

Colchester Borough Council Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal

Scoping Report

Spatial Policy Team

July 2014

Contents

	Page
Introduction	3
Review of relevant plans, programmes & sustainability objectives	8
Baseline Environment	11
Key Sustainability Issues	26
Sustainability Framework	31
Next steps	35
Appendix 1: Review of relevant plans & programmes	37
Appendix 2: Baseline data	93

Introduction

This report sets out the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Colchester Borough Local Plan. This report will be consulted upon between 1 July and 5 August 2014.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is about asking at various intervals during plan preparation: “how sustainable is my plan?”. A range of objectives are established and all options are assessed against these objectives to compare their environmental, economic and social effects and ultimately to assess how sustainable an option is. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), SA is mandatory for Local Plans.

In addition to SA, Local Plans must also undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes. The objective of SEA, as defined in the Government’s guidance on strategic environmental assessment, is: *“to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development”* (Article 1).

There is a distinct difference between SA and SEA. SA examines all sustainability related effects including social, economic and environmental impacts, whereas SEA is focused primarily on environmental impacts. Clearly there is some overlap between these two processes and it is therefore best practice to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into the SA process. Colchester Borough Council has followed this approach as part of all SA work since 2008. Therefore all references to SA in this and subsequent reports also refer to and incorporate the requirements of SEA.

Scoping

The SEA Directive requires the following information, which is covered in this Scoping Report:

- The relationship of the plan with other relevant plans and programmes [Annex I(a)].
- The environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation [Annex I(e)].
- Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan [Annex I(b)].
- The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected [Annex I(c)].

- Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including in particular those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/ECC and 92/43/EEC [Annex I(d)].

Colchester Borough Local Plan

Colchester Borough Council adopted a Core Strategy in 2008, Site Allocations in 2010 and Development Policies in 2010, which are now collectively known as the Colchester Borough Local Plan. In 2013 work commenced on a two staged review of the Local Plan. The first stage of this was a Focused Review, which involved those policies that could be amended without the need for further evidence to ensure compatibility with the NPPF. The Inspector's report was received in May 2014 and it is expected that Full Council will adopt the Focused Review in July 2014.

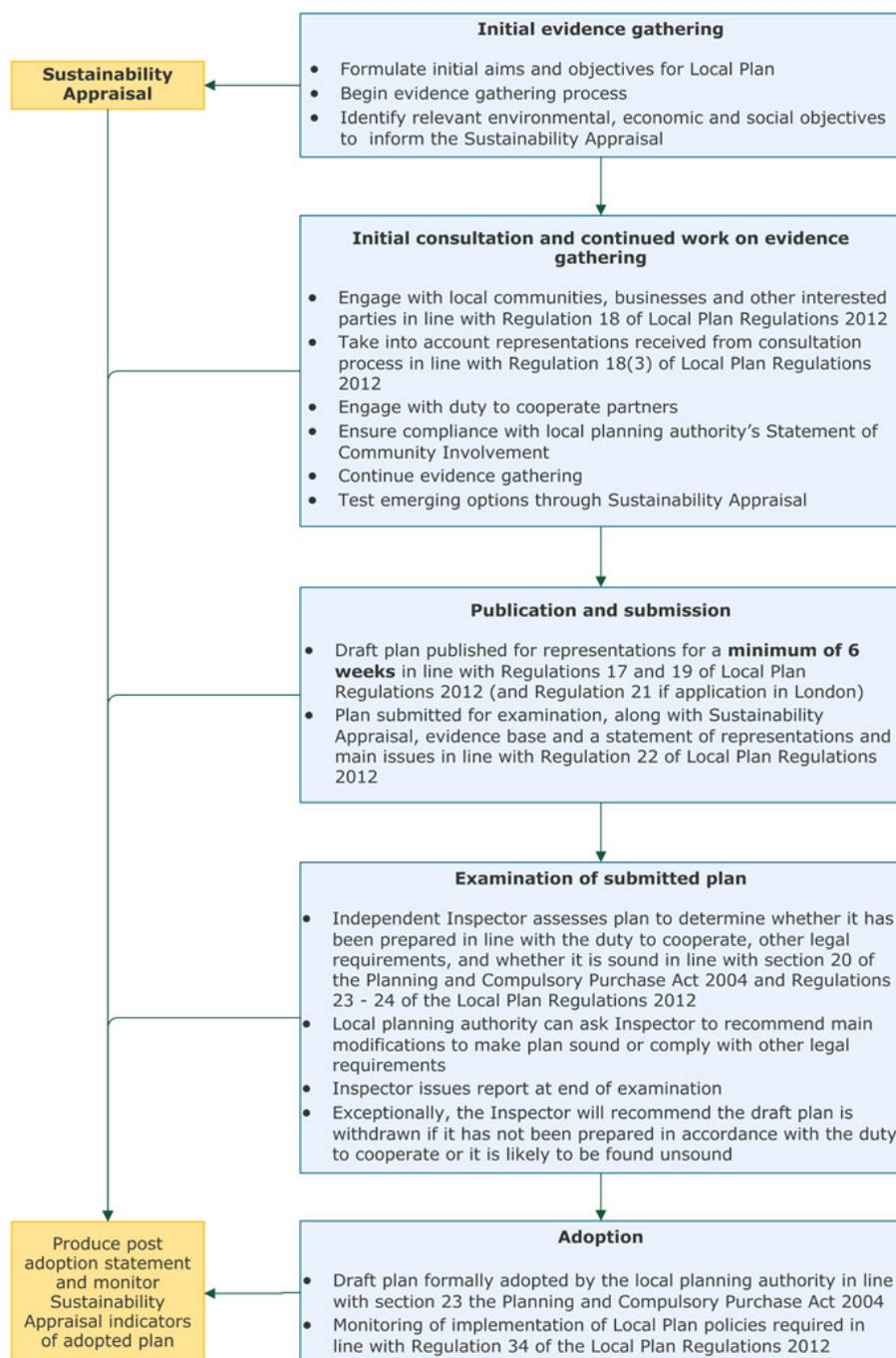
The second stage is a full review of the Local Plan, to which this SA Scoping Report relates. The Local Plan will set the framework for future development in Colchester Borough up until 2032. It will include a strategic vision and objectives, which will be translated into strategic policies; site allocations; and policies that will be used to determine planning applications throughout the Borough.

At this early stage, the Spatial Policy Team is developing the overall framework for progressing the plan. This includes generating broad issues and options, which will be appraised as part of the SA and consulted upon in early 2015. Initial broad options will be based on national planning policy guidance, Council priorities as set forth in the Strategic Plan, existing local policies, and the current evidence base.

A key change in the plan development process post-NPPF is the new requirement to generate a local Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for housing and employment land since these targets are no longer set nationally. As part of developing this OAN figure, Colchester has prepared a joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) in partnership with Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford and Maldon Councils.

The figure¹, below, outlines the key stages of Local Plan preparation. This includes how the SA fits into each stage of plan preparation.

¹ National Planning Practice Guidance, Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 12-005-20140306



Sustainable development

Sustainability and sustainable development are commonly used terms and it is important to consider what sustainable development actually means.

The European Commission, through its 2009 review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, defines sustainable development as follows:

Sustainable Development stands for meeting the needs of present generations without jeopardizing the ability of futures generations to meet their own needs – in other words, a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. It offers a vision of progress that integrates immediate

and longer-term objectives, local and global action, and regards social, economic and environmental issues as inseparable and interdependent components of human progress.

Sustainable development will not be brought about by policies only: it must be taken up by society at large as a principle guiding the many choices each citizen makes every day, as well as the big political and economic decisions that have. This requires profound changes in thinking, in economic and social structures and in consumption and production patterns.

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the following definition of sustainable development:

At the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.

For plan-making this means that:

- *local planning authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area;*
- *Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:*
 - *any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or*
 - *specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted².*

For decision-taking this means³:

- *approving development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay; and*
- *where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out of date, granting permission unless:*
 - *any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or*
 - *specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted¹.*

² For example, those policies relating to sites protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives (see paragraph 119 of the NPPF) and/or designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest; land designated as Green Belt, Local Green Space, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast or within a National Park (or the Broads Authority); designated heritage assets; and locations at risk of flooding or coastal erosion.

³ Unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Scoping workshop

A scoping workshop was held on 28 April 2014 to obtain the views of various stakeholders, including statutory consultees, on the scope of the SA. Stakeholders from a wide range of specialisms and organisations were invited in an attempt to ensure that all SEA topics were covered.

Stakeholders were split into the following three groups based on their specialism; environment, social and economic. Each group was facilitated by a Planning Policy Officer. Stakeholders were asked to suggest additional baseline data, additional plans and programmes for the review, identify sustainability issues relevant to Colchester, suggest sustainability objectives and carry out a SWOT analysis. Whilst the SWOT analysis is not a scoping task it was helpful to understand what stakeholders consider to be Colchester's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The work from the SWOT analysis has been incorporated into the sustainability issues and sustainability objectives. It will also be used as part of the wider plan preparation.

Consultation

We welcome your comments on this SA Scoping Report. Throughout this report a number of questions are asked and these are all listed in section 5: Next steps (page 35).

Please email comments to: planning.policy@colchester.gov.uk.

Alternatively, please post comments to:

Spatial Policy Team
Colchester Borough Council
FREEPOST RL5L-ZT5R-SG5A
Colchester
Essex CO1 1ZE

The closing date for this consultation is 5 August 2014.

Review of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

A review of relevant plans and programmes was undertaken and is included in appendix 1. The list of documents reviewed is outlined below.

International

Review of the European Sustainable Development Strategy (2009)
European Community Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2012)
Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice (2003)

National

Adapting to Climate Change: Ensuring Progress in Key Sectors (2013)
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
National Planning Practice Guide (2014)
DECC National Energy Policy Statement EN1 (2011)
DCLG: An Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning (2012)
JNCC/Defra UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012)
Mainstreaming Sustainable Development (2011)
National policy for travellers (2012)
PPS 5 Historic Environment Guide (2010)
Flood and Water Management Act (2009)
Safeguarding our soils (2009)
Community Infrastructure Levy Guidance (April 2013)
UK Marine Policy Statement, HM Government (2011)

Regional

Haven Gateway: Programme of Development: A Framework for Growth, 2008 -2017 (2007)
Haven Gateway: Integrated Development Plan (2008)
South East LEP Investment and Funding (March/April 2014)
Anglian Water Business Plan (2015-2020) (2012)
Draft Water Resource Management Plan (2014 – 2039) (2014)
River Basement Management Plan (2014/2015) (2009)
Catchment Abstraction Management Plan
Haven Gateway Water Cycle Study: Stage 1 Report (2008)
South East LEP Growth Deal and Strategic Economic Plan (2004)

County

Commissioning school places in Essex 2013/18 (2014)
ECC developer contributions document (2010)
Education contributions guideline supplement
ECC Corporate Plan 2013 – 2017
Vision for Essex 2013 – 2017: Where innovation brings prosperity (2013)
Corporate Outcomes Framework 2014 - 2018 Essex County Council (2014)
Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan (2001)

Waste Replacement Local Plan (expected to be adopted 2015)
Essex Minerals Local Plan (1996)
Essex Replacement Minerals Local Plan
Colchester draft Surface Water Management Plan (2014)
Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (2011)
Essex Transport Strategy: the Local Transport Plan for Essex (2011)
A12/ A120 Route based strategy (2013)
Highway Authority's Development Management Policies (2011)
Economic Growth Strategy (2012)
Integrated County Strategy (2010)
Essex Wildlife Trust's Living Landscapes
Combined Essex Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2013)
Essex Design Guide (2005)
North Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)
Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan (second phase) (2011)
Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Management Plan 2010 – 2015

Local

Creative Colchester Strategy & Action Plan (2012)
Colchester Borough Council Strategic Plan 2012-2015 (2012)
PPG17 Open Space , Sport & Recreation (2008)
Safer Colchester Partnership: Strategic Assessment of Crime and Annual Partnership Plan 2012-2013 (2012)
Townscape Character Assessment (2006)
Landscape Character Assessment (2006)
Scott Wilson Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2008)
Affordable Housing SPD (2011)
Communities Facilities SPD (updated 2012)
Better Town Centre SPD (2012)
Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2011)
Colchester Borough Council Housing Strategy (2012)
Local Air Quality Management Progress Report (2013)
Colchester Environmental Strategy 2014-2019 draft (2014)
Colchester Borough Council's Comprehensive Climate Risk Assessment (2010)
Colchester Borough Council Landscape Strategy (2013)
Water Cycle Study (2008)
Colchester Cycling Strategy SPD (2012)
Core Strategy (2008)
Development Policies DPD (2010)
Site Allocations Policies DPD (2010)
Habitat Regulations Assessment Survey and Monitoring Programme, Final Report, Colchester Borough Council (December 2013)
Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (2014)
Retail and Town Centre Uses Study Colchester Borough Council: Retail Update 2013 (2013)
Colchester Borough Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)

Neighbouring authorities

Tendring economic development strategy (2013)
Tendring's SHMA (2013)
Braintree's Adopted Core Strategy (2011)
Babergh Adopted Core Strategy and Adopted Policies (2011 – 2031) Local Plan Document (2014)
Braintree District Core Strategy (2011)

The vision, aims, objectives and targets of relevant plans and programmes has influenced the sustainability framework, which helps to ensure that the sustainability framework collectively sets out what the Council and its relevant stakeholders would like to achieve in terms of sustainable development.

The review has also supported the collection of baseline data, which is included in appendix 2 and summarised in the following section.

There will be further plans and programmes that influence the SA as work progresses, in particular the emerging evidence base, and so this review is very much a work in progress.

Are there any other plans and programmes that we should review⁴?

⁴ Please note that we are aware of a number of emerging policies, plans and programmes and will add these to the review once completed.

Baseline Environment

This section outlines the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected by the Colchester Borough Local Plan. Further to this, appendix 2 includes a number of indicators.

General characteristics

Data from the 2011 Census put the Borough population at approximately 173,100 with a density of 5.3 people per hectare. The predominant ethnic group is White British with 87.5% of the population describing themselves as such. The ethnic minority population was 12.5% which in terms of numbers equates to a population of approximately 21,500 people. This is lower than the national average of 20.2% but higher than the Essex average of 9.2%.

The whole population of Colchester is expected to grow by 15.7% (from 2011 Census numbers) to just over 200,000 by 2021. Recent decades have seen a trend towards an ageing population in Colchester and this will continue into the next decade. The percentage of over 65s in Colchester is slightly less than the county and regional percentages. The number of people aged over 65 years is projected to increase by 37.6% between 2012-2032. Under 5s will account for a very similar proportion of the population in 2021 at 7.4% compared to 7.5% in 2013.

According to the 2011 Census there were 71,634 households in Colchester. 10% were 1 bed, 27% were 2 bedrooms, 39% of households were 3 bedrooms, 17% were 4 bedrooms and just under 5% were 5 bedrooms or more. Of these, 66.3% were privately owned; 13.5% socially rented; 18.7% privately rented; 0.5% in shared ownership; and 1% living rent-free. County wide 71.4% of homes were privately owned in 2011. Average household size was 2.3 people in 2011, which is slightly less than the county, regional and national averages of 2.4 people. The average number of rooms was 5.5 according to the 2011 Census.

Under current policies an average of 830 dwellings are expected to be built in the Borough each year. A net of 617 homes were built between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013. A net of 3870 dwellings were built over the past five years (2008/9 – 2012/13), which averages 774 per annum. This is higher than any other local authority in Essex. Neighbouring Tendring and Braintree districts had an average of 278 and 339 completions per annum respectively over the past five years. The net number of completions in Essex over the past five years was 20291, which averages at 4058 per annum.

133 units of affordable housing were completed between April 2012 and March 2013. A total of 76 were classed as affordable rent, 10 intermediate tenure (shared ownership) and 47 units were built through the Homebuy Direct scheme which offers equity loans towards the purchase of a new build home on selected developments.

The average household price in April 2013 in Colchester was £202,717. This illustrates a 1.7% decrease from £205,666 in April 2012. The 2007 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) observed that few households aspiring to home ownership had access to enough money to purchase a home in Colchester, and annual updates since 2007 have not found any change to this position.

The 2014 SHMA found that meeting the affordable accommodation requirements of families and those with priority needs should be as important as the larger scale numerical need for smaller units for single and couple households. It recommended continuing to develop housing strategies to make best use of the existing housing stock by providing positive incentives to improve the turnover of houses to address the needs of overcrowded and waiting list families to address the under occupation of around 800 social housing units across the Borough. It also recommended that new social housing should be closely linked to the needs of older tenants and in resolving the under occupation of family sized properties.

In terms of older persons housing the 2014 SHMA found that there is an inextricable link between ageing and frailty and the forecast rise in the retired population means that the housing and support needs of older and disabled households is important to consider at a strategic level. In line with the strategic priorities already established, resources should focus on the provision of home based support services and adaptations for older people living at home in both social rented, private rented and owner occupied housing.

Economic characteristics

Colchester is connected to a comprehensive network of major roads via the A12 and A120, which provide routes to London, the M25, Harlow and Cambridge. Four sections of the A12 around Colchester fall into the top ten busiest sections on the A12 route. The Borough also lies in close proximity to the major seaports of Harwich (20 miles) and Stansted airport (30 miles). This strategic position has meant the area has been a magnet for growth resulting in a healthy and vibrant economy.

Transportation provision in the Borough includes six railway stations; bus routes operated by ten bus companies; and several cycle trails. One of the biggest challenges to Colchester's future development is traffic growth and the dominance of the car as the main mode of travel. The 2011 Census indicated that 79.4% of households own one or more cars or vans with over 12,000 more cars in the area since 2001.

The results of the Colchester Travel Diary survey (July 2007) found that the largest proportion of trips (55%) in the AM peak (0600-0900) are journeys to the workplace, followed by journeys to school (11%), the remainder of journeys are to shops / local services, leisure services and for business. Analysis of survey results also determined that 67% of these journeys to workplace in the AM peak originate from homes in urban areas and

accordingly, could potentially be undertaken via public transport, walking or cycling instead.

These findings are echoed in the 2011 Census travel to work results which found that 58% of residents drive to work. Other main travel to work modes include: walk 13%, train 8%, bus 6%, work from home 5%, car passenger 5%, cycle 4%. This equates to 31% of residents travelling to work by non-car modes and walking and cycling together accounting for 17% of journeys to work.

The findings from recent workplace travel plan surveys from organisations along the A134 are in line with these results (as show in the table below), confirming the view that workplace journeys are likely to be a significant contributor to congestion along this corridor.

Workplace Travel Plan Survey Findings

Mode	Colchester Council (2012)	Colchester Hospital (2012)	Colchester Institute (2013)	Culver Square (2010)
Drive (alone)	47%	64%	61%	64%
Car Share	11%	9%	12%	0%
Get dropped off	3%	2%	n/a	n/a
Walk	13%	11%	10%	22%
Cycle	6%	4%	5%	7%
Bus	11%	5%	4%	0%
Train	6%	2%	2%	0%
Motorcycle	1%	0%	2%	7%
Taxi	1%	0%	n/a	0%
Work from home	2%	1%	1%	n/a
Other	0%	2%	3%	n/a

Whilst significant progress has been made by these organisations, these results indicate that there is scope and opportunity for encouraging more modal shift for the journey to work, as car use is still high and many of these are relatively short journeys that could be undertaken by walking, cycling, bus or car sharing. The distances that staff travel to work is highlighted in the Travel Plan for Culver Square and reveal that 72% of staff live less than 4 miles (or a 30 minute cycle ride) from the Shopping Centre.

