

Central Area Action Plan (SCAAP) (February 2017)

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

This note was prepared by AMEC on behalf of the Planning Advisory Service. It aims to help local authorities prepare their plans in advance of an examination, taking into account the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. A separate checklist looks at legal compliance.

In summary – the key requirements of plan preparation are:

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

The Tests of Soundness at Examination

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

The tests of soundness are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (para 182): “The Local Plan will be examined by an independent inspector whose role is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements, and whether it is sound. A local planning authority should submit a plan for examination which it considers is ‘sound’”, namely that it is:

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

This means that the Development Plan Document (DPD) should be based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development. The NPPF has 12 principles through which it expects sustainable development can be achieved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Soundness Test and Key Requirements**Possible Evidence****Evidence Provided**

Positively Prepared: the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><i>Vision and Objectives</i></p> <p>Has the LPA clearly identified what the issues are that the DPD is seeking to address? Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the DPD is seeking to achieve?</p> <p>Does the DPD contain clear vision(s) and objectives which are specific to the place? Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues, the vision(s) and the objectives?</p> <p>Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD?</p> <p>Have reasonable alternatives to the quantum of development and overall spatial strategy been considered?</p> <p>Are the policies internally consistent?</p> <p>Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives?</p> <p>Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD and other documents which set out (where applicable) the vision, strategic objectives, key outcomes expected, spatial portrait and issues to be addressed. • Relevant sections of the DPD which explain how policies derive from the objectives and are designed to meet them. • The strategic objectives of the DPD, and the commentary in the DPD of how they derive from the spatial portrait and vision, and how the objectives are consistent with one another. • Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments through evidenced infrastructure delivery planning. • Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery. • Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure. 	<p>The Submission Version of the SCAAP (November 2016) clearly sets out the context, issues and priorities in Part A of the Plan (pages 5-11).</p> <p>The vision, and 11 strategic objectives, are all set out in the SCAAP (pages 12-13). These support and complement the Core Strategy (2007) and the vision and objectives contained within it. The relationship between the Core Strategy policies and SCAAP policies is explained after each individual SCAAP policy in a 'Policy Linkages box'.</p> <p>Statutory consultees were consulted during the production of the Core Strategy and have also been consulted during each stage in the production of the SCAAP. Their comments and feedback have been taken into account as the Plan has progressed. All feedback is submitted as a supporting evidence document (Consultation Statement).</p> <p>The Local Development Scheme (LDS) provides information on the scope and content of each DPD. The LDS can be viewed on the Southend Borough Council website (www.southend.gov.uk).</p>
<p><i>The presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF paras 6-17)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An evidence base which establishes the development needs of the plan area (see Justified below) and includes a flexible approach to 	<p>The quantum of development and spatial approach is set out in the adopted Core Strategy. The SCAAP</p>

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<p>Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:</p> <p>—any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or</p> <p>—specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.</p>	<p>delivery (see ‘Section 3 Effective’, below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An audit trail showing how and why the quantum of development, preferred overall strategy and plan area distribution of development were arrived at. 	<p>does not contain policies of a strategic nature. Rather, the detailed criteria based policies support the Core Strategy policies, vision and objectives.</p> <p>The adopted Development Management Document – DM DPD (July 2015) sets out policies for positively managing development in Southend and will be used to assess and determine all planning applications within the SCAAP area.</p> <p>The relationship between the SCAAP with the Core Strategy policies and DM DPD policies is explained after each individual SCAAP policy in a ‘Policy Linkages box’.</p> <p>Sustainable development is at the heart of the SCAAP. The approach to development is proactive and seeks to ensure that well designed and sustainable new development is delivered in the Central Area of the Borough to meet need.</p> <p>As such it is considered that the approach taken in the production of the SCAAP is entirely consistent with the NPPF.</p>
<p>Policies in Local Plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development so that it is clear that development which is sustainable can be</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A policy or policies which reflect the principles of the presumption in favour of sustainable development (see model policy at www.planningportal.gov.uk). 	<p>All policies within the SCAAP follow the principles of the presumption in favour of sustainable development</p>

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<p>approved without delay. All plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.</p>		<p>and accord with the DM DPD Policy.</p>
<p><i>Objectively assessed needs</i></p> <p>The economic, social and environmental needs of the authority area addressed and clearly presented in a fashion which makes effective use of land and specifically promotes mixed use development, and take account of cross-boundary and strategic issues.</p> <p>Note: Meeting these needs should be subject to the caveats specified in Paragraph 14 of the NPPF (see above).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background evidence papers demonstrating requirements based on population forecasts, employment projections and community needs. • Technical papers demonstrating how the aspirations and objectives of the DPD are related to the evidence, and how these are to be met, including from consultation and associated with the Duty to Co-operate. 	<p>The quantum of development and spatial approach is set out in the adopted Core Strategy. The SCAAP does not contain policies of a strategic nature. Rather, the detailed criteria based policies support the Core Strategy policies, vision and objectives’.</p> <p>The SCAAP has been prepared having regard to the economic, social and environmental needs of the Central Area of the Borough to ensure the effective use of land. Many of its policies and proposals specifically promote mixed use development.</p> <p>Due to its central location the SCAAP does not have any physical cross-boundary issues. However, strategic housing and economic need assessments have been undertaken with neighbouring authorities to ensure strategic issues impinging on the central area are fully taken into account. Nevertheless, strategic issues are set out in the Core Strategy document.</p> <p>The technical papers upon which the</p>

