

Uttlesford District Council Local Plan

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA) & Strategic Environmental
Assessment (SEA)**

Scoping Report - DRAFT FOR MEMBERS

July 2015

DRAFT

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Glossary of Acronyms

ANGSt	Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BARR	Buildings At Risk Register
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies
CPZ	Countryside Protection Zone
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
DPD	Development Plan Document
DSCF	Department for Schools, Children and Families
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Community
ECC	Essex County Council
EEC	European Economic Community
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
EU	European Union
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivations
JSA	Jobseekers Allowance
KSI	Killed or Seriously Injured
LDD	Local Development Document
LDF	Local Development Framework
LoWS	Local Wildlife Sites
MPS	Minerals Planning Statement
NAQS	National Air Quality Standards
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PAS	Planning Advisory Service
PDL	Previously Developed Land
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance

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PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PSA	Public Service Agreement
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SA/SEA	Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SHLAA	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2013/14)
SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Assessment
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
WDD	Waste Development Document

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Uttlesford District Council commissioned Place Services of Essex County Council to undertake an independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) on the Uttlesford Local Plan.

1.2 The Local Plan

The Uttlesford Local Plan (referred to hereafter as the Plan) responds to a national requirement that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) must set planning policies in a local authority area. Local plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the National Planning Policy Framework.

The local plan will contain:

- The Council's vision, objectives and the spatial strategy for the future development of the district.
- Strategic Policies – policies which provide the overarching framework for planning decisions within the district
- Site Allocations Policies – covering detailed aspects of site delivery
- Development Management Policies – detailed policies against which planning applications will be considered.
- Gypsy and Traveller site allocations policies – specific policies covering the sites needed to deliver the required pitches and include e.g. access, design principles, landscaping.
- Policies Map and Key Diagram - The policies map will show all the policies and proposals and identify areas of protection on an Ordnance Survey base. The key diagram will illustrate the proposals.

In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, the Local Plan should be clear in setting out the strategic priorities for the area and the policies that address these, and which also provide the strategic framework within which any neighbourhood plans may be prepared to shape development at the community level.

2 Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment

2.1 The Requirement for Sustainability Appraisal

The requirement for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) emanates from a high level national and international commitment to sustainable development. The most commonly used definition of sustainable development is that drawn up by the World Trade Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 which states that sustainable development is:

‘development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’

This definition is consistent with the themes of the NPPF, which draws upon The UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future’s five ‘guiding principles’ of sustainable development: living within the planet’s environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

SEA originates from the European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment” (the ‘SEA Directive’) which came into force in 2001. It seeks to increase the level of protection for the environment; integrate environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes; and promote sustainable development.

The Directive was transposed into English legislation in 2004 by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (the ‘SEA Regulation’) which requires an SEA to be carried out for plans or programmes

‘subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions’.

This includes Local Plans. The aim of the SEA is to identify potentially significant environmental effects created as a result of the implementation of the plan or programme on issues such as *‘biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors’* as specified in Annex 1(f) of the Directive.

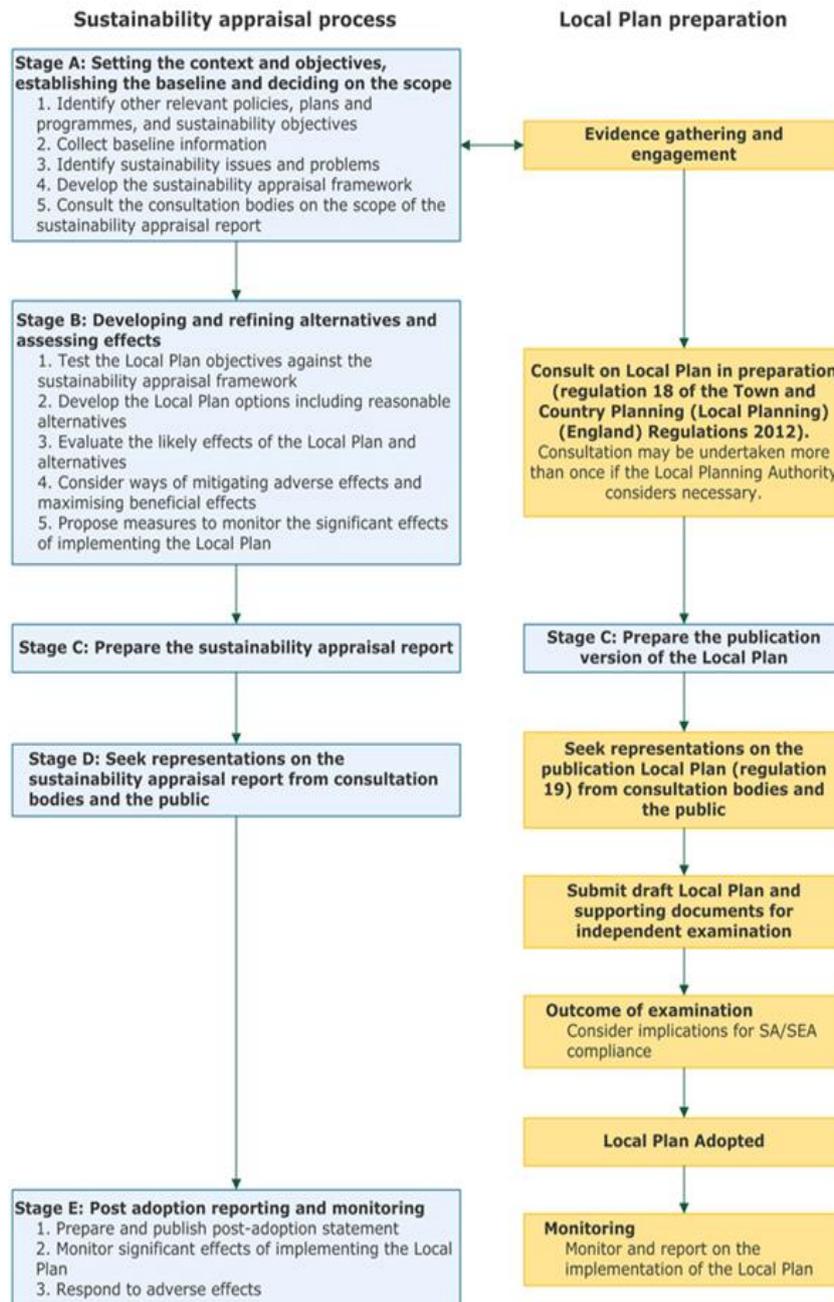
SA examines the effects of proposed plans and programmes in a wider context, taking into account economic, social and environmental considerations in order to promote sustainable development. It is mandatory for Local Plans to undergo a Sustainability Appraisal in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Planning Act 2008, and in accordance with paragraph 165 of the NPPF.

Whilst the requirements to produce a SA and SEA are distinct, Government guidance considers that it is possible to satisfy the two requirements through a single approach providing that the requirements of the SEA Directive are met. This integrated appraisal process will hereafter be referred to as SA.

2.2 Background

The methodology adopted for the SA of the Uttlesford Local Plan at this stage follows that of the Sustainability Appraisal process. The following 5 sequential stages are documented below.

Figure 1: Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal Process and Local Plan Preparation



2.3 The Aim and Structure of this Report

This Scoping Report responds to Stage A in the SA process and sets the context and objectives of the SA, establishes the baseline and decides on the scope of the forthcoming Environment Report. There are 2 annexes to this Scoping Report which contain the supporting evidence.

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Annex A contains a review of relevant plans and programmes.

Annex B contains the baseline information.

3 Sustainability Context, Baseline and Objectives

3.1 Introduction

The following section outlines the key findings of this Scoping Report which includes an outline of the plans and programmes, the baseline information profile for the Plan Area, together with the Sustainability Objectives and Site Pro forma formulated.

3.2 Plans and Programmes (Stage A1)

The Plan must comply with existing policies, plans and programmes at national and local levels and strengthen and support other local plans and strategies. It is therefore important to identify and review those policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives which are likely to influence the Plan. Local supporting documents which form the evidence base of the higher level planning documents have also been included within this list where relevant as they will shape policies and decisions in the District.

The plans and programmes have been categorised by a hierarchy of influence from national to sub-national to local however, it must be noted that no list of plans and programmes can be definitive. International Agreements and European Directives are transposed into complementary UK legislation and policy to ensure their objectives can be achieved; therefore the review need not go above the national level. Table 1 outlines the key documents, whilst a comprehensive description of these documents together with their relevance to the Plan is provided within Annex A.

Table 1: Key Documents

National Plans and Programmes
Planning Practice Guidance (updated)
The Localism Act 2011
National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)
The Future of Air Transport White Paper (December 2003) (to be superseded by Developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation once adopted)
Developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation - Scoping document (March 2011)
Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (July 2007)
Community Infrastructure Levy An Overview, CLG (9th May 2011)
Underground, Under Threat - Groundwater protection: policy and practice (GP3)
Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination – Contaminated Land Report 11 (September 2004)
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010
Sub-national Plans and Programmes
Essex Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment – on behalf of EPOA (July 2014)
Essex Local Transport Plan 2011 (LTP3)
ECC Development Management Policies Adopted by UDC (February 2011)
ECC Parking Standards: Design and Good Practice Adopted by UDC (September 2009)
Essex Wildlife Trust Living Landscape Statements
Leading the way forward: Surface Access Strategy for Stansted 2008-2015
2011 Essex Biodiversity Action Plan
Commissioning School Places in Essex 2014-2019
Stansted Airport Environmental Noise Directive Noise Action Plan 2010-2015 - Draft for Consultation (June 2009)
River Basin Management Plan Anglian River Basin District (draft 2015)
River Basin Management Plan Thames River Basin District (draft 2015)
Essex Wildlife Trust Living Landscape plans
The Essex Local Area Agreement – ‘Health and Opportunity for the People of Essex’ 2008 – 2011 (2010 Refresh)
Essex Rural Strategy: 2020 Vision for Rural Essex 2010
The Essex Strategy 2008 – 2018
Local Plans and Programmes
Uttlesford Adopted Local Plan (January 2005) + Saved Policy Direction (December 2007)
Uttlesford Pre-Submission Local Plan (2014) WITHDRAWN
Sustainability Appraisal of the Uttlesford Pre-Submission Local Plan (2014)
Uttlesford Cycling Strategy (ECC, October 2014)

Employer and Business Survey (CN Research, 2009)
Employment Land Review (UDC, 2011)
Employment Land Monitoring (UDC, October 2014)
Housing Strategy 2012-15 (Uttlesford District Council, 2012)
Infrastructure Development Plan (UDC, April 2014)
Local Wildlife Site Review (Essex Ecology Services, October 2007)
Open Space, Sport Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy (The Landscape Partnership, 2012)
Local Reports and Assessments
Assessment of Uttlesford District's Local Plan on Air Quality in Saffron Walden (2013)
Gypsy and Traveller Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal (ECC, December 2014)
Habitats Regulation Assessment (UDC, April 2014)
Green Belt Boundary Scoping Report (Uttlesford District Council, 2011)
Historic Settlement Character Assessment (Uttlesford District Council, 2007)
Affordable Housing Viability Assessment (Level, August 2010 & update 2012)
Demographic Forecasts Phases 1-6 (Edge Analytics, Quarter 1 - 2015)
Developer Contribution Guidance Viability Testing (KIFT Consulting, February 2014)
Housing Supply as at 31 March 2014 (Uttlesford District Council, 2014)
Housing Supply Windfall Allowance (Uttlesford District Council, 2014)
Housing Trajectory and Five-Year Land Supply 2015 (Uttlesford District Council, 2015)
Objectively Assessed Housing Need, Technical Assessment (Uttlesford District Council, October 2013)
Sites Viability Assessment (BNP Paribas Real Estate, March 2014)
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2013
Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2012 [new assessment commissioned expected 2015])
Landscape Character Assessment (Chris Blandford Associates, September 2006)
Protected Lanes Assessment (Essex County Council, March 2012)
Renewable Energy Study of the District of the District (Altechnica, January 2008)

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District Retail Study (Savills, 2012, 2014)
Uttlesford Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (JBA Consulting, March 2008)
Town and Village Profiles (Uttlesford District Council, January 2012)
Great Chesterford Cycle Route Feasibility Study (Essex Highways, April 2014)
Local Plan Highway Impact Assessment (Essex Highways, March 2014)
Uttlesford District Historic Environment Characterisation Project (Essex County Council, 2009)
Water Cycle Study (Hyder Consulting, January 2010 & November 2012)
The Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan (and accompanying SEA) (Plan preparation ongoing)
Arkesden Parish plan (2009)
Ashdon Parish plan (2007)
Birchanger Parish Plan (2006)
Chrishall Parish Plan (2007)
Felsted Parish Plan (2014)
Great Canfield Village Design Statement (2010)
Great Chesterford Parish Plan (2015)
Great Dunmow Town Design Statement (2009)
Hadstock Parish Plan (2007)
Little Bardfield Village Design Statement (2009)
Littlebury Parish Plan (2009)
Newport Village Plan (2010)
Radwinter Parish Plan 2007-2012
Stansted Parish Plan (2011)
Thaxted Village Design Statement (2010)
Wendens Ambo Parish Plan (2012)
White Roding Parish Plan (2009)

3.3 Baseline Information (Stage A2)

Annex B details the complete Baseline Information profile for the plan area and where relevant the district relevant to the content of the Plan.

The following section outlines a summary of the key baseline information and therefore the current state of the environment for Uttlesford.

3.3.1 Economy and Employment

- The district has the highest rate of economic activity at 74.4% compared to the county, region and country. Job density in Uttlesford (0.84) is higher than across the county (0.74), region (0.78) and nation (0.80).
- Uttlesford District is predominantly rural in nature and as such a significant proportion of businesses are based within rural locations with only 15% defined as being urban based.
- 81.7% of the working population in Uttlesford District are in employment which is higher than sub-national and national employment levels. The proportion of the District's working population who are economically active but unemployed is 3.0% which is below sub-national and national unemployment figures.
- The District's Employment Land Review (ELR) expected to impact on employment land by identifying Stansted Airport as a prospective opportunity for growth despite BAA having withdrawn its planning application for a second runway. Despite this, it is worthy of note that the government has already granted planning permission to increase the use of the existing runway to 35 million passengers per year and this is expected to be implemented.
- Stansted Airport employed 10,860 people in 2009, and this is expected to rise to 16,800 following the proposed increase in runway usage.

