process proceeds these details will become clearer. Therefore, in

---

[7] It is easier to meaningfully differentiate sustainability effects of strategic options over larger geographic areas.

assigning scores to the performance of each option against the SA objectives the prompt questions were particularly helpful to the project team.

Spatial Option Conclusion

4.2.12   In light of the appraisal process we feel that a combination of spatial option 2 and spatial option 3 would provide the greatest sustainability benefits across the borough whilst minimising negative sustainability effects.

5 Next Steps

5.1 Consultation

5.1.1 To enable the community and other stakeholders to continue to contribute to the LDF, there is now a period of formal consultation on the Issues and Options DPD. The SA Report will go out for consultation alongside the Issues and Options DPD so that it might facilitate more informed responses. It is also important that there is an opportunity for questions to be raised regarding any of the judgements made within this SA, and further evidence put forward that may help to consider sustainability effects.

Appendix 1 – Key issues for Brentwood

Key Issue:	Information Source:	Topic:
Poor condition of some SSSIs	SEA Baseline Study	Biodiversity, and Open Space
Pressure on greenbelt land and landscape – also increased numbers of dwellings required to be provided	RSS Proposed Changes; Brentwood Borough Council website; Consultation response from Billericay Town Council, Brindles Wood Residents Association – Hutton, Hutton Preservation society, and Chelmsford Borough Council. SA Consultation response from CPRE Essex.	Biodiversity, and Open Space
Loss of hedgerows and threats from traffic and visual intrusion affecting landscape character	Landscape Character Study, SEA Baseline Study	Landscape, Biodiversity and Open Space
Pressure on Local Wildlife Sites from development	Essex Wildlife Trust - Consultation Responses	Biodiversity and Open Space
Condition of the Historic Buildings on the Risk Register and pressure from development on the historic environment	SEA Baseline Study, SA consultation response from English Heritage.	Cultural heritage
Worsening trends in NO_2 levels and other air pollution	SEA Baseline Study, Natural England	Air Quality
Poor chemical and biological river quality	SEA Baseline Study	Water Quality
High levels of nitrates and phosphates in rivers	SEA Baseline Study	Water Quality
Low rate of installation of renewable energy measures with new development	SEA Baseline Study	Climatic Factors
Ageing population - Slightly elevated number of retirees in the Borough compared to the rest of the region	SEA Baseline Study, National Statistics Online	Community, economy & employment
High car use and transport infrastructure at capacity at peak times/congestion on road network	Brentwood Replacement Local Plan; Consultation response from Brindles Wood Residents Association – Hutton; Hutton Preservation Society; Essex County Council Schools Service; SEA Baseline Study	Economy & employment, climate factors, air quality
Elevated levels of out-commuting and in-commuting also loss of young workers moving out of the Borough	Consultation response from Brindles Wood Residents Association – Hutton; SEA Baseline Study	Economy & Employment, Air Quality, Climatic factors
Lack of opportunities for provision of affordable housing and need for key worker housing	Housing Needs Survey; Brentwood Replacement Local Plan; Consultation response from Brindles Wood Residents Association – Hutton	Housing
High average house prices and associated	SEA Baseline Study	Housing

