

URS



Thurrock Borough Council Core Strategy and
Policies for the Management of Development
**Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats
Regulations Assessment Adoption
Statement**

Final Report
December 2011

Revision Schedule

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment Adoption Statement
December 2011

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	How environmental / sustainability considerations including the SA Report have been integrated into the Thurrock Core Strategy	5
3	How the opinion of statutory bodies and the public have been taken into account in preparation of the plan and SA.....	15
4	The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with	18
5	Measures to be undertaken to monitor the significant sustainability effects of the implementation of the Core Strategy.....	24
6	Habitats Regulations Assessment.....	26
7	Conclusion.....	32
	Appendix 1 - Changes required by the Inspector to make the plan sound	33
	Appendix 2 – Summary of appraisal results for preferred options policy alternatives with a spatial element	34
	Appendix 3 – Summary of appraisal results for: broad locations relevant to Policy CSSP1; spatial approaches to Policy CSSP2: Sustainable Employment Growth and spatial approaches to Policy CSSP4 Sustainable Green Belt	48

1 Introduction

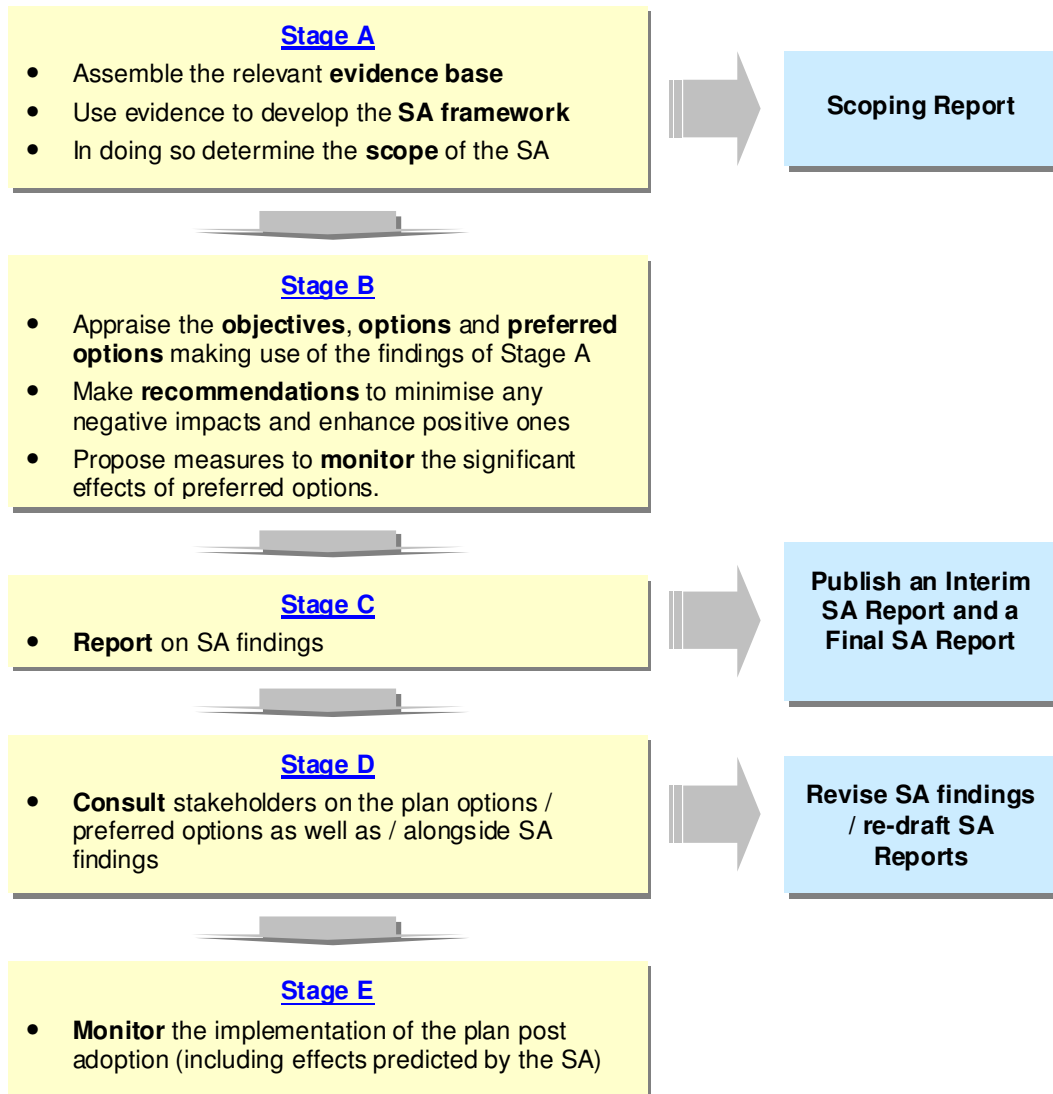
1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Work on Thurrock Borough Council's ('the Council') Core Strategy and Policies for Management of Development, Development Plan Document (the 'DPD') commenced in 2005. Following a six year development period, the DPD was adopted by the Council on 21 December 2011.
- 1.1.2 As part of developing the Core Strategy, the Council has undertaken a parallel process of assessing its effects through an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA); Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA). In addition to this a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was also undertaken.
- 1.1.3 SA seeks to identify the economic, social and environmental impacts of a plan and suggests ways to avoid or minimise negative impacts and maximise positive ones. SA has five main stages as shown in Figure 1.
- 1.1.4 HRA tests the potential impacts of a policy or plan on nature conservation sites of European importance and is a requirement under EU legislation for certain plans and projects¹. An HRA was required because the Borough contains the Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA (Special Protection Area) - the only internationally designated sites within the Council area.
- 1.1.5 This SA and HRA Adoption Statement explains how the SA and HRA processes have influenced and informed the development of the Core Strategy and demonstrates how responses to the SA and HRA have also been taken into account. This Statement has been produced in compliance with the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC *on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment*)².

¹ Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive') implemented through The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007

² The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Figure 1: the five stage approach to SA



1.2 Core Strategy and Policies for Management of Development Examination in Public

1.2.1 The DPD was submitted for examination on 30 April 2010 and the examination hearings held between 14 and 31 March 2011. The Inspector’s Report (December 2011) has concluded that the DPD has met all legal requirements concerning SA and HRA. However, it identifies that a limited number of changes are needed to meet other legal and statutory requirements. The main points are summarised as follows:

- changes to ensure that the plan period covers 15 years;
- changes to ensure that the approach to amending the proposals map complies with legal requirements and national policy;

- changes to ensure that policies for gypsy and traveller and travelling showpeople will deliver sites in accordance with the Regional Strategy requirements;
- changes to ensure that requirements for sustainable buildings and lifetime homes do not undermine delivery of new development and comply with national policy; and
- changes to ensure that the identification of priority locations for decentralised renewable and low-carbon energy generation comply with national policy.

1.2.2 Most of the changes recommended in the Inspector's Report are based on proposals put forward by the Council in response to points raised and suggestions discussed during the examination. The changes do not alter the thrust of the Council's overall strategy.

1.2.3 In addition to the Council's focused changes that have been subject to SA. The Inspector has made some additional changes to make the plan sound are set out in Appendix 1. For the purposes of the SA process, none of these changes are considered significant nor likely to have a significant effect on the overall findings of the SA.

1.3 Requirement for the SA Adoption Statement

1.3.1 Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires that, as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan for which an SA/SEA has been carried out, the planning authority must make a copy of the plan publicly available alongside a copy of the SA Report and an 'SA Adoption Statement'; and inform the public and consultation bodies about the availability of these documents. The consultation bodies are English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The SA Adoption Statement must explain:

- how sustainability/environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan;
- how the SA Report has been taken into account;
- how consultation opinions on the SA Report of the public, consultation bodies and where appropriate other European Member States have been taken into account;
- the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability/environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

1.4 This Statement

1.4.1 This SA and HRA Adoption Statement documents these points, following the structure set out above:

- Chapter 2 explains the links between the plan-making and SA processes, who carried out the SA, what assessment framework was used and discusses how the mitigation measures proposed at various stages of the SA process were implemented and incorporated into the plan;
- Chapter 3 summarises the consultation opinions on the plan and SA and describes what changes were made to the plan and SA processes in response to these comments;

- Chapter 4 describes the alternatives/options considered as part of the Core Strategy development process, and why the preferred options were chosen; and
 - Chapter 5 describes how the significant sustainability/environmental impacts of the DPD will be monitored.
- 1.4.2 Chapter 6 summarises the HRA process for the DPD.
- 1.4.3 Much of the information in this Statement is a summary of more SA and HRA detailed reports which were prepared as core documents for the Examination in Public of the DPD, and which are available in full from <http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/>.

2 How environmental / sustainability considerations including the SA Report have been integrated into the Thurrock Core Strategy

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Thurrock's Core Strategy has been formulated in parallel with the SA and HRA, which have contributed towards the reasoning behind the policies set out within it. This chapter sets out the SA story including commentary on how the Council has integrated the SA results at each stage of the plans' production to form the final adopted Core Strategy.

2.2 The SA story

2.2.1 URS Scott Wilson was commissioned by the Council in 2005 to undertake the SA and HRA of Thurrock's Core Strategy and Policies for Management of Development DPD. The first stage of the Council's SA was the production and publication of a Scoping Report prior to the development of the Issues and Options Core Strategy and Site Specific Allocations DPDs Consultation Documents. The Scoping Report for Thurrock set the scene for future work by:

- Identifying relevant plan, programmes and sustainability objectives;
- Presenting baseline information;
- Identifying sustainability issues; and
- Developing the SA Framework.

2.2.2 The 2005 Scoping Report (adopted November 2005) was made available for consultation in September-October 2005 with key stakeholders invited to a workshop. The Scoping Report was also available on the Council's website at the time of consultation.

2.2.3 The SA Framework that was developed to undertake the assessment is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Thurrock SA Framework

SA Objective	SA Sub-objective
1. To attain sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth.	1.1 Generate diverse new jobs for the region?
	1.2 Support and encourage the growth of small and medium size business?
	1.3 Ensure everyone can afford a good standard of living?
	1.4 Reduce vulnerability to climate change and exploit any benefits?
2. To increase economic diversity and increase the proportion of skills represented.	2.1 Encourage innovation?
	2.2 Provide a satisfying job or occupation for everyone who wants one?
	2.3 Encourage the provision of more locally based skills and facilities?
3. To encourage investment and to ensure that current and future residents	3.1 Encourage inwards investment?
	3.2 Diversity the economy, increase resilience to external

SA Objective	SA Sub-objective
want to live and work within the borough.	shocks?
	3.3 Increase manufacturing?
	3.4 Encourage new business startups?
4. To deliver sustainable patterns of location of development including employment and housing.	4.1 Minimise risk of flooding taking account of climate change?
	4.2 Minimise the development of Greenfield land?
	4.3 Improve management of the impacts of access and recreation?
	4.4 Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places?
	4.5 Encourage more shops, better services in town centres?
	4.6 Encourage more people to live in town centres?
	4.7 Improve access to green space?
	4.8 Improve the quality and quantity of publicly accessible greenspace?
	4.9 Encourage a feeling of community spirit?
	4.10 Enhance historic character, streetscape and townscape to strengthen sense of place?
	4.11 Encourage alternative uses to the car?
5. To make the best use of land in the borough, including reuse of previously developed land.	5.1 Development land with least environmental / amenity value?
	5.2 Reduce vacant buildings and derelict land?
	5.3 Create attractive environments in built up areas?
	5.4 Create high quality design?
6. To protect and enhance Thurrock's biodiversity and geodiversity, including all designated sites.	6.1 Protect brownfield biodiversity?
	6.2 Maintain and enhance BAP Habitats and species in line with Borough and National targets?
	6.3 Protect and enhance habitats and wildlife taking account of climate change?
	6.4 Restore the full range of characteristic habitats and species to viable levels?
	6.5 Protect and enhance important coastal assets?
	6.6 Protect the borough's mineral resources?
	6.7 Conserve and enhance significant geological sites?
7. To protect and enhance the environment through reducing the emissions of pollutants.	7.1 Reduce any sources of pollution particularly from HGVs?
	7.2 Improve the water quality of rivers and groundwater supplies?
	7.3 Maintain 'good' water quality whilst accommodating new development discharge?
	7.4 Achieve good air quality, especially in urban areas?
	7.5 Reduce noise?