3.3.2 Housing

- Since 2001 4,887 new dwellings have been completed, falling short of the requirement for housing set out in the SHLAA.
- There are 33,930 dwellings within Uttlesford District, 86.7% of which are privately owned.
- Over the period 2007-2021, there is a need for 4,200 (52%) units of market housing, 2,600 (32%) units of intermediate affordable housing and 1,300 (16%) units of social rented housing in the District.
- 2012/13 registered an increase in homeless acceptances to 43, aligning with national trends. There is also a demand for more Gypsy and Traveller sites in Uttlesford, totalling 26 additional sites by 2033.

3.3.3 Population and Society

- Uttlesford has experienced a faster rate of population growth (14.81%) when compared with county (6.18%), regional (8.11%) and national level (6.99%).
- At 77.1% a higher proportion of pupils within Uttlesford attained five or more A*-C grades at

key stage 4 (KS4) than the county, regional and national equivalent. 64.3% of pupils who gained five or more A*-C grades did so in English and Mathematics which is considerably more than the national proportion of 53.4%. The proportion of pupils attaining five or more A*-G grades was also above the national figure and only 0.4% of all pupils in the District didn't receive any passes at KS4.

- The population of Uttlesford District has in general more qualifications than the overall sub-national and national populations. 93.4% of the working age population of Uttlesford District which accounts for 46,700 people are qualified to at least level 1 or higher compared to 85.0% across Great Britain. Level 1 represents foundation GNVQ, NVQ 1 or up to 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C. The most significant difference is that Uttlesford has comparatively higher proportions of the population qualified at Level 3 and Level 4 and above. With 59.3% of the population having attained at least 2 or more A levels, advanced GNVQ, NVQ 3 or equivalent (level 3) and 35.6% achieving a higher national diploma, degree and higher degree level or equivalent (level 4). Uttlesford has a significantly higher skilled workforce in comparison to the county and a slightly higher proportion than the regional level.
- School age population numbers are projected to grow relatively slowly and school capacity within Uttlesford is expected to be sufficient to accommodate children in the District. Primary schools are predicted to have a surplus of 288 places for the 2018/19 academic year. Secondary schools are predicted to have a surplus of 415 for the same time period.
- Uttlesford has the lowest level of deprivation for a local authority within Greater Essex. Of the 326 local authorities within England Uttlesford ranks within the bottom 10% for the four measures – extent, local concentration, average score and average rank

3.3.4 Health

- Life expectancy of residents within Uttlesford District is higher than the regional and national averages with men living for an average of 81.8 years and women on average living 85.1 years. In general, life expectancy is increasing within the District and nationwide. The implications of this will mean that as people live longer there will be increased pressure on services for the elderly.
- The prevalence of child obesity within the District is 5.4% which is lower than the county average of 8.1% and considerably below the national average of 9.4%. Adult obesity is 18.2% within the District which is considerably below both the county average of 24.5% and the national average of 23.0%.
- The proportion of adults participating in 30 minutes, moderate intensity sport has decreased in the most recent survey at the local, sub-national and national levels. In the District 42.0% of those in the survey were active in sport between October 2013 and October 2014.
- Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) created by Natural England sets out the minimum amount of accessible natural greenspace that any household should be within reach of. As much as 54% of households within Uttlesford do not have any access to natural greenspace. The District covers around 64,000ha of land but only 894ha of it is considered to be accessible natural greenspace.

3.3.5 Transport

- 90.4% of households in Uttlesford own at least one vehicle, a far higher percentage than for the East of England (82.3%) and for England and Wales (73.9%). The highest percentage

of residents own 2 cars or vans whereas in both the East of England and England and Wales the majority of the population owned 1 car or van.

- Uttlesford District has a higher proportion of residents driving to work by either car or van (46.34%) when compared to regional and national levels as well as a larger proportion of residents working from home (6.43%). This could be related to the District being mainly rural. There is also a higher usage of trains as a mode of transport within the District compared to the national trend but fewer residents cycle or travel by underground or on a bus, minibus or coach. The proportion of residents who walk to work is comparatively similar to the regional and national levels.
- The work destination attracting the highest proportion of Uttlesford residents was the City of London (10.9%). The next most popular destinations for employment were the neighbouring areas of Cambridge with 991 commuters (5.5%) and Harlow with 410 (2.3%).
- Accessibility is a general issue within Uttlesford District, with only just over one third of residents being within 15 minutes of an employment site or retail centre and 50% being within 15 minutes of a GP. Over four fifths of the population of Uttlesford District live within 30 minutes of a primary school. The proportion of residents with access to a secondary school within 30 minutes walking or public transport is significantly smaller at 60%.

3.3.6 Cultural Heritage

- The majority of archaeological sites and deposits in Uttlesford District remain buried, hidden and thus preserved. However, the known archaeological resource in the District is very varied and highly significant. There are approximately 4,064 in records of archaeological sites and finds recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) for Uttlesford District as of December 2010.
- There are 3,731 designated listed buildings within the District and the majority of them are grade II listed. This means they are nationally important and of special interest. 1.8% of all the listed buildings are considered to be of exceptional interest and internationally important (grade I) and 4.6% are classed as particularly important buildings of more than special interest (grade II*).
- There are 73 Scheduled Monuments within the District which represents 24.5% of all Scheduled Monuments within Essex. They range from prehistoric burial mounds to unusual examples of World War II defensive structures and have been designated due to their national importance. Audley End located west of Saffron Walden, is designated as a Scheduled Monument, as well as a landscape park and historic house.
- There are seven registered parks and gardens within Uttlesford District which have each been designated by English Heritage as being “a park or garden of special historic interest” and 36 conservation areas within Uttlesford District which are defined as historical settlements and buildings having ‘special architectural or historical interest, the character of which is desirable to preserve or enhance’.

3.3.7 Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

- The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (EBAP) highlights 25 species and 10 habitat action plans covering Essex.
- There are no international or European designated sites within Uttlesford. Nationally

designated sites include 2 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and 12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). There are also 281 locally important nature conservation areas which are designated as Local Wildlife Sites (LoWSs).

- There is a Public Service Agreement (PSA) target of at least 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites being brought into favourable condition. 8 of the 12 sites in Uttlesford are meeting this target. Those not are Ashdon Meadows, Debden Waters, Hall's Quarry and High Wood, Dunmow. The majority of Hall's Quarry and Debden Waters SSSI areas are in favourable conditions, however they are not meeting the PSA target because of unfavourable conditions in other sections. 35.03% Hall's Quarry and 39.87% of Debden Waters SSSI are in an unfavourable condition and declining.
- In addition to designated sites, consideration should also be given to non-designated value in regards to ecology on a site-by-site basis in order to protect and enhance species and habitats, including those that are protected. This could include Greenfield sites and areas of habitat considered to enrich appreciably the habitat resource within the context of local areas, such as species-rich hedgerows, municipal parklands or individual veteran trees.

3.3.8 Landscapes

- There are eight Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Uttlesford District as defined in a Landscape Character Assessment relevant to the District and each one has a recognisable pattern of landscape characteristics. A more detailed landscape character assessment defined 20 smaller local LCAs within the eight previously defined. With the exception of one they were all identified as being between moderate to highly sensitive of change.
- There is a significant proportion of ancient woodland in the District. Hatfield Forest is an important survival of a medieval forest, comprising a mixture of wood pasture with pollards, coppice woods, timber trees, a warren, lodge and lake. The Uttlesford Local Plan identifies a wildlife corridor of Ancient Woodland to the north-west of the settlement.
- Protected lanes have significant historic and landscape values and because of their age they often have significant biological value too. There are a number of both grade one and two protected lanes within the District.
- More than 60 verges have been designated as being Special Roadside Nature Reserves in the District. They are considered important for their ecological value as they contain rare or uncommon fauna and act as corridors interlinking fragmented or isolated habitats.

3.3.9 Water Environment

- None of the rivers in the Roding, Beam and Ingreborne catchment currently achieve good or better ecological or biological status/potential now. A total of 67% are classified as having poor biological status, and 11 % of the assessed river water bodies have bad status. By 2015 the status for at least one element was expected to have improved by 31% which is second to the Upper Lee catchment, also in the Thames region, where 44% should improve over the same timescale. 16% of rivers in this catchment currently achieve good or better ecological status/potential and 10% have good or high biological status now, with 62% at poor biological status, but none classed as bad status. The Cam and Ely Ouse and Combined Essex catchments achieve higher percentages of water bodies with at least good biological status at over 27% and 33% respectively but Combined Essex catchment reported only 7% of water bodies achieving good ecological status/potential.

- Of all the river courses in the District, the Cam and Ely Ouse displayed the highest percentage assessed at good chemical status and good overall status including chemical and ecological at 94% and 17% respectively. However, the Upper Lee catchment was predicted to register the highest % improvement for one or more element in the river of 44% by 2015.
- Surface water flooding risk in the District was highlighted through the modelling of surface water in Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet, which identified drainage paths and potential areas that may be susceptible to surface water ponding. In numerous locations surface water reaches depths of more than 60 cm.
- A 2008 SFRA was undertaken to accompany the District's Local Plan. The SFRA is a planning tool that enables the council to select and develop sustainable site allocations away from vulnerable flood risk areas. The SFRA will assist the council to make the spatial planning decisions required to inform the Local Plan and contained recommendations. In regards to land use planning, water quality raises a range of challenges from development, including point source pollution from required sewage treatment, water abstraction to supply people and industry and diffuse pollution from urban sources.

3.3.10 Climate and Energy

- More than half the District's 2,808.9GWh energy consumption is from petroleum products which are a result of transport, domestic and commercial industries (66.20%). In contrast only 15.9GWh of energy consumed is from bioenergy and waste products. This is the second highest percentage of total energy consumption from renewable sources (0.57%) compared with neighbouring areas, second to Maldon (0.92%).
- The transport industry is responsible for the majority of CO₂ emissions within Uttlesford with 38.3%, followed by domestic consumption (31.1%) and industry and commercial consumption (30.7%). Uttlesford is ranked as the third place district in Essex for per capita reductions in CO₂ emissions with 21.3%, which is higher than the county percentage of 17.6%. Harlow and Maldon were ranked higher than Uttlesford with 25.0% and 21.4% respectively.
- Mean summer precipitation has a 67% likelihood of decreasing by up to 10% across the whole region by 2020 and by 2050 the south of the East of England will see decreases by up to 20%. By 2050 much of the region is expected to see a mean winter precipitation increase of between 10% and 20%.
- Up to March 2011 Uttlesford District had issued 125 Code for Sustainable Homes certificates, 64 at the design stage and 61 post construction. This total number is below the Essex average of 156 certificates issued.

3.3.11 Air and Noise

- The main air quality issues within the District following the first round of air quality assessments in 1998 to 1999 were found to be emissions of NO₂ and PM₁₀ from vehicles on the M11 and A120. However, no air quality management areas (AQMA) have been declared in Uttlesford for these as national air quality objectives were not predicted to be exceeded. Further assessments found 3 junctions in Saffron Walden showing NO₂ levels exceeding the objectives which have been declared AQMA and 2 other sites in the District have since reported exceedances in NO₂ levels.

- In 2009, five of these locations reported levels of NO₂ above the threshold limit of 40 µg·m⁻³ set by the National Air Quality Strategy (NAQS) – four were located in Saffron Walden and one was located in Stansted. Three of the five sites, all of which were in Saffron Walden were in places of relevant exposure. This included the site in Debden Road which like the Burton End site in Stansted was outside the existing AQMAs.
- Ambient or environmental noise is defined as noise which is either unwanted or harmful. It is created by human activities and includes noise emitted by transport including road traffic and air traffic, as well as from sites of industrial activity. Britain's third busiest international airport, Stansted Airport is located within the District and a major motorway, the M11 traverses through it down the eastern side. Both these forms of transportation generate ambient noise which can impact people living or working nearby.
- There are no dwellings situated in close enough proximity of Stansted Airport that experience noise levels exceeding 75dB at any time of day but under 100 people do experience noise that exceeds 70dB during the day, evening and night. Noise level produced on the M11 exceeds 75dB across the day, evening and night at the point of source and dissipates across a large area surrounding the road. The B1256 also creates ambient noise above 75dB but noise levels dissipate across a much smaller distance. The new A120 has been constructed which is likely to have increased noise implications, despite alleviating noise levels on the B1256.

3.3.12 Waste

- The majority of local authority collected household waste is sent for recycling, composting or reuse in the Plan Area. Despite this, no non-household local authority collected waste is recycled, composted or re-used.
- Households within Uttlesford District Council produce 136.89kg per household less waste than the county average, and a larger percentage of this waste is recycled re-used or composted (55.53%), than the Essex average.
- Six transfer facilities have been granted planning permission within Essex and Southend, to support a materials recovery facility, in Basildon. These will, once constructed, accept waste from the Waste Collection Authority vehicles directly from kerbside collection. Here waste will be bulked up, ready for transportation to Basildon. Uttlesford waste is scheduled to be bulked up at Great Dunmow.

3.3.13 Minerals

- There are localised deposits of silica sand, chalk, brickearth and brick clay in Essex. Marine dredging takes place in the extraction regions of the Thames Estuary and the East Coast, whilst aggregate is landed at marine wharves located in east London, north Kent, Thurrock, and Suffolk. Essex has no landing wharves of its own. There are no hard rock deposits in the County so this material must be imported into Essex. This currently occurs via rail to the existing rail depots at Harlow and Chelmsford.
- The majority of the sand and gravel produced in Essex (about 78%) is used within the County itself. This position looks unlikely to change over the long-term. Consequently the main factor influencing production of sand and gravel in the future will be the need to meet the minerals demand for the whole of Essex created by major development and new infrastructure projects within Essex itself.