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		<p>SCAAP is based include: Employment Land Review (2010); Southend Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2010, 2012, 2013 and 2014, 2016);Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2016);Southend Retail and Town Centre Study (2011);The Management of designated Shopping Frontages (2016); Local Economic Assessment(2013);Car Parking Study for the Central Area of Southend (2016); Southend Cultural Strategy (2012-2020);Southend Public Art Strategy (2006) Southend Hotels Future Report (2010); Southend Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2010); Equality Impact Assessment (2016); and Annual Monitoring Reports. A Duty to Co-operate Statement has also been produced to document how the Council has worked with neighbouring authorities and other bodies in the production of the Plan.</p>
NPPF Principles: Delivering sustainable development		
1. Building a strong, competitive economy (paras 18-22)		
Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for the area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth (21),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulation of a clear economic vision and strategy for the plan area linked to the Economic Strategy and LEP Strategy where appropriate. 	The economic vision and strategy for the Southend Borough is set out in the Core Strategy (2007). The DM DPD also provides more detailed policies in

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		<p>order to achieve these objectives (primarily Policy DM10, DM11, DM12 and DM13). The SCAAP has been prepared within this framework and reiterates this approach in its vision and strategic objectives, particularly SO1, and in its policy approach.</p>
<p>Recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing (21)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A criteria-based policy which meets identified needs and is positive and flexible in planning for specialist sectors, regeneration, infrastructure provision, environmental enhancement. • An up-to-date assessment of the deliverability of allocated employment sites, to meet local needs, (taking into account that LPAs should avoid the long term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of an allocated site being used for that purpose) para (22) 	<p>The SCAAP identifies areas where investment has not come forward, particularly in relation to vacant land and under-used/redundant office buildings. It seeks to address these issues through a positive policy/proposals approach to promoting mixed-use developments better suited to current and future needs with related environmental and infrastructure improvements</p> <p>The areas allocated for employment use within the SCAAP area will be promoted for such uses in accordance with Policy DM10 and DM11 as contained in the adopted DM DPD which provides a criteria-based policy for positively managing existing employment areas in the Borough as evidenced by the Southend Employment Land Review and Local Economic Assessment. This includes protecting existing employment uses whilst allowing for the release of sites to other uses where there is no reasonable long term prospect of an</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		employment use coming forward.
2. Ensuring the vitality of town centres (paras 23-37)		
Policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments, and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period (23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan and its policies may include such matters as: definition of networks and hierarchies; defining town centres; encouragement of residential development on appropriate sites; allocation of appropriate edge of centre sites where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available; consideration of retail and leisure proposals which cannot be accommodated in or adjacent to town centres. 	<p>The SCAAP positively promotes a competitive town centre through its policy and proposal provisions. This is in accordance with the Core Strategy (2007) which identifies the network and hierarchy of centres in the Borough.</p> <p>The SCAAP (Policy DS1) identifies the Primary Shopping Frontages and Secondary Shopping Frontages in the town centre and seeks to manage the use of units within these areas to ensure that the centre remains competitive by containing a diverse mix of uses that maintain their vitality and viability (see Technical Report – Management of Town Centre Shopping Frontage, November 2016).</p>
Allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community services and residential development needed in town centres (23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment of the need to expand (the) town centre(s), considering the needs of town centre uses. Primary and secondary shopping frontages identified and allocated. 	<p>The SCAAP identifies a number of areas and sites within the central area to provide for a range of sites that meet the centres retail, tourism, leisure, commercial, office, cultural, community services and residential needs.</p> <p>This accord with the framework provided by the adopted Core Strategy.</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>The Southend Retail and Town Centre Study (2011) concluded that the retail hierarchy and classification of centres as set out by the Core Strategy remains appropriate and current.</p> <p>The SCAAP (Policy DS1) identifies the Primary Shopping Frontages and Secondary Shopping Frontages in the town centre.</p>
<p>3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy (para 28)</p>		
<p>Support sustainable economic growth in rural areas. Planning strategies should promote a strong rural economy by taking a positive approach to new development. (28)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where relevant include a policy or policies which support the sustainable growth of rural businesses; promote the development and diversification of agricultural businesses; support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments, and support local services and facilities. 	<p>Southend central area is exclusively urban in nature but has a large waterfront popular for tourism and leisure pursuits but also rich in nature conservation and biodiversity value. Policies CS1, CS2 and CS3 seek to positively manage this area and resolve potentially conflicting objectives to ensure its openness and the integrity of environmental designations.</p>
<p>4. Promoting sustainable transport (paras 29-41)</p>		
<p>Facilitate sustainable development whilst contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. (29)</p> <p>Balance the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes and give people a real choice about how they travel whilst recognising that different policies will be</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint working with adjoining authorities, transport providers and Government Agencies on infrastructure provision in order to support sustainable economic growth with particular regard to the facilities referred to in paragraph 31. Policies encouraging development which facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport and a range of transport choices where appropriate, particularly the criteria in paragraph 35. 	<p>The provision of sustainable development lies at the heart of the SCAAP's policies and proposal provisions. Sustainable transport provision is positively promoted in Policy DS5 and reflected in the other policies and proposals in the Plan to</p>

