

Sustainability Appraisal Report: Non-Technical Summary



Tendring District

local development framework

Core Strategy and Development Policies
Document (Regulation 27)

***Sustainability Appraisal Report
Non-Technical Summary***

October 2010

Tendring
District Council



NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Introduction

This is the non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal report for the Tendring District Core Strategy and Development Policies Development Plan Document (hereafter the 'Core Strategy').

Sustainability Appraisal is about asking at various intervals during plan preparation: "How sustainable is my plan?". A range of objectives are established and all options are assessed against these objectives to compare their environmental, economic and social effects and ultimately to assess how sustainable an option is.

This Sustainability Appraisal report incorporates the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which gives effect to EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the 'assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (the SEA Directive) and places an obligation on LPAs to carry out a SEA on land use and spatial plans.

As part of the Sustainability Appraisal an Equality Impact Assessment was carried out and this is published as a separate report.

This Sustainability Appraisal report is published for consultation as part of the Core Strategy Regulation 27 consultation. Any comments received to this Sustainability Appraisal report will be considered and if necessary changes will be made to the report prior to submission.

The consultation period will run from Thursday 21 October 2010 to Monday 6 December 2010. Comments should be sent to:

Planning Policy
Tendring District Council
Council Offices
Thorpe Road
Weeley
Essex CO16 9AJ

Sustainability objectives, baseline and context

This section in the Sustainability Appraisal report is split into ten sub-sections and for each sub-section includes the key messages from the review of relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives, the baseline data, and the key sustainability issues and problems. The following table summarises the context for the appraisal.

	Key Messages from review of policies, plans & programmes, & sustainability objectives	Baseline environment	Sustainability issues & problems facing Tendring
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access policies should be clear, comprehensive & inclusive. - Community involvement is essential. - The needs of the changing demographic should be met. - Support people in the region in 'active ageing' and adding life to years. 	<p>The population of Tendring is approximately 148,000 and a large proportion of the population live within the main settlements.</p> <p>The population of the district has changed considerably over recent years, during the period 1981 – 2006 the population of Tendring grew by 26.8, which compares with a growth rate of 13.7% for Essex over the same period. Growth is expected to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the period 1981-2006 the population of Tendring has grown by 26.8% compared with 13.7% for Essex. - Tendring has the highest proportion of pensioners in the East of England. 27% compared to 20.2% for Essex and 19.6 % for East of England and 18.6% for England.

		<p>continue at an above average rate, with the projected population change for the period 2006 – 2026 being 17%.</p> <p>98.7% of the population are of a white ethnic group and the split of males to females is roughly 47:53.</p> <p>Tendring has the highest proportion of pensioners in the East of England and is ranked in the top ten local authority districts nationally for people aged 65 years and over.</p>	
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies should promote high quality, inclusive design. - Housing developments must be located in suitable locations that make efficient use of land and offer a good range of services, community facilities and jobs etc. - Policies for the location of development should avoid flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk. - Housing shortages must be addressed by securing a step change in the delivery of additional housing. - Developments should take account of the role and value of biodiversity. - The combination of high cost homes and low rural wages is putting rural housing out of the reach of many who work in the countryside. 	<p>The total dwelling stock for the district is approximately 65,680 and Tendring has set a local target to deliver a minimum of 6,300 new dwellings up to 2031, which equates to 315 dwellings per year.</p> <p>The Strategic Housing Market Assessment revealed that distinguishing factors for the Tendring housing market are the ratio of bungalows compared to other dwelling types, the proximity to railway stations being less significant for commuters than other parts of the South East and the low levels of major new residential development.</p> <p>The mean house price in Tendring was £176,000 in 2010.</p> <p>In 2006/7 only 10 affordable dwellings were delivered & in 2008/9 42 affordable dwellings were delivered. This does not come close to meeting the unmet need for affordable housing dwellings per annum, which is 1,579.</p> <p>The density of new dwellings is high, with only 22% below 30 dwellings per hectare in 2008/9.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The amount of vacant dwellings is higher than the regional and national average and the percentage of dwellings considered unfit is higher. - A small amount of affordable housing dwellings have been built in recent years and this figure does not meet need. Furthermore the majority of the public do not believe that the level of affordable housing has got better over the past few years. - There is a higher than average amount of homeless persons.
Economy & employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that town centres provide an attractive, accessible and safe environment for all. - Schemes for rural diversification should be supported. - Developments should take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification. - Development should be located in areas which minimise the length and number of trips. - The countryside can provide opportunities for recreation and 	<p>The economy of the district is very mixed. In the area around Harwich the port has a strong influence, which is recognised through the Haven Gateway Partnership and which will grow stronger with the development of Bathside Bay. Within the other main towns of the district tourism plays an important part in the local economy. The district has a strong tradition of manufacturing activity that, whilst playing an important role in the economy of the district, has</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The average household income is below average. - The economic activity rate is lower than the national average. - The percentage of full time workers is significantly below average. - The total amount of people claiming jobseekers allowance is above average. - Tendring has the highest percentage of people claiming a social security benefit in Essex. - The job density is low at only 0.57.