The travel survey results for North Colchester businesses have also been examined to identify barriers to travelling by more sustainable modes. Many of these are commonly cited barriers such as childcare responsibilities, having too much to carry, the cost and frequency of buses, difficulty finding suitable car sharers and feeling unsafe when cycling. Two local reasons that are regularly given and are to be addressed in conjunction with bus operators is the cleanliness and poor level of customer service on the bus.

According to the 2001 Journey to Work Census data, Colchester has a high degree of self containment with 70% of the working population working in Colchester and 7% commuting to London, indicating further potential for the uptake of more sustainable modes.

Using data from the 2011 Census, figures show the largest proportion of Colchester residents (22.6%), occupied lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations, 14.2% were employed in semi-routine occupations, and 13.5% were employed in intermediate occupations.

The industry class employing the most people in Colchester according to the 2011 Census was the 'wholesale and retail, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' class which accounted for 16.0% of jobs. The next three largest industry classes were 'human health and social work' which accounted for 13.5% of employment, followed by 'education' at 11.4%; and 'construction' at 8.3%. The largest employers in Colchester by approximate number of employees are Colchester District General Hospital with 3,000 employees; University of Essex with 2,000 employees; Colchester Borough Council with 1,500 employees; and Colchester Institute with 900 employees. The largest private sector employer is Mothkind Clean Ltd, an industrial cleaning company, which employs approximately 800 people.

Colchester has approximately 435,000m² of retail floorspace; 208,000m² of office floorspace; 644,000m² of industrial floorspace; and 110,000m² classed as 'other' floorspace. In order to fulfil Core Strategy 2021 targets, the Borough will need to provide a further 48,259m² of retail floorspace in the Town Centre.

The quantitative assessment of the potential capacity for new retail floorspace, carried out as part of the 2013 update to the Retail Study, suggests that there is scope for new retail development within the Colchester urban area and the rest of the Borough, over and above existing commitments. The capacity figures suggest there is limited need for food store development outside Colchester urban area. The projections suggest new retail floorspace should be distributed as shown in the table below.

Class A1 Retail Floorspace Projections

Location	Sales Floorspace sqm net		
	Convenience	Comparison	Total
Up to 2016			
Commitments/ town centre proposals	1,450	12,800	14,250
Colchester urban area	2,255	803	3,058
Tiptree	-	21	21
West Mersea	-	18	18
Other Colchester Borough	522	-	522
Total up to 2016	4,227	13,642	17,869

2016 – 2021			
Colchester urban area	2,610	9,079	11,689
Tiptree	-	48	48
West Mersea	-	33	33
Other Colchester Borough	174	-	174
Total 2016 - 2021	2,784	9,160	11,944
2021 – 2026			
Colchester urban area	3,101	13,805	16,906
Tiptree	-	74	74
West Mersea	-	49	49
Other Colchester Borough	209	-	209
Total 2021 - 2026	3,310	13,928	17,238
Total period 2012 - 2026			
Colchester urban area	9,416	36,487	45,903
Tiptree	-	143	143
West Mersea	-	100	100
Other Colchester Borough	904	-	904
Grand total	10,321	36,730	47,050

The convenience goods projections in the Retail Study indicate there is scope for one large food store in Colchester urban area in the short term (up to 2016). It is unlikely that this food store can be accommodated within the Town Centre Core. In the medium to long term (2016 to 2021) there is a requirement for 1-2 new large food stores, which could be provided in a new district/neighbourhood centres anchored by a large food store, expansion of one of the five urban district centres and/or the provision of a freestanding out-of-centre food store.

In terms of the spatial distribution of food superstores in Colchester urban area, the Retail Study concluded that the priorities appear to be the south of Colchester urban area in order to serve existing and future residents and to the northwest to serve new residential areas. The proposed neighbourhood centre within the Colchester Northern Growth Area or the Northern Gateway site could serve proposed residential development within the northwest of the urban area.

The Retail Study concluded that vacant shop premises and planned investment within Colchester town centre should be sufficient to accommodate comparison expenditure growth and operator demand for small to medium sized premises up to and beyond 2016. If longer term growth (2016 to 2026), where development cannot be accommodated within the town centre, the Council should consider the potential to expand urban district centres or the provision of new shopping destinations in the urban area. There

is insufficient available expenditure to support all of the current comparison retail proposals between 2016 and 2021. The Retail Study concluded that retail development should not be permitted outside the Town Centre Core unless it can clearly be demonstrated that the proposed development cannot be accommodated in the Town Centre Core, and the proposals will not harm the vitality and viability of designated centres and planned investment.

Approximately 77.4% of the population aged 16-64 was economically active in Colchester in 2012. Model based unemployment figures for the Borough showed Colchester's unemployment rate was 7.1% (which was above the 6.9% figure for the East). This percentage is based on a proportion of the Borough's economically active population.

The Borough is relatively prosperous, ranking 205 out of 326 districts on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (rank 1 being the most deprived). It is estimated that approximately 5% of people in Colchester live in seriously deprived neighbourhoods. However, this is somewhat lower than the relative proportions in Basildon (18%), Tendring (18%) and Harlow (12%).

St Anne's Estate in St Anne's ward and Magnolia in St Andrew's ward were the small areas with the highest levels of deprivation in Colchester. The least deprived small area in Colchester was Bergholt in West Bergholt and Eight Ash Green ward, followed by Wivenhoe Park in Wivenhoe Cross ward. 29 of the 104 small areas in Colchester were ranked in the 20% least deprived in England. In both 2007 and 2010 income domain, there were 28 small areas in Colchester which fell into the top 40% most deprived nationally. In both years, St Anne's Estate in St Anne's ward was the only small area ranked in the top 10% most income deprived nationally.

The average gross household income is lower than the Essex and the East of England averages but higher than the national average. In Colchester average gross household income was £27,592 in 2012, it was £30,193 in Essex, £27,980 in the East of England and £27,302 in England. There are variations in prosperity and there are pockets of deprivation in parts of both the towns and rural areas.

Tourism plays an important part in the local economy. Tourism was worth £244 million to the economy of Colchester Borough in 2012, which is a rise of 5% from the previous year. The value of tourism to Colchester has risen in real terms by 158% from £63.1 million in 1993. Tourism supports more than 5,600 actual jobs in the Borough, this has risen by 109% since 1993 (5632 in 2011, 2685 in 1993).

Colchester attracted just over 5 million visitor trips in 2012. This is approximately 78% higher than the 1993 figure of 2.8 million visitor trips. This can be broken down as follows:

- 62,000 staying trips taken by overseas staying visitors;
- 216,000 staying trips taken by domestic staying visitors; and
- 4.7 million day trippers.

Colchester has 1,300 creative businesses providing employment to over 5,600 employees. Creative industries are a priority growth area for the town. This accounts for 18.3% of all businesses in the Borough, and includes advertising, design, film, arts and crafts, performing arts and publishing. Nationally, creative industries account for approximately 7% of the economy as a whole. This shows that Colchester is a well-performing town in terms of its creative economy but that there is considerable room for growth.

Creative Colchester recognises culture and creativity as a driver of job creation, economic growth and sustainable community development to raise the profile of the town overall. A vision document has been created, in which the main opportunities are set out for the development of the creative industries over the next five years.

Colchester Borough Council is leading regeneration programmes in East Colchester, North Colchester, the Town Centre and the Garrison. In East Colchester a new waterside community is emerging at the Hythe, the town's former port. The £13 million regeneration programme will create a mixed-use development alongside the River Colne with 100,000 sq ft of commercial space, 2000 new homes and improved transport links. The transformation of the area is already underway with new housing, employment areas, community centre, nursery and student accommodation for the University of Essex at University Quays. The University Knowledge Gateway will bring new business opportunities, hotels and leisure facilities.

To the North of the town, alongside the A12, lies a 100 hectare development site. Plans for the area will see the creation of 1500 new homes and new employment areas to create up to 3500 new jobs. Opened in 2008, the site is already home to the Weston Homes Community Stadium. As well as being Colchester United Football Club's new home, the venue also offers space for concerts, events, community space for Colchester United Community Sports Trust to develop its programme of activities and conference facilities for up to 400 people. As part of the regeneration programme for North Colchester a Master Plan has been prepared for North Station, which is a key gateway into the town.

A £1.5billion development of a new modern Garrison in the town has shown a further 35 years commitment to Colchester by the MoD. As well as creating improved accommodation and facilities for service personnel, land released by the MoD as a result of the new development is being used to create a sustainable mixed use urban village close to the Town Centre.

Improvements in the Town Centre have previously been focused on the St. Botolph's Quarter, with ongoing plans to develop a new cultural quarter, large retail scheme, Magistrate's Court, residential development and multi-storey car park. However, plans to improve the wider town centre are now underway with proposals being developed to reduce traffic and create a better pedestrian experience with more public spaces for events and activities and

better links for cyclists ensuring that Colchester continues to be a vibrant place during the day and in the evening.

Social characteristics

In 2012 there were 2,353 births in Colchester. Only Basildon District had a higher number of births than Colchester (2,493). The total number of births in Essex in 2012 was 16,860.

Life expectancy in the Borough has been estimated as nearly 80 years for men and over 83 years for women. There are 2 hospitals, 33 doctors and 27 dental surgeries within the Borough. In addition, there are 3 clinics, 18 opticians and 32 pharmacies.

There are 79 maintained schools: 64 primaries, 11 secondaries and 4 special schools. There are 2 higher education colleges, Colchester Sixth Form College and the Colchester Institute, plus the University of Essex, making the Borough a major educational base with visiting students significantly adding to the diversity of the population. The provision of day care, nursery education and out-of-school care remains an issue for the Borough, with there being more demand than formal supply.

Essex County Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure there are sufficient school places available every year, that there is diversity across the school system and that parental preference is maximised. Commissioning school places in Essex 2013/18 was published in April 2014 and is updated annually to ensure the projections of demand for school places are as accurate as possible. This sets out the requirement for places in maintained primary and secondary schools in Essex until 2018 and identifies the areas where providers will need to match supply with demand.

In 2013 there were 13,720 nursery and primary pupils and 10,238 secondary pupils. The 4 schools providing sixth form education had 961 pupils. Colchester Institute had 4,240 1-18 year pupils (although this figure includes all of Colchester Institute's sites, some of which are outside the Borough) and Colchester Sixth Form College had 3,140 16-18 year pupils.

It is forecast and set out in the Commissioning school places in Essex 2013/18 document (2014) that in 2017/18 nursery and primary school pupils will increase to 14,928 (12.4% change) and 16,008 with housing (20.5% change). Secondary school pupils, including sixth form pupils, will increase to 10,421 (1.8% increase) and 11,037 (7.8% change) with housing. These forecasts are higher than the Essex average.

In the Stanway area there should be sufficient capacity overall to meet demand in the next three years. However, as the new housing developments planned progress there is likely to be pressure on school places and plans will be developed with the local schools to increase provision in the locality. ECC will have access to a new school site on commencement of phase three of the Lakelands development, if required. A consultation has commenced on

proposals to increase provision at Monkwick Infant and Junior Schools, Montgomery Infant and Junior Schools and a further expansion of St John's Green Primary School. St George's New Town Junior School will increase its intake to 90 from 2014. In the Tiptree planning group there were 22% surplus places with two of the schools having more than 50% surplus places in school year 2012/13. Funding has been secured for a new 2 form entry school in Braiswick from 2015 and Essex County Council are currently seeking sponsors for a 420 pupil school on the Severalls development.

Year 7 intakes in Colchester are forecast to rise significantly from September 2017 onwards and two options will be explored to provide the additional places required: to expand an existing and high performing and popular school/ academy through the use of the Alderman Blaxill site, or to develop new provision such as a Free School or Academy on this site.

Educational achievement is generally good. In 2011, 16.7% of Colchester's working population aged 16 and over were qualified to level 2 standard, and 27.2% to level 4+ standard. Level 2 qualifications cover: five or more 'O' level passes; five or more CSE (grade 1s); five or more GCSEs (grades A-C); School Certificate; one or more 'A' levels/'AS' levels; NVQ level 2; or Intermediate GNVQ. Level 4 or more qualifications cover: First Degree, Higher Degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5; HNC; HND; Qualified Teacher Status; Qualified Medical Doctor; Qualified Dentist; Qualified Nurse; Midwife; or Health Visitor, or higher. Level 2 attainment was below the Essex average of 17.2%, however level 4+ attainment was higher than the Essex average of 23%.

The community has access to a wide range of Council-run services and facilities, including those owned by the 31 Parish Councils in the Borough. Facilities include country parks at Cudmore Grove in East Mersea and High Woods in Colchester, a leisure centre including swimming pools and four multi-activity centres, and a 10,000 seat capacity football stadium.

The latest crime data available is for the year 2012/13. This data is taken from the ONS publication regarding the numbers of offences recorded by the police, by Community Safety Partnership / local authority level, year and offence group. When comparing the latest information for Colchester with the previous year to date the number of recorded crimes was down by 425 (3.9%) to 10,565. The number of domestic burglaries is currently recorded as a total number. When comparing the latest information for Colchester with the previous year to date the number of domestic burglaries was up by 224 (55%) to 631. Based on the total recorded figure for the 12 months ending 31 March 2013, and the mid-year population estimate, the crude crime rate per 1,000 population was 60.

Environmental characteristics

Colchester has a rich and diverse heritage. As Camulodonum, it was the first capital of England and it is also Britain's oldest recorded town; recorded by Pliny the Elder in AD77. The Borough has a rich archaeological and cultural heritage, dating back to at least 4000BC.

The Borough boasts 22 conservation areas, some 2,560 listed buildings and 52 Scheduled Monuments. Additionally there are 4 parks within Colchester on the National Register of Special Historic Interest including Castle Park, Severalls Hospital, Layer Marney Tower gardens and Wivenhoe Park. The Council has also recently updated its Local List which includes 741 buildings or assets that are of historical or architectural interest. In 2013 there were 37 listed buildings on the Heritage at Risk Register. The number of at risk listed buildings has decreased over the past few years from 49 in 2009, 48 in 2010, 41 in 2011.

The rural landscape of the Borough has a rich ecological character influenced by geology and landform. Habitats include woodland, grassland, heath, estuary, saltmarsh, mudflat and freshwater as well as open water habitats. Many sites are recognised for their value by international and national notifications, including the coastal and estuary areas in the south east and the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the north of the Borough.

The Dedham Vale AONB covers the lower part of the Stour Valley on the Essex/Suffolk border. At its heart is an area known as Constable Country centred on the villages of East Bergholt, Flatford and Dedham which Constable painted two centuries ago. His scenes of a working landscape strongly influenced the designation of the area that has come to represent the epitome of lowland English countryside.

The AONB stands apart from other lowland river valleys because of its association with Constable and the assemblage of features he painted that can still be seen today. These features include a meandering river and its tributaries; gentle valley slopes with scattered woodlands; grazing and water meadows; sunken rural lanes; historic villages with imposing church towers and historic timber framed buildings; small fields enclosed by ancient hedgerows and a wealth of evidence of human settlement over millennia. Despite intrusions of human activity in the twentieth and twenty first centuries, the area retains a sense of tranquillity in terms of minimal noise, light and development intrusion.

Colchester has a rich biodiversity with many sites designated for their nature conservation interest. Much of the coastline is designated under international and European notifications including the Mid-Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation, the Mid-Essex Special Protection Area, the Blackwater Estuary Special Protection Area and Abberton Reservoir Special Protection Area. The Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are notified under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (79/409/ECC) respectively. They are also notified as Ramsar sites under the Ramsar Convention.

Abberton Reservoir is a large, shallow, freshwater storage reservoir approximately 6 miles south-west of Colchester. It is built in a long, shallow valley and is the largest freshwater body in Essex. It is one of the most important reservoirs in Britain for wintering wildfowl, with a key role as a roost

for wildfowl and waders feeding in adjacent estuarine areas. The site is also important for winter feeding and autumn moulting of waterbirds. The margins of parts of the reservoir have well-developed plant communities that provide important opportunities for feeding, nesting and shelter. Abberton Reservoir is important especially as an autumn arrival area for waterbirds that subsequently spend the winter elsewhere. Abberton Reservoir is a public water supply reservoir. Reduced water availability, and increased demand, in recent years has led to generally low water levels; greater numbers of waders therefore use the site, and as a result no decrease in wildfowl has been attributed to low water levels. Water entering the site has elevated nitrate levels, leading in most summers to algal blooms, but there is no evidence of impacts on wildlife. The Water Company has a consultative committee which addresses conservation issues at all its sites, and the Abberton Reservoir Committee (involving Essex Wildlife Trust and Natural England) addresses local issues.

The Blackwater Estuary is the largest estuary in Essex and is one of the largest estuarine complexes in East Anglia. Its mud-flats are fringed by saltmarsh on the upper shores, with shingle, shell banks and offshore islands a feature of the tidal flats. The surrounding terrestrial habitats; the sea wall, ancient grazing marsh and its associated fleet and ditch systems, plus semi-improved grassland, are of high conservation interest. The diversity of estuarine habitats results in the sites being of importance for a wide range of overwintering waterbirds, including raptors, geese, ducks and waders. The site is also important in summer for breeding terns. Water based recreation and in particular jet skis are identified as one of the site's sensitivities. The main threat to the site is erosion of intertidal habitats due to a combination of sea level rise and isostatic forces operating on the land mass of Great Britain. The situation is worsened with increasing winter storm events, whilst the hard sea walls along this coastline are preventing the saltmarsh and intertidal areas from migrating inland. This situation is starting to be addressed by alternative flood defence techniques. A shoreline management plan has been prepared for the Essex coast which seeks to provide a blueprint for managing the coastline sustainably.

The Colne Estuary is located in the southern end of Colchester's coastal area. It is a comparatively short and branching estuary, with five tidal arms that flow into the main channel of the River Colne. The Colne Estuary encompasses a diversity of soft coastal habitats, dependent upon natural coastal processes. The vulnerability of these habitats is linked to changes in the physical environment: the intertidal zone is threatened by coastal squeeze and changes to the sediment budget, especially up drift of the site. Limited beach feeding is under way to alleviate the sediment problem. The site is vulnerable to recreational pressures which can lead to habitat damage (saltmarsh and sand dunes) and to disturbance of feeding and roosting waterfowl. Pressures for increased use and development of recreational facilities are being addressed through the planning system and under the provisions of the Habitat Regulations. Jet and water-skiing are largely contained by the Harbour Authorities. Most grazing marshes are managed under ESA/Countryside Stewardship Agreements, but low water levels are of great

concern, and low freshwater flows into the estuary, may be affecting bird numbers and/or distribution. This is being addressed through reviews of consents under the Habitats Regulations. Unregulated samphire harvesting is being addressed by notifying all pickers of the legal implications of uprooting plants without the consent of landowners. To secure protection of the site, an Estuarine Management Plan is in preparation, which will work alongside the Essex Shoreline Management Plan and the emerging Marine Scheme of Management. The Environment Agency aim to reduce the nutrient enrichment arising from sewage and fertiliser run-off.