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<p>required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas. (29)</p> <p>Encourage solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion (29) including supporting a pattern of development which, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport. (30)</p> <p>Local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development. (31)</p> <p>Opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure. (32)</p> <p>Ensure that developments which generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised (34)</p> <p>Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. (35)</p> <p>Policies should aim for a balance of land uses so that people can be encouraged to minimize journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities. (37)</p> <p>For larger scale residential developments in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A spatial strategy and policy which seeks to reduce the need to travel through balancing housing and employment provision. • Policy for major developments which promotes a mix of uses and access to key facilities by sustainable transport modes. • If local (car parking) standards have been prepared, are they justified and necessary? (39) • Identification and protection of sites and routes where infrastructure could be developed to widen transport choice linked to the Local Transport Plan. 	<p>provide for a range of transport choices.</p> <p>Particular policy provisions include encouraging greater bus usage, providing for improved and new pedestrian and cycling facilities</p> <p>This approach accords with the spatial strategy and strategic policies on locating growth in the urban area and reducing the need to travel as set out in the Core Strategy (Policy CP3). It has also been prepared having regard to the DM DPD (Policy DM15 – Sustainable Transport Management) which provides for a borough wide approach for positively managing development and related transport issues, including the provision of car parking standards. It also accords with the provisions of the Southend Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>The transport policy provisions of the SCAAP have been informed by a Car Parking Study for the central area (2016). Two Topic Papers have also been prepared to support the SCAAP summaries information on parking and the strategic highway network.</p> <p>The SCAAP identifies appropriate locations for the development of tall and large buildings in accordance with DM DPD Policy DM4 which seeks to</p>

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<p>particular, planning policies should promote a mix of uses in order to provide opportunities to undertake day-to-day activities including work on site. Where practical, particularly within large-scale developments, key facilities such as primary schools and local shops should be located within walking distance of most properties. (38)</p> <p>The setting of car parking standards including provision for town centres. (39-40)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should identify and protect, where there is robust evidence, sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice. (41)</p>		<p>locate such developments to the central area of the Borough in order to make full use of the areas sustainable location served by an extensive public transport network.</p>
<p>5. Supporting high quality communications infrastructure (paras 42-46)</p>		
<p>Support the expansion of the electronic communications networks, including telecommunications' masts and high speed broadband. (43)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new telecommunications development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions over a wide area or a wide range of telecommunications development or insist on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and existing development. (44)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband, noting the caveats in para 44. 	<p>The SCAAP has been prepared in accordance with the framework of the Core Strategy and in relation to the development policies of the adopted DM.</p> <p>In promoting economic regeneration the Core Strategy outlines that development will be expected to improve the level of service of broadband infrastructure and other state of the art information communication technology.</p> <p>Policy DM8 of the DM includes residential standards for non-self-contained accommodation (such as student and hospital staff) and</p>

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		<p>outlines that such building must have access to broadband.</p> <p>In addition, section 12 of the Design and Townscape Guide SPD1 contains detailed design guidance on telecommunications masts and antennae.</p> <p>Appropriate policy linkages are set out in the 'policy linkages box' after each SCAAP policy.</p>
<p>6. Delivering a wide choice of high quality housing (paras 47-55)</p>		
<p>Identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements; this should include an additional buffer of 5% or 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. 20% buffer applies where there has been persistent under delivery of housing(47)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) five years or more supply of specific deliverable sites; plus the buffer as appropriate • Where this element of housing supply includes windfall sites, inclusion of 'compelling evidence' to justify their inclusion (48) • A SHLAA 	<p>In setting out the spatial strategy, including housing targets for Southend, the Core Strategy in Policy CP1 outlines the broad location where this growth will be located until 2021.</p> <p>In terms of the town centre and seafront areas, the SCAAP identifies specific sites to accommodate housing provision in accordance with the provisions of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>The Council has a demonstrable 5 year housing land supply as set out in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report and in more detail in the SHLAA 2016 update.</p>
<p>Identify a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6-10 and, where possible,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of a supply of developable sites or broad locations 	<p>The SCAAP only covers the period to</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
years 11-15 (47).	for: a) years 6-10; b) years 11-15	<p>2021 in accordance with the Core Strategy.</p> <p>The Council has identified a supply of developable sites/ broad locations for years 6-10 and 11-15 in its SHLAA (2016 update). This is regularly monitored and updated.</p> <p>This will form part of the preparation of a new Local Plan for Southend covering the whole Borough.</p>
Illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a trajectory; and set out a housing implementation strategy describing how a five year supply will be maintained. (47)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A housing trajectory • Monitoring of completions and permissions (47) • Updated and managed SHLAA. (47) 	<p>The SCAAP identifies a number of sites to accommodate housing provision within the Plan period to 2021. Sites post 2021 will be identified in the new Southend Local Plan covering the whole Borough.</p> <p>The Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) is produced annually and includes updated housing trajectories and information of completions and permissions.</p> <p>The SHLAA 2016 update reports on the five-year housing supply, which is reviewed and updated regularly.</p>
Set out the authority's approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances (47).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on the density of development. 	<p>Because of its central location the SCAAP promotes a higher density of development on appropriate sites than elsewhere in the Borough. These are promoted through its detailed</p>

