



SD 012

# Chelmsford Local Plan Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

June 2018

*Our Planning Strategy to 2036*



## Chelmsford Local Plan

### Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist, June 2018

This checklist has been prepared for the Chelmsford Local Plan and the accompanying Policy Maps. Its purpose is for the Council to satisfy itself that the plan is sound for submission to the Secretary of State for Examination in Public by an independent planning inspector.

This checklist concludes that the plan being submitted is sound.

This checklist follows the structure template prepared by AMEC and URS on behalf of the Planning Advisory Service. The checklist requirements are presented in *italic* and checklist evidence in plain.

#### **In summary – the key requirements of plan preparation are:**

- Has the plan been positively prepared i.e. based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed requirements?
- Is the plan justified?
- Is it based on robust and credible evidence?
- Is it the most appropriate strategy when considered against the alternatives?
- Is the document effective?
- Is it deliverable?
- Is it flexible?
- Will it be able to be monitored?
- Is it consistent with national policy?

#### **The Tests of Soundness at Examination**

The starting point for the examination is the assumption that the Council has submitted what it considers to be a sound plan. Those seeking changes should demonstrate why the plan is unsound by reference to one or more of the soundness criteria.

The tests of soundness are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (para 182): “The Local Plan will be examined by an independent inspector whose role is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements, and whether it is sound.

A local planning authority should submit a plan for examination which it considers is ‘sound’ “, namely that it is:

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## **1. Positively Prepared: based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements**

This means that the Development Plan Document (DPD) should be based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development. The NPPF, together with the Marine Policy Statement (MPS) set out principles through which the Government expects sustainable development can be achieved.

## **2. Justified: the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence**

This means that the DPD should be based on a robust and credible evidence base involving:

- Research/fact finding: the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts.
- Evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area; and

The DPD should also provide the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives. These alternatives should be realistic and subject to sustainability appraisal. The DPD should show how the policies and proposals help to ensure that the social, environmental, economic and resource use objectives of sustainability will be achieved.

## **3. Effective: deliverable over its period based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities**

This means the DPD should be deliverable, requiring evidence of:

- Sound infrastructure delivery planning;
- Having no regulatory or national planning barriers to delivery;
- Delivery partners who are signed up to it; and
- Coherence with the strategies of neighbouring authorities, including neighbouring marine planning authorities.
- The DPD should be flexible and able to be monitored.

The DPD should indicate who is to be responsible for making sure that the policies and proposals happen and when they will happen. The plan should be flexible to deal with changing circumstances, which may involve minor changes to respond to the outcome of the monitoring process or more significant changes to respond to problems such as lack of funding for major infrastructure proposals. Although it is important that policies are flexible, the DPD should make clear that major changes may require a formal review including public consultation. Any measures which the Council has included to make sure that targets are met should be clearly linked to an Annual Monitoring Report.

## **4. Consistent with national policy: enabling the delivery of sustainable development**

The demonstration of this is a 'lead' policy on sustainable development which specifies how decisions are to be made against the sustainability criterion (see the Planning Portal for a model policy [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)). If you are not using this model policy, the Council will need to provide clear and convincing reasons to justify its approach.

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The following table sets out the requirements associated with these four tests of soundness. Suggestions for evidence which could be used to support these requirements are set out, although these have to be viewed in the context of the plan being prepared. Please don't assume that you have got to provide all of these, they are just suggestions of what could be relevant.

In addition, the Legal Compliance checklist (a separate document, see [www.pas.gov.uk](http://www.pas.gov.uk)) should be completed to ensure that this aspect is covered.

The Duty to Co-operate will also be assessed as part of the examination process.

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><b>Positively Prepared:</b> the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.</p>		
<p><i>Vision and Objectives</i></p> <p>Has the LPA clearly identified what the issues are that the DPD is seeking to address? Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the DPD is seeking to achieve?</p> <p>Does the DPD contain clear vision(s) and objectives which are specific to the place? Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues, the vision(s) and the objectives?</p> <p>Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD?</p> <p>Have reasonable alternatives to the quantum of development and overall spatial strategy been considered?</p> <p>Are the policies internally consistent?</p> <p>Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives?</p> <p>Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sections of the DPD and other documents which set out (where applicable) the vision, strategic objectives, key outcomes expected, spatial portrait and issues to be addressed.</li> <li>• Relevant sections of the DPD which explain how policies derive from the objectives and are designed to meet them.</li> <li>• The strategic objectives of the DPD, and the commentary in the DPD of how they derive from the spatial portrait and vision, and how the objectives are consistent with one another.</li> <li>• Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments through evidenced infrastructure delivery planning.</li> <li>• Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery.</li> <li>• Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 3 (page 31) includes 9 Strategic Priorities. Section 4 Our Vision and Spatial Principles (page 37) sets out the Vision within paragraph 4.2. Section 2 (page 20) also includes the key strategic objectives for the HMA that the authorities are addressing collaboratively.</li> <li>• The Local Plan considers the unique characteristics of the District and the challenges that it faces. The Pre-Submission Local Plan Section 2 (page 20) sets out information about Chelmsford today, the issues and opportunities that these present over the Plan Period including population, regional and local context, together with the current and future role of Chelmsford.</li> <li>• Section 5 (page 42) and Section 6 (page 53) set out the strategic policies that underpin and guide the Council's spatial strategy.</li> <li>• Delivery, Timescale and Monitoring are demonstrated in Policies S12 (page 77), S15 (page 83), Section 10 (page 246 -as amended in the Schedule of Additional Changes (SD 002)). This is also evidenced in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) (January 2018 and update June 2018) (EB 018a and EB018b). The IDP has been produced in consultation with relevant stakeholders and agencies. It provides information with regards to key projects, delivery mechanisms, costs and timescales. This is a live document which will continue to be updated as new information emerges.</li> <li>• Relevant agencies have contributed to the formulation of the Vision and Spatial Principles as demonstrated through the Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (SD 009).</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the Local Plan can also be evidenced through the Duty to Co-operate Compliance Statement (SD 010).</li> <li>• The Local Plan is a comprehensive DPD containing a full suite of local planning policies, proposals and Policies Map. No further DPDs are proposed. The most recent Local Development Scheme April 2018 (SD 014) defines the scope and outlines the content of the LP. It also sets out the relationship between the Local Plan and SPDs.</li> <li>• The Issues and Options (EB 003), Preferred Options (EB 006) and Pre-Submission Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) (SD 004) appraises the Local Plan Vision, Spatial Principles, Development Requirements, Spatial Strategy and policies against the SA Objectives. The SA Addendum reappraise where necessary (SD 005). The SA documents demonstrate that reasonable alternatives have been considered.</li> <li>• In addition, Topic Paper 1 – Spatial Strategy and Strategic Sites – June 2018 Update (TP 001) provides commentary of development needs, reasonable alternatives to housing and traveller requirements and the spatial strategy in producing the Local Plan.</li> <li>• Policies within the Local Plan are considered to be internally consistent and link with other wider plans and strategies as set out in paragraph 1.27 to 1.34. These include for example the adopted Waste Local Plan, adopted Minerals Local Plan and emerging South East (Inshore) Marine Plan. The South East (Inshore) Marine Plan Iteration 2 was consulted upon in January – March 2018.</li> <li>• Each policy is linked to the Strategic Priority that the policy will contribute to achieving in Section 10 of the Plan ‘Monitoring and Implementation’ as amended in the</li> </ul>

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<p><i>The presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF paras 6-17)</i></p> <p>Plans and decisions need to take local circumstances into account, so that they respond to the different opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas.</p> <p>Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:</p> <p>—any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or</p> <p>—specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An evidence base which establishes the development needs of the plan area (see Justified below) and includes a flexible approach to delivery (see ‘Section 3 Effective’, below).</li> <li>• An audit trail showing how and why the quantum of development, preferred overall strategy and plan area distribution of development were arrived at.</li> <li>• Evidence of responding to opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas (for example, the marine area)</li> </ul>	<p>Schedule of Additional Changes (SD 002).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The evidence base to support the Local Plan includes Objectively Assessed Housing Needs Study November 2016 (EB 048), Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment Summary 2016-2033 June 2017 (EB 050a) and Joint Methodology January 2018 (EB 050b), Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) Update December 2015 (EB 047), Chelmsford Economic Strategy (EB 075), Chelmsford Retail Capacity Study 2015 (EB 077). These documents have informed the Local Plan and in particular Strategic Policy S8 Housing and Employment Requirements (page 53).</li> <li>• Strategic Policy 2 Securing Sustainable Development (page 42) reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development by setting out a flexible approach to Plan delivery through the incorporation of the model policy for Sustainable Development.</li> <li>• Topic Paper 1 – Spatial Strategy and Strategic Sites June 2018 Update (TP 001) provides an overview of the site selection process and how the distribution of development were arrived at. Alternatives to the quantum of development proposed, overall strategy and distribution of development were proposed in previous iterations of the Local Plan (and SA reports).</li> <li>• The Pre-Submission Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal has reviewed alternative growth options and confirmed the proposed option as most suitable (SD 004).</li> <li>• The Local Plan meets the objectively assessed housing need identified plus an additional buffer providing nearly 20% more housing to provide flexibility in the supply of housing and help boost its supply (paragraph 6.10 to 6.16).</li> </ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S15 (page 83) allows for an early review of the Local Plan to take account of the outcomes of the monitoring and review process or any implications of the finalised national standardised approach to calculating local housing need.</li> <li>• The Parish Audit included in the Urban Area and Defined Settlement Boundary Technical Note Appendix 3 (EB 083a) has informed the Settlement Hierarchy within Strategic Policy S9 The Spatial Strategy (page 59).</li> <li>• The Local Plan evidence base which is available on the Council's website provides a suite of documents justifying the establishment of the need requirements.</li> </ul>
<p>Policies in Local Plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development so that it is clear that development which is sustainable can be approved without delay. All plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A policy or policies which reflect the principles of the presumption in favour of sustainable development (see model policy at <a href="http://www.planningportal.gov.uk">www.planningportal.gov.uk</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Priority 1 Ensuring Sustainable Patterns of Development (page 38) is reflected through Strategic Policy S2 Securing Sustainable Development and covers the presumption in favour of sustainable development which is central to all elements of the Local Plan. This policy is based on the model policy for sustainable development in the NPPF. It also reflects the North Essex Part 1 Local Plan to ensure that there is consistency and the joint HMA strategic objectives can be achieved.</li> <li>• The policies within the Local Plan are positively prepared and aim to encourage sustainable development.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Objectively assessed needs</i></p> <p>The economic, social and environmental needs of the authority area addressed and clearly presented in a fashion which makes effective use of land and specifically promotes mixed use development, and take account of cross-boundary and strategic issues.</p> <p>Note: Meeting these needs should be subject to the caveats specified in Paragraph 14 of the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background evidence papers demonstrating requirements based on population forecasts, employment projections and community needs.</li> <li>• Technical papers demonstrating how the aspirations and objectives of the DPD are related to the evidence, and how these are to be met, including from consultation and associated with the Duty to Co-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Plan is based on a comprehensive evidence base developed around meeting the Objectively Assessed Needs. The evidence base includes the Objectively Assessed Housing Needs Study November 2016 (EB 048), Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) Update December 2015 (EB 047), Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation (GTAA) Assessment Summary 2016-2033 June 2017 (EB 050a) and Joint GTAA Methodology January 2018 (EB 050b),</li> </ul>

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NPPF (see above).	operate.	<p>Chelmsford Economic Strategy (EB 075), Chelmsford Retail Capacity Study 2015 (EB 077) and Employment Land Review January 2015 (EB 073). These documents have informed the Local Plan and in particular Strategic Policy S8 Housing and Employment Requirements (page 53).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Plan meets the housing need identified plus an additional buffer providing nearly 20% more housing to provide flexibility in the supply of housing and help boost its supply (paragraph 6.10 to 6.16).</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S9 The Spatial Strategy (page 59) allocates residential development to appropriate sites following the settlement hierarchy, this includes making the best use of previously developed land in Chelmsford Urban Area, sustainable urban extensions around Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers and development around key service settlements outside the Green Belt.</li> <li>• The Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (SD 009) and the Duty to Co-operate Compliance Statement (SD 010) provide details of the consultation and co-operation that has influenced the development of the strategy for the Local Plan.</li> <li>• Topic Paper 1 - Spatial Strategy and Strategic Sites June 2018 update (TP 001) provides commentary of development needs, reasonable alternatives to housing and traveller requirements and the spatial strategy in producing the Local Plan. It also sets out the SA/SEA and HRA process.</li> <li>• Topic Paper 2 – Infrastructure, June 2018 Appendix 1 (TP 002) sets out in more detail the infrastructure requirements and delivery for infrastructure within the Local Plan. These are also identified in the IDP and the findings of Sustainability Appraisal which have informed</li> </ul>

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		<p>the Pre-Submission Local Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic Paper 3 – Transport, June 2018 (TP 003) sets out the process and evidence the Council has used to assess the transport impacts of development in the Local Plan and proposed mitigation measures. This includes details on the strategic traffic modelling.</li> <li>• Topic Paper 4 – SA/SEA and HRA, June 2018 (TP 004) sets out how the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) and Habitats Regulations Assessment have been prepared and considered when developing Local Plan and influenced its development.</li> <li>• Topic Paper 5 – Natural Environment and Green Belt, June 2018 (TP 005) sets out the approach the Council has taken to the natural environment including the development of relevant policies, allocations and notations. It covers issues such as the role of countryside, landscape, biodiversity and Protected/Designated Sites, Green Infrastructure Strategy, and policies for the management of development affecting the natural environment.</li> <li>• Topic Paper 6 – Historic Environment, June 2018 (TP 006) sets out a definition of heritage assets, national planning policy covering heritage issues, evidence on the historic environment, and how the Local Plan will ensure that the historic environment is protected and enhanced.</li> </ul>
<b>NPPF Principles: Delivering sustainable development</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Building a strong, competitive economy (paras 18-22)</b></li> </ul>		
Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for the area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth (21),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulation of a clear economic vision and strategy for the plan area linked to the Economic Strategy, LEP Strategy and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A key priority for the Council is the growth of the City of Chelmsford. Chelmsford’s Economic Vision is incorporated in the Local Plan Vision and specifically addressed in</li> </ul>