There are also ten Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) notified in Colchester. These are nationally important ecological/geological sites designated under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 with further protection provided through the Countryside & Rights of Ways Act 2000.

Following a review in 2008, 168 Local Wildlife sites have been designated in the Borough along with 10 local nature reserves. These are non-statutory nature conservation sites which along with the statutory sites play a key role in helping conserve the Borough's biodiversity.

Whilst the Borough of Colchester is extensively rural, the majority of the population live in the towns and villages. As a result, it is the built up areas which figure most prominently in many people's lives and the appearance and quality of their urban surroundings is an important factor in their quality of life. There are four Air Quality Management Areas in Colchester, located in the following areas:

Area 1 - Central Corridors (including High Street Colchester; Head Street; North Hill; Queen Street; St. Botolph's Street; St. Botolph's Circus; Osborne Street; Magdalen Street; Military Road; Mersea Road; Brook Street; and East Street).

Area 2 - East Street and the adjoining lower end of Ipswich Road.

Area 3 - Harwich Road/St Andrew's Avenue junction.

Area 4 - Lucy Lane North, Stanway; Mersea Road; and Brook Street.

In 2012/13 41.54% of all household waste collected was recycled, reused or composted. This exceeds the annual target of 40% but is slightly disappointing considering that the mid-year figure was 44%.

Colchester's potable drinking water comes from Ardleigh Reservoir. National daily domestic water use (per capita consumption) according to the WWF is 150 litres. Nationally we are expected to reduce per capita consumption of water to an average of 130 litres per person per day by 2030. Amendments to building regulations in 2010 require per capita consumption of water to be limited to 125 litres.

Total greenhouse gas emissions across the Borough have decreased over the past 5 years, despite an increase in population. In 2012/13 there were 6,895.35 tonnes of CO₂; in 2008/9 total CO₂ emissions were 10,150 tonnes.

Colchester is committed to reducing climate change both within the Borough and through its in-house operations through various schemes. In 2010 the Council prepared a Climate Risk Assessment, which outlined climate change predictions for Colchester and considered the risks to the Borough from a changing climate. The climate change predictions were derived from Colchester specific data from UKCP09. UKCP09 is the working name for the UK climate projections. It is funded by Defra and uses data from the Met Office Hadley Centre and the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) to predict the future climate of the UK under three different emissions scenarios (high, medium and low).

The short term climate change risks for Colchester are:

- Milder, wetter winters (central estimate shows an increase in mean winter temperature of 1.3°C and 6% increase in winter precipitation);
- Hotter, drier summers (central estimate shows an increase in mean summer temperature of 1.3°C and 7% decrease in summer precipitation);
- More frequent extreme high temperatures (central estimate shows an increase in the mean temperature of the warmest day of 0.9°C);
- More frequent downpours of rain (central estimate shows an increase of 5% precipitation on the wettest day);
- Significant decrease in soil moisture content in summer;
- Sea level rise and increases in storm surge height (central estimate for sea level rise in the East of England shows a 9.7cm increase under the medium emissions scenario and a 11.5cm increase under the high emissions scenario); and
- Possible higher wind speeds.

Likely evolution without the Local Plan

Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Local Plans provide certainty to those involved in the development of land. Without a Local Plan a policy vacuum would exist and could lead to planning by appeal.

Local Plans must set the objectively assessed need for housing. Housing targets are no longer set at regional level and so without a Local Plan Colchester Borough Council will not be able to set and thus meet its objectively assessed housing need.

Monitoring has shown that the number of affordable homes delivered has reduced in recent years, principally due to viability issues. Without a Local Plan that includes a requirement and target for affordable housing very limited numbers of affordable homes would be delivered. To ensure that affordable housing can continue to be delivered in the future the Council recently reduced its affordable housing target from 35% to 20%. This figure was determined through a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) viability testing exercise.

In 2012/13 98.4% of planning approvals in the Borough were within 30 minutes of community facilities. This is largely because the Council's adopted planning policies direct development to the most accessible locations. Without a Local Plan it is likely that more dispersed patterns of development would occur, which would increase the need to travel and lead to a subsequent increase in congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues that we face internationally and the Local Plan can play its part in helping to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. For example, through policies that direct development to accessible locations that reduce the need to travel, a requirement for more sustainable buildings, and the provision of open space to help species adapt to a warming climate.

Colchester Borough has a rich natural environment, which includes coastal sites notified at European and international level through to local wildlife sites, which provide habitats in the urban area. Whilst it is likely that the most important environmental sites would continue to be protected through international, Community and national law there is a risk that local wildlife sites, which do not have statutory protection, would be lost to development without a Local Plan protecting them.

Without a Local Plan necessary infrastructure to serve new development would not be forthcoming. Various studies have demonstrated the high cost of providing comprehensive infrastructure, with for example the Haven Gateway Infrastructure Study estimating that £2.5 billion is needed to fund infrastructure in the area to 2021. This would only be forthcoming in full if supported by planning policies ensuring adequate contributions from development.

In recent years a considerable amount of development in Colchester has taken place on brownfield land; protecting greenfield land and landscape character. The adopted Local Plan includes two urban extensions (North Colchester and Stanway) and further development of greenfield land will be required in the future to meet housing need. Dedham Vale AONB is located within the Borough, which is a high value landscape recognised nationally. There is concern that without a Local Plan protecting this important landscape, and its setting, or other high quality landscapes across the Borough, development will adversely affect landscape character.

To summarise, the likely evolution without a Local Plan would be: planning by appeal, very limited numbers of new affordable homes, dispersed patterns of development that would increase the need to travel, failure to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, loss of biodiversity, infrastructure shortfall, and adverse impacts on landscape character.

Have we excluded any topics from the baseline?

Are there any indicators missing from the Baseline Data table in Appendix 2?

Are there any other likely effects without the evolution of the Local Plan?

Key Sustainability Issues

As part of the SA it is necessary to identify the key sustainability issues facing the area that the Local Plan should address. These issues have been identified through the collection and analysis of the baseline data, evidence and consultation with stakeholders.

At the scoping workshop many of the stakeholders commented that the sustainability issues identified as part of the SA of the Core Strategy, Site Allocations and Development Policies are still relevant. Previous sustainability issues have therefore been retained but updated and added to.

Social Issues

The **provision of housing to meet local needs** is a major issue in Colchester. Identifying the objectively assessed housing need, particularly in light of recent issues with other Local Plans throughout the country, is also an important issue.

Meeting the **demand for affordable housing**, including allocation of **sites for gypsies and travellers**, will also need to be considered and met.

It will be important to ensure that **Colchester does not lose its identity** as it continues to expand and that new communities are well integrated within the town.

It will be increasingly important to **match the population growth with economic growth** within the Borough. As projections indicate an **aging population** the impact of smaller, older households on services and housing will need to be managed. Projections from the ONS show that the number of people aged over 65 years in the Borough is projected to increase from 29,000 in 2012 to 46,000 in 2032; an increase of around 50%. It is also important to recognise and manage the other potential impacts that an aging population may have on the Colchester community. These will include a greater stress on health services, on the local economy and on other key services such as retail, education, public transport, leisure and tourism. It is likely that many of these impacts can be positive if planned for and managed correctly.

The Vision for Essex recognises that population growth and demographic change is placing **unsustainable pressure on all services** across Essex, particularly health and care services. The population of Colchester increased by 11.1% and the population of Essex increased by 6.3% over the period 2001 – 2011. The number of people aged 85 and over is forecast to grow by 49% between 2011 and 2021 in the Borough and 47% across Essex, while the number of adults with learning disabilities will increase by over 18% across Essex. The burden of financing services is falling increasingly on a relatively diminishing working-age group.

Linked to the above issue, ensuring that **school places**, including early years, are available in the right locations is a key issue. It is also important to ensure that there is good accessibility to schools by sustainable modes of transport.

For a number of reasons access to a variety of services and facilities can be an issue for Colchester residents. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation measure social inclusion by considering and scoring a whole range of issues, from access to certain facilities, to income and employment. The score provides an indication of how deprived an area is. On a national level Colchester Borough scores very low. In relation to other Essex districts, Colchester as a whole had decreased in relative deprivation for average score, average rank and local concentration measures. Despite this there are **areas in the Borough where deprivation** exists and which contrast with the surrounding more affluent areas. In the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation two small areas were in the top 10% most deprived in England. These were Magnolia in St Andrew's ward and St Anne's Estate in St Anne's ward. It is therefore important to encourage social inclusion through the design of new communities and to ensure adequate community infrastructure and services are available.

Air quality in Colchester needs to be improved, particularly in the air quality management areas. Poor air quality is a social and environmental issue.

As Colchester has a large rural area **rural isolation** can be an issue. Rural areas often have limited services and facilities, including limited broadband. This, coupled with poor public transport links, can prevent those without access to a car accessing the facilities they need.

Access to recreation, leisure and open space is as important as access to formal health facilities like hospitals, doctor's surgeries and NHS dentists in **promoting healthy lifestyles**. An aging population will increase demands on health and social care, particularly the need for residential nursing care. However, it will also impact upon other sectors of the Borough such as the local economy, the increased housing demand and an increase on public transport and other key services.

Tackling **fear of crime** in Colchester is an issue. Planning can help to ensure that new development is designed to reduce the fear and incidence of crime.

Economic Issues

The Vision for Essex recognises that we cannot take economic growth for granted. Historic growth across Essex has been driven by sectors such as construction, finance and the public services. These sectors may not deliver substantial job growth in the future. Essex will need to **attract investment** into those parts of the local economy that offer the greatest potential growth while **helping existing businesses to overcome barriers to success**: escalating energy costs; greater competition from across the world; and a shortfall of skills in the local labour market.

Whilst the Core Strategy target of 14,200 new jobs has been met, a key issue for the Borough's economy is that the **rate of job creation**, whether full-time or part-time, and it is increasingly part-time, **is less than the rate of growth of the working age population**. This means that unless we get more jobs within the Borough there will be more out-commuting and higher levels of unemployment.

Town centre uses are directed to Colchester Town Centre in the first instance inline with the retail hierarchy set out in adopted planning policies. This approach has come under increasing pressure in recent years. If Colchester's District Centres continue to expand this could have an **adverse impact on the Town Centre**. The rise of internet shopping could also have an impact on the Town Centre and District Centres.

The rural economy has been affected in recent years by falling incomes from farming. As a significant part of the Borough is rural, there is a need to support the **revitalisation of the rural economy** including diversification schemes and training schemes such as the Abberton Training initiative.

If current car ownership and usage trends continue it will be important to avoid the creation of further dispersed growth patterns in Colchester that often result in high car dependency. **Improved transportation and attractive travel links** are a major issue for Colchester and it is essential that planning for transport is an integral part of the Local Plan to reduce congestion into and around Colchester. It will be particularly important to improve and maintain Colchester's transportation infrastructure so that the Borough can continue to attract businesses, retailers, tourists and home buyers, therefore boosting the local economy.

Supporting the **growth plans of the University of Essex** is an issue. The university's growth plans will need to be balanced with the need to protect the surrounding countryside and the long established objective to avoid coalescence with Wivenhoe.

Environmental Issues

Maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment of the Borough (including the historic and built heritage) are very important to the residents and communities of Colchester. The **cost of maintaining Colchester's heritage** is also a potential issue. All future developments will need to take account of current cultural and heritage assets as well as continuing to protect and enhance them. One key consideration will be the preservation of countryside areas and **strategic green gaps** between settlements.

The natural environment of the Borough has been shaped by land management and as a result there is a variety of high quality landscapes and habitats, supporting a diverse range of species including internationally significant areas of saltmarsh, oyster fishery and coastline. Protecting the **setting of important landscapes**, particularly the Dedham Vale AONB, is

essential. Within the Borough there are three Special Protection Areas (Colne Estuary, Blackwater Estuary and Abberton Reservoir), which are also notified as Ramsar Sites and one Special Area of Conservation (Essex Estuaries). New development has the potential to lead to the loss of habitat and species and to **indirectly affect these important international sites** through increased water usage, increased wastewater and recreational disturbance.

There is **pressure for the development of greenfield land** in order to meet Colchester's objectively assessed housing need.

Climate change is increasing the magnitude and frequency of intense rainfall events that cause **flooding** and the risk of flooding from the River Colne is also heightened by increased winter precipitation. Colchester has grown up around the River Colne and there is a risk of flooding from a number of sources: fluvial, tidal and pluvial. The River Colne is fluvial in the upper reaches and tidally influenced in the lower reaches, extending as far upstream as East Mill. There are four major tributaries and many creeks and brooks in the tidally influenced region of the river. Tidal flood risk is concentrated along the coastal frontage adjacent to Mersea Island, which is low lying. Tidal flood sources are the most dominant in Colchester and tidal flooding can result from a storm surge, high spring tides or both events combined over defended and undefended land.

The main pathway of fluvial flooding is from high river flows resulting in out of bank flows. Flood defences and control structures could potentially fail and actually increase flood risk. Fluvial flooding was recorded by the Environment Agency as occurring in 1903, 1939, 1947, 1959, 1979, 1987, 2000 and 2001. These events were of various scale and severity and were mostly caused by high rainfall events.

Pluvial flooding can occur as a result of severe storms, which create run-off volumes that temporarily exceed the natural or urbanised sewer and drainage capacities, creating flash flooding. This is likely to increase as a result of higher intensity rainfall, more frequent winter storms and increased urban development.

Climate change is leading to **more frequent droughts**, with consequent reduced water availability. The Environment Agency has identified that the catchment area of Anglian Water Services, which provides water (and wastewater treatment) to the Borough, is seriously **water stressed**. Furthermore, work carried out by the Environment Agency showed that there will be a significant impact on average river flows across England and Wales by the 2050s as a result of climate change. By 2050 river flows in winter may increase by 10 – 15% but with lower flows in most rivers from April to December. River flows in the late summer and early autumn could fall by over 50% and by as much as 80% in some catchments.⁵

⁵ Environment Agency, Water resources in England and Wales – current state and future pressures, December 2008.

Climate change is leading to **higher average temperatures and more extremely hot days**. Research by the Met Office has demonstrated that temperatures experienced in the summer 2003 heatwave will be about average by the 2040s and will be considered cool by the 2060s.⁶ The modified land surface in towns and cities affects heat transfers and so towns and cities are generally warmer than surrounding rural areas. This is known as the urban heat island effect. In addition to heat transfers the urban heat island effect may also be affected by changes in water runoff, pollution and aerosols.⁷

Water quality is another important issue for the Borough. As a result of the Water Framework Directive there is a requirement for all inland and coastal waters to reach "good status" by 2015. However, it is understood that this requirement will not be met in full.

The amount of **waste** produced in Colchester is increasing as the Borough grows, and at the same time the land available to dispose of this waste (landfill sites) is reducing. However, the actual average waste per household has decreased in recent years from 650kg in 2006/7 to 448kg in 2012/13.

Colchester's growing population is predicted to lead to a **rise in carbon dioxide emissions** from domestic, commercial and transport sources. However, the UK has committed to reducing CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. The economic downturn and the government's announcement in April 2014 of its decision to wind down the Code for Sustainable Homes have made it increasingly **difficult to promote sustainable design and construction**.

Large scale renewable energy schemes are an environmental and social issue. Many communities resist large scale renewable energy schemes due to concerns about landscape impact, noise and visual impact.

Are there any other sustainability issues facing Colchester that we have not identified?

⁶ The Met Office Hadley Centre, Climate change and the greenhouse gas effect, December 2005.

⁷ IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Working Group 1: The Physical Science Basis, 2007.

Sustainability Framework

At the scoping workshop stakeholders commented that the previous sustainability objectives, which were used in the SA of the Core Strategy, Site Allocations, Development Policies, and numerous SPDs were still relevant. Whilst the SA of the Local Plan is a chance to start from the beginning and review all previous SA work undertaken there is no merit in ignoring previous SA work that is still relevant. Accordingly the SA framework from the Council's previous SA work has been used as a starting point.

The objectives and assessment criteria have been amended to take into account comments from the SA workshop; the evidence base; the review of relevant policies, plans and programmes; and past SA experience. The indicators have been amended to reflect the indicators monitored as part of the AMR. This will ensure that the SA can be annually monitored over the lifetime of the plan.

The SEA themes that each SA objective relates to have been listed in the final column. This demonstrates that the SA Framework incorporates all of the SEA Directive's themes.

