

Brentwood Borough Council

SA of Brentwood Borough Council Local Development Framework: Core Strategy & DC Policies DPD and Gypsies & Travellers DPD

Scoping Report




Prepared for:

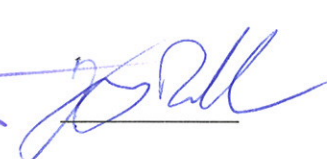
Revision Schedule

SA of Brentwood Borough Council Local Development Framework:
Core Strategy & DC Policies DPD and Gypsies & Travellers DPD
Scoping Report
June 2007

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	A1 – Identification of relevant Policies, Plans Programmes and Initiatives	8
3	A2 – The Brentwood Baseline	21
4	A3 - Key Sustainability Issues & Problems	59
5	A4 – The SA Framework	62
6	A5 – Commenting on this Report.....	71
	Glossary.....	72
	Appendix I.....	76
	Appendix II.....	109
	Appendix III.....	113

List of Tables

Table 1.1: SEA Directive requirements checklist	3
Table 2.1: Policy Context Review Summary	10
Table 3.1: Description and status of SSSIs in Brentwood.....	23
Table 3.2: Open Spaces in Brentwood.....	25
Table 3.3: Landscape Character Types and Areas in Brentwood.....	27
Table 3.4: Types of Enterprise in Brentwood, the East of England and England	43
Table 3.5: Employment status of Brentwood residents compared to the East of England and England.....	44
Table 3.6: Number and type of offences per 1000 people in Brentwood.....	49
Table 3.7: Number of Offences in Brentwood in comparison to the East of England and England	50
Table 3.9 Number of Caravans on Authorised and Unauthorised Sites in Brentwood Borough	52
Table 3.10: Summary of the Brentwood baseline	55
Table 4.1: Key Issues facing the Borough of Brentwood	60
Table 5.1: SA objectives and supporting policies, key issues and topics	63
Table 5.2: SA objectives and sub-objectives.....	67
Table 2.1: Priority issues in the Framework for Regional Employment	93
Table 9.1: Recommended Indicators for monitoring the baseline of Brentwood	109
Table 9.2 Template for updating information in each section of the policy review and baseline chapters:	112

List of Figures

Figure 1.1: Five-stage approach to SA.....	2
Figure 1.2: The Borough of Brentwood	5
Figure 3.1: SSSIs in Brentwood	23
Figure 3.2: The location of Hutton Country Park Nature Reserve.....	24
Figure 3.3: Scheduled Ancient Monuments	30
Figure 3.4: Chemical quality of Brentwood's rivers	33
Figure 3.5: Comparison of Brentwood's rivers chemical quality in comparison to Essex and the East of England	33
Figure 3.6: Phosphates and Nitrates in Brentwood's rivers	34
Figure 3.7: Comparison of Brentwood's rivers phosphate and nitrate levels in comparison to Essex and the East of England	34
Figure 3.8: Biological quality of Brentwood's rivers.....	35
Figure 3.9: Comparison of Brentwood's rivers biological quality in comparison to Essex and the East of England	35
Figure 3.10 River Ecosystem Analysis.....	36
Figure 3.11: The geological character of Brentwood	37
Figure 3.12: The agricultural land classification of Brentwood and Essex.....	38
Figure 3.13 Watercourses in Brentwood	40
Figure 3.14 Flood Zone 2	41
Figure 3.15 Flood Zone 3	41
Figure 3.16: Average wage rate across the East of England.....	45
Figure 6.1: Elements of a sustainable community (source: Inspire East)	99

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Scott Wilson have been commissioned by Brentwood Borough Council to carry out the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of their Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 1.1.2 There is a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to carry out an SEA and SA under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004¹ and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (PCPA) 2004². The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 transposes the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)³. The Government's preferred approach is to combine SEA and SA into one unified process, hereafter known as SA.
- 1.1.3 Government guidance advocates a five-stage approach to carrying out an SA and this report documents the first stage of the SA process. The first stage, Stage A, is the scoping stage, which provides the framework and evidence base for the subsequent appraisal.

1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.2.1 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 Local Development Frameworks (LDFs). LDFs replace the current hierarchy of development plans (Unitary Development Plans, Structure Plans and Local Plans).
- 1.2.2 SA extends the concept of SEA to fully encompass economic and social concerns. Under the PCPA, Local Authorities must undertake SA for each of their Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – the constituent parts of the LDF. SA is therefore a statutory requirement for LDFs along with SEA.
- 1.2.3 The Government's approach is to combine SEA and SA into a single, unified assessment process and, in October 2005, it published guidance on undertaking combined SEA / SA of LDFs ('the Guidance')⁴. The combined approach to SEA / SA is referred to in this document as Sustainability Appraisal (SA). Scott Wilson is following this Guidance.

¹ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 accessible via:
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2004/20041633.htm>

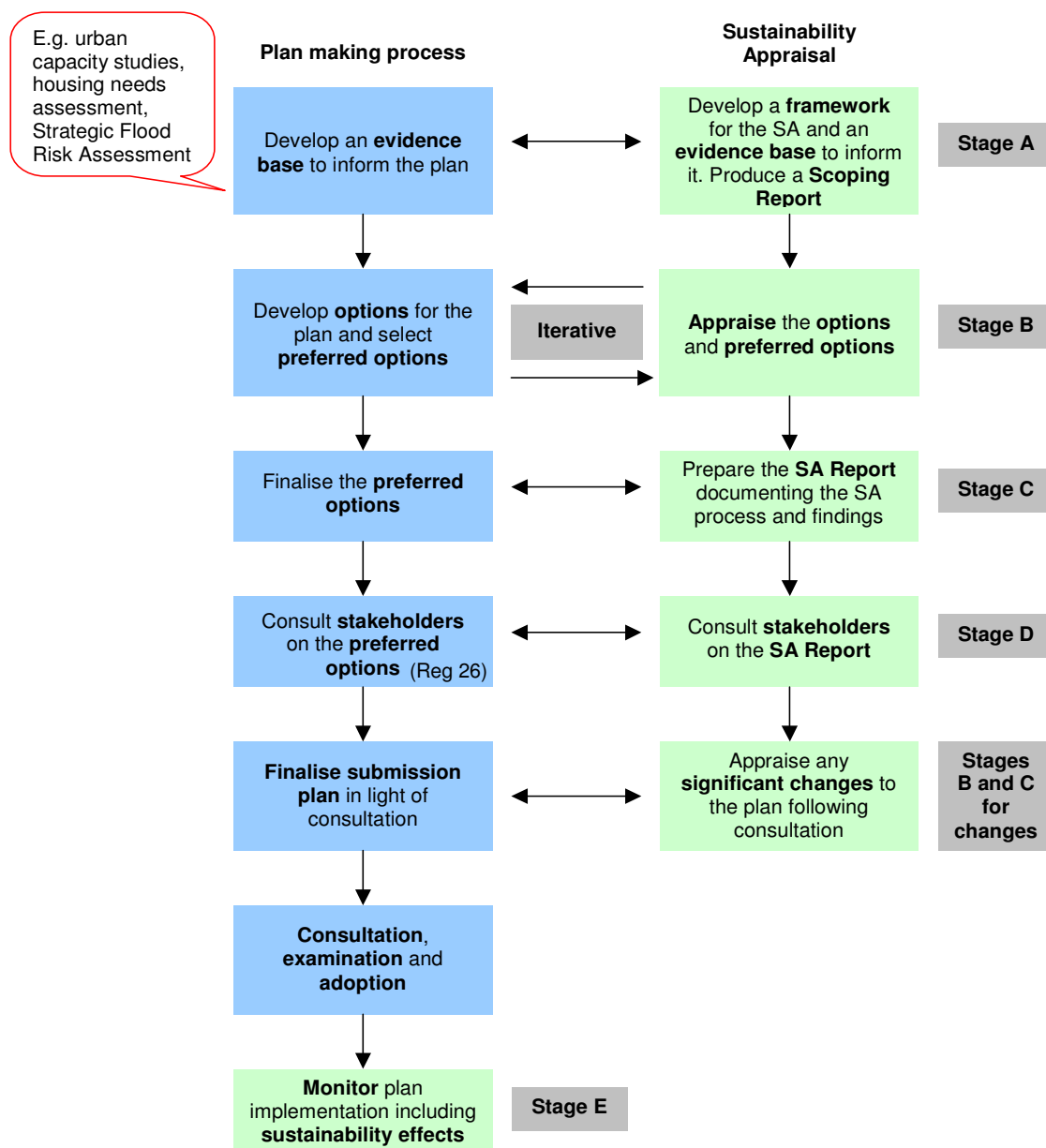
² Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 accessible via: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/20040005.htm>

³ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and Council on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment accessible via: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/full-legal-text/0142_en.pdf

⁴ DCLG (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents accessible via:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1161341>

- 1.2.4 Figure 1.1 shows the five-stage process and how it fits in with the plan making process. This Scoping Report satisfies the requirements for the first stage of this process – Stage A. Further details on the five-stage approach are set out in section 1.5.

Figure 1.1: Five-stage approach to SA



- 1.2.5 The SEA Directive and Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations set out a statutory process that must be followed and in order to ensure compliance, checklists are used. The SEA Requirement Checklist (Table 1.1) and Quality Assurance checklist (Appendix III) show clearly where in this report requirements relating to the first stage of the process have been satisfied.

Table 1.1: SEA Directive requirements checklist

Environmental Report requirements	Section of this report
(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	<i>Forthcoming</i>
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	<i>Chapter 3 of this report</i>
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	<i>Chapter 3 of this report</i>
(d) 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 (The Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive);	<i>Chapter 3 of this report</i>
(e) 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;	<i>Chapter 2 of this report</i>
(f) the likely significant effects 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;	<i>Forthcoming</i>
(g) 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;	<i>Forthcoming</i>
(h) 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;	<i>Forthcoming</i>
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	<i>Forthcoming (although indicators are included in Appendix II)</i>
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	<i>Forthcoming</i>

1.2.6 In addition to satisfying the requirements of the SEA Directive, the PCPA and the Guidance, the SEA / SA process aims:

- To promote **sustainable development**;
- To provide for a high level of **environmental protection**;
- To reflect **global, national, regional and local** concerns;
- To integrate sustainability and environmental considerations into all stages of the preparation of plans and programmes to create **sustainable planning policies**;
- To **take a long term view** of whether and how the area covered by the plan is expected to develop, taking account of the social, environmental and economic effects of the proposed plan; and
- To provide an **audit trail** of how the plan has been revised to take into account the findings of the SA.

1.3 The Borough of Brentwood

- 1.3.1 The Borough of Brentwood is in south west Essex, located approximately 18 miles to the north east of London. The Borough extends from the M25 to the west to the district of Chelmsford to the north east and is bound by the district of Epping Forest to the north west, Basildon district to the south east and Thurrock Borough to the south. Figure 1.2 shows the main settlements and the principal transport routes in the Borough.
- 1.3.2 The Borough of Brentwood is located in the London Metropolitan Greenbelt and is predominantly rural in character. Less than 20% of the total 15,315-hectare area of Brentwood Borough is built up⁵. The rural landscape of the Borough includes agricultural land, woodland, country parks and villages. A number of important 'green wedges' also extend into the built up areas of Brentwood.
- 1.3.3 The Borough contains three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (Thorndon Park, The Coppice - Kelvedon Hatch and Curtismill Green) and one Local Nature Reserve (Hutton Country Park). The Borough contains 514 Listed Buildings, The St Thomas a Becket Chapel (one of 12 Ancient Monuments) and 13 Conservation Areas (the largest being Brentwood town centre).
- 1.3.4 Brentwood is the only town in the Borough and contains a variety of shops, businesses, services and recreation facilities. Ingatestone is the largest village settlement outside the town of Brentwood and together with the district centre of Shenfield represents an important commercial centre in the Borough.
- 1.3.5 The population of Brentwood Borough is approximately 70,000 and over 80% of the population lives in owner-occupied housing built between the Second World War and today⁶. The service sector represents the most important source of employment in the Borough although there are also a small number of industrial estates and small commercial enterprises. Over half of the working population commutes out of the Borough to work with a large number working in London.
- 1.3.6 The Borough was one of the least deprived in Essex in 2001, as measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation, although geographical barriers to services were identified as a problem⁷. Census data suggest that deprivation reduces towards the south west of the borough, i.e. with increased proximity to London.
- 1.3.7 The Borough's attractive location on the edge of the Metropolitan Area and accessibility to national and regional road and rail networks has meant that Brentwood has been, and will continue to be, an attractive choice for business, housing and leisure and is subject to considerable pressure for development. The Green Belt, however, acts as a significant issue.

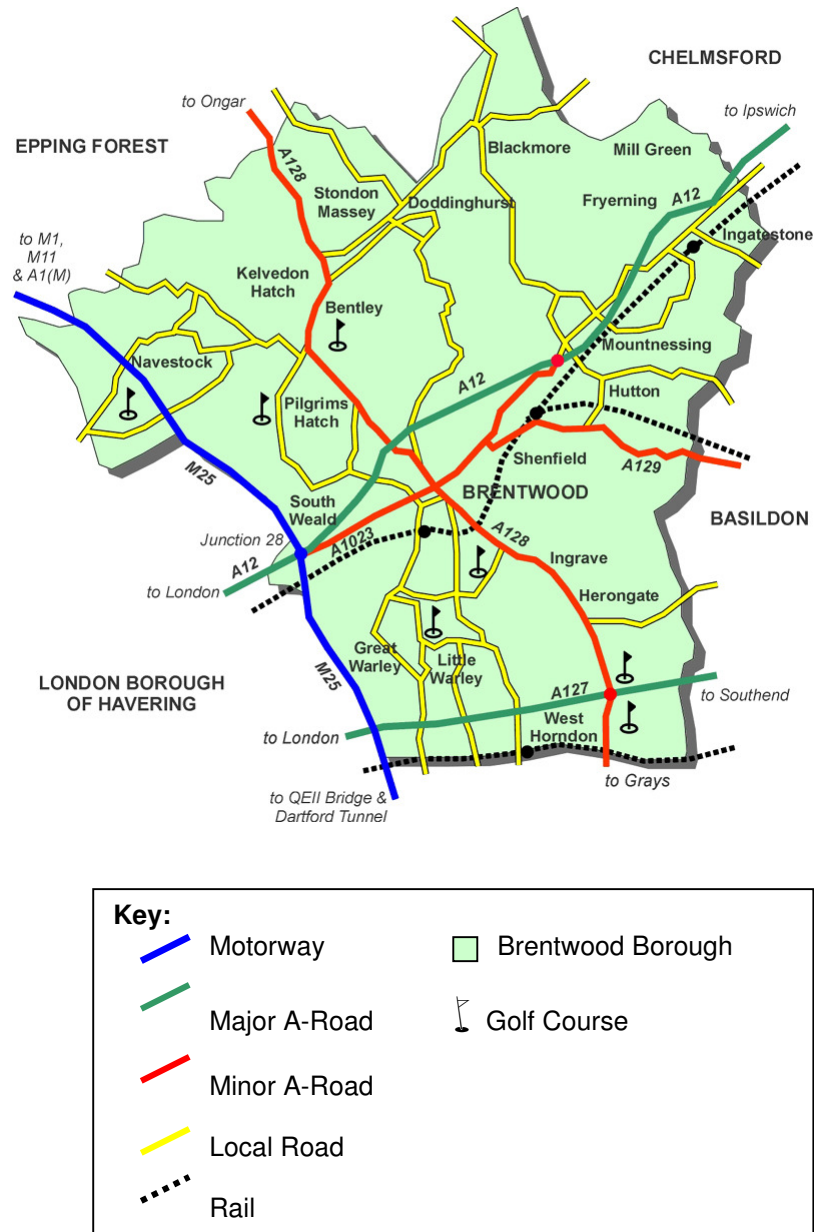
⁵ All information in this section, unless otherwise stated, is sourced from: Brentwood Borough Council (2007) 'About Brentwood' accessible via: <http://www.brentwood-council.gov.uk/index.php?cid=43>

⁶ National Statistics Online accessible via:

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadDatasetList.do?a=7&b=276958&c=Brentwood&d=13&g=444031&i=1001x1003&m=0&enc=1&domainId=16> and Brentwood Borough Council (2007) About Brentwood accessible via: <http://www.brentwood-council.gov.uk/index.php?cid=43>

⁷ Ibid

Figure 1.2: The Borough of Brentwood



1.4 The Local Development Framework

- 1.4.1 The PCPA requires local authorities to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS) that sets out a programme for preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDS includes a timetable for preparation of Local Development Documents (the constituent parts of the LDF) and sets out milestones and targets against which progress will be measured. The LDS also provides a means of ensuring all stakeholders and the general public are aware of the nature of the LDF

process and the likely timetables for preparation and adoption of the LDDs. The LDS is monitored annually and reviewed and updated as appropriate.

- 1.4.2 Brentwood Borough Council's LDS was formally brought into effect in October 2006. The first components of the LDF to be produced were the **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** and the **Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)** (produced annually). These documents, together with further information on Brentwood Borough Council's LDF, can be found on the Council's website, accessible via: <http://www.brentwood-council.gov.uk/index.php?cid=694>.

1.5 Approach to SA

- 1.5.1 This Scoping Report documents Stage A. Stage A consists of a number of tasks which include:
- Task A1: Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives;
 - Task A2: Collecting baseline information;
 - Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues;
 - Task A4: Developing the SA framework; and
 - Task A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.
- 1.5.2 It is essential to ensure that the Scoping Report is useful for the subsequent appraisal process and is integrated into the planning process. This means the report needs to be relevant, concise and easily accessible. Therefore, to ensure this report is fit for purpose, a number of features have been included:
- Each stage has been structured around key environmental and sustainability topics. This aids the consultation process and ensures the full suite of issues are addressed;
 - Tables, figures and graphs have been included in order to make the report more easily accessible and to illustrate key points;
 - Appendix II includes a full list of indicators and suggested approach to updating this report to ensure it remains relevant to the changing situation of the Borough; and
 - Sign-posts have been included to demonstrate where the requirements of the relevant legislation have been met.

Consultation

- 1.5.3 Consultation during the SA is a statutory requirement⁸ and is an essential part of the SA process. Consultation on the Scoping Report is important as it allows stakeholders to verify that all of the relevant plans, policies and programmes have been reviewed, to check that the most up-to-date baseline information has been included and to ensure the key sustainability issues have been identified.

⁸ As required by Regulation 12(5) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

- 1.5.4 This report will be sent to the three Statutory Consultation bodies⁹: Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency in addition to other key stakeholders as identified by the Council. The report will also be put onto the Brentwood Borough Council website to facilitate consultation with other agencies and stakeholders. The report will be issued for formal consultation for a period of 5 weeks. Following the consultation period, changes will be made to the document in response to comments received.

1.6 This Report

- 1.6.1 This report has been structured around the tasks that make up Stage A of the SA process (listed in 1.5.1). The first chapter (Chapter 2) provides a review of the relevant plans, policies, programmes, strategies and initiatives which are relevant to the Brentwood Borough. This chapter is subdivided into sections based on the following sustainability topics:
- Biodiversity and Open Space;
 - Landscape;
 - Cultural Heritage & Material Assets;
 - Air quality;
 - Water quality & Water Resources;
 - Soil & Contamination;
 - Climate factors and flooding;
 - Waste;
 - Economy & Employment;
 - Education;
 - Housing;
 - Community (including: Population, health, crime and social equity); and
 - Gypsies & Travellers.
- 1.6.2 As there is a separate DPD being prepared for Gypsies & Travellers it was appropriate to include a specific Gypsies & Travellers topic which will be strongly linked to this DPD and includes the evidence base for the appraisal.
- 1.6.3 For each topic, relevant plans and programmes on the international, national, regional and local scale are examined. In the following chapters, the current situation in the Brentwood Borough (Chapter 3) and key sustainability issues (Chapter 4) are identified. These chapters are also subdivided by the topics shown above. Chapter 5 contains the SA framework that builds on the preceding chapters in addition to drawing on the Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England and the Brentwood Borough Council SEA Baseline Study. The final chapter, Chapter 6, provides details on the consultation process that forms the last task of Stage A and then sets out the next steps in the SA process.

⁹ As required by Regulation 4(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

2 A1 – The Policy Context for Brentwood LDF

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The definition of the context in which the LDF is being prepared involves two steps. Firstly, identifying the relevant Policies / Plans / Programmes / Strategies / Initiatives (PPPSIs) considered relevant to the LDF and, secondly, reviewing these to establish their implications for the LDF and SA (e.g. the opportunities they create or the constraints they present).
- 2.1.2 The requirement to undertake a context review arises from the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations:

The ‘Environmental Report’ required under the SEA Directive should include:

‘the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme’

(Annex 1 (e) of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2 (5) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations)

The Guidance states that:

‘The LPA must take account of relationships between the DPD and other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives’.

Section 3.2.4, Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents

- 2.1.3 Therefore, the PPPSIs that are relevant to the Brentwood Borough Council LDF have been reviewed. A commentary, drawing on the SEA Baseline Information Profile 2006 – 2007 produced by Essex County Council, on the key objectives that need to be taken into consideration is provided in Appendix I. The commentary is divided into sections on each of the topics listed in 1.6.1. These sections are further subdivided in order to address PPPSIs at the international, national, regional and local scales.
- 2.1.4 This chapter provides a summary of the key objectives and messages that were identified in the commentary.

The SEA Baseline Study has been produced under a Public Service Agreement (PSA) by Essex County Council under an agreement between the two bodies, whereby Essex County Council will collect and maintain the baseline information for the Borough of Brentwood. This information is required in order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations.

The SEA Baseline Information Profile 2006 – 2007 was produced in May 2007. The report is hereafter known as the ‘SEA Baseline Study’.

2.2 Summary

2.2.1 Table 2.1 below provides a summary of the policy context review.

Table 2.1: Policy Context Review Summary

Plan	Key Messages	Relevant Topics
International		
Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) ¹⁰	Set the target to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss	Biodiversity and Open Space
The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) ¹¹	Requires the protection of species and habitats of EU nature conservation designation	Biodiversity and Open Space
Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) ¹²	Provides for the protection of all naturally occurring wild bird species and their habitats, with particular protection of rare species	Biodiversity and Open Space
The European Landscape Convention (2000) ¹³	Promotes various action at the landscape scale ranging from strict conservation through protection, management and improvement to actual creation	Landscape
Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC) ¹⁴ and Air Quality Regulations ¹⁵	Sets European-wide limit values for twelve air pollutants in a series of daughter directives	Air Quality
The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) ¹⁶	Promotes an integrated and coordinated approach to water management at the river basin scale. Also encourages protection of soil and biodiversity	Water Quality and Resources, Soil, Biodiversity and Open Space

¹⁰ For further information visit: <http://www.cbd.int/default.shtml>

¹¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna accessible via: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/eu_nature_legislation/habitats_directive/index_en.htm

¹² Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds

¹³ The European Landscape Convention (2000) accessible via: http://www.coe.int/t/e/cultural_co-operation/environment/landscape/presentation/9_text/02_Convention_EN.asp#TopOfPage

¹⁴ Framework Directive 92/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management accessible via: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/ambient.htm#1>

¹⁵ Regulations transposing the Air Quality Framework directive are at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/regulations.htm>

¹⁶ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy accessible via: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html

Plan	Key Messages	Relevant Topics
EU Thematic Strategy for Soil (2006) ¹⁷	Promotes the protection and sustainable use of soil	Soil
The Kyoto Protocol (1997) ¹⁸	Sets legally binding measures to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Climate Change and flooding
EU Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of Waste (2005) ¹⁹	Overall aim of Europe becoming a recycling society that seeks to avoid waste and uses waste as a resource	Waste, Soil
The Waste Framework Directive (1975), Hazardous Waste Directive (1991), IPPC Directive (1996) and Landfill Directive (1999) ²⁰	Aims to ensure that all necessary measures have been taken to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without causing harm to human health or the environment	Soil, Waste
National		
The Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) Amended on several occasions, most notably by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000) ²¹	Principal instrument for the protection of Sites of Special Scientific Importance and endangered wildlife within the UK.	Biodiversity and Open Space
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994) ²²	UK Response to the Convention on Biological Diversity Sets out national and local biodiversity action plans	Biodiversity and Open Space
Biodiversity Strategy for England (2002) ²³	Ensure biodiversity considerations become embedded in all the main sectors of economic activity, public and private	Biodiversity and Open Space

¹⁷ European Commission Thematic Strategy for Soil protection accessible via: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index.htm>

¹⁸ The Kyoto Protocol (1997) accessible via: http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php

¹⁹ European Commission Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste accessible via: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/strategy.htm>

²⁰ Access to these directives is via: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/legislation/a.htm>

²¹ Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) accessible via: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1377>

²² UK Biodiversity Action Plan accessible via: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>

²³ Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England (2002) accessible via: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/biostrat/index.htm>

Plan	Key Messages	Relevant Topics
Rural White Paper (2000) ²⁴	Deals with the importance of understanding, evaluating and protecting countryside character and diversity	Landscape
Heritage White Paper ²⁵	To put the historic environment at the heart of the planning system	Cultural Heritage, Landscape
The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (2001) ²⁶	The full potential of the historic environment should be realised and it should be accessible to all	Cultural heritage and Material Assets
Water Act 2003 ²⁷	Encourage more efficient use of water resources	Water quality & Resources
Draft Soil Strategy for England (2001) ²⁸	Improve the quality of England's soils	Soil
Draft Climate Change Bill (2007) ²⁹	Commits to cut CO ₂ emissions by 60% from 1990 levels by 2050 and 26 to 32% reduction by 2020	Climate change and Flooding
The UK Climate Change Programme (2006) ³⁰	A suite of new and established measures are predicted to reduce UK carbon emissions to 15 – 18% below 1990 levels by 2010. Also promotes anticipatory adaptation	Climate change and Flooding
Making Space for Water (2005) ³¹	Advocates a holistic approach to flooding, addressing all types of flooding together	Climate change and Flooding
The Energy White Paper (2003) ³²	10% of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2010, with a target of 20% by 2020	Climate change and Flooding

²⁴ Rural White Paper (2000) Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England accessible via: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralwp/whitepaper/default.htm>

²⁵ The Government White Paper: Heritage Protection for the 21st Century (2007) accessible via: http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Consultations/2007_current_consultations/hpr_whitepaper07.htm

²⁶ The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future (2001) accessible via: http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2001/his_force_future.htm

²⁷ Water Act 2003 accessible via: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2003/20030037.htm>

²⁸ Draft Soil Strategy for England (2001) accessible via: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/land/soil/sap/index.htm>

²⁹ Draft Climate Change Bill (2007) accessible via: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2007/climate-0313.htm>

³⁰ 2006 UK Climate Change Programme accessible via: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/index.htm>

³¹ Making Space for Water: Taking forward a new Government strategy for flood & coastal erosion risk management accessible via: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/enviro/fcd/policy/strategy.htm>

³² Energy White Paper: Meeting the energy challenge accessible via: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/page39534.html>

Plan	Key Messages	Relevant Topics
Soil Action Plan for England (2004) ³³	52 actions to ensure better soil protection and management	Soil
Waste Strategy for England (2007) ³⁴	Promotes best practicable environmental option (BPEO), the waste hierarchy and the proximity principle. sets a major target of increasing recycling rates to 25% by 2005/06	Waste
Landfill Regulations (2002) and Amendment (2005) ³⁵	Sets a series of substantial targets for the reduction of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill	Waste
The UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) ³⁶	Includes the achievement of a sustainable economy as one of its 5 guiding principles	Economy and Employment
Sustainable Communities Plan (2003) ³⁷	Key aims include reducing housing shortage, improving livability and using land more effectively	Housing
Decent Homes Standard (2000) ³⁸	States that as a minimum all council homes will have to meet the Decent Homes Standards by 2010	Housing
Sustainable Communities: Settled Homes; Changing Lives (2005) ³⁹	Aim is to halve the number of households living in insecure temporary accommodation between 2005-2010	Housing
The Government White Paper: Higher Standards, Better Schools For All (2005) ⁴⁰	Proposes designing education around the needs of the individual	Education