	<p>visitors can play an important role in the regeneration of the economies of rural areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support business innovation and take-up of best practice in renewable energy technology and management. - Provide for the needs of an expanding tourism sector. - Support the maintenance and appropriate expansion of the ports, maritime and related activities. - Harness the region's economic strengths specifically in science, technology and research. - Create a framework for private investment and regeneration that promotes economic, environmental and social well being, particularly in deprived areas. - Maximise the benefits from the Olympics coming to London in 2012. - Promote the development of the Haven Gateway as a New Growth Point. - Support home based working. 	<p>declined over recent years.</p> <p>Tendring has set a local requirement to deliver 7,000 new jobs during the plan period.</p> <p>The economic activity rate in Tendring is lower than the national, regional and county averages and the unemployment rate is higher.</p> <p>Tendring is in the 29% of most deprived areas in the country, is the fifth most deprived area in the region and the most deprived area in Essex, with significant pockets of deprivation in Jaywick and around Clacton town centre and there is a high percentage of the population claiming Job Seekers Allowance.</p> <p>The average income per week is significantly lower than average at £423.70.</p> <p>In March 2006 permission was granted for the construction of a new deep water container terminal at Bathside Bay, which will lead to the creation of 772 direct jobs and thousands of indirect jobs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a high level of out-commuting. - There is a higher than average percentage of people employed in the tourist sector. - The room occupancy for hotels is lower than average.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote social inclusion. - Open spaces, sports and recreational facilities promote social inclusion and healthy lifestyles. - Biodiversity should be enhanced among developments. - A balance between safeguarding the environment of Essex, and the quality of life of its residents must be achieved. - Locate day to day facilities which need to be near their clients in local centres. - Reduce levels of poverty and exclusion. - Improve the skills base through increased learning opportunities for all. - Those who live in the most deprived areas are likely to be multiply disadvantaged. - Maximise the benefits from the Olympics coming to London in 2012. 	<p>Tendring is characterised by it's higher than average proportion of pensioners.</p> <p>The percentage of the population with a limiting long term illness is 24%, which is higher than average.</p> <p>Within the district there are 2 hospitals, 32 GP surgeries, 7 secondary schools and 4 primary schools.</p> <p>Crime within the district is low, although the fear of crime is relatively high.</p> <p>There is 138.73 hectares of open space in the district.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational achievement is poor with the percentage of working age population with no formal qualifications almost double the national average. - Fear of crime is high, particularly at night, despite Tendring having a low crime rate.
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The quality and extent of natural habitats and geological sites should be protected and enhanced. - Developments should take account of the role and value of biodiversity. - Maximise the potential for 	<p>The district has an attractive natural environment characterised by its estuarine setting and diverse range of large and small villages and coastal resorts. It is estimated that approximately 25% of the district is covered by</p>	<p>The district has a high proportion of environmentally sensitive sites, including four international sites.</p>