Objectives	Assessment Criteria	Indicators	SEA Themes
1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, safe home which meets their needs at a price they can afford	Will it deliver the number of houses needed to support the existing and growing population?	The number of net additional dwellings	Material assets Climatic factors
	Will it provide more affordable homes across the Borough?	Affordable housing completions	
	Will it deliver a range of housing types to meet the diverse needs of the Borough?	Percentage of residential completions that are two or three bedroom properties	
	Will it deliver well designed and sustainable housing?	Number of zero-carbon homes completed	
2. To ensure that development is located sustainably and makes efficient use of land	Will it promote regeneration?	Number of new homes completed at ward level within Growth/Regeneration Areas Amount of new employment development completed at ward level in Growth/Regeneration Areas	Material assets Landscape
	Will it reduce the need for development on greenfield land?	Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land	
	Will it provide good accessibility by a range of modes of transport?	% of new development within 30 minutes of community facilities	
	Will densities make efficient use of land?	Amount of development > 30 dwellings per hectare	
3. To achieve a	Will it improve the delivery of a	Amount of floorspace	Material assets

Colchester Borough Council Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

prosperous and sustainable economy that improves opportunities for local businesses to thrive, creates new jobs and improves the vitality of centres	range of employment opportunities to support the growing population?	developed employment, sq ^m for	Population Cultural heritage
	Will it maintain an appropriate balance between different types of retail uses and other activities in the Borough's centres?	Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development delivered in the town centre Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development across the Borough	
	Will it support business innovation, diversification, entrepreneurship and changing economies?	Amount of floorspace developed for employment, sq ^m	
	Will it support tourism, heritage and the arts?	Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development delivered in the town centre Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development	
	Will it help sustain the rural economy?	Number of jobs created in rural areas	
4. To achieve more sustainable travel behaviour, reduce the need to travel and reduce congestion	Will it reduce the need to travel?	% of new residential development within 30 minutes of public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major retail centre	Population Climatic factors Air Human health
	Will the levels of sustainable travel increase?	Percentage of journeys to work by walking and cycling and percentage of journeys to work by public transport	
	Will it improve sustainable transport infrastructure and linkages?	Percentage of journeys to work by walking and cycling and percentage of journeys to work by public transport	
5. To build stronger, more resilient sustainable communities with better education and social outcomes	Will it provide equitable access to education, recreation and community facilities?	Financial contributions towards community facilities	Population Human health Biodiversity Flora Fauna
	Will it place pressure on school places, including early years?		
	Will existing open spaces be protected & new open spaces be created?	Contributions received towards open space	
	Will it improve the skills of the Borough's population?	Number of people qualified to level 2 Number of people qualified to level 4	
6. To improve and reduce inequalities in health and	Will it reduce actual crime and fear of crime?	All crime – number of crimes per 1000	Population Human health

Colchester Borough Council Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

tackle crime issues by keeping our communities safe and promoting community cohesion	Will it provide equitable access to employment opportunities?	residents per annum % of new residential development within 30 minutes of public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major retail centre	
	Will it encourage healthy lifestyles?	Number of people participating in sport	
7. To conserve and enhance the townscape character, and the historic and cultural assets of the Borough	Will it protect and enhance the historic and cultural assets of the Borough?	Number of listed buildings demolished Number of locally listed buildings demolished New Conservation Area Appraisals adopted New and extended Conservation Areas Number of Buildings at Risk	Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage
	Will it create a high quality and coherent public realm linking the town's assets and spaces; connecting the heritage and contemporary?		
	Will it protect and enhance the historic character of the Town Centre?		
8. To value, conserve and enhance the natural environment, natural resources and the biodiversity of the Borough	Will it maintain and enhance the landscape character of the borough?		Landscape Biodiversity Flora Fauna Soil Water
	Will it protect and enhance designated areas of the countryside and coastal environment?	Amount of development in designated areas Number of SSSIs in favourable condition	
	Will it protect and improve biodiversity?	Amount of development in designated areas Number of SSSIs in favourable condition Area of land offset for biodiversity	
	Will it improve environmental quality in terms of water, air and soil quality?	Quality of Rivers (number achieving ecological good status) Number of Air Quality Management Areas Contaminated land	

		brought back into beneficial use, hectares	
9. To make efficient use of energy and reduce, reuse or recycle waste	Will it reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions?	Total CO ₂ emissions	Climatic factors Air
	Will it support the delivery of renewable energy schemes?	Renewable Energy Installed by Type	
	Will it help to reduce, reuse and recycle resources and minimise waste?	Amount of domestic waste recycled	
10. To reduce climate change impacts, support mitigation and encourage adaptation	Will it reduce the risk of flooding?	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality	Climatic factors Water Soil Biodiversity Flora Fauna
	Will it deliver effective SUDS and improve drainage?	Number of SUDS schemes approved by ECC	
	Will it affect the amount of water available for extraction?		
	Will it promote water efficiency and reduce water usage levels per household?	Number of zero carbon homes delivered	
	Will it improve water quality?		

Are the sustainability issues adequately reflected in the SA Framework?

Will the sustainability objectives and assessment criteria ensure that the sustainability of Colchester's plan options are robustly tested and is the wording of the objectives optimal for appraisal purposes?

If not what changes should be made to the Framework?

Are there any monitoring indicators that should be added?

Next steps

In accordance with Regulation 12(5) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programme Regulations (2004), when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in an environmental report, Colchester Borough Council as responsible authority must consult Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage for a 5 week period. The Council would also like to invite other stakeholders to comment on this Scoping Report.

The closing date for the public consultation is 5 August 2014. All comments received will be carefully considered and where necessary amendments will be made. Questions are included throughout this report as a focus for consultation, and are set out below.

- 1. Are there any other plans and programmes that we should review?**
- 2. Have we excluded any topics from the baseline?**
- 3. Are there any indicators missing from the Baseline Data table in Appendix 2?**
- 4. Are there any other likely effects without the evolution of the Local Plan?**
- 5. Are there any other sustainability issues facing Colchester that we have not identified?**
- 6. Are the sustainability issues adequately reflected in the SA Framework?**
- 7. Will the sustainability objectives and assessment criteria ensure that the sustainability of Colchester's plan options are robustly tested and is the wording of the objectives optimal for appraisal purposes?**
- 8. If not what changes should be made to the Framework?**
- 9. Are there any monitoring indicators that should be added?**

Once scoping is finalised and the Sustainability Framework is set work will begin on appraising options. Building on the partnership approach which commenced with the scoping workshop, stakeholders from a number of specialisms, covering a range of SEA topics, will be invited to assist in the appraisal of options. This will help to ensure that the appraisal is based on expert knowledge and the most up to date evidence from partner organisations.

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Appendix 1. Review of relevant plans and programmes and sustainability objectives

International

SEA Theme	Document title, author & date	Summary	Relevant aims, objectives, targets, priorities for the Local Plan & SA
All	Review of the European Sustainable Development Strategy, European Commission, 2009	<p>In July 2009 the Commission adopted the 2009 Review of EU SDS. It underlines that in recent years the EU has mainstreamed sustainable development into a broad range of its policies. In particular, the EU has taken the lead in the fight against climate change and the promotion of a low-carbon economy. At the same time, unsustainable trends persist in many areas and the efforts need to be intensified. The review takes stock of EU policy measures in the areas covered by the EU SDS and launches a reflection on the future of the EU SDS and its relation to the Lisbon strategy.</p> <p>The Commission defines sustainable development as: meeting the needs of present generations without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs – in other words, a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come.</p>	<p>The European Council in December 2009 confirmed that "Sustainable development remains a fundamental objective of the European Union under the Lisbon Treaty. As emphasised in the Presidency's report on the 2009 review of the Union's Sustainable Development Strategy, the strategy will continue to provide a longterm vision and constitute the overarching policy framework for all Union policies and strategies. A number of unsustainable trends require urgent action. Significant additional efforts are needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - curb and adapt to climate change, - to decrease high energy consumption in the transport sector; and - to reverse the current loss of biodiversity and natural resources.
Biodiversity, flora, fauna, soil, water	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, European Commission, 2012	<p>The 2012 Biodiversity Strategy follows on from the 2006 Biodiversity Action Plan. It is an ambitious strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. There are six main targets, and 20 actions to help Europe reach its goal. Biodiversity loss is an enormous challenge in the EU, with around one in</p>	<p>The six targets cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity • Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure • More sustainable agriculture and forestry

		<p>four species currently threatened with extinction and 88% of fish stocks over-exploited or significantly depleted.</p> <p>The strategy stresses the need to integrate biodiversity concerns into all EU and national sectoral policies, in order to reverse the continuing trends of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better management of fish stocks • Tighter controls on invasive alien species • A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.
All	Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice (2003)	<p>This document outlines the European Commission's four environmental priorities and some of the actions to address them, along with proposed new ways of achieving our environmental challenges. It is not only about protecting the environment for now and the future; it is also about improving the quality of life for us all.</p> <p>The document states that in short, we need to aim for a society where cars do not pollute the atmosphere, waste can be recycled or safely disposed of and energy production does not lead to climate change. Our children must not take in harmful chemicals from their toys or food. Landscapes and wildlife should not be endangered by development.</p> <p>The following 4 themes for action have been identified: Tackle climate change Protect nature and wildlife Address environment and health issues Preserve natural resources and manage waste.</p>	<p>Tackling Climate Change objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> In the short to medium term we aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8% compared with 1990 levels by 2008-12 (as agreed at Kyoto); <input type="checkbox"/> In the longer term we need to reduce global emissions even further by approximately 20-40% on 1990 levels by 2020; <input type="checkbox"/> For the first time the Programme recognises the need to tackle the longterm goal of a 70% reduction in emissions set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. <p>Protecting Nature and Wildlife objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Protect our most valuable habitats through extending the Community's Natura 2000 programme; <input type="checkbox"/> Put in place action plans to protect biodiversity; <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a strategy to protect the marine environment; <input type="checkbox"/> Extend national and regional programmes to further promote sustainable forest management; <input type="checkbox"/> Introduce measures to protect and restore landscapes; <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a strategy for soil protection; <input type="checkbox"/> Co-ordinate Member States' efforts in handling accidents and natural disasters.

			<p>Action for the Environment and Health objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Improve our understanding of the link between environmental pollution and human health through better research; <input type="checkbox"/> Look at health standards to account for the most vulnerable groups of society; <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the risks from the use of pesticides; <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a new strategy on air pollution; <input type="checkbox"/> Reform our system for controlling the risk from chemicals. <p>Natural Resources and Waste objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify hazardous substances and make producers responsible for collecting, treating and recycling their waste products; <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage consumers to select products and services that create less waste; <input type="checkbox"/> Develop and promote a European Union-wide strategy on waste recycling, with targets and monitoring to compare progress by Member States; <input type="checkbox"/> Promote markets for recycled materials; <input type="checkbox"/> Develop specific actions, under an Integrated Product Policy approach, to promote the greening of products and processes. One example is the promotion of intelligent product design that reduces the environmental impacts of products from their conception to the end of their useful life.
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National

SEA Theme	Document title, author & date	Summary	Relevant aims, objectives, targets, priorities for the Local Plan & SA
Climatic factors	Adapting to Climate Change: Ensuring Progress in Key	This strategy highlights how the climate is changing and the impacts are likely to affect	Adaptation (or changing behaviour) should be built into planning and risk management.

	Sectors, Defra, 2013	almost everyone in some way during our lifetime. The strategy recognises that there have always been natural fluctuations in climate, but the current rates of change are far greater than those experienced in recent history. The strategy suggests that adaptation (or changing behaviour) should be built into planning and risk management; and that all organisations will benefit from considering risks to their operations and consider the actions necessary to adapt to climate change. This strategy confirms that 'bodies with a function of public nature' and 'statutory undertakers' (reporting authorities) must be taking appropriate action to adapt to the future impacts of climate change.	
All	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), DCLG, 2012	The NPPF was published on 27 March 2012 and replaces almost all of the previous national planning policy included in Planning Policy Statements and circulars. A description of the NPPF is included in the SA Report.	There are 12 core planning principles which are summarised below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be genuinely plan led - not simply be about scrutiny - proactively support sustainable economic development - secure high quality design - take account of the roles & character of different areas - support the transition to a low carbon future - contribute to conserving & enhancing the natural environment - encourage the effective use of land - promote mixed use developments - conserve heritage assets - actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of sustainable modes of transport - support strategies to improve health
All	National Planning Practice	In March 2014 DCLG published planning practice	NPPF core planning principles, above, are

	Guidance, DCLG, 2014	guidance online. The guidance covers a wide range of issues and cannot be summarised and so a link to the guidance is included below. http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/	relevant.
Climatic factors	National Energy Policy Statement EN1, DECC, 2011	This sets out the Government's policy for delivery of major energy infrastructure. It sets out the need for and role of various different types of renewable/ low carbon energy. Potential impacts of renewable energy are listed, along with a summary of how the IPC will make decisions.	Legally binding target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.
All	Neighbourhood Planning, DCLG, 2012	This document provides a brief summary of neighbourhood planning, including the main stages: defining the neighbourhood plan area, preparing the plan, independent check, community referendum, legal force.	This document does not contain any targets, aims, objectives or priorities. However, it is important that the Local Plan and SA recognise the key role of neighbourhood planning.
Biodiversity Flora Fauna	UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, JNCC/Defra, 2012	This framework sets out a common purpose and shared priorities to address the challenge of biodiversity loss. It recognises that globally we fell short of reaching the 2010 target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss, but it was an important driver for conservation action, including in the UK where we saw improvements in the populations of widespread bats and breeding woodland birds, in the condition of protected sites and in the area of land managed under environmental schemes.	In Nagoya, Japan, in Autumn 2010 the 192 parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity renewed their commitment to take action to halt the alarming global declines of biodiversity and to ensure that by 2020 our natural environment is resilient and can continue to provide the ecosystem services that are essential for life. Vision: By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people. Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society. Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use. Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic

			<p>diversity.</p> <p>Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> <p>Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.</p>
All	Mainstreaming Sustainable Development – the Government’s vision and what this means in practice, Defra, 2011	This document sets out the coalition government’s vision of sustainable development, which means making the necessary decisions now to realise our vision of stimulating economic growth and tackling the deficit, maximising wellbeing and protecting our environment, without negatively impacting on the ability of future generations to do the same. It builds on the 2005 sustainable development strategy. It recognises that natural capital is an essential part of a productive economy and we need to value appropriately the goods and services it provides.	Sustainability is recognised as a core strategic priority.
Population	Planning policy for traveller sites, DCLG, March 2012	This document sets out the governments planning policy for traveller sites.	<p>The Government’s overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.</p> <p>The Government’s aims in respect of traveller sites are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •that local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning •to ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites •to encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •that plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development •to promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites •that plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective for local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies •to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply •to reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions •to enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure •for local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.
Cultural heritage	PPS5 Planning for the historic environment practice guide, DCLG, March 2010	<p>Whilst the NPPF replaced all PPSs and guidance this practice guide remains relevant and useful in the application of the NPPF.</p> <p>The document sets out the government's objectives for the protection of the historic environment. It explains that the historic environment provides a tangible link with our past and contributes to our sense of national, local and community identity. It also provides the character</p>	That the value of the historic environment is recognised by all who have the power to shape it; that Government gives it proper recognition and that it is managed intelligently and in a way that fully realises its contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of the nation. (The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010)

		and distinctiveness that is so important to a positive sense of place. It can support the regeneration and sustainable economic and social development of our communities. It can assist in the delivery of housing, education and community cohesion aims. It is a key part of England's tourism offer. Through all this it enhances the quality of our daily lives.	
Water	Flood and Water Management Act, Defra, 2009	<p>The Act seeks to ensure a healthier environment, better service and greater protection of water resources.</p> <p>The Act puts in place the recommendations from the Pitt Review into the floods of summer 2007. There is a move towards risk management. The impacts of climate change in terms of increased flood risk will be addressed through the Act and water companies will have the power to conserve water earlier during a drought period.</p> <p>The Act will end the automatic right to connect to sewers for surface water drainage and new sustainable drainage systems will be maintained by local authorities.</p> <p>The Environment Agency must publish a national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy.</p>	<p>The aims of the Act are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce the likelihood and impacts of flooding; • improve authorities ability to manage the risk of flooding; • improve water quality; • give water companies better powers to conserve water during drought; • reduce red tape and other burdens on water and sewerage companies; • improve the overall efficiency and management of the industry; and • reduce pollution.
Soil	Safeguarding our soils, Defra, 2009	<p>This document sets out Defra's strategy to safeguard and improve the country's soils. The document states that development inevitably leads to soil sealing, but states that poor construction practices can lead to further soil degradation, e.g. compaction and pollution. During construction soils can be compacted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure soil ecosystem services are fully valued in the planning system. - Ensure appropriate consideration is given to the protection of good quality agricultural soils from development. - Encourage better management of soils through all stages of construction.

		through machinery use and are at risk of erosion from rain and wind when exposed. Compacted soils in urban areas can increase run off and surface water flooding.	
Material assets	Community Infrastructure Levy Guidance, DCLG, April 2013	<p>This document sets out national guidance for the implementation of CIL. Section 206 of the Planning Act 2008 (The Act) confers the power to charge the Community Infrastructure Levy on certain bodies known as charging authorities. The charging authority's responsibilities, if they decide to levy the Community Infrastructure Levy, will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare and publish a document known as the "charging schedule" which will set out the rates of Community Infrastructure Levy which will apply in the authority's area. This will involve consultation and independent examination • apply the levy revenue it receives to funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure to support the development of its area, and; • report to the local community on the amount of levy revenue collected, spent and retained each year. 	The Government expects that charging authorities will implement the levy where their 'appropriate evidence' includes an up-to-date relevant Plan for the area in which they propose to charge.
Biodiversity, fauna, flora, water, climatic factors	UK Marine Policy Statement, HM Government, March 2011	<p>This Marine Policy Statement (MPS) is the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment. It will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom marine area. It has been prepared and adopted for the purposes of section 44 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.</p> <p>The process of marine planning will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve integration between different objectives; 	The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable economic development; • Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; • Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that the demand for use of our seas and the resulting pressures on them will continue to increase; • Manage competing demands on the marine area, taking an ecosystem-based approach; • Enable the co-existence of compatible activities wherever possible; and • Integrate with terrestrial planning. 	<p>and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues. <p>A Marine Plan is not currently being prepared for the Borough's coast, however it will be important to be aware if work does begin during plan preparation.</p>
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Regional

SEA Theme	Document title, author & date	Summary	Relevant aims, objectives, targets, priorities for the Local Plan & SA
Water	Anglian Water Business Plan 2015 – 2020, December 2012	This document sets out Anglian Water's business plan for the next five years. The plan explains that customers expect a safe, clean water supply and a reliable wastewater service; fair and affordable bills; reduced leakage; and security of future water supplies to meet the challenge of population growth and changing, more extreme weather patterns. Over the plan period Anglian Water will spend a total of £4,647m to look after customers' water supply, protect the environment and prepare the region for future challenges such as population growth and climate change. This is achieved while holding increases in the average household bills to 1.8% p.a. below inflation.	Halve the embodied carbon in new assets we build by 2015, from a 2010 baseline.
Water	Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2015- 2040, Anglian Water, 2014	This plan shows how Anglian Water are going to maintain the balance between supply and demand over the next 25 years, as well as deal with the longer term challenge of population increase, climate change and growing environmental needs. Over the next 25 years, Anglian Water's supply-	Overall, Anglian Water's objective is to develop a flexible and adaptive water resource management system in our region, in which the needs of customers and the environment are balanced in a sustainable and affordable way.