SA Objective	SA Sub-objective
8. Protect and enhance landscape character, local distinctiveness and historic built heritage.	8.1 Recognise and protect historic landscape character?
	8.2 Maintain / enhance built and historic character?
	8.3 Protect designated and undesignated historic sites and areas of significance?
	8.4 Conserve and enhance regional diversity and local distinctiveness?
9. Ensure that water consumption and water sources can accommodate future development.	9.1 Limit water consumption to levels that continue to support wetland habitat and rivers?
	9.2 Ensure settlements can absorb growth without damage to character?
10. To reduce consumption of non-renewable energy sources and to use the available natural resources in the most efficient and sustainable manner.	10.1 Minimise need for energy?
	10.2 Increase energy efficiency?
	10.3 Increase renewable share of energy?
	10.4 Reduce need for car and road based freight transport?
	10.5 Minimise the demand for raw materials?
	10.6 Reduce water use, maintain water security despite climate change?
	10.7 Limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems, taking into account the impact of climate change?
	10.8 Maintain water environment whilst meeting demand from development?
	10.9 Encourage farming practices sensitive to the character of the countryside; maintain soil quality?
	10.10 Reduce minerals and resources extracted and imported?
	10.11 Use materials from sustainable sources?
	10.12 Encourage local production to be consumed in the borough?
	10.13 Increase farmers markets and local trading schemes?
11. To achieve a more equitable sharing of the benefits of prosperity across all sectors of society.	11.1 Reduce disparities in income levels?
	11.2 Access to services and facilities for all?
	11.3 Create opportunities for unemployed, esp long-term disabled?
	11.4 Help low income groups / esp children in low income families?
	11.5 Improve ethnic / cultural mutual understanding?
	11.6 Encourage development of social enterprises?
12. Ensure fairer access to services, focusing on the most deprived areas.	12.1 Provide more equal access to opportunities?
	12.2 Contribute to local regeneration, help deprived areas?
	12.3 Increase access to leisure facilities (inc woodland, parks)?
	12.4 Improve the quality & quantity of publicly accessible

SA Objective	SA Sub-objective
	greenspace?
	12.5 Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places?
	12.6 Retain village services?
	12.7 Encourage entrepreneurial activity in disadvantaged areas?
	12.8 Encourage community involvement in service design and provision?
13. To provide housing to all those in the borough in need.	13.1 Increase access to decent and affordable housing?
14. To reduce crime and the fear of crime.	14.1 Reduce crime rates?
15. To reduce inequalities in health and ensure all current and future residents have access to health facilities.	15.1 Promote healthy lifestyles?
	15.2 Reduce health inequalities?
16. To reduce the amount of waste produced and the amount of waste being imported.	16.1 Reduce waste generated, reuse / recycle / use recycled?
	16.2 Minimise the production of waste?
	16.3 Reduce the amount of waste imported?

- 2.2.4 The Council first developed options for the Core Strategy for public consultation in July 2006. At that point, an Interim SA Report was published to accompany the Core Strategy Issues and Options document at formal consultation. This document helped to assess the options to be taken forwards to the next stage of the Core Strategy. The Interim SA Report covered both the Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Issues and Options documents.
- 2.2.5 The Council then developed a “Preferred Options” document that underwent public consultation between December 2007 and February 2008. SA and HRA reports were published for consultation at the same time. The SA Report published for consultation was prepared for both the Core Strategy and Site Allocations DPDs that were published and consulted on in parallel. Both Preferred Options documents also included a summary of the previous SA stage.
- 2.2.6 In July – August 2009, URS Scott Wilson was presented with an early draft of the DPD Proposed Submission Core Strategy for the benefit of undertaking an early appraisal to assist the Council in preparing the finalised draft of the Core Strategy. URS Scott Wilson also prepared an informal high level appraisal and ‘SA Commentary’ (Bridging Report). The Bridging Report considered the sustainability implications of the emerging Strategic policies, Thematic policies and Policies for Management of Development. Two appraisal workshops were also undertaken with the Council in order to discuss the findings of the informal appraisal. The SA Bridging Report was not made public but was an internal document to assist the Council.
- 2.2.7 Following these exercises, the Council prepared its Proposed Submission Core Strategy. URS Scott Wilson undertook an integrated SA of the Core Strategy and its policies which was reported and published for consultation at the same time as the Core Strategy on 26 February 2010 to 9 April 2010.

- 2.2.8 Following consultation on the Proposed Submission Core Strategy DPD, the Council made amendments to some of its policies mainly derived from responses received. The changes were included in the Post Submission Schedule of Focused changes to the Core Strategy and Policies for Management of Development DPD. The schedule included a number of minor changes and was submitted to the Inspector for consideration and possible inclusion in the Inspector's Report. URS Scott Wilson reviewed the changes from a sustainability point of view in September 2010. An 'SA Supplement – Pre-examination Changes' report was published for consultation at the same time as the Schedule.
- 2.2.9 The Public Examination Hearings into the Core Strategy began on 14 March 2011. During the Hearing process, the Inspector advised that a further Focused Changes consultation on the following needed to be conducted:
- A revision to the proposed Green Belt boundary in the vicinity of the DP World development site (former Shell Haven refinery site) in the east of the Borough.
 - The identification of a small number of Broad Locations within the Thurrock Green Belt and minor text changes to various policies to confirm how specific policy zones boundaries or sites will be identified on the Proposals Map in due course.
- 2.2.10 The first bullet point, Proposed Single Focused Change to Policy CSSP4 - Green Belt, Key Diagram and the Indicative Proposals Map was assessed to determine its sustainability implications for the Core Strategy. The SA results were documented in an SA Addendum. It was determined that the other second change (the second bullet point) did not require SA.
- 2.2.11 Proposed Further Focused Changes to policies CSTP3 (Gypsies and Travellers) and CSTP4 (Travelling Showpeople) were subject to public consultation in August - September 2011. Both proposed further focused changes were assessed to determine their sustainability implications, with findings published in an SA Report Addendum to the Proposed Further Focused Changes document. An update to the SA Report was also made available during the public consultation to ensure regulatory compliance with the Environmental Assessments of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 2.2.12 All reports referred to are available on the Councils website at: www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic.

2.3 How the SA has informed the plan at each stage and how the Council has taken this into account

- 2.3.1 This section sets out how each stage of the SA and HRA, have been integrated and used to help shape the final policies set out within the Core Strategy. This section has been written by the Council. More detail can also be found within an 'Audit Trail Report', which is available on the Council's website.
- 2.3.2 The preparation of the Thurrock Core Strategy was preceded by a series of draft stages where the Council considered a number of approaches to achieving the vision and objectives of the DPD. These are referred to in the strategic spatial options as well as different thematic and development management policies.
- 2.3.3 The various policy approaches underwent SA at the Issues and Options (2006), Preferred Options (2007), the informal SA / HRA Bridging Report (2009), at the Proposed Submission (2010) and Focused Changes and Further Focused Changes stages (2010 and 2011). At each

of these stages, the findings of the SA informed the development of Thurrock’s policies and the final wording and content of policies. The stages are summarised below.

Issues and Options (2006)

- 2.3.4 Four scenarios or options (shown in the following table) were considered for delivering future growth in Thurrock plus a ‘business-as-usual’ option defined as the continuation of the baseline situation. The scenarios included different distributions of dwellings in Green Belt areas, urban areas, existing allocations, etc. Table 2 illustrates the performance of the possible Strategic Spatial Options. The figures outlined represent the overall performance of the Spatial Option against all the SEA Objectives (where the assessment outlined a combination of scores these were double counted for the purposes of summary).

Table 2: Illustration of the Strategic Options Interim SA results

Option	Summary of the Options Scores						
	+++	++	+	0	-	--	---
Business as usual	1	6	5	2	3	4	0
Option 1	5	5	3	0	3	4	0
Option 2	5	5	3	0	3	4	0
Option 3	1	7	5	0	3	4	1
Option 4	1	6	6	0	2	5	1

- 2.3.5 Option 1 would result in the concentration of growth within the urban areas throughout Thurrock; similarly Option 2 sought to ensure that development was concentrated within the existing urban areas, as well as the facilitation of urban fringe release at Grays. The SA assessment scores highlighted that overall there is no variation in terms of the degree of positive or negative scores for these options. Furthermore, both options 1 and 2 had the same number of highly positive (+++) scores.
- 2.3.6 With regard to the remaining options 3 and 4, in overall positive terms, there was no variation in these. However, if the degree of positive score is taken into consideration, disparity was evident. Both options 3 and 4 would result in a lesser degree of positive scores, and also a greater amount of highly negative scores.
- 2.3.7 The Interim SA therefore demonstrated that the Preferred Spatial Option for Thurrock, which would be taken forwards to the Preferred Options Core Strategy Document, should be either Option 1, 2 or a combination of both, as these options displayed a higher degree of positive scores and a lesser volume of negative scores. Options 1 and 2 were considered the more socially, economically and environmentally acceptable spatial approaches for the future of Thurrock.
- 2.3.8 The overall conclusion from the SA assessment also concludes that the overall plan performed well in regards to sustainability.

Production of the Preferred Options Core Strategy

- 2.3.9 Following the outcome of the Interim SA carried out at the Issues and Options stage which indicated that Option 1 and 2 were inherently more sustainable, the Council concluded that Option 1 would not preclude Green Belt release in its entirety as there will be particular cases

where ‘very special circumstances’ prevail to warrant Green Belt land release and as such the Council’s preferred option was based broadly on Option 2 with an additional local scale of Green Belt land release for housing.

Preferred Options (2007)

- 2.3.10 During this stage reasonable alternative spatial options were set out in chapter 6 of the DPD and public comment was invited. It was however judged that Option 2 was the Preferred Spatial Option. No reasonable alternative Spatial Policies were identified in Chapter 4 however, alternatives were identified for the majority of thematic and development control policies so each policy, including any applicable alternative, was appraised individually.
- 2.3.11 A number of points were raised throughout the assessment with regards the significant adverse effect a large amount of employment, housing and infrastructure would have. In summary, they included the following:
- Flooding: There is a significant issue of flood risk that faces new employment development in the Borough. Areas of Tilbury, Purfleet and Grays are in flood zones, which will need to be fully taken into consideration in taking forward sites in these areas.
 - Air Quality and Noise: The planned growth poses significant issues for air quality and noise across the Borough. Emissions to air and noise are generated directly from construction activities and also indirectly from associated traffic during both the construction and operation phases.
 - Biodiversity: The scale of development, concentrating growth in urban areas and prioritising brownfield development, will increase pressure on areas with brownfield biodiversity.
 - Water: The substantial increase in the provision of housing and employment land is likely to impact on water availability both in Thurrock and in the wider region and potentially on water-based habitats.
- 2.3.12 The SA concluded that many of the adverse effects identified should be mitigated for internally, within the Core Strategy. This means that the Core Strategy policies proposed would go some way to mitigate such pressures identified in the SA.
- 2.3.13 The SA also suggested the rephrase or the insertion of wordings to tighten the policy or to provide clarity. The SA also suggested the inclusion of policies to address issues such as regeneration, local goods and farmers’ markets.
- 2.3.14 The full report can be found on the Council’s website at www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic.

Production of the Draft Proposed Submission Core Strategy

- 2.3.15 The Council went through every comment made in the SA document and integrated them, where it was deemed appropriate, into the draft Proposed Submission policies. These include strengthening policies or conducting additional technical studies such as the Water Cycle Study which analysed the capacity of the water supply, wastewater infrastructure and water environment in the Borough.
- 2.3.16 There were some suggestions made which were not taken onboard. This included the suggestion to increase wheelchair accessible housing from the Councils 3% to 10%. The Council re-examined the evidence and 3% remains as the most viable option.

- 2.3.17 Following the comments, the Council also introduced new policies to the Proposed Submission Core Strategy. They include 'Neighbourhood Renewal' which identifies priority areas in the Borough which will form as a catalyst for regeneration; and 'Productive land' which will ensure the appropriate management of food production in the Borough.

SA Bridging Report (2009)

- 2.3.18 The Council began drafting the policies for the Proposed Submission Core Strategy, taking on board SA comments that were made on the Preferred Options document. The Council were in continuous discussion with URS Scott Wilson who were carrying out the SA, through internal meetings and telephone conversations. URS Scott Wilson were also provided with draft copies of the emerging Proposed Submission Policies and carried out a Preliminary Assessment of them in June 2009.
- 2.3.19 This stage of the appraisal did not constitute a formal SA stage but the Council considered it to be a useful part of their policy development. The appraisal of the draft Proposed Submission DPD policies included, as appropriate, comments on certain policies and background text to improve their performance against Sustainability Objectives.
- 2.3.20 URS Scott Wilson assessed the Core Strategic Spatial Policies (CSSPs), the Core Strategic Thematic Policies (CSTPs) and the Policies for the Management of Development (PMDs) individually. Comments made at this preliminary stage were very specific and detailed to each policy. This included suggested wordings change. There were no generic comments which re-occurred throughout. Also some suggestions were not within the remit of the Core Strategy and were not therefore adopted.

Preparation of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy

- 2.3.21 The Council went through each SA comment and integrated them into the relevant policy of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy where the Council deemed appropriate. This included amendments to policy wordings derived from comments made. The Council also reduced the size of some of its policies following comments made in the SA. The titles, supporting texts and policy texts were changed and/or reworded to reflect the broader scope suggested in the SA report. The Audit Trail Report (available on the Council's website) provides details of the suggested wording changes the Council took onboard at that stage.

Proposed Submission (2010)

- 2.3.22 The SA highlighted that the key sustainability impacts including flood risk, biodiversity, energy and resource consumption and the production of waste of the DPD will arise from the high levels of growth that regional policy has set for Thurrock and that the Council will need to deliver. These levels of growth will however also result in positive impacts in relation to improving the local economy, creating jobs and providing housing and services to existing and future residents. If the development is accompanied by all of the improvements set out in the DPD including infrastructure, services, community, education and health facilities, open spaces, transport, etc. then as a whole, the plan represents a fairly sustainable way of delivering the required growth.
- 2.3.23 The appraisal has shown that the majority of Thematic Policies are likely to lead to positive impacts on sustainable development. In particular, the environment, climate change, water and coastal thematic policies will provide much of the mitigation that is necessary to reduce the impacts of development on the Borough's natural and built environment.