affordability issues

Increased number of residents on the housing register	SEA Baseline Study	Housing
Lack of higher education facilities in the Borough	SEA Baseline Study	Education
High rate of road casualties	SEA Baseline Study, Department for Health: Health Profile for Brentwood 2006	Community
High proportion of Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised sites	Fordhams Survey (2004); Essex Planning Officers Association; Bi-annual caravan counts; Salford Housing & Urban Studies unit (2005)	Gypsy & Travellers
Poor level of health, educational achievement and level of employment within Gypsy & Traveller groups in the Borough	Fordhams Survey (2004) Essex Planning Officers Association and Salford Housing & Urban Studies unit (2005)	Gypsy & Travellers
Mismatch between local skills and local jobs	Mid Essex Economic Futures Study	Economy & Employment; Education
Pressure for additional local jobs/employment land	RSS Proposed Changes	Economy & Employment; Education
Timely and effective delivery of supporting infrastructure and service provision	Brindles Wood Residents Association and Chelmsford Borough Council Thames Water PLC	Economy & Employment; Community, Material Assets
Need for improved public transport provision	Brentwood Replacement Local Plan and Brindles Wood Residents Association	Economy & Employment; Community
Need for protection and enhancement of valuable landscapes, natural and historic environments	Chelmsford Borough Council; Environment Agency; and Natural England	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna; Landscape; Cultural Heritage; Soil, Water quality
Need for high quality design/improved public realm	Doddinghurst Parish Council, Natural England and Environment Agency	Cultural Heritage; Community, Biodiversity, water quality and resources, soil and landscape
Need for reduced consumption of materials, energy, water and production of waste	Environment Agency	Waste; Climatic factors; Soil
Create, maintain and enhance Brentwood's multifunctional green infrastructure provision	Natural England	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna; Community
Enhancement of the Rural-Urban Fringe	Natural England	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna; Community
Rural diversification/appropriate use of rural buildings	Brentwood Replacement Local Plan; Natural England	Economy & Employment; Community; Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna
Fragmentation of habitats and invasion of non-native species	Natural England	Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Low flows in rivers during summer months and water pollution	Natural England	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, water

Loss of infrastructure to support agriculture and the rural economy	Natural England	Economy & Employment, Community
Effects of Climate Change	Natural England	Climatic Factors, Air Quality, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality

Appendix II – SA Objectives and key prompt questions

Objective:	Key Prompt Questions[8]:
1. Deliver sustainable use of land	• Development on Green Belt Land and green wedges will not be permitted other than as allowed for in PPG2. • Ensure a minimum of 60% of new development is on previously developed land • Remediate contaminated land, taking potential biodiversity into consideration • Develop land with the least environmental/amenity value whilst ensuring Green Belt objectives are maintained. • Reduce vacant buildings and derelict land • Minimise risk of flooding taking into account climate change and the fact that some infrastructure, such as water and sewerage, may need to occur in flood risk areas • Ensure new development does not cause additional flood risk (including away from flood risk areas due to inadequate drainage infrastructure) • Create an attractive environment in built up areas • Create a high level of design • Reduce vulnerability to climate change • Protect and enhance green spaces
2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	• Ensure internationally designated sites (e.g. SACs and SPAs) are protected and an appropriate assessment is carried out where necessary • Ensure nationally designated sites are protected and enhanced taking into account climate change • Ensure regionally and locally designated sites are protected and enhanced taking into account climate change • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats • Improve the status of SSSIs • Work towards meeting Essex BAP objectives for protection of key species and habitats identified • Promote restoration and creation of natural habitats • Protect & enhance existing landscape features such as woodlands, trees, hedgerows and ponds • Maintain biodiversity • Protect and enhance soil resources • Minimise use of chemicals in agriculture • Improve water quality in rivers and groundwater supplies • Minimise risk of contamination • Reduce sources of pollution including those from chemicals, sound and light • Achieve good air quality particularly in urban areas

---

[8] See section 5.2.3 for further information.

	• Development on Green Belt land will not be permitted other than as allowed for in PPG2. • Protect and enhance tranquility
3. Protect and enhance the rural environment ensuring the countryside and multifunctional open spaces are accessible to all.	• Encourage the reuse of rural buildings making sure any protected species associated with them are protected • Encourage access to, and enjoyment of the countryside • Minimise the impact of noise on the rural environment • Minimise impacts of roads and traffic on the rural environment • Promote farm diversification appropriate to the environment and ecological settings • Deliver better rural infrastructure • Improve ease of travel in rural areas • Minimise light pollution and maximize tranquility • Retain Green Belt land • Create, enhance and maintain accessible multifunctional green spaces.
4. Protect and enhance the built and historic environment and landscapes in the Borough	• Protect and enhance the historic landscape character • Resist visual intrusion from new development • Minimise noise pollution • Protect open views • Minimise the impacts of new development and road schemes on sensitive landscapes • Encourage the restoration of historic buildings classified as at risk • Protect and enhance the historic integrity of the Borough • Protect the historic settlement pattern • Protect and enhance designated and undesignated historic sites and areas of significance • Conserve and enhance local diversity and distinctiveness
5. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adverse effects of climate change	• Reduce consumption of electricity and gas • Increase use of renewable energy schemes • Encourage use of energy saving measures • Increase number of new developments meeting the Code for Sustainable Homes Standards • Reduce use of the car and road freight transport
6. Deliver more sustainable location and travel patterns	• Reduce the need to travel • Increase walking, cycling and using the bus and train • Reduce use of the car • Create an integrated public transport network • Reduce traffic congestion • Increase road safety • Reduce road freight movements • Reduce the need for air travel • Locate new development in locations that reduce the need for travel, are as close as possible to existing community and services infrastructure and public transport links.