		<p>demand balance is at risk from growth, climate change and the reductions in deployable output that they will make to restore abstraction to sustainable levels. In the worst case, the impact could approach 567 MI/d, equivalent to approximately 50% of the water we put into supply in 2012/13. We also have to manage risks from drought, deteriorating raw water quality and the impact of cold, dry weather on our distribution system and customer supply pipes.</p> <p>The plan forecasts that under dry year annual average conditions and without investment to maintain the supply-demand balance, Colchester will be in deficit by 2039-40. Six feasible options to maintain Colchester's supply-demand balance have been developed as follows:</p> <p>SE1 is to treat effluent from Colchester Water Recycling Centre to an extremely high (near potable) standard and discharge to the River Colne to supplement river flows and permit increased abstraction. A new pipeline and pumping station would be required to convey the water to the water treatment works, which would require additional treatment capacity.</p> <p>SE2 transfer of 12MI/d of water from Ipswich in the East Suffolk RZ to Colchester via a new 22km long pipeline.</p> <p>SE4 Amendment to Ardleigh agreement, which is shared with Affinity Water.</p> <p>SE6 utilise an existing licenced borehole in the Colchester area. New treatment facilities would be required.</p> <p>SE7 An extension to an existing reservoir utilising disused mineral abstraction pits to provide additional storage. Additional treatment capacity</p>	
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		and transfer pipelines would also be required. SE8 East Suffolk WRZ transfer (2MI/d) - This option is similar to option SE2 but requires a smaller pipeline.	
Water	Haven Gateway Water Cycle Study: Stage 1 Report, Royal Haskoning on behalf of the Haven Gateway Partnership, 2008	The study was commissioned in order to ensure that water supply, water quality, sewerage and flood risk management issues can be properly addressed to enable the substantial growth proposed in the East of England Plan (EEP) to 2021 to be accommodated in a sustainable way. It covers wastewater collection and treatment; water resources and supply; water quality and environmental issues; flood risk management; and demand management.	Objectives: - Ensure that adequate water supply and waste water infrastructure is in place to support housing and employment growth planned for HGSR to 2021 in the emerging East of England Plan and the HG Programme of Development Framework for Growth. - Any additional infrastructure is provided in accordance with a strategic rather than a piecemeal approach. - There is a strategic approach to the management and use of water. - The environment has sufficient capacity to receive increased waste water discharges. - The potential for grey water reuse and implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is fully realised.
Water	Anglian River Basin Management Plan, Environment Agency, 2009	The Anglian River Basin Management Plan is about the pressures facing the water environment in this river basin district, and the actions that will address them. It has been prepared in consultation with a wide range of organisations and individuals and is the first of a series of six-year planning cycles.	- By 2015, 16 per cent of surface waters (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) in this river basin district are going to improve for at least one biological, chemical or physical element. - By 2015 19 per cent of surface waters will be at good ecological status/potential and 45 per cent of groundwater bodies will be at good status. - At least 30 per cent of assessed surface waters will be at good or better biological status by 2015.
Material assets	Haven Gateway Programme of Development: A Framework for Growth 2008 - 2017, Haven Gateway Partnership, 2007	This joined up framework is a project management tool to guide the local delivery of an increased supply of housing and economic development, is a means of articulating key infrastructure needs to support this growth and	Objectives: - To promote the development of the Haven Gateway as a New Growth Point. - To demonstrate how port expansion and other employment growth can be integrated with

		forms a basis for bidding for growth funding from government.	housing growth within the unique estuarine setting of the Gateway. - To facilitate the delivery of housing and employment growth and infrastructure investment proposed in the EEP and the Regional Economic Strategy. - To establish a basis for support from central government and other agencies and a mechanism for prioritising bids for investment within the Haven Gateway New Growth Point.
Material assets	Haven Gateway Integrated Development Programme, Haven Gateway Partnership, December 2008	This document provides a single delivery plan for capital-led investment which will allow for appropriately phased development in the period to 2021 and, indicatively, beyond.	Vision for the Haven Gateway: A high quality environment for its residents, workers and visitors by capitalising on its location as a key gateway, realising its potential for significant sustainable growth, addressing its needs for economic regeneration, creating an additional focus for growth of hi-tech, knowledge-based employment and protecting and enhancing its high quality, attractive and natural assets.
Material assets	South East LEP Growth Deal and Strategic Economic Plan, March 2014	This plan outlines the LEPs ambition to spearhead with Government a massive £10 billion investment programme into East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock over the next 6 years to generate 200,000 private sector jobs and finance 100,000 new homes. The proposal is about the renewal of the physical and intellectual capital of our area. Alongside the upgrade of our roads, railways, harbours and homes, we put forward plans to raise educational and skills attainment to develop a workforce poised to grasp the new business and high-level job opportunities presented by our growth sectors and industries.	By 2021, the aim is to: • Generate 200,000 private sector jobs, an average of 20,000 a year or an increase of 11.4% since 2011; • Complete 100,000 new homes, increasing the annual rate of completions by over 50% compared to recent years; and, • Leverage investment totalling £10 billion, to accelerate growth, jobs and homebuilding.

County

SEA Theme	Document title, author & date	Summary	Relevant aims, objectives, targets, priorities for the Local Plan & SA
Landscape Biodiversity Flora Fauna	Living Landscapes, Essex Wildlife Trust	The Wildlife Trusts recognise that to help species adapt to climate change the whole landscape needs to be addressed. Landscape needs to alleviate floods, control pollution and help cope with temperature extremes. This scheme identifies areas to protect for wildlife and seeks to enlarge/ improve them and link them up. The project will form part of the green infrastructure network. Nationally over 100 landscapes have been identified as part of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure water supplies. - Make land use truly sustainable. - Let the environment adapt to climate change. - Rebuild a wildlife rich countryside. - Connect people to nature. <p>Three sites in Colchester Borough have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roman River Valley, which is one of the best preserved river valley systems and supports a rich variety of wildlife. - Abberton Reservoir. - Tiptree Heath Complex.
Water	Combined Essex Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy, Environment Agency, 2013	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) set out how the EA will manage the water resources of a catchment and contribute to implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The objectives of the Directive include preventing deterioration of the status of water bodies and protecting, enhancing or restoring all water bodies with the aim of achieving good status.	The Water Framework Directive's main objectives are to protect and enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable use of water resources for economic and social development. Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) set out how the EA will manage the water resources of a catchment and contribute to implementing the WFD.
Material assets Landscape Biodiversity, flora & fauna Cultural heritage	Essex Design Guide, Essex Planning Officers Association, 2005	This is an update to the Essex Design Guide for Residential and Mixed Use Areas, originally published in 1973 and updated in 1997. The 1973 guide was produced as a response to concern over the design quality of new developments and their failure to integrate into existing built form. The document is intended to help those involved in the built environment understand that development should have a sense of place, by legible, pedestrian friendly and sustainable, which	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A site appraisal is required for all sites. - Any residential development larger than 500 dwellings must provide an element of mixed use development. - Sustainability issues must be addressed. - The layout and structure of development must be legible and permeable. - In densities over 20 dph there is a need for continuity of built frontages.

		will help to create successful living environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schemes must be designed with crime prevention in mind. - Access for the disabled must be provided in certain situations. - Car free development should be promoted.
Water	North Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan, Environment Agency, 2009	<p>This CFMP gives an overview of the flood risk in the North Essex CFMP area and sets out the EAs preferred plan for sustainable flood risk management over the next 50 to 100 years. It identifies flood risk management policies to assist all key decision makers in the catchment. The report includes a section on Colchester.</p> <p>There are different sources of flood risk in the North Essex CFMP area. The main flood risk is from river flooding after heavy, short storms or widespread rainfall.</p> <p>The River Colne has defences through Colchester. Colchester is also protected against tidal surge and flooding by the Colne Barrier which was constructed in 1994. Currently there are 171 properties at risk from the 1% annual probability river flood. There is no agricultural land at risk of flooding, but some parts of the A133 are at risk of flooding in the 1% annual probability river flood.</p> <p>Flood risk management planning needs to be linked closely with regeneration and redevelopment, so that policies can be put in place to create green corridors, and to incorporate flood resilience measures into the location, layout and design of development.</p>	The Water Framework Directive's main objectives are to protect and enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable use of water resources for economic and social development.
Water	Essex and South Suffolk	A Shoreline Management Plan is a high-level	Key aims:

	Shoreline Management Plan (second phase), Environment Agency, 2011	policy document that aims to identify the most appropriate ways to manage flood and erosion risk to people and the developed, historic and natural environment over the next 100 years up to 2105.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - set out the risks from flooding and erosion to people and the developed, historic and natural environment - identify a management policy for the shoreline that achieves the best possible and achievable balance of all the different interests around the shoreline, over the next 100 years, and - meet international and national nature conservation obligations.
Landscape	Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Management Plan 2010 – 2015, Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project	This plan sets out guidelines to co-ordinate the management of the area to protect and enhance its natural beauty. This management plan runs from 2010 to 2015 and a plan is being prepared to cover the period 2016 – 2020. The plan includes a delivery plan of co-ordinated activity to maintain and enhance the qualities of the area. The production of this management plan meets the statutory duty placed on the local authorities under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to produce such a plan for local authorities that have part of their administrative area designated as an AONB.	It is the aim of this plan that by 2025 the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley is recognised as a distinctive working landscape, (one that maintains a viable agricultural production as its core function), and retains its special character. This character should be understood and appreciated by those that choose to live in, work and visit the area.
Material assets	Commissioning school places in Essex 2013/18, Essex County Council, April 2014	<p>This plan sets out the requirement for places in maintained primary and secondary schools in Essex until 2018, and identifies the areas where providers will need to match supply with demand.</p> <p>It provides the context for the future organisation of school places in Essex and sets out the principles that need to be given serious consideration when commissioning school places.</p> <p>The document is reviewed and updated annually to ensure the projections of demand for school</p>	Achieve a balance between the number of places available and the number of pupils for whom they are required.

		places are as accurate as possible.	
Material assets	Developers' Guide to Infrastructure Contributions 2010 Edition, Essex County Council, 2010	<p>This document details the scope and range of the financial contributions towards infrastructure which Essex County Council may seek from developers, through section 106 agreements, in order to make development acceptable in planning terms. A formulaic approach has been used for County Services wherever possible.</p> <p>Contributions will be sought towards the following infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - early years & childcare - the schools service - community services - libraries - adult learning - youth services - archives - adult social care - highways and transportation - waste management - green infrastructure - public art. 	The Developers' Guide is an integral component of ECC's overall vision for Essex called Essex Works, seeking the best quality of life in Britain.
Material assets	Education Contribution Guidelines Supplement, Essex County Council	<p>The Education Contribution Guidelines Supplement is a companion document to the Essex County Council Developers' Guide to Infrastructure Contributions and contains additional information regarding education contributions.</p> <p>Monies and/or land may be sought toward providing facilities for childcare, early years, primary school, secondary school and post-sixteen provision. Works in lieu of contributions may be acceptable in some circumstances,</p>	Based on April 2009 costs the 'worst case scenario' is £8,823 per house and £4,411 per flat. For early years & childcare contributions towards commercial developments the figure is £548 per employee.

		<p>subject to EU Procurement regulations. Developments may also be required to contribute towards school transport or the provision of safe routes to schools.</p> <p>Housing developments including a net increase of ten or more dwellings may be expected to contribute. Commercial developments likely to employ twenty-five or more people may also be expected to contribute towards early years and childcare provision.</p>	
All	Vision for Essex 2013 – 2017: Where innovation brings prosperity, Essex County Council	This document sets out a new vision for Essex, articulating ECCs commitment to the county, the principles that will guide ECCs work and the priorities in which ECCs work will be rooted.	<p>Vision: We want Essex to be a county where innovation brings prosperity.</p> <p>The challenges ahead strengthens our resolve to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> increase educational achievement and enhance skills; <input type="checkbox"/> develop and maintain the infrastructure that enables our residents to travel and our businesses to grow; <input type="checkbox"/> support employment and entrepreneurship across our economy; <input type="checkbox"/> improve public health and wellbeing across Essex; <input type="checkbox"/> safeguard vulnerable people of all ages; <input type="checkbox"/> keep our communities safe and build community resilience; and <input type="checkbox"/> respect Essex’s environment.
All	Corporate Outcomes Framework 2014 - 2018 Essex County Council, February 2014	<p>ECCs Corporate Outcomes Framework translates the Cabinet’s political ambitions – outlined in their Vision for Essex – into a set of outcomes and supporting indicators that can guide the work of commissioners across ECC.</p> <p>The ‘whole Essex’ outcomes set out what ECC</p>	<p>Essex County Council has set out a clear Vision for Essex – we want to be a county where innovation brings prosperity.</p> <p>7 outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Children in Essex get the best start in life <input type="checkbox"/> People in Essex enjoy good health and

		want to achieve for Essex as a whole and how progress will be monitored. It will be for ECC's elected Members and commissioners to determine how best to secure this progress.	wellbeing <input type="checkbox"/> People have aspirations and achieve their ambitions through education, training and lifelong-learning <input type="checkbox"/> People in Essex live in safe communities and are protected from harm <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable economic growth for Essex communities and businesses <input type="checkbox"/> People in Essex experience a high quality and sustainable environment <input type="checkbox"/> People in Essex can live independently and exercise control over their lives
Soil	Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan, Essex County Council, 2001	The Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan sets out waste planning policies and proposals in accordance with the governments principles of sustainability. Six key waste management sites are identified and the plan outlines how planning applications for waste management facilities are considered.	Consistent with the aims of sustainable development to achieve a balance between: - minimising waste by recycling/composting and other means; - making adequate provision of necessary waste management facilities; and - safeguarding the environment of Essex, and the quality of life of its residents.
Soil	Essex and Southend Waste Replacement Local Plan, Essex County Council, adoption expected 2015	The Replacement Waste Local Plan provides the strategy and policies for waste planning in Essex and Southend until at least 2031, plus allocations of sites for development and a Policies (previously Proposals) Map. The Plan includes: ·The Waste Core Strategy, setting out the long-term direction for waste development and the plan to deliver this strategy ·Development Management Policies for waste planning particularly when considering applications. ·Strategic Site Allocations for waste-related development ·Non-Strategic Site Allocations for other preferred sites for waste processing plus any associated	The Preferred Strategic Objectives are: SO1: To work with partner organisations to maximise waste prevention SO2: To increase quantity as well as the quality of waste that is re-used, recycled and recovered to meet our local targets SO3: To achieve net self sufficiency by 2031 & a substantial reduction in the disposal of London's waste SO4: To safeguard and encourage the enhancement of existing strategic waste facilities SO5: To allocate suitable strategic sites to meet the capacity gap by additional transfer stations, Construction and Demolition recycling, composting, treatment facilities & landfill

		<p>safeguarding ·The Policies (previously Proposals) Map</p> <p>Existing waste management facilities deemed to be strategic have been safeguarded, and a small number of additional facilities have been allocated to meet identified capacity needs. The Preferred Approach does not propose to take any site allocations for landfill forward within the Waste Development Document at this stage. This is because the evidence base signals that there is a substantial shift away from the need for additional landfill capacity, with waste being diverted away from landfill to the network of existing and permitted waste management facilities. This is due to a mixture of reduced amounts of waste arisings, re-assessment of existing capacity within the Plan Area and the diversion of waste away from landfills to the network of existing and permitted waste management facilities. Pre-submission publication is scheduled to take place in September 2014.</p>	<p>SO6: To reduce carbon emissions by energy recovery and utilisation, and by reducing transport distances SO7: To maximise opportunities for sustainable economic growth by using waste as a resource for local industry and as a source of energy SO8: To ensure new waste facilities are sustainably designed, constructed and well operated to reduce potential adverse effects.</p>
Soil	Essex Minerals Local Plan, Essex County Council, 1996	<p>The aims of the Minerals Local Plan are to provide a sustainable planning framework allowing for the supply of basic raw materials at least cost to the environment of Essex, provide policies and proposals for non-land won supply and ensure extraction is matched by a high standard of restoration/site clearance.</p>	<p>The relevant objectives are taken from national minerals guidance on sustainable development for minerals planning and are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conserve minerals as far as possible whilst ensuring an adequate supply to meet needs. - Ensure the environment impacts caused by minerals operations and transport are kept to an acceptable minimum. - Minimise the production of waste and encourage efficient use of materials including appropriate use of high quality materials and recycling of waste. - Encourage sensitive working, restoration and aftercare to preserve or enhance the overall

			<p>quality of the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect areas of designated landscape or nature conservation value from development
Soil	<p>Essex Replacement Minerals Local Plan, Essex County Council, adoption expected shortly, Examination took place in 2013/14</p>	<p>The Minerals Plan provides a clear policy framework for all parties involved in future minerals and minerals related development, as it provides a picture of how ECC see minerals development in the County taking place up to 2029, the steps needed to make this happen, and the measures necessary to assess progress on the way.</p>	<p>Aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote sustainable development. 2. To promote a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions including carbon, and to ensure that new development is adaptable to changes in climatic conditions. 3. To promote social inclusion, human health and well-being. 4. To promote the efficient use of minerals by using them in a sustainable manner and reducing the need for primary mineral extraction. 5. To protect and safeguard existing mineral reserves, existing permitted mineral sites and Preferred Sites for Sand and gravel, silica sand, brickearth, brick clay and chalk reserves which have potential future economic and/ or conservation value. Unnecessary sterilisation should be avoided. mineral extraction, as well as existing and proposed sites for associated mineral development. 6. To provide for a steady and adequate supply of primary minerals to meet future requirements. 7. To protect and enhance the natural, historic and built environment in relation to mineral extraction and associated development. 8. To reduce the impact of minerals extraction and associated development on the transport system.
Biodiversity Flora Fauna	<p>The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan 2010 – 2020, Essex Biodiversity Project, 2011</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Action Plan process has been in operation since the mid 1990s and has proven to be an effective way of working within Essex, developing practical projects on the ground with partners, and involving every sector and level of</p>	<p>Vision for Essex Hedgerows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Hedges, hedgerow trees and buffers are managed for biodiversity and have been re-created or reestablished where beneficial and sustainable.