³³ First Soil Action Plan for England 2004-2006 accessible via: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/land/soil/sap/index.htm>

³⁴ Waste Strategy for England (2007) accessible via: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/index.htm>

³⁵ Council Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste and The Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002 and Amendment Regulations 2005 accessible via: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2002/20021559.htm>

³⁶ Securing the Future: UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) accessible via: <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy/index.htm>

³⁷ Sustainable Communities: Building For the Future (2003) accessible via: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1163452>

³⁸ For further information see: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1152136>

³⁹ Sustainable Communities: Settled Homes; Changing Lives Report accessible via: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1149785>

⁴⁰ The Government White Paper: Higher Standards, Better Schools For All accessible via: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/schoolswhitepaper/>

Plan	Key Messages	Relevant Topics
Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners (2004) ⁴¹	Promotes better coordination of childcare and education to support children throughout their early lives. Intent to increase freedom and independence to Secondary Schools in addition to greater flexibility in the curriculum	Education
Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity (2005) ⁴²	Promotes prosperity for all, with objectives for promoting good governance, empowering communities and tackling disadvantage	Communities: Health, crime and social equity
Homes for All (2005) ⁴³	New jobs and infrastructure will be an important component of housing growth in the wider South East	Communities: Health, crime and social equity
Promoting Effective Citizenship and Community Empowerment. A Guide for Local Authorities on enhancing capacity for public participation (2006) ⁴⁴	Seeks to enhance the capacity of citizens to participate more effectively in local decision-making	Communities: Health, crime and social equity
The Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration (2006) ⁴⁵	Considers the role of the third sector (voluntary, non-profit and community organisations) in building stronger and connected communities	Communities: Health, crime and social equity
A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal (2001) ⁴⁶	Within 10 to 20 years no one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live	Communities: Health, crime and social equity
The Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance (2000) ⁴⁷	Aspects include redeveloping brownfield land, better maintenance of streets and buildings and good quality services	Communities: Health, crime and social equity

⁴¹ Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners accessible via: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/5yearstrategy/>

⁴² Five year plan: Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity accessible via: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1122898>

⁴³ Five year plan: Sustainable Communities: Homes for All accessible via: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1122851>

⁴⁴ Promoting Effective Citizenship and Community Empowerment. A Guide for Local Authorities on enhancing capacity for public participation (2006) accessible via: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1163365%20>

⁴⁵ The Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration (2006) accessible via: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/53E/94/pbr06_3rd_sector_428.pdf

⁴⁶ A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: A National Strategy Action Plan accessible via: <http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=85>

⁴⁷ Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance (2000) accessible via: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1127167>

Plan	Key Messages	Relevant Topics
Public Health White Paper: Choosing Health: Making Healthy Choices Easier (2004) ⁴⁸	Aims to contribute to tackling health inequalities in society	Communities: Health, crime and social equity
Our Health, Our Care, Our Say White Paper (2006) ⁴⁹	Aims to achieve better access to general practice, community health and social care.	Communities: Health, crime and social equity
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) ⁵⁰	Sets out how planning should contribute to sustainable patterns of urban and rural development	Biodiversity; Landscape; Air quality; Water quality and water resources; Economy & employment Housing
PPS3: Housing (2006)	Seeks to improve the affordability and supply of housing through a more responsive approach to land supply at local level. 60% new housing should be build on previously developed land by 2008.	Housing, Gypsy & Traveller
PPG4: Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms (1992)	Stresses the need to integrate environmental and economic objectives	Economy and employment
PPS6: Planning for Town Centres (2005) ⁵¹	Key objective for town centres is to promote their vitality and viability	Economy and employment
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005)	States the importance of biodiversity conservation and enhancement to the promotion of sustainable development	Biodiversity and Open Space

⁴⁸ Public Health White Paper: Making Health Choices Easier accessible via:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4094550

⁴⁹ Our Health, Our Care, Our Say White Paper (2006) accessible via:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4127453

⁵⁰ The following Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance Notes are accessible via: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143802>

Plan	Key Messages	Relevant Topics
PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)	Promotes support of a wide range of economic activity in rural areas. Promotes the use of Landscape Character Assessment.	Landscape; Economy and Employment
PPS10: Waste management (2005)	Promotes driving waste management up the waste hierarchy	Waste
PPG15: Planning and the Historical Environment (1994)	Protect historic features including the historic countryside	Landscape; Cultural Heritage and Material Assets
PPG15: Archeology and planning (1990)	Archaeology should be dealt with in the planning framework	Cultural Heritage and Material Assets
PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control (2004)	The precautionary principle should be invoked with regard the harmful effects of pollution	Air Quality; Water Quality and Resources; Soil
PPS25: Development and Flood Risk (2006)	Direct development away from areas at highest risk from flooding	Climate Change and Flooding, Gypsy & Traveller
Planning and Climate Change: Supplement to PPS1 (2006)	Local authorities consider climate change as part of the identification of land for development as when making decisions on energy supply.	Climate Change and Flooding; Housing
ODPM Circular 01/2006 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites ⁵²	Provides comprehensive guidance on planning for Gypsies & Travellers including meeting education, health and location needs.	Gypsy & Traveller
Regional		
Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England (2003) ⁵³	Sets out a vision for the region that celebrates, protects and enhances the natural, historic and built environment.	Biodiversity and Open Space

⁵² Circular 01/06: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites accessible via: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1163380>

⁵³ Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England (2003) accessible via <http://www.eera.gov.uk/Text.asp?id=SXD8B1-A77FC356&cat=42>

Plan	Key Messages	Relevant Topics
Water Resources Strategy for the East of England (2001) ⁵⁴	Proposes demand management - water efficiency - and resource development - increased supply - to meet the growing demand for water	Water Quality and Resources
Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (2001) ⁵⁵	Preparing for climate change now will benefit the economy, social issues and potentially the environment. Has also adopted a target of 14% of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2010.	Climate Change and Flooding
Living with climate change in the East of England (2003) ⁵⁶	Emphasis on working with climate change rather than against it, with minimal use of 'technical fixes'	Climate Change and Flooding
Climate Change Strategy for Essex Report (2005) ⁵⁷	Key required actions are improved water conservation, reduced carbon emissions, the protection of people and property from the consequences of flooding, and the effects of heat and UV radiation and the promotion of sustainable tourism	Climate Change and Flooding
Renewable Energy Operational Plan For The East Of England (2004)	Potential is mainly in the form of offshore and onshore wind for power generation, and biomass for power generation, heating and liquid transport fuels	Climate Change and Flooding
North Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan ⁵⁸	Improve flood warning systems, flood defences and promote use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)	Climate Change and Flooding
Regional Waste Management Strategy (2002) ⁵⁹	Need to reduce the levels of all waste going for disposal through the development of new businesses and waste recycling facilities	Waste
The Regional Economic Strategy (2004) ⁶⁰	The vision of the RES is 'a leading economy, founded on our world-class knowledge base and the creativity and enterprise of our people, in order to improve the quality of life for all'	Economy and Employment

⁵⁴ Regional Water Resources Strategy (2001) accessible via:

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/Supporting%20docs/EA%20WR%20Anglian%20STR.pdf>

⁵⁵ Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (2001) accessible via:

www.gos.gov.uk/goee/docs/193713/193722/Regional_Strategy/Regional_Sustainable_Develo1.pdf

⁵⁶ Living with climate change in the East of England Report (2004) accessible via: http://www.ukcip.org.uk/resources/publications/pub_dets.asp?ID=57

⁵⁷ Climate Change Strategy for Essex Report (2005) by HR Wallingford

⁵⁸ North Essex CFMP accessible via: http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/anglian/1109713/1176472/1176516/?lang=_

⁵⁹ East of England Regional Waste Management Strategy 2002 accessible via: <http://www.sustainabilityeast.org.uk/pdf/RWMS16-7.pdf>

⁶⁰ A shared vision: the regional economic strategy for the East of England (2004) accessible via: http://eastofenglandobservatory.org.uk/WebDocuments/Public/approved/user_9/full%20RES.pdf

Plan	Key Messages	Relevant Topics
Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action ⁶¹	Highlights the importance of a region being able to supply sufficiently skilled workers	Economy and Employment
The Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England, 2005 – 2010 ⁶²	Gives housing number targets, including number of affordable homes. States how targets should be achieved e.g. S106 agreements. Also considers homelessness as a growing problem to be addressed.	Housing
Skills for Life in the East of England Strategy (2005) ⁶³	Aims to ensure the range and volume of learning opportunities address the needs of adults in priority groups	Education
Essex School Organisation Plan 2006-2011 ⁶⁴	States that all children and young people living in Essex are entitled to the highest quality education. Accommodating housing development will be a major issue.	Communities: Health, crime and social equity
The Regional Social Strategy (2004) ⁶⁵	Sets out the vision, objectives and means for achieving a fair and inclusive society	Communities: Health, crime and social equity
Healthy Futures: a regional health strategy for the East of England 2005 - 2010 (2005) ⁶⁶	Priorities, policies and actions that can support local activity to improve health and reduce health inequalities. Key themes are: health in sustainable communities; health at key life stages and health in a connected region	Communities: Health, crime and social equity
A Better Life: A Cultural Strategy (2006) ⁶⁷	States that 'culture is what turns a disparate group of people into a community, giving people and places a sense of themselves...it brings us together, helping us to celebrate diversity while respecting differences'	Communities: Health, crime and social equity
Draft East of England Plan and Proposed Amendments ⁶⁸	Sets out regional policies to implement higher order policy covering all topic areas	All topics

⁶¹ For further information visit: <http://www.skillsforum.org.uk/>

⁶² East of England Regional Housing Strategy 2005-2010 accessible via: <http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=461>

⁶³ Skills for Life in the East of England: Strategy (2005) accessible via: <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/2005/ourbusiness/strategy/skillsforlifeintheeastofenglandstrategy-re-mar2005.pdf>

⁶⁴ Essex School Organisation Plan accessible via:

<http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/guc.jsp?channelOid=16355&guideContentOid=18877&guideOid=20577>

⁶⁵ East of England Regional Social Strategy accessible via: <http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=644>

⁶⁶ East of England Regional Health Strategy, Healthy Futures accessible via: <http://www.eera.gov.uk/Text.asp?cat=44&id=SXE02B-A77F7523>

⁶⁷ A Better Life: A Cultural Strategy accessible via: <http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=387>

⁶⁸ Draft East of England Plan and Amendments accessible via: <http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=120>

Plan	Key Messages	Relevant Topics
Essex and Southend-on-Sea Structure Plan ⁶⁹	Sets out county-wide policies to implement higher order policy covering all topic areas	All topics
Essex Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 ⁷⁰	The five objectives are: talking congestion; delivering accessibility; creating safer roads; promoting better air quality; and enhancing maintenance.	Air Quality, Community; Economy & Employment
Essex Biodiversity Action Plan ⁷¹	Action plans for 25 species and 10 habitats	Biodiversity and Open Space
Local		
The Brentwood Economic Development Strategy ⁷²	To provide for local business including offering advice and training. Encourage new local business and partnerships between different stakeholders	Economy & Employment
The Brentwood Borough Housing Strategy 2004 and Beyond ⁷³	Major challenges are therefore to meet housing demand generally within green belt constraints, and to address the affordability issue for lower and middle income households for whom private house prices and rents are prohibitive	Housing
The Brentwood Borough Council Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008 ⁷⁴	Major considerations include homelessness prevention , temporary accommodation and long-term housing solutions	Housing
Brentwood Replacement Local Plan ⁷⁵	Numerous policies for addressing all sustainability issues	All topics
Brentwood Community Strategy 2004-2009	Ensure everyone in Brentwood has access to housing; a healthy life; education and training; a high quality environment; and leisure, recreational and cultural opportunities. Maintain and enhance the local economy, community safety, sustainable transport options, and communication with all sectors of the community	All topics

⁶⁹ Essex and Southend-on-Sea Structure Plan (2001) accessible via:

<http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/guc.jsp?channelOid=27961&guideOid=39618&guideContentOid=16002>

⁷⁰ Essex Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 accessible via: <http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/gui.jsp?channelOid=16819&guideOid=39939>

⁷¹ Essex Biodiversity Action Plan accessible via: <http://www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk/Default.aspx?pageindex=4&pageid=47>

⁷² Brentwood Borough Council Economic Development Strategy 2003-2004 accessible via: <http://www.brentwood-council.gov.uk/index.php?cid=15>

⁷³ Brentwood Borough Housing Strategy 2004 and beyond accessible via: http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/pdf/pdf_602.pdf

⁷⁴ Brentwood Borough Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008 accessible via: <http://www.brentwood-council.gov.uk/index.php?size=1&cid=503>

⁷⁵ Brentwood Borough Replacement Local Plan and Local Plan accessible via: <http://www.brentwood-council.gov.uk/index.php?cid=49>

Plan	Key Messages	Relevant Topics
Brentwood Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-8 ⁷⁶	Three year strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the Borough of Brentwood	Community
Brentwood Contaminated Land Strategy ⁷⁷	Requirement of Environmental Protection Act 1990. Sets out the approach to identification of contaminated land across Brentwood and how certain sites will be designated special sites.	Soil
Brentwood Cycle Strategy 1998-2002 ⁷⁸	Institute 'cycle reviews' of the road system and 'cycle audits' of proposed schemes, to make changes to the existing road layout in favour of cyclists, to provide secure parking for cycles and to use their planning powers to promote cycling through influencing the land use mix.	Community, Economy & Employment
Play Areas Strategy ⁷⁹	Review and identification of play areas for future provision to meet local needs	Community
Sport Development Strategy 2007 - 2011 ⁸⁰	Encourage residents to participate in sporting activity, ensure access to sports facilities for all and develop a wide variety of sport in Brentwood	Community

⁷⁶ Brentwood Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-8 accessible via: http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/pdf/pdf_802.pdf

⁷⁷ Brentwood Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy (2000) accessible via: http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/pdf/pdf_154.pdf

⁷⁸ Brentwood Cycle Strategy accessible via: <http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/pdf/cyclestrategy.pdf>

⁷⁹ Brentwood Play Areas Strategy (2002) accessible via: http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/pdf/pdf_887.pdf

⁸⁰ Brentwood Sport Development Strategy 2007 – 2011 accessible via: http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/pdf/pdf_1246.pdf

3 A2 – The Brentwood Baseline

3.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires:

“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” and “the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected” to be included into the Environmental Report.

(Annex 1(b) and (c) of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2 (2) & (3) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004)

Also, the government guidance states that:

‘Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them’.

DCLG (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Framework

- 3.1.1 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 LDF's effects to be adequately predicted and evaluated⁸¹.
- 3.1.2 This chapter provides a summary of the current situation in the Borough of Brentwood in relation to the sustainability topics listed in 1.6.1. Unless otherwise stated, all information and data included in this chapter are sourced from the Brentwood Borough: Strategic Environmental Assessment Baseline Information Profile 2006-2007, March 2007 (hereafter known as the ‘SEA Baseline Study Report’) and the Brentwood Borough Council website.
- 3.1.3 The government Guidance suggests that sufficient information be gathered to ascertain:
- What the current situation is like,
 - The nature of any particular problems or sensitivities,
 - Whether the situation is improving or deteriorating, and
 - How the situation performs when compared to established targets or thresholds.
- 3.1.4 The baseline information in this chapter will then be used to identify the key issues facing the Borough (A3), which will then provide the basis for the development of the SA framework (task A4), which is then used to assess the LDF.

⁸¹ DCLG (2005) *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Framework* (available at: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_030923.pdf)

3.2 Biodiversity and Open Space

- 3.2.1 The Borough of Brentwood is located in the Metropolitan Green Belt and is predominantly rural in character containing agricultural habitats, woodland and country parks. The borough does not contain any European Union designated Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) or Ramsar sites.
- 3.2.2 The nearest sites of European importance are Lee Valley SPA and Epping Forest SAC. The Habitats and Birds Directives require that *'any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a site but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.'* (Article 6(3), Habitats Directive). The box below sets out the potential impacts that the Brentwood Borough LDF could have on the Lee Valley SPA and Epping Forest SAC:

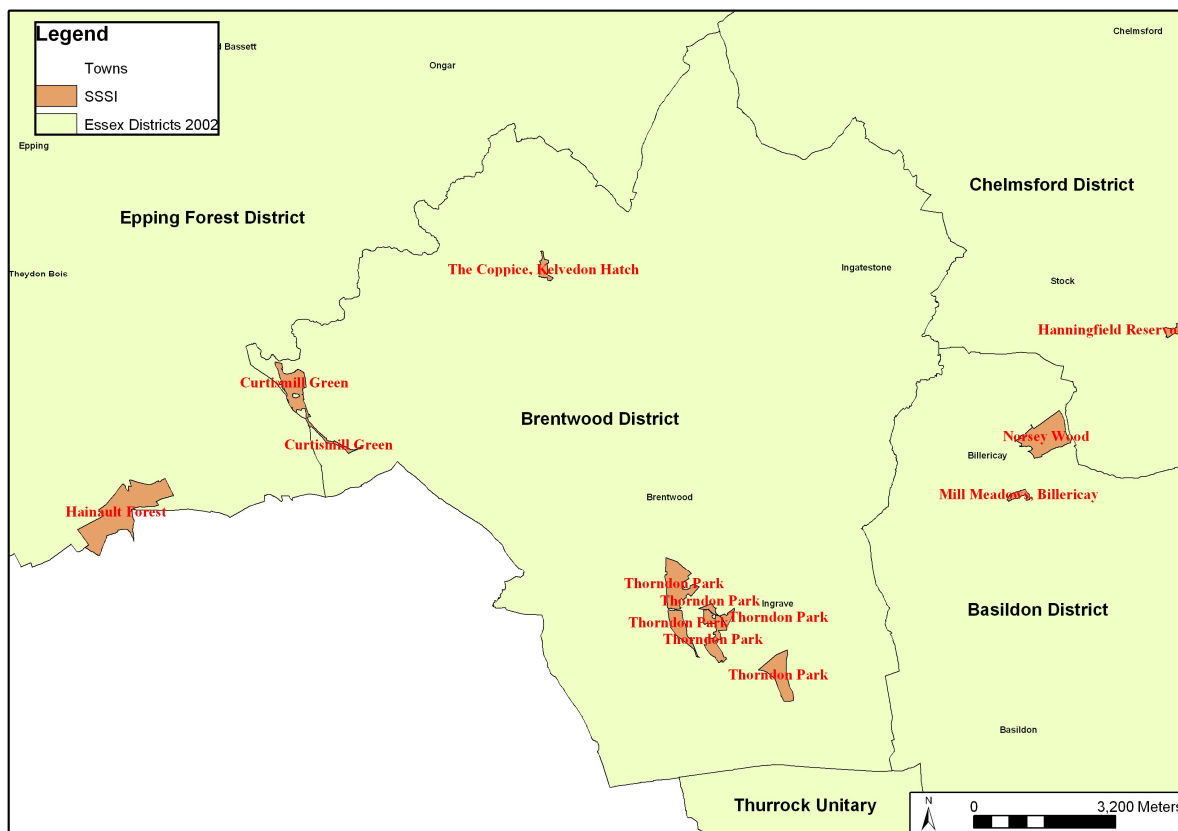
Key Potential Impacts on the EU Designated Sites:

1. Water resources - In much of Essex there is (or is anticipated to be) significant catchment transfer taking place - therefore increased housing in Brentwood could contribute cumulatively to harmful levels of abstraction from watercourses/bodies elsewhere e.g. the Crouch, Roach or Blackwater, which could have knock-on effects on their estuaries (all are SPA's and part of the Essex Estuaries SAC).

2. Recreational impacts - again, the increased population in the Borough due to the LDF housing allocations may contribute to a cumulatively increase in recreational use of 'nearby' European sites such as the River Lee (Lee Valley SPA) or Epping Forest SAC. Conceivably they could also contribute to recreational pressures on sites further afield such as the Essex Estuaries or Thames Estuary & Marshes.

- 3.2.3 There are three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) located in the Borough of Brentwood, which are Thorndon Park, The Coppice – Kelvedon Hatch and Curtismill Green. The locations of these SSSIs are shown in Figure 3.1 below.

Figure 3.1: SSSIs in Brentwood



Source: Essex County Council 2007 cited by the Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

3.2.4 Table 3.1 below shows the status of the three SSSIs in Brentwood. It is clear that the habitats within the SSSIs are in varying condition, which range from favourable to unfavourable with no change. The status of these sites tends to follow wider trends across Essex, although Brentwood performs slightly better with fewer habitats classed as unfavourable declining. In 2006, 52% of SSSIs in Essex were in favourable condition and 40% were in unfavourable declining condition.

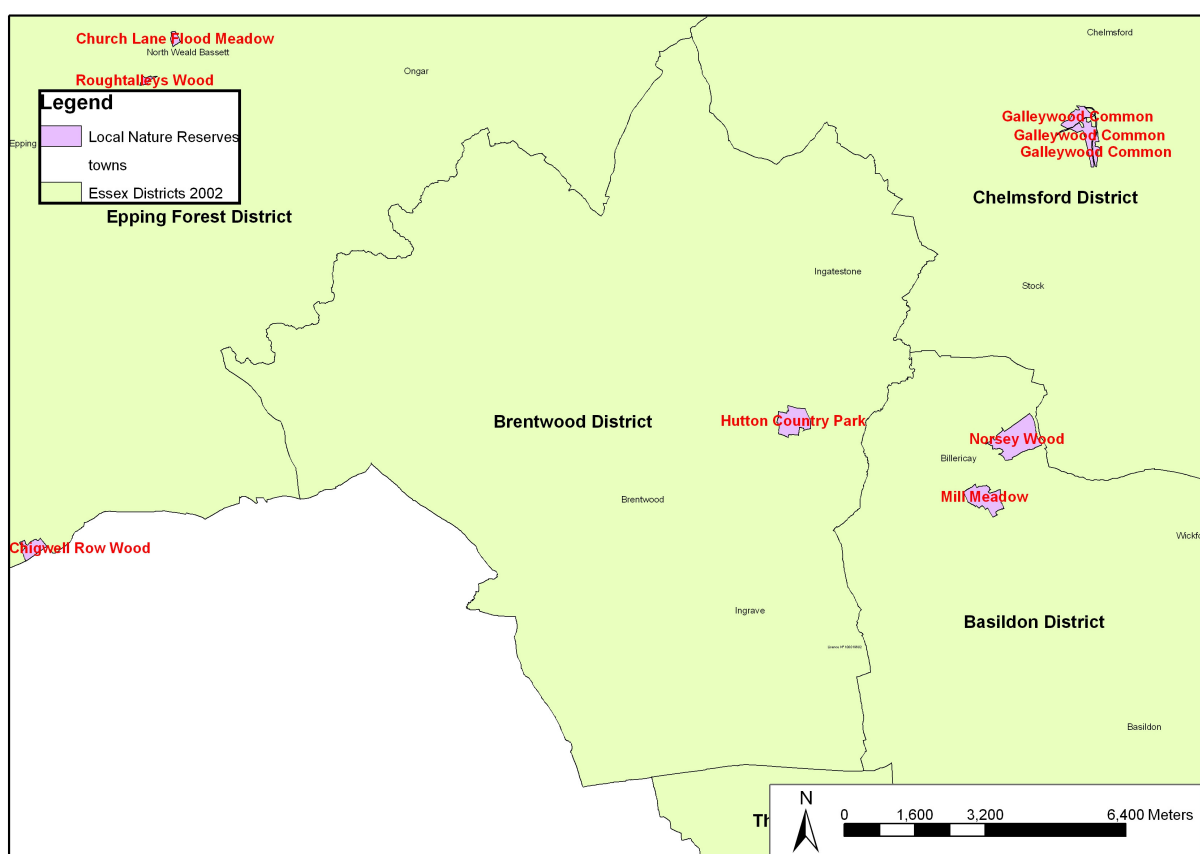
Table 3.1: Description and status of SSSIs in Brentwood

SSSI	Description	Current Status	Action Required
Thorndon Park	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland and ancient parkland	5 of the 12 principal habitat types in the park are in favourable condition. However, 4 are in unfavourable condition with no change and 2 are unfavourable recovering.	Weed and forestry management
The Coppice – Kelvedon Hatch	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	Favourable	Future planning for management is necessary to maintain this status.

SSSI	Description	Current Status	Action Required
Curtismill Green	Unimproved grassland and scrub	Unfavourable no change	Weed and grazing control. Species population management.

- 3.2.5 Defra's Public Service Agreement (2005-2008): target is to achieve 95% by area of SSSI in favourable or recovering condition by 2010. However, the assessments of the principal habitat types within the three SSSIs in Brentwood were carried out between 1999 and 2005, with the majority during 2000. As a result, it is unknown whether the status of these SSSIs is generally improving, declining or remaining the same since the last assessments were carried out.
- 3.2.6 There are no National Nature Reserves (NNRs) in the Borough but Brentwood Borough Council have identified one Local Nature Reserve (LNR) – Hutton Country Park. Hutton Country Park consists of unimproved grassland and the location is shown in Figure 3.2 below. This LNR has yet to be confirmed with Natural England.

Figure 3.2: The location of Hutton Country Park Nature Reserve



Source: Essex County Council 2007 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

- 3.2.7 The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies 25 species and 10 habitats that require action across Essex. All species and habitats identified in the Essex BAP are suffering loss or decline.

The Essex BAP includes a number of objectives to halt the loss or decline of these species and habitats.

- 3.2.8 The species and habitats included in the Essex BAP that are found in Brentwood are listed below. Unfortunately data are not available at present to determine progress towards the Essex BAP objectives for halting the loss or decline of these species or habitats.

Species:

- Native Black Poplar
- Brown Hare
- Dormouse
- Water Vole
- Pipistrelle Bats
- Grey Partridge
- Skylark
- Song Thrush
- Shining Ramshorn Snail

Habitats:

- Ancient and/or species rich hedgerows and green lanes
- Ancient woodland
- Cereal field margins
- Heathland
- Old orchards
- Urban habitats

- 3.2.9 The Borough contains a large number of open spaces, some of which are listed in table 3.2. In addition there are 1,294 Tree Preservation Orders in borough at present and three historic parks and gardens (Thorndon Park, Warley Place and Weald Park). The condition of the historic parks and gardens is unknown. The Woodland Trust has found that 3.9% of the Borough of Brentwood is covered by ancient woodland⁸².

Table 3.2: Open Spaces in Brentwood

Open Space	Area
Alexander Lane	1.678 ha
Bishops Hall Park	4.41 ha
Brentwood Centre	20.09 ha
Copperfield Gardens	0.838 ha
Courage Playing Fields	5.774 ha
Hatch Road	5 ha
Hutton Country Park	37 ha
Hutton Polo Fields	0.64 ha
Hutton Poplars	9.339 ha
Hutton Recreation Ground	4.455 ha
Ingrave Johnstone Playing Fields	1.762 ha
Kind Georges Playing Fields	19.394 ha
Larkins Playing Fields	4.205 ha
Merrymeades	15 ha

⁸² Woodland Trust Consultation Responses to Consultation on Pre-Issues and Options December 2006 to May 2007.

Open Space	Area
Mountney Close	0.501 ha
Seymour Field	4.172 ha
St. Faith's	16 ha
Tower Hill	1.553 ha
Warley Country Park	21 ha
Warley Playing Fields	11.417 ha
West Horndon Playing Fields	3.402 ha

- 3.2.10 Consultation undertaken as part of the preparation of the draft '*Survey and Assessment of Needs and Audit Open Space, Sport and Recreation in Brentwood*' report showed that the majority of respondents found the level of open space provision to be 'about right' in the Borough. Litter and dog-fouling were identified as the most significant problems limiting the quality of open spaces but overall satisfaction was high.