	<p>landscape and biodiversity enhancement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The biodiversity value of brownfield sites must be considered. - Consideration should be given to the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes and as habitats. - Identify priority habitats and species which are important at international, national and local levels. - High quality green infrastructure should be delivered. 	<p>environmental and physical constraints.</p> <p>The Stour and Colne Estuaries and Hamford Water are recognised as being of international ecological importance through their designations as Special Protection Areas and the designation of the Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation, which includes the Colne Estuary.</p> <p>There are a variety of other sites within the district that are protected at national and local level for their nature conservation. This includes National Nature Reserves at Hamford Water, the Colne Estuary, Colne Point and the Brightlingsea Marshes and Local Nature Reserves at Holland Haven, Pickers Ditch and Wrabness.</p> <p>Flagship species for Tendring as set out in the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan are corn bunting, sand martin, ringed plover, white admiral butterfly and marsh mallow</p>	
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development should not be located on greenfield land outside of settlements. - The partnership between urban and rural areas should be strengthened so as to create a new urban-rural relationship. - Landscape character should be protected. - Maximise the potential for landscape and biodiversity enhancement. 	<p>Landscape gives an area a locally distinctive character. It is the result of both natural and man made processes, including historic patterns of settlements.</p> <p>The 1949 National Parks and Access to Countryside Act provides for the designation of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Dedham Vale was designated an AONB in 1970 and part of this site is located within Tendring. Tendring believe that the southern shore of the Stour Estuary is equal in value to the northern shore, which is designated as an AONB (Suffolk Coast and Heaths) and have applied to have the AONB boundary extended into Tendring.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A large percentage of the district is classed as either high or medium landscape quality.
Natural resources & pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use resources more efficiently, minimise waste and increase rates of reuse and recycling. - Sustainable water should be promoted. - Identify land at risk (and the degree of risk) of flooding. - Safeguard land from development that is required for current and future flood 	<p>The national average daily domestic water use is 155 litres per person, with Tendring performing better than this with an average of 120 litres, however there is still a need to maximise water efficiency.</p> <p>As a coastal district parts of Tendring are at risk of flooding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parts of the district are at risk of flooding. - The percentage of people who journey to work by private car is slightly higher than the regional and national average. - More needs to be done to encourage householders to recycle.

	<p>management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce flood risk to and from new development through location, layout and design, incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). - Consideration of the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes. - The effects of floods and droughts must be mitigated. - Follow the flood risk management hierarchy (assess, avoid, substitute, control and mitigate). - The pollution of groundwater must be reduced. - Adopt a precautionary approach. - Make the polluter pay. - Noise-sensitive developments should be separated from major sources of noise. 	<p>A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is currently being prepared, which will identify which parts of the district are most at risk of flooding under various scenarios.</p> <p>Large parts of rural Tendring contain the highest quality agricultural land; 10.2% of agricultural land is Grade 1 and 29.8% is Grade 2.</p> <p>Air quality in the district is generally good, and no air quality management areas have been identified, and as Tendring does not have a legacy of heavy industry contamination is not a major problem.</p>	
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need for growth should be reconciled with the need to protect the historic environment. - Areas must be maintained as attractive places to live, work and visit with their own distinctive identity. - There should be an emphasis on design, quality and preserving and enhancing natural and built assets. - Wetlands constitute a resource of great cultural value. 	<p>The historic environment of Tendring District is rich, complex and irreplaceable and has a major role to play in Tendring's future.</p> <p>A range of historical features enjoy statutory protection, these include historic landscapes, townscapes and parks as well as individual buildings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of historic buildings at risk has only slightly improved from recent years.
Infrastructure & energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewable energy must be encouraged. - 15% of UK energy to come from renewable energy sources by 2020. - Separate economic growth from increases in resource use. - Protect sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choices. - Promote the integration of transport and communication concepts. 	<p>Tendring is generally served with good transport links, although there is a perception that as a peninsular it is remote with relatively poor road and rail links.</p> <p>The per capita carbon emissions in Tendring are less than the national and regional averages at 6 tonnes per annum. Overall carbon emissions for the district are approximately 833,000.</p> <p>An offshore windfarm off the coast of Clacton at Gunfleet Sands was completed in 2010. This is expected to generate 172 MW of energy.</p> <p>Recycling rates for household waste in the district have failed to meet the district's target of 23.07%.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewable and low carbon (e.g. combined heat and power) energy production is very low. - Recycling rates should improve.
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development plans should contribute to global sustainability by addressing causes & impacts of climate change. - Adaption will be crucial in reducing vulnerability to climate change 	<p>Climate change is happening now and is the biggest challenge facing the world today. Greenhouse gas emissions contribute significantly to climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewable and low carbon (e.g. combined heat and power) energy production is very low. - Climate change is a global issue and should be addressed by the Council as a whole.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a need to look holistically at systems affected by climate change. - Renewable energy must be encouraged. - 15% of UK energy to come from renewable energy sources by 2020.. - Development must avoid flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk. - Actively manage the pattern of urban growth to make the fullest use of public transport. - Open space and green infrastructure help wildlife to adapt to the effects of climate change. - Follow the flood risk management hierarchy (assess, avoid, substitute, control and mitigate). 	<p>Tending emits approximately 833,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, which equates to 6 tonnes per person.</p> <p>The government has a long-term aim of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 80% in 2050 compared to 1990 levels and interim targets have been set.</p> <p>Climate change is a wide ranging issue that falls into many different areas of spatial planning and so many of the themes include references to climate change.</p>	
--	--	---	--