		<p>the community. From 2012 when Government launched its Biodiversity 2020 Strategy the original target based approach has been replaced with "Outcomes" to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.</p> <p>Different Action Plan are included for different habitat groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Hedgerows and associated linear habitats are encouraged and appropriately managed as biodiversity corridors between fields of crops and alongside roads, drains, rivers and other features. . Arable crops and margins are managed appropriately with techniques to reduce the use of pesticides and other chemicals. . Buffer zones and other measures are adopted to reduce erosion and pollution of the wider environment. <p>Vision for Essex Arable Field Margins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .An actively farmed countryside that benefits biodiversity and the farming community. The uptake and implementation of Environmental Stewardship is widespread and successful. .Land use is sustainable and rich in wildlife with an increase in habitat diversity and species. . Linear habitats are encouraged and sympathetically managed as biodiversity corridors between fields of crops and alongside roads, drains, rivers and other features. . Arable fields and crops themselves are managed with techniques to reduce the use of pesticides and other chemicals. <p>Vision for Essex Traditional Orchards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .Safeguarded, improved and extended habitats appreciated for their wealth of wildlife .The decline in orchards has been halted and sites are restored and recreated with appropriate traditional varieties and management techniques in place .Educational activities reconnect communities with their orchard heritage through creation of school and community orchards and other initiatives
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			<p>Vision for Essex Lowland Heathlands and Dry Acid Grasslands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Existing heaths have been extended and are managed in a favourable way, with grazing animals where possible. . Extensive heathlands re-created in areas where this habitat had become fragmented or lost altogether. . Heathland sites are appreciated by the public as places for quiet recreation and to see wildlife. . Populations of key national and Essex species have increased and are spread more widely throughout the county. <p>Vision for Essex Lowland Meadows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Safeguarded, improved and extended lowland meadows habitats appreciated for their wealth of wildlife. . Lowland meadows and grasslands are encouraged and sympathetically managed for their biodiversity and as corridors between fields of crops and alongside roads, drains, rivers and other features. . Existing grasslands extended and managed in a favourable way, with grazing animals and appropriate cutting regimes where possible. <p>Vision for Essex Lowland Heathlands and Dry Acid Grasslands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Existing heaths have been extended and are managed in a favourable way, with grazing animals where possible. . Extensive heathlands re-created in areas where this habitat had become fragmented or lost altogether.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Heathland sites are appreciated by the public as places for quiet recreation and to see wildlife. . Populations of key national and Essex species have increased and are spread more widely throughout the county. <p>Vision for Essex Ponds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Village and farm ponds are managed for biodiversity and have been re-created or re-established where beneficial and sustainable. . Buffer zones and other measures are adopted to reduce erosion and pollution from the wider environment. .New, clean water ponds are created to help replace those lost through man-made and natural processes. .Populations of key national and Essex pond-associated species have increased and are spread more widely throughout the county. <p>Vision for Essex Floodplain and Coastal Grazing Marsh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Safeguarded, improved and extended habitats appreciated for their wealth of wetland wildlife. . Water levels are managed to benefit wildlife at all seasons. . Populations of key national and Essex species have increased and are spread more widely throughout the county. <p>Vision for Essex Lowland Raised Bogs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Safeguarded, improved and extended raised bog habitats appreciated for their wealth of wetland wildlife. - Water levels are managed to benefit wildlife at all seasons.
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			<p>. Populations of key national and Essex species have increased and are spread more widely throughout the county.</p> <p>Vision for Essex Reedbeds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Safeguarded, improved and extended habitats appreciated for their wealth of wetland wildlife. . Water levels are managed to benefit wildlife at all seasons and sites restored and used to hold water in the landscape and benefit wildlife. . Populations of key national and Essex species have increased and are spread more widely throughout the county. <p>Vision for Essex Coastal Saltmarsh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coastal saltmarsh has been enhanced and extended, in response to sea level rise and other threats creating a sustainable network for wildlife. - Sustainable development on all parts of the coastline has created a coastal environment that benefits people and wildlife. - The importance of coastal and marine biodiversity for tourism and the local economy has been recognised.
Water	Colchester Town Surface Water Management Plan, Capita Symonds for Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council, 2012 Draft report	This document forms the Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) for Colchester. The report outlines the predicted risk and preferred surface water management strategy for Colchester. In this context surface water flooding describes flooding from sewers, drains, groundwater, and runoff from land, small watercourses and ditches that occurs as a result of heavy rainfall.	<p>The objectives of the SWMP are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a thorough understanding of surface water flood risk in and around the study area, taking into account the implications of climate change, population and demographic change and increasing urbanisation in and around Colchester town; <input type="checkbox"/> Identify, define and prioritise Critical Drainage Areas, including further definition of existing local flood risk zones and mapping new areas of potential flood risk;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Make recommendations for holistic and integrated management of surface water management which improve emergency and land use planning, and support better flood risk and drainage infrastructure investments; □ Establish and consolidate partnerships between key stakeholders to facilitate a collaborative culture, promoting openness and sharing of data, skills, resource and learning, and encouraging improved coordination and collaborative working; □ Engage with stakeholders to raise awareness of surface water flooding, identify flood risks and assets, and agree mitigation measures and actions; and □ Deliver outputs to enable practical improvements or change where partners and stakeholders take ownership of their flood risk and commit to delivering and maintaining the recommended measures and actions.
Material assets	A12/ A120 Route based strategy, Highway Agency, March 2013	<p>This strategy shows that the A12/A120 has national, regional and local significance. It supports the national and regional economy through providing the link between London and the South East to the ports at Harwich and Felixstowe, and then into Europe. Locally it is used as a commuter route, serving the growing towns of Chelmsford, Colchester and Ipswich.</p> <p>The strategy shows that the A12/A120 is an ageing route which has several key maintenance issues. It will also be functioning above capacity by 2021 and will clearly struggle to keep up with demand if the large amount of growth proposed for the towns and cities is built. There is a significant level of growth planned along the route</p>	<p>In order to reduce the number of incidents and improve journey reliability, the strategy has identified the following key areas in the short term to improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improved management of the route - improved technology along the route - Improvements to lay-by and road user facilities - Collision reduction and incident management maintenance - junction improvements - Development of an investment strategy for the route. <p>Longer term priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and deliver a junction optimisation strategy

		<p>both in terms of jobs and houses. The key areas are around Chelmsford and Colchester.</p> <p>The strategy, whilst not identifying specific schemes, has identified key areas that need to be reviewed and investigated both in the short and long term. This includes assessing the capacity of those junctions that will be affected by the planned growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct accesses to the route - modal shifts - improvements to local roads - Investigate a major upgrade to the A120 between Braintree and Marks Tey.
Material assets	Essex Transport Strategy: the Local Transport Plan for Essex, Essex County Council, June 2011	<p>The Local Transport Plan sets out the approach for transport in Essex. It sets out aspirations for improving travel in the county, demonstrating the importance of meeting these aspirations to achieving sustainable long-term economic growth in Essex and enriching the lives of our residents.</p> <p>This third Local Transport Plan is wider in scope than previous plans, providing a framework for the effective and efficient delivery of all transport services provided by or on behalf of Essex County Council. It will inform and guide work with other organisations and local communities across Essex, ensuring that transport services are delivered in ways which effectively respond to local needs and offer good value for money to local taxpayers.</p>	<p>Vision: Our Vision is for a transport system that supports sustainable economic growth and helps deliver the best quality of life for the residents of Essex.</p> <p>Strategic transport priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identifying an agreed and deliverable solution to address congestion at the Thames Crossing and adjacent M25 junction 30/31; <input type="checkbox"/> Lobbying Government for enhancements to the A12; <input type="checkbox"/> Lobbying Government for enhancements to the A120 to access Harwich port and between the A12 and Braintree; <input type="checkbox"/> Lobbying Government for additional capacity on the Great Eastern Main Line and West Anglia mainline to accommodate growing commuter demand, the provision of competitive journey times for Essex Thameside services, and an enhanced local role in the rail franchise process. <p>Countywide priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on Essex roads; <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing to work with the Essex Casualty and Congestion Board;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Working with partners to promote a safe and secure travelling environment; <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining the Essex highway network and other transport assets; <input type="checkbox"/> Keeping the transport network safe and operational; <input type="checkbox"/> Managing the impact of planned works on the highway network. <p>Transport priorities for the Haven Gateway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Providing the transport improvements needed to accommodate housing and employment growth in a sustainable way; <input type="checkbox"/> Tackling congestion within Colchester (including the provision of Park & Ride facilities); <input type="checkbox"/> Improving the availability, reliability and punctuality of local bus services; <input type="checkbox"/> Improving the attractiveness of public spaces to support regeneration, particularly within the coastal towns; <input type="checkbox"/> Improving and promoting cycle networks; and improving the availability of travel choices and awareness of them; <input type="checkbox"/> Improving journeys for commuters travelling to London from Colchester and Braintree; particularly by improving access to railway stations and improving facilities for passengers; <input type="checkbox"/> Improving transport access to Harwich to enable low carbon expansion of the port and wind port.
Material assets	Development Management Policies, Essex County Council, February 2011	For many years Essex has had Transport Development Control Policies to deal with development pressures, which have served the County well. These policies reflect the balance between the need for new housing and	<p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and maintain a reliable and safe highway infrastructure. • Improve access to services in both rural and urban locations.

		<p>employment opportunities, the regeneration and growth agenda, and protecting the transport network for the safe movement of people and goods.</p> <p>This document contains 22 development management policies. The document has been adopted as Essex County Council Supplementary Guidance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer where possible alternative travel options to the private car. • Support and enhance public transport provision. • Address the impact of commercial vehicles on the highway network and communities. • Support the aims and objectives of the County Council as the Highway Authority.
<p>Material assets</p>	<p>Essex Economic Growth Strategy, Essex County Council, September 2012</p>	<p>ECCs Essex Economic Growth Strategy (the EGS) sets out an economic vision for the County and how can take this forward. Building upon the ambition in Essex Works, the County Council's Corporate Plan, the EGS is a step change in ECCs approach to growth. It shows what ECC propose to do, working with our partners: to unlock growth now, secure jobs and earnings tomorrow, and create the conditions for long term economic growth and strengthening communities. The EGS sets out how the County Council will lead efforts to promote economic growth, building on our proximity to London and our excellent international transport links.</p>	<p>Vision: Essex is an economically vibrant and successful entrepreneurial county. Our economic vision is of a county where businesses and our residents can grow and fulfil their potential, making Essex the best place to live and work.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Essex businesses are enabled and supported to be more productive, innovate and grow, creating jobs for the local economy; <input type="checkbox"/> Essex businesses are enabled to compete and trade internationally; <input type="checkbox"/> individuals are equipped and able to access better paid jobs through an education and skills offer that meets the needs of businesses; <input type="checkbox"/> the life chances of people in our most deprived areas are improved by ensuring that residents are able to access jobs and public services; and <input type="checkbox"/> securing the highways, infrastructure and environment to enable businesses to grow <p>Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Aim high: We will set high ambitions for all our work with businesses, colleges, and our

			<p>residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Promote an economy driven by knowledge, skills and innovation: Our economic success will depend on businesses that harness knowledge and expertise to transform brilliant ideas into commercial opportunities. □ Think global, act local: International markets are our greatest opportunity as well as our greatest threat. Our businesses need to be at the cutting edge of technological change with world class skills to compete in the world economy □ Promote environmentally sound growth: Environmentally sound economic growth is creating new opportunities for Essex businesses. New markets include the development of renewable energy sources and energy conservation, and enabling more energy efficient car and public transport. □ Improve infrastructure: We will continue to promote transport, communications and utility infrastructure improvements that are essential to Essex businesses. □ Be a voice for Essex: make the case to government and other public agencies for the freedoms, powers and the investment and / or financial tools that we need to realise our economic potential. We will also celebrate Essex as a place to live, work and visit.
Material assets	The Greater Essex Integrated County Strategy, Essex County Council, December 2010	The Integrated County Strategy (ICS) provides a shared and agreed vision for Greater Essex, to identify the real priorities and outcomes needed to achieve increased economic growth. By producing the ICS, Greater Essex is taking a clear lead in	Our ambition for Greater Essex is to create a highly performing and competitive economy that makes a significant contribution to UK economic growth and recovery, provides for the successful regeneration of Essex communities, and provides a high quality of

		<p>responding to the current economic climate. When there is limited money available it is essential that investment is effectively prioritised. The ICS will ensure that any funding available to Essex is invested in projects and priorities which are most likely to generate long-term economic growth.</p> <p>The aim of the ICS is to develop a collection of priorities that is agreed by all partners, and closely relates to the key strengths and weakness of Greater Essex which can direct investment to achieve the greatest benefits for the area. This document will outline how the ICS priorities were developed.</p>	<p>life for our residents.</p> <p>The key transformational changes required to deliver this vision are,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ GE1 – Delivering sustainable growth by providing for a balanced pattern of development which promotes housing choice, provides affordable housing, and properly matches homes with jobs, infrastructure, and public services and creates prosperous places □ GE2 – Providing for a transition to a low carbon economy which reduces carbon consumption, provides for low carbon development, updates energy infrastructure, supports business innovation, improves the supply of ‘low carbon’ related skills, and exploits new UK markets for low carbon products and services □ GE3 – Strongly supporting those key economic sectors and drivers which are likely to provide for significant economic and employment growth over the long term, economic inward investment opportunities, and which in turn provide for increased local income and prosperity and act as levers to promote regeneration □ GE4 – Significantly improving the quality of life of our residents by regenerating town centres and local communities; increasing the number, quality and choice of local jobs; improving the skills levels of the resident workforce; making best use of the opportunities provided by the London business and job market; and providing a high quality natural and built environment □ GE5 – Substantially improving connectivity
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			by promoting more sustainable travel patterns, introducing urban transport packages to increase transport choice, providing better public transport infrastructure and rail/bus services, enhanced inter-urban transport corridors, providing improved digital infrastructure including broadband, and by improving mobile phone coverage
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Local

SEA Theme	Document title, author & date	Summary	Relevant aims, objectives, targets, priorities for the Local Plan & SA
Climatic factors	Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 – 2018, Colchester Borough Council, 2014	The Environmental Sustainability Strategy sets out the ways in which CBC can consider the environmental impact from its services and how to reduce waste, encourage energy efficiency, provide sustainable transport options and encourage greener lifestyle choices. The priorities and action points within the strategy relate to Council services, staff, buildings and partners, as well as providing a clear direction for our residents and local organisations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support local communities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) promote behaviour change b) support community groups & organisations to develop projects c) support transition groups (& other local initiatives) d) provide advice & support on technologies & incentive schemes e) Improve access to Government initiatives to promote installation of energy efficiency measures (currently Green Deal and ECO) f) Take action to help reduce fuel poverty g) Adapt the built environment 2. Reducing CO2 emissions from Council buildings, operations and services <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure that Council buildings and vehicles are as efficient as possible resulting in minimal environmental impact b) Delivering Council services in a more efficient and environmentally sustainable way 3. Minimising climate change risks <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) water scarcity b) flooding

			<p>c) overheating risks d) fuel poverty 4. Develop, create and promote opportunities for developing environmental understanding which will help retain rural skills and grow the local green economy</p>
All	Colchester's Core Strategy, Colchester Borough Council, 2008	<p>The Core Strategy sets out the Council's strategic planning policies. The CS establishes a long-term strategy to manage development, provide services, deliver infrastructure and create sustainable communities. It comprises the spatial vision and objectives, a spatial strategy, core policies and a section setting out how the strategy will be implemented and monitored. Its effectiveness will be monitored on an annual basis through the Annual Monitoring Report and it will be reviewed when necessary.</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus new development at sustainable locations to support existing communities, local businesses, sustainable transport and promote urban regeneration to protect greenfield land. - Provide the necessary community facilities and infrastructure to support new and existing communities. - Provide excellent and accessible health, education, culture and leisure facilities to meet the needs of Colchester's growing community. - Promote active and healthy lifestyles and strive for excellence in education and culture. - Reduce the Borough's carbon footprint and respond to the effects of climate change. - Create a prestigious regional centre and a vibrant network of district and local centres that stimulate economic activity and provide residents' needs at accessible locations. - Provide for a balance of new homes and jobs to support economic prosperity of our growing community and reduce the need to travel outside the Borough for employment. - Provide decent and affordable housing at accessible locations to accommodate our growing community. - Provide a range of housing options to meet the diverse needs of the whole community. - Revitalise rundown areas and create inclusive

			<p>and sustainable new communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote high quality design and sustain Colchester’s historic character, found in its buildings, townscape and archaeology. - Improve streetscapes, open spaces and green links to provide attractive and accessible spaces for residents to live, work and play. - Focus development at accessible locations which support public transport, walking and cycling, and reduce the need to travel. - Develop Colchester as a Regional Transport Node, improving transport connections and gateways within the Borough and to the wider region. - Provide excellent public transportation, walking and cycling connections between centres, communities and their needs. - Improve the strategic road network and manage traffic and parking demand. - Protect and enhance Colchester’s natural environment, countryside and coastline. - Support appropriate local employment and housing development in villages and rural communities. - Encourage renewable energy and the efficient use of scarce resources. - Reduce, reuse and recycle waste.
All	Development Policies, Colchester Borough Council, 2010	This document was produced in conjunction with the other documents in Colchester’s Local Development Framework. The Development Policies DPD includes policies which add further detail to the Core Strategy policies.	This document provides further detail to the Core Strategy and so the Core Strategy objectives are relevant.
All	Colchester’s Site Allocations, Colchester Borough Council, 2010	This document was produced in conjunction with the other documents in Colchester’s Local Development Framework (LDF). The Site	The objectives of the Site Allocations DPD are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set out the criteria for the boundaries shown on the Proposals Map

		Allocations sets out the criteria for the boundaries and provides area specific allocations. Each site has been evaluated and the document then outlines the policy that has informed the Site Allocations and new policies that are proposed for each area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide area specific allocations in line with the overall strategy set by the Core Strategy.
Cultural heritage	Creative Colchester: Developing the Vision, Tom Fleming Creative Consultancy on behalf of Colchester Borough Council, 2012	Creative Colchester recognises culture and creativity as a driver of job creation, economic growth and sustainable community development to raise the profile of the town overall. A vision document has been created, in which the main opportunities are set out for the development of the creative industries over the next five years.	<p>In five years Colchester will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Continue to have a strong, resilient cultural infrastructure based on a set of core cultural and heritage institutions ◇ Be recognised locally and more widely as a town where culture is valued and appreciated for the range of benefits it brings to everyone ◇ Place culture at the heart of helping to tackle the core social and economic challenges faced by the borough ◇ Continually grow the market for culture through a strategic approach to engaging new and existing audiences through new technology and new types of engagement ◇ Have cultural activity happening in every community, with a special focus on those areas with the greatest needs ◇ Be a destination town, attracting visitors to its strong and connected leisure, shopping and cultural programme ◇ Be a great place to develop a creative career or business, with schools, further and higher education, cultural organisations and private businesses working together in the development of progression routes and programmes of support ◇ Have a vibrant, buzzy cultural quarter feeding off and into the success of firstsite.
All	Colchester Borough Council's Strategic Plan 2012-2015,	Our Strategic Plan is the council's most important document because it sets out how we will play our	Overarching vision for the borough: Colchester, the place to live, learn, work and visit

	<p>Colchester Borough Council, February 2012</p>	<p>part in making Colchester a place where people want to live, learn, work and visit.</p>	<p>It has the following broad aims: Colchester as a vibrant borough with a bright future wants to be known for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading for the future • Creating opportunities for all its residents • Inspiring and innovating • Being cleaner and greener • Listening and responding. <p>It has the following priorities:</p> <p>Leading our communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regenerating our borough through buildings, employment, leisure and infrastructure Improving opportunities for local business to thrive including retail Giving local people the chance to improve their skills Promoting sustainability and reducing congestion Showing tolerance and changing behaviours to create better local communities Supporting tourism, heritage and the arts Bringing investment to the borough Working in partnerships to help tackle health and crime issues. <p>Delivering high quality, accessible services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering an efficient benefits service
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			<p>Reducing, reusing and recycling our waste</p> <p>Providing more affordable homes across the borough</p> <p>Improving our streets and local environment</p> <p>Tackling anti-social behaviour and using enforcement to support priorities</p> <p>Enabling local communities to help themselves</p> <p>Supporting more vulnerable groups</p> <p>Providing sport and leisure for all, alongside good quality green spaces and play areas</p> <p>Engaging with the voluntary sector.</p>
Water	Haven Gateway Water Cycle Study: Stage 1 Report, Royal Haskoning on behalf of the Haven Gateway Partnership, 2008	The study was commissioned in order to ensure that water supply, water quality, sewerage and flood risk management issues can be properly addressed to enable the substantial growth proposed in the East of England Plan (EEP) to 2021 to be accommodated in a sustainable way. It covers wastewater collection and treatment; water resources and supply; water quality and environmental issues; flood risk management; and demand management.	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that adequate water supply and waste water infrastructure is in place to support housing and employment growth planned for HGSR to 2021 in the emerging East of England Plan and the HG Programme of Development Framework for Growth. - Any additional infrastructure is provided in accordance with a strategic rather than a piecemeal approach. - There is a strategic approach to the management and use of water. - The environment has sufficient capacity to receive increased waste water discharges. - The potential for grey water reuse and implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is fully realised.
Water	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), Scott Wilson on behalf of	The SFRA enables the Council to identify sites away from vulnerable flood risk areas. Sites	The key objective of an SFRA is to avoid developing in areas at risk of flooding.