3.3 Landscape

- 3.3.1 Three principal landscape character types were identified in the Landscape Character Survey⁸³ of Brentwood borough which are river valley, wooded farmland and fenland. These three landscape types include nine landscape character areas. Table 3.3 overleaf provides a summary of the key issues facing these landscape character areas and the particular aspects that are sensitive to changes.

⁸³ During recent years emphasis has been placed on the role of landscape character and the process of describing and categorising this has become known as **Landscape Character Assessment** (LCA). Assessments have been based upon the Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland, published by the Countryside Agency in 2002.

Table 3.3: Landscape Character Types and Areas in Brentwood

Landscape Character Type	Landscape Character Area	Key Issues	Features sensitive to change
River Valley	Roding River Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversion from pasture to arable farming • Traffic • Noise & visual intrusion from A128, B175 and M25 • Loss of mature field boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear woodlands • Mature field boundaries • Historic integrity • Skyline – views of any new development • Remote areas – sensitive to new development
Wooded Farmland	Blackmore Wooded Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic • Visual intrusion from Chelmsford and new farm buildings • Noise & visual intrusion from A414, A12 and A1016. • Road developments • Loss of mature hedgerows and single trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium-large scale woodland, mature hedgerows and deciduous tree boundaries • Small-scale pasture fields and paddocks • Historic Integrity • Sensitive visible historic features • Important wildlife habitats
	Doddinhurst Wooded Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of mature field boundaries • Noise and visual intrusion from A128 and A12 • Traffic • Expansion of existing settlements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature deciduous woodland • Mixed woodland • Mature-tree field boundaries and tree covered narrow lanes • Views • Historic settlement pattern • Sensitive visible historic features • Important wildlife habitats

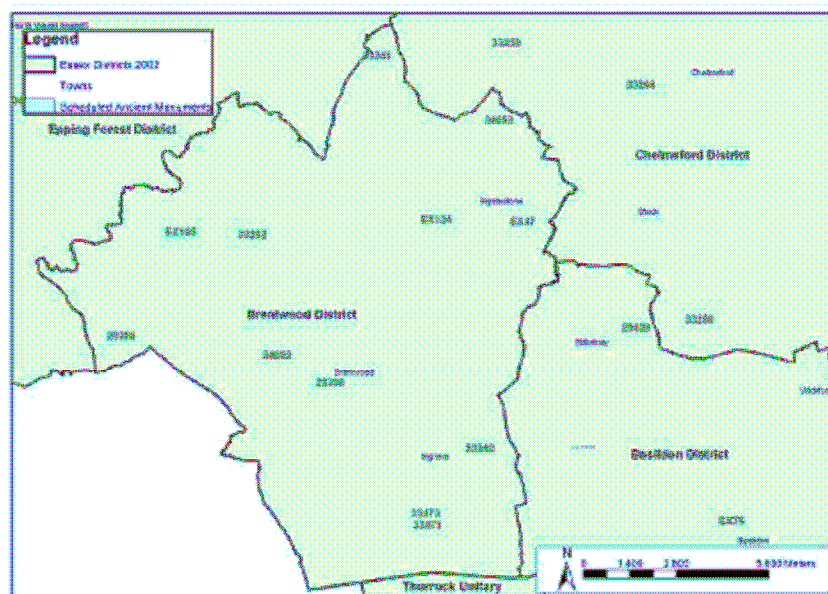
Landscape Character Type	Landscape Character Area	Key Issues	Features sensitive to change
	Little Warley Wooded Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic Visually intrusive development Noise & visual intrusion from A127 and A128 Loss of mature woodland, single trees and hedgerows Management of Thorndon Country Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patchwork of mixed and deciduous semi-natural and plantation woodland, commons and pastures Open views Narrow lanes sensitive to new development Historic integrity and settlement pattern Tranquility
	Heybridge Wooded Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise & visual intrusion from B1002 and A12 Expansion of existing settlements Traffic Visual intrusion from farm buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mature tree field boundaries, single mature trees and vegetation-lined ditches Open views Change due to new development Historic settlement pattern Important wildlife sites
	Great Warley Wooded Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of mature field boundaries Noise & visual intrusion from M25 and A127 Traffic Expansion of Brentwood Loss of mature woodland Potential widening of M25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodland, mature tree field boundaries, mature deciduous trees and improved meadows, streams and ponds Tree lined lands Historic settlement pattern Sensitive historic features Important wildlife habitats
	Ingrave and Herongate Wooded Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visually intrusive new development Noise & visual intrusion from A127 and A128 Road improvements (A127 and A128) New development of farm buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mature hedge field boundaries Patches of mature deciduous woodland Open views 8 small areas of ancient woodland Important wildlife habitats

Landscape Character Type	Landscape Character Area	Key Issues	Features sensitive to change
	Weald Wooded Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic • Visual intrusion from development around Brentwood • Noise & visual intrusion associated with M25, A12, A1023, A128 • Visual intrusion from new farm buildings • Road improvements • Loss of mature tree hedgerows and single mature trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open commons • Narrow tree lined roads • Woodland and grassland network • Historic integrity • Historic parklands and ancient woodland • Historic fields
Fenland	Horndon Fenland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusion • Expansion of West Horndon settlement • Road improvements • Loss of field boundaries • Loss of hedgerow trees • New utilities development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature hedgerow field boundaries • Flat and open areas and wooded hills • Historic integrity

3.4 Cultural Heritage and Material Assets

- 3.4.1 Brentwood Borough contains 514 listed buildings, which represent 3.6% of the total number of listed buildings in Essex. Of the 514 listed buildings, the majority (475 in total) are Grade II, 27 are Grade II* and 12 are Grade I⁸⁴.
- 3.4.2 In 2006, there were 11 buildings classed as 'at risk' on the Historic Buildings at Risk Register and 2 buildings that were newly 'at risk'. The 13 buildings at risk are all Grade II listed and vary from being in poor to very bad condition. Four of the buildings are at '*immediate risk of chronic deterioration or loss of fabric*'. The number of buildings 'at risk' has gradually increased since 2004 although the total for Brentwood remains just lower than the average for the county of Essex.
- 3.4.3 The period from 2004 to 2006 saw the addition of one building to the 'newly at risk' class and the removal of one other building from the Risk Register. The number of buildings classed 'newly at risk' is marginally below the Essex average for this period and the removal of just one building from the Risk Register is also below the average for the county.
- 3.4.4 There are 13 Conservation Areas in Brentwood Borough which are between 4ha and 243ha in size. Five of the Conservation Areas cover village centres, two cover residential areas, two cover parks and gardens, one covers a village, one a historic town centre and one an hospital. A full list of the Conservation Areas is provided in the SEA Baseline Study report.
- 3.4.5 There are 12 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) in Brentwood, the locations of which are shown in Figure 3.3. At present there is no data on the condition of these SAMs.

Figure 3.3: Scheduled Ancient Monuments



- 3.4.6 A Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is being completed on a county-by-county basis. The HLC approach is related to the former Countryside Agency's 'Countryside Character Map,' which itself recognises the fundamental historic character of the countryside. Essex County Council have yet to complete a HLC for the Essex region.
- 3.4.7 Brentwood Borough also contains the following material assets:
- 24 primary schools;
 - 6 Secondary Schools;
 - Hospitals, dentists (total number unknown) and 9 GP Surgeries;
 - Social & community facilities: The Brentwood Centre's International Hall, Old House Arts & Community Centre, Brentwood Theatre, Hermitage Gallery, The Hermit Club, Ingatestone and Fryerning Community Club, Hutton Community Association and Village Halls;
 - 17 play areas and 8 parish play areas;
 - Sport and Recreation facilities, including: The Brentwood Centre, Shenfield Sports Centre, the Clearview Tennis Centre and the Brentwood Golf Centre; and
 - 9 post offices.
- 3.4.8 Data is not available at present to indicate how the number of material assets has varied with time.

3.5 Air Quality

- 3.5.1 There are seven Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)⁸⁵ in Brentwood, which have all been designated AQMA's due to nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels being above the objectives of the UK Air Quality Strategy⁸⁶. This represents a large number of the total 10 AQMA's that are currently in Essex.
- 3.5.2 The seven AQMA's have been designated around important junctions that experience high traffic levels. This is because motor vehicles are the principal source of NO₂ emissions so emissions in areas of high traffic are likely to be elevated. A study conducted by Casella Stanger in 2005⁸⁷ for Brentwood Council showed that high traffic flows on the M25 and A12 in Brentwood (see Figure 1.1) are a major source of NO₂ emissions in six of the seven AQMA's. The locations of the AQMA's are shown in Chapter 4 of the SEA Baseline Study Report.
- 3.5.3 The Council is carrying out continuous baseline monitoring of NO₂ at the Town Hall in Brentwood town centre. This site provides data which indicate the urban background levels of NO₂. Results

⁸⁵ See section 2.5 for a background on AQMA's

⁸⁶ The Air Quality Strategy for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland accessible via:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/strategy/index.htm>

⁸⁷ Casella Stanger (2005) Brentwood Borough Council: Local Air Quality Management: Further Assessment accessible via:
http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/pdf/pdf_868.pdf

collected between 2000 and 2005⁸⁸ showed NO₂ levels were below the objective for annual mean NO₂ levels of 40µg/m³ as set out in WHO guidelines and the UK's Air Quality Strategy.

- 3.5.4 Average annual NO₂ emissions in Brentwood deteriorated between 2000 and 2003, reaching their worst of 36µg/m³ in 2003, but subsequently improved to 30µg/m³ in 2005. The maximum level of NO₂ recorded for each year remained below the UK Air Quality Strategy objectives for a 1-hour level of 200 µg/m³. The highest level of NO₂ was recorded in 2001 and was 193.9µg/m³ but by 2005, the maximum had decreased to 115.1µg/m³.
- 3.5.5 In addition to the continuous monitoring at the Town Hall site, three NO₂ diffusion tubes are also monitored at this location. The three NO₂ diffusion tubes make up part of a wider network of diffusion tube monitoring, which consists of 37 sites in total. Results collected from all monitoring tubes show that a large proportion of the sites experienced levels of NO₂ that were above the UK Air Quality Strategy objective of 40µg/m³. The average NO₂ levels across all sites has decreased from 51µg/m³ in 1999 to 47.66µg/m³ in 2006, although this masks a trend of increasing NO₂ levels across the Borough between 2004 to 2006.
- 3.5.6 At present there are no data available for the Brentwood Borough for particulate matter (PM₁₀), Carbon Monoxide (CO), or Lead (Pb). Similarly there are no data for benzene, 1,3 Butadiene or sulphur dioxide (SO₂). However, for these three pollutants and for lead, data collected by other authorities can be used as a proxy for the conditions in Brentwood. Therefore, data:
- For London suggests lead levels are likely to be within target levels;
 - For Thurrock, Southend and Castle Point indicate SO₂ levels are within accepted levels;
 - For Southend for benzene suggest concentrations are within target levels; and
 - From National mapping and the absence of changes to industrial processes in Brentwood suggest levels of 1,3 butadiene are within acceptable levels.
- 3.5.7 The Essex Local Transport Plan 2 SEA Report⁸⁹ states that Brentwood, amongst other areas of the County, experiences high levels of traffic congestion along key routes and junctions.

3.6 Water Quality and Water Resources

Chemical Quality

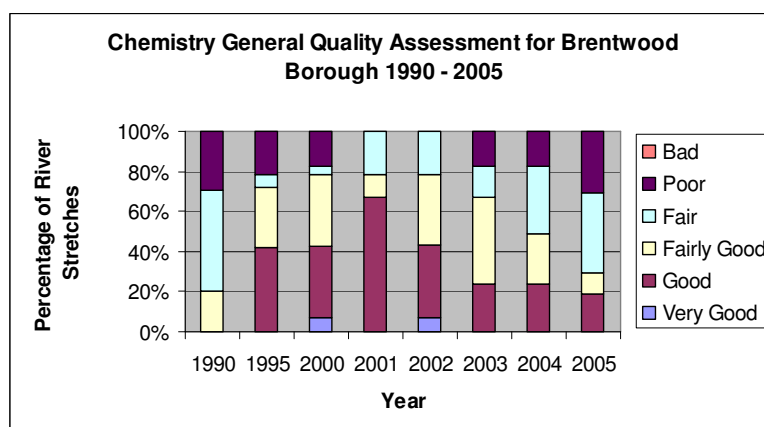
- 3.6.1 The chemical quality of rivers is measured by the dissolved oxygen content, the biochemical oxygen demand and ammonia levels in a river. Data indicating the chemical quality of the rivers in Brentwood between 1990 and 2005 are shown in Figure 3.4. The data show that the chemical quality improved between 1990 and 2002. However, after 2002, the chemical quality has fallen and in 2005 there were no rivers classed as being in 'Very Good' condition.

⁸⁸ Source: Brentwood Borough Council (2006) Third Round Updating and Screening Assessment for Brentwood Borough Council, April 2006

⁸⁹ Essex County Council (2006) Essex Local Transport Plan 2 SEA Draft Report accessible via:
http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/Local_Transport_Plan/LTP_environmental_report_1.pdf?channelOid=null

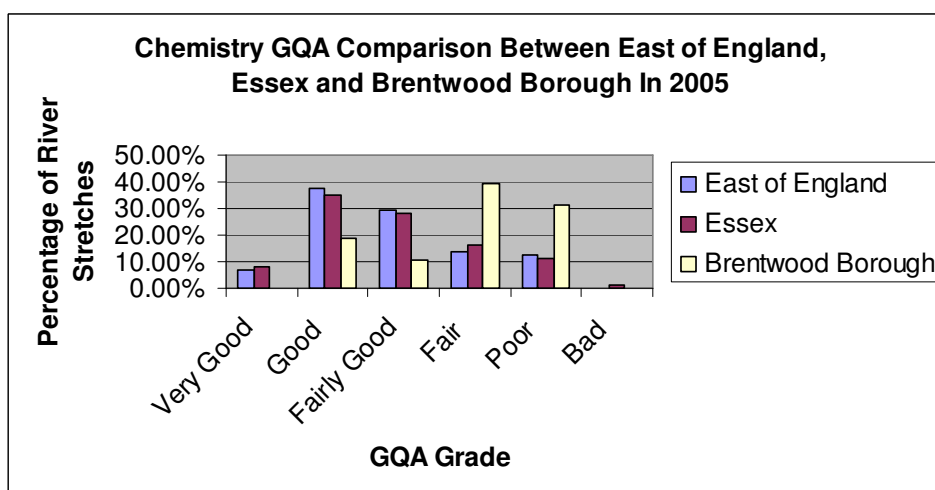
- 3.6.2 In 2005, rivers in Brentwood were in worse condition than all of the rivers across the whole of Essex and the wider East of England region (Figure 3.5). Eight stretches of water in the Borough have been monitored in more detail and results generally indicate that dissolved oxygen content of water performs particularly poorly. Low dissolved oxygen content can result from eutrophication processes that are the result of elevated nutrient contents causing excess algal growth.

Figure 3.4: Chemical quality of Brentwood's rivers



Source: Environment Agency 2007 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

Figure 3.5: Comparison of Brentwood's rivers chemical quality in comparison to Essex and the East of England

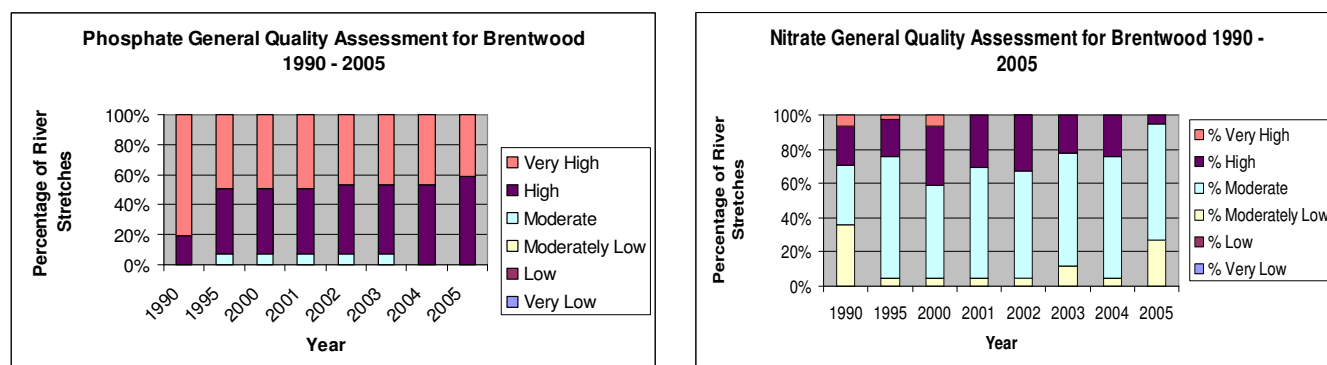


Source: Environment Agency 2007 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

- 3.6.3 The concentration of phosphates and nitrates in rivers in Brentwood are shown in Figures 3.6 and 3.7. The data show that there are generally high levels of these pollutants in rivers in Brentwood, which is the same as the trends across Essex, and in the East of England as a

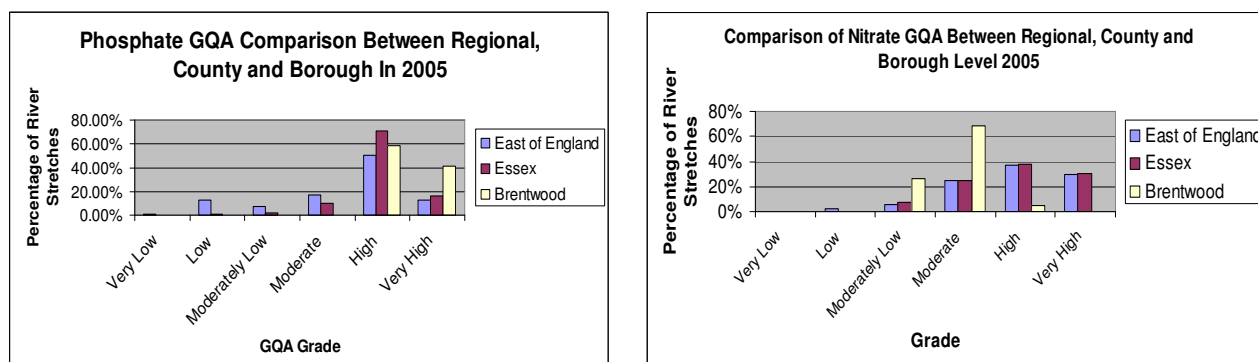
whole. One of the principal sources of phosphates and nitrates in the environment can be agricultural practices⁹⁰.

Figure 3.6: Phosphates and Nitrates in Brentwood's rivers



Source: Environment Agency 2007 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

Figure 3.7: Comparison of Brentwood's rivers phosphate and nitrate levels in comparison to Essex and the East of England



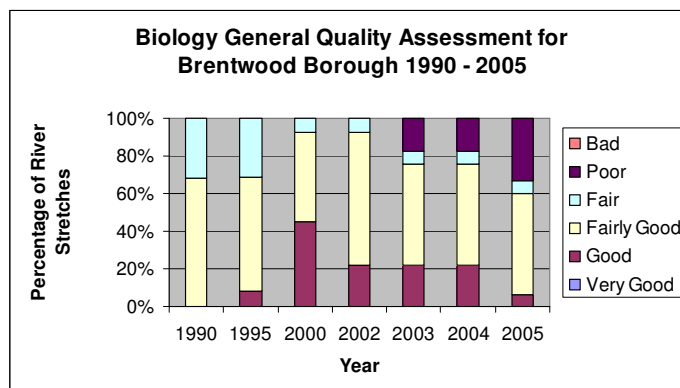
Source: Environment Agency 2007 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

Biological Quality

- 3.6.4 The biological quality of rivers can be assessed by monitoring the macro-invertebrate communities present in the waterway. This provides a proxy for biological health as species tend to be sensitive to most pollutants. However, their distribution is also affected by natural variation and other naturally occurring differences. As a result, rivers are assessed on the basis of what would be expected of a river if no pollution was present and the different sensitivities of species are taken into consideration.
- 3.6.5 The biological quality of rivers in Brentwood has reduced since 2002 and in 2005 there were no stretches that were identified of being in 'Very Good' condition. The biological quality of rivers across Essex and the East of England is higher than Brentwood. However, of the three stretches of river in Brentwood that were monitored in more detail, the biological quality was not *considerably* worse than expected. Data showing the biological quality of rivers in Brentwood and in comparison to Essex and the East of England are shown in Figures 3.7 And 3.8.

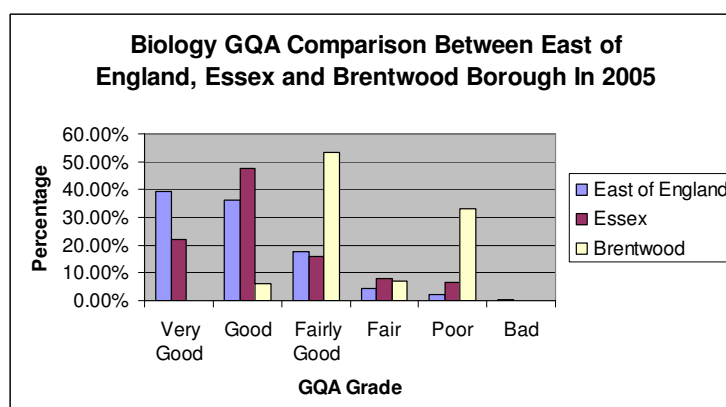
⁹⁰ For further information visit: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environmentwater/quality/nitrate/default.htm>

Figure 3.8: Biological quality of Brentwood's rivers



Source: Environment Agency 2007 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

Figure 3.9: Comparison of Brentwood's rivers biological quality in comparison to Essex and the East of England



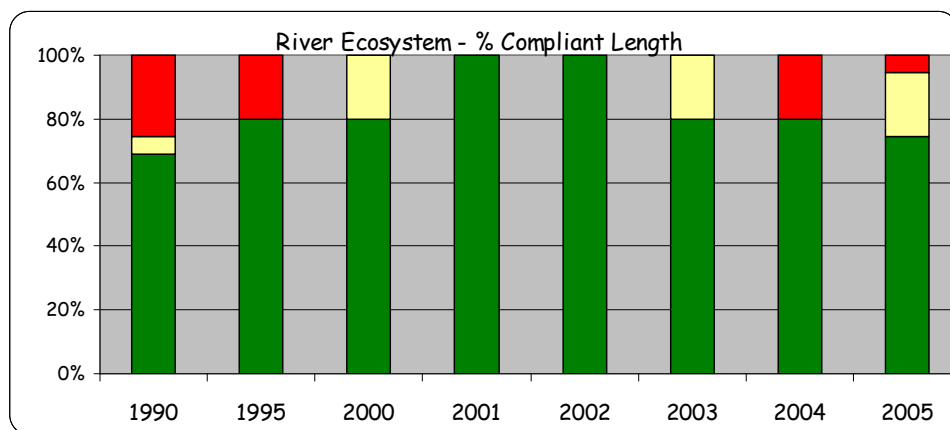
Source: Environment Agency 2007 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

Ecosystem Function

- 3.6.6 The River Ecosystem (RE) scheme provides a nationally consistent method of measuring progress towards targets for key chemical features which are required for ecosystems to function⁹¹. Stretches of river are classified according to the certainty that it has failed or passed the target level set for that stretch.
- 3.6.7 The results of the RE analysis for Brentwood are in Figure 3.10. Green represents a pass, yellow a marginal pass and red a significant failure. In Brentwood in 2005, 1.5km of the total 27.5km of rivers in the Borough was classified as having significantly failed to meet the RE targets. This is less than significantly failed in 2004 but more than significantly failed between 2000 and 2003. The significant failures were largely due to high dissolved oxygen content of these stretches of river.

⁹¹ For further information see: http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/103599/river_e1.doc

Figure 3.10 River Ecosystem Analysis



Source: Environment Agency 2007 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

- 3.6.8 The final version of the **Combined Essex (North and South Essex) Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy** was published in February 2007. Rivers in the Brentwood Borough are identified as being over-abstracted⁹² and there is not currently water available for abstraction in the rest of the Borough. This trend is similar to that for the rest of Essex except to the north where there are areas that are over-licenced⁹³.

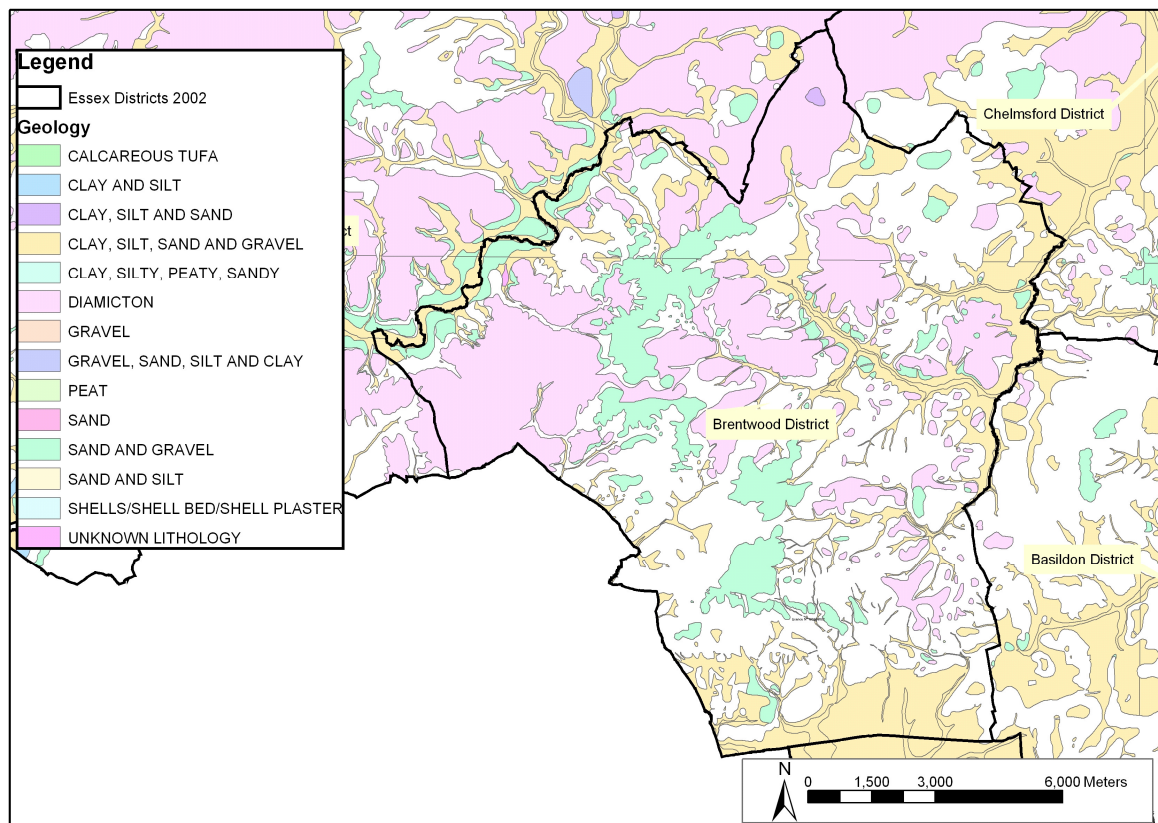
3.7 Soil and Contamination

- 3.7.1 The geological character of Brentwood is shown in Figure 3.11. There are no geological SSSIs in Brentwood and there are only two in Essex (the Naze and the Colne Estuary).