- Extensive chalk resources are present under the surface but outcrop only in the North West, particularly in Uttlesford District Currently. They are extracted at only one site in the form of white chalk at Newport Quarry, used mostly in agricultural practices, although small quantities are used by the pharmaceutical industry. In Essex they are not associated with a land bank as it is extracted as an industrial mineral rather than as an aggregate.

3.3.14 Data Limitations

Not all relevant information was available at the local level and specific to the Plan Area and as a result there are some gaps within the data set. It is believed however that the available information shows a comprehensive view on sustainability within the Plan Area. New data that becomes available will be incorporated in the SEA.

It should be noted that while the baseline will be continually updated throughout the SEA process, the information outlined within this report represents a snapshot of the information available at the beginning of July 2015.

3.4 Key Sustainability Issues and Problems and SA Objectives (Stage A3 and A4)

The outcome of Stages B3 – B4 of the SA Process is the identification of key sustainability issues and problems facing the district which assist in the finalisation of a set of relevant SA Objectives which would set the framework for the appraisal of the Plan during its preparation. The objectives are also derived from the review of plans and programmes and a strategic analysis of the baseline information.

The appraisal will then be able to evaluate, in a clear and consistent manner, the nature and degree of impact and whether significant effects are likely to emerge from the Plan's proposed policies. The following table outlines the stages which led to the formulation of the SA Objectives, which were based on the key issues for the Plan Area.

Table 2: Key sustainability issues and problems and the likely evolution of the Plan Area in the absence of a Plan

Key Issues	Description / Supporting Evidence	Likely evolution in absence of Plan	SA Objective
Biodiversity	From the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (EBAP) there are 25 species and 10 habitat action plans covering Essex.	Although biodiversity and ecological designations are protected internationally and nationally, allocating sites and devising policy criteria in a locally relevant planned system enables specialist input on a site-by-site basis and the best outcomes in light of all alternatives.	1) Retain, enhance and conserve biodiversity and the water environment

Key Issues	Description / Supporting Evidence	Likely evolution in absence of Plan	SA Objective
Designated sites	<p>There are no international or European designated sites within Uttlesford. Nationally designated sites include 2 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and 12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). There are also 281 locally important nature conservation areas which are designated as Local Wildlife Sites (LoWSs).</p> <p>There is a Public Service Agreement (PSA) target of at least 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites being brought into favourable condition. 8 of the 12 sites in Uttlesford are meeting this target. Those not are Ashdon Meadows, Debden Waters, Hall's Quarry and High Wood, Dunmow. The majority of Hall's Quarry and Debden Waters SSSI areas are in favourable conditions, however they are not meeting the PSA target because of unfavourable conditions in other sections. 35.03% Hall's Quarry and 39.87% of Debden Waters SSSI are in an unfavourable condition and declining.</p>	<p>Although landscape designations are protected nationally, allocating sites and devising policy criteria in a locally relevant plan-led system enables input by landscape specialists on a site-by-site basis and the best outcomes in light of all alternatives</p>	
Water environment	<p>Of all the river courses in the District, the Cam and Ely Ouse displayed the highest percentage assessed at good chemical status and good overall status including chemical and ecological at 94% and 17% respectively. However, the Upper Lee catchment was predicted to register the highest % improvement for one or more element in the river of 44% by 2015.</p>	<p>Without the Plan's policy direction, it is possible that permissions are granted without suitable conditions. Water quality issues such as these are often tackled through initiatives on sustainable drainage systems.</p>	
Landscape features	<p>There are eight Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Uttlesford District as defined in a</p>	<p>Although landscape designations are protected nationally,</p>	<p>2) Retain, enhance and conserve the</p>

Key Issues	Description / Supporting Evidence	Likely evolution in absence of Plan	SA Objective
	<p>Landscape Character Assessment relevant to the District and each one has a recognisable pattern of landscape characteristics. A more detailed landscape character assessment defined 20 smaller local LCAs within the eight previously defined. With the exception of one they were all identified as being between moderate to highly sensitive of change.</p> <p>There is a significant proportion of ancient woodland in the District. Hatfield Forest is an important survival of a medieval forest, comprising a mixture of wood pasture with pollards, coppice woods, timber trees, a warren, lodge and lake. The Uttlesford Local Plan identifies a wildlife corridor of Ancient Woodland to the north-west of the settlement.</p>	<p>allocating sites and devising policy criteria in a locally relevant plan-led system enables input by landscape specialists on a site-by-site basis and the best outcomes in light of all alternatives.</p>	<p>character of the landscape and the quality of soil</p>
Minerals	<p>The majority of the sand and gravel produced in Essex (about 78%) is used within the County itself. This position looks unlikely to change over the long-term. Consequently the main factor influencing production of sand and gravel in the future will be the need to meet the minerals demand for the whole of Essex created by major development and new infrastructure projects within Essex itself.</p> <p>Extensive chalk resources are present under the surface but outcrop only in the North West, particularly in Uttlesford District Currently. They are extracted at only one site in the form of white chalk at Newport Quarry, used mostly in agricultural practices,</p>	<p>Allocating sites and devising policy criteria in a locally relevant plan-led system enables input by geological specialists on a site-by-site basis to determine the most appropriate ways to preserve mineral deposits in order to deliver the best outcomes in light of all alternatives.</p>	

Key Issues	Description / Supporting Evidence	Likely evolution in absence of Plan	SA Objective
	<p>although small quantities are used by the pharmaceutical industry. In Essex they are not associated with a land bank as it is extracted as an industrial mineral rather than as an aggregate.</p>		
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>The majority of archaeological sites and deposits in Uttlesford District remain buried, hidden and thus preserved. However, the known archaeological resource in the District is very varied and highly significant. There are approximately 4,064 in records of archaeological sites and finds recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) for Uttlesford District as of December 2010.</p>	<p>Although heritage and historic designations are protected nationally, allocating sites and devising policy criteria in a locally relevant planned system enables input by historic environment specialists on a site-by-site basis and the best outcomes in light of all alternatives.</p>	<p>3) To maintain and enhance the district's cultural heritage, assets and their settings</p>
	<p>There are 3,731 designated listed buildings within the District and the majority of them are grade II listed. This means they are nationally important and of special interest. 1.8% of all the listed buildings are considered to be of exceptional interest and internationally important (grade I) and 4.6% are classed as particularly important buildings of more than special interest (grade II*).</p>		
	<p>There are 73 Scheduled Monuments within the District which represents 24.5% of all Scheduled Monuments within Essex. They range from prehistoric burial mounds to unusual examples of World War II defensive structures and have been designated due to their national importance. Audley End located west of Saffron Walden, is designated as a Scheduled Monument, as well as a landscape</p>		

Key Issues	Description / Supporting Evidence	Likely evolution in absence of Plan	SA Objective
	<p>park and historic house.</p> <p>There are seven registered parks and gardens within Uttlesford District which have each been designated by English Heritage as being “a park or garden of special historic interest” and 36 conservation areas within Uttlesford District which are defined as historical settlements and buildings having ‘special architectural or historical interest, the character of which is desirable to preserve or enhance’.</p>		
Energy consumption	<p>More than half the District’s 2,808.9GWh energy consumption is from petroleum products which are a result of transport, domestic and commercial industries (66.20%). In contrast only 15.9GWh of energy consumed is from bioenergy and waste products.</p> <p>This is the second highest percentage of total energy consumption from renewable sources (0.57%) compared with neighbouring areas, second to Maldon (0.92%).</p>	The Plan has the scope to allocate sites that are located in close proximity to sustainable transportation means and also promote their inclusion as part of site policy. An absence of a plan-led approach may see development arise that does not factor in such requirements, as well as the potential for renewable energy means and energy efficiency measures.	4) To reduce contributions to climatic change
Climate change	<p>Mean summer precipitation has a 67% likelihood of decreasing by up to 10% across the whole region by 2020 and by 2050 the south of the East of England will see decreases by up to 20%.</p> <p>By 2050 much of the region is expected to see a mean winter precipitation increase of between 10% and 20%.</p>	An absence of a plan-led approach to development needs could see a larger amount of sites not factoring in the cumulative impacts of water availability and infrastructure, as well as sustainable drainage systems.	

Key Issues	Description / Supporting Evidence	Likely evolution in absence of Plan	SA Objective
Carbon Dioxide Emissions	<p>The transport industry is responsible for the majority of CO2 emissions within Uttlesford with 38.3%, followed by domestic consumption (31.1%) and industry and commercial consumption (30.7%).</p>	<p>The Plan has the scope to allocate sites that are located in close proximity to sustainable transportation means and also promote their inclusion as part of site policy. An absence of a plan-led approach may see development arise that does not factor in such requirements, as well as the potential for renewable energy means and energy efficiency measures.</p>	5) Reduce and control pollution
	<p>Uttlesford is ranked as the third place district in Essex for per capita reductions in CO2 emissions with 21.3%, which is higher than the county percentage of 17.6%. Harlow and Maldon were ranked higher than Uttlesford with 25.0% and 21.4% respectively.</p>	<p>An absence of the Plan could see less strategic commitment to minimise carbon emissions which would have increased effects on pollution output.</p>	
Water quality	<p>Of all the river courses in the District, the Cam and Ely Ouse displayed the highest percentage assessed at good chemical status and good overall status including chemical and ecological at 94% and 17% respectively. However, the Upper Lee catchment was predicted to register the highest % improvement for one or more element in the river of 44% by 2015.</p>	<p>Without the Plan's policy direction, it is possible that permissions are granted without suitable conditions. Water quality issues such as these are often tackled through initiatives on sustainable drainage systems.</p>	
	<p>None of the rivers in the Roding, Beam and Ingreborne catchment currently achieve good or better ecological or biological status/potential now. A total of 67% are classified as having poor biological status, and 11 % of the</p>		

Key Issues	Description / Supporting Evidence	Likely evolution in absence of Plan	SA Objective
	<p>assessed river water bodies have bad status. By 2015 the status for at least one element was expected to have improved by 31% which is second to the Upper Lee catchment, also in the Thames region, where 44% should improve over the same timescale. 16% of rivers in this catchment currently achieve good or better ecological status/potential and 10% have good or high biological status now, with 62% at poor biological status, but none classed as bad status. The Cam and Ely Ouse and Combined Essex catchments achieve higher percentages of water bodies with at least good biological status at over 27% and 33% respectively but Combined Essex catchment reported only 7% of water bodies achieving good ecological status/potential.</p>		
Fluvial flooding	<p>A 2008 SFRA was undertaken to accompany the District's Local Plan. The SFRA is a planning tool that enables the council to select and develop sustainable site allocations away from vulnerable flood risk areas. The SFRA will assist the council to make the spatial planning decisions required to inform the Local Plan and contained recommendations</p>	<p>Site selection criteria, as well as a Flood Risk Assessment, are used to identify whether broad potential future locations for development represent the most appropriate choices in terms of flood risk. Without the Plan, the level of detail used to inform</p>	6) To reduce the risk of flooding
Surface water flooding	<p>Surface water flooding risk in the District was highlighted through the modelling of surface water in Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet, which identified drainage paths and potential areas that may be susceptible to surface water ponding. In numerous locations surface water reaches depths of more than 60 cm.</p>	<p>decisions of a strategic nature may not be as robust, especially regarding cumulative impacts. In addition, policy content can be used to set conditions on developments, or determine their refusal in areas of flood risk.</p>	

Key Issues	Description / Supporting Evidence	Likely evolution in absence of Plan	SA Objective
Transport	90.4% of households in Uttlesford own at least one vehicle, a far higher percentage than for the East of England (82.3%) and for England and Wales (73.9%). The highest percentage of residents own 2 cars or vans whereas in both the East of England and England and Wales the majority of the population owned 1 car or van.	The Plan should seek the correct allocations to reduce emissions resulting from commuting miles whilst also exploring the validity of sustainable transportation; neither of which could be managed on a strategic scale without the Plan.	7) To promote and encourage the use of sustainable methods of travel
	Uttlesford District has a higher proportion of residents driving to work by either car or van (46.34%) when compared to regional and national levels as well as a larger proportion of residents working from home (6.43%). This could be related to the District being mainly rural. There is also a higher usage of trains as a mode of transport within the District compared to the national trend but fewer residents cycle or travel by underground or on a bus, minibus or coach. The proportion of residents who walk to work is comparatively similar to the regional and national levels.		
	The work destination attracting the highest proportion of Uttlesford residents was the City of London (10.9%). The next most popular destinations for employment were the neighbouring areas of Cambridge with 991 commuters (5.5%) and Harlow with 410 (2.3%).		
Accessibility	Accessibility is a general issue within Uttlesford District, with only just over one third of residents being within 15 minutes of an employment site or retail centre.	If the plan was without considering accessibility, large proportions of the population would be without access to vital services such as GPs, which could result in	8) To ensure accessibility to services
	Only 50% of residents are within 15 minutes of a GP.		