The SA Framework, which is used to appraise every option considered, is set out below.

Objective	Assessment criteria	Indicator & Source	Target
1. Provide decent and affordable homes for all	Will it provide the homes needed to support the growing population?	Net additional dwellings per annum, Annual Monitoring Report (Core Output Indicator H2b)	315
	Will the delivery of affordable homes increase?	Affordable housing completions per annum, Annual Monitoring Report (Core Output Indicator H5)	N/A
	Will it deliver a mix of housing types?	% of dwelling completions by number of bedrooms, Annual Monitoring Report (Local Output Indicator 2)	N/A
	Does it make efficient use of land?	% of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land, Annual Monitoring Report (Core Output Indicator H3)	60% of dwelling completions to be on previously developed land
2. Harness the district's economic strengths	Are employment opportunities accessible to centres of population?	% of economically active population within 20 minutes journey time (by sustainable modes of transport) of employment opportunities, Accessibility Indicators, Department for Transport	N/A
	Will it promote regeneration?	Losses of industrial land in key business and regeneration areas, Annual Monitoring Report (Local Indicator 5)	N/A
	Will the levels of inward investment increase?	Number of new investments made that have occurred as a result of the promotion and support activities of the	1

		Council per 10,000 economically active population, Tendring Best Value Performance Plan 2007/8 and amendments/updates	
	Will it contribute to the tourism industry?	Money the tourism sector brings to the economy, Volume and Value Report	N/A
		% of jobs related to tourism, Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics	N/A
	Will it enhance the vitality and viability of town centres?	Total amount of floorspace for town centre uses, Annual Monitoring Report (Core Output Indicator BD4)	N/A
	Will it sustain or enhance the rural economy?	Location of new residential and employment development, Annual Monitoring Report (Local Output Indicator 1)	No more than 3% of dwellings to be located in the countryside
		Number of rural exception sites permitted, Annual Monitoring Report	N/A
3. Improve the skills base through increased learning opportunities for all	Will levels of educational attainment improve?	% of total working age population educated to NVQ4 level and above, Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics	N/A
		% of total working age population with no formal qualifications, Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics	N/A
	Do people have access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence?	% of economically active population within 20 minutes journey time (by sustainable modes of transport) of employment opportunities, Accessibility Indicators, Department for Transport	N/A
4. Minimise transport growth whilst capturing the economic benefits of international gateways	Will it reduce the need to travel?	% of new dwellings within a 30 min public transport time of local services, Annual Monitoring Report (Local Output Indicator 4)	N/A
	Will sustainable modes of transport increase?	% of journeys to work by private car, Census data	N/A
		Estimated length of urban cycling routes, Essex Cycling Strategy and updates	N/A
	Will it promote development of the ports?	Number of applications permitted for non-port related development within the port designated areas, local data	0
5. Promote wellbeing through community cohesion and social capital	Will effective social infrastructure and services be provided?	Provision of social infrastructure and services on allocated sites, local data	N/A
	Will existing public space be retained and new public	Total area of open space in the district, Annual Monitoring	N/A