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		policy provisions which also have regard to Policy DM3 in the DM – ‘The Efficient and Effective Use of Land’, which provides a design led approach to managing density, and to Policy SPD1 contained in the Southend Design and Townscape Guide.
Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic and market trends, and needs of different groups (50) and caters for housing demand and the scale of housing supply to meet this demand. (para 159)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on planning for a mix of housing (including self-build, and housing for older people • SHMA • Identification of the size, type, tenure and range of housing required in particular locations, reflecting local demand. (50) • Evidence for housing provision based on up to date, objectively assessed needs. (50) • Policy on affordable housing and consideration for the need for on-site provision or if off-site provision or financial contributions are sought, where these can these be justified and to what extent do they contribute to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities. (50) 	<p>Policy CP8 of the adopted Core Strategy sets out the level of housing, including proportion of affordable, to be provided in Southend for the period 2001-2021.</p> <p>The SCAAP provides for a range of sites to accommodate housing needs, including affordable housing. These policies are supported by the Development Management Document, which itself is informed by a number of evidence base documents, including the SHMA (2014) and Housing Quality Review (2014).</p> <p>The DM DPD provides further detailed policy in relation to Dwelling Mix, Size and Type (DM7); Residential Standards (DM8); and Specialist Residential Accommodation (DM9).</p>
In rural areas be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of allowing some market housing to facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet local needs. • Consideration of the case for resisting inappropriate development 	N/A Southend central area is exclusively urban in nature.

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<p>where appropriate (54). In rural areas housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</p>	<p>of residential gardens. (This is discretionary)(para 53)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of special circumstances to allow new isolated homes listed at para 55. 	
<p>7. Requiring good design (paras 56-68)</p>		
<p>Develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area (58).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of policy or policies which seek to increase the quality of development through the principles set out at para 58 and approaches in paras 59-61, linked to the vision for the area and specific local issues 	<p>The SCAAP's polices and proposal provisions provide for detailed criteria to ensure that development is of a quality consistent with the character and distinctiveness of the area. This is particularly the case in sensitive locations such as conservation areas, landmark buildings/ important views and the seafront.</p> <p>This accords with the Core Strategy which contains a number of policies in relation to good design and the DM (Policy DM1 – Design Quality).</p> <p>Design and Townscape Guide SPD (2009) provides more guidance on design related issues and sustainability.</p>
<p>8. Promoting healthy communities (paras 69-77)</p>		
<p>Policies should aim to design places which: promote community interaction, including through mixed-use development; are safe and accessible environments; and are accessible developments (69).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of a policy or policies on inclusive communities. • Promotion of opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity; safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the 	<p>The SCAAP policies seek to provide for mixed use developments which promote community interaction that are safe and accessible, including pedestrian and cycle routes, public spaces and a quality public realm.</p>

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	<p>fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion; and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. (69)</p>	<p>This accords with DM Policy DM1 which seeks to ensure that new development schemes are safe, secure and are of a high quality of design, which contribute to the creation of successful and sustainable places.</p>
<p>Policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services (70).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of a policy or policies addressing community facilities and local service. • Positive planning for the provision and integration of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments; safeguard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services; ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernize; and ensure that housing is developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities and good access to key services and infrastructure. 	<p>As part of predominantly mixed-use schemes, the SCAAP provides for new pedestrian areas, shared cycle/pedestrian facilities, open space provision and community facilities in its policy areas and opportunity sites.</p> <p>Policy DS1 seeks to maintain a prosperous retail centre by protecting retail frontages.</p>
<p>Identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities; and set locally derived standards to provide these (73).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. (73) • A policy protecting existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land from development, with specific exceptions. (74) • Protection and enhancement of rights of way and access. (75) 	<p>The SCAAP positively promotes walking and cycling (Policy DS5) and provides for the provision of improved and new facilities in its policy areas and opportunity sites. This is linked with wider objectives to achieve a network of cycleways and public rights of way as part of the SUSTRANS/Local Transport Plan and South Essex Green Grid objectives respectively.</p> <p>Policies CS1 and CS3 encourage the provision of additional sport and</p>