Key Issues	Description / Supporting Evidence	Likely evolution in absence of Plan	SA Objective
	Over four fifths of the population of Uttlesford District live within 30 minutes of a primary school.	serious adverse impacts on residents of Uttlesford. With the plan, it is simple to include considerations for accessibility to services from the onset and attain a more holistic approach.	
	The proportion of residents with access to a secondary school within 30 minutes walking or public transport is significantly smaller at 60%.		
Life expectancy	Life expectancy of residents within Uttlesford District is higher than the regional and national averages with men living for an average of 81.8 years and women on average living 85.1 years. In general, life expectancy is increasing within the District and nationwide.	The implications of increased life expectancy will mean increased pressure on services for the elderly, especially regarding care and suitable health services.	9) To improve the population's health and promote social inclusion
Obesity	The prevalence of child obesity within the District is 5.4% which is lower than the county average of 8.1% and considerably below the national average of 9.4%. Adult obesity is 18.2% within the District which is considerably below both the county average of 24.5% and the national average of 23.0%.	Obesity rates in adults will continue to be higher than rates in children, increasing the risk of certain diseases and reducing life expectancy and social wellbeing. The absence of a plan-led approach may see cumulative developments arise that do factor in the need for strategic open space and recreational requirements.	
Sport participation	The proportion of adults participating in 30 minutes, moderate intensity sport has decreased in the most recent survey at the local, sub-national and national levels. In the District 42.0% of those in the survey were active in sport between October 2013 and October 2014.		
Housing delivery	The NPPF's requirement for housing targets to be determined objectively at the District level (OAN) will ensure a higher dwellings per annum target than previously.	Housing will largely be delivered through 'planning by appeal' with a lack of evidence provided by a plan-led approach. This may see housing delivered contrary to local needs.	10) To provide appropriate housing and accommodation to meet existing and future needs
	The absence of an adopted Local		

Key Issues	Description / Supporting Evidence	Likely evolution in absence of Plan	SA Objective
	Plan post-NPPF in which to determine housing targets and broad locations for growth.		
Housing ownership and need	There are 33,930 dwellings within Uttlesford District, 86.7% of which are privately owned. Over the period 2007-2021, there is a need for 4,200 (52%) units of market housing, 2,600 (32%) units of intermediate affordable housing and 1,300 (16%) units of social rented housing in the District.	A plan-led system allows specific developments to be come forward in line with tenure and housing mix requirements as specified in relevant policy.	
Gypsy and Traveller sites	There is a demand for more Gypsy and Traveller sites in Uttlesford, totalling 26 additional sites by 2033.	The absence of pitch provision in a plan-led system is likely to see an increase in unauthorised sites.	
School Capacity	School age population numbers are projected to grow relatively slowly and school capacity within Uttlesford is expected to be sufficient to accommodate children in the District. Primary schools are predicted to have a surplus of 288 places for the 2018/19 academic year. Secondary schools are predicted to have a surplus of 415 for the same time period.	Without factoring in school capacity within a plan-led system, cumulative pressure would be put on existing educational facilities.	11) To promote the efficient use of resources, including land and ensure the necessary infrastructure to support sustainable development
Utilities	The projected housing increases facing the wider County will put pressures on utility suppliers.	Without a plan-led system the cumulative and holistic approach to house building is unlikely to be evidenced.	
Transport	The projected housing increases facing the wider County will put pressures on road and rail infrastructure.	Without a plan-led system the cumulative and holistic approach to house building is unlikely to be evidenced.	

Key Issues	Description / Supporting Evidence	Likely evolution in absence of Plan	SA Objective
KS4 equivalent achieved	<p>At 77.1% a higher proportion of pupils within Uttlesford attained five or more A*-C grades at key stage 4 (KS4) than the county, regional and national equivalent. 64.3% of pupils who gained five or more A*-C grades did so in English and Mathematics which is considerably more than the national proportion of 53.4%. The proportion of pupils attaining five or more A*-G grades was also above the national figure and only 0.4% of all pupils in the District didn't receive any passes at KS4.</p>	<p>Without a plan-led system the cumulative and holistic approach to house building is unlikely to be evidenced. This has implications for school capacities and the potential need for new educational facilities to be developed to support the future population.</p>	
Adult qualifications	<p>The population of Uttlesford District has in general more qualifications than the overall sub-national and national populations. 93.4% of the working age population of Uttlesford District which accounts for 46,700 people are qualified to at least level 1 or higher compared to 85.0% across Great Britain. Level 1 represents foundation GNVQ, NVQ 1 or up to 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C.</p> <p>The most significant difference is that Uttlesford has comparatively higher proportions of the population qualified at Level 3 and Level 4 and above. With 59.3% of the population having attained at least 2 or more A levels, advanced GNVQ, NVQ 3 or equivalent (level 3) and 35.6% achieving a higher national diploma, degree and higher degree level or equivalent (level 4). Uttlesford has a significantly higher skilled workforce in comparison to the county and a slightly higher proportion than the regional level.</p>		12) To improve the education and skills of the population
Job density	Job density in Uttlesford (0.84) is higher than across the county	The plan has the scope for a holistic approach	13) To ensure sustainable

Key Issues	Description / Supporting Evidence	Likely evolution in absence of Plan	SA Objective
	(0.74), region (0.78) and nation (0.80).	to development to ensure that housing and employment development are allocated in support of one another. The plan can also safeguard sites for future employment use. The absence of a plan would likely see a less joined-up approach to housing and employment needs.	employment provision and economic growth
Location of businesses	Uttlesford District is predominantly rural in nature and as such a significant proportion of businesses are based within rural locations with only 15% defined as being urban based.		
Employment	The proportion of the District's working population who are economically active but unemployed is 3.0% which is below sub-national and national unemployment figures.		
	Stansted Airport employed 10,860 people in 2009, and this is expected to rise to 16,800 following the proposed increase in runway usage.		

The above highlighted key sustainability issues and problems have formulated relevant SA Objectives, which are shown in the final column. This definitive list can be found in the following table alongside their relevance to the environmental, social or economic themes of sustainable development.

Table 3: The SA Objectives

SEA Objective	Environmental	Social	Economic
1) Retain, enhance and conserve biodiversity and the water environment	✓		
2) Retain, enhance and conserve the character of the landscape and the quality of soil	✓	✓	
3) To maintain and enhance the district's cultural heritage, assets and their settings	✓	✓	
4) To reduce contributions to climatic change	✓		
5) Reduce and control pollution	✓	✓	
6) To reduce the risk of flooding	✓	✓	✓

SEA Objective	Environmental	Social	Economic
7) To promote and encourage the use of sustainable methods of travel		✓	
8) To ensure accessibility to services		✓	✓
9) To improve the population's health and promote social inclusion		✓	
10) To provide appropriate housing and accommodation to meet existing and future needs		✓	✓
11) To promote the efficient use of resources, including land and ensure the necessary infrastructure to support sustainable development	✓	✓	✓
12) To improve the education and skills of the population		✓	✓
13) To ensure sustainable employment provision and economic growth		✓	✓

3.4.1 The Compatibility of the SA Objectives

A total of 13 SA Objectives have been derived for the appraisal of the Plan. They are based on the scope of the document, policy advice and guidance and to the assessment of the current state of the environment.

It is useful to test the compatibility of SA Objectives against one another in order to highlight any areas where potential conflict or tensions may arise. The result of this internal compatibility of the SA Objectives is shown in the figure below.

In the compatibility matrix the 13 SA objectives are numbered in sequence along each axis and they represent a balance of economic, social and environmental factors.

The following key has been used to illustrate their compatibility:

✓	Where the objectives are compatible
/	Where it is uncertain the objectives are related
0	Where the objectives are not related
x	Where the objectives are incompatible

The matrix below illustrates the compatibility of the SA Objectives.

Figure 2: Compatibility Matrix of the SA Objectives

1														
2	✓													
3	✓	✓												
4	✓	/	/											
5	✓	✓	✓	✓										
6	✓	✓	/	✓	✓									
7	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0								
8	0	0	/	✓	✓	0	✓							
9	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
10	/	/	/	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0					
11	/	/	/	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓				
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓			
13	/	/	/	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	

It is to be expected that some objectives are not compatible with other objectives thereby indicating that tensions could occur. Objectives which are based around environmental issues sometimes conflict with economic and social objectives, and vice versa.

The compatibility of the objectives relevant to the Plan is shown in the compatibility matrix above. Instances of uncertainty between objectives are explained further:

- **Objective 1 and Objectives 10, 11, & 13:** SA Objective 1, which seeks to retain, enhance and conserve biodiversity and the water environment, may conflict with the general principles of delivering housing, infrastructure and employment development as specified in SA Objectives 10, 11 and 13. This potential incompatibility does not mean that these objectives are not achievable in unison however; development in sensitive and appropriate locations and / or with suitable mitigation measures would be considered compatible.
- **Objective 2 and Objectives 4, 10, 11 & 13:** SA Objective 2, regarding retaining and enhancing landscapes and soil quality may not always be compatible with the development requirements of housing, employment and infrastructure and also reducing the contributions to climate change in some renewable energy schemes (SA Objective 4). This is location specific however and related predominantly to allocating development sites in suitable locations and with mitigation where necessary and viable.
- **Objective 3 and Objectives 3, 6, 8, 10, 11 & 13:** SA Objective 3, regarding maintaining

and enhancing cultural heritage assets and their settings may not be compatible with development requirements (SA Objectives 10, 11 and 13). In addition potential incompatibility exists with SA Objectives 3 and 6 where some energy efficiency and renewable energy measures and also flood alleviation schemes or systems may not be compatible with the historic environment. Similarly, incompatibility could surround a desire to ensure accessibility to services (SA Objective 8) in a number of the District's settlements; many of which have historic cores and town / local centres with designated Conservation Areas.

4 The Sustainability Appraisal Frameworks (Stage A4)

The following section sets out the various sustainability frameworks necessary for the assessment of the emerging Local Plan's vision, objectives, policies and site allocations. For these purposes, separate approaches and / or assessment frameworks have been developed to cover:

- Broad 'Areas of Search' and Strategic Scenarios;
- Policy content;
- Site Allocations;
- Strategic Sites / New Settlements; and
- Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision.

Different approaches and/or frameworks are needed in the SA to assess different stages in the plan-making process and different elements of the Local Plan. For instance, the assessment of Broad 'Areas of Search' and Strategic Scenarios has to reflect the strategic nature and scope of such areas. The framework to assess site allocations includes spatial questions and criteria which would not be suitable for the useful appraisal of strategic and development management policies. The appraisals of strategic sites/new settlements reflect the wider impact of such developments. The framework for gypsy and traveller pitch provision reflects the specific requirements of such sites. These different approaches and/or frameworks are explored further in the following sub-sections.

4.1 The Appraisal of Broad Areas of Search and Strategic Scenarios

The first stage in the plan-making process will involve the LPA exploring 'areas of search' across the District in order to develop spatial strategy selection. These 'areas of search', forming part of the District's Development Strategy, will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal to assist the Council in ensuring that the emerging Local Plan is justified, and has been assessed against reasonable alternatives.

The approach to developing 'areas of search' ensures that the LPA is 'making every effort' to meet housing needs. It also assists in the process of developing spatial strategy options that can be considered reasonable. Areas of search might explore broad locations such as extensions to existing towns, key villages, smaller (Type A) villages and locations for new settlements based on known existing constraints and opportunities.

From the identification and assessment of 'areas of search' a number of scenarios will be developed, which will explore options for the distribution of growth in different areas of the District as can be considered suitable. A broad range of scenarios will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal in order to identify constraints, opportunities and to assist in the development of any additional, sustainable hybrid scenarios.

It should be noted that the appraisal of these 'areas of search' and scenarios will be strategic in nature and scope; it will not be possible to appraise such high level areas and scenarios in any more detail as specific site boundaries and the quantum of development in each broad location have not yet been determined. The appraisal of the 'areas of search' and scenarios will take the form of a narrative exploring the sustainability of each within known existing constraints and opportunities relevant to the general notion of the 13 identified Sustainability Objectives and on a broadly comparable basis only.

4.2 The Appraisal of Policies

The SEA Framework is an important tool in the SEA process. It provides the context against which the Plan's emerging policies can be assessed and sets out the SEA objectives with additional criteria / key questions that should be asked to decipher whether the suggested approach adheres to the principles of sustainability; and indicators which can monitor the impact of the documents.

Table 4: The SA Framework (Policy Content)

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
<p>1) Retain, enhance and conserve biodiversity and the water environment</p>	<p>Conservation and protection of nationally and locally important designated sites</p> <p>Condition of some of the SSSIs</p> <p>Sensitivity of water environment to physical change</p>	<p>Will it conserve and enhance natural/semi natural habitats?</p> <p>Will it conserve and enhance species diversity, and in particular avoid harm to indigenous BAP priority species?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance the connectivity of habitats and their ability to deliver ecosystem services e.g. flood risk management, climate change mitigation & adaptation and access for health?</p> <p>Will there be any impacts on the water environment as a result of hydromorphological changes and vice versa?</p>	<p>Spatial extent of designated sites within the District</p> <p>Achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets</p> <p>Ecological potential assessments</p> <p>Distance from site to nearest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SSSIs - NNR - LoWS - Ancient Woodland - Protected lanes <p>Other sensitive designated or non-designated receptors</p> <p>Condition of the nearest sensitive receptors (where viable)</p> <p>Site visit surveys on typical abundance and frequency of habitats (DAFOR scale)</p>
<p>2) Retain, enhance and conserve the character of the landscape and the</p>	<p>The local landscape varies in its sensitivity to change</p>	<p>Will landscape character areas be protected?</p> <p>Will it enhance and/or conserve the countryside?</p> <p>Will the District’s best agricultural land be</p>	<p>Developments permitted contrary to Landscape Character Assessment ‘sensitivities to</p>

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
quality of soil		protected?	change'. Number and extent of field boundaries affected. Percentage of applications permitted on the District's best agricultural land (from ALC)
3) To maintain and enhance the district's cultural heritage, assets and their settings	A strong historic integrity with historic settlements and many historic buildings and monuments	<p>Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical, archaeological and cultural value in both urban and rural areas?</p> <p>Will areas of historic character be protected from development?</p> <p>Will the character and setting of historic settlements be protected as identified in the Uttlesford District Historic Environment Characterisation Project (ECC, 2009)?</p> <p>Does it seek to enhance the range and quality of the public realm and open spaces?</p> <p>Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land?</p> <p>Does it encourage the use of high quality design principles to respect local character?</p> <p>Will any adverse impacts be reduced through adequate mitigation?</p>	<p>Proximity to nearest (including its setting):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduled Monument? - Listed Building? - Conservation Area? - Registered Historic Park or Garden? - Site identified in the Historic Environment Record? - Building of local interest? - Other historic feature? <p>Number and spatial extent of listed buildings</p> <p>Number and spatial extent of scheduled monuments</p>

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
			<p>Buildings At Risk Register</p> <p>Heritage at risk surveys</p> <p>Percentage of conservation area demolished or otherwise lost.</p> <p>Amount of derelict properties and/or vacant land</p> <p>Numbers of buildings being removed from the buildings at risk register</p> <p>Amount of damage to listed buildings or scheduled monuments</p> <p>Management of designated and undesignated historic environment assets</p> <p>Numbers of undesignated historic environment assets lost through the planning process.</p>
<p>4) To reduce contributions to climatic change</p>	<p>Future climate change projections</p> <p>Energy consumption</p> <p>High private vehicle usage</p>	<p>Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption?</p> <p>Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?</p> <p>Does it ensure more sustainable modes of travel are provided?</p> <p>Will it encourage greater energy efficiency?</p>	<p>Carbon Dioxide emissions</p> <p>Energy consumption GWh/households</p> <p>Spatial extent of flood zones.</p> <p>Air Quality Management Areas and PM10 emissions</p> <p>Percentage of energy supplied</p>