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	<p>marine policy documents where appropriate.</p>	<p>Strategic Priority 3 (page 32) and Strategic Policy S10 Delivery Economic Growth (page 71). Economic focused policies are also included within Section 8 Policy EM1 Employment Areas and Rural Employment Areas (page 195), Policy EM2 Primary and Secondary Frontages in Chelmsford City Centre and South Woodham Ferrers, Neighbourhood Centres and Upper Floors (page 196).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 6.49 demonstrates the Council is working with South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELELP) and the Great Essex Business Board (GEBB) and more locally through the Chelmsford Business Board.</li> <li>• The Local Plan is based on a comprehensive evidence base development around meeting the Objectively Assessed Needs. The evidence base includes Delivering Economic Growth in Chelmsford to 2036 January 2018 and June 2018 (EB 076a and EB 076b), Chelmsford Economic Strategy 2017 (EB 075), Chelmsford Retail Capacity Study 2015 (EB 077), Chelmsford City Centre Office Market Review 2015 (EB 078), Rural Employment Areas Technical Note (EB 079a and EB 079b) and Employment Land Review January 2015 (EB 073). These documents have informed the Local Plan and in particular Strategic Policy S8 Housing and Employment Requirements (page 53).</li> <li>• Topic Paper 1: Spatial Strategy and Strategic Sites June 2018 update (TP 001) provides commentary of development needs, reasonable alternatives to housing and traveller requirements and the spatial strategy in producing the Local Plan.</li> </ul>
<p>Recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing (21)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A criteria-based policy which meets identified needs and is positive and flexible in planning for specialist sectors, regeneration, infrastructure provision, environmental enhancement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The key issues and challenges facing Chelmsford are outline in Section 2 of Pre-Submission Local Plan (page 17).</li> <li>• The Local Plan is based on a comprehensive evidence base development around meeting the Objectively Assessed</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An up-to-date assessment of the deliverability of allocated employment sites, to meet local needs, (taking into account that LPAs should avoid the long-term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of an allocated site being used for that purpose) para (22)</li> </ul>	<p>Needs. The evidence base includes Delivering Economic Growth in Chelmsford to 2036 January 2018 and June 2018 (EB 076a and EB 076b), Chelmsford Economic Strategy 2017 (EB 075), Chelmsford Retail Capacity Study 2015 (EB 077), Chelmsford City Centre Office Market Review 2015 (EB 078), Rural Employment Areas Technical Note (EB 079a and EB 079b) and Employment Land Review January 2015 (EB 073). These documents have informed the Local Plan and in particular Strategic Policy S8 Housing and Employment Requirements (page 53).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Local Plan retains existing employment areas and allocates new areas for employment.</li> <li>Strategic Priority 3 Fostering growth and investment and providing new jobs underpins the Local Plan policies to deliver on economic development (page 32).</li> <li>Strategic Priority 9 Reinforcing Chelmsford’s regional role as ‘Capital of Essex’ ensures that all parts of the city are vibrant and successful. The Council is developing a strategy to promote integrated enhancement of the West End quarter of Chelmsford City Centre. The strategy will create a vision for the West End and make recommendations for enhancements in the future to provide an attractive and distinctive quarter to which the Local Plan can contribute towards (page 36).</li> <li>Strategic Policy S8 Housing and Employment Requirements commits the Council to meeting the housing, employment and retail needs across the District (page 53).</li> <li>Strategic Policy S11 Infrastructure Requirements (page 72) and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) January 2018 and update June 2018 (EB 018a and EB 018b) identify the infrastructure provision needed to support sustainable growth. In addition, Strategic Policy S12 Securing</li> </ul>

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		<p>Infrastructure and Impact Mitigation (page 77) sets out how infrastructure will be secured. The Local Plan Spatial Strategy enables growth to be located in strategic locations helping to secure the infrastructure needed, for example, growth in North Chelmsford will help to deliver the North East Bypass and new station at Beaulieu. In addition, the Council has used an innovative approach to use CIL to help support a Housing and Infrastructure Fund (HIF) bid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EM1 Employment Areas and Rural Employment Areas (page 195) provide flexibility for change of use for non-Class B uses in the employment areas.</li> <li>• Topic Paper 1 – Spatial Strategy and Strategic Sites June 2018 update (TP 001) provides commentary of development needs, reasonable alternatives to housing and traveller requirements and the spatial strategy in producing the Local Plan.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ensuring the vitality of town centres (paras 23-37)</b></li> </ul>		
<p>Policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments, and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period (23)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan and its policies may include such matters as: definition of networks and hierarchies; defining town centres; encouragement of residential development on appropriate sites; allocation of appropriate edge of centre sites where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available; consideration of retail and leisure proposals which cannot be accommodated in or adjacent to town centres.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S9 The Spatial Strategy (page 59) allocates residential development to appropriate sites following the settlement hierarchy, this includes making the best use of previously developed land in Chelmsford Urban Area, sustainable urban extensions around Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers and development around key service settlements outside the Green Belt.</li> <li>• Strategic Growth Site 7 North of South Woodham Ferrers (page 171), in particular includes a retail allocation for 1,900sqm of convenience retail floorspace.</li> </ul> <p>The Local Plan policies which address Town Centre issues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S1 Spatial Principles includes to respect the pattern and hierarchy of existing settlements (page</li> </ul>

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		<p>38).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S14 Role of City, Town and Neighbourhood Centres (page 81) identifies the designated centres of Chelmsford City Centre, South Woodham Ferrers Town Centre, Principal Neighbourhood Centres, Local Neighbourhood Centres and sets out the approach to Retail Impact Assessments in paragraph 6.87. This policy also sets out the retail hierarchy for the Local Plan and where new main town centres uses and development will be directed to. The Policy also seeks to strengthen their viability, vitality, character and structure.</li> <li>• Strategic Growth Sites require small scale retail development through Neighbourhood Centres intended to serve day-to-day needs of local neighbourhoods.</li> <li>• Policy CF1 Delivery Communities Facilities (page 229) and Policy CF2 Protecting Community Facilities (page 230) set out how new communities facilities which can include local shops will be delivered and protected.</li> </ul>
<p>Allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community services and residential development needed in town centres (23)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment of the need to expand (the) town centre(s), considering the needs of town centre uses.</li> <li>• Primary and secondary shopping frontages identified and allocated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Policies Map defines the City Centre, Primary Street Frontage and Secondary Street Frontages. This is supported with Strategic Policy S14 Role of City, Town and Neighbourhood Centres (page 81) and Policy EM2 Primary and Secondary Frontages in Chelmsford City Centre, South Woodham Ferrers, Neighbourhood Centres and Upper Floors (page 196).</li> <li>• The Chelmsford Retail Capacity Study 2015 (EB 077) outlines a growing need for convenience retail floorspace which is addressed through the Local Plan policies and site allocations. There is not a need for additional comparison goods floorspace as shown by the study, however despite there not being a need, policies would not prevent additional floorspace from occurring, if an acceptable</li> </ul>