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		<p>recreational facilities in the central seafront area.</p> <p>The SCAAP also promotes the provision of new public spaces in appropriate mixed-use developments and the provision of a new park at Queensway (Policy PA4). Improved and additional open space facilities are also promoted in the central seafront area (Policy CS1).</p>
<p>Enable local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to identify special protection green areas of particular importance to them – ‘Local Green Space’ (76-78).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy enabling the protection of Local Green Spaces. (Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. The designation should only be used when it accords with the criteria in para 77). Policy for managing development within a local green space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts. (78) 	<p>The SCAAP provides for the protection of public open green spaces and the provision of new facilities in its policy provisions. This is in accordance with Core Strategy policies CP6 and CP7 which seek to safeguard existing community, recreational, sports facilities and services and open space.</p> <p>No neighbourhood plans are currently being progressed within the Borough.</p>
<p>9. Protecting Green Belt land (paras 79-92)</p>		
<p>Local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land. (81)</p> <p>Local planning authorities with Green Belts in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where Green Belt policies are included, these should reflect the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt. (81) ○ Accord with criteria on boundary setting, and the need for clarity on the status of safeguarded land, in particular. (85) ○ Specify that inappropriate development should not be approved except in very special circumstances. (87) 	<p>The SCAAP is predominantly an urban location and does not have any designated Green Belt land within its boundaries.</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>their area should establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans which set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. (83)</p> <p>When drawing up or reviewing Green Belt boundaries local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development. (84)</p> <p>Boundaries should be set using ‘physical features likely to be permanent’ amongst other things (85)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specify the exceptions to inappropriate development (89-90) ○ Identify where very special circumstances might apply to renewable energy development. (91) 	
<p>10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change (paras 93-108)</p>		
<p>Adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations. (94)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Planning of new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ● Support for energy efficiency improvements to existing building. ● Local requirements for a building’s sustainability which are consistent with the Government’s zero carbon buildings policy . (95)) 	<p>The SCAAP supports sustainable development and promotes higher densities and mixed-uses having regard to its accessible location and close proximity to public transport interchanges in accordance with the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Policy DS4 specifically provides for flood risk management and sustainable drainage provisions in all development at flood risk</p> <p>The SCAAP through its policy provisions promotes energy efficiency in new developments.</p> <p>These approaches accord with the Core Strategy and DM. Core Strategy Policy KP2 states that all new development must include appropriate measures in relation to</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>design, layout, operation and materials to achieve a reduction in the use of resources. Whilst DM Policy DM2 details the Council’s approach to low carbon development and the efficient use of resources.</p>
<p>Help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy through a strategy, policies maximising renewable and low carbon energy, and identification of key energy sources. (97)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy and policies to promote and maximise energy from renewable and low carbon sources, • Identification of suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources (see also NPPF footnote 17) • Identification of where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers. (97) 	<p>As predominately an urban area, the potential for significant large scale renewable energy development within Southend central area and the wider Borough is somewhat limited. However, Core Strategy Policy KP2 outlines that all development proposals should demonstrate how they will maximise the use of renewable and recycled energy and at least 10% of the energy needs should come from on-site renewable options (and/or decentralised renewable or low carbon energy sources), such as those set out in SPD 1 Design and Townscape Guide, wherever feasible.</p> <p>Core Strategy Policy CP4 seeks to ensure design solutions that maximise the use of sustainable and renewable resources in developments.</p> <p>Identification of suitable areas and sources for renewable or low carbon energy supplies will be contained in the new Southend Local Plan covering the whole Borough.</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Minimise vulnerability to climate change and manage the risk of flooding (99)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account taken of the impacts of climate change. (99) Allocate, and where necessary re-locate, development away from flood risk areas through a sequential test, based on a SFRA. (100) Policies to manage risk, from a range of impacts, through suitable adaptation measures 	<p>Core Strategy Policy KP1 and KP2 sets out the Council’s approach to managing the risk of flooding across the Borough. The policies seek to ensure that proposals secure opportunities to reduce both the cause and impact of flooding e.g. through the siting and type of development proposed and how development incorporate SUDS and other mitigation measures to reduce the cause and impact of flooding.</p> <p>These provisions are reflected in Policy DS4 of the SCAAP – Flood Risk Management and Sustainable Drainage. The policy provides for appropriate action required for proposals located within identified flood risk zones.</p> <p>The SCAAP also promotes urban greening in appropriate locations together with related tree planting and environmental improvements which can help towards absorbing rainfall.</p>
<p>Manage risk from coastal change (106)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of where the coast is likely to experience physical changes and identify Coastal Change Management Areas, and clarity on what development will be allowed in such areas. Provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be re-located from such areas, based on SMPs and Marine Plans, where appropriate. 	<p>Policy DS4 of the SCAAP compliments Core Strategy polices KP1 and KP2, by outlining the approach to managing flood risk and coastal change in relation to new development specifically in the central seafront area.</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paras 109-125)		
Protect valued landscapes (109)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy and policy or policies to create, protect, enhance and manage networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. • Policy which seeks to minimise the loss of higher quality agricultural land and give great weight to protecting the landscape and scenic beauty of National Parks, the Broads and AONBs. 	<p>The SCAAP's policy provisions seek to provide a network of linked green spaces as part of the wider 'Green Grid' South Essex initiative. Urban greening measures, including soft landscaped open space, tree planting, green roofs and walls, which will form part of the wider green infrastructure in Southend, are also promoted in the Plan.</p> <p>In addition, various policies in the DM DPD (DM3 and DM6) and within the adopted Core Strategy seek to protect environmental designations and biodiversity; and in general, the loss of local ecological assets including wildlife habitats and significant or protected trees.</p>
Prevent unacceptable risks from pollution and land instability (109)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy which seeks development which is appropriate for its location having regard to the effects of pollution on health, the natural environment or general amenity. 	<p>Appropriate policy provisions are set out within the adopted DM to which the SCAAP is linked. In particular, in respect to design, Policy DM1 outlines that new development should protect the amenity of the site, immediate neighbour, and the surrounding area from, inter alia, pollution.</p> <p>Policy DM14 details policy in relation to land contamination and potential remediation works, including requirements for an appropriate Contaminated Land Assessment to be</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>carried out as part of the application.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy KP2 details that development proposals include appropriate measures to avoid or appropriately mitigate actual and potential pollution impacts of development. Policy CP4 outlines that in order to achieve sustainable development - proposals must prevent, reduce or remedy all forms of pollution including soil, water, noise and other forms of airborne pollution.</p>
<p>Planning policies should minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity (117)</p> <p>Planning policies should plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries (117)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and mapping of local ecological networks and geological conservation interests. • Policies to promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the recovery of priority species 	<p>Policy CS2 of the SCAAP specifically seeks to minimise the impact of development on the nature conservation and biodiversity value of the central seafront area, in particular on the foreshore designations of SSSI, SAC, SPA, Ramsar and Local Nature Reserve.</p> <p>The SCAAP promotes urban greening measures in its policy provisions, including soft landscaped open space, tree planting, green roofs and walls. This is linked to Policy DM2 of the DM which outlines that development proposals should incorporate urban greening measures and promote biodiversity from the beginning of the design process.</p> <p>In addition, various policies in the DM DPD (DM3 and DM6) and within the</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		adopted Core Strategy seek to protect environmental designations and, in general, the loss of local ecological assets including wildlife habitats and significant or protected trees.
12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (paras 126-141)		
Include a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk (126)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy for the historic environment based on a clear understanding of the cultural assets in the plan area, including assets most at risk. • A map/register of historic assets • A policy or policies which promote new development that will make a positive contribution to character and distinctiveness. (126) 	<p>The SCAAP area contains a host of heritage assets, including conservation areas, listed and locally listed buildings, including the iconic Pier, frontages of townscape merit and important landmarks and views.</p> <p>The SCAAP seeks to protect and enhance such assets through its policy area and opportunity sites provisions.</p> <p>The proposed Policies Map depicts the location of conservation areas, frontages of townscape merit and important landmarks and views. Listed and Locally Listed Buildings are detailed on the Council’s website.</p> <p>The DMD sets out a positive approach for managing Southend-on-Sea Historic Environment (Policy DM5) in accordance with the NPPF.</p>
13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals (paras 142-149)		
It is important that there is a sufficient supply	Account taken of the matters raised in relation to paragraph 143 and	The SCAAP area contains no deposits