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
		<p>Will it improve the efficient use of natural resources?</p>	<p>from renewable sources.</p>
<p>5) Reduce and control pollution</p>	<p>Number of AQMAs and other areas exceeding NO2 threshold</p> <p>Ambient noise levels around Stansted airport and major roads</p> <p>Water quality targets in order to reduce and control pollution across all waterbodies (including surface and groundwaters), and from all land uses proposed, including wastewater and as a result of increased energy use</p>	<p>Will it improve, or not detrimentally affect air quality?</p> <p>Will emissions be limited to levels that will not damage natural systems and affect human health?</p> <p>Does it ensure that National Air Quality Standards are met at relevant points?</p> <p>Does it seek to improve or avoid increasing traffic flows generally and in particular through AQMAs?</p> <p>Does it seek to protect rural areas from increased traffic?</p> <p>Will it lead to no deterioration on the quality of water bodies?</p> <p>Does it promote the inclusion of Sustainable Drainage Systems in new developments?</p> <p>Does it seek to reduce, or not detrimentally affect noise levels?</p> <p>Does it seek to protect soil quality, including the remediation of contaminated sites?</p>	<p>Number and spatial extent of AQMA's in the District</p> <p>NO2 emissions</p> <p>Recorded traffic flows</p> <p>Location and extent of AQMAs in relation to infrastructure requirements</p> <p>Location and extent of potentially significant junctions in relation to infrastructure requirements</p> <p>Percentage of water bodies at good ecological status or potential</p> <p>Percentage of water bodies assessed at good or high biological status</p> <p>Percentage of water bodies assessed at good chemical status</p> <p>Number of Sustainable Drainage Systems applications and number granted</p> <p>Ambient noise levels</p> <p>Development on PDL</p>

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
<p>6) To reduce the risk of flooding</p>	<p>Fluvial flood risk Pluvial flood risk Flood risk from other sources</p>	<p>Does it seek to avoid development in areas at risk of flooding?</p> <p>Does it seek to avoid increasing flood risk in areas away from initial development?</p> <p>Does it take account of climate change in relation to flooding?</p> <p>Does it seek to manage and mitigate the risk of flooding?</p> <p>Is/will the sequential test being used to reach decisions on development proposals?</p> <p>Will developer contributions be utilised for the provision and maintenance of flood defences?</p> <p>Does it require sustainable drainage systems to be included within new development?</p>	<p>Location of main rivers in District.</p> <p>Spatial extent of flood zones 2 and 3</p> <p>Residential properties flooded from main rivers</p> <p>Planning permission in identified flood zones granted permission contrary to advice from the Environment Agency</p> <p>Incidences of flooding and location</p> <p>Distance of site to floodplains</p> <p>SFRA results</p> <p>Incidences of flood warnings in site area</p> <p>Distance to ‘Areas susceptible to surface water flooding’ – EA Maps</p> <p>On site and nearby topography via ordnance survey mapping</p>
<p>7) To promote and encourage the use of sustainable methods of travel</p>	<p>High private vehicle usage Public transport, walking and cycling coverage across the District</p>	<p>Will it increase and/or improve the availability and usability of sustainable transport modes?</p> <p>Will it seek to encourage people to use alternative modes of transportation other than private vehicle?</p> <p>Will it contribute positively to reducing social</p>	<p>Access to services and business’ by public transport</p> <p>Indices of Multiple Deprivation</p> <p>Travel to work methods and flows</p> <p>Car ownership</p>

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
		exclusion by ensuring access to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services? Will it reduce the need to travel? Will it lead to the integration of transport modes? Will it improve rural public transport?	Network performance on roads Public transport punctuality and efficiency
8) To ensure accessibility to services	Access to services such as education, healthcare and jobs, and other amenities Access to natural greenspace Self-sustainability	Will it contribute positively to reduce social exclusion by ensuring access to jobs, shopping, services and leisure facilities for all? Will it improve access to jobs, shopping, services and leisure facilities? Will it reduce the need to travel? Will it increase traffic in rural areas? Does it protect or increase village facilities? Will it lead to the integration of transport modes? Does it seek to concentrate development and facilities in town centres or where access via sustainable travel is greatest? Will it assist in reducing the number of road casualties and ensure ease of pedestrian movement especially for the disabled?	Residents opinion on availability of open space/leisure facilities Access to services by public transport Indices of Multiple Deprivation – sub-domain scores Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards Recorded traffic flows KSI casualties for adults and children Car ownership Location of site with regards to areas of high deprivation
9) To improve the population’s health and promote social inclusion	Access and provision of healthcare Needs of an ageing population	Will it reduce health inequalities? Will it improve access to high quality health facilities?	Life Expectancy Indices of Multiple Deprivation – sub-domain scores

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
	<p>Access to natural greenspace</p> <p>Access to Sport and recreation</p> <p>Access to facilities generally on foot or by bicycle</p> <p>Obesity and other health issues</p>	<p>Will it improve air quality?</p> <p>Will it improve water quality?</p> <p>Will it increase access to sport and recreation facilities and open space?</p> <p>Will improve services for young people?</p> <p>Will it contribute positively to reducing social exclusion for all members of society?</p> <p>Will it ensure access to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services is available for all?</p> <p>Will there be measures to increase the safety and security of new development and public realm?</p> <p>Does it seek to reduce inequalities between areas and support cultural identity?</p> <p>Will it encourage access by walking or cycling, and will it increase the overall rates of walking and cycling?</p>	<p>Residents opinion on availability of open space/leisure facilities</p> <p>Air Quality Management Areas (number and performance) and PM10 emissions</p> <p>KSI casualties for adults and children</p> <p>Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt)</p> <p>Recorded key offences</p> <p>Location and extent of recreational facilities to development site</p> <p>Location and extent of accessible greenspace to development site</p> <p>Proximity of site to healthcare facilities</p> <p>Percentage of population obese</p>
<p>10) To provide appropriate housing and accommodation to meet existing and future needs</p>	<p>Housing affordability</p> <p>Future population and household projections</p> <p>Future housing growth and need</p> <p>Affordable and social housing</p>	<p>Will it provide housing which meets local needs?</p> <p>Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for all social groups to the designated target?</p> <p>Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?</p> <p>Does it allow for homes to be adapted for lifetime use, or make provisions for them to be</p>	<p>House Prices</p> <p>LA dwelling stock below the 'Decent Home Standard'</p> <p>Indices of Multiple Deprivation Score – particularly Housing and Services Domain and the Living Environment Deprivation Domain</p>

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
		<p>included in new development?</p> <p>Does it seek to deliver self-build and custom build homes?</p> <p>Does it respond to the needs of an ageing population?</p> <p>Will homes be designed with a low carbon footprint?</p> <p>Are dwellings easily accessed by transport links, jobs, services, commercial areas and leisure facilities?</p> <p>Will homes be designed to enhance the existing street scene creating a better cultural heritage & public realm?</p> <p>Will homes be sufficiently phased during the plan period and beyond in light of the East of England Plan or subsequent targets?</p> <p>Will homes be supported by adequate greenspace?</p> <p>Does it support affordable housing in rural areas?</p> <p>Will rural housing be supported by local services?</p> <p>Does it make provision for gypsy and traveller accommodation?</p>	<p>Number of affordable dwelling completions</p> <p>Annual dwelling completions</p> <p>Size and age of housing stock</p> <p>Access to sustainable transport links</p> <p>Population projections and forecasts</p> <p>Crime rates</p>
11) To promote the	Water resources	Does it seek to ensure the provision of sufficient	Water cycle study

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
<p>efficient use of resources, including land and ensure the necessary infrastructure to support sustainable development</p>	<p>Open space Housing growth to be supported by jobs, infrastructure and services Foul water disposal / sewerage infrastructure Reducing waste arising and dealing with waste in a more sustainable manner</p>	<p>infrastructure in line with projected increases in population? Does it ensure that adequate school expansion, new healthcare and community facilities are provided where the size of housing development requires it? Will water resources be able to accommodate growth? Does it ensure the reinforcement of wastewater treatment works or the provision of alternatives (where required) to support growth? Will financial contributions be adequate to provide the necessary infrastructure? Does it seek to promote the minimisation of waste at its source, and integrate solutions into the design of new development? Does it ensure that infrastructure/highway improvements will be made (where required) to support growth? Will it ensure that infrastructure is provided prior to use or through phasing of development? Will it improve the efficient use of natural resources?</p>	<p>S106 agreement contributions Transport Assessments Additional capacity of local schools Number of GPs and dentists accepting new patients ANGSt Amount of waste recycled/landfilled.</p>
<p>12) To improve the education and skills of the population</p>	<p>Provision of education Areas deprived of training,</p>	<p>Does it seek to improve existing educational facilities and/or create more educational facilities?</p>	<p>GCSE or equivalent performance Level 2 qualifications by working</p>

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
	education and skills	<p>Does it seek to improve existing training and learning facilities and/or create more facilities?</p> <p>Will the employment opportunities available be mixed to suit a varied employment skills base?</p> <p>Will new housing be supported by school expansion or other educational facilities where necessary?</p>	<p>age residents</p> <p>Level 4 qualifications and above by working age residents</p> <p>Employment status of residents</p> <p>Average gross weekly earnings</p> <p>Standard Occupational Classification</p>
13) To ensure sustainable employment provision and economic growth	<p>Local employment and wage differences</p> <p>Level of unemployment</p> <p>High proportion of rural based businesses</p>	<p>Will it increase vitality of existing towns and local centres?</p> <p>Does it promote and enhance the viability of existing centres by focusing development in such centres?</p> <p>Will retailing in town centres be enhanced in areas of identified need?</p> <p>Will it encourage employment and reduce unemployment overall?</p> <p>Does it secure more opportunities for residents, of all abilities, and in all employment sectors, to work in the district?</p> <p>Will new housing be supported by adequate local employment opportunities?</p> <p>Will it improve business development and attract investment?</p> <p>Does it support small businesses to grow and</p>	<p>Employment land availability</p> <p>Typical amount of job creation (jobs per ha) within different use classes.</p> <p>Percentage change and comparison in the total number of VAT registered businesses in the area</p> <p>Businesses by industry type</p> <p>Amount of vacant industrial floorspace</p> <p>Amount of high quality agricultural land</p> <p>Travel to work flows</p> <p>Employment status by residents and job type</p> <p>Job densities</p>

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
		<p>encourage business innovation?</p> <p>Will it make land and property available for business development?</p> <p>Will it enhance the Districts potential for tourism?</p> <p>Will it encourage rural economy and diversification of it?</p> <p>Does it enhance consumer choice through the provision of range of shopping, leisure and local services to meet the needs of the entire community?</p> <p>Does it prevent further loss of retail and other services to rural areas?</p> <p>Will it lead to development having an adverse impact on employment for existing facilities?</p>	<p>Economic activity of residents</p> <p>Average gross weekly pay</p> <p>Proportion of business in rural locations</p> <p>Amount of retail, leisure and office floorspace in town centres.</p> <p>Implemented and outstanding planning permissions for retail, office and commercial use</p> <p>Number and type of services</p> <p>Pedestrian footfall count</p> <p>Number of post offices closed down</p> <p>Number of village shops closed down</p>

4.2.1 The Appraisal of Policies

The SEA of the Plan (within the forthcoming Environmental Report) will assess the document’s policies against the SEA Objectives outlined in the SEA framework. The aim is to assess the sustainability effects of the Plan following implementation. The assessment will look at the secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary effects in accordance with Annex 1 of the SEA Directive, as well as assess alternatives and provide mitigation measures where appropriate. The findings will be accompanied by an appraisal matrix which will document the effects over time.

For clarity, within the Environmental Report, assessments will likely be set out in the same format as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Impact on SA objectives

	Sustainability Objectives												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Short Term													
Medium Term													
Long Term													

The content to be included within the table responds to those ‘significant effects’ of the policy or element of the Plan subject to assessment. Assessment will also look at the following:

- Temporal effects;
- Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic effects;
- The appraisal of Alternatives;
- Impacts on indicators; and
- Proposed mitigation measures / recommendations

These, and ‘significant effects’ are further described in the following sub-sections.

4.2.2 Description of ‘Significant Effects’

The strength of impacts can vary dependant on the relevance of the policy content to certain SEA objectives or themes. Where the policies have been appraised against the SEA Objectives the following key has been used to illustrate a range of possible impacts:

✓✓	Significantly Positive	X	Negative
✓	Positive	XX	Significantly Negative
/	Uncertain	0	No impact

Commentary is also included to describe the significant effects of the policy on the SEA objectives.

4.2.3 Description of ‘Temporal Effects’

The appraisals of the policies contained within the Plan recognise that impacts may vary over time. Three time periods have been used to reflect this and are shown in the appraisal tables as S (short term), M (medium term) and L (long term). For the purpose of the Plan S, M and L depict:

(S) Short term and (M) Medium Term: Early stages of the plan period.

(L) Long term: Latter stages of the plan period

4.2.4 Description of ‘Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects’

In addition to those effects that may arise indirectly (secondary effects), relationships between different policies will be assessed in order to highlight any possible strengthening or weakening of impacts from their implementation together. Cumulative effects respond to impacts occurring directly from two different policies together, and synergistic effects are those that offer a strengthening of more than one policy that is greater than any individual impact.

4.2.5 Description of ‘Alternatives Considered’

Alternatives for the direction of policies will be appraised and chronicled alongside each appraisal, together with the reason for their rejection / non-progression. This sub-section may only be applicable in the latter stages of the plan, where preferred approaches are set out.

4.2.6 Description of ‘Impacts on Indicators’

In order to quantify the potential impacts highlighted in the policies, a range of indicators have been identified directly relevant to the impacts specified. These will help monitor the successfulness of the policy and to what extent it has helped deliver sustainable development.