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		<p>proposal in the City centre were come forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of evidence base documents support the Local Plan such as Chelmsford City Centre Office Market Review 2015 (EB 078) and Employment Land Review 2015 (EB 073).</li> <li>• Urban opportunity sites have also been identified as they have the potential for mixed use development.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Supporting a prosperous rural economy (para 28)</b></li> </ul>		
<p>Support sustainable economic growth in rural areas. Planning strategies should promote a strong rural economy by taking a positive approach to new development. (28)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where relevant include a policy or policies which support the sustainable growth of rural businesses; promote the development and diversification of agricultural businesses; support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments, and support local services and facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Plan is supported by the Rural Employment Areas Technical Note January 2018 and Addendum June 2018 (EB 079a and EB 079b).</li> </ul> <p>The Local Plan policies which address rural economy issues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S10 Delivering Economic Growth (page 71) supports the sustainable growth and expansion of rural businesses</li> <li>• Policy EM1 Employment Areas and Rural Employment Areas (page 195) provides some protection from redevelopment or change of use in rural employment areas where there would be an adverse impact on the operation or function</li> <li>• The majority of the Council’s area falls outside of the Urban Areas, Defined Settlements and in the rural area, Policy CO4 New Buildings and Structures in the Rural Area (page 207) provides some flexibility to allow rural communities and economies to thrive and prosper by supporting sustainable growth, expansion of rural businesses and enterprises, including local shops and community facilities and services which support the rural community and serve their day to day needs</li> </ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy CO5 Infilling in the Green Belt, Green Wedge and Green Corridor and Rural Area (page 211) and Policy HO2 Affordable Housing and Rural Exception Sites (page 190) provides some flexibility for exception sites to help promote the viability of rural communities by meeting the housing needs of local rural communities</li> <li>• Policy CF1 Delivering Community Facilities (page 229) and CF2 Protecting Community Facilities (page 230) aim to retain and support new local services and facilities where appropriate</li> <li>• Policy MP7 Provision of Broadband (page 242) allows for all new development to be served by superfast broadband.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Promoting sustainable transport (paras 29-41)</b></li> </ul>		
<p>Facilitate sustainable development whilst contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. (29)</p> <p>Balance the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes and give people a real choice about how they travel whilst recognising that different policies will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas. (29)</p> <p>Encourage solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion (29) including supporting a pattern of development which, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport. (30)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint working with adjoining authorities, transport providers and Government Agencies on infrastructure provision in order to support sustainable economic growth with particular regard to the facilities referred to in paragraph 31.</li> <li>• Policies encouraging development which facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport and a range of transport choices where appropriate, particularly the criteria in paragraph 35.</li> <li>• A spatial strategy and policy which seeks to reduce the need to travel through balancing housing and employment provision.</li> <li>• Policy for major developments which promotes a mix of uses and access to key</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has worked closely through the Duty to Co-operate with Highways Authority (ECC), Highways England, South Essex Local Enterprise Partnership and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities in regard to transport infrastructure. This is evidenced in the Duty to Co-operate Compliance Statement (SD 010).</li> <li>• The collaborative approach continues with HMA authorities and other stakeholders through key HMA strategic objectives to provide new and improved infrastructure including ensuring sustainable transport opportunities are promoted in all new development. This includes schemes such as the route based strategies and A12 widening (paragraph 2.16).</li> <li>• The approach to delivering new and improved infrastructure is underpinned by Strategic Priority 6 – Delivering New and Improved Local Infrastructure (page 34).</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development. (31)</p> <p>Opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure. (32)</p> <p>Ensure that developments which generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised (34)</p> <p>Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. (35)</p> <p>Policies should aim for a balance of land uses so that people can be encouraged to minimize journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities. (37)</p> <p>For larger scale residential developments in particular, planning policies should promote a mix of uses in order to provide opportunities to undertake day-to-day activities including work on site. Where practical, particularly within large-scale developments, key facilities such as primary schools and local shops should be located within walking distance of most properties. (38)</p> <p>The setting of car parking standards including provision for town centres. (39-40)</p>	<p>facilities by sustainable transport modes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If local (car parking) standards have been prepared, are they justified and necessary? (39)</li> <li>• Identification and protection of sites and routes where infrastructure could be developed to widen transport choice linked to the Local Transport Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Vision for Chelmsford includes to maximise opportunities for sustainable transport by providing increased opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport.</li> <li>• The Spatial Principles which underpin the spatial strategy include to locate development at well-connected sustainable locations.</li> <li>• Site Allocation Policies encourage developments to maximise opportunities for sustainable transport modes (for example Strategic Growth Sites 2 and 3 promote sustainable transport through the Green Wedge and Strategic Growth Site 4 through ChART – Chelmsford Area Bus Based Rapid Transport). The policies also commit developers to provide contributions towards transport infrastructure. Some site allocations will provide new highways infrastructure to support development, whilst others will contribute to sustainable transport measures such as enhanced pedestrian and cycling links, bus priority, expanded Park and Rides and the new train station in North Chelmsford.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S11 Infrastructure Requirements (page 72) sets out the priorities for infrastructure provision or improvements, services and facilities that are identified as necessary to serve the need. The Policy sets out overall approach to transport infrastructure, promotes sustainable transport, reduce congestion, promote sustainable patterns, and reflects ECC’s strategic zonal focuses. The policy also sets out the requirements to safeguard land for the future expansion of Park and Ride facilities, proposed new Railway Station at Beaulieu and safeguarded land for the NE Chelmsford Bypass as shown on the Policies Map.</li> <li>• Larger strategic site allocations are expected to</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Local planning authorities should identify and protect, where there is robust evidence, sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice. (41)		<p>accommodate homes, jobs and community assets. These provide opportunities to undertake a number of day-to-day activities in the same local area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S3 Addressing Climate Change and Flood Risk (page 44) encourages new development to mitigate and adapt to climate change. In addressing the move to a lower carbon future, the policies encourage new development to reduce the need to travel and provide sustainable transport modes.</li> <li>• Policy MP5 Parking Standards (page 240) requires all developments to comply the vehicle parking standards set out in the Essex Parking Standards - Design and Good Practice (2009) (EB 136).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Supporting high quality communications infrastructure (paras 42-46)</b></li> </ul>		
<p>Support the expansion of the electronic communications networks, including telecommunications’ masts and high-speed broadband. (43)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new telecommunications development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions over a wide area or a wide range of telecommunications development or insist on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and existing development. (44)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high-speed broadband, noting the caveats in para 44.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S11 Infrastructure Requirements (page 72) includes a section on Utilities which incorporates telecommunications and superfast broadband as necessary infrastructure to support new development</li> <li>• Policy MP7 Provision of Broadband (page 242) allows for all new development to be served by superfast broadband.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Delivering a wide choice of high quality housing (paras 47-55)</b></li> </ul>		
Identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years’ worth of housing against their housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) five years or more supply of specific</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Trajectory – Appendix C on page 276 of the Pre-Submission Local Plan (as updated in the Schedule of Additional Changes (SD 002) shows sufficient land to meet</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>requirements; this should include an additional buffer of 5% or 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. 20% buffer applies where there has been persistent under delivery of housing (47)</p>	<p>deliverable sites; plus the buffer as appropriate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where this element of housing supply includes windfall sites, inclusion of 'compelling evidence' to justify their inclusion (48)</li> <li>• A SHLAA</li> </ul>	<p>the requirements over the Plan period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S8 Housing and Employment Requirements (page 53) and paragraphs 6.2 to 6.16 outline the approach to housing supply. The Local Plan meets the full objectively assessed housing need identified plus a buffer of nearly 20% more housing to provide flexibility in the supply of housing and help boost its supply (paragraph 6.10 to 6.16).</li> <li>• A windfall allowance is included in the Local Plan as they make an important contribution to the spatial strategy. The Council has assessed the contribution of windfall sites on past housing supply in Chelmsford (paragraph 6.12)</li> </ul> <p>The evidence base to support the above includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectively Assessed Housing Needs Study November 2016 (EB 048).</li> <li>• Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment Summary 2016-2033, June 2017 and Joint Methodology January 2018 (EB 050a and EB 050b)</li> <li>• Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2015) (EB 047)</li> <li>• Strategic Land Availability Assessment Update 2018 (EB 072a-g)</li> <li>• Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) (EB 060, EB061, and EB062)</li> <li>• Topic Paper 1: Spatial Strategy and Strategic Sites June 2018 update (TP 001) provides commentary of development needs, reasonable alternatives to housing and traveller requirements and the spatial strategy in producing the Local Plan.</li> <li>• Five-Year Housing Supply Position Statement April 2018 (EB 065) provides the calculation of the latest housing</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>supply position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Windfall Assessment April 2018 (EB 067) provides evidence of the past delivery of housing windfall sites in order to inform future projections</li> </ul>
Identify a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6-10 and, where possible, years 11-15 (47).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of a supply of developable sites or broad locations for: a) years 6-10; b) years 11-15</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development Trajectory – Appendix C on page 276 of the Pre-Submission Local Plan (as updated in the Schedule of Additional Changes SD 002).</li> </ul>
Illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a trajectory; and set out a housing implementation strategy describing how a five year supply will be maintained. (47)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A housing trajectory</li> <li>Monitoring of completions and permissions (47)</li> <li>Updated and managed SHLAA. (47)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development Trajectory – Appendix C on page 276 of the Pre-Submission Local Plan (as updated in the Schedule of Additional Changes SD 002)</li> <li>Strategic Land Availability Assessment Update 2018 (EB 072a-g) and the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) (EB 60, EB 061 and EB 062) which are both reviewed annually. The AMR contains information on permitted housing applications and their delivery.</li> <li>Housing Trajectory April 2018 (EB 064)</li> <li>Five Year Housing Supply Position Statement April 2018 (EB 065) provides the calculation of the latest housing supply position.</li> <li>Five Year Land Supply Site Schedule April 2018 (EB 063)</li> <li>Housing Windfall Assessment April 2018 (EB 067) provides evidence of the past delivery of housing windfall sites in order to inform future projections</li> <li>An annual Housing Implementation Strategy will set out how a five-year supply of housing land will be maintained. This is reflected in Strategic Policy S15 (page 83) and para 6.88. This will continue to be updated as part of the monitoring process of the Local Plan.</li> </ul>
Set out the authority’s approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances (47).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy on the density of development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Policy S9 The Spatial Strategy (page 59) allocates residential development to appropriate sites following the settlement hierarchy, this includes making the best use of</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>previously developed land in Chelmsford Urban Area, sustainable urban extensions around Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers and development around key service settlements outside the Green Belt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant site allocation policies set out the approach to development densities which allow flexibility in development quantum by specifying ‘around XXX’ new homes.</li> <li>• Appendix D North Chelmsford Area Action Plan (page 286) for the existing site at NE Chelmsford sets out policies on density for this area.</li> <li>• Policies MP1 and MP2 (pages 234-237) set out a design-led approach to managing development density.</li> <li>• The updated Making Places SPD will provide more detail and guidance on the application of the design-led approach to managing density.</li> </ul>
<p>Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic and market trends, and needs of different groups (50) and caters for housing demand and the scale of housing supply to meet this demand. (para 159)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy on planning for a mix of housing (including self-build, and housing for older people</li> <li>• SHMA</li> <li>• Identification of the size, type, tenure and range of housing required in particular locations, reflecting local demand. (50)</li> <li>• Evidence for housing provision based on up to date, objectively assessed needs. (50)</li> <li>• Policy on affordable housing and consideration for the need for on-site provision or if off-site provision or financial contributions are sought, where these can be justified and to what</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Priority 2 Meeting the needs for new homes (page 31) underpins the Local Plan to ensure the provision of sufficient and appropriate housing and Gypsy and Traveller needs.</li> <li>• Policy HO2 Affordable Housing and Rural Exception Sites (page 190) seeks the provision of 35% affordable housing within all new residential development sites.</li> <li>• Site Allocation Policies require developments to provide a mix of size and types of homes, to meet local needs and create a mixed and inclusive community. Affordable, self-build and custom-build, and appropriately accessible and adaptable housing are also required to be provided in accordance with the Council’s policy requirements set out in Policy HO1 (page 187). Policy HO1 also sets out the approach to cross subsidy.</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>extent do they contribute to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities. (50)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy CO8 Rural and Agricultural/Forestry Worker’s Dwellings (page 216) are supported where there is a proven essential need for the purposes of agriculture, forestry, horse breeding and training, livery or other land-based rural businesses.</li> </ul> <p>The evidence base which supports the Local Plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAHN) Study November 2016 identifies the Housing Market Area (HMA) as incorporating the four Council areas and calculates the Objectively Assessed Need for housing across the HMA (EB 048).</li> <li>Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2015) focuses, principally, on the calculation on the level of affordable housing need and the size and tenure of all dwellings required within the overall OAHN Study (EB 047).</li> <li>Strategic Land Availability Assessment Update 2017 shows that there is sufficient land to meet the requirements over the Plan period (EB 072a-g).</li> <li>Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) which is reviewed annually contains information on permitted housing applications and their delivery (EB 060, EB 061 and EB062).</li> <li>Draft Planning Obligations SPD provides updates the detailed implementation of the relevant housing policies (EB 133).</li> </ul>
<p>In rural areas be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate (54).</p> <p>In rural areas housing should be located where</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration of allowing some market housing to facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet local needs.</li> <li>Consideration of the case for resisting inappropriate development of residential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site Allocation Policies require developments to provide a mix of size and types of homes, to meet local needs and create a mixed and inclusive community. Affordable, self-build and custom-build, and appropriately accessible and adaptable housing are also required to be provided in accordance with the Council’s policy requirements set out</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.	<p>gardens. (This is discretionary) (para 53)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples of special circumstances to allow new isolated homes listed at para 55.</li> </ul>	<p>in Policy HO1 (page 187).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy HO2 Affordable Housing and Rural Exception Sites (page 190) seeks the provision of 35% affordable housing within all new residential development sites and Part B which deals with rural affordable exception sites sets out the criteria to consider an element of market housing to cross-subsidise local needs affordable housing.</li> <li>• Policy MP1 High Quality Design (page 234) ensures that new development is compatible with of the area and the host building which will allow control of inappropriate development of residential gardens.</li> <li>• Policy CO4 New Buildings and Structures in the Rural Area Part A (Page 208) sets out the special circumstances to allow new isolated homes in the rural area.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Requiring good design (paras 56-68)</b></li> </ul>		
Develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area (58).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of policy or policies which seek to increase the quality of development through the principles set out at para 58 and approaches in paras 59-61, linked to the vision for the area and specific local issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The shared HMA key strategic objectives agree to 'Ensuring High-Quality Outcomes' are achieved to deliver high-quality sustainable new communities, including through new garden communities and strategic growth areas.</li> <li>• The Local Plan is underpinned by Strategic Priority 8 - Creating Well Designed and Attractive Places, and Promoting Healthy Communities (page 35) and Section 9, Policy MP1 High Quality Design (page 234) and Policy MP2 Design and Place Shaping Principles in Major Development (page 235) which seek high quality design of new developments to ensure places are more attractive, sustainable, safe and accessible. The Plan also encourages the use of masterplans and design codes where appropriate for strategic scale developments.</li> <li>• The need for good quality design is interspersed into a</li> </ul>



# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>number of other policies including Strategic Policy S3 Addressing Climate Change and Flood Risk (page 44), Policy HO2 Affordable Housing and Rural Exception Sites (page 190) and Policy CO4 New Buildings and Structures in the Rural Area (page 207).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policies for the Special Policy Areas require any development to achieve high quality design.</li> <li>• Appendix A Development Standards (page 260) provides guidance for planning applications to ensure that new developments meet the needs of the occupiers and minimise any impact. In addition, developers are expected to follow the advice included within the SPDs for example Making Places SPD and Essex Design Guide (D127 and D128).</li> <li>• Site policies include references to ensuring protection of the setting of listed buildings, respecting local and rural character, local distinctiveness, respond to land designations such as SSSI or conservation areas. Sites policies encourage sympathy with the local landscape and should provide appropriate green buffers to ensure integration with the open countryside.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Promoting healthy communities (paras 69-77)</b></li> </ul>		
<p>Policies should aim to design places which: promote community interaction, including through mixed-use development; are safe and accessible environments; and are accessible developments (69).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of a policy or policies on inclusive communities.</li> <li>• Promotion of opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity; safe and accessible environments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Plan is underpinned by Strategic Priority 8 - Creating Well Designed and Attractive Places, and Promoting Healthy Communities (page 35) and Section 9, Policy MP1 High Quality Design (page 234) and Policy MP2 Design and Place Shaping Principles in Major Development (page 235) which seek high quality design of new developments to ensure places are more attractive, sustainable, safe and accessible.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S4 Promoting Community Inclusion and</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion; and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. (69)</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Planning (page 45) promotes the Council’s encouragement for community inclusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S7 Protecting and Enhancing Community Assets (page 51) recognises the importance of community assets and ensures that new places are sustainable and communities are provided as part of new larger developments.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S11 Infrastructure Requirements (page 72) includes a section for new community facilities to support growth.</li> <li>• Site allocation policies require supporting facilities and for some sites employment opportunities for example, Strategic Growth Site 7 and 4 require new office/business and flexible workspace, Strategic Growth Site 1a provides an opportunity for a mixed-use development incorporating high quality design, other sites require public realm improvements for example Growth Sites 1j, 1l and 1m.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S14 Role of City, Town and Neighbourhood Centres (page 81) identifies the principal neighbourhood centres which provide a wider mix of services and facilities such as retail, commercial and communities uses.</li> <li>• Policy CF1 Delivering Community Facilities (page 229) and Policy CF2 Protecting Community Facilities (page 230) aim to retain and support new local services and facilities where appropriate.</li> <li>• Some site allocations include plots for Travelling Showpeople together with Policy HO3 Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Sites (page 193) to ensure that the right type of residential accommodation is planned for in the right location.</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy MP6 Tall Buildings (page 241) ensures buildings compliment and enhance the public realm and surrounding urban context at ground level.</li> <li>• Appendix D North Chelmsford AAP (page 286) sets out the provision carried forward from the North Chelmsford Area Action Plan which are related to North East Chelmsford including the site allocation and masterplan.</li> </ul>
<p>Policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services (70).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of a policy or policies addressing community facilities and local service.</li> <li>• Positive planning for the provision and integration of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments; safeguard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services; ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernize; and ensure that housing is developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities and good access to key services and infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Priority 1 Ensuring Sustainable Patterns of Development (page 31) and Strategic Priority 8 – Creating Well Designed and Attractive Places, and Promoting Healthy Communities (page 35) encourage high quality design of new developments to ensure places are more attractive, sustainable, safe and accessible and provide the necessary facilities to support the community.</li> <li>• The Local Plan takes account of the shared key strategic objectives with the HMA authorities which ensures that the authorities continue to work together to promote to sustainable growth with the necessary supporting infrastructure and to address the strategic priorities across the wider geographical area.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy 1 Spatial Principles (page 38) underpins the spatial strategy include to locate development at well-connected sustainable locations and ensure that development is served by necessary infrastructure.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S7 Protecting and Enhancing Community Assets (page 51) recognises the importance of community assets and ensures that new places are sustainable and communities are provided as part of new larger developments.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S9 The Spatial Strategy (page 59) allocates residential development to appropriate sites following the settlement hierarchy, this includes making the best use of</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>previously developed land in Chelmsford Urban Area, sustainable urban extensions around Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers and development around key service settlements outside the Green Belt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S11 Infrastructure Requirements (page 72) includes a section for new community facilities to support growth. This is supported by the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which also identifies the infrastructure provision needed to support sustainable growth (EB 018a and EB18b).</li> <li>• Site allocation policies also require the provision for new facilities such as healthcare, local shops whilst promoting sustainable transport and accessibility.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S14 Role of City, Town and Neighbourhood Centres (page 81) identifies the principal neighbourhood centres which provide a wider mix of services and facilities such as retail, commercial and communities uses.</li> <li>• Policy CF1 Delivering Community Facilities (page 229) and Policy CF2 Protecting Community Facilities (page 230) aim to retain and support new local services and facilities where appropriate.</li> <li>• Policy MP2 Design and Place Shaping Principles in Major Development (page 235) seeks high quality design of new developments to ensure places are more attractive, sustainable, safe and accessible.</li> <li>• Policy EM1 Employment Areas and Rural Employment Areas (page 195) seeks to retain employment areas.</li> </ul>
<p>Identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities; and set locally derived standards to provide these (73).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. (73)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Space Study 2016 and Addendum dated November 2017, May 2018 (EB 101a-k) including Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Needs, Strategy and Action Plan (EB 101e and EB 101f).</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A policy protecting existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land from development, with specific exceptions. (74)</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of rights of way and access. (75)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure Delivery Plan January 2018 and June 2018 (EB 018a and EB 018b) provides information with regards to key projects, delivery mechanisms, costs and timescales. This is a live document which will continue to be updated as new information emerges.</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan January 2018 (EB 021a and EB 021b) provides the evidence base for protecting and enhancing the network of biodiversity and green infrastructure in the area.</li> <li>• Strategic Priority 6 Delivering New and Improved Local Infrastructure (page 34) includes ensuring that appropriate levels of open space, sport and leisure provision are provided as part of the developments.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S7 Protecting and Enhancing Community Assets (page 51) recognises the importance of community assets including sport and leisure, parks and green spaces and ensures that new places are sustainable and communities are provided as part of new larger developments.</li> <li>• Policy CF2 Protecting Community Facilities (page 230) includes protection of open space, sports and recreational buildings and land.</li> <li>• Site Allocation Policies require new and enhanced cycle routes, footpaths, Public Rights of Way and bridleways where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<p>Enable local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to identify special protection green areas of particular importance to them – ‘Local Green Space’ (76-78).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy enabling the protection of Local Green Spaces. (Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. The designation should only be used when it accords with the criteria in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Plan does not designate Local Green Spaces but open space is designated on the Policies Map. It is the role of Neighbourhood Plan Groups to designate green areas of particular importance as Local Green Space if they wish through the Neighbourhood Plan process.</li> <li>• Opportunities to designate green space can be achieved</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	para 77). Policy for managing development within a local green space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts. (78)	through the masterplanning process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Protecting Green Belt land (paras 79-92)</b></li> </ul>		
<p>Local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land. (81)</p> <p>Local planning authorities with Green Belts in their area should establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans which set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. (83)</p> <p>When drawing up or reviewing Green Belt boundaries local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development. (84)</p> <p>Boundaries should be set using ‘physical features likely to be permanent’ amongst other things (85)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where Green Belt policies are included, these should reflect the need to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt. (81)</li> <li>Accord with criteria on boundary setting, and the need for clarity on the status of safeguarded land, in particular. (85)</li> <li>Specify that inappropriate development should not be approved except in very special circumstances. (87)</li> <li>Specify the exceptions to inappropriate development (89-90)</li> <li>Identify where very special circumstances might apply to renewable energy development. (91)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Priority 7 Protecting and enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment, the Green Belt and valued landscapes (page 35). The spatial principles to ‘Protect the Green Belt’ underpins the strategic priority.</li> <li>The Green Belt, Green Wedges, Green Corridors and the Rural Area are all also shown as notations on the Policies Map.</li> </ul> <p>Section 8, Protecting the Countryside includes policies on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy CO1 Green Belt, Green Wedges, Green Corridors and Rural Areas (page 199) aims to protect the areas as it is recognised for its wide ranging roles and purpose.</li> <li>Policy CO2 New Buildings and Structures in the Green Belt (page 201) controls new buildings within these areas to ensure they meet national and local planning requirements, demonstrate very special circumstance where necessary and that they are proportionate in size and scale in relation to the intended use.</li> <li>Policy CO5 Infilling in the Green Belt, Green Wedge, Green Corridor and Rural Area (page 211) provides some flexibility for exception sites to help promote the viability of rural communities by meeting the housing needs of local rural communities.</li> <li>Topic Paper 1 – Spatial Strategy and Strategic Sites – June 2018 update (TP 001) provides commentary of development needs, reasonable alternatives to housing and traveller requirements and the spatial strategy in</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>producing the Local Plan. It also provides an overview of the site selection process and how the distribution of development were arrived at and the reasoning for rejection of Green Belt allocations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Urban Area and Defined Settlement Boundary Review Technical Note 2017 and updated January and June 2018 (EB 083a-c) informed the Settlement Hierarchy within Strategic Policy S9 The Spatial Strategy (page 59). The evidence base explains that there are no Green Belt releases within the Local Plan. However, it does include the methodology for minor defined settlement boundary adjustments to reflect changes on the ground.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change (paras 93-108)</b></li> </ul>		
<p>Adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations. (94)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning of new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>Support for energy efficiency improvements to existing building.</li> <li>Local requirements for a building's sustainability which are consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy. (95)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Priority 7 Protecting and enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment, the Green Belt and valued landscapes (page 35). This includes the need to address climate change and reduce carbon emissions.</li> <li>Strategic Policy S3 Addressing Climate Change and Flood Risk (page 44) encourages all new development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>Strategic Policy S6 Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment (page 49) aids with climate change adaptation and water management to minimise pollution.</li> <li>Strategic Policy S11 Infrastructure Requirements (page 72) includes a section on Utilities which incorporates the necessary utility infrastructure to support new development as well as encourage opportunities for appropriate renewable, low carbon or district-scale energy production.</li> <li>Site allocation Policy Strategy Growth Site 4 (page 142) sets out encouragement for the appropriate development</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>of renewable, low carbon and decentralised energy schemes of this site together with mass waste collection system where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy NE4 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (page 228) seeks to encourage renewable and low carbon energy schemes to promote a more sustainable form of development and reduce production of greenhouse gases.</li> <li>• Policy MP3 Sustainable Buildings (page 237) expects all new dwellings and non-residential dwellings to incorporate sustainable design features to reduce emissions.</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan January 2018 (EB 021a and EB021b) provides commentary of the implementation of green infrastructure which will help to adapt to climate change.</li> <li>• The Strategic Land Availability Assessment (EB 072a-g) has assessed physical and environmental constraints in relation to flooding.</li> <li>• The Sustainability Appraisal (SD 004) assesses the Local Plan and sites against a series of topic areas including climate change.</li> <li>• All proposed site allocations have been sequentially tested through the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 and Level 2 Update 1 January 2018 (EB 106a-i) and Sequential and Exception Testing December 2017 (EB 105). The outcome of these assessment has guided development allocations.</li> </ul>
<p>Help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy through a strategy, policies maximising renewable and low carbon energy, and identification of key energy sources. (97)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strategy and policies to promote and maximise energy from renewable and low carbon sources,</li> <li>• Identification of suitable areas for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Priority 7 Protecting and enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment, the Green Belt and valued landscapes (page 35). This includes the need to address climate change and reduce carbon emissions.</li> </ul>



# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources (see also NPPF footnote 17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers. (97)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S3 Addressing Climate Change and Flood Risk (page 44) encourages new development to provide opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy technologies and schemes.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S6 Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment (page 49) aids with climate change adaptation and water management to minimise pollution.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S11 Infrastructure Requirements (page 72) includes a section on Utilities which incorporates the necessary utility infrastructure to support new development as well as encourage opportunities for appropriate renewable, low carbon or district-scale energy production.</li> <li>• Policy NE4 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (page 228) seeks to encourage renewable and low carbon energy schemes to promote a more sustainable form of development and reduce production of greenhouse gases.</li> <li>• The Sustainability Appraisal (SD 004) assesses the Local Plan and sites against a series of topic areas including climate change.</li> <li>• The Site allocation Policy covering Strategy Growth Site 4 (page 142) sets out encouragement for the appropriate development of renewable, low carbon and decentralised energy schemes of this site together with mass waste collection system where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<p>Minimise vulnerability to climate change and manage the risk of flooding (99)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Account taken of the impacts of climate change. (99)</li> <li>• Allocate, and where necessary re-locate, development away from flood risk areas through a sequential test, based on a SFRA. (100)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Priority 7 Protecting and enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment, the Green Belt and valued landscapes (page 35). This includes the need to address climate change and reduce carbon emissions.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S3 Addressing Climate Change and Flood Risk (page 44) encourages new development to mitigate and adapt to climate change and flood risk by promoting</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies to manage risk, from a range of impacts, through suitable adaptation measures</li> </ul>	<p>the efficient use of natural resources such as water, minimising the impact on flooding and provide opportunities for green infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S6 Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment (page 49) aids with climate change adaptation and water management to minimise pollution.</li> <li>• Policy NE3 Flooding/SUDS (page 227) seeks to mitigate against flooding and requires the provision of sustainable drainage systems for the disposal of surface water.</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan January 2018 (EB 021a and EB021b) provides commentary of the implementation of green infrastructure which will help to adapt to climate change.</li> <li>• The Strategic Land Availability Assessment (EB 072a-g) has assessed physical and environmental constraints in relation to flooding.</li> <li>• The Sustainability Appraisal (SD 004) assesses the Local Plan and sites against a series of topic areas including climate change.</li> <li>• All proposed site allocations have been sequentially tested through the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 and Level 2 Update 1 January 2018 (EB 106a-i) and Sequential and Exception Testing December 2017 (EB 105). The outcome of these assessment has guided development allocations.</li> </ul>
Take account of marine planning (105)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure early and close co-operation on relevant economic, social and environmental policies with the Marine Management Organisation</li> <li>• Review the aims and objectives of the Marine Policy Statement, including local</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Plan has reviewed the aims and objectives of the Marine Policy Statement including local potential for marine-related economic development.</li> <li>• The Marine Management Organisation have been consulted at each stage of plan making and as requested additional references to the MMO as the marine planning</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p style="text-align: center;">potential for marine-related economic development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate as appropriate marine policy objectives into emerging policy</li> <li>• Support of integrated coastal management (ICM) in coastal areas in line with the requirements of the MPS</li> </ul>	<p>authority for England, the Marine Policy Statement and the emerging South East Marine Plan were added to the Local Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference to the South East (Inshore) South East (Inshore) Marine Plan can be found at paragraph 1.34. The South East (Inshore) Marine Plan Iteration 2 was consulted upon in January – March 2018. The Local Plan will be integrated with this Plan, once it is complete, to provide a consistent approach for planning on land, and within the Borough’s inter-tidal and marine environment.</li> <li>• Reference is made to the current Essex and Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan (EB 143) in paragraph 5.13 which aims to reduce the threat of flooding and erosion to dwellings, key infrastructure and tourism facilities. Policy S3 Addressing Climate Change and Flood Risk (page 44) within the Local Plan helps to support the implementation of the Essex and Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan by encouraging new development to mitigate and adapt to climate change and flood risk by promoting the efficient use of natural resources such as water, minimising the impact on flooding and provide opportunities for green infrastructure.</li> <li>• Chelmsford’s small length of coastline is located between Battlesbridge and South Woodham Ferrers. South Woodham Ferrers is near to the Crouch and Roach Estuaries Special Protection Area, Ramsar site and Site of Special Scientific Interest which lie to the south of the town. An Essex-wide Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy is being prepared to include all coastal European Sites. The strategy will identify where recreational disturbance is happening and the main recreational uses causing the disturbance. This is reflected in Strategic Policies S6 (page 49) and paragraphs 5.33 and</li> </ul>

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		6.56.
Manage risk from coastal change (106)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of where the coast is likely to experience physical changes and identify Coastal Change Management Areas, and clarity on what development will be allowed in such areas.</li> <li>• Provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be re-located from such areas, based on SMPs and Marine Plans, where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference is made to the current Essex and Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan in paragraph 5.13 which aims to reduce the threat of flooding and erosion to dwellings, key infrastructure and tourism facilities. Policy S3 Addressing Climate Change and Flood Risk (page 44) within the Local Plan helps to support the implementation of the Essex and Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan by encouraging new development to mitigate and adapt to climate change and flood risk by promoting the efficient use of natural resources such as water, minimising the impact on flooding and provide opportunities for green infrastructure.</li> <li>• Chelmsford’s small length of coastline is located between Battlesbridge and South Woodham Ferrers. South Woodham Ferrers is near to the Crouch and Roach Estuaries Special Protection Area, Ramsar site and Site of Special Scientific Interest which lie to the south of the town. An Essex-wide Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy is being prepared to include all coastal European Sites. The strategy will identify where recreational disturbance is happening and the main recreational uses causing the disturbance. This is reflected in Strategic Policies S6 (page 44) and paragraphs 5.33 and 6.56.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paras 109-125)</b></li> </ul>		
Protect valued landscapes (109)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strategy and policy or policies to create, protect, enhance and manage networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.</li> <li>• Policy which seeks to minimise the loss of higher quality agricultural land and give great weight to protecting the landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council sought to minimise the loss of high quality agricultural land in selecting site allocations in line with the Spatial Strategy, however most lower grade agricultural land lies within the Green Belt which has greater protection in the NPPF.</li> <li>• Strategic Priority 7 Protecting and enhancing the Natural</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>and scenic beauty of National Parks, the Broads and AONBs.</p>	<p>and Historic Environment, the Green Belt and valued landscapes (page 35). The Schedule of Additional Changes proposes to include new references in paragraph 1.36 and Policy S6 to add greater protection to BMV agricultural land and soils following consultation and agreed Statement of Common Ground with Natural England.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S1 Spatial Principles (page 38) seeks to protect and enhance the character of valued landscapes, heritage and biodiversity.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S5 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (page 46) aims to protect historic assets and can also contribute towards the wider green infrastructure network.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S6 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (page 49) protects sites and species whilst planning positively for biodiversity and minimising pollution.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S11 Infrastructure Requirements (page 72) includes a section on Green and Natural Infrastructure.</li> <li>• Policy NE1 Ecology and Biodiversity (page 223) which covers international, national and locally designated sites, biodiversity and geodiversity in developments.</li> <li>• Protection of Trees, Woodland and Landscape Features is covered by Policy NE2 (page 225).</li> <li>• Policy HE2 Non-Designated Heritage Assets (page 222) aims to protect and retain non-designated heritage assets for example protected lanes.</li> </ul> <p>The Local Plan is based on a comprehensive evidence base and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Essex wide Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) is being produced and</li> </ul>