⁹² Existing abstraction is causing unacceptable damage to the environment at low flows. Water may still be available at high flows, with appropriate restrictions (Environment Agency (2007) Essex CAMS)

⁹³ Current actual abstraction is such that no water is available at low flows. If existing licences were used to their full allocation they could cause unacceptable environmental damage at low flows. Water may be available at high flows, with appropriate restrictions (Environment Agency 2007)

Figure 3.11: The geological character of Brentwood



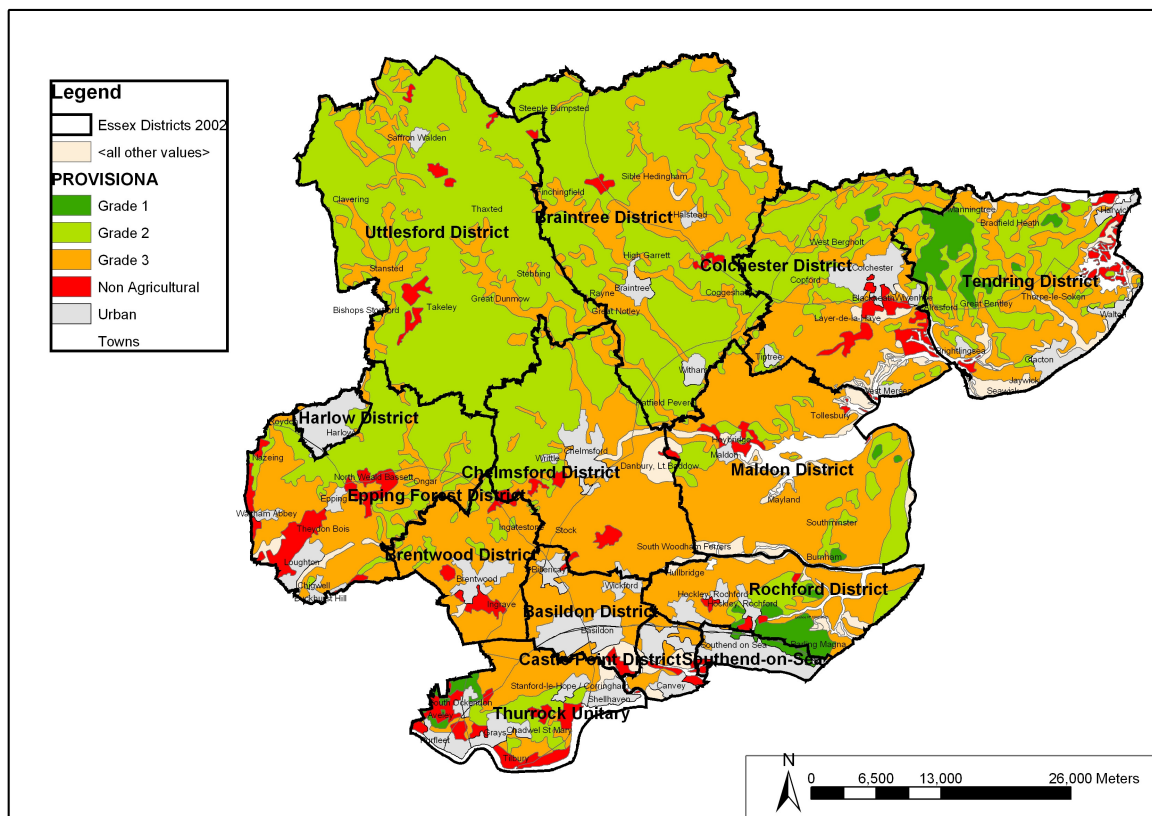
Source: Essex County Council 2007 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

3.7.2 There are large areas of agricultural land in the Borough and following the Agricultural Land Classification system⁹⁴, the land is mainly Grade 3⁹⁵ with some areas of Grade 2. This fits with the wider pattern of agricultural land in Essex, which is predominantly Grade 2 in the north and Grade 3 in the south. Figure 3.12 shows a map of the agricultural land classifications for Brentwood and Essex.

⁹⁴ The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system divides land into five grades. The 'best and most versatile land' is categorised as Grades 1, 2 and 3a. This is the land which is most productive, efficient and can best deliver future crops for food and non-food uses. The importance of this agricultural land protection policy is highlighted in **Foundations for our Future – DEFRA's Sustainable Development Strategy (2002)**. **PPS7: Rural Areas (2004)** also discusses this further.

⁹⁵ The agricultural land classification states Grade 2 agricultural land is 'very good' and Grade 3 is 'good/moderate' for further information visit: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/environment/land-use/pdf/alcleaflet.pdf>

Figure 3.12: The agricultural land classification of Brentwood and Essex



Source: Essex County Council 2007 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

- 3.7.3 The areas of contamination across the Borough are currently being investigated. There is a greater chance of contamination at sites that were or are currently used for industrial or agricultural processes.
- 3.7.4 The Environment Agency groundwater maps show that there are no groundwater protection zones within the Borough of Brentwood. The level of domestic and commercial & industrial water consumption in the Borough is unknown at present.

3.8 Climatic Factors and Flooding

- 3.8.1 The East of England typically experiences '*long summers, mild winters and a long growing season*⁹⁶. Rainfall levels tend to be linked to topography (with areas at a higher elevation experiencing more rainfall) and droughts can be common in the lower lying areas of the region. Brentwood, being part of the East of England region, experiences a similar climate although is likely to also experience some variation in short-term weather patterns.

⁹⁶ Further information available from: http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/pdfs/programme/east/section1_1pages7to12.pdf

Climate Change

3.8.2 Anthropogenic climate change is a significant global concern that is likely to have impacts at all spatial scales. Projections for the likely changes to the climate of Essex by 2080 have been estimated by HR Wallingford in 2005 and include:

- Winter and summer temperatures to increase by 2-3° and 3-5° respectively;
- Winter and summer precipitation to increase by 13-25% and 24-47% respectively;
- Average sea levels to increase by 26-86cm; and
- Extreme sea levels to increase by 80-140cm.

3.8.3 Although there are likely to be sub-regional variations in weather patterns, these projections provide a basis for the likely impacts of climate change on Brentwood Borough.

3.8.4 The key cause of anthropogenic climate change is widely acknowledged to be the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from the combustion of fossil fuels. Increased greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere create an enhanced warming effect. There are a number of indicators that can be used to investigate the emissions of greenhouse gases of an area. In particular energy consumption and efficiency and car use provide useful indicators.

Energy Consumption and Efficiency

3.8.5 In 2003, the domestic consumption of gas was 23,397kWh which was 10% above the average level of consumption for Essex and the highest consumption rate for all of Essex⁹⁷. In contrast, Brentwood had the lowest commercial consumption of gas (285,256 kWh) in 2003, which was below the Essex average of 497,933kWh. The limited amount of industrial activity in the Borough could account for the lower level of gas consumption than the rest of Essex.

3.8.6 Domestic electricity consumption per meter point was only slightly above the Essex average of 5,125kWh at 5190kWh⁹⁸. Industrial and commercial electricity consumption per meter point was 60,300kWh, which was slightly lower than the Essex average of 62,091 kWh. Similarly, the limited industrial activity in Brentwood may explain the slightly lower consumption of electricity by industry than the rest of Essex.

3.8.7 The total domestic energy consumption per household in 2003 was 26,930kWh which was slightly above the average consumption of Essex of 25,839 kWh⁹⁹.

3.8.8 There are no data available for the years preceding 2003 regarding energy consumption and efficiency. Government targets are for 10% of energy needs of new developments to be met by renewable sources suggesting improvements will be required in Brentwood.

3.8.9 The Annual Monitoring Report for 2005/2006 reports that, with the possible exception of solar panel installation on individual dwellings, there was no renewable energy capacity installed in new developments between 2005-2006. This fails to work towards the government's target to generate 10% of electricity from renewable sources and The Regional Sustainable Development

⁹⁷ Source: DTI cited by Brentwood Borough Council Strategic Environmental Assessment Baseline Study, March 2007.

⁹⁸ Ibid

⁹⁹ Ibid

Framework for the East of England's target of 14% of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2010.

- 3.8.10 The energy efficiency of new dwellings is measured in Brentwood using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP). The SAP is the Government system for rating energy efficiency of dwellings¹⁰⁰. Scores range between 1 to 120, the lower the value, the lower the standard of energy efficiency. In 2005/2006 the SAP of 66.2 was achieved, which was marginally below the target of 66.3 set by the Council. Targets set for the next three years seek to improve the SAP rating across the Borough.

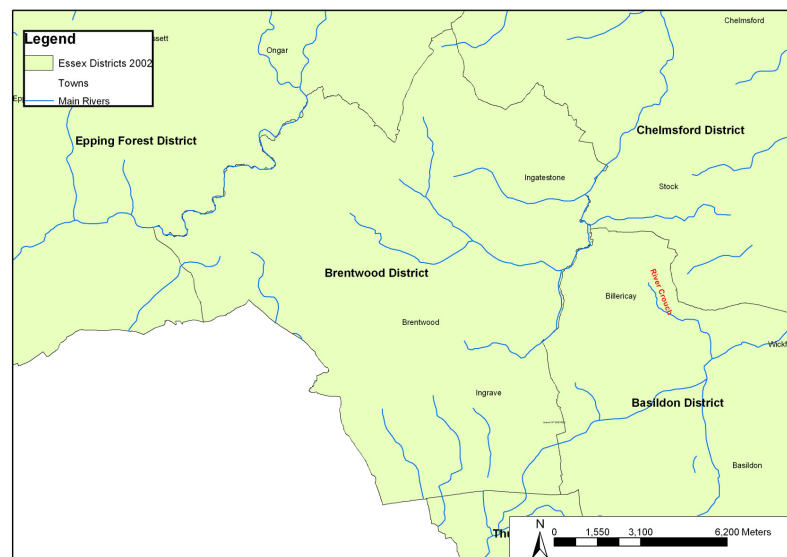
Car Use

- 3.8.11 In 2001, 84% of households in Brentwood owned cars or vans, which is slightly higher than for the Essex average. The main mode of transport people used to travel to work was the car although the proportion doing so, 56.7%, was slightly lower than the average for Essex. A higher proportion of people in Brentwood travel to work by public transport than for Essex as a whole.
- 3.8.12 Data are not available at present to indicate what the trend in car ownership and use has been in Brentwood.

Flooding

- 3.8.13 The main watercourses in Brentwood are shown in Figure 3.13 below. The extent of Flood Zones 2 and 3 are shown in Figure 3.14 and 3.15. Flood Zone 2 represents an area of medium probability¹⁰¹ of flooding and Flood Zone 3 an area of high probability¹⁰² of flooding.

Figure 3.13 Watercourses in Brentwood



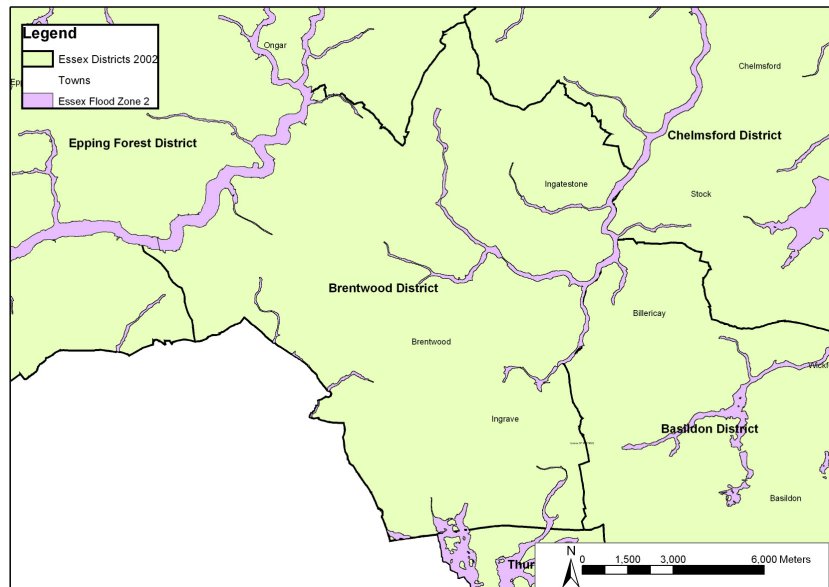
Source: Essex County Council 2007 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

¹⁰⁰ For further information see: <http://projects.bre.co.uk/sap2001/>

¹⁰¹ Between an annual probability of 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 year chance flooding from a river

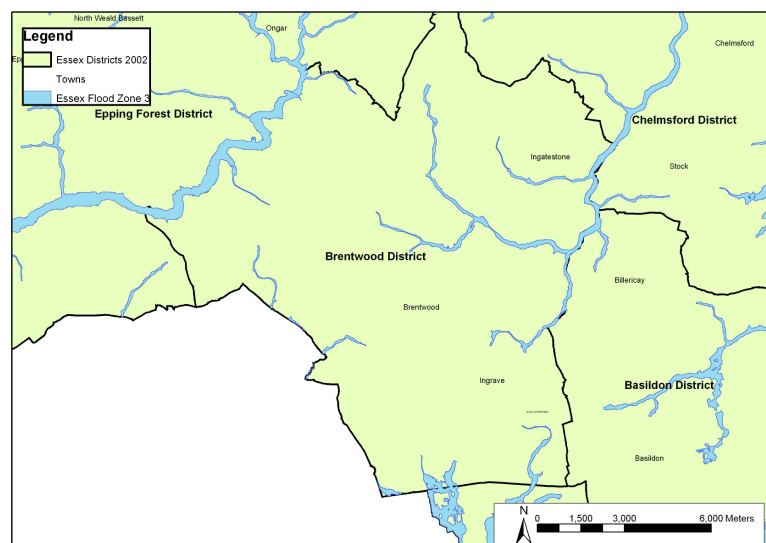
¹⁰² Annual probability of 1 in 100 or greater of flooding from a river

Figure 3.14 Flood Zone 2



Source: Essex County Council 2007 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

Figure 3.15 Flood Zone 3



Source: Essex County Council cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

- 3.8.14 Information provided by the Environment Agency suggests that the majority of the areas in Flood Zones 2 and 3 are within rural areas. There are some isolated areas in the Flood Zone which are in Brentwood and Heybridge. There are no data available at present to indicate the number of dwellings that are at risk from flooding.
- 3.8.15 There are no data available at present to show how many new developments incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

3.9 Waste

- 3.9.1 Between 2005 and 2006, approximately 29,230 tonnes of household waste were produced in Brentwood which was one of the lowest levels across all of the authorities in the County. Of this household waste, 16.92% was recycled and 9.69% was composted. Brentwood performs well in comparison to the Essex average for composting (7.02%) but is marginally below the average amount recycled. Brentwood has committed to a Public Service Agreement target (relates to Local Plan Policy IR6) that by 2010 value will be recovered from 30% of municipal waste and biodegradable municipal waste to landfill will be reduced by 75% of the 1995 level. Further action will be required to meet this target.
- 3.9.2 The amount of household waste recycled and composted has increased since 2001. Targets for Brentwood set for the next few years seek to continue the trend towards increasing composting and recycling.
- 3.9.3 Data are not currently available for Commercial & Industrial and hazardous waste arisings in Brentwood.
- 3.9.4 There are no landfill sites in the Borough of Brentwood. The nearest landfill sites to the Borough are Leca Pit Mill Lane, Ongar in the Epping Forest District, Fairlop Quarry near Hainault and Warren Farm, Romford¹⁰³.

3.10 Economy and Employment

Economy

- 3.10.1 The Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan notes that Brentwood is a town with an important employment centre but more constrained development capacity, need and potential. In particular, the types of local jobs available are not well matched to the resident populations employment needs and skills. This is reflected in significant out-commuting, particularly to Greater London.
- 3.10.2 Table 3.4 below shows the proportion different types of the enterprises in Brentwood Borough, based on the count of VAT based enterprises by the Office of National Statistics. Similar to the wider trends in the East of England and across the whole of England, the largest proportions of enterprises are in the property and business services sectors. The construction, retail, public administration and wholesale sectors also contain a slightly higher proportion of total enterprises and this broadly reflects trends in the East of England.
- 3.10.3 Examining types of enterprises by number of premises, retail and office premises account for approximately 70% of enterprise types in Brentwood Borough, which is similar to the East of England and national trends.

¹⁰³ Environment Agency (2007) Interactive Map: Active Landfill Sites accessible via: <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/mapController>

Table 3.4: Types of Enterprise in Brentwood, the East of England and England¹⁰⁴

Type of Enterprise	Brentwood (%)	East of England (%)	England (%)
Agricultural	2.61	6.78	6.34
Production	7.03	8.99	8.885
Construction	14.06	14.53	11.74
Motor Trade	4.22	4.48	4.12
Wholesale	7.63	6.71	6.81
Retail	8.43	9.69	11.32
Hotels & Catering	4.62	5.9	6.86
Transport	4.42	2.32	3.62
Post/Telecommunications	0.8	0.72	0.96
Finance	1.41	0.36	0.67
Property & Business services	35.74	29.59	30.28
Education	0.6	0.47	0.76
Health	0.2	0.34	0.57
Public Admin & other services	8.43	4.47	8.56

- 3.10.4 The ratable value of floor space for different industry types in Brentwood is above the average for the East of England and for England, in all but the 'other bulk premises'¹⁰⁵ class. This suggests that floor space for different commercial uses is in high demand in the Borough, indicating a health economy. For example, office space in Brentwood costs £150 per m² whereas the cost is £101 per m² in the East of England and £125 per m² in England.
- 3.10.5 There are no data available to explore the trends over time in ratable value, number of premises and types of enterprise by counts of VAT based enterprises. However, there are longer-term data available for commercial and industrial vacancy rates in the Borough. Data suggests that between 1999 and 2001 there was a decrease in vacancy rates suggesting Brentwood was an attractive location for commercial and industrial enterprises and that there was a healthy local economy. Following 2001 there was an increase in vacancy rates to 2003 and a subsequent decline to a 6% vacancy rate in 2005. The vacancy rate in 2005 was lower than for the East of England and for the whole of England and suggests Brentwood is able to attract business to the Borough.

¹⁰⁴ Source: National Statistics Online (March 2005) cited by Brentwood Borough Council Strategic Environmental Assessment Baseline Study, March 2005.

¹⁰⁵ Other bulk premises include community uses such as village halls, social clubs and community centres.

Employment

- 3.10.6 Table 3.5 below shows the proportion of all people aged 16-74 by employment status. The total number of people aged between 16-74 in Brentwood is 49,514 and 54.3% of the working population are employed, 10.7% are self-employed and 1.86% are unemployed. The data show that there is a low level of unemployment in Brentwood compared to the East of England and in England as a whole. The Borough has a slightly higher proportion of retired people and people looking after family/home than are the case for the East of England region and England.

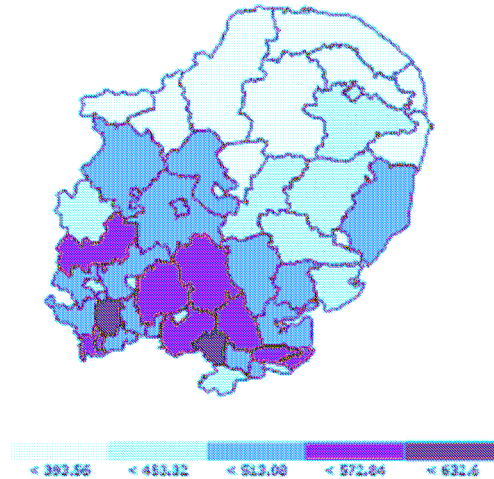
Table 3.5: Employment status of Brentwood residents compared to the East of England and England¹⁰⁶

Status	Brentwood (%)	East of England (%)	England (%)
Employees: Part Time	11.93	12.48	11.78
Employees: Full Time	42.39	42.61	40.55
Self-employed	10.07	9.25	8.28
Unemployed	1.86	2.6	3.35
Full-Time Students	2.01	2.32	2.57
Retired	15.99	13.99	13.61
Student	3	3.61	4.7
Looking after family/home	7.44	6.74	6.51
Permanently sick/disabled	3.42	3.91	5.52
Other	2.06	2.5	3.12

- 3.10.7 In 2004, approximately two-thirds of employees in the Borough worked full time and the majority were employed in the service sector (83.4%) which is similar to the wider region. Within the service sector, there were a higher proportion of people employed in the Finance, IT and other business activities sector than for the rest of Essex. Approximately 24% of service employees were employed in the distribution, hotels and restaurant sector and 20% in public administration, education and health sectors. These proportions were lower than the average for the East of England and for England as a whole.
- 3.10.8 Figure 3.16 below shows the average weekly earnings in the East of England region in 2004. Data show that Brentwood has the highest weekly earnings of all local authority areas. Weekly and hourly rates were significantly higher in Brentwood than the average rates in the East of England and for the rest of Britain. For example male fulltime workers were paid a gross average salary of £732.40 per week compared to £474.90 per week that was the average across the rest of Britain. This could be due to the higher proportion of people employed in the finance, IT and other business activities sector which generally tend to have higher wage rates.

¹⁰⁶ Source: National Statistics Online: Economic Activity 2001 cited by the SEA Baseline Study.

Figure 3.16: Average Weekly Earnings across the East of England



Source: Nomis 2004 cited by Brentwood SEA Baseline Study

- 3.10.9 Data for 2001 suggest that over half of the working residents Brentwood borough travelled outside of the Borough for work¹⁰⁷. Approximately 35.5% of the working residents traveled into Greater London for work, which could be a cause of the higher average wage rates received by residents in the Borough. A large proportion of people also traveled to other Essex Boroughs to work. Similarly, over half of those employed in the Borough were from outside of Brentwood the majority being from Greater London, and other neighboring Essex Boroughs.
- 3.10.10 Data for 2001 show that over half of the resident population traveled to work by car or van (53.4%) and the next most preferred form of transport to work was the train (20.61%). These data show that higher proportions of people used the car/van and the train than in the rest of the region. Slightly fewer people cycled to work in Brentwood than in the rest of the region.
- 3.10.11 The index of deprivation for employment deprivation shows that in 2004, the Borough performed well compared to the rest of Essex and had a very low deprivation score. At present there are no data available to show how employment and travel to work have varied over time.

3.11 Housing

- 3.11.1 In 2004, there were 30,316 dwellings in the Borough of Brentwood. Of this total, 89.7% were owner occupied or private rented and the remainder were local authority, Registered Social Landlord (RSL) or other public sector dwellings. The proportion of dwellings that were owner occupied or privately owned were slightly higher in Brentwood than for the rest of the region. Of the total 1,029 dwelling completions between 2001 and 2006, 97.9% were on previously developed land, which exceeds the government target of 60%. There remains the potential for an additional 3,000 additional dwellings on previously developed land across the Borough.
- 3.11.2 In 2004, the average house price of a semi-detached house was £237,250, which was higher than across the rest of the region and in England. Detached properties were considerably more expensive in Brentwood than in the East of England possibly reflecting the effects of the close

¹⁰⁷ Source: National Statistics Online cited by the SEA Baseline Study Report.

proximity of the Borough to London¹⁰⁸. During 2004 over two-thirds of residential sales were for detached and semi-detached properties which was slightly higher than the Essex and England averages.

- 3.11.3 The house price to income ratio for Brentwood has not been calculated to date. The house price to income ratio across the region has increased from 5.4:1 in 2001 to 8.2:1 in 2004. The implications of increasing affordability problems range from higher waiting lists and pressure to make more homeless application acceptances to wider social issues such as increased proportion of people remaining at their family home.
- 3.11.4 Between 2001 and 2006, approximately 13% of total dwelling completions were affordable housing units. Affordable housing completions decreased to 0 in 2003/2004 but subsequently increased to 21 in 2005/2006, although this level is lower than the 81 completions in 2001/2002. The Brentwood Borough Council Housing Needs Study (2005) highlights the greater than average need for affordable housing.
- 3.11.5 The total number of local authority dwellings has decreased from 3152 to 2576 dwellings between 1999 and 2006 and the number of right to buy sales also decreased from 35 in 2001 to 17 in 2006. The number of RSL properties slightly increased (from 603 in 1999 to 763 in 2006), as did the number of homelessness decisions. The number of homeless acceptances of dwellings has decreased from 2003/2004 to 2006 showing a divergent trend between number of homeless decisions and number of acceptances. This is in contrast to the Essex region, as between 1997/98 to 2002/03, homeless acceptances increased by 37% across the region, compared to the national average of 25.9%¹⁰⁹.
- 3.11.6 The number of people on the Housing Register in Brentwood has significantly increased from 523 to 1441 between 1999 and 2006. However, the number on the transfer list remained fairly constant and the number of allocations decreased from 226 to 137 between 2002 and 2006.
- 3.11.7 Data collected on the condition of dwellings in the Borough shows that in 2004, there were 560, or 1.85%, of owner occupied and private rented dwellings classed as unfit but no local authority, RSL or other public sector dwellings were unfit. This compares favorably with the rest of the region.
- 3.11.8 Although none of the non-private dwellings were classified as unfit during 2004, approximately 21% of local authority dwellings were found to fall below the Decent Homes Standard. This level compares relatively well with other local authorities in Essex but by 2010 all homes must conform to the Decent Homes Standard, which means standards will need to be improved in Brentwood.
- 3.11.9 Brentwood Borough is at a minimum in the least 40% of deprived Boroughs in Essex and data collected for 2006, included in the Annual Monitoring Report, suggests that 92% of new residential development in Brentwood was within 30mins public transport time of all major services.

¹⁰⁸ Moreover, **More Than a Roof: A Report into Tackling Homelessness (2003)**, produced by the Government, recognised that the lack of affordable housing also places additional pressures on the rented sector which pushes up prices.

¹⁰⁹ The Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England 2005-2010.

3.12 Education

- 3.12.1 The educational performance in Brentwood Borough in 2004 was better than for the East of England and for England as a whole. In 2004, 66% of 15 year old pupils achieved GCSE (or equivalent) grades between A* and C. This is above the average of 54.4% for the East of England and 53.6% for England as a whole. In 2004, 92.6% of all 15 year old pupils achieved GCSE (or equivalent) grades A* to G including Maths and English. This also compares well to the rest of the region and England as a whole. This level of educational achievement performs well compared to the National Public Service Agreement target for 60% of pupils to achieve five or more GCSE's or equivalent by 2008 and for at least 30% of pupils in every school to achieve A*-C grades by 2008.
- 3.12.2 The proportion of pupils achieving no passes is lower than the East of England and nationally.
- 3.12.3 Data for 2004 show that generally girls perform better than boys with 73.9% of girls achieving GCSE (or equivalent) grades A* to C compared to 58.5 % of boys.
- 3.12.4 At present data are not available for the number of pupils attending primary schools in the Borough or for the number of pupils permanently excluded from schools. Data for 2001 shows that 2,325 residents were enrolled on higher education courses ¹¹⁰.
- 3.12.5 Indices of deprivation calculated for 2004 show that Brentwood has 0% deprivation in relation to education, skills and training. This compares well with the rest of the Local Authorities in Essex and is equaled only by the Local Authority of Uttlesford.

3.13 Community: Population, Health, Crime and Social Equity

Population

- 3.13.1 In 2001, the population of the Borough of Brentwood was estimated to be approximately 68,500, 48.5% of which were male. Estimates for 2005 suggest Brentwood's population may have increased to 70,900. The Borough has a relatively high population density of 448 people per km² which is above the regional and national averages. The age profile of the Borough is similar to the profile of the region and of England although there are slightly more elderly people and fewer children between 0 and 19 in Brentwood.
- 3.13.2 The majority of residents were born in the UK with the greater part, 90.4%, originating from England. This is higher than the averages for the East of England and for England. The vast majority (96.43%) of residents in the Borough are members of the 'white' ethnic group and the next largest ethnic group is the Asian or Asian British who make up 1.4% of the population of the Borough. Brentwood has a higher proportion of people who belong to the white ethnic group than is the case for the East of England and for England.
- 3.13.3 The life expectancy of the population in 2003 was 79.5 for males and 81.9 for females. This represents a very slight increase for males from 2002 but no change for females. The life

¹¹⁰ Source: National Statistics accessible via:
<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=276958&c=brentwood&d=13&e=5&g=444031&i=1001x1003x1004&m=0&enc=1&dsFamilyId=972>

expectancy at birth is marginally higher in Brentwood than the East of England and England averages.