7. Reduce waste	- Reduce waste produced - Maximise reuse of waste - Maximise recycling rates - Maximise composting rates - Minimise waste sent to landfill - Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside Brentwood
8. Use natural resources (including water, fossil fuels, land and minerals) efficiently	- Minimise demand for raw materials - Encourage water use efficiency and water saving measures - Encourage sustainable farming practices - Use materials from sustainable sources - Encourage consumption of local produce and establishment of farmers markets - Ensure new development is coordinated with the infrastructure it demands, taking into account the capacity of existing infrastructure and need for any necessary upgrades or improvements prior to development being completed.
9. Ensure affordable high quality housing is available to all	- Maximise number of affordable housing completions in both urban and rural areas - Reduce homelessness - Increase number of dwellings meeting the Decent Homes Standard - Provide affordable housing for key workers - Achieve the minimum housing requirement set out in the East of England Spatial Strategy (RSS)
10. Maintain a strong, stable, prosperous and sustainable local economy	- Generate new jobs for people in the Borough - Encourage inward investment - Diversify the local economy and increase resilience to external shocks - Support and encourage the growth of rural business - Ensure everyone can afford a good standard of living - Provide a satisfying job or occupation for everyone - Increase innovation and new business start-ups - Improve infrastructure provision - Reduce out-commuting - Help to improve people's skills - Provide opportunities for learning and training - Provide high quality business premises in sustainable locations
11. Ensure access to education and skills training in the Borough for all current and future residents	- Improve transport links and reduce use of the car on the 'school run' - Encourage the provision of more locally based education services and facilities - Ensure sufficient education facilities are provided to support new development - Ensure all groups have access to education - Maintain high level of educational achievement

12. Share access to services and benefits of prosperity fairly and help to create communities where people feel safe and that they belong	• Ensure sufficient healthcare, social and community facilities are provided to support new development • Encourage the provision of more locally based services and facilities • Increase access to leisure and recreation facilities • Ensure all groups of the community have access to facilities • Reduce health, social and economic inequality • Reduce crime rates and the fear of crime • Help deprived areas • Maintain village services • Promote healthy lifestyles • Help develop ethnic/cultural mutual understanding • Support community involvement, development of the voluntary sector and development of social enterprises • Help people with disabilities to access services and facilities more easily • Reduce discrimination
13. Improve health and reduce health and welfare inequalities	• Reduce numbers of road casualties • Increase the number of illness free years • Improve access to health care for all existing and new residents in the Borough • Encourage people to adopt healthier lifestyles, for example through access to open space and leisure and recreation facilities
14. Revitalise town centres and promote a return to sustainable urban living	• Enhance the vitality and viability of existing town centres through encouraging more shops and services (in a manner which respects the historic character and existing townscape) and more people to live there • Encourage the feeling of community spirit • Increase access to open space • Reduce noise pollution • Promote high quality design of buildings and public space
15. Ensure the needs of Gypsy & Traveller groups are met	• Provide for an appropriate level of authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites in the Borough • Ensure flexibility to provide fixed accommodation for people wishing to settle • Extensive and inclusive consultation of all Gypsy and Travellers • Ensure sites should be considerately located, not alongside noisy roads, landfill sites or railway lines • Provide sites to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers for different types, tenures and affordability • Ensure Gypsies & Travellers have access to healthcare and education services