2.3.24 The main recommendation related to the monitoring of crime and the fear of crime in the Borough.

Preparation of the Submission Core Strategy (2010)

2.3.25 The outcome of the SA did not trigger any major changes to the Core Strategy. The issue of monitoring was addressed in the Annual Monitoring Report.

SA Supplement – Proposed Focused Changes (Pre-examination November 2010)

2.3.26 Following the Representations on the Submission Core Strategy, the Council identified some necessary changes to the Core Strategy. These changes were included in the 'Schedule of Proposed Focused Changes to the Submission Core Strategy and Policies for Management of Development DPD'.

2.3.27 The SA identified that majority of the proposed changes had no overall effect on the Core Strategy and in some cases would improve the sustainability of the policies involved. Although minor changes were made to a number of policies, there were however three Core Strategy policies that had undergone changes that could have affected the results of previous SAs:

- PMD5: Open Spaces, Outdoor Sports and Recreational Facilities;
- PMD7: Biodiversity and Development; and
- PMD8: Parking Standards.

2.3.28 The assessment of these policies concluded that the overall sustainability of the policies can be considered to have been enhanced by the changes proposed by the Council.

2.3.29 No amendment was made to the Schedule following the SA.

SA Addendum – Proposed Single Focused Change to Policy CSSP4 - Green Belt, Key Diagram and the Indicative Proposals Map (Post-examination March 2011)

2.3.30 An SA was undertaken for the following Proposed Single Focused Change to Policy CSSP4:

- a revision to the proposed Green Belt boundary in the vicinity of the DP World development site (former Shell Haven refinery site) in the east of the Borough.

2.3.31 The SA identified that proposed change had no overall significant impacts.

2.3.32 No amendment was made to the Schedule following the SA.

SA Addendum – Proposed Further Focused Changes (Post-examination August 2011)

2.3.33 An assessment was undertaken of the policies subject to Proposed Further Focused Changes:

- CSTP 3: Gypsies and Travellers; and
- CSTP 4: Travelling Showpeople.

2.3.34 The assessments of the 'Proposed Further Focused Changes' were broadly positive, although a small number of sustainability 'trade-offs' were identified. The SA made one recommendation for due consideration by the Council. The SA results were documented in an SA Addendum to the Proposed Further Focused Changes document.

2.3.35 No further amendments were made following the SA.

SA Report Update (Published July 2011)

2.3.36 An update to the SA Report was undertaken to provide clarification on:

- how the SA process has been taken into account throughout the plan development process and how it influenced plan content;
- the spatial alternatives considered as part of the plan development process; and
- the impacts of three key Policies.

2.3.37 The first two points related to clarification and did not involve undertaking SA.

2.3.38 The identified impacts of three key Policies – CSSP1, CSSP2 and CSSP4 are included in sections 4.1.7, 4.1.11 and 4.1.13 of this Statement. They were determined to have no overall significant impacts.

2.3.39 No amendment was made to the Schedule following the SA.

2.3.40 The SA Report also addressed the changes in the Proposed Further Focused Changes (CSTP 3: Gypsies and Travellers and CSTP 4: Travelling Showpeople) as above.

3 How the opinion of statutory bodies and the public have been taken into account in preparation of the plan and SA

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The SEA Directive requires responses to consultation to be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to a legislative procedure.

3.1.2 Throughout the plan development and SA process there have been many opportunities for public and stakeholder consultation and comment. These comments have been considered in detail, taken up in further discussions with relevant respondents where necessary; and where appropriate have assisted in the refinement of the plan and the scoping and appraisal process for the SA and used to inform the Core Strategy's policies and proposals.

3.2 SA Scoping Report 2005

3.2.1 The 2005 Scoping report (adopted November 2005) was made available for consultation in September-October 2005 with key stakeholders invited to a workshop held on 6 October 2005. The Scoping Report was also available on the Council's website at the time of consultation.

3.2.2 Please refer to the Scoping Report available from the Council's web site http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/sc_report_adopted.pdf. In particular:

- Appendix VI which provides an outline of the consultation responses received on the Scoping Report and amendments that were made in finalising the Scoping Report; and
- Appendix VII that provides a list of stakeholders consulted on the Scoping Report.

3.3 Issues and Options and Interim SA Report (2006)

3.3.1 Several responses were received on the Interim SA Report. Environment Agency and Natural England (formerly English Nature) were the only statutory consultees to respond. Other responses were received from organisations such as EEDA, Essex County Council, Essex Wildlife Trust, RSPB and Showmen's Guild of Great Britain. Comments received were generally positive; with a range of information provided then used to inform the scope of subsequent SA (e.g. factual baseline information, messages from higher tier policies and key issues). A clear message received was that the scope of subsequent SA should have a greater focus on socio-economic and heritage issues.

3.3.2 Consultation responses that were received on the Issues and Options and how they were considered in the development of the Core Strategy by the Council are available from http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/corestrat_issues_options_comments.pdf.

3.4 Preferred Options and SA Report (2007)

3.4.1 Natural England was the only statutory consultee to respond to the SA Report. They provided comments that in their opinion the options were assessed fully and thoroughly and they also agreed with the suggested mitigation measures for impacts identified for biodiversity, landscape and natural resources. Several other responses were received from organisations such as Essex County Council, The Green Belt Council, Essex Wildlife Trust and individuals. Substantive comments received focused on:

- highlighting key issues and new evidence to be used to inform the scope of subsequent SA i.e. results of the Water Cycle Study and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
- identifying that some areas were not effectively mitigated; and
- acknowledging for many the SA Report was too difficult to read and complicated to understand.

3.4.2 It was noted that mitigation measures would be reviewed in subsequent SA. Also that the SA Report is highly technical, but the Non Technical Summary that accompanied the SA Report should provide the key information and was aimed at being accessible to all consultees in terms of technicality and language.

3.4.3 Consultation responses that were received on the Preferred Options and how they were considered in the development of the Core Strategy by the Council are available from http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/core_strategy_recommendations_201002.pdf

3.5 Proposed Submission and SA Report (February 2010)

3.5.1 Natural England was the only statutory consultee to respond to the SA Report at this stage. They reiterated that in their opinion the options were assessed fully and thoroughly and they also agreed with the suggested mitigation measures for impacts identified for biodiversity, landscape and natural resources. No further responses were received on this report.

3.5.2 Consultation responses that were received on the Preferred Options and how they were considered in the development of the Core Strategy by the Council are available from http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/core_strategy_pfc_schedule_201011.pdf

3.6 Proposed Focused Changes and SA Supplement (Pre-examination November 2010)

3.6.1 No representations were received on the SA Supplement.

3.6.2 Following submission of the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State and Planning Inspectorate in April 2010, any consultation undertaken at this stage by the Council was directed by the Inspector. Responses that were received at this stage were submitted in a Schedule of Proposed Focused Changes document to the Secretary of State. These were considered alongside the submitted Core Strategy and the representations on the Proposed Submission Core Strategy at the Examination In Public.

3.7 Proposed Single Focused Change to Policy CSSP4 and SA Addendum (Post-examination March 2011)

- 3.7.1 Natural England was the only consultee to respond to the SA Addendum acknowledging that they accepted the findings of the SA of Proposed Single Focused Change.
- 3.7.2 Following submission of the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State and Planning Inspectorate in April 2010, any consultation undertaken at this stage by the Council was directed by the Inspector. Representations received on the Proposed Single Focused Change were considered alongside the submitted Core Strategy and the representations on the Proposed Submission Core Strategy at the Examination In Public.

3.8 Proposed Further Focused Changes and SA Addendum & SA Report Update (Post-examination July-August 2011)

- 3.8.1 Twenty six representations were received on the Proposed Further Focused Changes and the SA. Twelve respondents commented on the policies and four commented on the SA.
- 3.8.2 Comments received on the SA focused on:
- the need for further post-submission consultation on the SA Report and its compliance;
 - transparency and explanation in the report on how sites were identified, selected and preferred over other sites (including North East Grays) and possibly compatible with the strategic approach to growth; and
 - why a spatial option for housing and employment growth focused east of the Borough was not considered.
- 3.8.3 The Council prepared a Statement of Representations (Proposed Further Focused Changes to the Submission Core Strategy on Policies CSTP3 and CSTP4 and Further Additions and Updates to the SA 'Environmental Report') that considered all responses that were received. This was sent to the Inspector for consideration in preparing her binding report.
- 3.8.4 A copy of the Inspectors Report is available from the Council's website.

4 The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The preparation of the Core Strategy has been preceded by a series of draft stages where the Council has considered a number of reasonable alternative approaches to achieving the vision and objectives of the DPD. These alternatives refer to both strategic spatial options as well as different thematic and development management policy options.

4.1.2 Alternatives were appraised at the Issues and Options (2006), Preferred Options (2007) and between Post Preferred Options and Pre-submission (2008-2010) stages. At each of these stages, the findings of the SA and consultation responses informed the development of, the final wording and content of Thurrock's policies (also see previous Chapters 2 and 3).

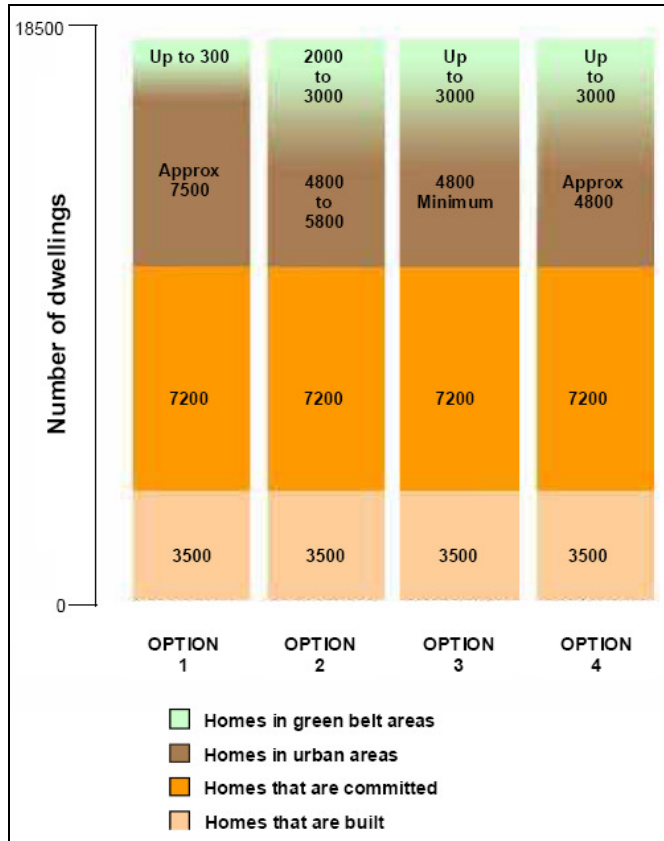
4.1.3 The stages at which spatial alternatives were considered and a summary of results are set out below.

Issues and Options (2006)

4.1.4 Four scenarios or options (shown in Figure 2) were considered for delivering future growth in Thurrock plus a 'business-as-usual' option defined as the continuation of the baseline situation. The scenarios included different distributions of dwellings in green belt areas, urban areas, existing allocations, etc. A summary of the four options are:

- Option 1: Growth concentrated within the urban areas;
- Option 2: Grays urban fringe land release – most growth within urban areas;
- Option 3: Expanded smaller settlement; [A] Ockendon or [B] East Tilbury or [C] Corringham & Stanford-Le- Hope or [D] (land to south of West Horndon Rail station); and
- Option 4: Highly dispersed green belt option.

Figure 2: Growth options



4.1.5 These options underwent SA and a combination of Options 1 and Options 2 was recommended. Option 2 was identified by the Council as the preferred growth delivery scenario. Please see Table 3 for the appraisal results, SA recommendation and Council’s decision and rationale for their choice of growth option.