4.2.7 Description of ‘Proposed Mitigation Measures / Recommendations’

Negative or uncertain impacts may be highlighted within appraisals. As such, mitigation measures may be needed and these will be highlighted in this section for each policy where relevant. In addition to this, this section will also include any recommendations that are not directly linked to negative or uncertain impacts, but if incorporated may lead to sustainability improvements.

4.3 The Appraisal of Sites

In addition to the above SA Framework formulated for the appraisal of the policy content within the Plan, a separate framework is required for the appraisal of the sustainability of preferred and alternative (non-preferred) site allocations within the document.

Sites will be subject to appraisal using a pro forma developed taking in the key issues of the area and all relevant available information across a range of sustainability criteria. In addition, the consultation of this Scoping Report will allow input from the Statutory Consultees and any other relevant stakeholders and interested parties and comment on the pro forma is welcomed at this stage.

It is worthy of note that in line with the pro forma, appraisals will not be intended to be a detailed project-level assessment of each site, such as that provided by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), but aim to provide a strategic level assessment highlighting those broad impacts of the sites to inform the plan-making process.

4.3.1 Assumptions made in the Site Pro Forma and in the assessment of sites

Assumptions have been made in the assessment of sites. It is assumed that the information received is as factually correct and up-to-date as possible from the following sources:

- The 'Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)' of each site;
- The information supplied for each site from the call-for-sites process;
- Any versions of the Local Plan evidence base used (including evidence base formulated for the withdrawn Local Plan 2014 where deemed relevant)

It should be noted that if sources of information utilised for the assessment of sites are updated, versions of the information / data will be used to enable a consistent level of information across all site assessments. Where new evidence base documents are published or updated during the plan-making process, these will be used to amend any previous site assessments in so far as this can be utilised consistently for all sites. It is likely that evidence base documents will be updated and commissioned relevant to the scope of Preferred Sites only. In these instances, the Sustainability Appraisal will be able to utilise this information commensurate to the scope of the updated evidence only.

4.3.2 Exclusionary criteria and links to the District's SHLAA

Exclusionary criteria will be used to determine whether sites can be considered 'reasonable' for the purposes of exploration in the plan making process and the Sustainability Appraisal. To ensure a joined-up approach to excluding sites, the Sustainability Appraisal will not consider those sites that have been initially excluded for assessment in the District's SHLAA due to 'availability' or 'viability' means where this information is available and forthcoming. For the purpose of minimising duplication and to ensure an iterative plan-making and Sustainability Appraisal process, it should be noted that the finalised Sustainability Appraisal of sites will also act as the 'suitability' element of the District's SHLAA of sites.

Table 6: The Site Pro Forma

SA Objective	Site Criteria	Source	Major positive (++)	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Major negative (- -)	Uncertain / Unknown / (/)	No / negligible impact (0)
1) Retain, enhance and conserve biodiversity and the water environment.	Proximity of any:	GIS mapping	Site is not within a SSSI IRZ	Site is within a SSSI IRZ but is for a use that would not require consultation with Natural England	Site is adjacent to a SSSI.	Site is within a SSSI.	Where applicable Site is within a SSSI IRZ and would require consultation with Natural England	Where applicable
	- SSSIs (including IRZs)							
	- NNRs	GIS mapping	N/A	Over 100m	Within 100m	On site	Where applicable	Where applicable
	- LoWS	GIS mapping	N/A	Over 100m	Within 100m	On site	Where applicable	Where applicable
2) Retain, enhance and conserve the character of the landscape and the quality of	Will the site be located in an area noted for its high sensitivity to change (from Essex Landscape	Landscape Character Assessment 2006	Urban area	Low to moderate sensitivity to change / Moderate sensitivity to	Moderate to high sensitivity to change / Relatively high	N/A	Where applicable	Where applicable

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soil	Character Assessment)?			change	sensitivity to change			
	Will any Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) be affected?	GIS mapping	N/A	No TPO(s) on site	TPO(s) on site	N/A	TPO(s) adjacent to site	Where applicable
	Is the site greenfield or brownfield?	Aerial mapping	100% Brownfield	Brownfield (approx. 75% plus)	Greenfield (approx. 75% plus)	100% Greenfield	Approximately 50% brownfield / greenfield Where applicable	Where applicable
	Is the site located within the Greenbelt?	GIS mapping	100% of site not in greenbelt	N/A	100% of site within the greenbelt, but acceptable under 'special circumstances'	100% of site within the greenbelt	Site is partly within the Greenbelt	Where applicable
	Is the site located within the Countryside Protection Zone (CPZ)?	GIS mapping	100% of site not in CPZ	N/A	100% of site within the CPZ but does not lead to the coalescence between the airport and	100% of site within the CPZ	Site is partly within CPZ	Where applicable

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					existing development / does not adversely affect the open characteristics of the zone.			
Will the site result in a loss of high quality agricultural land?	Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)	N/A (no Grade 4 or 5 in the Plan Area)	Urban area / extension to an existing site / Other land primarily in non-agricultural use	Grade 2	N/A (no Grade 1 in the Plan Area)	Grade 3	Where applicable	

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3) To maintain and enhance the district's cultural heritage assets and their settings	Might the site have an impact on, or harm the significance of, the following assets:	This element undertaken by Historic Environment Advisors / Consultants at Place Services	Proposal would result in a designated asset being removed from the 'at risk' register (enabling development).	No harm to the significance of a heritage asset.	Harm to the significance of a heritage asset but capable of mitigation.	Substantial harm to the significance of a heritage asset not capable of mitigation (loss or partial loss of an asset).	Uncertainty surrounding impacts.	Where applicable.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduled (Ancient) Monuments - Listed Buildings - Registered (Historic) Parks and Gardens - Conservation Areas - Heritage assets (local lists) - Archaeology 							
	- Ancient Woodland	GIS mapping	The site is over 100m from Ancient Woodland	N/A	Ancient Woodland is within 100m of the site	Ancient Woodland is on the site	N/A	Where applicable
Will there be any material harm caused to the form	GIS mapping / Site information / site policy (where	N/A	Access is not via protected	Access is via protected	N/A	Unknown	Where applicable	

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	and alignment of protected historic lanes?	available)		lane / access is via protected lane but would not require amendment to form or alignment	lane and would require amendment to form or alignment			
4) To reduce contributions to climate change	There will not be a comparable level of information available to assess all sites against this objective – features that would reduce contributions to climate change would only be known at the proposal / application stage.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5) To reduce and control pollution	Is the site in or within 100 metres of any AQMA or area otherwise identified as of poor air quality?	Policy EN2 – Air Quality GIS mapping	N/A	Site is not within 100m of an AQMA OR 100m of the central reservation of the M11	Site is within 100m of an AQMA AND/OR 100m of the central reservation of the M11	N/A	Where applicable	Where applicable

				OR 35m either side of the A120	AND/OR 35m either side of the A120			
	Is the site within a ground water source protection zone?	GIS mapping	N/A	Not in GPZ	Within outer zone (Zone 2, Zone 2c)	Within inner zone (Zone 1, Zone 1c)	Within total catchment (Zone 3)	Where applicable
	Is the site within close proximity to mineral extraction or waste management facilities?	Allocations in the Adopted Minerals Local Plan (2014) and the emerging Replacement Waste Local Plan (ongoing)	Site is beyond 250m of either an existing or proposed site for mineral extraction or a site either existing as or allocated for a waste management facility.	N/A	Site is within 250m of either an existing or proposed site for mineral extraction or a site either existing as or allocated for a waste management facility.	Site is proposed for a hospital or school within 250m of either an existing or proposed site for mineral extraction or a site either existing as or allocated for a waste management facility.	Where applicable	Where applicable
	Is the site on contaminated land?	Call-for-sites information as submitted	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes - Impact for information only; as commentary	Site is not on contaminated land

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							in site appraisals	
6) To reduce the risk of flooding	Is the site within: - a flood risk zone	GIS mapping	N/A	Zone 1 (no flood risk)	Zone 2	Zone 3a / 3b	Uncertain (to include commentary in appraisal)	Where applicable
	Would the site be located in an area of high / medium / low / very low risk of flooding from surface water?	EA Mapping	Very low	Low	High	N/A	Where applicable	Where applicable
7) To promote and encourage the use of sustainable methods of travel	Is the site within 800 metres walking and cycling distance of an existing public transport node?	GIS mapping	Within 800m of a bus stop and train station	Within 800m of a bus stop OR train station	Over 800m to a bus stop and train station	N/A	Where applicable	Where applicable
	Would the proposal see a loss of footpaths / cycleways?	Aerial mapping / Call-for-sites information as submitted	N/A	N/A	N/A	Loss of public footpath or cycleway	Diversion of public footpath or cycleway required	Where applicable

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8) To ensure accessibility to services	Will the site be located within 800 metres walking and cycling distance of a GP surgery (NHS Primary Healthcare Facility)?	GIS mapping / NHS Choices Services near you	N/A	Within 800m of a GP surgery	Over 800m to a GP surgery	N/A	Where applicable	Where applicable
	Is the site within 800 metres walking and cycling distance of convenience shopping?	GIS mapping	N/A	Within 800m of convenience shopping / food store	Over 800m to convenience shopping / food store	N/A	Where applicable	Where applicable
	Will the site be located within 800 metres of a primary school?	GIS mapping	N/A	Within 800m of an existing primary school	Over 800m to an existing primary school	N/A	Where applicable	Where applicable
	Will the site be located within 4.8km of a secondary school?	GIS mapping	Less than 2.4km to an existing secondary school	Within 2.4km - 4.8km of an existing secondary school	Over 4.8km to an existing secondary school	N/A	Where applicable	Where applicable
	Does the site provide safe highway access?	Call-for-sites information as submitted	Existing site with suitable existing access	Adequate or good access off adequate or good standard of	Poor access and / or road of poor standard. Likely to be	No access	Access poor but capable of being improved. Road of	Where applicable

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				road. Not affected by safety issues.	subject to safety issues from surrounding uses incapable of mitigation.		adequate or good standard. Likely to be affected by safety issues but capable of mitigation	
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<p>9) To improve the population's health and promote social inclusion</p>	<p>Does the site conform to Natural England ANGSt? ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace: - of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home; - at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home; - one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and - one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home;</p>	<p>GIS mapping</p>	<p>Site conforms to 4/4 of the ANGSt criteria</p>	<p>Site conforms to 3/4 of the ANGSt criteria</p>	<p>Site conforms to 1/4 of the ANGSt criteria</p>	<p>Site conforms to none of the ANGSt criteria</p>	<p>Where applicable Site conforms to 2/4 of the ANGSt criteria</p>	<p>Non-residential allocations</p>
<p>Will the site see a</p>	<p>Call-for-sites</p>	<p>Proposal</p>	<p>No loss of</p>	<p>Loss of</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Uncertain</p>	<p>Where</p>	<p>Where</p>

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	loss of land designated for recreational use?	information as submitted	includes recreational land	recreational land	recreational land			applicable
	Is there a PROW or Bridleway on / adjacent to the site?	GIS Mapping	N/A	No PROW or Bridleway(s) on site	PROW or Bridleway on site	Numerous PROWs and/or Bridleways on site	PROW or Bridleway adjacent to site	Where applicable
	Will the site see a loss of land designated for community facilities?	Call-for-sites information as submitted	Proposal includes community facility	No loss of a community facility	Loss of a community facility	N/A	Uncertain	Where applicable
	Will the site impact on the Flitch Way?	GIS Mapping	N/A	Site is over 100m from the Flitch Way	Site is within 100m of the Flitch Way	Site is on or adjacent to the Flitch Way	Uncertain	Where applicable
10) To provide appropriate housing and accommodation to meet existing and future needs	Will the site meet local thresholds for affordable housing?	Call-for-sites information as submitted	Development includes 40% of the total number of dwellings as affordable dwellings.	Development includes 20-39% of the total number of dwellings on site as affordable dwellings.	Development on sites of 5-14n dwellings with less than 20% affordable dwellings proposed	Development on sites of 15 dwellings or more with less than 40% affordable dwellings proposed.	Where applicable.	Non-residential proposals
	Will there be a suitable housing	Call-for-sites information as	Proposal includes / is		N/A	N/A	Where applicable	N/A

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	mix?	submitted	for housing for older people, residential care home, nursing home OR Proposal includes / is for self-build or custom- build housing					
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	Will the density of the proposal fall within desired density ranges?	Policy HO1 - Housing Density: Potential yield per hectare	<p>Within town Development Limits of Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow: 35-67.</p> <p>Within Development Limits of any other settlement: 30-50.</p> <p>Adjacent to any settlement 30-50.</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Within town Development Limits of Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow: above 67.</p> <p>Within Development Limits of any other settlement: above 50.</p> <p>Adjacent to any settlement: above 50.</p>	Where applicable	Non-residential proposals
11) To promote the efficient use of resources, including land and ensure the necessary infrastructure to support sustainable	<p>Are utilities available on site?</p> <p>Criterion to be updated once relevant evidence base documents and assessments are progressed.</p>	Call-for-Sites information as submitted	Utilities are available	Appear to be no significant constraints	No utilities available	N/A	Where applicable	Where applicable

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development	Can an existing level of infrastructure be expected in line with site's broad location and place within the settlement hierarchy?	Location regarding Local Plan Settlement Hierarchy.	Within or contiguous to development boundaries of Market Towns (Saffron Walden or Great Dunmow)	Within or contiguous to development boundaries of Key Villages (Elsenham, Great Chesterford, Hatfield Heath, Newport, Stansted Mountfitchet, Takeley, Thaxted_	Within or contiguous to development boundaries of Type B Rural Settlements (Arkesden, Aythorpe Roding, Barnston, Berden, Broxted, Elmdon, Great Canfield, Great Hallingbury, Hadstock, Hempstead, High Easter, High Roding, Langley, Lindsell, Littlebury, Little Canfield, Little Easton,	Within the (open) countryside	Within or contiguous to development boundaries of Type A Rural Settlements (Ashdon, Birchanger, Chishall, Clavering, Debden, Farnham, Felset, Flitch Green, Great Easton, Great Sampford, Hatfield Broad Oak, Henham, Leaden Roding, Little Hallingbury, Manuden, Quendon and Ricking, Radwinter,	Where applicable
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					Little Dunmow, Ugley, Wendens Ambo, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington, White Roding, other small villages and hamlets).		Stebbing, Wimbish) Where applicable	
Would the site meet the preferred threshold for a new primary school?	New primary threshold – 700 new houses or mixed development of 1,000 (one form entry – ECC preferred)	The development meets the threshold for the provision of a new primary school	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	All other sites
Would the site meet the preferred threshold for a new secondary school?	New secondary (inc. Sixth Form) threshold. 6,000 houses is required for six forms of entry (ECC preferred).	The development meets the threshold for the provision of a new secondary school	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	All other sites