	space be created?	Report	
	Will it reduce actual crime and the fear of crime?	Number of offences per 100,000 population, Home Office Crime Statistics	N/A
		Fear of Crime, Tendring CDRP – Community Safety annual survey	N/A
	Will it reduce pollution (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)?	Number of air quality management areas, Local Air Quality Management Annual Report	N/A
		Number of blue flags and quality coast awards, Leisure Services	N/A
		Number of potentially contaminated sites, TDC Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy	N/A
6. Reduce levels of poverty and exclusion	Will it contribute to health and income equality?	% of population with a limiting long term illness, Census data	N/A
		% of working age population claiming a key social security benefit, Census data	N/A
		Rank of average rank of deprivation, The English Indices of Deprivation	N/A
	Will it promote social cohesion?	% of residents who think that their area has got better or stayed the same in the past 3 yrs, Best Value General Survey	N/A
7. Reduce contributions to climate change	Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions?	Carbon dioxide emissions, Local and regional CO2 emissions estimates, DEFRA	Reduction of 10% by 2010
	Will sustainable design and construction techniques be employed?	Percentage of new dwellings built to at least level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, local data	100% by 2010
	Will it minimise the risk of flooding to people and properties?	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality, Annual Monitoring Report (Core Output Indicator E1)	0
	Does it provide areas of accessible green space to allow the dispersal of species?	Provision of suitable accessible natural green space identified through appropriate assessments, local data	N/A
	Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?	Renewable energy capacity installed by type, Annual Monitoring Report (Core Output Indicator E3)	N/A
8. Protect and	Will it preserve or enhance	Change in areas and	No loss

enhance natural and historic environmental assets	biodiversity?	populations of biodiversity importance, Annual Monitoring Report (Core Output Indicator E2)	
	Will environmentally protected sites be protected or enhanced?	Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, Annual Monitoring Report (Core Output Indicator E2)	No loss
	Will it protect Greenfield land?	% of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land, Annual Monitoring Report (Core Output Indicator H3)	60% of dwelling completions to be on previously developed land.
	Will landscape quality be maintained?	% of land in Landscape Character Assessment with high sensitivity, Landscape Character Assessment and updates	No loss of land with high landscape sensitivity
	Will historic assets be protected or enhanced?	Number of listed buildings at risk, Historic Buildings at Risk Register	N/A
Number of Conservation Areas, local data		N/A	
9. Ensure the prudent use of natural resources	Does it minimise waste and increase rates of reuse and recycling?	Percentage of household waste recycled, Tendring Best Value Performance Plan and updates/ amendments	24
	Will water quality be maintained or improved?	Percentage length of estuary quality classed as Good, Environment Agency	N/A
	Will it maximise the energy efficiency of development?	Percentage of new dwellings built to at least level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, local data	100% by 2010

Developing the DPD Options

Numerous options were appraised as part of plan preparation. Firstly, following consultation on the Issues and Possible Options document an appraisal of those options was carried out and sent to members of the Environment Theme Group for informal consultation. The following options were appraised:

- Four options for the spatial strategy;
- Five options for development along the A120 corridor;
- Two options for the number of dwellings to be planned for; and
- Four job growth scenarios.

Further appraisal work was then carried out for the spatial strategy and job growth scenarios as a result of representations received and additional studies completed.