Table 3: Growth options

Summary of option		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5 (business-as-usual)
Summary of SA findings	SA objective	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score
	1) Economic growth	(++)	(++)	(+)	(+)	(+)
	2) Economic diversity	++	++	++	++	+
	3) Investment	++	++	++	++	++
	4) Sustainable locations	+++/-	+++/-	++/-	++/-	++/-
	5) Land use	+++/-	+++/-	++/-	++/-	+++/-
	6) Biodiversity	++/-	++/-	++/-	++/-	+/-
	7) Emissions & pollutants	-	-	--	--	-
	8) Cultural heritage	++	++	+/-	+/-	++
	9) Water consumption	--	--	---	---	--
	10) Natural resources	+	+	+	+	+
	11) Equality	+++	+++	++	++	++/?
	12) Access to services	+++(-)	+++(-)	++(-)	++(-)	++(-)
	13) Housing	+++	+++	+++	+++	++
	14) Crime	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	0
	15) Health	+	+	+	+	+
16) Waste	-	-	--	--	-/0	
SA Recommendation	<p>Acknowledging the drivers behind the scale of the regeneration of Thurrock, it is important to ensure that the growth option chosen as a vehicle to deliver this growth is the most appropriate. Furthermore it is important to identify areas where, through mitigation an Option may be made more sustainable. With this in mind, in order to address the deprivation of the urban areas, utilising existing infrastructure and following the Governments guidance would seem an appropriate way forward, which would imply Option 1 as a sustainable option. However, the release of small pockets of greenbelt - in order to address pockets of deprivation, cope with Flood risk and possibly offer alternative sites should brownfield biodiversity prevent the site form being usable - should also be an option. Therefore, an option balanced between Option 1 and Option 2 is favoured.</p>					

<p>Choice of option and rationale for choice</p>	<p>the Spatial Options ranged from an almost 100% PDL housing Option 1 focusing on the Thurrock urban Area (TUA), Option 2 focused on the TUA with some very limited Green Belt release, through to a more dispersed Options 3 & 4 that still retained the majority of housing allocations in the TUA but did allow for the possibility of up to a maximum of 3000 dwellings in the Green Belt out of a total of 18500. Through analysis of Representations received, Options 3 & 4 were soundly rejected by the EERA, Essex CC, Go-East, the Thurrock public, government agencies, utility providers and many developers who had interests in the west of the Borough. Options 3 & 4 were only supported by those developers who had unsuccessfully argued for the Eastern Growth Pole concept at the EEP Panel Inquiry.</p> <p>Thurrock's evidence base such as the Urban Capacity Study and Employment Land review demonstrated that Thurrock can accommodate the great majority of planned housing, employment and associated development on brownfield sites with certain development parameters. It was also determined that some Greenfield land may be needed depending on various factors including the average densities achieved on Brownfield sites</p> <p>The SA Report also concluded that Options 1 & 2 or a combination of both were the more sustainable choices., as these options displayed a higher degree of positive scores and a lesser volume of negative scores. Options 1 and 2 were the more socially, economically and environmentally acceptable spatial approaches for the future of Thurrock.</p> <p>Following the outcome of the SA carried out and the Councils evidence the council concluded that Option 1 would not preclude Green Belt release in its entirety as there will be particular cases where 'very special circumstances' prevail to warrant Green Belt land release and as such the councils preferred option was based broadly on option 2 with an additional local scale of Green Belt land release for housing.</p>
<p>Link to relevant document(s)</p>	<p>Core Strategy and Policies for Control of Development - Development Plan Document (DPD) "Issues and Options" consultation http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/consult_corestrat_200607.pdf Interim SA Report http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/isa_200607_report.pdf</p>

Options appraisal scoring symbols:

Symbol	Likely effect against the SA objective
+++	Strong and significant beneficial impact
++	Potentially significant beneficial impact
+	Policy supports this objective although it may have only a minor beneficial impact
0	1. Policy has no impact 2. Effect is neutral insofar as the benefits and drawbacks appear equal and neither is considered significant
?	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine base the assessment at this stage
-	Policy appears to conflict with the objective and may result in adverse impacts
--	Potentially significant adverse impact
---	Strong and significant adverse impact
()	Note that where brackets occur around scores, the sustainability outcome is unknown or dependant on the implantation of Policy as a 'lower' level of the planning hierarchy.

Preferred Options (2007)

- 4.1.6 During this stage reasonable alternative spatial options were set out in Chapter 6 of the Preferred Options DPD and public comment invited. Although the housing numbers on Green Belt sites release in Options 3/4 were reduced compared to the earlier Issues and Options stage it was judged that Option 2 was the preferred growth delivery scenario. As such it was considered that it would not add value to the appraisal process to reassess Options 1, and 3/4 (as amended) since the substance of these had already been appraised. No reasonable alternatives to the proposed Spatial Policies were identified; however, alternatives were identified for the majority of thematic policies and policies for the management of development. Please see Appendix 2 for a summary of the appraisal results, SA recommendations and the Council's decision and rationale for their choice of option for those preferred options that included a spatial element.

Post Preferred Options to Pre-submission (2008-2010)

- 4.1.7 The following spatial approaches to growth were considered between Post Preferred Options and Pre-submission stages prior to the submission of the Core Strategy. These were published for further clarification in the update to SA Report in 2011.

Broad locations as part of Spatial Policy CSSP1 – Sustainable Housing Locations

- 4.1.8 Spatial approaches to growth were promoted in CSSP1 – Sustainable Housing Locations. Appendix 3 provides the appraisal results and the Council's justification for selecting each of these broad locations:

- Alternative broad locations for growth promoted within the Policy;
- Corringham/Stanford-le-Hope element of Policy CSSP1; and
- North east Grays element of Policy CSSP1.

Alternative broad locations for growth

- 4.1.9 The SA highlighted that the approach of focusing growth in the Borough's urban area performs well, from a sustainability perspective, as does the approach of delivering growth through an urban extension to North East Grays and at 'outlying settlements south of the A13'. The approach of delivering growth at 'outlying settlements south of the A13' and through an urban extension to Stanford-le-Hope/Corringham performs well in terms of most sustainability objectives, but could also lead to some conflicts. Delivering growth at small Green Belt sites / villages in the Green Belt performs less well from a sustainability perspective.

Corringham/Stanford-le-Hope element of Policy CSSP1

- 4.1.10 The SA focused specifically on the proposed approach for expansion at Stanford-le-Hope/Corringham, and the alternative approach for this location. Included at the bottom of this table is text, provided by the Council, which explains their reasons for selecting the preferred approach and rejecting the alternative approach. The appraisal highlights that the Proposed Submission Stage approach has a marginally more favourable outcome in terms of SA/SEA, particularly in relation to sustainable land use.

North East Grays element of Policy CSSP1

- 4.1.11 The SA focused on the proposed approach for expansion at North East Grays, as well as the alternative approach for this location. The appraisal highlighted that the Proposed Submission Stage approach has a more favourable SA/SEA outcome in relation to sustainable land use, biodiversity and cultural heritage objectives.

Broad locations for employment growth as part of Policy CSSP2

- 4.1.12 Spatial approaches to employment growth were promoted in CSSP2 – Sustainable Employment Growth. Appendix 3 provides the appraisal results and the Council's justification for selecting the preferred spatial approach to employment growth.
- 4.1.13 The SA suggested that most locations for employment growth are likely to be broadly beneficial in terms of sustainability objectives, but that some question marks exist in relation to Tilbury, London Gateway and 'other sites in the Borough'.

Broad locations for Green Belt realignment as part of Policy CSSP4

- 4.1.14 Spatial approaches to green belt alignment were promoted in CSSP4 – Sustainable Green Belt. Appendix 3 provides the appraisal results and the Council's justification for selecting the preferred spatial approach to green belt realignment.
- 4.1.15 The key point raised by the SA is that Green Belt loss at Tilbury Marsh has the potential to conflict with sustainability objectives, due to the loss of greenfield land.

Pre-submission onwards

- 4.1.16 There were no reasonable spatial alternative options included in the Core Strategy from pre-submission onwards. However, the wording for policies for housing and employment provide flexibility by setting out the process for bringing sites and broad locations forward either by the Site Allocations DPD or from the review of the Core Strategy.

5 Measures to be undertaken to monitor the significant sustainability effects of the implementation of the Core Strategy

- 5.1.1 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 require local authorities to “monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action.”
- 5.1.2 Table 4 sets out the SA recommendations for monitoring of the likely significant impacts (both positive and negative) of the Core Strategy on sustainability. The recommended indicators for monitoring are mostly drawn from the Core Strategy’s monitoring framework and are set out by the key sustainability themes included in the SA report.

Table 4: Recommendations for monitoring of significant impacts

SA Theme	Recommendations for monitoring
Economy and employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment rate within Thurrock • Average earnings of employees in Thurrock • Total amount of additional employment Floor space – by type • Employment land available – by type • Total amount of floorspace for ‘town centre uses’ • Number of VAT registrations for business
Sustainable Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total amount of employment floorspace on Previously Developed Land (PDL) – by type • New and converted dwellings – on PDL • PDL that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years
Flood Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding and water quality • <i>Number of properties at risk of flooding from all sources</i>
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in areas of biodiversity importance • Improving local biodiversity – active management of local sites • Number of residents involved in the management of open space • Number of parks achieving green flag status
Air Quality and Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Levels of air pollutants (PM2.5, PM10 and NOx)</i> • <i>Congestion</i> • % Mode Travel to work • <i>Number of green travel plans</i> • <i>Number and nature of noise complaints</i>
Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in culture – use of public libraries • Number of tickets sold for arts and heritage events • Number of residents involved in the management of open space • Number of parks achieving green flag status • <i>Number of planning applications refused on landscape grounds</i>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Availability of water resources within Thurrock</i> • <i>Water quality in line with the Water Framework Directive requirements</i>

SA Theme	Recommendations for monitoring
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of new developments achieving BREEAM very good or excellent or Code for Sustainable Homes Levels 3 to 6 Renewable energy generation Adapting to climate change Reduction in CO² emissions by sector (domestic, transport, industry)
Population and Social Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating <i>Number of working age people claiming benefits</i> Deprivation levels in Thurrock
Access to Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to primary care – ability to book at GP appointment Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling Number of primary school children travelling to school by car Working age people with access to employment by public transport, walking and cycling
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net additional pitches (Gypsy and Traveller) Gross affordable home completions Housing quality – Building for life assessments New developments achieving BREEAM very good or excellent or Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 to 6 <i>Numbers of households on the Council's waiting list</i>
Crime and the Fear of Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Number of reported crime incidents</i> Percentage of residents who feels safe during the day and night
Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents Access to primary care – ability to book at GP appointment Adult participation in sport (including light exercise) All age all cause mortality rates (females / males) Inequalities gap between most/least advantaged quintiles (female and male) Maintaining or improving mortality rates in least disadvantaged quintiles (females and males)
Soil and Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity of new waste management facilities by waste planning authority Amount of municipal waste arising and managed by management types by waste planning authority Residual household waste recycled and composted Reduction of municipal waste landfilled

5.1.3 The above indicators are identified in Tables 16 and 17 of the Core Strategy. The indicators in Table 4 above in italics have not been identified in the Core Strategy for future monitoring. We would encourage the Council to consider including these indicators in creating a robust monitoring regime.

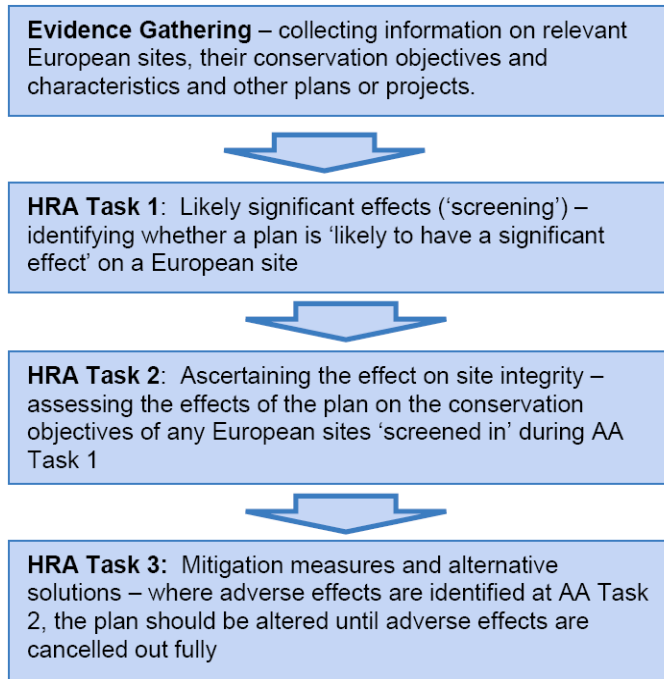
5.1.4 The Council will report the monitoring results in the AMR that will be made available on the Council's web site.

6 Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 6.1.1 The need for Appropriate Assessment (AA) is set out within Article 6 of the EC Habitats Directive 1992, and interpreted into British law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Under these Regulations, land use plans must be subject to AA if they are likely to have a significant [adverse] effect on a Natura 2000 site (Special Areas of Conservation, SAC and Special Protection Areas (SPA)). It is Government policy (as described in Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation) for sites designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) to be treated as having equivalent status to Natura 2000 sites. As such, AAs should also cover these sites.
- 6.1.2 In recent years the term Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been coined to describe the entire assessment process required to comply with the Regulations, including the specific AA stage. In order to ascertain whether or not site integrity will be affected, an HRA should therefore be undertaken of the plan or project in question.
- 6.1.3 URS Scott Wilson was appointed by the Council to assist in undertaking a HRA of the potential effects of its Core Strategy on the Natura 2000 network. URS Scott Wilson previously assessed Core Strategy policies in 2007 at the Preferred Options stage of their development; however, these policies were revised and the HRA of the Core Strategy sought to update the HRA recommendations based on the Proposed Submission stage policies.
- 6.1.4 The HRA has been carried out in the continuing absence of formal Government guidance. CLG released a consultation paper on AA of Plans in 2006.³ As yet, no further formal guidance has emerged. Figure 3 outlines the stages of HRA according to current draft CLG guidance. The stages are essentially iterative, being revisited as necessary in response to more detailed information, recommendations and any relevant changes to the plan until no significant adverse effects remain.

³ CLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites, Consultation Paper

Figure 3: Four Stage Approach to Habitat Regulations Assessment



6.2 Scope of the HRA

6.2.1 Thirty-four European sites were included within the scope of the HRA of the Preferred Options in 2007 (including overlapping designations). For the Proposed Submission Stage HRA circumstances had changed which meant that we were able to screen out the following sites:

- Deben Estuary SPA/Ramsar;
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA/Ramsar;
- Abberton Reservoir SPA/Ramsar;
- The Wash SAC/SPA/Ramsar; and
- Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar.

6.2.2 Stour & Orwell Estuaries SPA and Deben Estuary SPA were screened into the original HRA because there were concerns that increased abstraction to supply Thurrock's growing population (when considered in combination with surrounding authorities) could lower water levels within the Rivers Deben, Stour and Orwell, or from tributaries; and thereby reduce freshwater inputs into these sites. Abberton Reservoir was screened because of a proposed scheme to meet the future potable water requirements of Thurrock and other parts of Essex by raising the top water level of Abberton Reservoir by 3.2 metres to increase the storage capacity by 60%. This could have involved increased abstraction from the Great Ouse at Denver, which led to The Wash or Ouse Washes SAC's, SPA's or Ramsar sites being screened in.

6.2.3 However, since the 2007 HRA, the Abberton Reservoir dam raising scheme was given planning permission by Colchester Borough Council and was subject to its own AA. Essex and

Suffolk Water (ESW) started construction in 2010 and the scheme is due to come online in 2014/15. As such, it can be concluded that the use of Abberton Reservoir to provide potable water for Thurrock in the future is confirmed and does therefore did not need consideration within the AA.

6.2.4 Until the scheme comes online ESW will continue to operate with a supply/demand shortfall and will seek to address this through demand management measures. However, it is expected that during this period there will be no need to increase the existing groundwater and/or surface water licenses which currently supply water to Thurrock. Moreover, the existing spare capacity in these consents, which may be required to serve the new development up to 2014/15, has already been evaluated for its potential to result in adverse effects on European sites through the Environment Agency's Review of Consents process (which always assesses the full licensed volume irrespective of whether the current actual volume is lower) and therefore did not need to be reconsidered as part of this HRA. As such, impacts on the Stour & Orwell Estuaries SPA and Deben Estuary SPA were also screened out of the HRA.

6.2.5 It was established that the following European designated sites required consideration because of the presence of 'pathways' by which development within the Borough could conceivably affect the designated sites. These sites are:

- Thames Estuary and Marshes Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site;
- Mid-Essex Estuaries (Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and associated SPA and Ramsar sites); and
- North Kent Estuaries (Medway Estuary and Marshes, The Swale and Thanet Coast designations).

6.2.6 No European sites in London were identified as being vulnerable to Core Strategy development in Thurrock.

6.3 Pathways of Impact

6.3.1 Spatial development plans and projects can have effects on European designated sites through a number of 'pathways' or mechanisms and in the case of Thurrock, the relevant pathways were:

- Recreational pressure and disturbance;
- Reduced air quality;
- Reduced water quality; and
- Coastal Squeeze.

6.3.2 These are the pathways that Thurrock's Core Strategy was assessed for potential adverse effects on the European designated sites listed above.

6.4 Policies Screened into the Assessment

6.4.1 All Policies contained within the Proposed Submission Core Strategy were screened for the likelihood of them resulting in significant adverse effects upon any European sites. Screening

of these options has generated the conclusion that the following policies required screening in for full AA. These policies were:

- CSSP1: Sustainable Housing and Locations
- CSSP2: Sustainable Employment Growth
- CSSP3: Sustainable Infrastructure
- CSSP4: Sustainable Green Belt
- CSSP5: Sustainable Green Grid
- CSTP1: Strategic Housing Provision
- CSTP6: Strategic Employment Provision
- CSTP7: Network of Centres
- CSTP9: Wellbeing: Leisure and Sports
- CSTP10: Community Facilities
- CSTP13: Emergency Services and Utilities
- CSTP15: Transport in Greater Thurrock
- CSTP17: Strategic Freight Movement and Access to Ports
- CSTP26: Renewable or Low Carbon Energy Generation
- CSTP28: River Thames.

6.4.2 These policies were scrutinised for the potential for likely significant effects on:

- Thames Estuary and Marshes Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site;
- Mid-Essex Estuaries (Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and associated SPA and Ramsar sites); and
- North Kent Estuaries (Medway Estuary and Marshes, The Swale and Thanet Coast designations).

6.5 Appropriate Assessment

Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA and Ramsar

6.5.2 The Core Strategy was not considered to create a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on the SPA/Ramsar through coastal squeeze. No employment or residential development was included within 700m of the site, and future potential for any waste or renewable energy schemes under policies CSTP26 and CSTP29 included caveats that would avoid LSE by ensuring compliance with the Habitats Directive.

6.5.3 The Core Strategy was not considered to pose LSE through unsustainable recreational pressure. The Core Strategy includes provision for alternative recreational facilities, including a country park that should deflect users from the SPA/Ramsar. There are also commitments to management of existing green assets. Thurrock's Green Grid strategy sets out access

- restrictions, green space maintenance, and creation strategies that will ensure mitigation is adequate.
- 6.5.4 The Council have committed to working with the Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) in order to manage recreation and monitoring disturbance, such that the need for any enhanced measures to manage waterborne access can be delivered at the appropriate time. These should be developed further in conjunction with the TEP in a cohesive management strategy and may need to be informed by visitor surveys of the SPA to determine patterns of recreational use, which will reduce pressure and prevent adverse effects upon the European site integrity. Thurrock's contribution should be commensurate with its population size, since Thurrock can only be considered responsible for mitigating their contribution to an "in combination" effect. Developer contributions would be a mechanism by which Thurrock could contribute.
- 6.5.5 Air quality reductions were not considered to pose a LSE on the Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA/Ramsar. A consented power station at Tilbury (Tilbury Green Power) has been assessed and found not to require HRA. Nonetheless, policies CSTP26 and CSTP29 do allow for the possibility of further renewable energy and/or waste sites, especially at Tilbury or London Gateway. Therefore, further or alternative schemes that come forward will need to be subject to environmental assessment that should include consideration of the need for project-level HRA.
- 6.5.6 In relation to water quality, the SPA/Ramsar was not considered to be particularly vulnerable to the effects of smothering macro-algal growth that nutrient enrichment has created in south coast waters. However, it was considered that reference should be included in the Core Strategy to the Thurrock Water Cycle Study and in particular to phasing of development in line with the WCS, in order to provide security that adverse effects on European sites will not result.
- 6.5.7 The development of London Gateway Port was considered as an 'in combination' factor with the policies of the Core Strategy. Mitigation measures have been approved for this scheme, and it has been concluded that provided that these are adopted, there is no residual in combination impact likely through disturbance, reduced air quality reduced water quality or coastal squeeze.
- 6.5.8 With these measures in place it was concluded that an adequate policy framework exists within the Core Strategy to enable the delivery of measures to avoid adverse effects on the Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA & Ramsar site.

Mid-Essex Estuaries

- 6.5.9 The Core Strategy was not considered to pose LSE through unsustainable recreational pressure. Plans and strategies already exist to manage recreation at some of the designated SPAs/Ramsars and parts of the Essex Estuaries SAC. Thurrock Council have committed to working with the Thames Estuary Partnership in order to manage recreation and monitoring disturbance, such that the need for any enhanced measures to manage waterborne access can be delivered at the appropriate time.
- 6.5.10 The SAC/SPAs/Ramsar sites were not considered to be particularly vulnerable to the effects of smothering macro-algal growth that nutrient enrichment has created in south coast waters. In addition, the Essex estuary sites lie several kilometres from Thurrock, such that large dilution factors will apply to any nutrients added to the Thames at Thurrock. However, it was considered that reference should be included in the Core Strategy to the Thurrock Water Cycle

Study and in particular to phasing of development in line with the WCS, in order to provide security that adverse effects on European sites will not result.

- 6.5.11 Having made this amendment, it was therefore concluded that an adequate policy framework exists within the Core Strategy to enable the delivery of measures to avoid adverse effects on the Essex Estuaries SAC and associated SPA & Ramsar sites.

North Kent Estuaries

- 6.5.12 The SAC/SPAs/Ramsar sites were not considered to be vulnerable to the effects of smothering macro-algal growth that nutrient enrichment has created in south coast waters. In addition, the North Kent estuary sites lie several kilometres from Thurrock, such that large dilution factors will apply to any nutrients added to the Thames at Thurrock. However, it was considered that reference should be included in the Core Strategy to the Thurrock Water Cycle Study and in particular to phasing of development in line with the WCS, in order to provide security that adverse effects on European sites will not result.

- 6.5.13 Having made this amendment, it was concluded that an adequate policy framework exists to avoid adverse water quality impacts on European sites.

6.6 Conclusion

- 6.6.1 The HRA concluded that an adequate policy framework exists (when considered within the context of the existing legal safeguards) to enable the delivery of measures to avoid adverse effects on European sites.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1.1 This SA and HRA Adoption Statement explains how the SA and HRA processes have influenced and informed the development of the Core Strategy and demonstrates how responses to the SA and HRA have also been taken into account. This Statement has been produced in compliance with the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC *on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment*)⁴.

⁴ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Appendix 1 - Changes required by the Inspector to make the plan sound

Schedule C – Changes that the Inspector considers are needed to make the plan sound

These changes are required in order to make the Core Strategy sound.

Inspector Change No.	Policy/Paragraph/Page	Change
IC1	CSTP1 4 Lifetime Homes and Accessible Housing	Add the following text: iii. The requirements for Lifetime Homes and Accessible Housing may be adjusted where the developer is able to prove that these requirements will be economically unviable, rendering the site undeliverable.
IC2	PMD12 Sustainable Buildings	Add the following text after Part 2 of the policy: These requirements may be relaxed where the developer is able to prove that these requirements will be economically unviable, rendering development of the site undeliverable

Appendix 2 – Summary of appraisal results for preferred options policy alternatives with a spatial element

Alternatives assessment symbols:

Symbol	Likely effect against the SA objective
+	Option will result in a positive impact on the SA objective
+?	The impact on the SA objective is dependent on implementation, but if there were to be an impact it would most likely be positive
0	Neutral or negligible effect
X?	The impact on the SA objective is dependent on implementation, but if there were to be an impact it would most likely be negative
X	Option will result in a negative impact on the SA objective
?	The relationship between the option and the SA objective is unknown, or there is not enough information to make an assessment
x	No relationship

Preferred options appraisal: CSTP1 (Strategic Housing Provision)

	Preferred policy option	Policy option A	Policy option B	Policy option C	Policy option D	Policy option E	Policy option F	Policy option G	Policy option H
Summary of option	<p>The Council's preferred policy approach comprises 5 complementary elements :</p> <p>1) Housing Provision in Thurrock - minimum total build between 2007-2021 to 13,830</p> <p>2) Locational principles of housing development</p> <p>3) Thurrock's Housing density- between 35-70 dwellings per hectare</p> <p>4) Tenure mix and dwelling type- 65% market housing and 35% affordable housing</p> <p>5) Lifetime Homes and Special Needs</p>	<p>Significantly exceed the minimum housing provision target of an additional 13,830 dwellings from 2001 to 2021. Where additional brownfield sites come forward the Council will positively consider these as a contribution to overall housing land supply.</p>	<p>Housing Density - Business as usual. New residential development should achieve an overall average net density of 37 dwellings per hectare. This policy proposed a range of densities from 30-70 dwellings per hectare.</p>	<p>Housing Density -Lower average net density than 37 dwellings per hectare but equal to or greater than the national indicative minimum target of 30 dwellings per hectare.</p>	<p>Housing Density - Greater average net density than 40 dwellings per hectare.</p>	<p>Housing Tenure Proportions - Reasonable alternatives include variations of the percentage of affordable and market housing with affordable housing exceeding 35%.</p>	<p>Lifetime Homes -Lower percentage of new housing dwellings/unit that conform to the Lifetime Homes Standards.</p>	<p>Special Needs Housing - a percentage e greater than that in the preferred option</p>	<p>Special Needs Housing - a percentage less than that outlined in the preferred policy</p>

		Preferred policy option	Policy option A	Policy option B	Policy option C	Policy option D	Policy option E	Policy option F	Policy option G	Policy option H
		Housing- 3% of new residential dwelling/unit developed to full wheelchair standard.								
Summary of SA findings		Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score
	1) Economic growth	+/?	?	+/?	+/?	+/?	?	?	?	?
	2) Economic diversity	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	3) Investment	+/?	?	?	?	?	+/?	?	?	?
	4) Sustainable locations	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
	5) Land use	+	+/?	+	+/?	+	+	+	+	+
	6) Biodiversity	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	7) Emissions & pollutants	X	X	X?	X?	X?	X	X	X	X

	Preferred policy option	Policy option A	Policy option B	Policy option C	Policy option D	Policy option E	Policy option F	Policy option G	Policy option H
8) Cultural heritage	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	0
9) Water consumption	X	X	X	X	X/?	X	X	X	X
10) Natural resources	X	X	X	X	X/?	X	X	X	X
11) Equality	0/+	0	0/+	0/+	0/+	0/+	0/?	0/+	0/?
12) Access to services	?	?	?	?	?	?	X/?	?	X/?
13) Housing	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/?	+	+/?
14) Crime	+/?	+/?	?	?	?	+/?	?	?	?
15) Health	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	?	+/?	?	+/?	?
16) Waste	X	X	X/?	X	X?	X	X	X	X