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<p>12) To improve the education and skills of the population</p>	<p>Is there capacity in primary schools? (individual impacts – cumulative impacts will be undertaken for sites within catchments)</p>	<p>Commissioning School Places in Essex (per school: Forecast Surplus / Deficit including adjustment for new housing). ECC Developer's Guide to Contributions 2010 (exemptions for contributions to school places for 1-bed flats)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential dwelling yield of site can be accommodated by nearest primary school.</p>	<p>Potential yield of site can not be accommodated by both the nearest primary school.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Where applicable</p>	<p>Site is not proposed for housing, or is specifically for 1-bed flats.</p>
	<p>Is there capacity in primary and secondary schools? (individual impacts – cumulative impacts will be undertaken for sites within catchments)</p>	<p>Commissioning School Places in Essex (per school: Forecast Surplus / Deficit including adjustment for new housing). ECC Developer's Guide to Contributions 2010 (exemptions for contributions to</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential dwelling yield of site can be accommodated by nearest secondary school.</p>	<p>Potential yield of site can not be accommodated by both the nearest secondary school.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Where applicable</p>	<p>Site is not proposed for housing, or is specifically for 1-bed flats.</p>

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		school places for 1-bed flats)						
	Would the development increase the demand for Early Years places?	ECC preferred thresholds for new school provision. Early years threshold – 0.09 additional places per new house and 0.045 additional spaces per new flats.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	For information only – Site would require additional place(s).	Site would not require additional place(s). Where applicable
13) To ensure sustainable employment provision and economic growth	Is the site proposed for employment development?	Call-for-Sites information as submitted	Site is proposed for employment	Site is proposed for mixed-use development	Proposal will see a loss of previously employment land	N/A	All other uses	Where applicable
	Will there be a net increase or loss of retail provision?	Call-for-sites information as submitted / Site proposal, planning history.	N/A	Proposal is for, or includes, retail use	Site is currently for retail use and proposal would see a change of use	N/A	Where applicable	Where applicable
	Will the proposal increase rural employment	Call-for-Sites information as submitted	N/A	Employment proposals in rural areas /	Employment proposals in rural areas /	N/A	Where applicable	Where applicable

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	opportunities in a sustainable location?	Aerial mapping		the countryside (as defined) within or adjacent to existing development boundaries	the countryside (as defined) physically separated from existing development boundaries			
	Distance to main employment areas (B1, B2, B8)	GIS / Aerial Mapping	N/A	Less than or equal to 800m from existing employment area	More than 800m from existing employment area	N/A	Where applicable	Employment proposals Where applicable

4.4 The Appraisal of Strategic Sites / New Settlements

4.4.1 Introduction

It is important to emphasise that the Local Plan is strategic in nature. Even the allocation of sites should be considered a strategic undertaking, i.e. a process that omits consideration of some detailed issues in the knowledge that these can be addressed further down the line (through the planning application process). The strategic nature of the Plan is reflected in the scope of the SA. For the purposes of the Local Plan and the accompanying SA Environmental Report, it should be noted that specific policies and allocations for new Settlements will be subject to different sustainability criteria than those of the Site Pro Forma, commensurate to their scale.

4.4.2 The Approach to Strategic Sites / New Settlements in the Local Plan

Such allocations and their reasonable alternatives will be appraised at the site-level within a separate Sustainability Appraisal of each strategic site / new settlement. This approach is taken because of detailed evidence required for these allocations, the possible cross-boundary nature of such allocations and evidence, and the need for a joined up approach to the Sustainability Appraisal between LPAs exploring sustainable locations for developments of a similar scale of growth.

Site level appraisals will be appropriate only once further work has been undertaken for the each strategic site / new settlement. and as a result of joint working with the relevant neighbouring authorities. The Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan is relevant to the District only and it should be noted that the methodology and Sustainability Framework (including the pro forma) does not explicitly encompass those sustainability issues of neighbouring authorities. It is believed that the notion of separate Sustainability Appraisals for each strategic site / new settlement would be able to be more focused to specific locales and in scope, as well as better conforming to the requirements of the SEA Directive. It is also considered that the appraisal of sites of a strategic scale would not be able to be consistent or comparable with the appraisal of non-strategic sites in the same document; what constitutes a constraint for a small scale site may not be so for a large scale one, which would have far greater scope at addressing concerns on site as part of the development, particularly regarding necessary infrastructure requirements.

As a result of this, it is more appropriate that Strategic Sites / New Settlements be explored in context of the strategic nature of the Local Plan within this document. The appraisal of the Strategic Sites / New Settlements responds to their role as strategic allocations in line with the District's objectively assessed need and Spatial Strategy options. Alternative sites of a comparable scale within the District are also explored in line with the Local Plan context in order to determine whether the most appropriate and sustainable sites and proposals are being progressed to the 'strategic site / new settlement' stage. This approach is consistent with that taken for the appraisal of 'areas of search' and alternative scenarios for the District's spatial strategy.

4.4.3 The Appraisal of Strategic Sites / New Settlements within the context of the Local Plan

A purpose of this approach is also to help develop the policy content of such allocations and determine what is needed to create sustainable Strategic Sites / New Settlements. This policy approach will be used to ascertain the broad implications of development in the areas as they have been identified. This approach also allows the Strategic Site / New Settlement to be allocated and

developed in line with growth in the rest of the District, looking at the cumulative aspects and impacts of growth identified within the wider Local Plan area.

It is intended that within the Local Plan context, Strategic Sites / New Settlements are explored in line with the Sustainability Framework for policy content, encompassing additional broad sustainability criteria relevant to Garden City / Settlement principles where relevant. This approach would consider the sustainability of strategic scale sites / new settlements as broad locations in accordance with the District’s own specific requirements and sustainability issues, as well as within the context of wider aspirations for sustainable Garden City / Settlements. This would also ensure that the most sustainable options are progressed to the benefit of the District’s specific needs and also, where relevant, not to the detriment of large scale sustainable development principles for any neighbouring authorities where cross boundary options are explored.

The following table explores the compatibility of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives and general Garden City / Settlement Principles for the purposes of this assessment. The sustainability appraisal of Strategic Sites / New Settlements within the context of the Local Plan will offer commentary and broadly comparable impacts as to how options respond to Garden City / Settlement Principles in addition to the criteria set out in the sustainability framework for policy content. The table also explores how far the SA Objectives and Garden City / Settlement Principles conform to the SA Objectives of neighbouring authorities’ Local Plan Sustainability Appraisals for the purposes of a consistent appraisal of any cross-boundary strategic sites.

Table 7: Compatibility of the SA Objectives and Garden City / Settlement Principles

SA Objective	Conformity to Garden City / Settlement Principles	Commentary / Nature of the Appraisal
1) Retain, enhance and conserve biodiversity and the water environment	Generous green space linked to the wider natural environment, including a surrounding belt of countryside to prevent sprawl, well connected and biodiversity rich public parks, and a mix of public and private networks of well-managed, high-quality gardens, tree-lined streets and open spaces	Biodiversity and landscape can be seen as a constraint to development and also a benefit within the context of Garden City / Settlement principles. With that in mind these objectives will be used to assess any existing insurmountable physical limitations of options but also their potential to integrate existing features within them. Options will also be assessed as to their relationship with and impact on neighbouring towns and settlements (maintaining adequate separation).
2) Retain, enhance and conserve the character of the landscape and the quality of soil		
3) To maintain and enhance the district’s cultural heritage, assets and their settings	N/A	Although not specifically related to the aspirations of options due to their nature as newly created settlements, heritage assets can be a

SA Objective	Conformity to Garden City / Settlement Principles	Commentary / Nature of the Appraisal
		constraint on specific locations. The objective will be used to assess the suitability of options in a local context and on a broadly comparable basis, with the potential for mitigation on site or recommendations as to how the site could be progressed to minimise or eradicate potential impacts.
4) To reduce contributions to climatic change	N/A	The assessment of sites in relation to their potential to reduce contributions to climate change would be difficult to conclude at this stage and at the level of detail commensurate to the strategic nature of the Local Plan. It should be considered that new Garden Settlements will have the maximum potential for renewable energy and energy efficiency at the anticipated scales.
5) Reduce and control pollution	N/A	The assessment of sites in relation to their potential to reduce and control pollution would be difficult to conclude at this stage and at the level of detail commensurate to the strategic nature of the Local Plan. The broad assessment of options in relation to any known contaminants and / or other potential constraints that may affect viability will be undertaken. Options will also be assessed as to their relationship with and impact on occupiers of existing properties and neighbouring areas.
6) To reduce the risk of	N/A	The scale and aspirations of

SA Objective	Conformity to Garden City / Settlement Principles	Commentary / Nature of the Appraisal
flooding		Garden City / Settlements indicate that areas at risk from flooding may not be as significant a constraint as smaller and more detailed proposals. The comparable assessment of sites at this stage can broadly set the policy framework of strategic sites in relation to flood risk.
7) To promote and encourage the use of sustainable methods of travel	Integrated and accessible transport systems – with a series of settlements linked by rapid transport providing a full range of employment opportunities (as set out in Howard’s vision of the ‘Social City’).	Garden City / Settlement principles acknowledge the desirability of sustainable transport methods, however there may be some degree of constraint associated with the limitations of rail services in the District. With this in mind, the broad principle of integrated transport systems will be assessed for site options.
8) To ensure accessibility to services		
9) To improve the population’s health and promote social inclusion	Opportunities for residents to grow their own food, including generous allotments	Facilities for the benefit of health and social inclusion are not explicitly covered within Garden City / Settlement principles, however it should be noted that the likely scale of options will maximise the potential of such facilities to be integrated within developments. As such, the assessment of sites regarding health and social inclusion would be difficult to assess in any detail with thin the context of the Local Plan without a comparable level of detail in proposals.
10) To provide appropriate housing and accommodation to meet existing and future needs	Beautifully and imaginatively designed homes with gardens, combining the very best of town and country living to create healthy	Strategic scale housing delivery will be provided by all options. In addition, the details of housing types would be provided at the planning

SA Objective	Conformity to Garden City / Settlement Principles	Commentary / Nature of the Appraisal
	<p>homes in vibrant communities</p> <p>Mixed-tenure homes and housing types that are affordable for ordinary people</p>	<p>application stage. As such, the appraisal of strategic scale sites within the context and level of information required at the Local Plan stage will respond to broad locational criteria in regards to analysis of sites conformity with spatial strategy options and the District's objectively assessed need.</p>
<p>11) To promote the efficient use of resources, including land and ensure the necessary infrastructure to support sustainable development</p>	<p>Land value capture for the benefit of the community</p> <p>Strong vision, leadership and community engagement</p> <p>Community ownership of land and long-term stewardship of assets</p>	<p>It is likely that the scale of options explored for strategic growth in the Local Plan context would enable supporting infrastructure to be delivered as part of developments. The appraisal of options at this level would highlight any broad infrastructure concerns for comparison and to aid the formulation of any site specific policy in future iterations of the Local Plan.</p>
<p>12) To improve the education and skills of the population</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>For the purposes of assessing broad locations for strategic scale development against this Sustainability Objective, it should be assumed that the provision of educational facilities would be desirable for inclusion within the proposal. It should be noted that ECC's threshold for a new primary school is 700 new houses or mixed development of 1,000 (one form entry – ECC preferred) and the threshold for new secondary school provision (inc. Sixth Form) is approximately 6,000 houses for six forms of entry (ECC preferred).</p>

SA Objective	Conformity to Garden City / Settlement Principles	Commentary / Nature of the Appraisal
<p>13) To ensure sustainable employment provision and economic growth</p>	<p>A strong local jobs offer in the Garden City itself, with a variety of employment opportunities within easy commuting distance of homes</p> <p>Strong local cultural, recreational and shopping facilities in walkable neighbourhoods</p>	<p>For the purposes of assessing broad locations for strategic scale development against this Sustainability Objective, it should be assumed that employment development will be integrated into the proposals. Options' broad location in regards to existing employment areas will be subject to assessment as per the Garden City / Settlement Principle. There will also be similar assumptions and assessment regarding shopping facilities.</p>

4.5 The Appraisal of Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Uttlesford District Council commissioned Place Services of Essex County Council to undertake an independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the District's Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan in 2014. The work completed to date included a SA Scoping Report (October 2014) and a subsequent SA Environmental Report (December 2014). This appraisal assessed the suitability of:

- The Plan's Vision and Objectives;
- Site Delivery Options; and
- Gypsy and Traveller allocations put forward to Uttlesford District Council.

The sites assessed were put forward in response to a requirement to provide a district-wide total of 26 new permanent pitches and plots to 2033 as identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).

It is the Council's intention to integrate the allocation of Gypsy and Traveller plots and pitches into a single Local Plan for the district to which this Scoping Report responds. It is important to note that no particular policy direction or Gypsy and Traveller pitches and plots have yet been agreed as preferred allocations. It should also be noted that although the SA sustainability framework and site assessment pro forma formulated for the allocation of Gypsy and Traveller plot and pitch provision have been subject to independent consultation, the wider Local Plan process enables additional sites to come forward for consideration.

The following tables reiterate the SA site pro forma for assessing the sustainability of potential Gypsy and Traveller policy and plot and pitch provision developed for the SA of the District's previous Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan 2014. For the purposes of inclusion within the wider Local Plan context, these SA Frameworks have again been published for consultation.