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation (142)</p> <p>Minerals planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of industrial materials (146)</p>	<p>145, including matters in relation to land in national / international designations; landbanks; the defining of Minerals Safeguarding Areas; wider matters relating to safeguarding; approaches if non-mineral development is necessary within Minerals Safeguarding Areas; the setting of environmental criteria; development of noise limits; reclamation of land; plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates. This could include evidence of co-operation with neighbouring and more distant authorities.</p>	<p>of aggregates or minerals.</p>
<p>Justified: <i>The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence.</i></p> <p>To be 'justified' a DPD needs to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded on a robust and credible evidence base involving: research / fact finding demonstrating how the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts; and evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area. • The most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives. 		
<p><i>Participation</i></p> <p>Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties?</p>	<p>The consultation statement. This should set out what consultation was undertaken, when, with who and how it has influenced the plan. The statement should show that efforts have been made to consult hard to reach groups, key stakeholders etc. Reference SCI</p>	<p>The Council has produced a Consultation Statement showing what consultation has been undertaken, when, with whom, and how this has influenced the production and content of the SCAAP.</p> <p>Consultation has been undertaken in conformity with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and has followed the requirements of national policy and the relevant regulations applicable at the time.</p>
<p><i>Research / fact finding</i></p> <p>Is the plan justified by a sound and credible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The studies, reports and technical papers that provide the evidence for the policies set out in the DPD, the date of 	<p>The SCAAP is in conformity with the adopted Core Strategy which establishes the strategic context,</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>evidence base? What are the sources of evidence? How up to date, and how convincing is it?</p> <p>What assumptions were made in preparing the DPD? Were they reasonable and justified?</p>	<p>preparation and who they were produced by.</p> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the DPD (at various stages of development) and SA Report which illustrate how evidence supports the strategy, policies and proposals, including key assumptions. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A very brief statement of how the main findings of consultation support the policies, with reference to: reports to the council on the issues raised during participation, covering both the front-loading and formulation phases; and any other information on community views and preferences. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For each policy (or group of policies dealing with the same issue), a very brief statement of the evidence documents relied upon and how they support the policy (where this is not already clear in the reasoned justification in the DPD). 	<p>policies and targets and objectives for Southend.</p> <p>The Council has published a list of key documents and evidence base studies that have informed the SCAAP by theme on its website.</p> <p>At each relevant stage in the production of the SCAAP a Consultation Statement has been published outlining previous comments raised on the SCAAP together with a response setting out how these comments were to be taken into account.</p> <p>At each stage of the process, the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was reviewed. The recommendations of the SA informed the preparation and subsequent amendment/review of the SCAAP's policies and proposals to ensure they promoted sustainable development. The SA process assessed reasonable alternative options and detailed the evolution of each policy. Respective SA's were published alongside each stage of the SCAAP preparation process for comment.</p>
<p><i>Alternatives</i></p> <p>Can it be shown that the LPA's chosen approach is the most appropriate given the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports and consultation documents produced in the early stages setting out how alternatives were developed and evaluated, and the reasons for selecting the preferred strategy, and reasons for rejecting the alternatives. This should include options covering 	<p>In 2007 the Council presented for discussion and comment the main issues and options for the seafront and central area in the form of the</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>reasonable alternatives? Have the reasonable alternatives been considered and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred approach was arrived at? Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives, is it clear how and why the decisions were taken?</p> <p>Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the DPD from the start?</p>	<p>not just the spatial strategy, but also the quantum of development, strategic policies and development management policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An audit trail of how the evidence base, consultation and SA have influenced the plan. • Sections of the SA Report showing the assessment of options and alternatives. • Reports on how decisions on the inclusion of policy were made. • Sections of the consultation document demonstrating how options were developed and appraised. • Any other documentation showing how alternatives were developed and evaluated, including a report on how sustainability appraisal has influenced the choice of strategy and the content of policies. 	<p>'Seafront Area Action Plan' and 'Town Centre Area Action Plan' respectively. Public comment was also sought by the former urban regeneration company 'Renaissance Southend' on the Central Area Masterplan (CAM) which was subsequently adopted as corporate policy by the Council in 2008.</p> <p>The seafront action plan and central area action plan were combined to form the Southend Central Area Action Plan (SCAAP). Taking into account previous public comment on the above documents and key elements of the Central Area Masterplan, an Issues and Options version of the SCAAP was produced in June 2010. This document sought the views on a range of matters to give a general direction of proposed policy.</p> <p>A Revised Proposed Submission of the SCAAP was prepared and subject to public consultation in September 2011.</p> <p>However, following the need to prioritise other plan production having regard to available resources, the next stage of plan preparation of the SCAAP was delayed until 2015.</p> <p>In response to the comments made on the Submission Version together with</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>on-going evidence collection and updating, and the need to take into account the newly published NPPF, the Council published a Preferred Approach version of the SCAAP in November 2015. The Consultation Statement (Reg 27) summarises how the consultation responses were taken into account in the formulation of the Proposed Approach version and highlighted the key changes to be addressed.</p> <p>The Submission Version of the SCAAP was published for public consultation in November 2016.</p> <p>At each relevant stage a Consultation Statement was published outlining previous comments raised on the SCAAP together with a response setting out how these comments were to be taken into account.</p> <p>At each stage of the process, the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was updated to inform the SCAAP policies and ensure they promoted sustainable development. The SA process assessed alternative options and detailed the evolution of each policy. Respective SA's were published alongside each stage of the SCAAP for comment.</p>
<p>Effective: the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic</p>		