	Preferred policy option	Policy option A	Policy option B	Policy option C	Policy option D	Policy option E	Policy option F	Policy option G	Policy option H
Choice of option and rationale for choice	<p>Option A- There is no justification for seeking to significantly exceed the RSS target especially as the Secretary of State has confirmed that this should not be achieved by allocating additional Green Belt land. Option A was therefore rejected.</p> <p>Option B/C/D- The SHLAA (Technical evidence) assigned design led typology to each site assessed which produced a range of densities for each site pending on the site constraints, access and local context. The Council's proposed density approach is derived from the mid-range of densities, national policy and findings of the SHMA.</p> <p>Option E- Option rejected following outcome of both evidence base and consultation with key stakeholders. Details provided in Affordable Housing policy</p> <p>Option F(A) Lifetime Homes- Lower percentage rejected as this is contrary to the Housing Corporation's 'Wheelchair Housing Design Guidance'.</p> <p>Option F(B) Special Needs- Lower percentage rejected as this is contrary to the Housing Corporation's 'Wheelchair Housing Design Guidance'.</p>								
Link to relevant document(s)	<p>Core Strategy and Policies for Control of Development - Development Plan Document (DPD) "Preferred Options" consultation http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_cs_200711.pdf SA of Preferred Options -Main Report: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear.pdf Technical appendices 1: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app1.pdf Technical appendices 2: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app2.pdf</p>								

Preferred options appraisal: CSTEP8 (Retail and Town Centre Network)

		Preferred policy option	Policy option A
Summary of option		<p>The preferred policy approach comprise of 4 elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town Centre policy framework - Strategic distribution of retail development in the Borough - Development anticipated within centres hierarchy - Assessment of proposals for major retail and other town centre uses. 	<p>Focus a higher percentage of total net additional retail floorspace in Grays and /or other Centres subject to PPS6 criteria</p>
Summary of SA findings	SA objective		
	1) Economic growth	+	+
	2) Economic diversity	+	+

	3) Investment	+	+
	4) Sustainable locations	+	+
	5) Land use	+	+
	6) Biodiversity	X/?	X/?
	7) Emissions & pollutants	+/?	+/?
	8) Cultural heritage	+	+
	9) Water consumption	?	?
	10) Natural resources	?	?
	11) Equality	0/+	?
	12) Access to services	+/?	+
	13) Housing	+	+
	14) Crime	+/?	+/?
	15) Health	+	+
	16) Waste	X	X
Choice of option and rationale for choice	Option A rejected. The Submission policy is based on the Thurrock Retail Study and Lakeside Single Issue Report which provides the evidence base for floor space in Lakeside and Grays		
Link to relevant document(s)	Core Strategy and Policies for Control of Development - Development Plan Document (DPD) "Preferred Options" consultation http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_cs_200711.pdf SA of Preferred Options -Main Report: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear.pdf Technical appendices 1: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app1.pdf Technical appendices 2: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app2.pdf		

Preferred options appraisal: CSTP9 (Lakeside Shopping Centre and Wider Lakeside Basin)

		Preferred policy option	Policy option A	Policy option B	Policy option C
Summary of option		1)General strategy for diversification and enhancement 2)Retail floor provision- consider the expansion of Lakeside regional shopping centre to include some appropriate level of net additional retail floor space	No net additional new retail floorspace	Additional retail floorspace based on distribution in the Thurrock Retail Study	Facilitate additional retail floor-space development at Lakeside at a level proposed in the Retail Capacity Study produced by the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Summary of SA findings	SA objective	Score	Score	Score	Score
	1) Economic growth	+/?	?	+/?	+/?
	2) Economic diversity	+/?	?	+/?	+/?
	3) Investment	+/?	?	+/?	+/?
	4) Sustainable locations	X/?	?	X/?	X/?
	5) Land use	?	+/?	?	?
	6) Biodiversity	X	X/?	X	X
	7) Emissions & pollutants	X	0	X?	X
	8) Cultural heritage	?	0	?	?
	9) Water consumption	?	?	?	?
	10) Natural resources	X	?	X	X
	11) Equality	0/X	0	?	X
	12) Access to services	X/?	+	X/?	X/?
	13) Housing	x	x	x	x
	14) Crime	X/?	0	?	X/?
15) Health	X	0	X	X	

	Preferred policy option	Policy option A	Policy option B	Policy option C
16) Waste	X	?	X	X
Choice of option and rationale for choice	Option A, B and C- All options were rejected as they are not compliant with the Single Issue Review. The Single Issues Review granted 50,000sqm space.			
Link to relevant document(s)	Core Strategy and Policies for Control of Development - Development Plan Document (DPD) "Preferred Options" consultation http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_cs_200711.pdf SA of Preferred Options -Main Report: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear.pdf Technical appendices 1: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app1.pdf Technical appendices 2: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app2.pdf			

Preferred options appraisal: CSTP12 (Culture: The Arts and Community Facilities)

	Preferred policy option	Policy option A
Summary of option	1) Address the aspect of the Cultural strategy 2) Promote appropriate tourism facilities and attractions 3) Libraries, village halls and community centres 4) Facilities for performing and visual arts and museums 5) Promoting cultural industries and associated communities 6) Tourism, festival and attractions. ??	Specifically identify Cultural Quarters within Grays and Purfleet
Summary of SA findings	SA objective	Score
	1) Economic growth	+
	2) Economic diversity	+
	3) Investment	+
	4) Sustainable locations	+
	5) Land use	+
	6) Biodiversity	x

	7) Emissions & pollutants	X/?	X/?
	8) Cultural heritage	+/?	+/?
	9) Water consumption	0/?	0/?
	10) Natural resources	X/?	X/?
	11) Equality	+	+
	12) Access to services	+/?	+/?
	13) Housing	x	x
	14) Crime	0	0
	15) Health	+	+
	16) Waste	X	X
Choice of option and rationale for choice	The Councils Preferred Policy option remains. Option A is very site specific and such detail would be more appropriately provided in the Site Allocations DPD.		
Link to relevant document(s)	Core Strategy and Policies for Control of Development - Development Plan Document (DPD) "Preferred Options" consultation http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_cs_200711.pdf SA of Preferred Options -Main Report: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear.pdf Technical appendices 1: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app1.pdf Technical appendices 2: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app2.pdf		

Preferred options appraisal: CSTP21 (Strategic Freight Movement and Access to Ports)

		Preferred policy option	Policy option A
Summary of option		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give priority to rail freight investment - Safeguard wharves and rail freight facilities - Encourage the development of 24hr lorry parking provision - Promote the establishment of a freight quality partnership - Ensure that new development sites for freight handling will prepare sustainable distribution strategy. 	Encourage the relocation of freight-generating development / activity elsewhere in the region
Summary of SA findings	SA objective	Score	Score
	1) Economic growth	?	X/?
	2) Economic diversity	x	x
	3) Investment	0	X/?
	4) Sustainable locations	x	x
	5) Land use	x	x
	6) Biodiversity	0	0
	7) Emissions & pollutants	+/?	+/?
	8) Cultural heritage	X/?	0
	9) Water consumption	0	0
	10) Natural resources	+	+
	11) Equality	0	0/X
	12) Access to services	x	x
	13) Housing	x	x
	14) Crime	x	x

	15) Health	x	x
	16) Waste	x	x
Choice of option and rationale for choice	Option A rejected. The options for location of port-related development & activities to support expansion of Tilbury port are necessarily location-specific and fixed (Key Strategic Hubs).		
Link to relevant document(s)	Core Strategy and Policies for Control of Development - Development Plan Document (DPD) "Preferred Options" consultation http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_cs_200711.pdf SA of Preferred Options -Main Report: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear.pdf Technical appendices 1: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app1.pdf Technical appendices 2: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app2.pdf		

Preferred options appraisal: CSTP32 (River Thames)

		Preferred policy option	Policy option A	Policy option B
Summary of option		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancement and improvement of the landscape and biodiversity assets and built heritage along the riverside - Improvement of the urban riverside environment within the Thurrock Urban area. - Access routes to and along the riverside - Greater use of the River Thames for transportation, recreation and appropriate forms of leisure activity - The protection of strategic and locally important view - Safeguarding of port-related operational land 	An alternative policy approach would be to identify and safeguard specific sites along the River Thames where future transport, riverside, recreation and leisure activity investment could be located.	Development of Buffer Zones between Port development and activity and nearby residential and other uses.
Summary of SA findings	SA objective	Score	Score	Score
	1) Economic growth	0/?	+/?	0
	2) Economic diversity	0	0	0
	3) Investment	0/?	+/?	0

4) Sustainable locations	+/?	+/?	+/?
5) Land use	+	+	?
6) Biodiversity	+/?	+/?	+/?
7) Emissions & pollutants	0	0	+/?
8) Cultural heritage	+	+	0/?
9) Water consumption	0	0	0
10) Natural resources	?	?	?
11) Equality	x	x	x
12) Access to services	+/?	+/?	?
13) Housing	x	x	x
14) Crime	?	?	?
15) Health	+	+	+
16) Waste	x	x	x
Choice of option and rationale for choice	<p>Option A - The Submission Core Strategy also partially adopts Option A by identifying port related sites, wharves, transport as safe guarded sites along the River Thames.</p> <p>Option B- The Council adopted Option B in accordance with National policies.</p>		
Link to relevant document(s)	<p>Core Strategy and Policies for Control of Development - Development Plan Document (DPD) "Preferred Options" consultation http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_cs_200711.pdf SA of Preferred Options -Main Report: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear.pdf Technical appendices 1: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app1.pdf Technical appendices 2: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app2.pdf</p>		

Preferred options appraisal: CSTP33 (Waste Strategy)

		Preferred policy option	Policy option A	Policy option B	Policy option C	Policy option D	Policy option E	Policy option F
Summary of option		The Council will seek to drive waste management up the waste hierarchy, by: 1) Promoting schemes and development that minimise waste. 2) Reduce waste arising and increase re-use/recycling and recovery of waste 3) Ensuring that the sufficient and timely delivery of suitable sites 4) To implement provisions of the emerging Thurrock Municipal Waste Strategy 5) Planning for provisions of range of waste facilities.	Wider partnership working for a shared network of facilities with surrounding sub-regions within the East of England	To manage all Thurrock's waste away from Urban areas dealt with by one new facility	By having a greater reliance upon land-filling Thurrock's Waste	A range of facilities away from main urban areas or proposed growth areas	Variable growth of C&I waste	To rely solely on the market to deliver sites for waste management by adopting criteria based approach, without the need to be site specific
Summary of SA findings	SA objective	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score
	1) Economic growth	+/?	+/?	?	?	?	?	?
	2) Economic diversity	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
	3) Investment	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
	4) Sustainable locations	+	+	?	X/?	?	?	?

5) Land use	+/?	+/?	?	?	?	?	?
6) Biodiversity	+	+	?	X	?	?/X	+
7) Emissions & pollutants	+/?	+/?	?	X	?	X/?	?
8) Cultural heritage	0	0	?	X/?	?	?	?
9) Water consumption	0	0	0	0	0	0	?
10) Natural resources	+/?	+/?	?	X/?	+/?	?	0
11) Equality	0	0	0/+	0/?	0/+	0	0
12) Access to services	+/?	+/?	?	?	+/?	?	?
13) Housing	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
14) Crime	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
15) Health	?	?	+/?	?	+/?	?	8
16) Waste	+	+	?	X	+/?	X	?
Choice of option and rationale for choice	<p>Option A- This is not an option but operational procedure of delivering the policy. Option B- Option rejected as this conflicts with the Green Belt policy. Option C- Option rejected as this is contrary to the Land Directory. Option D- Option rejected as it is contrary to Access and Green Belt policy. Option E- Option adopted following Council acceptance of more recent updated evidence base. Option F- Option rejected as it is contrary to National and Regional policy.</p>						
Link to relevant document(s)	<p>Core Strategy and Policies for Control of Development - Development Plan Document (DPD) "Preferred Options" consultation http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_cs_200711.pdf SA of Preferred Options -Main Report: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear.pdf Technical appendices 1: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app1.pdf Technical appendices 2: http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/ldf_preferred_ear_app2.pdf</p>						

Appendix 3 – Summary of appraisal results for: broad locations relevant to Policy CSSP1; spatial approaches to Policy CSSP2: Sustainable Employment Growth and spatial approaches to Policy CSSP4 Sustainable Green Belt

Appraisal of spatial elements to Policy CSSP 1: Sustainable Housing and Locations

SA objective	Urban area (inc. Purfleet, West Thurrock/Lakeside, Grays, Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary)	Outlying settlements north of A13 (Ockendon and Aveley)	Outlying settlements south of A13 (East Tilbury and Corringham/Stanford-le-hope)	Stanford-le-hope/Corringham Urban Extension	North-east Grays urban extension	Small Green Belt sites / Villages in Green Belt
1) Economic growth	+	-	+	+	+	-
2) Economic diversity	+	?	+	+	?	?
3) Investment	+	-	+	+	+	-
4) Sustainable locations	++	+	+	-	+	-
5) Land use	++	+	+	-	+	-
6) Biodiversity	+	+	+	?	+	?
7) Emissions & pollutants	-	-	-	-	-	-
8) Cultural heritage	+	?	?	0	0	?
9) Water consumption	0	0	0	0	0	0
10) Natural resources	0	0	0	0	0	0
11) Equality	+	+	+	+	+	-
12) Access to services	++	+	+	+	+	-
13) Housing	+	+	+	+	+	+
14) Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0
15) Health	0	0	0	0	0	0
16) Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA conclusion:	The main urban area is comfortably the best performing location for growth. Housing growth here will be the best means of encouraging investment in Thurrock, as well as 'organic' economic growth. Housing growth here will also support diversification of the economy, through supporting expansion at Lakeside. In terms of economic objectives, it is suggested that housing growth at outlying settlements south of the A13					

(East Tilbury and Corringham/Stanford-le-Hope) will also be beneficial (assuming that this will lend support for growth at London Gateway); whilst housing growth at outlying settlements north of the A13 (Ockendon and Aveley) is less likely to be beneficial.