	Colchester Borough Council, 2007	surrounding the urban area have been appraised for their risk of different types of flooding. The SFRA considers the situation in 100 years time, with the effects of climate change, and models what would happen in the event of breaches in key areas.	
Human health, Landscape	PPG17: Colchester Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study, PMP on behalf of Colchester Borough Council November 2007	This study is an audit and assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the Borough. It was carried out in accordance with the requirements of PPG17 and its companion guide.	The prime objectives of the study are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a robust assessment of the demand for open space and recreation facilities throughout the Borough, addressing issues of quantity, quality and accessibility • provide an analysis of identified surpluses or deficiencies and other issues of provision across the Borough • provide clear recommendations for the setting of locally derived quantitative and qualitative standards for open space, sport and recreation facilities • provide evidence for the Borough's emerging Core Strategy • inform the preparation of planning policies • underpin the development of the Council's Parks and Green Space Strategy.
Human health	Safer Colchester Partnership Annual Partnership Plan 2013-14, Colchester Borough Council	Safer Colchester Partnership is a multi-agency group put together to tackle crime and disorder throughout the borough. Safer Essex is the County partnership which addresses issues of crime, disorder and drugs and alcohol as identified by Essex residents. Safer Essex also fulfils the function of a County Group with defined statutory membership deriving from key partner agencies.	Objectives: Support the work of the Women's Safety Worker within the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme. Raise awareness and support victims of Domestic Abuse. Increase awareness of Domestic Abuse reporting mechanisms amongst those living in CBH homes. Reduce adult re-offending rates by working more effectively in partnership. Reduce crime & offending caused by alcohol misuse.

			<p>Reduce all crime in Colchester.</p> <p>Local residents in the Borough have the opportunity to report concerns to their Neighbourhood Action Panels.</p> <p>Engage local residents & agencies in 3 Community Days of Action and Safer Colchester projects.</p> <p>Delivery of 'Night of Action' in the Town Centre.</p> <p>Engage with Young People on issues of community safety.</p>
Cultural heritage, Landscape	Townscape Character Assessment, Chris Blandford Associates on behalf of Colchester Borough Council, June 2006	<p>The Townscape Character Assessment provides a basis for promoting the integration of sensitively and appropriately designed new buildings and spaces into the existing urban fabric of the Borough's main settlements through the planning process. In this context, the key applications of the Study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · As an evidence base for informing the preparation of the Council's new Local Development Framework · Providing a tool for informing development control decisions, the preparation of area masterplans and the design of new buildings and public realm spaces · Providing a framework for more detailed character studies, including Conservation Area Appraisals, and strategies concerned with the conservation and enhancement of the historic built environment and urban green spaces · Providing a basis for informing design guidance to promote higher quality architectural and urban design. 	<p>The key objectives of the Study are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide a factual description of the location of each settlement, its regional context and its population. · Analyse the historical development of each settlement and identify surviving landscape features. · Undertake a visual analysis of each settlement according to plan form and skyline. · Define broad generic Townscape Character Types and particular character areas, and identify any unusual features of the settlement. · Identify broad principles for integrating new development within different areas of townscape character and at the urban fringe. · Develop a framework to enable the yearly monitoring of the impact of new development on the townscape within each settlement.
Landscape	Landscape Character Assessment, Chris Blandford Associates on behalf of Colchester Borough Council,	This study identifies the Borough's different landscape character areas. 'Character' is defined as a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern	<p>The key objectives of the study are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide a consistent 'database' of landscape character information across the Borough;

	November 2005	of elements that make each landscape or townscape different. Character is influenced by particular combinations of visual, ecological, historical, settlement, built components, and other intangible aspects such as tranquillity and sense of place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide a robust basis for underpinning justification for retaining existing/updated CCAs within the new development plan (see separate technical report); · Provide planning guidelines to inform decisions about the potential scale and location of urban expansion around the fringes of Colchester and other identified settlements; · Provide landscape management guidelines to inform land management actions by farmers, estate owners and other major land owners/managers; · Incorporate the issues and concerns of key stakeholder organisations.
Material assets	Affordable Housing SPD, Colchester Borough Council, August 2011	The planning policies adopted by Colchester Borough Council enable the Council to ask developers to provide affordable housing on site or make a financial contribution towards it. The purpose of this Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to give clear guidance on the Council's expectations for the provision of affordable housing and the process for delivering this.	35% affordable housing target, however this has been superseded by the Focussed Review affordable housing target of 20%.
Material assets, Human health	Provision of Community Facilities SPD, Colchester Borough Council, September 2009 & updated July 2013	<p>This SPD expands upon the Council's existing and emerging planning policy on the provision of appropriate infrastructure requirements contained within the Local Plan.</p> <p>For the purposes of this SPD a community facility is defined as a building or space where community led activities for community benefit are the primary use and the facility is managed, occupied or used primarily by the voluntary and community sector. Community facilities can be located in a wide range of venues. These can</p>	<p>The purpose of this Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • highlight the importance of community facilities to the well-being of residents and as a mechanism for building community cohesion; • ensure adequate provision of community facilities to satisfy the needs of local communities and the borough as a whole; • inform developers and other interested parties about what the Council will expect regarding contributions to community facilities within the Borough of Colchester.

		<p>include purpose-built structures such as community centres and village halls, as well as adapted venues, including: historic listed buildings, converted houses, flats, shops, scout huts and rooms or halls attached to faith buildings.</p>	<p>The following contributions towards community facilities are sought: Studios & 1 bedroom dwelling £466.09 2 bedroom dwelling £932.18 3 bedroom dwelling £1398.27 4 bedroom dwelling £1864.36 5 bedroom dwelling £2330.45 6 bedroom dwelling £2796.54</p>
<p>Cultural heritage, Material assets</p>	<p>Better Town Centre Colchester, Colchester Borough Council, December 2012</p>	<p>The Strategy sets out the Council's aspirations and plans for Colchester's Town Centre. It provides a comprehensive approach to the reinvigoration of spaces, uses and activity Colchester's historic centre during the day, evening and at night that will ensure its continued vitality.</p>	<p>Objectives: Sustainability – Promoting sustainability in its widest sense, including prioritising reductions in the town centre's carbon footprint, enhancing the resiliency of Town Centre commercial and social businesses, and promoting social inclusion. Innovation – Ensuring that development in Colchester Town Centre promotes and secures innovation in new techniques for enabling sustainable growth, including encouraging the local business community to implement them. Activity – Supporting uses for a lively 21st century town centre; Diversity – Ensuring a healthy mix of retail, leisure/culture, business and residential uses. Retail: Retail is the key driver of the town centre economy, and maintaining an appropriate balance between different types of successful retail uses (including both national chains, independent retailers and market traders) and between other activities in the main Town Centre shopping areas will be critical to securing its future vitality.</p>

			<p>Leisure/Culture: Expansion of leisure and cultural offerings appropriate to different areas of the Town Centre (ie arts-related activities in St. Botolph's Quarter, entertainment/restaurants in the Shopping Core) outdoor spaces offering multi functional areas for informal recreation and relaxation, and use of social media to publicise and promote these attractions.</p> <p>Offices and Residential: Supporting the provision of office and living space based on the Town Centre's high quality environment, accessibility, and state-of-the-art digital connectivity.</p> <p>Creating welcoming spaces and events through the day and into the evening –Providing a wide range of facilities and spaces for events and activities that bring people into the town centre throughout the day and year. Developing the evening economy so that the town feels safe and inviting after dark.</p> <p>Heritage and Design – Enhancing the old, creating tomorrow's heritage;</p> <p>Identity and Unique Character – Reinforcing, interpreting and safeguarding the distinctive character and identity of Colchester and its rich heritage, including its Roman core street grid, unique views, changes in elevation, historic buildings, green spaces, and street scenes.</p> <p>Enriching the existing environment using a creative and dynamic approach to new spaces and buildings.</p>
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			<p>Amenity – Providing a safe, attractive and accessible town centre that is well maintained.</p> <p>Quality – Providing a set of design principles for all new development within the town centre to promote a continuous and consistent high quality well-maintained environment.</p> <p>Movement – Creating a safe and accessible town centre;</p> <p>Shared spaces – Managing interaction between pedestrians; cycles; wheelchair/mobility scooters; and vehicles to prioritise pedestrian provision in the heart of the town centre while accommodating reduced vehicular access to support the vision for the Town Centre.</p> <p>Interchanges - Enhancing public transport and facilitating transitions between modes to improve access to and from the town centre</p> <p>Connectivity – Promoting vitality in the town centre by providing well-designed, lively, and accessible links between town centre buildings and activities.</p>
Climatic factors	Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, Colchester Borough Council, June 2011	This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides guidance and advice for those involved in development in Colchester to help them deliver sustainable design. It adds more detail to the Core Strategy and Development Policies Development Plan Documents (DPDs) policies relating to sustainable design. The SPD will help applicants by setting out what the Council expects	<p>Code for Sustainable Homes expectations: Level 3 from 2010, level 4 from 2013 & level 6 from 2016.</p> <p>BREEAM expectations: Major development encouraged to achieve 'very good' from 2010, all development encouraged to achieve 'very good' from 2013 & all development</p>

		from development and will help development management officers discuss the sustainability issues at an early stage and assess the sustainability of a proposal.	encouraged to achieve 'excellent' from 2016.
Air, Human health, Climatic factors	Colchester Cycling Delivery Strategy, Colchester Borough Council, January 2012	In 2008 Colchester was designated as a Cycling Town. The project has enabled the Council, working in partnership with Essex County Council, to improve the town's cycle network, increase the number of cycle parking spaces and deliver a number of training and promotional campaigns. The Borough Council wishes to continue this good work and the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) sets out how it intends to do so.	The purpose of this SPD is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support sustainable growth in line with the adopted Core Strategy • promote the importance of cycling facilities, training and promotional activities • ensure the provision of cycle facilities, training and promotion • inform developers what can be expected regarding contributions for cycling • protect and improve existing cycling facilities • attract investment from other sources.
Material assets	Colchester Housing Strategy, Colchester Borough Council, 2012/13	Every three years CBC produces a Housing Strategy. This shows how housing will help achieve our priorities. Our Housing Strategy sets out needs, resources, options, priorities and action plans for housing. It considers all types of housing in the borough - rented, owned, empty, in use, general needs and housing with support. It also looks at housing needs which are not yet met - for example homeless households and people living in shared homes who would prefer not to.	Vision for Housing in Colchester Borough: To make Colchester a place where people choose to live in a decent, safe home which meets their needs at a price they can afford and in locations and neighbourhoods that are sustainable and desirable. To balance the housing market so that supply of housing meets market demand and housing need. Priorities: - Clearly set out what kind of housing is needed in terms of size and quality of properties and associated facilities to ensure the housing delivered in the market is attractive and meets the needs of Borough residents, creating neighbourhoods and communities which are sustainable. - Develop a balanced housing market in the Borough of Colchester where supply meets demand at a price that is affordable to residents

			<p>of the Borough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop new initiatives and housing products, which meet housing need and demand between affordable rented and outright home ownership, to enable a fully functioning housing ladder where demand meets supply at a price that is affordable to households on below average incomes - Implement Colchester’s Local Development Framework to seek 35% of all new homes to be affordable on sites with 3 or more homes in rural areas and 10 or more in urban areas - Use private rented housing to meet need and offer more housing choice to households in the Borough - Make best use of the existing housing stock by returning as many long term empty properties to use in the private sector through a combination of advice, grants, enforcement and loans - Use regulation to improve standards and improve the desirability of private rented accommodation by setting up and managing a private rented accreditation scheme for local landlords - Reduce and prevent homelessness - Ensure investment including Housing Related Support directed investment meets the strategic priorities of CBC based on a robust understanding of our residents needs and is an effective use of resources.
Air	Air quality progress report, Chelmsford City Council on behalf of Colchester Borough Council, July 2013	Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 places a statutory duty on local authorities to review and assess the Air Quality within their area and take account of government guidance when undertaking such work. The fifth round of Review and Assessment began with the Updating and	The Air Quality Objectives applicable to Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) in England are set out in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 (SI 928) and the Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 (SI 3043).

		<p>Screening Assessment (USA), which was completed in May 2012. This report assessed monitoring data for 2011 and confirmed that all monitoring locations with relevant exposure outside the Air Quality Management Areas were meeting the Air Quality Objectives except one location (St Johns Street). This Progress Report is the latest report in this round and covers the monitoring data for 2012. Colchester Borough Council monitored at one automatic monitoring site and 58 locations using diffusion tubes supplied by Gradko International using 20% TEA in water analysis method. The results from the monitoring data confirm that all monitoring locations with relevant exposure as meeting the Air Quality Objectives outside the Air Quality Management Areas. A review of other activities in the Council area has confirmed that there are no new pollution sources that may have detrimental effect on the Air Quality within the area. Hence this report confirms that there is no requirement to conduct a Detailed Assessment and the next Progress Report will be delivered in April 2014.</p>	
<p>Landscape</p>	<p>Developing a Landscape for the Future: A Strategy for Landscape Planning of Development Sites within Colchester Borough, Colchester Borough Council, September 2013</p>	<p>Colchester Borough Council has developed this Strategy to chart a course for planning Colchester’s landscape over the lifecycle of the Local Plan Schedule, when it is anticipated that the East of England will grow faster than any other region in the country with Colchester as one of its, and the nations, fastest growing local authority areas.</p> <p>This Strategy deals essentially with the landscape planning carried out by the Council’s Planning Services when addressing the practical expansion</p>	<p>Our Vision is for the Borough to be recognised as having the optimal policy framework and service delivery strategy for successful landscape development planning, design and delivery within the East of England and that this planning fully embraces the spirit of localism through the ideals of leadership of place and its advocacy of integrated community involvement.</p> <p>The following objectives have been identified as crucial to the implementation of our Vision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To incorporate this strategic landscape

		<p>of the Borough. This landscape design planning ideally starts at the earliest stages of planning individual development sites selection and extends through to the detailed landscape design stages and the securing of its implementation and future management.</p>	<p>planning approach both within and beyond the Council's targeted regeneration areas, including any future urban fringe land adopted as an offset against development, in order to help manage the expansion of Colchester in such a way as to achieve a high quality, well designed, sustainable, naturally bio-diverse and productive environment.</p> <p>2. To ensure the landscape elements of new development seamlessly weave together identified social & economic considerations with existing and perceived environmental factors. We will ensure that through this process development respects existing or underlying historic landscape character; both within the site and its wider landscape context.</p> <p>3. To encourage a clearer understanding of best landscape planning practice and design with stakeholder groups through discussion, promotion and education. The development process will thus promote both local aspirations and professional best practice in landscape planning and design.</p> <p>4. To secure a high standard of landscape design, implementation and management within all development. Thereby facilitating a high quality and attractive landscape, the professional implementation and monitoring of landscape schemes and the influencing of good practice in landscape management within new development and where possible the wider landscape.</p>
<p>Climatic factors</p>	<p>Colchester Borough Council's Comprehensive Climate Risk Assessment, Colchester Borough Council, March 2010</p>	<p>This report outlines the results of Colchester Borough Council's comprehensive climate risk based assessment. The report begins by outlining the climate change predictions for Colchester; it then identifies risks and looks at existing and potential actions to reduce risks. The</p>	<p>The short term climate change risks for Colchester are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milder, wetter winters (central estimate shows an increase in mean winter temperature of 1.3oC and 6% increase in winter precipitation);

		<p>purpose of this risk based assessment is to firstly understand the risks, secondly to assess the risks and finally to identify and take actions to address these risks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotter, drier summers (central estimate shows an increase in mean summer temperature of 1.3oC and 7% decrease in summer precipitation); • More frequent extreme high temperatures (central estimate shows an increase in the mean temperature of the warmest day of 0.9oC); • More frequent downpours of rain (central estimate shows an increase of 5% precipitation on the wettest day); • Significant decrease in soil moisture content in summer; • Sea level rise and increases in storm surge height (central estimate for sea level rise in the East of England shows a 9.7cm increase under the medium emissions scenario and a 11.5cm increase under the high emissions scenario); and • Possible higher wind speeds.
<p>Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna, Water</p>	<p>Habitat Regulations Assessment Survey and Monitoring Programme, Final Report, Colchester Borough Council, December 2013</p>	<p>In accordance with the Habitat Regulations 2004 (as amended) Colchester Borough Council, Tendring District Council and Braintree District Council (hereafter the local authorities) have all carried out Appropriate Assessments of their spatial plans. The key purpose of an Appropriate Assessment is to ascertain whether a plan or program will have an adverse affect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>The Appropriate Assessments of the local authorities' spatial plans all identified recreational</p>	<p>The objectives of the study are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish baseline data on visitors to Natura 2000 sites in Colchester Borough and Tendring District. 2. Investigate visitor trends to Natura 2000 sites in Colchester Borough and Tendring District. 3. Identify whether there is a link between site condition and housing completions. 4. Identify management measures needed to mitigate and manage the impacts of increased visitor numbers.