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>expected to be completed in 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan 2018-2036 (EB 021a)</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan – Research and Evidence Base (EB 021b)</li> <li>• Green Wedges and Green Corridors Review Report February 2017 (EB 094a and EB 094b)</li> <li>• Heritage Assessments Technical Note March 2017 and Addendum May 2018 (EB 108a and EB 108b)</li> <li>• Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment March 2017 and Addendum May 2018 (EB 100a, EB 100c and EB100d)</li> <li>• Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Additional Site Assessment November 2017 (EB 100b)</li> <li>• Protected Lanes Assessment 2009, 2010 and Update November 2017 (EB 86, EB 87 and EB 88)</li> <li>• Local Wildlife Sites Review 2016 (EB 103a-f)</li> </ul>
Prevent unacceptable risks from pollution and land instability (109)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy which seeks development which is appropriate for its location having regard to the effects of pollution on health, the natural environment or general amenity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy PA1 Protecting Amenity (page 243) ensures that developments do not result in adverse impact on the amenities of occupiers of nearby residential properties. The Schedule of Additional Changes (SD 002) proposes to include new references in paragraph 1.36 and Policy S6 to add greater protection to BMV agricultural land and soils following consultation and agreed Statement of Common Ground with Natural England.</li> <li>• Policy PA2 Contamination and Pollution (page 244) requires developments to take account of impact on the environment, air quality and public health and safety.</li> <li>• Policy MP3 Sustainable Buildings (page 237) expects all new dwellings and non-residential dwellings to incorporate sustainable design features to reduce</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site allocations have been assessed for potential noise and air quality effects through Sustainability Appraisal (SD 004).</li> <li>• In addition, an Air Quality Position Statement (EB 098) is included within the evidence base and the AQMA is shown on the Policies Map.</li> <li>• The Local Plan seeks to minimise loss of high quality agricultural land by formulating a Spatial Strategy that directs where possible new development to lower grade areas.</li> <li>• A Special Policy Area is designated around Chelmsford City Racecourse which requires any future development to minimising the impact of floodlighting and environmental impacts.</li> </ul>
<p>Planning policies should minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity (117)</p> <p>Planning policies should plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries (117)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification and mapping of local ecological networks and geological conservation interests.</li> <li>• Policies to promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the recovery of priority species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Policies Map includes notations for SAC, SPA, Ramsar, Marine Conservation Zone, SSSI, LNR and LoWS</li> <li>• Strategic Priority 7 seeks to protect and enhance the Natural and Historic Environment, the Green Belt and valued landscapes (page 35)</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S13 The Role of the Countryside ensures that the Green Belt (page 80) recognises areas of ecological, historic and functional importance will be protected from inappropriate development</li> <li>• Policy NE1 Ecology and Biodiversity (page 223) covers international, national and locally designated sites, biodiversity and geodiversity in developments.</li> <li>• The Local Plan is also supported by the Local Wildlife Sites Review 2016 (EB 103a-f) which reviewed existing and potential Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS and PLoWS) for inclusion in the Local Plan.</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chelmsford Biodiversity Action Plan 2013-18 (EB 114) sets out priorities to improve biodiversity in the local environment through physical improvements and engagement with local communities.</li> <li>Essex Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2020 (EB 113) sets out the vision to protect and enhance the biodiversity across Essex.</li> <li>Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan 2018 (EB 021a and EB 021b) provides the evidence base for protecting and enhancing the network of biodiversity and green infrastructure in the area. This is reflected in Strategic Priority 7 (page 35) and Strategic Policy S6 (page 49).</li> <li>Pre-Submission Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (SD 004) and addendum (SD 005) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (SD 006) and update (SD 007)</li> <li>An Essex wide Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) is being produced and expected to be completed in 2018. This work is being undertaken on a joint basis with Natural England and relevant Local Planning Authorities involved in the RAMS project and promotes preservation of protected areas.</li> <li>Some Local Geological Sites have been identified by GeoEssex in the Chelmsford area. These are too small to show on the Policies Map and are awaiting formal verification with a view to include as a constraint on the Council's GIS systems.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (paras 126-141)</b></li> </ul>		
<p>Include a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk (126)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategy for the historic environment based on a clear understanding of the cultural assets in the plan area, including</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Priority 7 Protecting and enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment, the Green Belt and valued landscapes (page 35)</li> </ul>



# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>assets most at risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A map/register of historic assets</li> <li>• A policy or policies which promote new development that will make a positive contribution to character and distinctiveness. (126)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision for the Local Plan aims to protect and enhance the historic environment. This supported by Strategic Policy S5 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (page 46) which protects historic assets and can also contribute towards the wider green infrastructure network.</li> <li>• Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens are identified on the Policies Map. These alongside Listed Buildings are identified on the National Heritage List for England. Non-designated heritage assets are included on the Council's Register of Buildings of Local Value and 12 sites are identified on the Essex Gardens Trust Inventory of Design Landscape of Local Interest.</li> <li>• Strategic Policy S13 the Role of the Countryside ensures that the Green Belt (page 80) recognises areas of ecological, historic and functional importance will be protected from inappropriate development.</li> <li>• Section on Protecting the Historic Environment provides policies which cover the historic environment, these are separated into designated and non-designated assets. The policies are Policy HE1 Designated Heritage Assets (page 219) and Policy HE2 Non-Designated Heritage Assets (page 222).</li> <li>• Policy HE2 focuses on the protection and retention of non-designated heritage assets, as identified on the Council's Buildings of Local Value List, Inventory of Landscape of Local Interest and Protected Lanes Studies-2009/10 and Update in 2017 (EB 086, EB 087 and EB 088).</li> <li>• Policy HE3 Archaeology (page 222) ensure that archaeological sites are afforded appropriate protection</li> <li>• There are 10 Conservation Area Character Appraisals</li> </ul>

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>which examine and define the character of the Conservation Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Assessments Technical Note March 2017 and Addendum May 2018 (EB 108a and EB 018b) provides a comprehensive assessment of the setting of designated and built undesignated heritage assets in the vicinity of the proposed allocated sites.</li> <li>• Essex Historic Environment Record (maintained by Essex County Council)</li> <li>• In addition to the existing heritage conservation notation around New Hall School, Strategic Growth Site 5a includes a new Area for Conservation notation on the Policies Map to protect the listed Moulsham Hall and its setting.</li> <li>• Other site allocations policies specifically refer to conserve and enhance the historic environment on/near to development sites.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals (paras 142-149)</b></li> </ul>		
<p>It is important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation (142)</p> <p>Minerals planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of industrial materials (146)</p>	<p>Account taken of the matters raised in relation to paragraph 143 and 145, including matters in relation to land in national / international designations; landbanks; the defining of Minerals Safeguarding Areas; wider matters relating to safeguarding; approaches if non-mineral development is necessary within Minerals Safeguarding Areas; the setting of environmental criteria; development of noise limits; reclamation of land; plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates. This could include evidence of co-operation with neighbouring and more distant authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primarily this is a planning matter for the County Council as Mineral Planning Authority, however the Minerals Local Plan forms part of the wider Development Plan for Chelmsford.</li> <li>• The relevant requirements from the Essex Minerals Local Plan 2014 (EB 144) are covered in Section 1, paragraph 1.27, 1.28 and 1.29</li> <li>• Mineral and Waste Sites are marked on the Policies Map.</li> <li>• Mineral Resource Assessments are required for sites within the Mineral Safeguarding Area.</li> <li>• Through the Duty to Co-operate, ECC have been consulted as Minerals Planning Authority and in response to comments policy references have been included where</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Growth Site 4 Policy (page 142) states that minerals re-phasing will be required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Justified:</b> <i>The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence.</i></p> <p>To be 'justified' a DPD needs to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founded on a robust and credible evidence base involving: research / fact finding demonstrating how the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts; and evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area.</li> <li>• The most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives.</li> </ul>		
<p><i>Participation</i></p> <p>Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties?</p>	<p>The consultation statement. This should set out what consultation was undertaken, when, with whom and how it has influenced the plan. The statement should show that efforts have been made to consult hard to reach groups, key stakeholders etc. Reference SCI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been three formal stages of Public Consultations which have involved engagement with a range of stakeholders. These are set out in the Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (2018) (SD 009) in line with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012. The Consultation Statement also sets out who was consulted and when.</li> <li>• The Duty to Co-operate Compliance Statement (SD 010) also provides details of the consultation and co-operation following engagement with DTC Bodies which has influenced the development of the strategy.</li> <li>• All consultations have been undertaken in line with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (SD 013). This goes beyond the statutory requirements and includes drop-in exhibitions, presentations including YMCA for harder to reach groups, developer, agent and parish forums, news articles and leafleting at stations for commuters. The Council have continued to raise awareness and keep people informed outside the formal consultation periods through news articles, the City Life magazine and producing a Local Plan newsletter.</li> <li>• The Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (SD 009)</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		outlines how the main issues raised in the consultation responses have been used and informed the Local Plan.
<p><i>Research / fact finding</i></p> <p>Is the plan justified by a sound and credible evidence base? What are the sources of evidence? How up to date, and how convincing is it?</p> <p>What assumptions were made in preparing the DPD? Were they reasonable and justified?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The studies, reports and technical papers that provide the evidence for the policies set out in the DPD, the date of preparation and who they were produced by.</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sections of the DPD (at various stages of development) and SA Report which illustrate how evidence supports the strategy, policies and proposals, including key assumptions.</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A very brief statement of how the main findings of consultation support the policies, with reference to: reports to the council on the issues raised during participation, covering both the front-loading and formulation phases; and any other information on community views and preferences.</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For each policy (or group of policies dealing with the same issue), a very brief statement of the evidence documents relied upon and how they support the policy (where this is not already clear in the reasoned justification in the DPD).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Plan has been informed and is supported by a robust, credible, up to date and proportionate evidence base. The Evidence Base used to prepare the Pre-Submission Local Plan is listed in Appendix E (page 357) and is available on the City Council’s website: <a href="https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-new-local-plan/new-local-plan/evidence-base/">https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-new-local-plan/new-local-plan/evidence-base/</a></li> <li>• The evidence base includes studies relating to: Economy, Environment and Heritage, Monitoring and Equality, Population and Housing, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment, Transport and Infrastructure, Development Standards together with documents focuses on Duty to Co-operate, Consultation and Feedback, Chelmsford City Council Strategies and other planning policies. Year of production and author are included in the evidence library.</li> <li>• Topic Paper 7 – Summary of Key Supporting Evidence Base Studies, June 2018 sets out the key evidence base documents used to inform the Local Plan, who produced them and when they were produced (TP 007).</li> <li>• Several Topic Papers pull various studies together and demonstrate how they have been used to inform the Plan. For example, Topic Paper 1 – Spatial Strategy and Strategic Sites, June 2018 (TP 001) provides commentary of development needs, reasonable alternatives to housing and traveller requirements and the spatial strategy in producing the Local Plan. Topic Paper 2 – Infrastructure Update, June 2018 Appendix 1 (TP 002) sets out in more detail, for each type of infrastructure identified in the IDP the findings of Sustainability Appraisal that have informed</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>the Pre-Submission Local Plan. Topic Paper 3 – Transport, June 2018 (TP 003) sets out the process and evidence the Council has used to assess the transport impacts of development in the Local Plan and proposed mitigation measures, Topic Paper 4 - SA/SEA and HRA, June 2018 sets out how the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) and Habitats Regulations Assessment have been prepared and considered when developing Local Plan and influenced its development (TP 004), Topic Paper 5 – Natural Environment and Green Belt, June 2018 (TP 005) sets out the approach the Council has taken to the natural environment and Topic Paper 6 – Historic Environment, June 2018 (TP 006) sets out a definition of heritage assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has undertaken a number of Duty to Co-operate activities between formal stages of engagement. The Duty to Co-operate Compliance Statement (SD 010) provides details of the consultation and co-operation following engagement with DTC Bodies which has influenced the development of the strategy.</li> <li>• The Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (SD 009) provides details of the consultation and co-operation that has influenced the development of the strategy for the Local Plan throughout all stages of plan making (Issues and Options, Preferred Options and Pre-Submission). This statement outlines how the main issues raised in the consultation responses have been used and informed the Local Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Alternatives</i></p> <p>Can it be shown that the LPA’s chosen approach is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives? Have the reasonable alternatives been considered and is there a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports and consultation documents produced in the early stages setting out how alternatives were developed and evaluated, and the reasons for selecting the preferred strategy, and reasons for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (SD 009) provides details of the consultation and co-operation that has influenced the development of the strategy for the Local Plan throughout all stages of plan making (Issues and Options, Preferred Options and Pre-Submission).</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred approach was arrived at? Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives, is it clear how and why the decisions were taken?</p> <p>Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the DPD from the start?</p>	<p>rejecting the alternatives. This should include options covering not just the spatial strategy, but also the quantum of development, strategic policies and development management policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An audit trail of how the evidence base, consultation and SA have influenced the plan.</li> <li>• Sections of the SA Report showing the assessment of options and alternatives.</li> <li>• Reports on how decisions on the inclusion of policy were made.</li> <li>• Sections of the consultation document demonstrating how options were developed and appraised.</li> <li>• Any other documentation showing how alternatives were developed and evaluated, including a report on how sustainability appraisal has influenced the choice of strategy and the content of policies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Urban Area and Defined Settlement Boundary Review Technical Note 2017, updates January 2018 and June 2018 (EB 083a-c) including the Parish Audit informed the Settlement Hierarchy within Strategic Policy S9 The Spatial Strategy (page 59).</li> </ul> <p>The various SA reports set out how evidence supports the proposed allocations and why reasonable alternatives have been rejected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report July 2015 (EB 001)</li> <li>• Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal November 2015 (EB 003)</li> <li>• Preferred Options Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal March 2017 (EB 006)</li> <li>• Pre-Submission Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (F48-55G35 and Appendix J) (SD 004)</li> </ul> <p>Chelmsford Development Policy Committee (DPC) oversees the Local Plan progress, assess evidence base materials and comments made to other authorities Local Plans. Key dates for DPC are set out below:</p> <p>5th November 2015 – Approval to publish the Issues and Options Local Plan document to publish for Regulation 18 consultation</p> <p>3rd March 2016 - Issues and Options Initial Consultation Feedback Report</p> <p>9th June 2016 - Issues and Options Consultation Feedback Report</p> <p>14th July 2016 - Preparation of the Chelmsford Local Plan Preferred Options Document to request to process with a new spatial option</p>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>9th March 2017 – Approve to publish the Regulation 18 Local Plan Preferred Options document for consultation</p> <p>13th July 2017 - Preferred Options Consultation Initial Consultation Feedback Report</p> <p>18th January 2018 - Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Local Plan for consideration to publish for consultation and Preferred Options Consultation Document Feedback Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Development Policy Committee homepage can be found on the following link: <a href="https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/your-council/committees-and-meetings/committees-and-panels/?entryid1080=26450">https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/your-council/committees-and-meetings/committees-and-panels/?entryid1080=26450</a></li> <li>• Topic Paper 1 – Spatial Strategy and Strategic Sites Update - June 2018 update (TP 001) provides commentary of development needs, reasonable alternatives to housing and traveller requirements and the spatial strategy in producing the Local Plan. It also provides an overview of the site selection process and how the distribution of development were arrived at and the reasoning for rejection of Green Belt allocations. It further sets out the SA/SEA and HRA process.</li> <li>• Topic Paper 2 – Infrastructure Update, June 2018 Appendix 1 (TP 002) sets out in more detail, for each type of infrastructure identified in the IDP the findings of Sustainability Appraisal that have informed the Pre-Submission Local Plan.</li> <li>• Topic Paper 3 – Transport, June 2018 (TP 003) sets out the process and evidence the Council has used to assess the transport impacts of development in the Local Plan and proposed mitigation measures. This includes details on the strategic traffic modelling.</li> <li>• Topic Paper 4 – SA/SEA and HRA, June 2018 (TP 004) sets</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>out how the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) and Habitats Regulations Assessment have been prepared and considered when developing Local Plan and influenced its development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic Paper 5 – Natural Environment and Green Belt, June 2018 (TP 005) sets out the approach the Council has taken to the natural environment including the development of relevant policies, allocations and notations. It covers issues such as the role of countryside, landscape, biodiversity and Protected/Designated Sites, Green Infrastructure Strategy, and policies for the management of development affecting the natural environment.</li> <li>• Topic Paper 6 – Historic Environment, June 2018 (TP 006) sets out a definition of heritage assets, national planning policy covering heritage issues, evidence on the historic environment, and how the Local Plan will ensure that the historic environment is protected and enhanced.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Effective:</b> <i>the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.</i></p> <p>To be ‘effective’ a DPD needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be deliverable</li> <li>• Demonstrate sound infrastructure delivery planning</li> <li>• Have no regulatory or national planning barriers to its delivery</li> <li>• Have delivery partners who are signed up to it</li> <li>• Be coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities</li> <li>• Demonstrate how the Duty to Co-operate has been fulfilled</li> <li>• Be flexible</li> </ul>		



# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be able to be monitored</li> </ul>		
<p><i>Deliverable and Coherent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it clear how the policies will meet the Plan's vision and objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD?</li> <li>Are the policies internally consistent?</li> <li>Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives?</li> <li>Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments and initiatives.</li> <li>Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery, such as evidence that the plans and programmes of other bodies have been taken into account (e.g. Water Resources Management Plans and Marine Plans).</li> <li>Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure.</li> <li>Section in the DPD that shows the linkages between the objectives and the corresponding policies, and consistency between policies (such as through a matrix).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The structure of the Local Plan outlines a clear relationship between the Vision, Strategic Priorities, Spatial Strategy and the policies which enable the Council to meet its aspirations and development requirements. The Monitoring Framework at Section 10 (page 246 -as amended in the Schedule of Additional Changes, SD 002) provides a matrix showing the linkages between the Strategic Priorities and the strategic and other policies.</li> <li>Section 7 (page 85) outlines where growth is focused with individual site policies and reasoned justification setting out the expected delivery timescales. The timescale for proposed developments to come forward is also set out in Appendix C - Development Trajectory on page 276 of the Pre-Submission Local Plan (as updated in the Schedule of Additional Changes, SD 002).</li> <li>Local Development Scheme April 2018 (SD 014) defines the scope and outlines the content of the LP. It also sets out the relationship between the Local Plan and SPDs.</li> <li>Infrastructure Delivery Plan January 2018 and Update June 2018 (EB 018a and EB 018b) identifies the infrastructure needed to support the planned development and details regarding its phasing and costing.</li> <li>Table 5 to 8 in Section 10 Monitoring and Implementation (page 246 -as amended in the Schedule of Additional Changes, SD 002) sets out each Local Plan Policy and the related Strategic Priorities. All key objectives are considered to be met by policies.</li> <li>The Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (SD 009) provides details of the consultation and co-operation that has influenced the development of the strategy for the</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>Local Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duty to Cooperate Compliance Statement (SD 010) provides details of the consultation and co-operation that has influenced the development of the strategy for the Local Plan. This demonstrates practical, positive, ongoing engagement in line with the Council's obligation under the Duty to Co-operate.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Infrastructure Delivery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have the infrastructure implications of the policies clearly been identified?</li> <li>Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified?</li> <li>Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the policies?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A section or sections of the DPD where infrastructure needs are identified and the proposed solutions put forward.</li> <li>A schedule setting out responsibilities for delivery, mechanisms and timescales, and related to a CIL schedule where appropriate.</li> <li>Confirmation from infrastructure providers that they support the solutions proposed and the identified means and timescales for their delivery, or a plan for resolving issues.</li> <li>Demonstrable plan-wide viability, particularly in relation to the delivery of affordable housing and the role of a CIL schedule.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Policy S11 Infrastructure Requirements (page 72) and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) January 2018 and Update June 2018 (EB 018a and EB 018b) identify the infrastructure provision needed to support sustainable growth. In addition, Strategic Policy S12 Securing Infrastructure and Impact Mitigation (page 77) sets out how infrastructure will be secured.</li> <li>Infrastructure Delivery Plan January 2018 Section 14 Phasing (EB 018a) and June 2018 Update (EB 018b) identifies the infrastructure needed to support the planned development and details regarding its phasing and costing.</li> <li>Paragraph 6.70 supporting Strategic Policy S12 Securing Infrastructure and Impact Mitigation (page 77) sets out some infrastructure providers will fund and deliver infrastructure. Other infrastructure will be funded by developers and landowners, secured by planning obligations or CIL. CIL will be updated in line with the Local Development Scheme.</li> <li>Local Plan Viability Study January 2018 and Update May 2018 (EB 082a and EB 082b) assessing the deliverability of the development sites included within the Local Plan and reviews CIL as a funding mechanism to, to support the Local Plan growth.</li> <li>Commissioning School Places in Essex 2017-2022 (EB 141)</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>provides information on the current organisation of school places, the existing capacities and sets out the forecasts of future pupil numbers to help Council's understand the need for school places and establish future demands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 and Level 2 January 2018 (EB 106a-i) provides a detailed assessment of flood risk in areas which have been allocated for development.</li> <li>• Chelmsford Water Cycle Study Update February 2018 (EB 107b) ensures that the water environment and water infrastructure has the capacity to sustain the level of the growth and development proposed through the new Local Plan.</li> <li>• The Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (SD 009) provides details of the consultation and co-operation that has influenced the development of the strategy for the Local Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Co-ordinated Planning</i></p> <p>Does the DPD reflect the concept of spatial planning? Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together and integrating policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes from a variety of agencies / organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sections of the DPD that reflect the plans or strategies of the local authority and other bodies</li> <li>• Policies which seek to pull together different policy objectives</li> <li>• Expressions of support/representations from bodies responsible for other strategies affecting the area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chelmsford Economic Strategy 2017 (EB 075) provides the local evidence to support the Local Plan in regard to the employment sector. This is reflected in Strategic Priority 3 (page 32) and paragraphs 2.21, 6.23 and 6.49.</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure Strategy (EB 021a and EB 021b) provides the evidence base for protecting and enhancing the network of biodiversity and green infrastructure in the area. This is reflected in Strategic Priority 7 (page 35) and Strategic Policy S6 (page 49).</li> <li>• West End Vision (EB 081) - This strategy sets out the vision for the West End and makes recommendations for enhancements in the future to provide an attractive and distinctive quarter. This is reflected in Strategic Priority 9 (page 36) and site- specific policies.</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Essex-wide Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy is being prepared to include all coastal European Sites. The strategy will identify where recreational disturbance is happening and the main recreational uses causing the disturbance. This is reflected in Strategic Policy S6 (page 49) and paragraphs 5.33 and 6.56.</li> <li>• Housing Implementation Strategy will set out how a five-year supply of housing land will be maintained. This is reflected in Strategic Policy S15 (page 83) and paragraph 6.88.</li> </ul> <p>A range of Local Plan evidence base reports have been jointly commissioned between Chelmsford City Council and neighbouring LPAs throughout each plan making stage. These commissioned studies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAHN) Study with Colchester, Braintree and Tendring Councils in updated November 2016 (EB 048)</li> <li>• Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) with Braintree, Colchester and Tendring in December 2015 (EB 047)</li> <li>• Chelmsford Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2017 (EB 050a-c)</li> <li>• Emerging RAMS Strategy – undertaken on a joint basis with Natural England and relevant Local Planning Authorities involved in the RAMS project</li> </ul> <p>Plan and strategies of other local authorities and bodies taken into account in the evidence base:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECC Transport Strategies (Local Transport Plan) (EB 022)</li> <li>• Essex Minerals Local Plan 2014 (EB 144)</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan adopted July 2017 (EB 122a and EB 122b)</li> <li>• South East (Inshore) Marine Plan (Iteration 2 Consultation January – March 2018)</li> <li>• The Local Plan Section 2 reflects the key strategic objectives agreed with the HMA authorities who are committed through the signed MoU to work collaboratively on strategic cross-boundary matters.</li> <li>• In addition, the Council has worked with Essex County Council and SELEP to put forward a bid to the Housing and Infrastructure fund to help deliver the Beaulieu Station and Chelmsford North East Bypass as set out in the Local Plan.</li> <li>• The preparation of Statement of Common Ground and Memorandums of Understanding are being undertaken and further statements will be prepared ahead of the Examination in Public. These include Statement of Common Ground with key partners such as ECC, Highways England, Mid-Essex CCG/NHS, HMAs.</li> <li>• The Duty to Cooperate Compliance Statement (SD 010) provides details of the consultation and co-operation that has influenced the development of the strategy for the Local Plan. This demonstrates practical, positive, ongoing engagement in line with the Council’s obligation under the Duty to Co-operate.</li> <li>• The Duty to Cooperate Compliance Statement (SD 010) also provides evidence of support for delivery key projects, for example Chelmsford North East Bypass.</li> <li>• The Infrastructure Delivery Plan January 2018 and June 2018 Update (EB 018a and EB 018b) identifies the</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>infrastructure needed to support the planned development. This was prepared in conjunction with a number of key partners and therefore their strategies have been considered as part of this work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (SD 009) provides details of the consultation and co-operation that has influenced the development of the strategy for the Local Plan. This shows consultation has been undertaken with a wide range of partners, agencies and the comments have been used to inform the Local Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Flexibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances?</li> <li>Does the DPD include the remedial actions that will be taken if the policies need adjustment?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sections of the DPD setting out the assumptions of the plan and identifying the circumstances when policies might need to be reviewed.</li> <li>Sections of the annual monitoring report and sustainability appraisal report describing how the council will monitor:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the effectiveness of policies and what evidence is being collected to undertake this</li> <li>changes affecting the baseline information and any information on trends on which the DPD is based</li> </ol> </li> <li>Risk analysis of the strategy and policies to demonstrate robustness and how the plan could cope with changing circumstances</li> <li>Sections within the DPD dealing with possible change areas and how they would be dealt with, including mechanisms for the rate of development to be increased or slowed and how that</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Policy S15 Monitoring and Review (page 83) allows for an early review of Local Plan to take account of the outcomes of the monitoring and review process or any implications of the finalised national standardised approach to calculating local housing need.</li> <li>Section 10 Monitoring and Implementation Tables 5-8 (page 246 -as amended in the Schedule of Additional Changes, SD 002) set out the monitoring framework to monitor the implementation of policies to see if a review is required.</li> <li>Authority Monitoring Report (EB 060, EB 061 and EB 062) includes a section on Implementing the Local Development Scheme. The Development Trajectory is also monitored throughout plan period.</li> <li>Pre-Submission Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Section 6 (6.2) and Appendix K (SD 004) also presents a comprehensive monitoring framework aligned to its Strategic Objectives.</li> <li>The Local Plan takes an appropriately flexible approach to development whilst still maintaining a Plan-led system. Many policies set out the preferred policy stance but also introduce caveats recognising that special circumstances</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>would impact on other aspects of the strategy and on infrastructure provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sections of the DPD identifying the key indicators of success of the strategy, and the remedial actions which will be taken if adjustment is required.</li> </ul>	<p>can happen for example loss of community facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Policy S8 Housing and Employment Requirements (page 53) and paragraphs 6.2 to 6.16 outline the approach to housing supply. The Local Plan meets the objectively assessed housing need identified plus an additional buffer providing nearly 20% more housing to provide flexibility in the supply of housing and help boost its supply (paragraph 6.10 to 6.16).</li> <li>Essex Unmet Housing Needs Protocol has been developed and agreed by the Essex Planning Officers' Association (EPOA) in September 2017 establishing a mechanism for the consideration of unmet housing need across the Essex authorities. This protocol sets out the methodology by which each local planning authority, in partnership with their HMAs, should agree their full objectively assessed housing number and if there is an unmet housing need the process to follow to request an adjoining HMA take the unmet need.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Co-operation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Duty to Co-operate has been undertaken appropriately for the plan being examined?</li> <li>Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the DPD? Where the actions required are outside the direct control of the LPA, is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to the implementation of the policies?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A succinct Duty to Co-operate Statement which flows from the strategic issues that have been addressed jointly. A 'tick box' approach or a collection of correspondence is not sufficient, and it needs to be shown (where appropriate) if joint plan-making arrangements have been considered, what decisions were reached and why.</li> <li>The Duty to Co-operate Statement could highlight: the sharing of ideas, evidence and pooling of resources; the practical policy outcomes of co-operation; how decisions were reached and why; and evidence of having effectively co-operated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duty to Cooperate Compliance Statement (SD 010) provides details of the consultation and co-operation that has influenced the development of the strategy for the Local Plan. This demonstrates practical, positive, ongoing engagement in line with the Council's obligation under the Duty to Co-operate.</li> <li>The preparation of Statement of Common Ground and Memorandums of Understanding are being undertaken and further statements will be prepared ahead of the Examination in Public.</li> <li>The Infrastructure Delivery Plan January 2018 and June 2018 Update (EB 018a and EB 018b) identifies the infrastructure needed to support the planned development and details regarding its phasing and</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>to plan for issues which need other organisations to deliver on, common objectives for elements of strategy and policy; a memorandum of understanding; aligned or joint core strategies and liaison with other consultees as appropriate.</p>	<p>costing.</p> <p>The general approach to DTC has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consulting and approving a DtC Strategy (EB 042)</li> <li>• Memorandum of Co-operation agreed between HMA partners and ECC</li> <li>• Member/Officer Duty to Co-operate Meetings</li> <li>• Specific cross-boundary issue meetings</li> <li>• EPOA Guidance Note on Un-met Housing Need</li> </ul> <p>A range of Local Plan evidence base reports have been jointly commissioned between Chelmsford City Council and neighbouring LPAs throughout each plan making stage. These commissioned studies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAHN) Study with Colchester, Braintree and Tendring Councils in updated November 2016 (EB 048)</li> <li>• Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) with Braintree, Colchester and Tendring in December 2015 (EB 047)</li> <li>• Chelmsford Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2017 (EB 050a-c)</li> <li>• Emerging RAMS Strategy – undertaken on a joint basis with Natural England and relevant Local Planning Authorities involved in the RAMS project</li> </ul>
<p><i>Monitoring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the DPD contain targets, and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies, (including housing trajectories where the DPD contains housing allocations)?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sections of the DPD setting out indicators, targets and milestones</li> <li>• Sections of the current annual monitoring report which report on indicators, targets, milestones and trajectories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 10 (page 246 -as amended in the Schedule of Additional Changes, SD 002) sets out the monitoring and implementation process for the Local Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal also includes a section on monitoring.</li> </ul>



# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it clear how targets are to be measured (by when, how and by whom) and are these linked to the production of the annual monitoring report?</li> <li>• Is it clear how the significant effects identified in the sustainability appraisal report will be taken forward in the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the plan, through the annual monitoring report?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference to any other reports or technical documents which contain information on the delivery of policies</li> <li>• Sections of the current annual monitoring report and the sustainability appraisal report setting out the framework for monitoring, including monitoring the effects of the DPD against the sustainability appraisal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Policy S15 Monitoring and Review (page 83) allows for an early review of Local Plan to take account of the outcomes of the monitoring and review process or any implications of the finalised national standardised approach to calculating local housing need.</li> <li>• The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) (EB 060, EB061 and EB 062) which is reviewed annually currently contains information on permitted housing applications and their delivery. The Development Trajectory will also be updated annually. The AMR also includes a section on Implementing the Local Development Scheme. A Housing Implementation Strategy will be produced to continue the monitoring process of the Local Plan.</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan 2018-2036 (EB 021a) is included within the evidence base from which a Green Infrastructure Strategy Action Plan will be developed.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Consistent with national policy: the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.</i></b></p>		
<p>The DPD should not contradict or ignore national policy. Where there is a departure, there must be clear and convincing reasoning to justify the approach taken.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the DPD contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national policy and, if so, is there local justification?</li> <li>• Does the DPD contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, why have these been included?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sections of the DPD which explain where and how national policy has been elaborated upon and the reasons.</li> <li>• Studies forming evidence for the DPD or, where appropriate, other information which provides the rationale for departing from national policy.</li> <li>• Evidence provided from the sustainability appraisal (including reference to the sustainability report) and/or from the results of community involvement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pre-Submission Local Plan takes full account of, and is consistent with, the provisions of national planning policy and guidance but does not repeat.</li> <li>• The South East (Inshore) Marine Plan Iteration 2 was consultation upon in January – March 2018. The Local Plan will be integrated with this Plan, once it is complete, to provide a consistent approach for planning on land, and within the Borough’s inter-tidal and marine environment.</li> <li>• The Local Plan has also reviewed the aims and objectives of the Marine Policy Statement including local potential for marine-related economic development.</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where appropriate, evidence of consistency with national marine policy as articulated in the UK Marine Policy Statement</li><li>• Reports or copies of correspondence as to how representations have been considered and dealt with.</li></ul>	

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

## Planning policy for traveller sites

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites was published in 23 March 2012 and came into effect on 27 March 2012. Circular 01/06: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and Circular 04/07: Planning for Travelling Showpeople have been cancelled. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework, including the implementation policies of that document.

The government's aim in relation to planning for traveller sites is:

'To ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic life of travellers whilst respecting the interests of the settled community'.

Government's aims in respect of traveller sites are:

- That local planning authorities (LPAs) make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning
- That LPAs work collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites
- Plan for sites over a reasonable timescale
- Plan-making should protect green belt land from inappropriate development
- Promote more private traveller site provision whilst recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites
- Aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective.

In addition local planning authorities should:

- Include fair, realistic and inclusive policies
- Increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply
- Reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and decision-taking
- Enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure
- Have due regard to protection of local amenity and local environment

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><b>Policy A: Using evidence to plan positively and manage development (para 6)</b></p>		
<p>Early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early and effective engagement undertaken, including discussing travellers' accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) (EB 050a-c) included interviews with occupants of all existing sites and sought to engage with any Gypsy and Travellers living in bricks and mortar.</li> <li>• Specific groups have been consulted during Local Plan consultations including Traveller Law Reform Project, The Gypsy Council, The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups, London Gypsy and Traveller Unit, Travelling Showmans Guild and The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.</li> <li>• Meetings held with regional and local reps from the Showmens Guild, for example during the Preferred Options stage to understand their locational and physical needs in terms of site location, pitch sizes and access.</li> </ul>
<p>Co-operate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of a clear understanding of the needs of the traveller community over the lifespan of your development plan.</li> <li>• Collaborative working with neighbouring local planning authorities.</li> <li>• A robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of your local plan and make planning decisions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chelmsford City Council Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment - Need Summary Report (2017) provides a robust assessment of the current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in Chelmsford for the period 2016-2033 (EB 050a)</li> <li>• Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Joint Methodology (2018) (EB 050b)</li> <li>• Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment Summary 2016-2033 (2018) (EB 050c)</li> </ul>

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><b>Policy B: Planning for traveller sites (paras 7-11)</b></p>		
<p>Set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in your area, working collaboratively with neighbouring LPAs.</p> <p>Set criteria to guide land supply allocations where there is identified need.</p> <p>Ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification, and annual update, of a supply of specific, deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years worth of sites against locally set target. Identification of a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth for years 6-10, and, where possible, for years 11-15.</li> <li>• An assessment of the need for traveller sites, and where an unmet need has been demonstrated a supply of specific, deliverable sites been identified.</li> <li>• Policy which takes into account criteria a-h of para 11</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocation of Site GT1 in new Local Plan to provide for Gypsy and Travelling needs in full to 2036</li> <li>• Requirement of plots for Travelling Showpeople included within Strategic Growth site allocations 2, 4, 5a and 7, sufficient to meet the needs in full to 2036</li> <li>• Policy HO3 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites (page 193) allows for additional windfall sites to come forward and to assess all sites in accordance with criteria a-h of paragraph 11 of the PPTS</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy C: Sites in rural areas and the countryside (para 12)</b></p>		
<p>When assessing the suitability of sites in rural or semi-rural settings LPAs should ensure that the scale of such sites do not dominate the nearest settled community.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed allocations in the Local Plan are distributed across the Council’s administrative area and are not of a scale that they would dominate the settled community (site of 10 pitches for Gypsy and Traveller site and no more than 9 plots for each Travelling Showpeople site).</li> <li>• Policy HO3 (page 193) requires sites to be no more than 10 pitches or plots.</li> </ul>

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><b>Policy D: Rural exception sites (para 13)</b></p>		
<p>If there is a lack of affordable land to meet local traveller needs, LPAs in rural areas, where viable and practical, should consider allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable travellers' sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a rural exception site policy is used, and if so clarity that such sites shall be used for affordable traveller sites in perpetuity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full needs of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople met through allocated sites. Policy HO3 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites (page 193) allows for additional windfall sites to come forward should they be required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy E: Traveller sites in Green Belt (paras 14-15)</b></p>		
<p>Traveller sites (both permanent and temporary) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development.</p> <p>Exceptional limited alteration to the defined Green Belt boundary (which might be to accommodate a site inset within the Green Belt) to meet a specific, identified need for a traveller site ... should be done only through the plan-making process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Belt boundary revisions made in response to a specific identified need for a traveller site, undertaken through the plan making process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy HO3 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites (page 193) only allows this in very special circumstances.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy F: Mixed planning use traveller sites (paras 16-18)</b></p>		
<p>Local planning authorities should consider, wherever possible, including traveller sites suitable for mixed residential and business uses, having regard to the safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration of the need for sites for mixed residential and business use (having regard to safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents), or separate sites in close proximity to one</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy HO3 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites (page 193), criterion A) iv. and xi. allow for suitable ancillary uses on sites</li> </ul>

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>another.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N.B. Mixed use should not be permitted on rural exception sites</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Policy G: Major development projects (para 19)</b></p>		
<p>Local planning authorities should work with the planning applicant and the affected traveller community to identify a site or sites suitable for relocation of the community if a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site, the identification of a site or sites suitable for re-location of the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No existing sites are impacted by proposed development</li> <li>• Policy HO3 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites (page 193), criterion C) protects existing sites from change of use unless suitable replacements sites can be found.</li> </ul>

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

## Integration of marine and terrestrial planning

As the UK marine area and marine plan area boundaries extend up to the level of mean highwater spring tides while terrestrial planning boundaries generally extend to mean low water spring tides (including estuaries), the marine plan area will physically overlap with that of some terrestrial plan. Local authorities with any tidal frontage, even if far inland and not conventionally regarded as coastal, must therefore take full account of the MMO, the MPS and marine plans under S.58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the Duty to Co-operate in Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011. A full list of the local planning authorities whose areas overlap with the UK marine area appears in Appendix One.

Furthermore, the Duty to Co-Operate requires all local planning authorities, even if landlocked, to take account, where relevant, of the MMO's plans and activities when preparing their Local Plans. Finally, the NPPF requires LPAs to take the MPS into account under the tests of soundness (specifically, to test if an emerging DPD is consistent with national policy, which includes the MPS).

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the Act) provided for the introduction of a marine planning system for England's inshore and offshore marine area, establishing the Secretary of State as the Marine Planning Authority for these areas. The Act also provided for the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and for the Secretary of State to delegate various planning functions. The planning functions including preparation and review were delegated to the MMO in 2010. The Act also provided for the adoption of the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS). The MPS was adopted on 18 March 2011 and provides the policy framework for marine planning and for all decisions likely to affect the marine area.