Health

- 3.13.4 Approximately 73% of residents classed their health as being good in 2001 and 7% said their health was not good¹¹¹. In 2001, approximately 10,560 residents had a limiting long-term illness, which represents approximately 15% of the total population. This level is similar to the 16% and 17% of people in the East of England and England respectively, who have a limiting long-term illness¹¹². In 2001, there were 33 low birth weight babies born in Brentwood, which makes up a small contribution to the 4,458 low birth weight babies born across the region¹¹³.
- 3.13.5 The Health Profile for Brentwood¹¹⁴ compiled by the Department for Health states that in Brentwood in 2006 *'deaths from heart disease and stroke are low, and have been decreasing in line with national trends. Cancer deaths are also below national levels, but there is a suggestion that there has been no decrease in local rates over the last 5 years'*. The Health Profile also finds there to be a low level of diabetes and relatively low numbers in contact with drug misuse services or on GP mental health registers. The results included in the profile also suggest one in six people are obese and less than one in six smoke in the Borough.
- 3.13.6 Data for 2003 shows that there were 67 road related casualties in Brentwood, representing a slightly higher proportion of the resident population affected than for the East of England and England as a whole. The proportion of these casualties that were car occupants who were killed or seriously injured was higher than across the region and nationwide although the proportion of pedestrians killed or seriously injured was lower.
- 3.13.7 There are no data available at present for number and types of incidences of noise and for access to a GP.

Crime

- 3.13.8 Table 3.6 below shows the number and types of offences per 1000 population recorded in Brentwood between 2004 and 2005. The data show that incidences of robbery and sexual offences were low during this period and were below the England average. The number of burglaries in a dwelling and thefts of motor vehicles were also both relatively low and again, below the England average. There were slightly higher number of incidences of violence against the person and of thefts from a vehicle in 2004/05 and the number of thefts from vehicles exceeded the English average.

¹¹¹ Source: National Statistics online accessible via:
<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=276958&c=brentwood&d=13&e=6&g=444031&i=1001x1003x1004&m=0&enc=1&dsFamilyId=97>

¹¹² Ibid

¹¹³ Ibid

¹¹⁴ Source: Health Profile for Brentwood 2006

Table 3.6: Number and type of offences per 1000 people in Brentwood

Crime area	Brentwood (per 1000 population)	England Average (per 1000 population)
Violence against the person	11	16.5
Robbery	1	1.4
Burglary in a dwelling	4	4.5
Theft of a motor vehicle	4	0.9
Theft from a vehicle	10	6.4
Sexual offences	1	10

- 3.13.9 The trends in number of offences in Brentwood has been different to the trends evident across the East of England and across England as a whole (Figure 3.7). Incidences of violence against the person have decreased between 2003/04 and 2004/05 which is contrary to the increase experienced across the region and England as a whole. Number of robbery and thefts from a vehicle offences have increased in Brentwood while they have decreased in the region and in England. Burglaries across Brentwood have remained constant despite the wider context of decline across the region and country. Theft of motor vehicles have decreased but not to the same degree as has been evident in the East of England and in England.

Table 3.7: Number of Offences in Brentwood in comparison to the East of England and England

Crime area	Brentwood			East of England			England		
	2003-2004	2004-2005	% change	2003-2004	2004-2005	% change	2003-2004	2004-2005	% change
Violence against the person	861	774	-10.10	81,951	88,969	8.56	902,738	981,211	8.69
Robbery	38	44	15.79	4976	4547	-8.62	99915	87619	-12.31
Burglary in a dwelling	310	310	0	27329	22043	-19.34	338431	309761	-8.47
Theft of a motor vehicle	254	251	-1.18	21379	18045	-15.59	274524	228819	-16.65
Theft from a vehicle	640	662	3.44	50921	43153	-15.26	568704	470454	-17.28

3.13.10 Data for other forms of crime such as drug related offences, and for the fear of crime are not available at present. The index of deprivation for crime in Brentwood in 2004 was very low.

Social Equity

3.13.11 In 2004, Brentwood was ranked 9th out of the 12 districts of Essex in terms of multiple deprivation. This places Brentwood in the bottom quarter of districts for multiple deprivation. The living environment and barriers to housing and services aspects of deprivation perform less well than other aspects of deprivation in the Borough. However, this may not mean the area is deprived in the common understanding and perception of the term as it could just indicate remoteness.

3.13.12 In particular, Brentwood performed poorly in relation to geographical barriers to services and this is similar to wider trends in Essex. Rural areas tend to perform worse than urban areas for this aspect on deprivation and in particular, the ward of Brentwood North is one of the most deprived in this respect. Broadly speaking deprivation increases to the north east of the Borough, with increased distance from London.

3.13.13 The total number of families claiming child benefits was 8445 in 2005 which was a decrease from levels in 2003¹¹⁵. This represented approximately 1% of the regional total. The total number of people claiming income support benefits decreased since 2003 to 1,320 in 2005 which also represents 1% of the regional total¹¹⁶. The total claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit in

¹¹⁵ Source: National Statistics Online accessible via:

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadDatasetList.do?a=7&b=276958&c=brentwood&d=13&g=444031&i=1001x1003&m=0&enc=1&domainId=4>

¹¹⁶ Ibid

Brentwood in 2005 were 4,075, which again, represented approximately 1% of the regional total¹¹⁷.

- 3.13.14 Approximately 69% of tenants questioned during the 2001 census stated that they were very or fairly satisfied with opportunities for participation¹¹⁸.
- 3.13.15 Data is at present unavailable to show the number of local authority dwellings that are accessible to disabled people.

3.14 Gypsy and Travellers

- 3.14.1 Data sources regarding gypsy and travellers can often be incomplete or misleading due to the transitory nature of Gypsy and Travellers. The housing needs assessment for Gypsy and Travellers in Essex 'Looking Back, Moving Forward' explains that *'other problems associated with quantifying the Gypsy and Traveller population appears to centre on the absence of a suitable method and tool for gathering data...any attempt at gathering data on the Gypsy and Traveller population appears inevitably confounded by problems of definition and classification'*.
- 3.14.2 This problem is compounded by the fact that the 2001 Census did not include Gypsy and Travellers as a distinct ethnic group in their data collection and many other agencies do not collect data on Gypsy and Traveller numbers. Nevertheless, the following section includes the data that are available to set out the current situation with regards Gypsy and Travellers in the Borough.

Population and Distribution

- 3.14.3 At a national level the actual numbers of gypsy and travellers is not accurately known. The best indicator available and the most relevant to planning for Gypsy and Travellers is the count of caravans. A document published by the DCLG on 18th January 2007 detailing caravan numbers from the national to the local level represents the most recent data available on Gypsy and Traveller populations and distributions.
- 3.14.4 The data show that the overall numbers of caravans in England have been growing steadily since 2005 from 15,369 to 16,611 in 2007. In addition, the total number of unauthorised sites has grown since 2005. However, by far the largest change is in the number of caravans on authorised, privately owned sites which has increased by over 1000. Interestingly the overall proportion of caravans on unauthorised sites has fluctuated very little since 2005, when it was 22% compared to 21% in January 2007.
- 3.14.5 Data for the East of England mirrors the trend of the nation as a whole. Total caravans in the region have increased by 248 since 2005 to 2007. In fact, as a proportion of the nation the East of England contains 25% of all caravans which is the most of any region. Again the biggest change has been in the number of caravans on authorised, privately owned sites. In the East of England the proportion of caravans on unauthorised sites (23%) is marginally higher than the national average (21%) in 2007 but this Figure has dropped 3% in the region since 2005.

¹¹⁷ Ibid
¹¹⁸

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadDatasetList.do?a=7&b=276958&c=brentwood&d=13&g=444031&i=1001x1003&m=0&enc=1&domainId=2>

- 3.14.6 Table 3.8 below illustrates the change in the number of caravans since 2005 in Essex County and the relative numbers on authorised / unauthorised sites and on private or publicly owned land.

Table 3.8 Number of Caravans on Authorised and Unauthorised Sites in Essex County

Date	Authorised Sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised Sites (without planning permission)		Total of All Caravans
	Socially Rented	Privately Owned	Gypsy Owned Land	None Gypsy Owned Land	
Jan 2007	239	411	312	15	977
Jul 2006	217	349	217	29	867
Jan 2006	232	424	310	7	1041
Jul 2005	260	358	315	53	1029
Jan 2005	249	363	317	28	1007

- 3.14.7 Essex differs from both the national and regional pictures since, as can be seen from Table 3.8, the total number of caravans has reduced since 2005 to 977 from 1007. Again there has been a marked increase in the number of caravans on authorised, privately owned sites. Essex also differs from the national and regional picture in that it has a much higher proportion of caravans on unauthorised sites both at present (34%) and since 2005 (also 34%).
- 3.14.8 Table 3.9 below illustrates the change in the number of caravans since 2005 in Brentwood Borough and the relative numbers on authorised / unauthorised sites and on private or publicly owned land.

Table 3.9 Number of Caravans on Authorised and Unauthorised Sites in Brentwood Borough in 2005

Date	Authorised Sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised Sites (without planning permission)		Total of All Caravans
	Socially Rented	Privately Owned	Gypsy Owned Land	None Gypsy Owned Land	
Jan 2007	0	14	17	3	34
Jul 2006	0	18	17	3	38
Jan 2006	0	18	19	0	37
Jul 2005	0	18	21	0	39
Jan 2005	0	13	18	0	31

- 3.14.9 At the Borough level the statistics on caravan numbers are less reliable due to the relatively small administrative boundaries and the movement of Gypsy and Travellers within boroughs, counties and regions. However, it can be seen that caravan numbers have increased marginally since 2005. Of note is the very high proportion of caravans on unauthorised sites. Brentwood Borough has a far higher proportion (59%) than Essex County (34%), the East of England (23%) and England (21%). In addition, though not shown on the table, all of the unauthorised sites in 2007 were considered 'not tolerated'.
- 3.14.10 The document 'Looking Back, Moving Forward' uses an average of three people per caravan to estimate Gypsy and Traveller numbers. Using this assumption, there were approximately 102 Gypsy and Travellers living in caravans in Brentwood Borough in 2007. However, taking the number of Gypsy and Travellers in housing into consideration (estimated to be ~50% of the total population) the total numbers of Gypsy and Travellers in Brentwood Borough is 204. At the time of the Fordham survey in 2004, there were 118 Gypsies and Travellers living in caravans in the Borough.
- 3.14.11 DCLG Consultation Paper on Proposed New Circular on Planning for Gypsies and Traveller Sites identifies surplus public sector land as a source of possible sites for inclusion in DPD's. The Register of Surplus Public Sector Land – March 2007 includes only 1 site in Brentwood of 6.8 ha.
- 3.14.12 The document 'Looking Back, Moving Forward' interviewed 72 Gypsy and Travellers on a range of issues in Essex. It was found that of those staying on unauthorised sites many were no longer travelling having bought land in the County and in all cases planning permission had been sought and refused. Of those on private sites, the majority had generally given up a nomadic lifestyle and were positive on access to services in the locality.

Education

- 3.14.13 One of the key issues experienced by one of the Gypsy and Traveller's is that of low educational achievement. The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) states that although numbers recorded in these ethnic categories are small, it is clear that Gypsy/Roma pupils and Travellers of Irish Heritage have very low attainment throughout Key Stage assessments and also have much higher identification of special educational needs.
- 3.14.14 In addition, the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) found that nationally in 2003, 23% of Roma Gypsy pupils and 42% of Irish Traveller pupils in England obtained five or more A*-C GCSEs, compared with an overall average of 51%. Also a far higher proportion of Roma Gypsy and Irish Traveller pupils obtained no passes, compared with the England average. Low school attendance by pupils of these ethnic groups is also highlighted by the CRE, for example at Key Stage 3, approximately only 15-20% of all Traveller pupils were registered or regularly attended school.
- 3.14.15 There are very little data available at the regional, county or local level. However, a survey by Fordham's in 2004 of 36 Gypsy and Traveller households in Brentwood Borough found that 44.7% of under 16 year olds in households surveyed had special educational needs, a third of which were 'learning difficulties' and another third being 'very behind with education'. This small, localised sample would seem to corroborate the wider national situation.

Social Deprivation, Employment Levels and Earnings

- 3.14.16 Social deprivation, employment and earnings are an area where there is a particularly acute lack of data. Research by Warrington and Peck (2005) for the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) found little information on skills and employment levels of Gypsy and Traveller groups across the region.
- 3.14.17 The Fordham Survey (2004) indicated that only 30% of respondents and their households were in employment (20% in full time employment). Of the remaining 70% who were not in employment over half (41%) were under schooling age, at school or under 16. Of those who were in employment 45% were classed as in the 'construction' business, 3% were classed as in the 'entertainment' business while the remainder were considered 'other'.

Life Expectancy and Health

- 3.14.18 Unfortunately, there is a significant data gap relating to health statistics and life expectancy. However, the Fordham Survey (2004) found that 27.8% of interviewees or members of their household had a long-term illness or disability whereas the national average for limiting long-term illnesses is around 17%.
- 3.14.19 The CRE has found that nationally, Gypsies and Irish Travellers are more prone to ill-health. Levels of prenatal mortality, stillbirths and infant mortality are significantly higher than the national average. It is estimated that, on average, Gypsy and Irish Traveller women live 12 years less than women in the general population and Gypsy and Irish Traveller men ten years less than men in the general population.
- 3.14.20 Warrington and Peck (2005) also observed that the health status of Gypsy and Travellers is dramatically lower than members of other Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. In addition, Gypsy and Travellers are also more likely than other groups to experience barriers to accessing a range of preventative health care.

3.15 Summary

- 3.15.1 Table 3.10 below provides a summary of the baseline information discussed in the previous sections of this chapter. The information sources used to produce the summary are included at the end of the table. For specific references see the appropriate section of the commentary provided above.

Table 3.10: Summary of the Brentwood baseline

Topic	Key features, problems, trends and performance against targets
Biodiversity and Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No EU Designated sites for nature conservation in the borough Three SSSIs: One of favourable status and the other two of varying status from favourable to unfavourable no change. Trends are unknown. 25 species identified in the Essex BAP as experiencing loss or decline but the current status and trends are unknown 10 habitats identified in the Essex BAP as experiencing loss or decline but the current status and trends are unknown 1,294 Tree Preservation Orders 21 areas of open space and results of the open space, recreation and leisure survey indicated an overall satisfaction with open spaces, although litter and dog-fouling were identified as problems
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three principal landscape character types: River valley, wooded farmland and fenland Nine landscape character areas within these types Key issues facing these landscape character areas are: traffic, visual intrusion from development, loss of hedgerows and trees, noise, expansion of settlements and road improvements. Sensitivities features: open views, historic character, important habitats, woodlands and commons, tree lined roads and hedgerows.
Cultural Heritage & Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 514 listed buildings (3.6% of Essex total). 12 are Grade I, 27 are Grade II* and the rest are Grade II. Eleven buildings were on the Historic Buildings at Risk Register in 2006 and 2 buildings newly at risk in 2006. This represents a slight increase compared to previous years but is below the Essex average. One building removed from the register, which is below the Essex average. 13 conservation areas but the condition unknown 12 Scheduled Ancient Monuments but the condition unknown 24 primary schools, 6 secondary schools, 17 play areas, hospitals and doctor/dentist surgeries unknown.
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven AQMA's designated for NO₂ levels exceeding the National Air Quality Strategy Objectives. The AQMAs tend to be located around major road junctions. Average annual NO₂ levels below thresholds set by the National Air Quality Strategy. Worsening trends to 2003 and subsequent improvement to 2006. Annual 1-hour maximum NO₂ levels below thresholds set by the National Air Quality Strategy. Worsening levels to 2001 and subsequent improvement. Diffusion tube monitoring shows high NO₂ levels that exceed thresholds. Other pollutants are not monitored in Brentwood. Data for other areas that can be used as a proxy for Brentwood suggest that lead, SO₂, benzene and 1,3 butadiene are within accepted levels. Trends unknown.

Topic	Key features, problems, trends and performance against targets
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical water quality of rivers in Brentwood is similar to Essex and the East of England region, having deteriorated since 2002. Dissolved oxygen content of eight stretches of river studied in detail were found to be elevated High levels of phosphates and nitrates are evident in the Borough's rivers which area also is similar to the trend for Essex Biological water quality of rivers has deteriorated since 2002 and is worse than for Essex and East of England as a whole 1.5 km of 2.7 failed to meet targets for river ecosystem quality in 2005. This is an improvement compared to 2004 data but is worse than data for 2000-2003
Soil & Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no geological SSSIs in the Borough The Borough contains mainly Grade 3 agricultural land although there are small areas of Grade 2 land. Extent of contamination unknown There are no groundwater protection zones in the Borough
Climate Factors & Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate at present is characterised by mild winters, long summers and a long growing season Precipitation and temperatures are predicted to increase as a result of global warming Household energy and gas consumption in Brentwood is high and is greater than the Essex average. Industrial and commercial energy and gas consumption is lower than the Essex average. Trend unknown. No new renewable installations have been recorded with new development in 2005-2006 The SAP rating of dwellings is 66, which falls within the middle of the 0-120 scale (0 being poor performance) 84% of residents own a car which is slightly higher than the Essex average. Trend unknown. Some areas of the Borough are in Flood Zones 2 and 3, these are generally in rural areas
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29,230 tonnes of household waste was generated in 2005-2006. Of this total, 9% was composted and 17% was recycled. Trend unknown. There are no landfill sites in the Borough Commercial & Industrial and hazardous waste arisings are unknown at present
Economy & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a low level of unemployment in the Borough compared to the East of England and to England as a whole. Trend unknown. There are a slightly higher proportion of retirees and people looking after family than for the rest of the region In 2004, two-thirds of the employees work full-time and the majority work in the service sector in particular in the finance, IT and other business activities sub-sector The average weekly earnings in the Borough are higher than for the East of England in 2004. Trend unknown. In 2001, over half of the working population traveled outside of the Borough to work the majority working in London or neighboring Essex boroughs. Trend unknown. The main forms of transport to work were car or van and the train in 2001. Trend unknown.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low provision of affordable housing which falls below government targets. There has been a slight increase in provision since 2003-

Topic	Key features, problems, trends and performance against targets
	<p>2004 but total completions in 2005/06 were less than in 2001/02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High average house prices compared to the region and to England as a whole • 97.9% of dwellings built between 2001 and 2006 were on previously developed land which exceeds government targets of 60% • 90% of dwellings in 2004 were owner occupied or private rented which was above the regional average. • Declining number of LA dwellings and Right To Buy sales • Increased homeless decisions but numbers of acceptances remained stagnant between 2003 and 2006 • Increased number of people on the housing register between 1999 and 2006 • 1.92% of private dwellings classed as unfit but no local authority dwellings classed as unfit • 21% of LA dwellings failed to meet the Decent Homes Standard • 92% new residential development is within 30 minutes of public transport • The Borough ranks relatively low in terms of housing deprivation
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance at GCSE better than rest of region with higher proportion of students achieving GCSE (or equivalent) grades A* - C and fewer people not achieving a pass. Trend unknown. • Trend for girls to achieve higher GCSE (or equivalent) grades than boys • Number of primary students is unknown • Approximately 2,325 residents were enrolled on higher education courses. Trend unknown. • Lack of higher education facilities in the Borough • The Borough ranks low in terms of education and skills deprivation
Community: Population, health, crime & social equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of Brentwood is approximately 70,900 people and the population density is about 448 people per km2 • There are slightly elevated numbers of elderly people and fewer children between 0 and 19 than for the rest of the region. • Majority of the population was born in England and were from the 'white' ethnic group. • Female life expectancy was 81 and male life expectancy was 79 – marginally higher than for the rest of the region. • 15% of the resident population have a limiting long-term illness but 73% of residents class their health as being 'good'. • There were a small number of low birth rate babies born in 2001, compared to the rest of the region and the resident population is considered relatively healthy with 1 in 6 being obese and 1 in 6 being smokers. • Low levels of diabetes, people in contact with drug abuse centres and on the mental health register were reported • High rate of road casualties in 2003 which is above the average for the region. • Crime rates are generally below the average for the region although slightly higher incidences of vehicle crime were evident in 2004/05. Trends have been different from the rest of the region with increases in robbery and thefts from vehicles. • Brentwood is in the bottom quarter of authorities in Essex in terms of deprivation although the Borough performs poorly on the geographical barriers to services index, particularly in rural areas. • 69% of tenants satisfied with opportunities for participation.
Gypsy & Travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marginal increase in number of caravans in Brentwood Borough from 2005 to 2007.

Topic	Key features, problems, trends and performance against targets
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximate number of Gypsies and Travellers in 2007 is 204 • Brentwood has a high proportion of unauthorised sites than the county, region or nation • In 2004, 44.7% of 16year olds in households surveyed had special educational needs • 30% of survey respondents were in employment in 2004, of those in employment the main sectors were construction and entertainment • 27.8% of survey respondents had a long-term illness or disability which is above the national average
<p>Key information sources: Brentwood Borough Council Strategic Environmental Assessment Baseline Study 2006- 2007, March 2007 National Statistics online accessible via: http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadAreaSearch.do;jsessionid=ac1f930cce63b69db64d21b4ad1b164b37cc0d3b467.e38Qa3mPbh4Kai0SahiObxeRc3b0n6jAmljGr5XDqQLvpAe?a=7&i=1001&m=0&enc=1&areaSearchText=brentwood&areaSearchType=13&extendedList=false&searchAreas=Search&bhc p=1 Brentwood Borough Council website accessible via: http://www.brentwood.gov.uk Brentwood Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report accessible via: Fordham (2004) Gypsy & Traveller Survey: Brentwood Borough Essex Planning Officers Association & Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit (2005) Looking Back, Moving Forward: Assessing the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Essex</p>	

4 A3 - Key Sustainability Issues & Problems

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The identification of sustainability problems facing the Borough of Brentwood provides an opportunity to define key issues for the LDF and to develop sustainable objectives and options for resolving these. The identification of sustainability problems also provides useful information to inform the SA process and is a requirement of the SEA Directive:

The 'Environmental Report' required under the SEA Directive should include:

"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 [the 'Birds Directive'] and 92/43/EEC [the 'Habitats Directive']"

(Annex 1(d) SEA Directive and Schedule 2 (4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004)

"The identification of sustainability problems is an opportunity to define key issues for the DPD and develop sustainable plan alternatives and options..."

DCLG (2005) SA of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents

- 4.1.2 Table 4.1 lists the key issues facing the Borough of Brentwood that have been identified from the policy review (Chapter 2) and the baseline review (Chapter 3). In addition, responses from the pre-issues and options consultation carried out by the Council have been incorporated.

Table 4.1: Key Issues facing the Borough of Brentwood

	Key Issue:	Information Source:	Topic:
1	Poor condition of some SSSIs	SEA Baseline Study	Biodiversity, and Open Space
2	Pressure on greenbelt land – 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	Biodiversity, and Open Space
3	Loss of hedgerows and threats from traffic and visual intrusion affecting landscape character	Landscape Character Study, SEA Baseline Study	Landscape, Biodiversity and Open Space
4	Condition of the Historic Buildings on the Risk Register	SEA Baseline Study	Cultural heritage
5	Worsening trends in NO ₂ levels	SEA Baseline Study	Air Quality
6	Poor chemical and biological river quality	SEA Baseline Study	Water Quality
7	High levels of nitrates and phosphates in rivers	SEA Baseline Study	Water Quality
8	High household electricity and gas consumption	SEA Baseline Study, Department of Trade & Industry	Climate factors
9	Low rate of installation of renewable energy measures with new development	SEA Baseline Study	Climate factors
10	Low level of recycling	SEA Baseline Study	Waste
11	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
12	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
13	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
14	Need for improvements to High Street shopping area	Consultation response from Doddinghurst Parish Council; Brentwood Transportation Study	Community, Economy & Employment
15	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
16	High average house prices and associated affordability issues	SEA Baseline Study	Housing

	Key Issue:	Information Source:	Topic:
17	Increased number of residents on the housing register	SEA Baseline Study	Housing
18	Lack of higher education facilities in the Borough	SEA Baseline Study	Education
19	High rate of road casualties	SEA Baseline Study, Department for Health: Health Profile for Brentwood 2006	Community
20	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 & Traveller
21	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 & Traveller
22	Mismatch between local skills and local jobs	Mid Essex Economic Futures Study	Economy & Employment; Education
23	Pressure for additional local jobs/employment land	RSS Proposed Changes	Economy & Employment; Education
24	Timely and effective delivery of supporting infrastructure and service provision	Brindles Wood Residents Association and Chelmsford Borough Council	Economy & Employment; Community
25	Need for improved public transport provision	Brentwood Replacement Local Plan and Brindles Wood Residents Association	Economy & Employment; Community
26	Need for protection of valuable landscapes, natural and historic environments	Chelmsford Borough Council; Environment Agency; and Natural England	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna; Landscape; Cultural Heritage; Soil, Water quality
27	Need for high quality design/improved public realm	Doddington Parish Council, Natural England and Environment Agency	Cultural Heritage; Community
28	Reduced consumption of materials, energy, water and production of waste	Environment Agency	Waste; Climatic factors; Soil
29	Protection of Green Infrastructure	Natural England	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna; Community
30	Enhancement of the Rural-Urban Fringe	Natural England	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna; Community
31	Rural diversification/appropriate use of rural buildings	Brentwood Replacement Local Plan; Natural England	Economy & Employment; Community; Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

5 A4 – The SA Framework

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 SA is fundamentally based on an objectives-led approach whereby the potential impacts of a plan are appraised in relation to a series of objectives for sustainable development.

‘The SA framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. It is central to the SA process.’

‘Sustainability objectives are distinct from the objectives of the plan, through they may in some cases overlap with them. They provide a way of checking whether the DPD objectives are the best possible ones for sustainability and can be seen as a methodological yardstick against which the social, environmental and economic effects of a plan can be tested.’

Sections 3.2.13 and 3.2.15, SA of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, DCLG 2005

- 5.1.2 The SA objectives have been developed using the information gathered as part of tasks A1, A2 and A3 (Chapters 2, 3 & 4). In addition, the Sustainability Principles that were developed as part of the Annual Monitoring Report in 2004/05 have been used to inform the objectives.

5.2 SA Objectives

- 5.2.1 Table 5.1 below shows the proposed sustainability objectives for the Borough of Brentwood’s LDF. The SA Objectives build on the Regional Sustainability Framework for the East of England and the SA of the Draft East of England Plan. In addition, the SA Objectives draw on the policies and key issues reviewed and identified in this report that support the SA objectives. The table indicates the relevant policies and key issues that have informed each of the SA objectives.
- 5.2.2 Table 5.2 shows the suggested prompt questions that can be asked of a DPD to evaluate the DPDs performance against the SA objectives. Again, these key questions have been informed by the Regional Sustainability Framework for the East of England, the East of England Toolkit, the SA of the Draft East of England Plan, the policy review and key issues identified and reviewed in this report.
- 5.2.3 It should be noted that these prompt questions will be used in the assessment *when and where considered necessary*. This is in order to ensure that the assessment is relevant, accessible and concise. However, the assessment will clearly set out which of the prompt questions have been used and why.