In terms of addressing deprivation and inequality within Thurrock, a key consideration is the degree to which targeted housing growth can support the regeneration of town centres as well as the delivery/enhancement of local centres and community facilities more generally. It is suggested that, with the exception of 'villages in the Green Belt', all of the locations for housing growth are likely to result in benefits. Housing growth focused on the main urban area is likely to be particularly beneficial, given that this area is a focus for deprivation currently. It is expected that development at both Purfleet and Lakeside/West Thurrock will support regeneration and enhancements to community facilities. It is also noted that Grays is currently the focus for service and cultural facilities in the borough, but there is a need for enhancements. Having said this, it is also noted that there are concentrations of deprivation at outlying settlements, both north (i.e. Ockendon and Belhus wards) and south (i.e. at Tilbury St. Chads ward) of the A13. Housing growth at Ockendon/Aveley should support the achievement of identified regeneration needs, and it is also expected that growth at Stanford-le-Hope/Corringham will support enhancements to community facilities town centre improvements.

In terms cultural heritage related objectives, it is expected that housing growth targeted at the main urban area is likely to be beneficial, given that growth at Tilbury will support development of cultural facilities associated with the riverside and its cultural heritage. Similarly, it is expected that growth at Purfleet, Grays and Tilbury will result in biodiversity benefits as a result of lending support to the creation of new connections to the river frontage and expansion of the Green Grid.

The appraisal has highlighted that the urban extensions to Stanford-le-Hope/Corringham and Grays will, in many respects, support the achievement of sustainability objectives in a similar fashion to growth targeted at the towns themselves. However, a number of negative effects may be associated with the urban extension of Stanford-le-Hope/Corringham, given that this is a greenfield location.

The appraisal highlights that villages in the Green Belt perform relatively poorly when considered as potential locations for growth. However, it is important to note that the level of growth at these locations will be small, and so any negative effects will be of a low magnitude.

The appraisal has suggested that all locations for growth are likely to result in increased traffic congestion in those parts of Thurrock that currently have air quality problems. It is not apparent that growth at any of the locations would lead to avoidance of this effect.

Origins and rationale for options

Urban area (Purfleet to Tilbury including Lakeside)

- **Conformity with National Policy**
The Broad location complies with national policy guidance for the Green Belt policy, Thames Gateway and planning policy guidance for Housing, Employment, Sustainable Development, Transport and use of previously developed land etc.
- **Conformity with the RSS**

The Broad location is in Conformity with the Policies in the Regional Spatial strategy, The East Of England Plan (RSS EEP) and Single Issue Review for Policy ETG2 ((including Lakeside). The Broad Location is defined as Key Centre for Development and Change (KCDC) in the RSS EEP and a regional centre. The Location complies with the Housing and Employment and sub-regional spatial locations referred to in the RSS EEP.

- **Conformity with Local Plans and Strategies**

The Broad Location aligns with the Community Strategy, Economic Recovery and Growth Plan and other Council Corporate Strategies for Education, Green Grid and Housing. The Broad location aligns with TTGDC Regeneration and Spatial Strategies. The Broad Location links to the strategies and infrastructure provision of other service providers.

- **Outcome of the SA/SEA**

The Broad Location scores very highly in the various criteria and spatial options test in various stages of the SA/SEA.

- **The Evidence Base**

The vast majority of dwellings identified on the sites are on previously developed land (98%) in the regeneration areas as identified by various elements of evidence base. The broad location acts as a major contribution to housing supply and employment.

Strong alignment with evidence from SHLAA, Employment Land Review, Infrastructure and Implementation, Landscape, Green Grid, Open Space, Leisure and Sports studies.

- **Alternative Options**

A number of alternative Green Belt urban extension Broad Locations were considered unsuitable at Issues and Options and Preferred Options stage of the Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents. Alternative options were rejected for various reasons under the matters above including impact on the Green Belt, non-conformity with the RSS EEP, detrimental impact on Green Infrastructure assets & open space, less favourable SA/SEA scores, impact on the highway and poor access to services and infrastructure. The rejected Broad Locations Zones were - Zone 1a Purfleet Green Belt (North and adjoining Urban Area); Zone 4a North Stifford/Lakeside Green Belt (North of West Thurrock /Lakeside Urban area); Zone 6a Tilbury Green Belt (North and East of Tilbury Urban Area); Zone 7a Chadwell St. Mary Green Belt (Land north and south of Chadwell Urban Area).

Outside settlements north of A13 (Ockendon and Aveley)

- **Conformity with National Policy**

The Broad location complies with national policy guidance for the Green Belt policy, Thames Gateway and planning policy guidance for Housing, Employment, Sustainable Development, Transport and use of previously developed land etc.

- **Conformity with the RSS**

The Broad location is in Conformity with the Policies in the Regional Spatial strategy, The East Of England Plan (RSS EEP). The Location complies with the Housing and Employment and sub-regional spatial locations referred to in the RSS EEP.

- **Conformity with Local Plans and Strategies**

The Broad location aligns with the Community Strategy, Economic Recovery and Growth Plan and other Council Corporate Strategies for Education, Green Grid, Housing and Sports. The Broad location aligns with TTGDC Regeneration and Spatial Strategies. The Broad Location links to the strategies and infrastructure provision of other service providers.

- **Outcome of the SA/SEA**

The Broad Location scores very highly in the various criteria and spatial options test in various stages of the SA/SEA.

- **The Evidence Base**

The vast majority of housing sites are on previously developed land (80%) as identified by various elements of evidence base. Green Belt sites already have planning

permission. The broad location contributes to housing supply. Strong alignment with evidence from SHLAA, Employment Land Review, Infrastructure and Implementation, Landscape, Green Grid, Open Space, Leisure and Sports studies.

- **Alternative Options**

A number of alternative Green Belt Urban extensions and stand alone Green Belt developments were considered unsuitable at Issues and Options and Preferred Options stage of the Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents. Alternative options were rejected for various reasons under the matters above including impact on the Green Belt, non-conformity with the RSS EEP, detrimental impact on Conservations areas and open space, less favourable SA/SEA scores, impact on the highway and poor access to services and infrastructure. The rejected Broad Locations Zones were: Zone 2a Aveley Green Belt (Land South and West of Aveley Urban Area); Zone 3a and 3b South Ockendon Green Belt (Land East, South and North of South Ockendon Urban Area).

Outside settlements south of A13 (East Tilbury, Stanford Le /Corringham)

- **Conformity with National Policy**

The Broad location complies with national policy guidance for the Green Belt policy Thames Gateway and policy guidance for Housing, Employment, Sustainable Development, Transport and use of previously developed land etc.

- **Conformity with the RSS**

The Broad location is in Conformity with the Polices in the Regional Spatial strategy, The East Of England Plan (RSS EEP). The Location complies with the Housing and Employment and sub-regional spatial locations referred to in the RSS EEP.

- **Conformity with Local Plans and Strategies**

The Broad Location aligns with the Community Strategy, Economic Recovery and Growth Plan and other Council Corporate Strategies for Education, Green Grid, Housing and Sports. The Broad location aligns with TTGDC Regeneration and Spatial Strategies. The Broad Location links to the strategies and infrastructure provision of other service providers.

- **Outcome of the SA/SEA**

With development focused in the urban area the Broad Location scores highly in the various criteria and spatial options test in various stages of the SA/SEA.

- **The Evidence Base**

The vast majority of housing sites are on previously developed land (73%) as identified by various elements of evidence base. The sites in the Green Belt have planning permission. The broad location contributes to housing supply. Strong alignment with evidence from SHLAA, Employment Land Review, Infrastructure and Implementation, Landscape, Green Grid, Open Space studies.

Stanford-Le Hope Urban Extension

- **Conformity with National Policy**

The Broad location complies with national policy guidance for the Green Belt policy, Thames Gateway, and planning policy guidance for Housing, Employment, Sustainable Development, Transport and use of previously developed land etc..

- **Conformity with the RSS**

Although Green Belt release is not generally supported in the RSS EEP for Thurrock the location only comprises small scale proposed urban extensions for residential development at Stanford –Le-Hope.

- **Conformity with Local Plans and Strategies**

The Broad Location aligns with the Community Strategy, Economic Recovery and Growth Plan and other Council Corporate Strategies for Education, Green Grid, and

Housing. The Broad location aligns with TTGDC Regeneration and Spatial Strategies. The Broad Location links to the strategies and infrastructure provision of other service providers.

- **Outcome of the SA/SEA**
Larger urban extension in this location scored less well in the SA/SEA assessment of the Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents at Issues & Options and Preferred Options. In particular access to services, transport impact. However the small-scale of the proposed urban extension and location is considered to have a less detrimental impact.
- **The Evidence Base**
The broad location contributes to housing supply. Strong alignment with evidence from SHLAA, Employment Land Review, Infrastructure and Implementation, Landscape, Green Grid, Open Space studies. Issues of flood risk highlighted at two locations have been considered addressed with development proposals required to have appropriate mitigation and avoidance of development on flood Zone 3b.
- **Alternative Options**
A number of alternative Green Belt Urban extensions and stand alone Green Belt developments were considered unsuitable at Issues and Options and Preferred Options stage of the Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents. Alternative options were rejected for various reasons under the matters above including impact on the Green Belt, non-conformity with the RSS EEP, detrimental impact on Conservations areas and open space, less favourable SA/SEA scores, Flood Risk, impact on the highway and poor access to services and infrastructure. The rejected Broad Locations Zones were: Zone 8a East Tilbury Green Belt (Green Belt adjoining and surrounding the East Tilbury Urban Area); Zone 10a Stanford-Le-Hope Green Belt (The majority of Green Belt land south and east of Stanford le-Hope/ Corringham).

North East Grays

- **Conformity with National Policy**
The Broad location complies with national policy guidance for the Green Belt policy Thames Gateway and policy guidance for Housing, Employment, Sustainable Development, Transport and use of previously developed land etc..
- **Conformity with the RSS**
Although Green Belt release is not generally supported in the RSS EEP for Thurrock the location only comprises small scale proposed urban extensions for residential development at edge of the Grays Urban Area and largely on previously developed land. The Urban Area is defined as Key Centre for Development and Change (KCDC) in the RSS EEP.
- **Conformity with Local Plans and Strategies**
The Broad Location aligns with the Community Strategy, Economic Recovery and Growth Plan and other Council Corporate Strategies for Education Green Grid, Housing and Sports. The Broad location aligns with TTGDC Regeneration and Spatial Strategies. The Broad Location links to the strategies and infrastructure provision of other service providers.
- **Outcome of the SA/SEA**
The Broad Location scores very highly in the various criteria and spatial options test in various stages of the SA/SEA.
- **The Evidence Base**
The vast majority of housing sites are on previously developed land (81%) in the Submission version of the plan as identified by various elements of evidence base. The broad location contributes to housing supply. Strong alignment with evidence from SHLAA, Employment Land Review, Infrastructure and Implementation, Landscape, Green Grid, Open Space studies.
- **Alternative Options**
A larger alternative option was considered at Preferred Options stage for this broad location that included more Green Belt sites for housing. The larger broad location was

rejected due to impact upon the Green Belt and highways network and impact upon Scheduled Ancient Monument and open space and biodiversity. The Proposed Submission version has a more favourable SA/SEA outcome in relation to sustainable land use, biodiversity and cultural heritage objectives. Broad Location rejected includes Green Belt Contingency Sites HGB 1-4 See table 19.

Small Villages

Note – The Small village dwelling capacity comprises a range of small sites identified throughout the villages in Thurrock and also includes some small free standing sites. The capacity is therefore not a specific location. Many of the identified dwelling sites have planning permission. The capacity is included for completeness in the policy and this assessment.