There are eleven plan areas in English waters, for each of which a Marine Plan will be prepared by the MMO and adopted by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

In practical terms, all activities undertaken in the marine area require land based infrastructure, without which our ability to benefit economically and socially from activities in the marine area would be extremely limited.

The UK Government's vision for the marine environment, as articulated in the MPS, is:

'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'.

In the absence of a marine plan prepared by the MMO and adopted by the Secretary of State the MPS is the relevant marine policy document. Where a marine plan has been adopted both the MPS and the Marine Plan are relevant marine policy documents for the marine plan area.

As articulated in the Marine and Coastal Act and the MPS, the Government aims for the MPS and marine planning systems to sit alongside and interact with



# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

existing planning regimes across the UK. Specifically, s.58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act requires all<sup>1</sup> public bodies to:

- take authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area in accordance with the MPS and relevant Marine Plans, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise
- state their reasons where authorisation or enforcement decisions are not taken in accordance with the MPS and relevant Marine Plans
- have regard to the MPS and relevant Marine Plans when taking decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area which are not authorisation or enforcement decisions<sup>2</sup>

In addition, the MPS seeks integration of marine planning and the terrestrial planning system through:

- Consistency between marine and terrestrial policy documents and guidance
- Liaison between respective responsible authorities for terrestrial and marine planning, including in plan development, implementation and review stages
- Sharing the evidence base and data where relevant and appropriate so as to achieve consistency in the data used in plan making and decisions

These aims are further supported by footnote 36 in the NPPF.

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<sup>1</sup> Like the Duty to Co-Operate, no distinction is made by the Marine and Coastal Access Act between public authorities with a tidal frontage and those without. Emphasis is placed on the likelihood of the decision being made affecting the marine area.

<sup>2</sup> For example, decisions about what representations they should make as a consultee or about what action they should carry out themselves.

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<b>Key requirements under the Duty to Co-Operate</b>		
<p>Consistency between marine and terrestrial policy documents and guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of consistency of aim between relevant local plan policies and marine policy documents (i.e. the MPS and any relevant adopted marine plans)</li> <li>• Proof of collaborative working with the MMO and that the MPS has been taken into account.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MMO are identified as a DTC body within the Duty to Co-operate Strategy and Compliance Statement (EB 042 and SD 010). They have been consulted at each stage of plan making and as requested additional references to the MMO as the marine planning authority for England, the Marine Policy Statement and the emerging South East Marine Plan were added to the Local Plan.</li> <li>• The Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix C32) SD 001 and SD 004) has reviewed the aims and objectives of the Marine Policy Statement including local potential for marine-related economic development.</li> <li>• Reference to the South East (Inshore) South East (Inshore) Marine Plan can be found at paragraph 1.34. The South East (Inshore) Marine Plan Iteration 2 was consultation upon in January – March 2018. The Local Plan will be integrated with this Plan, once it is complete, to provide a consistent approach for planning on land, and within the Borough’s inter-tidal and marine environment.</li> <li>• Reference is made to the current Essex and Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan (EB 143) in paragraph 5.13 which aims to reduce the threat of flooding and erosion to dwellings, key infrastructure and tourism facilities. Policy S3 Addressing Climate Change and Flood Risk (page 44) within the Local Plan helps to support the implementation of the Essex and Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan by encouraging new</li> </ul>

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		development to mitigate and adapt to climate change and flood risk by promoting the efficient use of natural resources such as water, minimising the impact on flooding and provide opportunities for green infrastructure.
Liaison between respective authorities responsible for terrestrial and marine planning, including in plan development, implementation and review stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early and effective policy development engagement undertaken, including discussions with the MMO</li> <li>• Evidence of iteration of policies and plans as a result of engagement with the MMO</li> <li>• Evidence of engagement with the MMO in relation to monitoring, implementation and throughout the policy cycle</li> <li>• Support of integrated coastal management (ICM) in coastal areas in line with the requirements of the MPS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MMO have been consulted at each stage of plan making this included formal Local Plan notifications, consultation on the DTC Strategy and cross-boundary strategic impacts, together with presentations preceding the Issues and Options stage to gain a better understanding of MMO's work and remit.</li> <li>• Following consultation, additional references to the MMO as the marine planning authority for England, the Marine Policy Statement and the emerging South East Marine Plan were added to the Local Plan paragraph 1.34 and 5.13.</li> </ul>
Sharing the evidence base and data where relevant and appropriate so as to achieve consistency in the data used in plan making and decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the LPA has shared or provided relevant data to the MMO that can help inform Marine Plans or MPS review</li> <li>• Demonstration that local plan policy has been underpinned by data provided by the MMO or the MPS</li> <li>• Explicit cross-referencing in local plan to MPS, the MMO, their roles, and relevant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council responded to MMO consultation on the South East (Inshore) Marine Plan Iteration 2 in March 2018.</li> <li>• An initial DTC meeting was held in 2015 with the MMO which set out the Council's current Local Plan position and the emerging plan. A presentation was given by the MMO which introduced the MMO and marine planning and examples of references to marine plans in LPA Local Plans.</li> <li>• MMO has not asked the Council specifically for any data for the emerging Marine Plan but the relationship is in place to continue with</li> </ul>

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	marine plans	collaboratively engagement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference to the South East (Inshore) South East (Inshore) Marine Plan can be found at paragraph 1.34. The South East (Inshore) Marine Plan Iteration 2 was consultation upon in January – March 2018. The Local Plan will be integrated with this Plan, once it is complete, to provide a consistent approach for planning on land, and within the Borough’s inter-tidal and marine environment.</li> <li>• Reference is made to the current Essex and Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan (EB 143) in paragraph 5.13 which aims to reduce the threat of flooding and erosion to dwellings, key infrastructure and tourism facilities. Policy S3 Addressing Climate Change and Flood Risk (page 44) within the Local Plan helps to support the implementation of the Essex and Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan by encouraging new development to mitigate and adapt to climate change and flood risk by promoting the efficient use of natural resources such as water, minimising the impact on flooding and provide opportunities for green infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>Marine Policy Statement- Chapter 2: General Principles for Decision-Making<sup>3</sup></b>		
<b>Sections 2.1 -2.2: The UK vision for the marine environment</b>		

<sup>3</sup> As the Marine Policy Statement was not targeted specifically at terrestrial planning authorities, some of its sections are, in practice, relevant to marine planning authorities only and/or there is already a comprehensive policy framework governing terrestrial development (e.g. energy infrastructure), Where this is considered to be the case, i.e. where it is considered likely that a terrestrial planning DPD would be found sound without referencing that section, the section in question has been omitted from this checklist.

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>The UK vision for the marine environment ('clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas')</p> <p>Achieving the vision through marine planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference in DPD where appropriate to UK vision for the marine environment</li> <li>Contribution to the vision through local plan policies and supporting text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Policy S6 Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment refers to protecting and enhancing environmental designations and local distinctiveness.</li> <li>The Vision aims to continue to protect and enhance the rich and diverse natural environment including the coast (see Schedule of Additional Changes, SD 002).</li> <li>Paragraph 5.13 and 5.14 supporting Policy S3 Addressing Climate Change and Flood Risk recognises pressure on coastal habitats and supports measures in the Shoreline Plan to reduce threats from flooding.</li> <li>An Essex wide Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) is being produced and expected to be completed in 2018. This work is being undertaken on a joint basis with Natural England and relevant Local Planning Authorities involved in the RAMS project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Section 2.4: Considering benefits and adverse effects in marine planning</b></p>		
<p>Consider benefits and adverse effects of plan policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration of benefits and adverse effects of policy on the marine area as appropriate within the DPD's sustainability appraisal</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Section 2.5: Economic, social and environmental considerations</b></p>		
<p>Contribute to the objectives of relevant EU Directives (Marine Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference to relevant EU Directives in DPD and sustainability appraisal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Local Plan and Policies Map acknowledges the Crouch Estuary European Protected Site which is protected under Strategic Policy S6 Conserving and</li> </ul>

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Framework Directive and Water Framework Directive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of contribution of DPD policies to the objectives of relevant EU Directives</li> </ul>	<p>Enhancing the Natural Environment, Policy NE1 Ecology and Biodiversity, Strategic Policy S11 Infrastructure Requirements and site-specific policies e.g. SGS7 North of South Woodham Ferrers which requires mitigation avoidance through RAMS or site-specific project level HRA, shown on Policies Map.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Essex wide Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) is being produced and expected to be completed in 2018. This work is being undertaken on a joint basis with Natural England and relevant Local Planning Authorities involved in the RAMS project.</li> <li>• The Pre-Submission SA and HRA recognises that there are three European sites within the Chelmsford City Area. Strategic Growth Site 7 is located close to the Crouch Estuary and hence the Crouch and Roach Estuaries SPA; the Crouch and Roach Estuaries Ramsar; and the Essex Estuaries SAC. The SA assessment is set out on page 110 for the assessment against SA Objective relating to biodiversity and geodiversity, Appendix G appraisal of proposed site allocations and Appendix I36 the appraisal of the site policy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Marine Policy Statement- Chapter 3: Policy Objectives for Key Activities</b></p>		
<p><b>3.1 Marine Protected Areas</b></p>		
<p>Incorporate identified areas and features of importance for nature conservation</p> <p>Activities or developments that may</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of relevant areas and features of importance for nature conservation within relevant marine plan area(s)</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>result in adverse impacts on biodiversity should be designed or located to avoid such impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of impacts of policy and/or terrestrial development on those areas and features of importance</li> <li>• Measures to mitigate, monitor and manage negative impacts on those areas and features of importance</li> </ul>	
<b>3.4 Ports and shipping</b>		
<p>Take into account and seek to minimise any negative impacts on shipping activity, freedom of navigation and navigational safety</p> <p>Protect the efficiency and resilience of continuing port operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that policy with potential impact on ports and shipping minimises negative impacts on sector</li> <li>• Where relevant, evidence that economic, employment and transport policies are protective of ports and shipping sector</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>3.8 Fisheries</b>		
<p>Consider potential economic, social and environmental impacts of other developments on fishing activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where relevant, evidence that other policies minimise negative impacts on fishing activity and/or aquaculture</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>3.9 Aquaculture</b>		
<p>Consider the benefits of encouraging the development of efficient, competitive and sustainable aquaculture industries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where relevant, evidence that the benefits of aquaculture industry development have been considered</li> </ul>	N/A

## Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<b>3.10 Surface water management and waste water treatment and disposal</b>		
<p>Maximise opportunities for co-existence of waste water infrastructure with other activities in the marine environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference to and consideration of the co-existence of waste water infrastructure with other marine activities, including the potential for waste water infrastructure to mitigate marine impacts through design or location</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>
<b>3.11 Tourism and recreation</b>		
<p>Consider the potential for tourism and recreation in the marine environment and the benefits this will bring to the economy and local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where relevant, reference to marine tourism and recreation</li> <li>• Evidence that the potential for marine tourism and recreation has been recognised in plan-making</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>



# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

## Appendix One

This is an alphabetical list of all local planning authorities in England whose area overlaps with the UK marine area.

Adur	City of Southampton	Hartlepool	North Lincolnshire
Allerdale	City of Westminster	Hastings	North Norfolk
Arun	Colchester	Havant	North Somerset
Babergh	Copeland	Havering	North Tyneside
Barking and Dagenham	Cornwall	Horsham	North York Moors National
Barrow-in-Furness	County Durham	Hounslow	Park
Basildon	Dartford	Huntingdonshire	Northumberland
Bassetlaw	Doncaster	Ipswich	Norwich
Bexley	Dover	Isle of Wight	Poole
Blackpool	East Cambridgeshire	Isles of Scilly	Preston
Boston	East Devon	Kensington and Chelsea	Purbeck
Bournemouth	East Lindsey	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Redcar and Cleveland
Broadland	East Riding of Yorkshire	Lake District National Park	Richmond upon Thames
Broads Authority	Eastbourne	Lambeth	Rochford
Canterbury	Eastleigh	Lancaster	Rother
Carlisle	Exeter	Lewes	Scarborough
Castle Point	Exmoor National Park	Lewisham	Sedgemoor
Chelmsford	Fareham	Liverpool	Sefton
Cheshire West and Chester	Fenland	Maidstone	Selby
Chichester	Fylde	Maldon	Shepway
Chorley	Gateshead	Medway	South Cambridgeshire
Christchurch	Gloucester	Middlesbrough	South Downs National Park
City of London	Gosport	New Forest	South Gloucestershire
City of Brighton and Hove	Gravesham	New Forest National Park	South Hams
City of Bristol	Great Yarmouth	Newark and Sherwood	South Holland
City of Kingston upon Hull	Greenwich	Newcastle upon Tyne	South Lakeland
City of Peterborough	Halton	Newham	South Norfolk
City of Plymouth	Hambleton	North Devon	South Ribble
City of Portsmouth	Hammersmith and Fulham	North East Lincolnshire	South Somerset

# Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

South Tyneside  
Southend-on-Sea  
Southwark  
Stockton-on-Tees  
Stroud  
Suffolk Coastal  
Sunderland  
Swale  
Taunton Deane  
Teignbridge  
Tendring  
Test Valley  
Thanet  
Thurrock  
Tonbridge and Malling  
Torbay  
Torridge  
Tower Hamlets  
Wandsworth  
Warrington  
Waveney  
Wealden  
West Devon  
West Dorset  
West Lancashire  
West Lindsey  
West Somerset  
Weymouth and Portland  
Winchester  
Wirral  
Worthing  
Wyre  
York





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