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><i>priorities.</i></p> <p>To be 'effective' a DPD needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be deliverable • Demonstrate sound infrastructure delivery planning • Have no regulatory or national planning barriers to its delivery • Have delivery partners who are signed up to it • Be coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities • Demonstrate how the Duty to Co-operate has been fulfilled • Be flexible • Be able to be monitored 		
<p><i>Deliverable and Coherent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it clear how the policies will meet the Plan's vision and objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD? • Are the policies internally consistent? • Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives? • Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments and initiatives. • Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery, such as evidence that the plans and programmes of other bodies have been taken into account (e.g. Water Resources Management Plans). • Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure. • Section in the DPD that shows the linkages between the objectives and the corresponding policies, and consistency between policies (such as through a matrix). 	<p>The Core Strategy contains clear strategic objectives and policies which are derived from its vision and Southend's Community Plan. The SCAAP supports the Core Strategy and the vision and objectives contained within it. The relationship between the Core Strategy policies and the SCAAP policies is explained after each individual SCAAP policy in a 'Policy Linkages box'.</p> <p>The SCAAP contains provisions which address implementation and monitoring. The SCAAP provides policies to support the aims and objectives of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>All statutory bodies have been given the opportunity to influence the plan, during formal and informal consultations and as part of the Duty</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>to Co-operate.</p> <p>The SCAAP takes account of various plans and programmes of other bodies e.g. the Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan; EPOA Parking Standards; Thames Gateway South Essex (TGSE) Greengrid Strategy; Thames Gateway Parklands Vision; Thames Gateway Parklands Strategy; The University of Essex Accreditation Scheme; TGSE SFRA.</p> <p>The separately produced Local Development Scheme (LDS) provides information on the scope and content of each DPD. There have been a number of interim updates to the LDS timetable, each one published on the Council's website when in effect.</p>
<p><i>Infrastructure Delivery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the infrastructure implications of the policies clearly been identified? • Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified? • Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the policies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A section or sections of the DPD where infrastructure needs are identified and the proposed solutions put forward. • A schedule setting out responsibilities for delivery, mechanisms and timescales, and related to a CIL schedule where appropriate. • Confirmation from infrastructure providers that they support the solutions proposed and the identified means and timescales for their delivery, or a plan for resolving issues. • Demonstrable plan-wide viability, particularly in relation to the delivery of affordable housing and the role of a CIL schedule. 	<p>The SCAAP contains sections which address implementation, the means of delivery and monitoring. This includes infrastructure delivery and the role of the CIL charging schedule which was adopted by the Council in 2015.</p>
<p><i>Co-ordinated Planning</i></p> <p>Does the DPD reflect the concept of spatial planning? Does it go beyond traditional land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD that reflect the plans or strategies of the local authority and other bodies • Policies which seek to pull together different policy objectives 	<p>Spatial planning is integral to the strategy set out in the adopted Core Strategy, within the framework of</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>use planning by bringing together and integrating policies for development and the use of land with other policies and programmes from a variety of agencies / organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions of support/representations from bodies responsible for other strategies affecting the area 	<p>which the SCAAP has been derived. The Core Strategy describes the vision of Southend and shows how the spatial planning elements of the Southend Community Plan can be achieved. The Core Strategy contains detail about development and change in the area, setting out broad locations for growth but also addressing wider issues such as improving health and well-being and facilitating job growth.</p> <p>The SCAAP interprets these principles and takes account of a wide range of plans and strategies that have been scoped and assessed through the SA process and taken account of in the development of the policies.</p> <p>Numerous policies within the SCAAP seek to pull together different corporate policy objectives. For example, Policy DS5 – Transport Access and Public Realm seeks to incorporate the provisions of the Southend Local Transport Plan, South East LEP Growth Deal and Strategic Economic Plan (2014) to deliver sustainable integrated transport improvements within the town centre and seafront.</p> <p>The Duty to Co-operate Statement demonstrates how the Council actively engaged with other local authorities and statutory consultees</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		to ensure the SCAAP reflects the plans of the Council and other bodies, e.g. South Essex joint strategic planning initiatives,, the Essex and Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan and the Southend Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