Table 5.1: SA objectives and supporting policies, key issues and topics

Objective:	Supporting Policies	Supporting Key Issue	Topic
1. Deliver more sustainable use of land	PPG2, PPS25, Making Space For Water 2005, Draft East of England Plan and Proposed Changes, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 1 & 4, Essex & Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan, Brentwood Replacement Local Plan, AMR Sustainability Principle 3,5	2,23,24,25,26, 28	Biodiversityand Open Space, landscape, soil
2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	PPS1, PPS9, The UK's Air Quality Strategy, The Environment Act 1995, PPS23, Biodiversity Strategy for England, Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England, Draft East of England Plan and Proposed Changes, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 1, 2, 12, & 17, Essex & Southend-on-sea Replacement Structure Plan, Brentwood Replacement Local Plan, AMR Sustainability Principles 1,4,9 EC Thematic Strategy for Soil, Draft Soil Strategy for England, PPS1, PPS23, Essex & Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan, Brentwood Replacement Local Plan, AMR Sustainability Principles 1, 4, 9	1,3,5,6,7,25,26, 29	Biodiversity, flora & fauna, air quality, soil, water quality, landscape
3. Protect and enhance the rural environment ensuring the countryside and open spaces are accessible to all.	PPS1, PPS 7, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 1, 14 & 16, Essex & Southend-on-sea Replacement Structure Plan, AMR Sustainability Principles 5, 13	1,2,3,26,29,30,31	Landscape, Biodiversity, flora & fauna, Community, Cultural Heritage
4. Protect and enhance the built and historic environment and landscapes in the Borough	PPS1, PPS 7, PPS15, PPG 16, Draft East of England Plan and Proposed Changes, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 3, Essex & Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan Brentwood Replacement Local Plan AMR Sustainability Principles 2, 5	3,4,12,26	Landscape, Cultural Heritage & Material assets

Objective:	Supporting Policies	Supporting Key Issue	Topic
5. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Energy White Paper 2003, Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England, Draft East of England Plan and Proposed Changes, Renewable Energy Operational Plan for The East of England, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 4, 13 & 16, Essex & Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan, Brentwood Replacement Local Plan, AMR Sustainability Principle 8	8,9,12,13,25,28	Climatic factors and flooding, economy and employment
6. Deliver more sustainable location patterns	The Future of Transport: Government White Paper, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 7, 14, & 16, Essex Local Transport Plan, Brentwood Replacement Local Plan, AMR Sustainability Principles 6, 10, 17, 18	2,12,13,19,22,31	Economy and employment, climatic factors, air quality
7. Reduce waste	Waste Strategy 2000, PPS 10, Regional Waste Management Strategy, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 12 & 13, Essex & Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan, Brentwood Replacement Local Plan, AMR Sustainability Principles 1, 7	10,28	Waste, soil, water quality
8. Use natural resource efficiently	Water Act 2003, PPS1, Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England, Water Resources Strategy for the East of England, Draft East of England Plan and Proposed Changes, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 7, 12, 13 & 17, Essex & Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan, Brentwood Replacement Local Plan, AMR Sustainability Principles 7, 8	8,9,10,28	Climatic factors & flooding, housing, economy & employment, waste
9. Ensure affordable high quality housing is available to all	PPS 3, Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England 2005-2010, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicator: 10, Essex & Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan, Brentwood Replacement Local Plan, Brentwood Borough Housing Strategy 2004 and Beyond, Brentwood Homeless Strategy, AMR Sustainability Principle 11	13,15,16,17	Housing, economy and employment

Objective:	Supporting Policies	Supporting Key Issue	Topic
10. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	UK Sustainable Development Strategy, PPS1, PPG4, Draft East of England Plan and Proposed Changes, Regional Economic Strategy, The Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 8, 11 & 15, Essex & Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan, Brentwood Replacement Local Plan, AMR Sustainability Principles 15, 16	11,13,14,16,23,27,31	Economy & employment,
11. Ensure access to education and skills training in the Borough for all current and future residents	Skills for Life Strategy, Skills for Life in the East of England Strategy, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 11 & 15, Essex Schools Organisation Plan, Brentwood Community Strategy, AMR Sustainability Principles 12, 14, 18	18,22	Education
12. Share access to services and benefits of prosperity fairly	Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future, PPS1, PPS3, Draft East of England Plan and Proposed Changes, Regional Social Strategy, Regional Health Strategy – Healthy Futures, Draft East of England Plan and Proposed Changes, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 5, 6, 8, 9 & 11, Brentwood Replacement Local Plan, AMR Sustainability Principles 12, 14, 18	14,15,16,18,20,21,24,25,31	Community, economy & employment
13. Revitalise town centres and promote a return to sustainable urban living	PPS1, Draft East of England Plan and Proposed Changes, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 4, 7, 13 & 16, Brentwood Replacement, Brentwood Community Safety Strategy, AMR Sustainability Principle 19	2,14,15,26,27	Economy & employment, Community, Education

Objective:	Supporting Policies	Supporting Key Issue	Topic
14. Ensure the needs of Gypsy & Traveller groups are met	ODPM Circular 01/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites', The Government's Sustainable Communities Plan, PPS1, PPS3, PPS12, PPS25, Draft East of England Plan & Proposed Changes, Planning for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the East of England: Issues and Options, East of England Toolkit Headline Indicators: 5, 6, 9,11, 14 & 15, Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan, Replacement Local Plan for Brentwood, AMR Sustainability Principles 12, 16	2,16,20, 21	Gypsy & Travellers, Education

Table 5.2: SA objectives and sub-objectives

Objective:	Key Prompt Questions ¹¹⁹ :
1. Deliver more sustainable use of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resist development on greenbelt land and on green wedges • 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 • Reduce vacant buildings and derelict land • Minimise risk of flooding taking into account climate change • Ensure new development does not cause additional flood risk • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Achieve good air quality particularly in urban areas

¹¹⁹ See section 5.2.3 for further information.

Objective:	Key Prompt Questions ¹¹⁹ :
3. Protect and enhance the rural environment ensuring the countryside and open spaces are accessible to all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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
4. Protect and enhance the built and historic environment and landscapes in the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce consumption of electricity and gas • Increase use of renewable energy schemes • Encourage use of energy saving measures • Increase number of new developments meeting recognized energy efficiency standards • Reduce use of the car and road freight transport
6. Deliver more sustainable location patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Objective:	Key Prompt Questions ¹¹⁹ :
7. Reduce waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce waste produced • Maximise recycling rates • Maximise composting rates • Minimise waste sent to landfill
8. Use natural resource efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
9. Ensure affordable high quality housing is available to all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
10. Achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 who wants one • 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
11. Ensure access to education and skills training in the Borough for all current and future residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Objective:	Key Prompt Questions ¹¹⁹ :
12. Share access to services and benefits of prosperity fairly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the provision of more locally based services and facilities • Increase access to leisure and recreation facilities • Ensure sufficient healthcare, social and community facilities are provided to support new development • 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. Revitalise town centres and promote a return to sustainable urban living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the vitality and viability of existing town centres through encouraging more shops and services 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
14. Ensure the needs of Gypsy & Traveller groups are met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 considerably 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

6 A5 – Commenting on this Report

- 6.1.1 Task A5 involves consultation on the scope of the SA. The consultation period lasts for 5 weeks and during this time the Statutory Consultees and key stakeholders are invited to comment on the report.
- 6.1.2 Please submit your comments on this report to:

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- 6.1.3 Following consultation on the Scoping Report, the comments received will be integrated into the report. The Scoping Report will then be adopted and the next stage of the SA begun. The next stage involves the prediction and evaluation of the effects of Local Development Documents which will initially include the Core Strategy (including Development Control policies) DPD and the Gypsy & Traveler DPD.

6.2 Next Steps

- 6.2.1 Various spatial options for the Brentwood Borough Council DPDs will be generated over the next few months. Stage B in the SA process involves assessing the various options put forward against the SA objectives, in addition, new interim guidance indicates that Stage B will include:
- Testing the plan objectives against the SA Framework;
 - Developing and refining options;
 - Predicting and assessing effects;
 - Identification of mitigation measures; and
 - Developing monitoring proposals.

Glossary

Aim	Where 'we want to go' with a plan.
Alternative	See 'options'.
Area Action Plan (AAP)	A type of Development Plan Document focusing on implementation, providing an important mechanism for ensuring development of an appropriate scale, mix and quality for key areas of opportunity, change or conservation.
Adoption statement	<p>A statement prepared by the Local Planning Authority notifying the public that the Development Plan Document or Supplementary Planning Document has been adopted. This is required by Regulation 36 for Development Plan Documents and Regulation 19 for Supplementary Planning Document in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.</p> <p>A statement on the main issues raised during the consultation on the sustainability appraisal and how these were taken into account in the development of the Development Plan Documents or Supplementary Planning Documents as required by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, is recommended to be included in the Adoption Statement.</p>
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	Assesses the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies in Local Development Documents are being achieved.
Consultation Body	An authority which because of its environmental responsibilities is likely to be concerned by the effects of implementing plans and programmes and must be consulted under the SEA Directive. The Consultation Bodies in England are English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency.
Aspect	Terminology from ISO 14001 the environmental management system (EMS) being developed by the Council) which defines it as the elements of an organisation's activities, products or services that can interact with the environment. Examples of environmental aspects are energy use and emission of car exhaust fumes.
Baseline Study	Collection of data on local social, economic and environmental conditions and pressures.

Consultation Statement	A statement prepared by a Local Planning Authority for a Supplementary Planning Document under regulation 17 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.
Core Strategy	Should set out the key elements of the planning framework for the area. It should comprise: a spatial vision and strategic objectives for the area; a spatial strategy; core policies; and a monitoring and implementation framework with clear objectives for achieving delivery.
Cumulative effects	Cumulative impacts arise, for instance, where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect; or where several individual effects of the SPD (e.g. noise, dust and visual) have a combined effect.
Development Plan Documents (DPD)	A type of Local Development Document. DPDs include the Core Strategy, site specific allocations of land and Area Action Plans (where needed).
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to projects. In this guide 'EIA' is used to refer to the type of assessment required under the European Directive 337/85/EEC.
Indicator	A measure of variables over time, often used to measure achievement of objectives.
Output indicator	An indicator that measures the direct output of the plan or programme. These indicators measure progress in achieving a plan objective, targets and policies.
Significant effects indicator	An indicator that measures the significant effects of the plan.
Contextual indicator	An indicator used in monitoring that measures changes in the context within which a plan is being implemented.
Local Development Document (LDD)	There are two types of Local Development Document: Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.
Local Development Framework (LDF)	Sets out, in the form of a 'portfolio', the Local Development Documents which collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for the area in question. The LDF also includes the Statement of Community Involvement, the Local Development Scheme and the Annual Monitoring Report.

Local Development Scheme (LDS)	Sets out the local authority's programme for preparing the Local Development Documents.
Local Development Regulations	Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.
Mitigation	Used in this guidance to refer to measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant adverse effects on the environment.
Objective	A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends. Why we 'want to go there'.
Operational Plan	Broadly this means a plan which contains actions for implementing a strategic plan or a policy.
Option	The range of rational choices open to plan-makers for delivering the plan objectives. For the purposes of this guidance 'option' is synonymous with 'alternative' in the SEA Directive.
Plan	For the purposes of the SEA Directive this is used to refer to all of the documents to which this guidance applies, including Local Development Documents and any plan that contains policies aims and objectives which are strategic.
PPS11	Planning Policy Statement 11: Regional Spatial Strategies
PPS12	Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks
Pre-submission consultation statement	A statement prepared by a Local Planning Authority for a Development Plan Document pursuant to regulation 28(1)(c) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.
Scoping	The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of a Sustainability Appraisal.
Screening	The process of deciding whether a document requires a SA.
SEA Directive	European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment
SEA Regulations	The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (which transposed the SEA Directive into law).

Secondary or Indirect effects	Effects that are not a direct result of the SPD, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway. Examples of secondary effects are a development that changes a water table and thus affects the ecology of a nearby wetland; and construction of one project that facilitates or attracts other developments.
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	A statement setting out the consultation procedures for a Local Planning Authority. Explains to stakeholders and the community how and when they will be involved in the preparation of the Local Development Framework, and the steps that will be taken to facilitate this involvement.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. In the UK, SEA is increasingly used to refer to an environmental assessment in compliance with the 'SEA Directive'.
Strategic Plan	Broadly this means a plan which sets the policy framework for actions by the Council or other organisation.
Strategies	Operational and have objectives and programmes.
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	A type of Local Development Document. Supplementary Planning Documents are intended to elaborate on DPD policies and proposals but do not have their statutory status.
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	Generic term used to describe a form of assessment which considers the economic, social and environmental effects of an initiative. SA, as applied to Local Development Documents, incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.
Sustainability issues	The full cross-section of sustainability issues, including social, environmental and economic factors.
Synergistic effects	Synergistic effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects. Significant synergistic effects often occur as habitats, resources or human communities get close to capacity. For example, a wildlife habitat can become progressively fragmented with limited effects on a particular species until the last fragmentation makes the areas too small to support the species at all. On the other hand, beneficial synergistic effects may occur when a series of major transport, housing and employment developments in a sub-region, each with their own effects, collectively reach a critical threshold so that both the developments as a whole and the community benefiting from them become more sustainable.

Appendix I

Note: Full references are provided with Table 2.1

6.3 Biodiversity and Open Space

International

- 6.3.1 The Conference of the Parties to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** has adopted a target *"to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth"*¹²⁰.
- 6.3.2 The Gothenburg European Council in June 2001, EU Heads of State committed themselves to halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and making this a headline objective in the **EU Strategy for Sustainable Development**. In March 2005, the European Council reaffirmed its commitment to the 2010 target and emphasised the importance of *"incorporating this requirement into other policies"*.
- 6.3.3 **The Habitats and Species Directive 92/43/EEC** sets out the purpose to (a) protect important natural habitat (listed in Annex I, amended in Directive 97/62/EC) and species (listed in Annex II), using measures to maintain or restore their "favourable conservation status", principally by Special Areas of Conservation, but also (through land-used and development policies) by management of the landscape features of importance to wildlife outside SACs; and (b) to safeguard species leading strict protection (Annex IV). This Directive is interpreted into UK law through the **Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations, 1994**.
- 6.3.4 **The (Wild) Birds Directive 79/409/EEC** provides for the protection of all naturally occurring wild bird species and their habitats, with particular protection of rare species.
- 6.3.5 **The Wildlife & Countryside Act (WCA) (1981)** is the principal instrument for the protection of Sites of Special Scientific Importance and endangered wildlife within the UK. Amended on several occasions, most notably by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000).
- 6.3.6 **The Protection of Badgers Act. (1992)** specifically protects badgers from killing and injury and prohibits intentional/reckless damage or destruction of a badger set (or disturbance of a badger in a set) without an appropriate licence;
- 6.3.7 **The Hedgerow Regulations (1997)** intend to ensure that the most historically/ecologically valuable hedgerows are not removed/developed without due consideration of their value. The regulations also provide a method by which the most valuable hedgerows (Important Hedgerows) can be determined. Hedgerows that are within or mark the boundary of the curtilage of a dwelling are exempt from the regulations.
- 6.3.8 The **UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)** was published in 1994 - in response to Article 6 of the CBD - with the aim of developing a national strategy for the conservation of biological diversity

¹²⁰ This target was subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development

and the sustainable use of biological resources. The UK BAP describes the UK's biological resources and sets out a detailed plan for the protection of these.

National

6.3.9 The **Biodiversity Strategy for England**¹²¹ sets out the Government's vision for biodiversity in terms of ensuring that biodiversity considerations become embedded in all the main sectors of economic activity, public and private.

6.3.10 **Planning Policy Statement (PPS)1: Delivering Sustainable Communities** advises that planning policies should seek:

- To protect and enhance the quality, character and amenity value of the countryside;
- To provide a high level of protection to valued landscapes, wildlife habitats and natural resources;
- To give national and international designations the highest level of protection;
- To maintain and improve the local environment through positive policies on issues such as design, conservation and the provision of public space;
- To consider possible mitigation measures where adverse impacts are unavoidable and provide compensation should adequate mitigation measures not be possible;
- To protect the wider countryside; and
- To minimise the impact of development on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife species and habitats, also taking account of the effects of climate change.

6.3.11 **PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation** recognises the importance of biodiversity conservation and enhancement to the promotion of sustainable development. PPS 9 states that that local authorities should:

- Follow an integrated approach to planning for biodiversity when preparing local development documents;
- Ensure that policies in local development documents reflect, and are consistent with, national, regional and local biodiversity priorities and objectives (including those agreed by local biodiversity partnerships); and
- Identify any areas or sites for the restoration or creation of new priority habitats which contribute to regional targets, and support this restoration or creation through appropriate policies.

Regional

6.3.12 **The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England**¹²² makes explicit the important 'well-being' role of the environment. Strategic aims from the Regional Environment Strategy that can be considered directly relevant to biodiversity include:

¹²¹ Working with the Grain of nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England. DEFRA (2002).

- SA1 - accommodate population and economic growth whilst protecting and enhancing the environment
- SA3 - deliver sustainable design
- SA4 - reduce the vulnerability of the region to climate change
- SA11- enhance the biodiversity element of the region's Environmental Capital

6.3.13 The Draft East of England Plan was first submitted to Government in 2004 and is expected to be finalised and published by Government by summer 2007. The most recent policies are included in the **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (December, 2006)**. Relevant policies include:

- Policy ENV1 – states that local authorities should define a multiple hierarchy of green infrastructure;
- Policy ENV3 - this policy promotes restoration and re-establishment of habitats and species populations and also seeks appropriate management and further expansion of wildlife corridors that are important for the dispersal and migration of wildlife;
- Policy ENV4 - promotes the expansion of agri-environment schemes to increase the landscape, historic and wildlife value of farmland in accordance with regional priorities; and
- Policy ENV5 – promotes the conservation of existing woodland that is of nature conservation value and also promotes the targeted planting of new woodland.

6.3.14 The Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan was adopted in April 2001. Relevant policies in the Adopted Plan, (2001) are:

- Policy NR6 - protect designated habitats and legally protected species;
- Policy NR7 - local authorities will work in partnership with statutory and voluntary conservation groups and landowners;
- Policy NR9 - enhance the landscape by increasing coverage of woodland and hedgerows using locally native species. Where appropriate, existing woods, trees and hedgerows will be protected for their wildlife and historic importance; and
- Policy NR11 - Promotes enhancement and effective management of land in the urban fringe through, for example, such measures as landscape improvement and habitat creation.

6.3.15 The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan contains action plans for the 25 species and 10 habitats identified that are confined to Essex or that are declining regionally and/or nationally.

Local

6.3.16 The Brentwood Replacement Local Plan was formally adopted in August 2005. The policies within the Local Plan of relevance to biodiversity, fauna and flora, are:

¹²² Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England. East of England Regional Assembly and East of England Environment Forum (2003).

- Policy CP1 - ensure that development does not impact upon biodiversity, in-line with higher level policy;
- Policy C2 - ensure that Sites of Scientific Interest are not impacted upon;
- Policy C3 - Promotes the value of sites of local importance;
- Policy C4 - ensure that sites of local nature conservation importance are not impacted upon;
- Policy C6 - promotes the protection and appropriate management of woodlands so that their ecological value is maintained;
- Policy C7 - promotes the retention and provision of landscaping and natural features trees, hedgerows and watercourses; and
- Policy C9 - protect Preserved Trees, Ancient Woodland and Trees in Conservation Areas.

6.3.17 The Brentwood Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) states in the **Brentwood Community Strategy** its commitment to working in partnership with the local community and businesses to improve local environmental standards. The LSP specifically promotes appropriate maintenance of green spaces, the conservation and sustainable development use of natural resources, raising awareness of environmental issues in the Borough across all age groups and working with local businesses to achieve environmental improvements for the Borough.

6.4 Landscape

International

6.4.1 The **European Landscape Convention** (ELC) was ratified by the UK in February 2006. Convention is an instrument of the Council of Europe but has no formal legal status. It aims to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes throughout Europe. It covers all landscapes, both outstanding and ordinary, that determine the quality of people's living environment. The text provides for a flexible approach from strict conservation through protection, management and improvement to actual creation.

National

6.4.2 The **Rural White Paper (2000): Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England** deals with the importance of understanding, evaluating and protecting countryside character and diversity. In particular it stresses the need to find ways of “*ensuring that the valued features and attributes of the whole countryside are conserved and enhanced*”.

6.4.3 **PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)** states that policies should be based on http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/825/PlanningPolicyStatement7SustainableDevelopmentinRuralAreas_id1143825.pdf a proper assessment of the character of the surrounding built and natural environment, and should take account of the defining characteristics of each local area and consider the protection of the wider countryside and the impact of development on landscape quality.

6.4.4 **PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)** include the objectives to:

- To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas
- To promote sustainable patterns of development
- To promote the development of the English regions by improving their economic performance so that all are able to reach their full potential
- To promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors

6.4.5 **PPG15: Planning and the Historical Environment (1994)** states that in the countryside, the details of patterns of fields and farms, of hedgerows and walls, and of hamlets and villages are among the most highly valued aspects of our environment.

Regional

6.4.6 Relevant policies in the **Draft East of England Plan (2004)** and **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (2006)** include:

- **Policy ENV1** - landscape is an important consideration in targeted provision of green infrastructure;
- **Policy ENV2**¹²³ - the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape character throughout the East of England should be protected and enhanced by use of area-wide strategies based on character assessments in order to set long-term goals for landscape change; and
- **Policy SS8** - the enhancement, effective management and appropriate use of land in the urban fringe.

6.4.7 **Policy NR4** of the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan (2001) states that until a Landscape Character Assessment has been completed, Special Landscape Areas will be taken to identify areas where conservation or restoration of existing character should be given high priority.

Local

6.4.8 Relevant policies within the **Brentwood Replacement Local Plan (2005)** are:

- **Policy C10** – Promotes the application and use of Landscape Character Assessment at the local scale.
- **Policy C11** - conserve, enhance and manage Ancient Landscapes and designated parks and gardens of Special Historic Interest.

¹²³ In the East of England Plan (2004)

6.5 Cultural Heritage and Material Assets

International/National

- 6.5.1 Increasingly, cultural heritage is being recognised as an important aspect of sustainable development, as is reflected in the EU **SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)** and the **EIA Directive as amended (97/11/EC)**.
- 6.5.2 In **The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (Department for Culture, Media and Sport 2001)**, which is the document that outlines Government policy regarding the historic environment, the Government states the importance of the historic environment and puts forward a vision for a future in which:
- Public interest in the historic environment is matched by leadership, effective partnerships, and the development of a sound knowledge base from which to develop policies;
 - The full potential of the historic environment as a learning resource is realised;
 - The historic environment is accessible to all;
 - The historic environment is protected for the benefit of our own and future generations; and
 - The historic environment's importance as an economic asset is skilfully harnessed
- 6.5.3 The **Government White Paper: Heritage Protection for the 21st Century (2007)** is based around three key principles: *'the need to develop a unified approach to the historic environment; maximising opportunities for inclusion and involvement; and supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system'*.
- 6.5.4 Recommendations included in **'The Power of Place'** by English Heritage in 2000 include: removing barriers to participation, particularly from under-represented groups; enabling more people to get involved in decisions affecting the historic environment; and recognising the role of the voluntary sector.
- 6.5.5 **'Environmental quality in Spatial Planning: Incorporating the natural, built, and historic environment, and rural issues into plans and strategies' (2005)**¹²⁴ aims to promote a holistic approach to planning for the natural and historic environment through incorporating appropriate policies in Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks.
- 6.5.6 **PPG15 (planning and the historic environment)** provides advice with respect to listed buildings and conservation areas. **PPG16 (archeology and planning)** provides guidance on how archaeology is to be dealt with in the planning framework.

Regional

- 6.5.7 Relevant policies in the **Draft East of England Plan (2004)** and **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (2006)** include:

¹²⁴ guidance produced by Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency

- **Policy ENV6** - identify, protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, its archaeology, historic buildings and areas of historic landscapes;
- **Policy ENV7** - Promotes quality in the built environment so that new development compliments the distinctive character and best qualities of the local area and promotes urban renaissance and regeneration. Also, regeneration can be 'conservation-led', taking account of the quality and distinctiveness of traditional buildings and the value they lend to an area; and
- **Policy SS6** – Promotes vibrant and attractive town centres.

6.5.8 Relevant policies in the **Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan (2001)** are:

- **Policy HC1** - protect, safeguard and enhance historic settlements;
- **Policy HC2** - preserve and enhance the character and appearance of Conservation Areas;
- **Policy HC3 and HC4** – Promote protection and sensitive management of listed buildings;
- **Policy HC5** - prevent damage to designated and nationally important archaeological sites; and
- **Policy HC6** - Sets criteria for consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological sites.

Local

6.5.9 Relevant policies within the Brentwood Replacement Local Plan (2005) are:

- **Policy CP1** - Lists a set of criteria that any development will need to satisfy.
- **Policy C18** –preserve or enhance the character or appearance of conservation areas.
- **Policies GB18, C19 C20 and C21**– Offer protection for listed buildings as well as their character and setting.
- **Policy C22** - protect important archaeological sites and monuments, whether scheduled or not. Where their settings are affected by a proposed development, there will be a presumption in favour of their preservation in situ where possible.

6.6 Air Quality

International/National

6.6.1 The **EU's Framework Directive on ambient air quality assessment and management (96/62/EC)**¹²⁵ requires the European Commission to propose several Daughter Directives, the first two of these are currently transcribed into UK legislation by the 2003 Air Quality Limit Values Regulations¹²⁶. These limit values are binding in the UK and have been set with the aim of

¹²⁵ Framework Directive on ambient air quality assessment and management, 96/62/EC, European Commission, 1996

¹²⁶ The Air Quality Limit Values Regulations 2003, Statutory Instrument No 2121, The Stationary Office 2003

avoiding, preventing or reducing harmful effects on human health and on the environment as a whole.

- 6.6.2 Limits Values have been set for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter (expressed as PM₁₀), 1,3 butadiene, benzene, carbon monoxide (CO), and lead. In addition aspirational Target Values have been set for ozone (O₃), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd) and nickel (Ni).
- 6.6.3 The UK National Air Quality Strategy¹²⁷ was published under the requirements of the **Environment Act 1995**, and sets objective values for eight key pollutants, as a tool to help local authorities manage local air quality improvements in accordance with the EU Air Quality Framework Directive. Some of these objective values have subsequently been laid out within The **Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000**¹²⁸ and later amendments¹²⁹.
- 6.6.4 Local authorities have statutory duties for **Local Air Quality Management (LAQM)** under the Environment Act 1995. They are required to carry out regular reviews and assessments against 8 of the national objectives¹³⁰. A local authority must designate an **Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)** if any of the air quality objectives set out in regulation is not likely to be met in its area in the relevant period. This largely enables and provides local authorities the flexibility to take forward local policies to suit local needs. An **Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)** must be produced for each AQMA setting out actions and projects to improve air quality in that area.
- 6.6.5 **PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Communities (2005)** states that development plan policies should take account of environmental issues including air quality and pollution.
- 6.6.6 **PPG13: Transport (2001)** promotes more sustainable transport choices both for carrying people and for moving freight.
- 6.6.7 **PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control (2004)** makes LPAs aware that decisions on planning applications can have an immediate impact on the environment, and that LPAs should take account of pollution risks.

Regional

- 6.6.8 **Policy T9** in the **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (December, 2006)** seeks to promote walking, cycling and other non-motorised transport. Also, **Policy T2** seeks to bring about a significant change in travel behaviour and shift towards greater use of sustainable modes of transport.
- 6.6.9 Relevant policies in the **Essex & Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan (2001)** are:
- **Policy BE6** - Makes clear that any new development involving potentially polluting activities will be assessed in relation to their impact upon existing land uses.

¹²⁷ UK National Air Quality Strategy, for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions, 2003

¹²⁸ The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000, Statutory Instrument No. 928, the Stationary Office 2000

¹²⁹ The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: Addendum, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, 2003

¹³⁰ However not that for ozone as it is affected by pollutants from outside the UK

- **Policy BE7** - where the impacts of a proposed development are likely to be significant, the local planning authority will require developers to prepare an Environmental Assessment where appropriate.