- **Conformity with National Policy**
The Broad location complies with national policy guidance for the, Green Belt policy, Thames Gateway and planning policy for Housing, Employment, Sustainable Development and use of previously developed land etc.
- **Conformity with the RSS**
Some of the locations are Conformity with the Policies in the Regional Spatial strategy, The East Of England Plan (RSS EEP). Generally in other locations the sites are on previously developed land. Although Green Belt release is not generally supported in the RSS EEP for Thurrock the location of the majority of small Green Belt are sites that already have planning permission.
- **Conformity with Local Plans and Strategies**
The sites generally align with the Community Strategy and other Council Corporate Strategies for Education, Green Grid, and Housing. The Broad Location sites because of the size and location do not have a significant local or cumulative impact upon the strategies and infrastructure provision of other service providers.
- **Outcome of the SA/SEA**
Village locations generally had a less favourably outcome in terms of SA/SEA in the Issues & Options and Preferred Options stages. Poor access to services and increased travelling were more negative outcomes. However the sites provide some housing supply in these locations and comprise previously developed land or Green Belt sites with planning permission.
- **The Evidence Base**
The vast majority of housing sites are on previously developed land (89%) as identified by various elements of evidence base. The broad location contributes to housing supply. Strong alignment with evidence from SHLAA, Employment Land Review, Infrastructure and Implementation, Landscape, Green Grid, Open Space studies.
- **Alternative Options**
A number of alternative Green Belt Urban extensions and stand alone Green Belt developments were considered unsuitable at Issues and Options and Preferred Options stage of the Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents. Alternative options were rejected for various reasons under the matters above including impact on the Green Belt, non-conformity with the RSS EEP, detrimental impact on Conservations areas and open space, less favourable SA/SEA scores, impact on the highway and poor access to services and infrastructure. The rejected Broad Locations Zones – 9a and b included a range of Green Belt village extensions and free standing sites identified in the Preferred Options Site Allocations DPD. The rejected sites included proposed extensions to villages at Horndon on the Hill and Orsett (Beauchamp Gate). Free standing sites included Green Belt Sites at Bulphan, Langdon Hills Golf Course and small sites across the borough.

Appraisal of the Corringham/Stanford-le-Hope element of Policy CSSP1

SA objective	Preferred Options stage (NE Stanford/NE Corringham, 5 sites)	'Proposed Submission' Stage (3 sites)
1) Economic growth	+	+
2) Economic diversity	0	0
3) Investment	+	+
4) Sustainable locations	-	-
5) Land use	-	?
6) Biodiversity	?	?
7) Emissions & pollutants	0	0
8) Cultural heritage	0	0
9) Water consumption	0	0
10) Natural resources	0	0
11) Equality	+	+
12) Access to services	+	+
13) Housing	+	+
14) Crime	0	0
15) Health	0	0
16) Waste	0	0
SA conclusion:	<p>The appraisal table suggests that effects associated with the two approaches are broadly similar in most respects, but that the Proposed Submission Stage approach performs better in terms of the sustainable 'land use' objective because it will result in less loss of open land within Green Belt with the Reasonable Alternative Green Belt sites at North East Corringham excluded.</p> <p>Other differences between the two approaches are less significant, but noteworthy none-the-less.</p> <p>In terms of 'economic growth' and 'investment', it is important to consider that Corringham/Stanford-le-Hope is in close proximity to the London Gateway development, and so housing growth at this location will be supportive of commercial growth ambitions. In this sense,</p>	

	<p>Preferred Options Stage approach might be considered to perform marginally better than the Proposed Submission Stage approach, given that it would support a greater scale of housing growth.</p> <p>In terms of the degree to which each approach represents development at 'sustainable locations', it is important to note that the sites under consideration to the north of Stanford-le-Hope are more closely related to a local centre (and a train station) than the sites to the north of Corringham, and so the Proposed Submission Stage approach (which is focused at Stanford-le-Hope) will be more supportive of efforts to ensure good access to services and facilities and encourage walking and cycling. However, it is noted that the local centre at Corringham has a better offer than the local centre at Stanford-le-Hope. Also, it is noted that there is perhaps greater potential for residents of the northern edge of Corringham to access the London Gateway Development by bicycle.</p> <p>Focusing again on the relationship between housing growth and the use of local centres, it is noted that both Corringham and Stanford-le-Hope local centres are in need of investment and improvement. Hence, it might be the case that the Proposed Submission Stage approach performs less well, as without housing growth to the north of Corringham there may be less stimulus to improve the town centre.</p> <p>Finally, it is noted that two designated Conservation Areas are to be found on the southern edge of Corringham. This might suggest that the Proposed Submission Stage approach - which will direct less growth to Corringham - will result in less potential for negative effects. However, it is not thought that impacts to cultural heritage are a significant consideration, given that the Conservation Areas are located away from the locations for growth (proposed by the Preferred Options Stage approach).</p>
<p>Rationale for choice of alternative/option:</p>	<p>The Proposed Submission version of the Broad Location excludes the Green Belt release site at North East Corringham.</p> <p>The Proposed Submission version was chosen as it involved less release of Green Belt and loss of open space.</p> <p>The Proposed Submission version is also in more conformity with the RSS EEP in terms of spatial strategy.</p> <p>The impact of development on localised roads is reduced.</p> <p>The Proposed Submission version has a marginally more favourable outcome in terms of SA/SEA, particularly in relation to sustainable land use.</p>

Appraisal of the North east Grays element of Policy CSSP1

SA objective	Preferred Options Stage – Larger broad location	Proposed Submission Stage – Smaller broad location
1) Economic growth	+	+
2) Economic diversity	0	0
3) Investment	+	+
4) Sustainable locations	-	-
5) Land use	-	+
6) Biodiversity	-	?
7) Emissions & pollutants	?	0
8) Cultural heritage	-	0
9) Water consumption	0	0
10) Natural resources	0	0
11) Equality	+	+
12) Access to services	?	?
13) Housing	+	+
14) Crime	0	0
15) Health	0	0
16) Waste	0	0
SA conclusion:	<p>The first thing to note is the suggestion that the Preferred Options Stage approach could result in significant negative effects to biodiversity and cultural heritage. This relates to the fact that development of the eastern-most of the sites would have the potential to impact to a Local Wildlife Site and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There is less likelihood that the scale of growth proposed through the Proposed Submission Stage approach would lead to significant biodiversity effects, and it is not expected that there would be impacts to cultural heritage. In terms of cultural heritage, it is also important to consider that the Preferred Options Stage approach would lead to significant impacts to the landscape setting of Grays. It might be suggested that this would also have a bearing on the image of Grays to those that might look to invest in the area; however, this effect is uncertain.</p>	

	<p>The appraisal table, above, also highlights that the Proposed Submission Stage approach represents a relatively good use of available land resource, given that development will be focused on previously developed land. The Preferred Options Stage approach would involve considerable loss of greenfield land with inclusion of Green Belt contingency sites HGB 1 to 4.</p> <p>In terms of ‘economic growth’ and ‘investment’, housing growth at Grays can be considered to be a broadly positive step, given that Grays is itself a strategic employment hub, and is in close proximity to other (even more significant) employment hubs at Tilbury and Lakeside/West Thurrock. In this sense, it might be suggested that whilst both approaches will have positive effects, the Proposed Submission Stage approach, which would involve less growth at Grays, does not perform as well.</p> <p>It may also be the case that there is good potential to access employment from this area by public transport, in which it might also be suggested that growth should be encouraged (as per the preferred options approach). However, these locations are not well related to local centres, and so it is not thought that encouraging development of a greater scale (as per the Preferred Options Stage approach) would be supportive of efforts to encourage walking and cycling). Of the sites considered at the Preferred Options Stage, it would appear that the eastern-most site is best located in terms of access to a local centre.</p> <p>An uncertain score is also assigned to the Preferred Options Stage approach for the ‘emissions and pollutants’ objective, given that a large number of car journeys would be generated, and there may be the potential for these to be concentrated within the local road network.</p>
<p>Rationale for choice of alternative/option:</p>	<p>The Proposed Submission version has less impact on the purpose of the Green Belt with less Green Belt released for residential development. The majority of land proposed for residential development is previously developed land in the Proposed Submission version and has two Green Belt sites less as part of the overall broad location.</p> <p>The Proposed Submission version more closely aligns with other local plans and strategies including the Education, Leisure and sports strategies which are key factor in the selection of sites remaining to be developed for residential in the Green Belt as part of the relocation of school and college facilities.</p> <p>The Preferred Option stage version included sites for residential development that are likely to adversely impact upon Green Infrastructure assets.</p> <p>The Proposed Submission version would have less adverse impact on the highway network due to the smaller scale of the proposal and it reduces the problem of access arrangements to the local road network.</p> <p>The Proposed Submission version has a more favourable SA/SEA outcome in relation to sustainable land use, biodiversity and cultural heritage objectives.</p>

Appraisal of spatial elements to Policy CSSP2: Sustainable Employment Growth

SA objective	Purfleet	Grays	Lakeside Basin / West Thurrock	Tilbury	London Gateway	Other sites in Borough
	Storage and warehousing; freight transport Business services; recreation and leisure; creative industries Royal opera House Production Facility, High House. 2,800 jobs	Retail Business services; recreation and leisure; public sector services - Thurrock Learning Campus; - Grays Community Business Centre; - Sustainable Business Centres and Incubators. 1,650 jobs	Retail; logistics and transport; construction Business services; retail; recreation and leisure - Sustainable Business Centres and Incubators 7,000 – 9,000 jobs	Port; logistics and transport; and construction Business services; environmental technologies; recycling; and energy - Tilbury Eco-Quarter; - Expansion of Tilbury Riverside Business Centre. 1,600 – 3,800 jobs	Port; logistics and transport Environmental technologies; recycling; and energy - Training, Innovation and Research Facility; - Business and Distribution Park. 11,000 – 13,000 jobs	Logistics; freight transport; small business units Business services; small business units; cultural; leisure. 1,700 jobs
1) Economic growth	+	+	++	+	++	?
2) Economic diversity	++	+	++	++	+	+
3) Investment	+	+	++	+	++	?
4) Sustainable locations	+	+	+	-	?	?
5) Land use	+	+	+	-	?	?
6) Biodiversity	+	+	+	?	?	?
7) Emissions & pollutants	-	-	-	-	-	-
8) Cultural heritage	0	0	0	0	0	0
9) Water consumption	0	0	0	0	0	0
10) Natural resources	0	0	0	0	0	0

11) Equality	+	+	+	+	+	+
12) Access to services	?	+	+	?	?	+
13) Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0
14) Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0
15) Health	0	0	0	0	0	0
16) Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA conclusion:	<p>Employment growth targeted to these locations will, of course, stimulate investment and economic growth. It is suggested that the greatest opportunities might be associated with growth at Lakeside/West Thurrock and at the London Gateway.</p> <p>In terms of supporting economic <i>diversity</i>, the picture is similar but perhaps not identical. Supporting employment growth at 'other locations' should be beneficial in terms of supporting economic diversity, whereas these might not be considered to be ideal locations for employment development given the objective of maximising economic growth. In terms of supporting economic diversity, it is also noted that 1) growth at Purfleet will be targeted towards support for the creative industries; 2) growth at Tilbury will include a focus on environmental industries; and 3) employment development at London Gateway will secure the long-term future of the port industry in Thurrock.</p> <p>In terms of directing growth towards 'sustainable locations' and ensuring 'sustainable land use' it is expected that most sites will lead to benefits, given that there will be full use made of the previously developed land resource. Growth at Tilbury has been shown to perform less well in terms of these objectives, as it will necessitate a degree of greenfield land take.</p> <p>In terms of addressing derivational needs, and reducing inequality within Thurrock, it is suggested that all major sites will lead to benefits, given that employment opportunities will be created that are accessible to deprived communities. The approach of allocating a degree of employment growth to 'other sites' is also beneficial, given that pockets of deprivation exist in the more outlying settlements.</p> <p>Another way in which growth can address deprivation is through enabling enhancement to services and facilities. It is suggested that a focus on retail growth in Grays should have the indirect effect of strengthening the service offer within the Town Centre; and also that a focus on growth in Lakeside/West Thurrock should help to ensure it develops into a 'regional centre' with a broad service offer.</p> <p>The appraisal has suggested that all locations for growth are likely to result in increased traffic congestion in those parts of Thurrock that currently have air quality problems. It is not apparent that growth at any of the locations would lead to avoidance of this effect.</p>					

Appraisal of spatial elements to Policy CSSP4: Sustainable Green Belt

SA objective	Tilbury Marshes	North-east Grays	NE Stanford-le-Hope
1) Economic growth	+	+	+
2) Economic diversity	0	0	0
3) Investment	+	+	+
4) Sustainable locations	-	+	+
5) Land use	-	+	+
6) Biodiversity	?	0	0
7) Emissions & pollutants	0	0	0
8) Cultural heritage	0	0	0
9) Water consumption	0	0	0
10) Natural resources	0	0	0
11) Equality	0	0	0
12) Access to services	0	++	+
13) Housing	0	+	+
14) Crime	0	0	0
15) Health	0	0	0
16) Waste	0	0	0
SA conclusion:	<p>The following key points are highlighted through the appraisal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Development in the Green Belt at Tilbury Marsh will involve significant greenfield land take, where as development at the other two locations will not involve as much and North East Grays a significant proportion of Previously Developed land in the Green Belt 2) Support for housing at Grays may be considered beneficial in terms of supporting access to services, given that Grays is a key service centre. 3) Similarly, growth at Stanford-le-Hope will be supportive of efforts to attract investment locally and improve the town centre. 		