<p><i>Flexibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances? • Does the DPD include the remedial actions that will be taken if the policies need adjustment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD setting out the assumptions of the plan and identifying the circumstances when policies might need to be reviewed. • Sections of the annual monitoring report and sustainability appraisal report describing how the council will monitor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the effectiveness of policies and what evidence is being collected to undertake this b. changes affecting the baseline information and any information on trends on which the DPD is based • Risk analysis of the strategy and policies to demonstrate robustness and how the plan could cope with changing circumstances • Sections within the DPD dealing with possible change areas and how they would be dealt with, including mechanisms for the rate of development to be increased or slowed and how that would impact on other aspects of the strategy and on infrastructure provision • Sections of the DPD identifying the key indicators of success of the strategy, and the remedial actions which will be taken if adjustment is required. 	<p>In line with the NPPF and the findings of the Southend-on-Sea Combined Policy Viability Study (2013) and its update detailed in SCAAP Topic Paper 4: Deliverability the SCAAP, DMD and Core Strategy applies a flexible approach, grounded in an understanding of viability, to the application of a number of policies that have cost implication to ensure that the policy can effectively facilitate planned growth throughout economic cycles.</p> <p>The SCAP sets out a ‘Monitoring Framework’ which details how the Council intends to monitor the effectiveness of the policies and proposals contained in the SCAAP. Policies can then be reviewed depending upon the results of annual monitoring about their effectiveness.</p>
<p><i>Co-operation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Duty to Co-operate has been undertaken appropriately for the plan being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A succinct Duty to Co-operate Statement which flows from the strategic issues that have been addressed jointly. A ‘tick box’ approach or a collection of correspondence is not sufficient, and it needs to be shown (where appropriate) if joint plan-making 	<p>A Duty to Co-operate Statement accompanies the SCAAP. It succinctly documents how, when and with whom the Council has engaged with</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>examined?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the DPD? Where the actions required are outside the direct control of the LPA, is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to the implementation of the policies? 	<p>arrangements have been considered, what decisions were reached and why.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Duty to Co-operate Statement could highlight: the sharing of ideas, evidence and pooling of resources; the practical policy outcomes of co-operation; how decisions were reached and why; and evidence of having effectively co-operated to plan for issues which need other organisations to deliver on, common objectives for elements of strategy and policy; a memorandum of understanding; aligned or joint core strategies and liaison with other consultees as appropriate. 	<p>during the production of the SCAAP as well as the outcomes of this engagement process. The Statement identifies a number of cross-boundary issues and how these were dealt with and resolved, particularly in relation to housing provision.</p> <p>The Statement clearly highlights the working groups where the sharing of ideas, best practice and methodologies is commonplace and gives details of the practical policy outcomes of co-operative work.</p> <p>The SCAAP contains provisions which address implementation and monitoring. It also aims to secure the delivery of its policy objectives through all relevant delivery bodies and their strategies and through established partnership working.</p>
<p><i>Monitoring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the DPD contain targets, and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies, (including housing trajectories where the DPD contains housing allocations)? • Is it clear how targets are to be measured (by when, how and by whom) and are these linked to the production of the annual monitoring report? • Is it clear how the significant effects identified in the sustainability appraisal report will be taken forward in the ongoing monitoring of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD setting out indicators, targets and milestones • Sections of the current annual monitoring report which report on indicators, targets, milestones and trajectories • Reference to any other reports or technical documents which contain information on the delivery of policies • Sections of the current annual monitoring report and the sustainability appraisal report setting out the framework for monitoring, including monitoring the effects of the DPD against the sustainability appraisal 	<p>The adopted Core Strategy sets out indicators and targets in order to monitor and manage the effective delivery of the strategic vision for the Borough.</p> <p>In accordance with this framework the SCAAP sets out a 'Monitoring Framework' which details how the Council intends to monitor the effectiveness of the policies and proposals contained in the SCAAP. Policies can then be reviewed</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
implementation of the plan, through the annual monitoring report?		depending upon the results of annual monitoring about their effectiveness.
<p><i>Consistent with national policy: the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.</i></p> <p>The DPD should not contradict or ignore national policy. Where there is a departure, there must be clear and convincing reasoning to justify the approach taken.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the DPD contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national policy and, if so, is there local justification? • Does the DPD contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, why have these been included? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD which explain where and how national policy has been elaborated upon and the reasons. • Studies forming evidence for the DPD or, where appropriate, other information which provides the rationale for departing from national policy. • Evidence provided from the sustainability appraisal (including reference to the sustainability report) and/or from the results of community involvement. • Reports or copies of correspondence as to how representations have been considered and dealt with. 	<p>The plan follows national policy (and higher level strategic policy in the Core Strategy) and applies it to the central area of the Borough.</p> <p>The plan is generally consistent with core planning principles and policies in the NPPF. The responses to questions in the first part of this assessment show how the SCAAP achieves this consistency.</p>

End