6.6.10 **The Essex Local Transport Plan 2006-2001** states one of its five objectives as being to '*manage the impact of road and air transport on air pollution*'.

Local

6.6.11 Relevant policies within the **Brentwood Replacement Local Plan (2005)** are:

- **Policy CP1** - Requires any proposal to take full account of the need to conserve or enhance biodiversity.
- **Policy PC2** - Restricts development proposals involving the use, movement or storage of hazardous substances.
- **Policy PC7** - Affirms that all new transport proposals and improvements to existing transport infrastructure and services will be assessed against their impact on air quality.
- **Policy PC8** - in previously identified air quality management areas, development for residential or other sensitive uses will need to have regard to PPS23 (planning and pollution control) and Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance LAQM. Commercial developments which would be likely to detrimentally impact further on air quality will not be permitted.

6.6.12 The objectives of the **Brentwood Cycle Strategy 1998-2002** are to instigate 'cycle reviews' of the road system and 'cycle audits' of proposed schemes, to make changes to the existing road layout in favour of cyclists, to provide secure parking for cycles and to use their planning powers to promote cycling through influencing the land use mix.

6.7 Water Quality and Water Resources

International/National

6.7.1 The **Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)** introduces an integrated and coordinated approach to water management through a statutory system of analysis and planning at river basin. The Water Framework Directive target is for all inland and coastal waters to reach 'good status' by 2015 (status to be defined in terms of ecological and chemical status). The objectives are to:

- Prevent and reduce pollution;
- Promote sustainable water use;
- Protect the aquatic environment;
- Improve the status of aquatic ecosystems;
- Mitigate the effects of floods and droughts; and
- Takes account of the impacts of climate change on water resources.

- 6.7.2 The **Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)**: sets limits that sewage treatment works must meet, depending on their size and nature of the receiving waters.
- 6.7.3 The control of water abstraction was introduced by the **Water Resources Act 1963**. Amendments to the original Act have been made, most recently via the **Water Act 2003** which discusses the regulation of the water industry and other provisions encouraging more efficient use of water resources.
- 6.7.4 **PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)** states that development plan policies should seek to enable the use of non-renewable resources (such as water) in ways that do not endanger the resource or cause serious damage or pollution.
- 6.7.5 **PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control (2004)** states that the planning system plays a key role in determining the location of development which may give rise to pollution, either directly or indirectly, because planning decisions can have a significant impact on the quality of air, water and land, and therefore affect the environment in the short and long term. The companion document **PPS23 Annex 1: Pollution Control, Air and Water Quality** gives further guidance on the pollution control regimes that interact with the planning system together with good practice in considering these issues in development plans and when determining planning applications.

Regional

- 6.7.6 The **Water Resources Strategy for the East of England (Environment Agency, 2001)** proposes demand management (water efficiency) and resource development (increased supply) to meet the growing demand for water in the region. In terms of efficiency, the Strategy recommends the active promotion of measures including household water metering and leakage control. In terms of supply, the Strategy recommends the enhancement of public water supply by up to 300 MI/d (Megalitres per day) above present levels by the improvement of existing schemes and the development of some new resources (e.g. Abberton Reservoir in Essex). Of this 300 MI/d, 210 MI/d is earmarked for the replacement of water sources considered to have an unacceptable impact on the environment.
- 6.7.7 The Strategy stresses that agriculture, industry and commerce should pay greater attention to water efficiency (and that water savings measures can rapidly pay for themselves).
- 6.7.8 Relevant policies in the **Draft East of England Plan (2004)** and **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (2006)** include:
- **WAT1** – Proposes a year on year framework for monitoring year on year increases in water efficiency.
 - **WAT2** – Promotes appropriate additional infrastructure for both water supply and waste water treatment.
 - **WAT3** – Promotes an integrated approach to water management that takes account of the environmental consequences of river basin management plans, catchment abstraction management strategies, groundwater vulnerability maps, groundwater source protection zone maps, and proposals for water abstraction and storage.
- 6.7.9 The **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (2006)** sought to take account of the Panel's recommendation for a 25% water efficiency requirement in the region.

- 6.7.10 A relevant policy in the **Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan (2001)**, is **Policy NR12** which seeks to conserve water and protect water resources.

Local

- 6.7.11 Relevant policies within the **Brentwood Replacement Local Plan (2005)**, are:
- **CP1** - any development will need to ensure there will not be a detrimental impact on health, the environment or amenity due to the release of pollutants to land, air or water.
 - **C7** - Requires existing watercourses and other natural features to be retained in proposals for new development.
 - **IR7** - new development should encourage water conservation.

6.8 Soil and Contamination

International/National

- 6.8.1 The European Commission adopted a **Thematic Strategy for Soil** in 2006 as required under the **Sixth Environment Action Programme (Decision No. 1600/2002/EC)**. The overall objective is the protection and sustainable use of soil, based on the following guiding principles:
- Preventing further degradation of soil and preserving its functions;
 - When soil is used and its functions are exploited, action has to be taken on use and management patterns;
 - When soil acts as a sink / receptor of the effects of human activities or environmental phenomena, action has to be taken at source; and
 - Restoring degraded soil to a level that enables at least its current or intended use, which entails considering the cost implications of restoration.
- 6.8.2 The achieve good ecological status of water courses as required by the **Water Framework Directive** there will be an increasing emphasis on management of the land (soil).
- 6.8.3 The **Draft Soil Strategy for England** (2001) was the first comprehensive statement on the state of England's soils and how Government and other partners were working together to improve them. **The First Soil Action Plan for England** builds on the Draft Strategy to commit the Government to specific actions relating to better soil protection and management.
- 6.8.4 **Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended in 1995**, placed a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare contaminated land strategies. The regime involves putting in place a management system for the identification, assessment/investigation and remediation of contaminated land.
- 6.8.5 **PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control (2004)** states that decisions on planning applications can have an immediate impact on the environment, and that they should take account of the risks of, and from, pollution.

Regional

- 6.8.6 **Policy ENV4** in the **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (December, 2006)** seeks to encourage the sustainable use of soil resources (including through agri-environment schemes) and, where soil and land have been degraded, maximise the opportunities for restoration to beneficial after-uses.
- 6.8.7 Policy NR8 of the **Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan (2001)** seeks to protect agricultural land classified as Grades 1, 2 and 3A.

Local

- 6.8.8 Relevant policies in the **Brentwood Replacement Local Plan (2005)** are,
- **Policy IR5** - protect the best and most versatile agricultural land from improper development;
 - **Policy PC1** - regulate development proposed on land which is suspected of being contaminated by hazardous substances; and
 - **Policy PC2** - limit suitable locations for development proposals involving the use, movement or storage of hazardous substances.
- 6.8.9 The Brentwood **Statutory Contamination Strategy** fulfils the statutory requirement for local authorities to set out a strategy for identification and classification of contaminated sites within their boundaries.

6.9 Climate Change and Flooding

International/National

- 6.9.1 The **Kyoto Protocol (1997)** sets legally binding measures to achieve the objectives of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. Under the Kyoto Protocol the UK is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below base year levels over the period 2008-12. The UK has committed itself to exceeding Kyoto targets and has set a national goal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010. Following this the **Energy White Paper (2003)** committed to the long-term goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050 in line with recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.
- 6.9.2 In November 2006 the Government announced its intention to introduce a **Climate Change Bill**. The legislation will place the target to cut CO₂ emissions by 60% from 1990 levels by 2050 on the statute books and improve the way CO₂ reductions are monitored and reported.
- 6.9.3 **The UK Climate Change Programme (2006)** details the policies and measures adopted by the UK Government in order to mitigate climate change. A suite of new and established measures are predicted to reduce UK carbon emissions to 15 – 18% below 1990 levels by 2010, therefore exceeding Kyoto targets, but falling short of the Government's own 2010 target.

- 6.9.4 **The UK Climate Change Strategy** promotes anticipatory adaptation (as opposed to reactive adaptation) as important for the protection or maintenance of existing and future capital assets with long life spans.
- 6.9.5 **Making Space for Water: Taking forward a new Government strategy for flood & coastal erosion risk management (DEFRA, DfT, ODPM and HM Treasury, 2005)** advocates integrating planning with groundwater, surface run-off and urban flooding considerations.
- 6.9.6 **PPS25: Development and Flood Risk** aims to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to direct development away from areas at highest risk (taking account of future climate change). Where new development is necessary in high risk areas, policy aims to make it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere and where possible, reducing flood risk overall. Use should be made of Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, flood risk management policies and plans, and river basin catchment management plans.
- 6.9.7 **Planning and Climate Change: Supplement to PPS1 (2006)** emphasises that local authorities must consider climate change as part of the identification of land for development as well as when making decisions on energy supply.
- 6.9.8 **PPG13: Transport (2001)** promotes more sustainable transport choices both for carrying people and for moving freight.. The guidance states that local planning authorities should actively manage the pattern of urban growth, locate facilities to improve accessibility on foot and cycle, accommodate housing principally within urban areas and recognise that provision for movement by walking, cycling and public transport are important but may be less achievable in some rural areas.

Regional/County

- 6.9.9 **The Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (EERA and Sustainable Development Round Table, 2001)** highlights the need to raise awareness and education regarding climate change.
- 6.9.10 **Living with climate change in the East of England (2003)**¹³¹ concentrates on specific actions to aid the region's adaptation to climate change. The key spatial guiding principle is to "*reduce risk by guiding new development to those locations least vulnerable to potential adverse impacts of climate change.*" It also states that development should be avoided in areas that could constrain or reduce the effectiveness of future options for adaptation.
- 6.9.11 Climate change in Essex has been predicted through the use of the **UKCIP02 Climate Change Scenarios**¹³² and published within the '**Climate Change in Essex**' report (HR Wallingford, 2005). The key required actions that have emerged from this study include improved water conservation, reduced carbon emissions, the protection of people and property from the consequences of flooding, and the effects of heat and UV radiation and the promotion of sustainable tourism.

¹³¹ Living with Climate Change in the East of England. Commissioned by EERA and the Sustainable Development Round Table (2003)

¹³² Hulme *et al.*, 2002)

- 6.9.12 **The Catchment Flood Management Plan for North Essex** has now been completed. This study assesses how flood risks might change over the next 50-100 years, and how risk might be managed. In the River Chelmer catchment (where Brentwood is situated) the CFMS states that built up areas should take further action to decrease flood risk whilst rural areas should manage flood risk at the existing level.
- 6.9.13 **The Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England** has adopted a target of **14%** of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2010.
- 6.9.14 **A Renewable Energy Operational Plan For The East Of England (2004)** describes the potential for the exploitation of renewable energy resources in the region¹³³. It also highlights the fact that the dispersed nature of electricity demand around the region, with few large urban conurbations, might enhance the opportunities for decentralised power generation from renewables. Finally, it states that planned new housing development in the region offers opportunities to incorporate renewables into new build.
- 6.9.15 **The Regional Environment Strategy (2003)** advocates that a major priority should be a reduction in the need to travel, and then encouragement to utilise more sustainable modes of transport. The need for energy conservation and increased efficiency of new buildings and their appliances is also discussed as well as the importance of energy from renewable sources.
- 6.9.16 Relevant policies in the **Draft East of England Plan (2004)** and **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (2006)** include:
- **Policy ENG1** –new development should be located and designed to optimise its carbon performance, particularly through the incorporation of onsite or decentralised low carbon energy sources;
 - **Policy ENG2** –development of new facilities for renewable power generation will be supported, with the aim of renewables accounting for 14% of total electricity consumption in the East of England (or 10% excluding offshore wind) by 2010, and 44% (17% excluding offshore wind) by 2020;
 - **Policy T2** –bring about a significant change in travel behaviour and shift towards greater use of sustainable modes of transport; and
 - **Policy WAT4** – States that Risk of coastal and river flooding is a significant factor in parts of the East of the England. The priorities are to defend existing properties from flooding and locate new development in locations with little or no risk of flooding.
- 6.9.17 A relevant policy in the **Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan (2001)** is **Policy NR12** which states that development must not be at risk from any form of flooding, nor increase the risk elsewhere and must not cause adverse effect upon nature conservation, archaeological remains or landscapes and recreational facilities located near rivers and canals.
- 6.9.18 The **North Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP)** identifies a number of objectives for action in Chelmer area, in which Brentwood is located. In settlements objectives are to upgrade flood warning systems, improve flood defences, promote use of SUDS and

¹³³ This is mainly in the form of offshore and onshore wind for power generation, and biomass for power generation, heating and liquid transport fuels.

improve coordination of emergency response times. In rural areas the CFMP aims for there to be continued maintenance and for flood warning systems to be maintained.

Local

- 6.9.19 **Relevant policies within the Brentwood Replacement Local Plan (2005) is Policy IR7** which promotes the use of renewable sources of energy in new development and states that development proposals, including the conversion or re-use of existing buildings, should incorporate the principles of energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable sources of energy.
- 6.9.20 Other relevant policies include:
- **Policy T13:** Bus Services;
 - **Policy T14:** Rail Services;
 - **Policy T16:** Cycling; and
 - **Policy T17:** Pedestrian Economy and Employment.
 - **Policy IR8** - development must be able to be operational during times of flood, result in no net loss of flood plain storage space, and not impede water flow or increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. A full flood risk assessment will be required to accompany planning applications.
 - **Policy IR9** - development that is likely to increase the risk of flooding through surface water run-off it will not be permitted unless appropriate attenuation measures can be implemented. Conditions and planning obligations can be sought to achieve this.

6.10 Waste

International/National

- 6.10.1 Most UK waste management legislation is driven by the requirements of European Directives. The European Union waste legislation comprises two main elements:
- Horizontal legislation - establishing the overall framework for the management of wastes
 - **Waste Framework Directive (1975)**
 - **Directive on Hazardous Waste (1991)**
 - Legislation on treatment of waste - such as landfill or incineration, which may set technical standards for the operation of waste facilities
 - **Directive on Integrated pollution Prevention and Control (1996)**
 - **Landfill Directive (1999)**
 - **Directive on the Incineration of Waste (2000)**
 - Legislation on specific waste streams - such as waste oil or batteries

- 6.10.2 In 2005 the European Commission proposed, under the 6th Environmental Action Plan, a new **EU Thematic Strategy on Waste**. This strategy is closely aligned to the Landfill Directive and has the overall aim of Europe becoming a recycling society that seeks to avoid waste and uses waste as a resource.
- 6.10.3 The Government sets out its vision for sustainable waste management in **Waste Strategy 2007**. The strategy describes key principles necessary to take waste management forward in a sustainable way, namely best practicable environmental option (BPEO), the waste hierarchy and the proximity principle. It set a major target of increasing recycling rates by 40% by 2010 to bring England and Wales in line with other European countries.
- 6.10.4 The Landfill Directive, as implemented in the UK by the **Landfill Regulations (2002)**, sets a series of substantial targets for the reduction of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill. By 2020 European states must reduce levels to 35% of 1995 levels. The Government target is to reduce the amount of C&I waste landfilled in 2005 to 85% of 1998 levels.
- 6.10.5 **PPS10 (2005)** gives direction to planning bodies in terms of driving waste management up the waste hierarchy, addressing waste as a resource and looking to disposal as the last option.

Regional/County

- 6.10.6 **The Regional Waste Management Strategy (2002)** aims to reduce waste going to landfill. Whilst essentially a planning document to guide local waste plans and development documents, the RWMS recognises the large levels of waste from the various streams going to landfill and the need to reduce the levels of all waste going for disposal through the development of new businesses and waste recycling facilities.
- 6.10.7 Relevant policies in the **Draft East of England Plan (2004)** and **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (2006)** include:
- **WM1** – Waste Management Objectives
 - **WM2** – Waste Management Targets
 - **WM3** – Imported Waste
 - **WM4** – Regional Waste Apportionment
 - **WM5** – Planning for Waste Management
 - **WM6** – Waste Management in Development
 - **WM7** – Provision for Hazardous Waste and other Regionally Significant Facilities
 - **WM8** - Actions for Waste Disposal and Collection Authorities, Private Sector Waste Companies, and Other Partners

Local

- 6.10.8 Relevant policies within the **Brentwood Replacement Local Plan (2005)** includes **Policy IR6** which states that the Council will seek the provision of recycling facilities in association with development proposals on sites convenient to the public.

6.11 Economy and Employment

National

- 6.11.1 **The UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)** states that a strong, stable and sustainable economy should provide prosperity and opportunities for all, and should ensure that environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentives.
- 6.11.2 **PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Communities (2005)** states that the maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment is needed to help contribute to sustainable development. There is an expressed need that land suitable for industrial, commercial, retail, leisure and tourism and the public sector is made available in line with economic needs so that the local economy can prosper. Where possible, this land should be in existing centres to promote their vitality and viability. An authority should be able to provide for improved productivity, choice and competition between its industries in order to contribute towards a vibrant market. A local authority will also have to ensure that new developments are accessible to all by sustainable forms of transport
- 6.11.3 **PPG4: Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms (1992)** stresses the need to integrate environmental and economic objectives. Both manmade and natural resources should be used responsibly and it is stressed that careful attention to environmental issues makes good business sense. PPG4 gives Local Authorities scope to propose policies aimed at channelling particular types of business development into particular locations, although the possible environmental ramifications of this will need to be addressed. The need for sustainable access, for all types of industry, which does not lead to increased congestion, is also highlighted in PPG4.
- 6.11.4 **PPS6: Planning for Town Centres (2005)** states that the Government's key objective for town centres is to promote their vitality and viability. This is to be achieved by planning for the growth and development of existing centres; and promoting and enhancing existing centres, by focusing development in such centres and encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment that is accessible to all. Encouragement is given to investment that regenerates deprived areas and creates additional employment opportunities and an improved physical environment. It is also noted that it is not the role of the planning system to restrict competition, preserve current commercial interests or to prevent innovation.
- 6.11.5 **PPG7: Sustainable Development for Rural Areas (2004)** asks local authorities to support a wide range of economic activity in rural areas. The location of employment sites is important in rural areas. Facilities should be adequately served by public transport and provide improved opportunities for access and recycling. The Guidance also makes mention of the importance of leisure and tourism to rural areas, both for the local economy and the protection of local heritage and culture.
- 6.11.6 **PPG13: Transport (2001)** aims to promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling and to reduce the need to travel, especially by car.

Regional/County

6.11.7 Relevant policies in the **Draft East of England Plan (2004)** and **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (2006)** include:

- **Policy E1** – Allocates indicative targets for net growth in jobs for the period 2001-2021;
- **Policy E2** –ensure that that an adequate range of sites/premises is identified and then subsequently allocated, safeguarded and/or protected to meet the full range of sectoral requirements needing to be accommodated to meet the indicative job growth targets of Policy E1 and the needs of the local economy as revealed by up-to-date employment land reviews;
- **Policy E3** –ensure that readily-serviceable regionally strategic employment sites are provided, particularly in a number of specific strategic locations identified in the policy;
- **Policy E4** – Promotes the growth of business clusters.;
- **Policy E5** – Promotes the cities and towns of strategic importance for retail and other town centre purposes of which Brentwood is not one;
- **Policy E7** – Promotes realistic and sustainable investment in the maintenance, improvement, regeneration, extension and diversification of the region's tourist industry; and
- **Policy E8** – Refers to the region's airports.

6.11.8 **The Regional Economic Strategy (RES)** is one of a suite of regional strategies and contains a vision for the region to be '*a leading economy, founded on our world-class knowledge base and the creativity and enterprise of our people, in order to improve the quality of life of all who live and work here*'. Eight goals underpin this vision, four of which are of relevance here:

- A skills base that can support a world-class economy;
- Growing competitiveness, productivity and entrepreneurship;
- Social inclusion and broad participation in the regional economy; and
- An exemplar in the efficient use of resources.

6.11.9 **The Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action** highlights the importance of a region being able to supply sufficiently skilled workers. Table 2.1 lists the issues harming employee development that have been given the highest priority in the Framework.

Table 2.1 – Priority issues in the Framework for Regional Employment

Top Priority	High Priority
Increasing participation in higher education Response to redundancies Skills for employability Workforce development (WFD) and 'In Work' progression	Future labour force Higher level skills Impact of housing on skills shortages Increase of take-up of training by employees in small and medium-sized enterprises Inward investment

	Sector skills
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6.11.10 Relevant policies in the **Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan (2001)** are:

- **Policy CS3** - Seeks a sustainable balance of economic, commercial and housing development and transport investment therefore achieving balanced economic success.
- **Policy BIW2** - Requires local authorities to provide an adequate range of sites to meet the needs of business, industry and warehousing.
- **Policy BIW4** –ensure that land earmarked for employment will be safeguarded from redevelopment or change of use.

Local

6.11.11 The Council's strategic objectives for economic development and the local economy, as set out in the **Economic Development Strategy 2003/2004** are to:

- Provide where possible, for the needs of existing local businesses;
- Facilitate the creation and development of new businesses;
- Assist in the provision of advice and guidance for local businesses;
- Help in meeting the training needs of local businesses;
- Co-operate with other organisations and agencies involved in economic development; and
- Work in partnership with the business community, and business support agencies.

6.11.12 Relevant policies within the **Brentwood Replacement Local Plan (2005)** are:

- **Policy E8** - employment areas need to be of a scale and nature appropriate to the locality and must be accessible by public transport, walking and cycling. Road access should avoid using narrow residential roads and country lanes and should also avoid significant traffic movements within rural areas.
- **Policy E9** - any development for employment (B1, B2 or B8) purposes will need to satisfy all the following criteria:
 - It will be of a scale and nature appropriate to the locality;
 - It is accessed by public transport, walking and cycling;
 - Road access will avoid using narrow residential streets and country lanes and avoid;
 - Significant traffic movements within rural areas; and
 - Appropriate landscaping and screening shall be provided.

6.12 Housing

6.12.1 **Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future¹³⁴** (the ‘Communities Plan’) was launched in 2003 and sets out a long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities in urban and rural areas. The main aspects are:

- Addressing housing shortage, comprised of accelerating the provision of housing, affordable housing and tackling homelessness;
- Addressing low demand and abandonment;
- Ensuring all social housing is brought up to a decent standard by 2010;
- Improving the local environment of all communities (livability); and
- Protecting the countryside and using land more effectively.

6.12.2 **PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Communities (2005)** promotes socially inclusive communities, including suitable mixes and accessibility of housing. It suggests that housing should be built to higher densities, on previously developed land, and with provision for adequate levels of affordable housing. An overriding aim is that everyone has the opportunity for a decent home in locations that reduce the need for travel.

6.12.3 **PPS3: Housing (2006)** reflects the Government’s commitment to improving the affordability and supply of housing in all communities by a step-change in housing delivery through a more responsive approach to land supply at local level. The Government’s key housing policy goal is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent home, which they can afford, in a community where they want to live. The guidance also states that 60% of new housing should be on previously developed land.

6.12.4 In addition, the planning system should deliver:

- High quality housing that is well-designed and built to a high standard;
- A mix of housing, both market and affordable, particularly in terms of tenure and price, to support a wide variety of households in all areas, both urban and rural;
- A sufficient quantity of housing taking into account need and demand and seeking to improve choice;
- Housing developments in suitable locations, which offer a good range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure; and
- A flexible, responsive supply of land – managed in a way that makes efficient.

6.12.5 Local authorities will have an important role joining up planning, housing and wider strategies including economic and community strategies; engaging with local communities, stakeholders and infrastructure providers and in responding to housing markets.

6.12.6 Delivery of the Government’s **Public Service Agreement Target 5** (Housing Supply and Demand) is a key component of the Sustainable Communities Plan as it concerns achieving:

¹³⁴ ODPM (2003a)

“a better balance between housing availability and the demand for housing, including improving affordability, in all English regions while protecting valuable countryside around our towns, cities and in the green belt and the sustainability of towns and cities”.

- 6.12.7 The draft of a new **Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change (2006)** sets out how planning, in providing for the new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities, should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and more resilient to climate change. Also launched in December 2006, the **Code for Sustainable Homes**, a new national standard for sustainable design and construction of new homes.
- 6.12.8 **The Decent Homes Standard (2000)** states that as a minimum all council homes will have to meet the following standards by 2010 to comply with Government requirements:
- Fitness (e.g. free from damp);
 - Reasonable state of repair;
 - Reasonably modern facilities; and
 - Thermal comfort.
- 6.12.9 **The Sustainable Communities Strategy (2003)** states that all social housing will have to conform to the **Decent Homes Standard** by 2010. By 2010, it is also hoped that quality design of public buildings will be integrated into all communities, especially those communities that have been revitalised.
- 6.12.10 **Sustainable Communities: Settled Homes; Changing Lives (2005)** sets out the national action plan for tackling homelessness. The aim is to halve the number of households living in insecure temporary accommodation between 2005-2010.

Regional

- 6.12.11 Relevant policies in the **Draft East of England Plan (2004)** and **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (2006)** include:
- **Policy H1** - Brentwood is expected to provide 3500 houses between 2001 and 2021 of which 920 were already built by March 2006.
 - **Policy H2** –ensure that local authorities keep the supply of housing land under review and ensure that development is co-coordinated with necessary transport and other infrastructure provision.
 - **Policy H3** –within the overall housing requirement in Policy H1, local authorities should set appropriate targets for affordable housing.
 - **Policy H4** –Local authorities should make provision for sites/pitches to meet the identified needs of Gypsies and Travellers living within or resorting to their area.
- 6.12.12 **The Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England, 2005 – 2010** states that over the coming years, it is expected that the region will have to provide for an additional 23,900 homes a year, of which 11,000 will have to be ‘affordable’. Section 106 agreements are identified as a key to delivering this target. This should include bringing empty homes back into use, reusing derelict

land and properties and providing more green space are all encouraged. Avoiding homelessness is a key objective, within the strategy, reflecting the fact that homelessness is a rising problem in the East of England.

6.12.13 Relevant policies in the **Essex and Southend-On-Sea Replacement Structure Plan (2001)** are:

- **Policy H3** - Location of Residential Development – This policy is in accordance with regional and national policy;
- **Policy H4** - Sets out the priorities for new development in line with regional and national policy. It also states that historic features will need to be maintained and early provision of segregated routes for pedestrians and cyclists will be required; and
- **Policy H5** - the type and need for affordable housing will be identified from local housing strategies. The case is also made for developing affordable housing sites in rural areas as an exception to normal planning policies.

Local

6.12.14 Relevant policies within the **Brentwood Replacement Local Plan (2005)** are:

- **Policy H1** - the need to increase net dwelling stock by 1,450 dwellings in the Brentwood Borough between April 1996 and March 2011. Provision is to be concentrated within existing settlement areas and on previously developed land.
- **Policy H9** - on suitable sites for housing development of 20 units and above or on suitable residential sites of 0.66 hectares or more within Brentwood urban area, and on sites of 5 units and above or on suitable sites of 0.16 hectares or more within the defined settlements elsewhere in the Borough, the Council will seek a proportion of 35% of the number of dwelling units to provide for affordable housing;
- **Policy H15** - States that the Council expects any proposal for new residential development to be of appropriate density that makes efficient use of land, with residential densities of no less than 30 dwellings per hectare. Town centre locations will be expected to provide densities greater than 65 dwellings per hectare; and
- **Policy H18** - States that the design and layout of new residential properties should seek to increase their flexibility, convenience, safety and accessibility.

6.12.15 **The Brentwood Borough Housing Strategy 2004 and Beyond** notes that due to its close proximity to London and good transport links, Brentwood is a desirable place to live. Major challenges are therefore to meet housing demand generally within green belt constraints, and to address the affordability issue for lower and middle income households for whom private house prices and rents are prohibitive.