Table 8: The Sustainability Framework for the assessment of Gypsy and Traveller policy

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
<p>1) To retain, enhance and conserve the biodiversity, the water environment and the character of the landscape.</p>	<p>The natural environment and biodiversity</p> <p>Landscape character and quality</p>	<p>Does the policy seek to protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SSSIs - NNR - LoWS - Ancient Woodland - Protected lanes <p>Does the policy seek to locate development away from areas noted for their high sensitivity to change (from Essex Landscape Character Assessment)?</p> <p>Does the policy seek to minimise any Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) being affected?</p> <p>Does the policy seek to direct sites on Brownfield land?</p> <p>Does the policy seek to protect the Greenbelt?</p> <p>Does the policy seek to protect the Countryside Protection Zone?</p> <p>Does the policy seek to protect high quality agricultural land?</p> <p>Does the policy ensure that the scale of sites will not be perceived as dominant to the nearest settled community?</p>	<p>Condition of SSSIs in proximity to G,T&TS sites</p> <p>Number of G,T&TS sites and distances from NNRs, LoWSs, Ancient Woodland</p> <p>Number of G,T&TS sites with access arrangements via Protected Lanes</p> <p>Number of G, T&TS sites located in areas of high sensitivity to change in the LCA.</p> <p>Proportion of new G,T&TS sites on brownfield land</p> <p>Number of G,T&TS sites in the Greenbelt</p> <p>Number of G,T&TS sites in the CPZ</p> <p>Number of G,T&TS sites on the highest quality agricultural land</p> <p>Distances of sites to nearest established settlements</p>

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
2) To maintain and enhance the district's cultural heritage, assets and their settings	Archaeology The historic environment and settings	Does the policy seek to protect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduled Monuments? - Listed Buildings? - Conservation Areas? - Registered Park or Gardens? - Other historic or cultural features? - Known archaeological deposits? 	Number of G,T&TS sites affecting the significance of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks or Gardens Number of G,T&TS sites on locations in the EHER
3) To reduce and control pollution	Road traffic emissions Noise Groundwater issues Waste recycling space / facilities Air quality	Does the policy seek to locate sites away from the District's AQMA? Does the policy seek to protect the ground water protection zone? Does the policy consider residential amenity and the relationship with adjacent uses?	Distances of G,T&TS sites to the AQMA Number of G,T&TS sites within the GPZ
4) To reduce the risk of flooding	Flooding Surface water flooding	Does the policy have a suitable direction on surface water flooding issues? Does the policy seek to direct sites away from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flood risk zone 2? - flood risk zone 3a / b? 	Recorded flood incidences on/next to G,T&TS sites Number of G,T&TS sites on FZ2 / 3a / 3b (and distance where nearby)
5) To ensure access to key services and encourage the use of sustainable methods of	Access to jobs and services Safe pedestrian and vehicle access	Does the policy ensure access is in close proximity to a public transport node? Does the policy have a suitable direction on the	Distance of sites to public transport nodes Distance of sites to healthcare

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
travel		accessibility of healthcare facilities? Does the policy have a suitable direction on accessibility to convenience shopping? Does the policy ensure safe highway access?	facilities Distance of sites to known convenience shopping Sites approved contrary to site assessment for highway access
6) To improve health and promote social inclusion	Community cohesion Inclusive access to sports facilities Access to natural greenspace	Does the policy consider distances to accessible natural greenspace? Does the policy factor in the provision of or distance to recreational land? Does the policy have a suitable direction on contaminated land (including proximity to refuse sites or industrial processes)? Does the policy have a suitable direction regarding enclosure and the isolation of Gypsy, Traveller to rest of the community?	Sites' distances to ANG Number of sites with recreation land provision Distances from sites to existing recreation land Sites' distances to contaminated land
7) To provide appropriate accommodation to meet existing and future needs	Appropriate accommodation	Does the policy ensure that the sizes of yards are adequate for the number of pitches/plots? Does the policy ensure that there is space for visiting caravans? Does the policy ensure that there is space for play areas for children?	Known average yard size per pitch on individual sites Known average visitor spaces per pitch on individual sites Known size of play areas per pitch on individual sites
8) To improve the education and skills of the population	School capacity Access to education, skills and training opportunities	Does the policy ensure adequate accessibility to a primary school? Does the policy ensure adequate accessibility to	Sites' distances to nearest primary school (and whether they conform to standards [800m])

SA Objective	Sustainability Issue(s)	Key Questions – Strategy and Policy	Potential Indicators
		<p>a secondary school?</p> <p>Does the policy factor in the capacity of primary schools to support the size of allocation?</p> <p>Does the policy factor in the capacity of secondary schools to support the size of allocation?</p>	<p>Sites' distances to nearest secondary school (and whether they conform to standards [4.8km])</p> <p>Capacity of nearest primary school to individual sites</p> <p>Capacity of nearest secondary school to individual sites</p>
<p>9) To support sustainable employment provision and economic growth</p>	<p>Employment facilities / opportunities</p>	<p>Does the policy ensure that yards have capacity for work related space / storage?</p> <p>Does the policy ensure sites are suitable for mixed residential and business uses?</p>	<p>Number of sites with yard space / yards space per pitch on individual sites</p> <p>Number of sites with business space / size of business space per pitch on individual sites</p>

Table 9: The Site Pro Forma for the assessment of Gypsy and Traveller allocations

SA Objective	Site Criteria	Source	Major positive (++)	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Major negative (- -)	Uncertain / Unknown / Negligible (!)	No impact (0)
1) Retain, enhance and conserve the biodiversity, the water environment and the character of the landscape.	Proximity of any:							
	- SSSIs	GIS mapping	N/A	Over 100m	Within 100m	On site	N/A	N/A
	- NNRs	GIS mapping	N/A	Over 100m	Within 100m	On site	N/A	N/A
	- LoWS	GIS mapping	N/A	Over 100m	Within 100m	On site	N/A	N/A
	- Ancient Woodland	GIS mapping	N/A	Over 100m	Within 100m	On site	N/A	N/A
	Will the site be located in an area noted for its high sensitivity to change (from Essex Landscape Character Assessment)?	Landscape Character Assessment 2006	N/A	Low to moderate sensitivity to change / Moderate sensitivity to change	Moderate to high sensitivity to change / Relatively high sensitivity to change	N/A	N/A	Urban area
	Will any Tree	GIS mapping	N/A	None on	On site	N/A	Adjacent to	N/A

Preservation Orders (TPOs) be affected?			site			site	
Is the site greenfield or brownfield?	Aerial mapping	N/A	Brownfield	Greenfield	N/A	Mixed brownfield and greenfield	N/A
Is the site located within the Greenbelt?	GIS mapping	Not in greenbelt	N/A	Within the greenbelt, but acceptable under 'special circumstances'	Within the greenbelt	Partly within the Greenbelt	N/A
Is the site located within the Countryside Protection Zone?	GIS mapping	Not in CPZ	N/A	Within the CPZ but does not lead to the coalescence between the airport and existing development / does not adversely affect the open characteristics of the	Within the CPZ	Partly within CPZ	N/A

					zone.			
	Will the site result in a loss of high quality agricultural land?	Agricultural Land Classification	N/A	Urban area / extension to an existing site / Other land primarily in non-agricultural use	Grade 2	N/A	Grade 3	N/A
2) To maintain and enhance the district's cultural heritage assets and their settings	Will the site harm the significance of the following assets:							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduled Ancient Monuments - Listed Buildings - Historic Parks and Gardens - Conservation Areas - Heritage assets (local lists) - Archaeology 	UDC Site Assessments (this element undertaken by Historic Environment Advisors/Consultants at Place Services)	N/A	No harm to the significance of a heritage asset.	Harm to the significance of a heritage asset but capable of mitigation.	Significant harm to the significance of a heritage asset not capable of mitigation	Uncertainty surrounding impacts	N/A

	Will there be any material harm caused to the form and alignment of protected historic lanes?	GIS mapping / Site information / site policy (where available)	N/A	Access is not via protected lane / access is via protected lane but would not require amendment to form or alignment	Access is via protected lane and would require amendment to form or alignment	N/A	Unknown	N/A
3) To reduce and control pollution	Is the site in or within 100 metres of any AQMA?	GIS mapping	N/A	No	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Is the site within a ground water source protection zone?	GIS mapping	N/A	Not in GPZ	Within outer zone (Zone 2, Zone 2c)	Within inner zone (Zone 1, Zone 1c)	Within total catchment (Zone 3)	N/A
	Residential amenity – relationship with existing adjacent uses.	UDC Site Assessments	N/A	Unlikely to adversely affect existing adjoining uses	Close proximity to existing residential properties where potential impacts of light, visual, noise, traffic	N/A	Close proximity to existing residential properties where potential impacts of light, visual, noise, traffic	N/A

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					are not reasonably capable of mitigation		are capable of mitigation	
4) To reduce the risk of flooding	Is the site within: - a flood risk zone	GIS mapping	N/A	Zone 1 (no flood risk)	Zone 2	Zone 3a / 3b	Uncertain (to include commentary in appraisal)	N/A
5) To ensure access to key services and encourage the use of sustainable methods of travel	Is the site within 800 metres walking and cycling distance of an existing public transport node?	GIS mapping	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Will the site be located within 800 metres walking and cycling distance of a GP surgery?	GIS mapping / NHS Choices Services near you	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Is the site within 800 metres walking and cycling distance of convenience shopping?	GIS mapping	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	For information only – unreliable data.	N/A

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	Is the site located in an area of highest deprivation nationally for Barriers to Housing and Services?	IMD, 2010 LSOA level	N/A	No	Yes	N/A	On border of two LSOAs that perform differently	N/A
	Does the site provide safe highway access?	UDC Site Assessment	Existing site with suitable existing access	Adequate or good access off adequate or good standard of road. Not affected by safety issues.	Poor access and / or road of poor standard. Likely to be subject to safety issues from surrounding uses incapable of mitigation.	No access	Access poor but capable of being improved. Road of adequate or good standard. Likely to be affected by safety issues but capable of mitigation	N/A
6) To improve health and promote social inclusion	Is there capacity in the nearest GP surgery?	NHS	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Will the site be within: - 300m of accessible natural greenspace of at least 2ha in	GIS mapping	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

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size?								
- 2km of a 20ha accessible natural greenspace?	GIS mapping	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	
- 5km of a 100ha accessible natural greenspace?	GIS mapping	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	
- 10km of a 500ha accessible natural greenspace?	GIS mapping	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Will the site see a loss of recreational land?	Aerial mapping	N/A	No	Yes	N/A	Uncertain	N/A	
Is the site on contaminated land?	UDC Site Assessment	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes - Impact for information only; as commentary in site appraisals	No	
Is the site in close proximity to refuse sites or industrial processes?	Aerial mapping	N/A	No	Yes	N/A	Unknown	N/A	

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	Might the site be enclosed to the extent that occupants are isolated from the rest of the community?	Aerial mapping / Site information (where available)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Potentially enclosed – impact for information only; as commentary in site appraisals	N/A
7) To provide appropriate accommodation to meet existing and future needs	Does the site have existing water supply?	Site information / site policy (where available)	Yes and existing	Yes although potentially insufficient to meet the reasonable demands of number of residents	No but capable of being provided	No and incapable of being provided	Unknown	N/A
	Does the site have existing electricity / gas supply?	Site information / site policy (where available)	Yes and existing	Yes although potentially insufficient to meet the reasonable demands of number of residents	No but capable of being provided	No and incapable of being provided	Unknown	N/A
	Does the site have existing sewerage?	Site information / site policy	Yes and existing	Yes although potentially	No but capable of being	No and incapable of being	Unknown	N/A

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		(where available)		insufficient to meet the reasonable demands of number of residents	provided	provided		
	Does the site have existing communal facilities?	Site information / site policy (where available)	Yes and existing	Yes although potentially insufficient to meet the reasonable demands of number of residents	No but capable of being provided	No and incapable of being provided	Unknown	N/A
	Is there space for visiting caravans?	Site information / site policy (where available)	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Unknown	N/A
	Is there space for play areas for children?	Site information / site policy (where available)	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Unknown	N/A
8) To improve the education and skills of the	Will the site be located within 800 metres of a primary school?	GIS mapping	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

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population	Will the site be located within 4.8km of a secondary school?	GIS mapping	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Is there capacity in the closest primary school?	Commissioning School Places in Essex	N/A	Forecast Surplus inc. adjustment for new housing	Forecast Deficit inc. adjustment for new housing	N/A	Forecast zero capacity inc. adjustment for new housing	N/A
	Is there capacity in the closest secondary school?	Commissioning School Places in Essex	N/A	Forecast Surplus inc. adjustment for new housing	Forecast Deficit inc. adjustment for new housing	N/A	Forecast zero capacity inc. adjustment for new housing	N/A
9) To support employment provision and economic growth	Does the site have capacity for work related space / storage?	Site information / site policy (where available)	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	Unknown	No
	Is commercial or other work activity envisaged for the site?	Site information / site policy (where available)	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	Unknown	No

4.6 Next Steps – Consulting on the Scope of the SA

This Scoping Report will be subject to consultation. There are three statutory consultees that are required to be consulted for all Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment documents. These are:

- The Environment Agency;
- Natural England; and
- Historic England.

In addition to these, Uttlesford District Council may wish to expand this list of consultees to include relevant stakeholders and interested parties.

All comments on the content of this Scoping Report should be sent to:

planningpolicy@uttlesford.gov.uk

Planning Policy Team
Council Offices
London Road
Saffron Walden
Essex
CB11 4ER

5 Monitoring

The significant sustainability effects of implementing a Local Plan must be monitored in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. The SA Framework of this Scoping Report contains suggested indicators in order to monitor each of the SA Objectives, however these may not all be collected due to limited resources and difficulty in data availability or collection.

Guidance stipulates that it is not necessary to monitor everything included within the SEA Framework, but that monitoring should focus on significant sustainability effects, e.g. those that indicate a likely breach of international, national or local legislation, that may give rise to irreversible damage or where there is uncertainty and monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken.

Upon adoption the Plan will be accompanied by an Adoption Statement which will outline those Monitoring Indicators identified and deemed most appropriate for future monitoring of the Plan.

This information is issued by
Place Services Team at Essex County Council
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