		<p>disturbance, as a result of a growing population, as a potential impact on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. In order for the local authorities to be able to conclude no adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites an agreement was reached with Natural England to undertake a programme of survey and monitoring of visitors at the Natura 2000 sites within Colchester Borough and Tendring District.</p> <p>A 3 year baseline has been established, which sets out visitor trends across the Natura 2000 sites in Colchester and Tendring.</p>	<p>Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across all sites visitor numbers have remained fairly constant. • The number of visitors at Abberton Reservoir has increased steadily between November 2010 and June 2103. This is likely to be because of the opening of the new visitor centre and expansion of the reservoir. • Weather affects the number of visitors. • Over 75% of visitors visit the sites surveyed throughout the year. • For most of the sites there is generally little difference between the number of visitors during winter and spring. • Generally there was little difference between visitor numbers during the week and at the weekend with the exception of Stour Estuary. • There were larger groups sizes at Cudmore Grove and Walton-on-the-Naze. • Some groups travel in excess of 30 miles to visit at Cudmore Grove and Walton-on-the-Naze. • The most common purpose of visiting was to walk and dog walk. • Close to home was the most popular reason for visiting a site. • The presence of a rare bird significantly increased visitors. • Old Hall Marshes and Kirby Quay are
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			<p>very quiet sites, predominantly visited by local people walking their dogs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost a third of total visitors surveyed said that they do not visit alternative sites regularly. • In terms of alternative sites visited people generally visit sites close to home. • 10% of total visitors surveyed said that they do not have good access to open space close to home.
<p>Material assets</p>	<p>Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), David Couttie Associates on behalf of the following LPAs: Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Colchester & Maldon, June 2014</p>	<p>The purpose of a SHMA is to provide each Council with robust and credible information and data that it can use as part of its evidence base to inform future policies and decision-making related to housing and planning.</p> <p>Such assessments should consider housing market areas, and therefore need to be prepared jointly between neighbouring authorities. Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Colchester and Maldon have worked collectively on this and have recently completed their respective SHMAs.</p> <p>The SHMA is part of the evidence which each Council will use when coming to a decision on its 'objectively assessed need' for housing. Objectively assessed need is a new term used in Government guidance which means using robust, verifiable, independent evidence to make an assessment of the need for market and affordable housing in an area. The SHMA is one part of the evidence base, but it in itself does not reach any final conclusions on the 'objectively assessed need' (OAN) for each Council. Further work will</p>	<p>Overall Housing Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The population projection analysis carried out by Edge Analytics suggests that the dwellings projection figure for Colchester is 1,244 per annum over the Plan period. <input type="checkbox"/> The SHMA stock flow analysis suggests a range of 1,065 to 1,225 dwellings per annum over a 5 year and 20 year period. <p>Market Housing Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The 2013 housing needs survey identified a shortfall of 721 market units per annum, based on market demand and supply data. <p>Affordable Housing Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The 2013 Affordable Housing Assessment Model identified a shortfall of 344 units a year. The CIL Viability assessment suggests that the CIL impact may reduce the affordable target from 35% to 20%. <p>Affordable Tenure Mix Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The overall affordable tenure target balance set at 80% for social rent (including affordable rents)

		<p>be required by each authority to enable them to arrive at their OAN.</p>	<p>and 20% intermediate housing supports the level of demand for intermediate housing.</p> <p>Property Size Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consider social rented housing property size targets of 80% for small units (45% 1 bedroom and 35% two bedrooms) to meet the needs of single, couple and small family households. <input type="checkbox"/> 20% of social rented units should be three and four bedroom houses to address the needs of larger families. <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate market housing should be 60% one bedroom and 40% three bedroom units. <input type="checkbox"/> Developers are expected to bring forward proposals which reflect demand in order to sustain mixed communities. It would be reasonable to consider providing policy guidance for future delivery in the market sector of 60% one and two bedroom properties to meet the needs of single, couple and small family households. <input type="checkbox"/> 40% of market units should be three and four bedroom houses to address the needs of larger families and to provide a balanced market sector stock. <p>Housing Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the affordable accommodation requirements of families and those with priority needs should be as important as the larger scale numerical need for smaller units for single and couple households. <input type="checkbox"/> To address the under occupation of around 800 social housing units across the Borough, continue to develop housing strategies to make best use of the existing stock by providing positive incentives to improve the turnover of houses to address the
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			<p>needs of overcrowded and waiting list families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ New social sector delivery should be closely linked to the needs of older tenants and in resolving the under occupation of family sized properties. <p>Older Persons' Housing Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ There is an inextricable link between ageing and frailty and the forecast rise in the retired population means that the housing and support needs of older and disabled households is important to consider at a strategic level. □ In line with the strategic priorities already established, resources should focus on the provision of home based support services and adaptations for older people living at home in both social rented, private rented and owner occupied housing. □ Although a high proportion of older people may have their own resources to meet their accommodation and care needs some may need financial support to enable them to access housing support services. □ As part of the ongoing development for Older People consider: The type of existing sheltered stock in meeting today's housing standards and preferences and the scale of need and demand for 852 units by 2018 and the large future ongoing requirement for 'extra care' accommodation to meet the significant growth in the number of people over 85.
Material assets	Retail and Town Centre Uses Study Colchester Borough Council: Retail Update 2013, Nathaniel Litchfield Partners on behalf of Colchester	This update was undertaken in light of changes to national planning policy. The NPPF says that LPAs should undertake an assessment of the need to expand town centres to ensure sufficient	<p>Recommended phasing of food store development in Colchester urban area is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 2016 – implementation of commitments

	Borough Council, March 2013	<p>supply of suitable sites.</p> <p>The quantitative assessment of the potential capacity for new retail floorspace suggests that there is scope for new retail development within the Colchester urban area and the rest of the Borough, over and above commitments. The capacity figures suggest there is limited need for food store development outside Colchester urban area.</p>	<p>plus one further large food store;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 to 2021 – implementation of one further large food store; • 2021 to 2026 – implementation of one further large food store. <p>The recommended phasing of comparison goods retail development in Colchester urban area is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 2016 – implementation of commitments/town centre proposals and the reoccupation of vacant units; • 2016 to 2021 – implementation of up to 13,000 sq m gross of comparison retail floorspace; • 2021 to 2026 – implementation of up to a further 19,000 sq m gross comparison retail floorspace.
Landscape, fauna, flora, biodiversity, human health, soil	Colchester Borough Green Infrastructure Strategy, Land Use Consultants on behalf of Colchester Borough Council, October 2011	<p>This GI strategy covers the period up to 2025. The strategy is Borough wide and draws on the rich environment of the Borough. It includes an Action Plan for delivering green infrastructure across Colchester Borough, which includes numerous projects. The GI strategy aims to identify high quality accessible green infrastructure within a landscape structure; identify ecological networks and links between habitats to improve quality of life, help address climate change and improve access to habitats and greenspace; and deliver community wellbeing.</p>	<p>The following projects have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedham gateway enhancement • A12 greening • Woodland enhancement zone • Urban Colne valley project • Colne estuary • Communal greening • Enhancing gateways into Colchester • North Colchester growth area • Woodland necklace within the Rowan river valley • Mersea Island green chain <p>Considerable detail about each project is included in the GI strategy.</p>

Neighbouring authorities

SEA Theme	Document title, author & date	Summary	Relevant aims, objectives, targets, priorities for the Local Plan & SA
Material assets	An Economic Strategy for Tendring, Regeneris Consulting Ltd on behalf of	This document sets out a 10 year Economic Strategy for Tendring. It was developed by	The focus of the document is long term systematic change, with the aim of ensuring that economic

	<p>Tendring District Council, October 2013</p>	<p>Regeneris Consulting following detailed research and consultation during the summer of 2013. It captures the commitment of Tendring District Council and its partners to create the conditions to stimulate economic growth and to deliver changes in Tendring's economy that will benefit businesses, residents, the workforce and visitors over the next 10 years and beyond.</p> <p>This Strategy seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Promoting diversification within the local business base, recognising the need to target new sector specialisms which can support a more buoyant and resilient economy. □ Recognising and promoting Tendring's role in regional and national economies and celebrating the district's contribution. □ Valuing places within Tendring and ensuring that they are able to evolve as modern and effective economic locations. □ Recognising the importance of Tendring residents to the area's economic future; ensuring that they have necessary skills and aspirations to participate in the areas economic evolution. □ Recognising that it is Tendring's businesses who will deliver economic growth in the next decade and beyond. Collaboration with businesses is fundamental to the Strategy's success. □ Promoting improved partnership working, particularly between Tendring DC, regional partners and the business community. □ Recognising that difficult decisions will have to be made and risks taken to secure future economic success. 	<p>growth is sustained beyond the 10 year lifespan of this document. This means setting strong foundations and adopting new approaches to embed long-term change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Objective 1: Supporting Tendring's Growth Locations - outlines the vision for target locations over the next 10 years. Based on the evidence available and consultation with stakeholders, initial target locations are Harwich, Clacton and the West of Tendring. □ Objective 2: Targeting Growth Sectors - outlines the approach to supporting growth in target sectors in the district. The two key target growth sectors for Tendring are Offshore Energy and Care & Assisted Living. □ Objective 3: Ensure Residents Have the Skills and Information to participate - outlines the need to support residents so that they have the skills and aspiration to participate in the opportunities promoted within this strategy. This includes recommendations on education, skills provision and employment. □ Objective 4: Support Modernisation, Diversification and Growth within the Business Base – outlines the approach to creating a more dynamic, diverse and future facing business base in Tendring. Improvements in business liaison, innovation and inward investment are the focus of this objective. □ Objective 5: Facilitate population growth where this supports economic objectives – recognises the link between population and economic growth in Tendring and outlines how some housing development could stimulate economic growth in the future.
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Material assets, population	Strategic Housing Market Assessment update, Planning & Development on behalf of Tendring District Council, May 2013	This study provides an update of the original SHMA undertaken in 2008 and the subsequent 2009 report.	To obtain an accurate and realistic figure for the objectively assessed need in Tendring the consultants have derived a population and household projections using components of the pre-existing nationally published projections to best reflect the situation in Tendring. This approach has produced an objectively assessed need 685 homes per year in Tendring (between 2013 and 2029).
All	Babergh Adopted Core Strategy and Adopted Policies (2011 – 2031) Local Plan Document (2014)	The Core Strategy & Policies (Part 1 of the new Local Plan) provides a high-level, strategic plan for Babergh for 20 years from 2011-2031. The policies are intended to be broad and general, overarching policies outlining the strategy for growth and steering growth to sustainable locations.	Vision: Babergh will continue to be an attractive, high quality place in which to live and work, and to visit. The local character and distinctiveness of South Suffolk will be further enhanced by a strong economy and healthier environment providing the framework for a well connected network of places that is made up of mixed and balanced communities.
All	Braintree District Core Strategy, September 2011	The Core Strategy is the principal document and sets out the overall spatial vision and objectives, spatial strategy, core policies and how the strategy will be implemented and monitored.	The vision for the Braintree District is that by 2026 a more sustainable future will have been secured for all the people and places in Braintree District. The three towns will be thriving with regenerated town centres and new growth delivered. The key service villages will have provided local housing, jobs and services, with regeneration taking place on identified sites. All development in the District will have been built to the highest design and energy efficiency standards, which will have enhanced historic towns and villages and minimised the impact on the local and global environment. The aims of the Core Strategy reflect those in the Sustainable Community Strategy. In order to deliver these, the strategy identifies twelve key objectives which reflect and underpin the vision and aims for Braintree District.

			These objectives form the basis for the policies set out in this Core Strategy.
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Appendix 2. Baseline Data

Colchester's Baseline Data

Indicator	Colchester	Essex	East of England	England	Source
Population					
Population of area	173,600	1,396,600	5,862,400	53,107,200	Regional & Country Profiles: Population and Migration, ONS 2013
Population projection in 2021	200,000	1,542,000	6,458,000	57,688,00	Regional & Country Profiles: Population and Migration, ONS 2013
% of males	49.3%	48.8%	49.2%	49.2%	2011 Census, ONS 2012
% of females	50.7%	51.2%	50.8%	50.8%	2011 Census, ONS 2012
Total number of births	2,353	16,860			Commissioning school places in Essex 2013/18, 2012 figures
Life expectancy males	79.6 years	79.7 years	79.6 years	78.6 years	Life expectancy at birth by health and local authority, ONS, 2011
Life expectancy females	83.5 years	83.3 years	83.2 years	85.6 years	Life expectancy at birth by health and local authority, ONS, 2011
Population density (people per sq km)	528	403	307	408	Regional & Country Profiles: Population and Migration, ONS 2013
% of population over the age of 65	15.9%	18.5%	17.6%	16.4%	Regional & Country Profiles: Population and Migration, ONS 2013
% of population over the age of 65 in 2021	18.3%	21.4%	20.3%	18.7%	Regional & Country Profiles: Population and Migration, ONS 2013
Total people > 65 years old	29,000				2012-based Subnational Population Projections, ONS 2014
Projected number of people > 65	46,000				2012-based Subnational Population Projections, ONS 2014

years old in 2032					
% of population in an ethnic minority group (excluding 'other white')	12.5%	9.2%	14.7%	20.2%	2011 Census, ONS 2012
Inflow migration	8,900				Internal migration by local authority, mid-2011, ONS 2012
Outflow migration	8,400				Internal migration by local authority, mid-2011, ONS 2012
Housing					
Number of households	71,634	581,600	2,423,000	22,063,000	Census 2011, ONS 2012
Number of 1 bed households	7,669				Census 2011, ONS 2012
Number of 2 bed households	19,833				Census 2011, ONS 2012
Number of 3 bed households	28,190				Census 2011, ONS 2012
Number of 4 bed households	12,300				Census 2011, ONS 2012
Number of 5 bed + households	3,460				Census 2011, ONS 2012
% privately owned houses*	66.3%	71.4%	67.6%	63.4%	* Does not include shared equity households. Census 2011, ONS 2012
% rented accommodation*	32.2%	26.9%	30.4%	34.5%	* Does not include shared equity households or households living rent-free. Census 2011, ONS 2012
Average household size	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	Census 2011, ONS 2012
Average number of rooms	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.4	Census 2011, ONS 2012
% of households with an occupancy	3.1%	3.1%	3.6%	4.8%	Census 2011, ONS 2012

rating of -1 or less					
Housing completions per annum (net)	617				Annual Monitoring Report 2013, Colchester Borough Council 2012/13
Housing completions over previous 5 years, 2008/9 – 2012/13	3870	20291			Local Plan progress in Essex and identified housing requirements as at February 2014, Essex County Council
Average annual rate over past 5 years, 2008/9 – 2012/13	774	4058			Local Plan progress in Essex and identified housing requirements as at February 2014, Essex County Council
% of residential completions of previously developed land	93%				Annual Monitoring Report 2013, Colchester Borough Council 2012/13
Affordable housing completions	366				Annual Monitoring Report 2012, Colchester Borough Council 2012
Average house prices	£202,717*	£194,901	£183,285	£170,000§	House Prices Index, Land Registry February 2014 * Data from Colchester is from April 2013 and so a direct comparison cannot be made § Average for England & Wales
% of households with one or more car or van	79.4%	82.0%	81.5%	74.2%	Census 2011, ONS 2012
Average distance travelled to work, km	14.6				Census 2011, ONS 2012
% that travel <5km to work	40				Census 2011, ONS 2012

Average gross household income (£)	£27,592	£30,193	£27,980	£27,302	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2012 provisional results), ONS 2012
Economy (percentages relate to people aged 16-64 years old)					
% economically active	77.4%		79.9%	76.6%§	Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, Annual Population Survey, Oct 2011 to Sept 2012, ONS 2013 § Average for England & Wales
% in employment	70.5%		74.3%	70.5%§	Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, Annual Population Survey, Oct 2011 to Sept 2012, ONS 2013
% classed as employees	60.3%		63.3%	60.5%§	Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, Annual Population Survey, Oct 2011 to Sept 2012, ONS 2013
% classed as self-employed	9.8%		10.5%	9.6%§	Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, Annual Population Survey, Oct 2011 to Sept 2012, ONS 2013
% claiming Jobseekers Allowance	2.8%		3.1%	3.1%	Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, Annual Population Survey, Oct 2011 to Sept 2012, ONS 2013
% economically active but unemployed	7.1%		6.9%	7.9%	Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, Annual Population Survey, Oct 2011 to Sept 2012, ONS 2013
% economically inactive	22.6%		20.1%	23.3%	Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, Annual Population Survey, Oct 2011 to Sept 2012, ONS 2013
% of economically inactive people classified as 'wanting a job'	25.2%		26.0%	24.4%	Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, Annual Population Survey, Oct 2011 to Sept 2012, ONS 2013
% of economically inactive people classified as 'not wanting a job'	74.8%		74.0%	75.6%	Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, Annual Population Survey, Oct 2011 to Sept 2012, ONS 2013
Gross average weekly income	£524.9		£531.0	£508.0	Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS 2012

Job Density (jobs per person)	0.72		0.75	0.77	Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS 2010
Number of VAT registered businesses	5,975				March 2012, Annual Monitoring Report 2013
Floorspace					
Retail (count)	1,380	10,840	48,560	527,860	Business floorspace statistics, Valuation Office Agency May 2012
Office (count)	1,120	7,260	33,060	340,890	Business floorspace statistics, Valuation Office Agency May 2012
Industrial (count)	1,160	12,280	48,600	424,910	Business floorspace statistics, Valuation Office Agency May 2012
Other bulk premises (count)	420	3,760	16,640	136,110	Business floorspace statistics, Valuation Office Agency May 2012
Retail sqm (000s)	435	2,571	11,661	111,198	Business floorspace statistics, Valuation Office Agency May 2012
Office sqm (000s)	208	1,452	7,805	89,250	Business floorspace statistics, Valuation Office Agency May 2012
Industrial sqm (000s)	644	6,682	33,299	304,853	Business floorspace statistics, Valuation Office Agency May 2012
Other bulk premises sqm (000s)	110	904	4,147	39,114	Business floorspace statistics, Valuation Office Agency May 2012
Human health					
Number of doctors' surgeries	33				nhs.uk, 2014
Number of dentists	27				nhs.uk, 2014
Number of opticians	18				nhs.uk, 2014
Number of pharmacies	32				nhs.uk, 2014
Number of hospitals	2				nhs.uk, 2014
Index of Multiple Deprivation Rank	205				1 = least deprived Indices of Multiple Deprivation, 2010

Schools					
Number of primary schools	64				Commissioning school places in Essex 2013/18
Number of secondary schools	11				Commissioning school places in Essex 2013/18
Total nursery & primary school pupils	13,720	108,731			Number of pupils in schools 2013, Commissioning school places in Essex 2013/18
Total secondary school pupils	10,238	85,940			Number of pupils in schools 2013, Commissioning school places in Essex 2013/18
Forecast primary school pupils with housing 2017/18	16,008	118,653			Forecast 2017/18 with housing, Commissioning school places in Essex 2013/18
Forecast secondary school pupils with housing 2017/18	11,037	88,354			Forecast 2017/18 with housing, Commissioning school places in Essex 2013/18
Crime					
Number of recorded offences	10,565				Recorded crime at local authority level, 2012/13, Home Office
Number of crimes per 1,000 residents per annum	60				Recorded crime at local authority level, 2012/13, Home Office
Number of dwelling burglaries per annum	631				Recorded crime at local authority level, 2012/13, Home Office
Cultural Heritage					
Number of listed buildings	2,560				Annual Monitoring Report 2012, Colchester Borough Council 2012
Number of listed	37				Heritage at Risk Register, December 2013, Essex County Council

buildings at risk					
Number of conservation areas	22				Annual Monitoring Report 2012, Colchester Borough Council 2012
Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments	42				Annual Monitoring Report 2012, Colchester Borough Council 2012
Number of parks on the National Register of Special Historic Interest	4				Annual Monitoring Report 2012, Colchester Borough Council 2012
Biodiversity, fauna & flora					
Areas of ancient woodland	70 (568Ha)				Annual Monitoring Report 2012, Colchester Borough Council 2012
Landscape					
% of residential development on greenfield land	7%				Annual Monitoring Report 2013, Colchester Borough Council 2012/13
Total amount of open space in Colchester Borough, ha	1,198.10				Colchester Borough Council's Land Management Schedule, last updated October 2011
Public open space, ha	249.07				Colchester Borough Council's Land Management Schedule, last updated October 2011
Country parks & wildlife area, ha	847.42				Colchester Borough Council's Land Management Schedule, last updated October 2011
Sports & playing fields, ha	101.6				Colchester Borough Council's Land Management Schedule, last updated October 2011

Allotments, ha	24.45				Colchester Borough Council's Land Management Schedule, last updated October 2011
Climatic factors					
Annual average domestic consumption of gas	14,932kWh		15,434kWh	15,311kWh	Sub-national energy consumption statistics, Department of Energy and Climate Change 2009
Annual average domestic consumption of electricity	4,512 kWh		4,663kWh	4,553kWh	Sub-national energy consumption statistics, Department of Energy and Climate Change 2009
Total greenhouse gas emissions, tonnes	6,895.35				Colchester Borough Council GHG reporting emissions data for 2012/13
Soil, water & air					
Number of Air Quality Management Areas	4				Annual Monitoring Report 2012, Colchester Borough Council 2012
% of domestic waste that has been recycled	41.54%				Annual Monitoring Report 2013, Colchester Borough Council 2012/13