6.12.16 The following objectives are identified in the **Community Plan** and **Housing Strategy**:-

- Ensuring that rural housing needs are met and recognising the contribution in this respect by small-scale developments;
- Recognising the role affordable housing can play in sustaining balanced, more inclusive communities;

- Seeking to ensure that homes comply with minimum standards of fitness and decency;
- Ensuring that sufficient land is identified and available to meet foreseen local housing needs, recognising the need for variety and environmental sensitivity;
- Optimising the use of land and property owned by the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to produce affordable social housing; and
- Seeking to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is available to facilitate housing development.

6.12.17 **The Brentwood Borough Council Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008** addresses issues relating to:

- Homelessness Prevention;
- Temporary Accommodation;
- Long-term Housing Solutions¹³⁵;
- Consultation with Service Users; and
- Monitoring and Evaluation.

6.12.18 The aim of the **Brentwood Urban Capacity Study (2002)** is to assess urban capacity in order to achieve greater efficiency in the use of previously developed land and buildings.

6.13 Education

6.13.1 **Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners, Department for Education and Skills (2004)** promotes better coordination of childcare and education to support children throughout their early lives. In secondary schools, the intent is to increase freedom and independence, as well as to provide greater flexibility in the curriculum.

6.13.2 **The Government White Paper *Higher Standards, Better Schools For All* (2005)** set out proposals for designing education around the needs of the individual and increased parental say in how schools are run. **The Education and Inspections Act (2006)** gives legal force to many of these proposals, including enabling all schools to become Trust schools and local authorities to take on a new strategic role.

6.13.3 **The Government's Skills for Life strategy** for improving adult literacy and numeracy skills, was launched in 2001 with targets to help 1,500,000 adults improve their skills by 2007 with a further 750,000 by 2010. **The Skills for Life in the East of England Strategy (2005)** aims to ensure the range and volume of learning opportunities address the needs of adults in priority groups. In addition, **the Government's Skills Strategy, 21st Century Skills: Realising Our Potential (2003)** sets out the Government's agenda for acting on the demand for, and supply of, skills as a major contributor to improving levels of innovation and productivity.

¹³⁵ A significant number of homeless people have low incomes and access to social housing is likely to be their main option as a permanent home. The Homelessness strategy will dovetail with the aims of the housing strategy with regard to producing additional affordable social housing.

Regional

- 6.13.4 **The Essex School Organisation Plan 2006-2011** states that all children and young people living in Essex are entitled to the highest quality education in order that they can achieve the highest possible standards and fulfill their potential. ‘**Every Learner**’, Essex Curriculum Policy statement, states:

‘In Essex, every learner is entitled to an experience of learning which is rich and varied, enjoyable and challenging and inspires all to strive for excellence so that everyone, for the benefit of us all, is able to shape our destinies and create a better future.’

- 6.13.5 The Plan highlights the substantial level of housing development planned for parts of Essex over the next few years, with the corresponding demands for school places and notes that in other areas of the county there is a declining school population. The Plan outlines how the Local Authority will, in securing the provision of primary, secondary and special education, also promote:

- The raising of standards;
- Improved outcomes for all pupils;
- Greater diversity in the type of schools in the authority’s area;
- Increased collaboration between schools;
- Greater community cohesion; and
- Increased choice in school admissions.

Local

- 6.13.6 **The Brentwood Community Strategy 2004-2009** states the LSP’s Strategic Objective for Lifelong Learning as being ‘*to ensure that the residents of Brentwood achieve their potential through education and training and the development of their talents and skills.*’

6.14 Community: Population, Health, Crime and Social Equity

National

- 6.14.1 The key elements of a sustainable community¹³⁶ should include the features shown in Figure 6.1:

Figure 6.1: Elements of a sustainable community

¹³⁶ The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has defined sustainable communities as: “...places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all” accessible via: www.communities.gov.uk



Source: Inspire East

6.14.2 In January 2005, the Government launched two five-year strategies:

- Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity states how cross-Government working will promote prosperity for all, with objectives for promoting good governance, empowering communities and tackling disadvantage.
- Homes for All outlines how partnership working will help deliver 1.1 million high quality new homes in the wider South East by 2016, as well as create new jobs and deliver infrastructure.

6.14.3 The strategies recognise poverty, inequality and social exclusion can only be addressed through the better integration of all strategies and programmes, partnership working and effective community involvement. Development plans should promote development that creates socially inclusive communities, including suitable mixes of housing. Plan policies should:

- Ensure that the impact of development on the social fabric of communities is considered and taken into account;
- Seek to reduce social inequalities;
- Address accessibility (both in terms of location and physical access) for all members of the community to jobs, health, housing, education, shops, leisure and community facilities;
- Take into account the needs of all the community, including particular requirements relating to age, sex, ethnic background, religion, disability or income⁷; and

- Deliver safe, healthy and attractive places to live; and, support the promotion of health and well being by making provision for physical activity.
- 6.14.4 **The Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration, Interim Report (2006)** considers the role of the third sector (voluntary, non-profit and community organisations) in building stronger and connected communities, in enabling voice and campaigning, in promoting volunteering and mentoring, in social enterprise and in transforming public services.
- 6.14.5 The Treasury's 2002 Cross Cutting Review of the Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Service Delivery recognised the importance of building the capacity of voluntary and community organisations (VCOs).
- 6.14.6 The Government's strategy for neighbourhood renewal **A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal (2001)** flagged the importance of social inclusion by stating that, within 10 to 20 years no one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live. It states ways of addressing the underlying problems through use Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) to unite major service providers from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to drive forward change.
- 6.14.7 **The Urban White Paper Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance (2000)** sets out a vision for urban renaissance to make towns and cities vibrant and successful places. Aspects of this included redeveloping brownfield land, better maintenance of streets and buildings and good quality services.
- 6.14.8 **The Equality Act (2006)** other recent equality legislation introduce specific measures to protect equality groups from discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity for them.
- 6.14.9 The principal piece of legislation relating to health is the **Health Act (1999)**. The Act places a duty of partnership between the health agencies and local authorities to '*secure and advance the health and welfare of the people*'. The aim is to enable partners to join together to design and deliver services around the needs of users rather than worrying about the boundaries of their organisations. The objectives of Health Act are further supported by more recent policy including **Our Health, Our Care, Our Say White Paper (2006)** and **Strong and Prosperous Communities: The Local Government White Paper (2006)**.
- 6.14.10 **Our Health, Our Care, Our Say White Paper (2006)** also sets out ways to achieve better access to general practice, to community health and social care, a shift of specialist care to the community, including a new generation of community hospitals and support for patients with long term needs to manage their own care.
- 6.14.11 **The 'Saving Lives - Our Healthier Nation' White Paper (1999)** is an action plan to tackle poor health, the Government aims to improve the health of everyone and the health of the worst off in particular. The actions required by local authorities include working in partnership with organisations involved in health – such as hospitals, family doctors – to ensure individuals get the information and help they need for better health. Tackling unemployment and poor housing area also encouraged.
- 6.14.12 **'Choosing Health: Making Healthy Choices Easier' White Paper (2004)** sets out the key principles for supporting the public to make healthier and more informed choices in regards to their health. There are nine main areas in which is seeks to support making healthy choices easier, namely: accidents; alcohol; diet and nutrition; inequalities; mental health; physical activity;

sexual health; substance misuse; and tobacco. It also examines the role that employment and the work environment can play in determining health.

6.14.13 **PPG3: Housing (2005)** seeks to promote designs and layouts which are safe and take account of public health, crime prevention and community safety considerations.

6.14.14 The **National Community Safety Plan 2006-2009** highlights 5 key priorities:

- Making Communities Stronger And More Effective;
- Further Reducing Crime And Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Creating Safer Environments;
- Protect The Public And Building Confidence; and
- Improving Peoples Lives So They Are Less Likely To Commit Offences or Re-offend.

6.14.15 **PPG13: Transport (March 2001)** states that people should come before traffic and promotes areas that can be used safely by all in the community for a wide range of purposes, day and night.

Regional policy

6.14.16 **The Regional Social Strategy (2004)**¹³⁷ sets out the vision, objectives and means for achieving a fair and inclusive society in the East of England. It is a 10-year strategy incorporating a 3-year action plan.

6.14.17 **The Regional Health Strategy, Healthy Futures (2005)** provides a regional framework of priorities, policies and actions that can support local activity to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

6.14.18 **A Better Life (2006)** is the cultural strategy for the East of England. It explains the importance of culture, stating that '*culture is what turns a disparate group of people into a community, giving people and places a sense of themselves...it brings us together, helping us to celebrate diversity while respecting differences*'. The four key themes of the strategy are to embed culture in growth and regeneration; become the creative workshop of the UK by offering the best opportunities to creative people and businesses in the country; growing cultural tourism to become recognised as a premier cultural tourism destination in England by 2020; and capturing the benefits of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

6.14.19 The overall vision of the **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (December, 2006)** includes the statement:

"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 and inclusive communities"..

¹³⁷ The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) is currently undertaking a review of the Strategy, due for completion in summer 2007, which will focus on working with Local Strategic Partnerships and stakeholders to develop an action plan to extend the success of the Strategy to a sub-regional and local level.

- 6.14.20 An overall objective of the **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England plan (2006)** is to improve the quality of life for the region's people by:
- Ensuring new development fulfils the principles of sustainable communities, providing a well designed living environment adequately supported by social and green infrastructure;
 - Promoting social cohesion by improving access to work, services and other facilities, especially for those who are disadvantaged;
 - Maintaining cultural diversity while addressing the distinctive needs of each part of the region; and
 - Promoting regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas; and increasing community involvement in the implementation of the strategy at the local level.
- 6.14.21 The current RES identifies equality and diversity as one of its underlying principles¹³⁸. It acknowledges that the East of England benefits from the different communities and cultures within its population. It identifies barriers for some groups in accessing all the opportunities available in the region as having long-term effects on the aspirations and achievements of many communities, and as representing a significant loss to the region's economic and social vitality. It places responsibility on all to promote equality and diversity in all their policies and actions as an integral part of the development and implementation of the strategy.
- 6.14.22 In addition, Goal Four of the current RES 'High quality places to live, work and visit' includes plans to 'develop multi-agency approaches for delivering the health, social care, education and community services needed by growing, diverse or isolated communities, including solutions using new delivery models'.
- 6.14.23 At a regional level, the **East of England Public Health Group** is responsible at a strategic level for public health. It identifies its main areas of interest for the region as rural communities, dispersed deprivation and poverty, ageing and major population growth. Its priority actions to address these are set out in the **Regional Public Health Group's 2005/06 Business Plan**, the **Regional Health Strategy** and the **Government's Public Health White Paper**.
- 6.14.24 "**Healthy Futures: a regional health strategy for the East of England 2005 - 2010**" aims to improve the overall health of people in the East of England, and to reduce inequalities in health within the Region. Policies include:
- SP1: To ensure that the social, economic and environmental foundations of healthy lifestyles are designed creatively into new and existing communities within the East of England;
 - SP2: To provide infrastructure and sustainable support to build social capital, particularly among those communities (geographical communities, communities of interest and potentially vulnerable groups) which are experiencing poor health outcomes;
 - SP3: To make it possible for communities to 'choose health' positively and more easily;

¹³⁸ EEDA (2004) 'A Shared Vision: The Regional Economic Strategy for the East of England' East of England Development Agency.

- SP4: To ensure that children and young people in the East of England can get off to a healthy start in life;
 - SP5: To encourage better health for people in the East of England throughout their working lives;
 - SP6: To support people in the East of England in 'active ageing' and adding life to years;
 - SP7: To recognise and respond to the practical implications of international gateways for health and health inequalities within the East of England;
 - SP8: To harness the East of England's international position to encourage learning, knowledge development and R&D for health; and
 - SP9: To understand and plan for the impacts of climate change and the more sustainable use of resources within the Region in terms of health and health inequalities issues
- 6.14.25 At a regional level the Regional Health Strategy seeks to integrate with other important regional strategies to ensure they work to achieve the vision of improved health and reduced health inequality in the region.
- 6.14.26 Relevant policies in the **Draft East of England Plan (2004)** and **Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan (2006)** include:
- **Policy SS16** - local development documents will deliver new development of high quality in urban and rural areas to ensure that new built development addresses crime prevention, community safety and public health;
 - **Policy T7** - ensure that in rural areas priority is given to providing sustainable access from villages and other rural settlements to market towns and key service centres; and
 - **Policy T8** - promote appropriate management of local roads so as to improve vehicular access as well as increase safety.
- 6.14.27 Two key objectives of **The Essex Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011** are to:
- To enhance accessibility to key services (Education, Employment, Healthcare and Retail);
 - To improve safety on the transport network and to enhance and promote a safer travelling environment. The strategy also highlights young drivers, motorcyclists and children as being key groups at risk of being involved in a motor vehicle accident.

Local

- 6.14.28 The **Brentwood Community Strategy 2004-2009** includes the following relevant objectives:
- To ensure that the people of the Brentwood Borough have a healthy life and environment;
 - To keep the Brentwood Borough safe and make it an even safer place in which to live, work and relax by reducing crime and disorder problems;

- To ensure that the Brentwood Borough is an inclusive community; and
 - To inform, consult and communicate with all sections of the community.
- 6.14.29 Also, with regard transport, the Community Strategy states that transport initiatives should be progressed without detriment to the environment and to future generations. Congestion, pollution, accidents and noise caused by increasing numbers of private and commercial vehicles are a concern. Alternatives to private vehicle use will be important to improving quality of life.
- 6.14.30 A relevant policy within the **Brentwood Replacement Local Plan (2005)** is **Policy C25: Secured by Design**, which states that all new development will be expected to assist in achieving greater community safety through the creation of a more safe and secure environment.
- 6.14.31 The **Brentwood Borough Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005 – 2008** details the work of the following action plan sub-groups:
- Anti- Social Behaviour
 - Prolific and other Priority Offenders
 - Domestic Violence
 - Drug & Alcohol Related Crime
 - Core Crime (burglary and vehicle crime),
 - Community Reassurance
- 6.14.32 **Brentwood Play Areas Strategy** reviews play areas and identifies requirements for future provision across Brentwood.
- 6.14.33 The objectives of the **Brentwood Sports Development Strategy 2007-2011** are to encourage residents to participate in sporting activity, ensure access to sports facilities for all and develop a wide variety of sport in Brentwood

6.15 Gypsy & Travellers

National

- 6.15.1 **The ODPM Circular 01/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites'** asserts that policy must be "fair, reasonable, realistic and effective" in order to deliver suitable sites and that "cases should be considered in context, and in relation to the local infrastructure and population size and density."
- 6.15.2 Key sustainability issues, in addition to the commonly identified issues associated with distances to services and transportation include:
- The promotion of peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community;
 - The wider benefits of easier access to GP and other health services;

- Children attending school on a regular basis;
 - The provision of a settled base that reduces the need for long-distance travelling and possible environmental damage caused by unauthorised encampment; and
 - Not locating sites in areas at high risk of flooding, including functional floodplains, given the particular vulnerability of caravans.
- 6.15.3 Local planning authorities (LPA's) should attempt to locate gypsy and traveller sites close to existing settlements and associated services and infrastructure, such as schools, shops and hospitals. Sites should be identified having regard to highways considerations, including potential for noise and other disturbance from the movement of vehicles to and from the site, the stationing of vehicles on the site, and on-site business activities. However, projected vehicle movements for sites should be assessed on an individual basis for each site.
- 6.15.4 Under new measures in the **Housing Act 2004**, local authorities are required to include Gypsies and Travellers in the Local Housing Needs Assessment process and to have a strategy in place explaining how any identified need will be met through wider housing strategies.
- 6.15.5 **The Race Relations Act 1976 , and Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000** places a duty on public (including local) authorities to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote equal opportunities and good race relations. Local authorities are to assess any potential impacts on ethnic minorities – in 1989 Gypsies were recognised as an ethnic minority and in 2000 Irish Travellers were also recognised.
- 6.15.6 **The Human Rights Act 1998** came into effect in 2000 when provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights were transposed into UK law. Several articles are relevant to Gypsies and Travellers. Themes include the following: every person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of their possessions and shall not be deprived of these (Article 1); and everyone has the right to respect for their private life, family and home (Article 8). The European Court of Human Rights has held that: *"occupation of [a] caravan is an integral part of...ethnic identity as a gypsy, reflecting the long tradition of that minority of following a travelling lifestyle. This is the case even though...many gypsies increasingly settle for long periods in one place"*.
- 6.15.7 The **Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)** introduced spatial provisions for Gypsy and Traveller housing needs.
- 6.15.8 **ODPM - Sustainable Communities: Homes for all 2005** builds on the Government's **Sustainable Communities Plan**. The Plan set out a vision of sustainable communities for the next fifteen to twenty years and a programme for immediate action. One of the aims is to provide for those who choose alternative types of accommodation, such as Gypsies and Travellers, but reduce unauthorised development.
- 6.15.9 The aims of the **ODPM - Sustainable Communities: People, Places, Prosperity 2005** strategy are provision of:
- a community in which to live and work;
 - the chance to develop skills and interests;
 - access to jobs and excellent services; and

- the chance to get engaged in the community and to make a difference.

- 6.15.10 **Planning Policy Statement 1(PPS1): Delivering Sustainable Development** states that Planning should facilitate and promote sustainable patterns of urban and rural development. In addition the document seeks to ensure that development supports existing communities and contributes to the creation of safe, sustainable, livable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community.
- 6.15.11 **PPS3: Housing** asserts that local authorities should aim to create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas, both urban and rural. They should also offer housing developments in suitable locations, which offer a good range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure.
- 6.15.12 In addition, Local Planning Authorities should plan for a mix of housing on the basis of the different types of households that are likely to require housing over the plan period. This will include having particular regard to:
- The diverse range of requirements across the area, including the need to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers; and
 - The need to create and maintain sustainable, mixed and inclusive communities in all areas, both urban and rural.
- 6.15.13 **PPS12: Local Development Frameworks** states that Local Development Frameworks should deliver policies to meet community needs and should, wherever possible, identify locations suitable for Gypsy sites.
- 6.15.14 **PPS25: Floodplains** notes that caravans, mobile homes and park homes intended for permanent residential use are considered highly vulnerable in the Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification. As such, this highly vulnerable use should be sited in areas at lowest probability of flooding (i.e. those areas with a less than 1 in 1000 annual probability of river or sea flooding in any year).

Regional

- 6.15.15 The **Draft East of England Plan** sets out a draft spatial strategy to guide development in the East of England for at least the next 20 years. The document provides a framework for local authorities to produce more detailed development plans and includes, but is not exclusive to, such topics as housing, economic development, the environment, transport, sport and recreation, waste development and mineral extraction.
- 6.15.16 Since the original draft RSS was released the Government Circular 01/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites' has been published. As such the emerging RSS is currently out of line insofar as Circular 01/2006 (in para 23) states that "The RSS revision should identify the number of pitches required (but not their location) for each local planning authority in the light of local authority Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessments (GTAAAs) and a strategic view of needs across the region".

- 6.15.17 As a result, the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) is conducting a single-issue review in light of the Circular. Consultation for the issues and options document began in May 2007 and is due to close in July 2007.
- 6.15.18 In addition, the draft RSS is now subject to the Secretary of States (SoS) changes. **Policy H4** is the only policy directly relevant to Gypsy and Travellers in the draft RSS and has been subject to a minor change by the SoS. The policy requires local authorities to make provision for sites/pitches to meet the identified need of Gypsy and Travellers in their areas. This provision should be given a numerical value at the district level. However, until this Figure has been negotiated, LDDs and decisions on planning applications should be based on the latest available information on need within the region and local area in the context of the urgent need for improved provision across the region.
- 6.15.19 **Planning for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the East of England: Issues and Options** is the first stage in EERA's single issue review of the East of England Plan. The document proposes the provision of 1,220 net additional residential pitches in the region of which 15 would be located in Brentwood Borough.
- 6.15.20 This **Essex and Southend Replacement Structure Plan** was adopted in 2001. However, the policies contained within the document will be repealed and have no material weight once the draft RSS is adopted. Since this DPD is unlikely to be published before the draft RSS is adopted the Replacement Structure Plan has been ignored.

Local

- 6.15.21 The **Replacement Local Plan for Brentwood** was formally adopted in 2005. It contains only one relevant policy, **H13: Permanent Sites for Gypsy Travellers**. This policy states that the council may allow the provision of small Gypsy Traveller sites in appropriate locations within areas excluded from the green belt, assuming the site is well screened and that the site is utilised by Gypsies who reside in or who regularly resort to the borough.

Appendix II

6.15.22 Monitoring relevant indicators helps determine progress towards the SA Objectives and monitors the effects of a plan or programme. A full list of indicators that have been used to inform the baseline for the scoping report is provided below. This list provides a starting point for the identification of indicators that could be monitored in the future as part of the SA. During the next stages of the SA process, these indicators will be further developed, with some removed or others added where appropriate. The objective will be to select a small number of relevant indicators that are easily monitored in order to ensure monitoring is effective. The relevant SA Objectives for each group of indicators have been included in the table. Indicators shown in *italics* are additional indicators which could potentially be monitored in the future.

Table 9.1: Recommended Indicators for monitoring the baseline of Brentwood

Topic	Indicator	SA Objective
Biodiversity and Open Space	Condition of SSSIs in Brentwood Status of Essex BAP species in Brentwood Status of Essex BAP habitats in Brentwood Open space provision Satisfaction with open spaces Number of Tree Preservation Orders Percentage of new developments on previously developed land Area of greenbelt land Area of open space/person	SA Objective 1 and SA Objective 2
Landscape	Status of sensitive features	SA Objective 1, SA Objective 2, SA Objective 3 and SA Objective 4
Cultural Heritage & Material Assets	Number of listed buildings Number of buildings on the Historic Buildings at Risk Register Number of buildings newly at risk on the Historic Buildings at Risk Register Number of buildings removed from the risk register Number of conservation areas Condition of conservation areas Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments Condition of Scheduled Ancient Monuments Number of material assets (including: schools, sport & recreation facilities, doctor and dentist surgeries and play areas)	SA Objective 4

Topic	Indicator	SA Objective
Air Quality	Annual average NO2 emissions at each AQMA Annual 1-hour maximum NO2 emissions at each AQMA Urban background annual average NO2 emissions Urban background annual 1-hour maximum NO2 emissions Annual average NO2 emissions from diffusion tube monitoring Annual average particulate emissions Annual 1-hour maximum particulate emissions Annual average carbon monoxide emissions Annual average lead emissions Annual average sulphur dioxide emissions Traffic congestion	SA Objective 2 (traffic congestion SA Objective 6)
Water Quality	Chemical Quality of Rivers Biological Quality of Rivers Performance against the River Ecosystem Scheme targets	SA Objective 2
Soil	Areas of contamination Area of agricultural land Fertiliser use Domestic and commercial & industrial water consumption	SA Objective 1 and SA Objective 2
Climatic Factors & Flooding	Total electricity consumption: Households Total electricity consumption: Industry Total gas consumption: Households Total gas consumption: Industry Number of renewable installations with new development Car ownership Modes of transport use to travel to work Number of dwellings at risk from flooding Number of developments with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	SA Objective 1, SA Objective 5 and SA Objective 8 (also car ownership & modes of transport to work: SA Objective 6)
Waste	Volume of household waste generated Volume of commercial & industrial waste generated Volume of hazardous waste generated % of waste recycled % of waste composted % of waste landfilled	SA Objective 7
Economy and Employment	Number and types of business enterprises Number and types of industry premises Ratable value of floor space Commercial and industrial vacancy rates Unemployment Employment status Employment sectors Average weekly earnings Location of work Mode of travel to work Index of deprivation: Employment	SA Objective 10 and SA Objective 13

Topic	Indicator	SA Objective
Housing	Type of dwelling Ownership of dwellings Average house price Number of affordable housing completions Number of unfit dwellings Number of dwellings conforming to the Decent Homes Standards Number of homeless people Number of local authority dwellings Index of deprivation: Housing House price to income ratio	SA Objective 9
Education	% of GCSE grades A* - C % of GCSE grades A8 – G % of pupils achieving no passes Performance of girls and boys Number of people enrolled on higher education courses Index of deprivation: Education and skills Number of pupils permanently excluded from school	SA Objective 11
Community	Population of the Borough Population density Proportion of the population in each age group Proportion of the population in each ethnic group Life expectancy of the population Proportion of the population who class their health as good Proportion of the population with a limiting long-term illness Number of low birth weight babies Deaths from cancer, strokes and heart disease Proportion of obese people Proportion of the population who are smokers Level of diabetes Number of people in contact with drug misuse services and GP mental health registers. Road related casualties Number and types of offences per 1000 population Index of multiple deprivation Benefits recipients Number and type of noise incidences Number of local authority buildings accessible to disabled people Access to a GP Tenant satisfaction with opportunities for participation	SA Objective 12

Topic	Indicator	SA Objective
Gypsy & Traveller	Number of authorised sites Number of unauthorised sites Total number of caravans Total number of Gypsy & Travellers Proportion of pupils belonging to Gypsy & Traveller groups achieving A* - C grades Proportion of pupils belonging to Gypsy & Traveller groups regularly attending school Number of people of working age belonging to Gypsy & Traveller groups in employment Life expectancy of people belonging to Gypsy & Traveller groups Health status of people belonging to Gypsy & Traveller groups	SA Objective 14

- 6.15.23 The SA Scoping Report should be updated periodically in order to ensure the most up-to-date information is used to inform the assessment of components of the LDF and other plans and programmes. A potential approach to updating the policy review and baseline Chapters of this report is for a box to be completed for each review and inserted at the end of each section. The information included in the box could comment on the current situation, whether this has changed and how it compares to the wider region and to targets.

Table 9.2 Template for updating information in each section of the policy review and baseline chapters:

(Insert year)
(Insert updated information)

Appendix III

6.15.24 Quality assurance is an important element of the appraisal exercise. It helps to ensure that the requirements of the SEA Directive are met, and show how effectively the appraisal has integrated sustainability considerations into the plan-making process.

Guidance checklist	Section	Carried out by	When
Objectives and context			
The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Sustainability issues, including international and EC objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets.	Chapters 2,3 and 4 of this report	Scott Wilson	May - June 2007
SA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.	Chapter 5	Scott Wilson	
Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	Chapter 2 and 4	Scott Wilson	
Conflicts that exist between SA objectives, between SA and plan objectives, and between SA and other plan objectives are identified and described.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Scoping			
The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the SA Report.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	May - June 2007
The appraisal focuses on significant issues.	Chapters 3, 4 and 5	Scott Wilson	May - June 2007
Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Options/Alternatives			
Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Alternatives include 'do nothing' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
The sustainability effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Baseline information			
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described.	Chapter 3 and 4	Scott Wilson	
Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be	Chapter 3 and 4	Scott Wilson	May - June 2007

affected by the plan where practicable.			
Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.	Chapter 3 and forthcoming	Scott Wilson	May - June 2007
Prediction and evaluation of likely significant effects			
Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects are identified, including those listed in the SEA Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Both positive and negative effects are considered, and where practicable, the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where practicable.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Where relevant, the prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds.	Forthcoming (& Appendix I)	Scott Wilson	May - June 2007
Methods used to evaluate the effects are described.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Mitigation measures			
Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan are indicated.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Issues to be taken into account in development consents are identified.	Forthcoming		
The Sustainability Appraisal Report			
Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Uses maps and other illustrations where appropriate.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Explains the methodology used.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Contains a non-technical summary.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	
Consultation			
The SA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson,	May - June 2007
The consultation bodies, other consultees and the public are consulted in ways which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft plan and SA Report.	Forthcoming	Scott Wilson	May - June 2007
Decision-making and information on the decision			
The SA Report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan.	Forthcoming		
An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account.	Forthcoming		
Reasons are given for choices in the adopted plan, in the light of other reasonable options considered.	Forthcoming		

Monitoring measures			
Measures proposed for monitoring are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SA.	Forthcoming (Appendix II)	Scott Wilson	
Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the plan to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SA.	Forthcoming		
Monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect.)	Forthcoming		
Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects.	Forthcoming		