The broad areas of search for each settlement set out in the Issues and Possible Options document were appraised and options for core policies and development policies were appraised.

The appraisal of options is too lengthy to include in this non-technical summary, but a summary of the appraisal of options is included in section 5 of the Sustainability Appraisal report.

Predicting and evaluating the effects of the DPD and considering mitigation and enhancement measures

This section of the Sustainability Appraisal report summarises the effects of the strategic policies, core policies, development policies and each settlement. As with the appraisal of options this is too lengthy to include in this non-technical summary but it can be found in section 6 of the Sustainability Appraisal report.

In terms of the cumulative effects of the DPD, it is highly likely that 6,300 dwellings will be provided in the plan period and 7,000 jobs will be created. It is certain that in the majority of cases affordable housing will be delivered as part of major development. It is certain that the government target of 60% of new dwellings on previously developed land will not be met. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment advises that only 20% of new dwellings are likely to be provided on previously developed land. It is highly likely that regeneration will occur; eight regeneration areas have been identified in five settlements and various strategies have been/ are being produced to promote regeneration. As part of these regeneration projects the district's tourist economy will be promoted. It is highly likely that the vitality and viability of the town centres will be enhanced; particularly Clacton Town Centre. The Employment Land Study predicts that the majority of Clacton's job growth will be economic growth of the town centre and an Area Action Plan is currently being prepared for Clacton Town Centre. Frinton Town Centre will be improved as a result of public realm improvements identified in the Conservation Area Management Plan. It is highly likely that the rural economy will be sustained and enhanced through the support given to small scale employment development in the countryside. It is highly likely that the need to travel will be reduced as the Core Strategy will lead to mixed use development in the most accessible locations (the settlement hierarchy helps to ensure this). However, rural employment sites may increase the need to travel and an increase in visitors to the district will increase the amount of car journeys. Linked to the reduced need to travel, it is highly likely that sustainable modes of travel will increase as the Core Strategy will deliver a number of green infrastructure projects, supports improvements to the railway network and support improvements to the bus network. Social infrastructure and services will be delivered as part of development and the Core Strategy already identifies necessary infrastructure in certain locations. The Community Infrastructure Levy or other equivalent tariff-based contributions mechanism will increase the amount of contributions towards infrastructure as even small scale development will be required to contribute. The impact on pollution is mixed. The Core Strategy will reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable travel, which will reduce air pollution. However, an increase in visitors will increase levels of air pollution. The quality of bathing waters is likely to improve as a result of an increase in tourism. Development of greenfield land will adversely affect soils; however the Site Allocations DPD can help to ensure that the highest quality agricultural land is safeguarded from development. It is certain that greenhouse gas emissions from new build will be reduced owing to improvements to building regulations, which will take place in the early part of the plan period. Development will need to demonstrate that the risk of flooding will not increase and sustainable drainage systems will certainly be incorporated into the majority of developments as the Core Strategy requires applicants to justify the non use of sustainable drainage systems. Additionally, strict occupancy restrictions for holiday accommodation will be applied in areas of flood risk. It is very likely that biodiversity, high quality landscapes and the historic environment will be preserved through the protection these areas/assets are afforded by legislation. However, Bathside Bay, which the Core Strategy supports, will adversely affect the integrity of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area/ Ramsar site and the Brightlingsea waterfront development, which already has planning permission and is currently being implemented, is likely to affect the Colne Estuary Special Protection Area / Ramsar site through increased levels of disturbance. Furthermore, the promotion of the districts natural assets as tourist attractions could affect environmentally protected sites and development in east Clacton could affect the Holland Haven Marshes

Site of Special Scientific Interest. Whilst biodiversity may be enhanced through habitat creation as part of development this will not occur in every case. The Water Cycle Study has identified that there are issues in terms of wastewater and if these are not addressed before development comes forward water quality will be adversely affected.

Numerous mitigation and enhancement measures are proposed, which will help to ensure even greater positive impacts.

Implementation and monitoring

The Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal will be monitored every year as part of the Annual Monitoring Report.